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Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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NOW thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Happy
Thanksgiving

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Fraternally Yours, ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA®



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When You Can't Pray – Give Thanks

I once heard of a little boy who refused to say his evening prayers one night; not out of defiance, but simply because he couldn't think of anything he wanted.

He didn't see much point in praying when there wasn't anything to ask for.

When his mother heard his dilemma, she suggested he give thanks for all the things he had instead.

So the little boy got on his knees and thanked the Lord for everything he could think of – from his favorite toy to the fact he wasn't blind like the boy down the street.

His evening prayers were longer that night, because he was thankful for more than he wanted.

We often have the opposite dilemma.

We find it hard to pray; not because we don't have anything to ask for, but because we're too disheartened to pray.

Our prayers seem to hit a stone ceiling; our prayers go unanswered for years; or we simply don't receive the peace we used to enjoy in times of prayer.

But maybe we can't pray, because we've forgotten to be thankful.

Like this little boy, what if during this month of Thanksgiving, we took some time and turned our prayers into words of only thanks?

When you pray today, don't ask for one single thing. JUST give thanks.

While you drive to work, list one thing after another you're grateful for. And thank the Lord ONLY.

When you have a few quiet moments, think of things you know are gifts. And ONLY thank the Lord.

When you can't pray . . . simply give thanks.

Your prayers might be longer than usual, because you find yourself thankful for more than you want.

Dear Friends,

This month dig a hole in your garden of thoughts. Into it put all your disillusion, disappointments, regrets, worries, troubles, doubts and fears and forget.

Cover well with the earth of fruitfulness, water it from the well of contentment. Sow on top again the seeds of hope, courage, strength, patience and love.

Then, when the time of gathering comes, may your harvest be a rich and plentiful one.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Until next month . . . Warmly, Carolyn

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

As you are aware, the theme that I have been carrying out this year is the various solemnities/feasts/memorials of the Blessed Virgin Mary that are celebrated each and every month of the liturgical/calendar year. The Blessed Mother has many titles by the various peoples and nations that venerate her. Taking on the example of the Mother of the Lord Jesus should entice each person of Christianity to immerse their beings, as she did, in the history of salvation in understanding and following the example of her Child. We are blessed because of her blessedness of bearing the Son of God to be the Son of Man.

The Memorial on November 21 commemorates the dedication of Saint Mary Church in Jerusalem that is located near the present day site of the Temple. The Memorial that we celebrate in the universal calendar of the Church is one of tradition that has been handed down to us throughout the centuries. When Mary was supposedly three years old, she was presented in the Temple by her parents, Saint Joachim and the Patroness of our Association, Saint Ann, and left there to be brought up, related in several of the apocryphal gospels, e.g., in the Protevangelium of James. In that document, we learn:

“And the child was two years old, and Joachim said, ‘Let us take her up to the Temple of the Lord, that we may pay the vow that we have vowed, lest perchance the Lord send to us and our offering be not received’. And Ann said, ‘Let us wait for the third year, in order that the child may not seek for father or mother’. And Joachim said, ‘Let us so wait’. And the child was three years old ... and they went up into the Temple of the Lord, and the priest received her and kissed her and blessed her, saying, ‘The Lord has magnified your name in all generations. In you, on the last of the days, the Lord will manifest His redemption to the children of Israel’. And he set her down upon the third step of the altar, and the Lord God sent grace upon her; and she danced with her feet and all the House of Israel loved her. And her parents went down marveling, and praising the Lord God because the child had not turned back. And Mary was in the Temple of the Lord as if she were a dove that dwelt there....”

Contemplating the wonderful trust that the parents of Mary placed in Yahweh by leaving her in the hands of those in the Temple, we are reminded that we, too, should place all of our trust in the hands of Jesus, Mary's Son. We do this primarily by entering our temple, our local church, by offering to God the Father the supreme and ultimate gift of Jesus, His Son and our Brother, every Sunday in the celebration of Holy Mass. We accomplish this by entering our very hearts every day by praying to Her Son in thanksgiving, supplication and praise. As we place our needs and gifts at these very special and unique prayer times of our week, we become more attuned to the very institution of what Mary has led us to be, the Body of Christ, both as a corporate structure and a spiritual reality. We become Church.

In relation to this Memorial, the Church offers us the re-

flection of Saint Augustine in one of his sermons taken from the Office of Readings of the day:

“Now, beloved, give me your whole attention, for you also are members of Christ; you also are the body of Christ. Consider how you yourselves can be among those of whom the Lord said: Here are my mother and my brothers. Do you wonder how you can be the mother of Christ? He himself said: Whoever hears and fulfills the will of my Father in heaven are my brother and my sister and my mother. As for being the brothers and sisters of Christ, we can understand this because although there is only one inheritance and Christ is the only Son, his mercy would not allow him to remain alone. It was his wish that we too should be heirs of the Father, and coheirs with himself.”

As Saints Ann and Joachim entrusted the Blessed Mother to God, may we too entrust our lives to Jesus, so that through her intercession, we may someday be members of the Holy Temple, the New Jerusalem!

Holy Mary, Mother of God and of all of us, pray for us!

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.

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Seize the present moment to say "THANK YOU"

Dear fellow members,

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, I dedicate this column to all those that we must and should be grateful to in our lives – our parents, families, teachers, those who helped in our lives in any way, and in our case ALL of our remarkable leaders, volunteers and employees who form the fabric of First Catholic

Slovak Ladies Association of the United States of America. Also, I have especially noted all of our veterans, as you will read below.

Since our national gala weekend, (July 29-30, 2017) it has been my intention to try and attend in some manner every district's 125th anniversary celebration. Thus, I have spent many weekends traveling (or skyping) to a district celebration of our 125th anniversary. So far, the only exception has been our beloved Pittsburgh, where I traveled instead to Wilkes-Barre, PA. To all my dear friends in Pittsburgh, I will see and thank you many times again at our regularly scheduled district gatherings.

I was heartily welcomed by all in all the districts I visited. As every gathering opened with Mass or prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the National Anthem, detailed planning and love was evident at every event. One of my main purposes in attending is to publicly THANK and acknowledge the efforts of District presidents, other district officers, branch leaders and everyone who attended. We are very fortunate indeed to be blessed with truly REMARKABLE leaders at every level of our association from the members of the board, officers, employees and district and branch officers. "THANK YOU TO ALL!"

I would be remiss if I did not close by relating a fabulous opportunity that I had to thank our veterans and military

at the Milwaukee, Wisconsin airport on returning from the Louise Yash District 125th anniversary celebration. When approaching security, I heard lots of people cheering and screaming at the other end of the corridor. I was indeed privileged to be present on the return of an HONOR FLIGHT. With flags waving and cheering from the crowd, we all fiercely applauded those veterans and military returning from a visit from Washington D.C. to visit war memorials. Many in the crowd were bikers, who follow the Honor Flights. We were told that this particular Honor Flight also escorted home a number of fallen soldiers. Before I rushed to my gate, I stopped and personally thanked each one of the veterans lined up for a photo, with tears welling in my eyes, for the honor and service of our military and nation. I thought of my own father, a World War II veteran, as my heart swelled with pride and gratitude for those who have served, so we can enjoy our lives in freedom and comfort.

Below are just a few photos I was able to take. Take a moment and THANK a veteran or current military person TODAY. Tomorrow may be too late.

**Happy Thanksgiving to all our members,
families and friends!**

Cynthia M. Maleski, National President



Charles & Dorothy Urbanowicz Honored on 50th Anniversary

Family and friends of Charles and Dorothy Urbanowicz gathered on September 23, 2017 at the Cedarbrook Golf Club to honor the couple on their 50th anniversary. Charles and Dorothy L. Urbanowicz (the former Dorothy L. Doty) were married on September 23, 1967.

Msgr. Peter Polando, FCSLA National Chaplain gave the invocation. Dorothy's brother, Ronald Doty served as Master of Ceremonies.

Following dinner Msgr. Polando bestowed a blessing on the couple.

Charles and Dorothy are both retired from The Peoples Natural Gas Company. Charles with 37 years service and Dorothy with 34 years service. Dorothy also served 37 years as Treasurer/Manager of a Peoples Natural Gas Credit Union. As a Life Member of the Volunteer Fire Department and Relief Association of Monessen, Chuck served as President and Secretary. "Coach Chuck" devoted 56 years as a volunteer coach for



Youth Football. Dorothy currently serves as an Auditor on the Board of Directors of FCSLA. She also serves as President and Financial Secretary of the FCSLA Branch 88 in Monessen. Both serve on the Board of Directors of the Mon Valley Refuse Disposal Authority.

The couple has traveled extensively during these years to various locations such as Tahiti, Mexico, Alaska, various Caribbean Islands, numerous cruises, Steeler Super Bowls and various locations throughout the United States.

Guests attended from Ohio, West Virginia and locally. Music for the afternoon was provided by DJ Ron Doty.

John & Carol Medica 50th Wedding Anniversary

John and Carol Medica (S84, Philadelphia, PA) celebrated their 50th Anniversary on September 23, 2017. They were married at St. Agnes/St. John Slovak Church in Philadelphia, PA on September 23, 1967. They have two children Michelle and Jay Maccarella and Joseph and Samantha Medica and four grandchildren; Katie, Johnny, Ty and Lillie. They are all members of S84 and J7. Carol is secretary of the two branches following in her mother's footsteps. Her mother Anna Rabatin served as branch officer for over 25 years. The happy couple celebrated with a wonderful river boat cruise on the Rhine and Danube with many stops along the way, including Bratislava in Slovakia.

Congratulations! May God continue to bless them and their families for many years to come.



MARCH FOR LIFE

Our Presence at the 45th Annual Right to Life March on **Friday, January 19, 2018** in Washington, DC is extremely important. First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association supports the position of the Pro Life Movement.



The FCSLA is once again offering free transportation from the FCSLA Home Office in Beachwood, OH for this very important trip. For the past few years we have filled two buses for this march. Again this year, we will reserve two buses for the March. Our organizations are proud to encourage our members along with many young students from area Catholic High Schools to participate. It is a very rewarding experience to actively participate and help relay this very important message of supporting the Right to Life mission.

Will you join us? Please call Kelly at the FCSLA home Office. Her phone number is 800-464-4642 EXT. 1051 or email her at Kelly@fcsla.org for details or questions and to reserve your seat on the bus before December 15th. The buses fill up quickly and seating is limited so don't wait until the last minute to reserve your seat. You can also go to our website www.fcsla.org for a tentative itinerary for the trip.

If you would like to attend and are unable to join those leaving from the FCSLA Home Office, please look online for information and transportation. Call your local church or diocese, they may be able to help.



Magdalen I. Iskra District Recently Honored

The Magdalen I. Iskra District recently held a luncheon to honor the twelve National and four District Scholarship recipients from the district. There were forty-six adults and four children in attendance. The luncheon was held at the Best Western Genetti Hotel & Conference Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Anna M. Hudock, District Treasurer served as Master of Ceremonies. Bernadette Yench, Secretary of Sr. Branch 172 led the singing of the National Anthems of the United States of America and Slovakia. Magdalen I. Iskra, District President extended greetings to all in attendance. Ann Dougher, District Auditor gave the invocation. A delicious buffet was served.

After lunch, Anna M. Hudock introduced the branch

and district officers in attendance. Each recipient then introduced their family members present. The District Scholarships were then awarded. Gifts were presented to the National Scholarship recipients from their branches. Everyone in attendance was given gifts, compliments of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

After the awarding of the scholarships and gifts, District Secretary Diane Gregor gave the benediction. The program ended with singing of "God Bless America" by everyone in attendance.

Recipients unable to attend were: Marisa T. Hurst, National College Sophomore Award; Michael Ungvarsky, National College Freshman Award; Kathryn E. Feehan, National College Freshman Award; Meredythe C. Baird, National High School Sophomore Award; Daniel G. Balas, National 8th Grade Award; Joshua P. Fox, District Graduate Award and Caroline R. Kcenich, District 2nd Grade Award.

Congratulations to all scholarship recipients!



National and District Award Recipients — First Row: Noah Michael Ceklosky, National 7th Grade Award; Alina M. Guth, District 8th Grade Award; Catherine Rose Flannery, National 4th Grade Award; and Paul Gregory Jason, National College Freshman Award. **Second row:** Brianna N. Guth, National College Sophomore Award; Shane A. Eckert, National High School Sophomore Award; Connor J. Eckert, District College Freshman Award; Andrea Molitoris, National Graduate Award; and Sage Kathryn Iskra, National College Junior Award.



Magdalen I. Iskra, District President extended greetings to all in attendance.



Anna M. Hudock, District Treasurer served as Master of Ceremonies and Chairman of the Scholarship Luncheon.



Seated: Mary Ann Kudey, Ann Kwak, Thomas Molitoris, and Ann Marie Molitoris. **Standing:** Donna Schwalbach, Antoinette Kravits, and Andrea Molitoris.



Seated: Cyril Iskra, Sr., Theresa Iskra, Nolan Iskra, and Martha A. Iskra. **Standing:** Magdalen I. Iskra, Shanin Iskra, Cyril Iskra Jr. and Sage Kathryn Iskra.

National and District Scholarship Winners



Seated: Kristina M. Guth, Alina M. Guth, Lillian Brodoski, Karen Guth, and Brianna N. Guth. Standing: Thomas Guth.



Seated: Barbara Ceklosky Theresa Ceklosky, and Jean Bonn. Standing: Jordan Ceklosky, Francis Ceklosky, Noah Michael Ceklosky and Heidi Ceklosky.



Seated: Mary Ann Ewasko, Diane Jason, and Paul Gregory Jason. Standing: Mary Migatulski, Bernadette Yencha, Diane Gregor, Anna M. Hudock and Jacqueline Barkus.



Seated: Marie Flannery and Michael Flannery. Second Row: Rita Kcenich, Anna Rajala, Catherine Rose Flannery, and Andrea Flannery.



Seated: Jo Ann Klinesmith, Ann Dougher, Rosalie Eckert, and Stephanie Eckert. Standing: Shane A Eckert and Connor J. Eckert.



Rita Kcenich accepting the District 2nd Grade Award on behalf of her granddaughter Caroline R. Kcenich from Ann Dougher.



Mary Migatulski promoting the Slovak-American Cook Book.

2017 Art Contest Winners

Theme: "Under the Sea...What Do You See?"

CONGRATULATIONS to everyone that sent in a drawing!!! All of the drawings were AWESOME!

I was blown away by all the AMAZING drawings that came in. So were the judges – which were once again the home office staff. They had a very hard job... but they came through and chose the winners. Thank you!

I received 64 entries this year. Over double the entries that were submitted last year. I want to thank ALL of the parents for encouraging their children to submit a drawing. You have some VERY talented children. All of the submissions are WINNERS in my book! Everyone that sent in a submission received a gift and their drawing was returned to them, laminated. The grand prize winners in each age group also received a certificate and gift card.

Please check out all the drawings that were submitted on our website fcsla.org, under the Fraternal section and our Facebook (First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association) page. They were so awesome, I had to share all of them.

I hope you enjoy all the detail in each and every one!

I already have a couple theme ideas for next year. I am looking forward to next year's submissions!

Kelly M. Shedlock, Fraternal & Youth Director

Ages 6 & Under

1st PLACE

Title of Drawing: **Playing at Sunset**

Name of Artist: **Lainie Gudas, Des Plaines, IL**

Age: 5½ Branch: J-083

Quote from the Artist: "Sea turtles swimming, a whale and a dolphin jumping."

2nd PLACE

Title of Drawing: **Mermaid Celebrates**

Name of Artist: **Lilly Campbell, Omaha, NE**

Age: 6 Branch: W-055

Quote from the Artist: "It is a mermaid in the ocean. She is having her birthday party. She invited a fish and the fish gave her a rainbow."

3rd PLACE (tie)

Title of Drawing: **SpongeBob Square Pants**

Name of Artist: **Elenora Allevato, Livonia, MI**

Age: 5 Branch: J-232

Quote from the Artist: "SpongeBob and all his friends having a great time under the sea."

3rd PLACE (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Under the Sea Ocean Picture**

Name of Artist: **Sienna Hollenbaugh, Rosewell, GA**

Age: 5 Branch: J-126

Quote from the Artist: "A sunken ship, a scuba diver, an octopus squirting ink, seaweed, a big blow fish and the ocean water."

HONORABLE MENTION (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Nemo & Ariel**

Name of Artist: **Kathleen Yakich, Brunswick, OH**

Age: 4 Branch: J-453

Quote from the Artist: "Nemo's bent fin is swimming with Ariel."

HONORABLE MENTION (tie)

Title of Drawing:

Mermaid and Animals Under The Sea

Name of Artist: **Bridget Yakich, Brunswick, OH**

Age: 6 Branch: J-453

Quote from the Artist: "I drew a mermaid, seahorse, crab & shark."

HONORABLE MENTION (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Fat Fat Jellyfish**

Name of Artist: **Andrew Dunn Bajnok, Marshall, VA**

Age: 4 Branch: J-013

Quote from the Artist: "Very large rainbow jellyfish swimming with fish."

HONORABLE MENTION (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Shark Bait**

Name of Artist: **Lincoln Lyons, St. Louis, MO**

Age: 4 Branch: J-011

Quote from the Artist: "There's only one piece of fish out and the big shark is chasing it into the midnight zone."



1st Place: Lainie Gudas



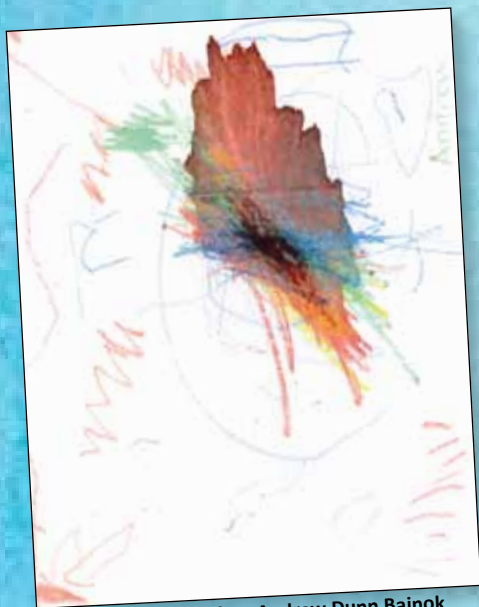
2nd Place: Lilly Campbell



3rd Place: Elenora Allevato



3rd Place: Sienna Hollenbaugh



Honorable Mention: Andrew Dunn Bajnok



Honorable Mention: Lincoln Lyons



Honorable Mention: Bridget Yakich



Honorable Mention: Kathleen Yakich

Ages 7-8

1st PLACE

Title of Drawing: **Sunset Sea**

Name of Artist: **Kalina Gudas, Des Plaines, IL**

Age: 7 Branch: J-083

Quote from the Artist: "Colorful with different shades of blues, there are seahorses, a whale, fish, a turtle and a dolphin swimming around at sunset."

2nd PLACE

Title of Drawing: **Under Water Sea Creatures**

Name of Artist: **Adam Figura, Wexford, PA**

Age: 7 Branch: J-512

Quote from the Artist: "The sea creatures that my dad and I see when we fish at the beach."

3rd PLACE

Title of Drawing: **Dolphin World**

Name of Artist: **Ava Knapp, Cranberry Twp., PA**

Age: 8 Branch: J-115

Quote from the Artist: "My picture is what I imagine dolphins do in the ocean. They swim, make friends, eat other fish. I love dolphins! They are my favorite sea creature."

HONORABLE MENTION (tie)

Title of Drawing: **The Rainbown Sea**

Name of Artist: **Olivia Carpenter, Brunswick, OH**

Age: 7 Branch: J-453

Quote from the Artist: "Rainbow themed sea creatures under the sea!"

HONORABLE MENTION (tie)

Title of Drawing: **A Crab**

Name of Artist: **Ben Triffanoff, Bell Vernon, PA**

Age: 7 Branch: J-157

Quote from the Artist: "An orange crab in the water."

HONORABLE MENTION (tie)

Title of Drawing: **The Beautiful Part of the Sea**

Name of Artist: **Alexandra "Sasha" Kirk, McLean, VA**

Age: 8 Branch: J-512

Quote from the Artist: "Peaceful, the animals are fun, playful and fast."



1st Place: Kalina Gudas



2nd Place: Adam Figura



3rd Place: Ava Knapp

2017 Art Contest Winners

1st PLACE (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Jaws**

Name of Artist:

Eli Triffanoff, Belle Vernon, PA

Age: 9 Branch: J-038

Quote from the Artist: "This is a shark with fish swimming into his wide open mouth."

1st PLACE (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Deep Sea Discovery**

Name of Artist: **Bethany Jost, West Chicago, IL**

Age: 9 Branch: J-470

Quote from the Artist: "Bethany is the scuba diving girl in the picture and this is what she thinks she would discover."

2nd PLACE (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Ink Attack**

Name of Artist: **Clare Yakich, Brunswick, OH**

Age: 10 Branch: J-453

Quote from the Artist: "An octopus is defending itself from a shark attack."

2nd PLACE (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Bikini Bottom**

Name of Artist: **John Kirk, McLean, VA**

Age: 10 Branch: J-512

Quote from the Artist: none given.

2nd PLACE (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Fun Day Under the Sea**

Name of Artist: **Joseph Zaroni, Narberth, PA**

Age: 10 Branch: J-334

Quote from the Artist: "All of the fish are having fun under the sea."

3rd PLACE

Title of Drawing: **Traffic in the Ocean**

Name of Artist: **Chloe Adam, Midland, MI**

Age: 9 Branch: W-093

Quote from the Artist: "Sunken pirate boat, mermaid & fish."

HONORABLE MENTION (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Creatures of the Sea**

Name of Artist: **Jacob Bryk, Dallas, PA**

Age: 9 Branch: J-526

Quote from the Artist: "A few common sea creatures like fish, sharks, squid, dolphins & octopuses."

HONORABLE MENTION (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Grub Fish**

Name of Artist:

Nathan Brinkley, North Richland Hills, TX

Age: 10 Branch: J-J00

Quote from the Artist: "He is looking for a friend because he is lost."

HONORABLE MENTION (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Shipwrecked**

Name of Artist:

Tony Startare, Belle Vernon, PA

Age: 9 Branch: J-157

Quote from the Artist: "This is what you will see under the sea."



Honorable Mention: Olivia Carpenter



Honorable Mention: Ben Triffanoff



Honorable Mention: Alexandra "Sasha" Kirk

Ages 9-10

1st PLACE (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Swimming with the Dolphins**

Name of Artist: **Emma Rice, Omaha, NE**

Age: 9 Branch: W-018

Quote from the Artist: "Dolphins jumping out of the water. Turtle, octopus, jelly fish under water."



1st Place: Emma Rice



1st Place: Eli Triffanoff



1st Place: Bethany Jost



2nd Place: John Kirk



2nd Place: Clare Yakich



Honorable Mention: Jacob Bryk



Honorable Mention: Nathan Brinkley



2nd Place: Joseph Zanoni



Honorable Mention: Tony Startare



3rd Place: Chloe Adam

Ages 11-12

1st PLACE

Title of Drawing: **The FCSLA Fish**

Name of Artist: **Tamara Bajek, Naperville, IL**

Age: 12 Branch: J-339

Quote from the Artist: "Mr. Angler has joined FCSLA and starts to read about its history."

2nd PLACE

Title of Drawing: **Mermaid in the Sea**

Name of Artist: **Sean Jost, West Chicago, IL**

Age: 11 Branch: J-470

Quote from the Artist: "Drawing of a mermaid in the sea and then colored using flair markers and colored pencils."

3rd PLACE

Title of Drawing: **Under the Sea**

Name of Artist: **Anna Marie Rice, Omaha, NE**

Age: 11 Branch: W-018

Quote from the Artist: "Blowfish, whales, eels, stingrays, and Clown fish on the bottom."

HONORABLE MENTION (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Deep Sea Explorers**

Name of Artist: **Lily Lehtinen, Cary, NC**

Age: 11 Branch: J-029

Quote from the Artist: "I drew this as a silvertip shark approaching Atlantis. It was fun to imagine what Atlantis looks like."

HONORABLE MENTION (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Sunken Ship (Titanic)**

Name of Artist: **Kylie Vilcek, St. Louis, MO**

Age: 11 Branch: J-011

Quote from the Artist: "In my drawing I drew the Titanic sunken and there are schools of fish all around the ship."

HONORABLE MENTION (tie)

Title of Drawing: **Animals in the Sea**

Name of Artist: **Noah Triffanoff, Bell Vernon, PA**

Age: 11 Branch: J-038

Quote from the Artist: "In my picture there are various sea animals such as a man o'war, two jellyfish, a sea snake, a crab and different kinds of fish. There is also seaweed, sand, rocks and water."



1st Place: Tamara Bajek



2nd Place: Sean Jost

2017 Art Contest Winners

Ages 13-15



3rd Place: Anna Marie Rice



Honorable Mention: Lily Lehtinen



Honorable Mention: Kylie Vilcek



Honorable Mention: Noah Triffanoff

1st PLACE
 Title of Drawing: **Hidden Wonders**
 Name of Artist: **Ryan Nicole Brady, Shaker Hts., OH**
 Age: 14 Branch: J-453
 Quote from the Artist: "Under the sea, there exists a world of mystery and possibility, untouched by the human hand, waiting patiently to be discovered."

2nd PLACE
 Title of Drawing: **Old Turtle**
 Name of Artist: **Luke Rice, Omaha, NE**
 Age: 14 Branch: W-018
 Quote from the Artist: "Turtle swimming"

3rd PLACE (tie)
 Title of Drawing: **Reaching Toward the Light**
 Name of Artist: **Virginia Kouba, Auburn, NE**
 Age: 14 Branch: W-024
 Quote from the Artist: "Deep in the ocean, a Kraken yearns for an adventure. He travels upward searching for a friend or lunch. You see him just as he is reaching toward the light."

3rd PLACE (tie)
 Title of Drawing: **Fish Sticks**
 Name of Artist: **Steven Kukucka, Lorain, OH**
 Age: 13 Branch: J-380
 Quote from the Artist: "From lazy starfish to monstrous Angler fish, the ocean is an exciting place. As mindless jellyfish float among happy whales and menacing sharks, in the ocean, anything can happen."

HONORABLE MENTION
 Title of Drawing: **Creatures Under the Sea**
 Name of Artist: **Elizabeth Groetsch, Sewickly, PA**
 Age: 14 Branch: J-512
 Quote from the Artist: "This drawing shows the beauty of the majestic sea creatures that thrive in the ocean."

HONORABLE MENTION
 Title of Drawing: **An Octopus's Garden**
 Name of Artist: **Ann Koppitch, Shaker, OH**
 Age: 13 Branch: J-355
 Quote from the Artist: "This is an underwater ocean adventure for Bobby the octopus. His friends are Charlie & Charlotte the fish, Freddy the eel, Joanna the jellyfish and Bryce the shark."



1st Place: Ryan Brady



2nd Place: Luke Rice



3rd Place: Steven Kukucka

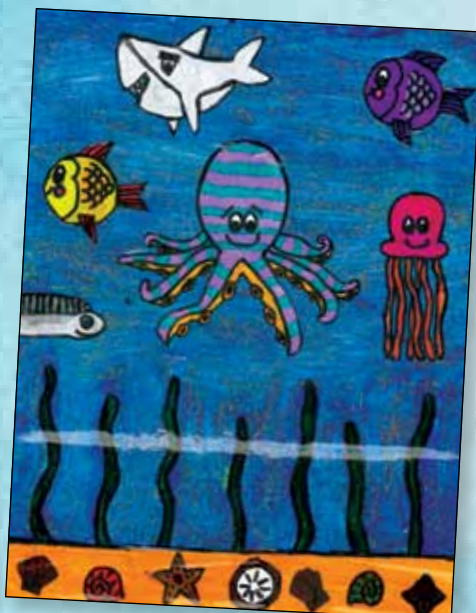


3rd Place: Virginia Kouba

(Continued on Page 13)



Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Groetsch



Honorable Mention: Ann Koppitch

UNITED SLOVAK SOCIETIES HOLIDAY EVENTS

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

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.

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.

Christmas Oplatky – 2017

Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 23 until December 15, 2017.

The Oplatky, five in one package are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for \$5.00 per pack. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$7.00 and upward depending upon the number of packets ordered and the cost of priority mailing. Customized requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to Jankola Library is expected before receiving an order.

For more information or to place an order contact Sister Catherine Labouré Bresnock, SS.C.M. at 570-275-5606 or write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

WPSCA Slovak Heritage Program

The WPSCA will present a program on the first Monday evening of December 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.

December 4 — Show-N-Tell: Because of the popularity of this program in prior years, we are again asking you to bring your memorabilia from Slovakia (photos, books, souvenirs, etc.). This is an opportunity for everyone to participate.

St. Ann Society (S140), Lansford, PA 2017 Christmas Dinner

You are cordially invited to the annual Christmas dinner sponsored by St. Ann Society Sr. Branch 140 of Lansford, PA. The dinner will be December 3, 2017 at Macaluso's, The Lantern in Nesquehoning, the meal will be served at 1:30 p.m.

Reservations are required for all and deadline is November 20th — no exceptions. Guests will be charged \$30.00. Please call Louise Dunstan 570-645-4354.

Branch W093 Christmas Party

December 3, 2017

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

Photo Reminder

Photos of poor quality or blurry, will not be published in *Fraternally Yours*. Recommended are photos that are emailed in a non-compressed or larger file size or crisp printed originals for publication.

Cynthia M. Maleski Spoke at Catholic Community Connection

2017 Symposium on Servant Leadership

Take Action, Inspire Growth, Build Community was the theme of this year's Symposium on Servant Leadership sponsored by Catholic Community Connection and held on October 6, 2017 at John Carroll University near Cleveland, OH.

Catholic Community Connection is a mission driven organization comprised of business leaders who believe strongly in their Catholic identity and who collaborate to serve the educational, financial, health care and social service needs of people in Northeast Ohio.

According to Marian Rubin, President, Catholic Community Connection, "We collaborated with three local Catholic colleges to bring together both students and business leaders, providing a forum for intergenerational connections. We were pleased that more than 100 participants attended, including 50+ students from nearby Ursuline College, Notre Dame College, and John Carroll University."

An inspiring keynote was presented by Fr. Joseph E. Simmons, S.J. Next, the executive panel convened. It was led by John Stoner, President/CEO, The Village of St. Edward and board chair for Catholic Community Connection. He asked each of the panelists, "Tell us how you have served and inspired your team when faced with a challenge?" followed by, "Tell us how your faith influences your actions?"



Since Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA, Congregational Leader, Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine and Thomas J. Strauss, President & CEO, Sisters of Charity Health System were both unable to attend, they appeared by video. The rest of the panel included FCSLA, National President, Cynthia Maleski, Umberto Fedeli, President & CEO, Fedeli Group, and Terry Flanagan, Executive Director, Parish Outreach, Catholic Charities.

"We were honored to have Cynthia on the panel. She warmly shared her Catholic background with us, her family influence, and openly expressed how her Servant Leadership management style influences her daily decision making. We all enjoyed hearing about the history of the FCSLA too, and how it has grown to be a respected national organization," said Marian Rubin.

President Maleski shared, "I was honored and humbled



to share the podium with other distinguished Catholic business leaders, and discussed how the collaborative servant leadership model has served the associations and organizations well where I have worked in my professional life — from my position as General Counsel to The Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh, to Insurance Commissioner and Cabinet Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, appointed by late Gov. Robert P. Casey, with unanimous confirmation of the State Senate, to Vice President of Compliance at Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, to the private practice of law and insurance consulting and now as President of FCSLA. My decision making process focuses on how we will benefit the greater good of our members, customers, and constituents. My advice is to always seize the moment to try and help others in their honest needs with integrity and respect. I am very fortunate to have been surrounded by wise, loving parents and family, and wonderful leaders who have helped me move forward as we have collaborated together."

After a lively series of questions and answers, participants headed to their previously selected break-out session. Each session represented a different part of the theme, including one on taking action and finding your specific call to action and how to use it; another on inspiring growth and how this affects leading others; and finally one on breaking down barriers and finding the beauty in diversity.

The day ended with a reception, where students mingled with experienced professionals sharing insights from the afternoon event and continuing conversations from the break-out sessions.

For more information on the Catholic Community Connection and their services, visit catholiccommunityconnection.org or call 216-377-4358.

BRANCHES S161/J192 HONOR WINNERS

The thirteen S161/J192 Branch winners of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Scholarships were honored at the District Scholarship dinner held in August at the Byzantine Center, Youngstown, OH.

President of the Branches, Melanie Leonard, called each winner forward and he/she spoke of the educational major, school activities and goals. The five winners present were given a FCSLA cookbook and \$25 monetary gift from the Branch. These same items were mailed to the winners who were unable to attend. They included S161 members: Natalie Cervelli (Ohio State University); Sydney Demechko (University of Cincinnati); Doran Kaplan (University of Texas); Allyson Krupa (Denison University); Alicia Swierz (Ohio Northern University); Gina Zarny (Ohio State University); and J192 members: Jennifer Pelic (Christ our King, Mount Pleasant, SC) and Justin Viau (St. Pius School, Baltimore, OH). Also not attending was the winner of the \$500 Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust Scholarship, Anastacia Viau (St. Pius School, Baltimore, OH).

Seventeen Branch applicants of the FCSLA and two local scholarships who did not win were sent a handwritten "try again" note containing a \$20 bill.



L-R: Sarah Pence (Graduate Level, Ashland University); Jennifer Toth (Graduate Level, Northeast Ohio Medical University); Mara Bahmer (John Carroll University); Branches President Melanie Leonard; District President Bernie Demechko, Leanne Chandler, Cardinal Mooney High School and Leo Puhalla, Ursuline High School.

Cleveland Okres District Event Schedule

INVITING ALL CLEVELAND AREA
BRANCH MEMBERS . . . ACTIVITIES:

- December 9, Saturday – 1:30-3:30 p.m. District Christmas Party with LOHV residents, Bedford
- December 10, Sunday – Vilija Dinner at St. Andrew's Abbey, Cleveland

Lauren Nicole Kim Graduates from Cal Poly Pomona

Lauren Nicole Kim, a member of Branch S169 (Youngstown, OH) graduated from Cal Poly Pomona. Lauren was a student of the Kellogg Honors College. She graduated with the distinction of Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Physics with a Physiology minor. The Department of Physics and Astronomy awarded her a scholarship and the honor of carrying the Department's Banner in the Commencement ceremony. Lauren will continue her education at Scripps Institution of Oceanography/UCSD. While there, she will be working towards her Doctorate in Physical Oceanography. Lauren will also be working as a researcher at Scripps. As a former recipient of a FCSLA Scholarship, she would like to thank the FCSLA for their support.



Scholarship Recipient Maria Pytlik Honored

Officers of FCSLA Branch W016 congratulated scholarship recipient Maria Pytlik. Maria is a Sophomore at Aquinas High School in David City, NE.

Her award will be acknowledged at the Branch W016 4:30 p.m. dinner meeting on November 12, 2017 at the Klein Center in Brainard.



W016 treasurer Carolyn Dvorak, Vice President Joyce Rezac, Maria Pytlik, and President/Secretary Mary Lou Meister.

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FIRST
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SLOVAK
LADIES
ASSOCIATION

Anna Hurban District of Chicago Holds Scholarship Awards Luncheon

The Chicago Anna Hurban District hosted its annual scholarship awards luncheon for its nineteen Chicago District Scholarship winners and their guests on Saturday, June 24, 2017 at the Mayor's Mansion (formerly European Chalet) in Chicago, Illinois. The District and Branch Officers and members congratulated the scholarship winners on their scholastic achievements. Lorraine Gibas, Anna Hurban District of Chicago President, reported that for the 2017-2018 Scholarship Program, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association awarded to its members from first grade through and including graduate school a total amount of \$248,250. The thirteen Chicago District scholarship winners received a total of \$15,750 and the breakdown of the winners is as follows: two elementary, two high school, seven college stu-

dents, and two graduate students. The thirteen scholarship winners are: Julia Podgorni (J322), Raquel Adams (J106), Grace Clements (J106), Paul J. Braun (S180), Marissa Beth Rhyne (S180), Julia Bajek (S287), Rebecca Bajek (S287), Rebecca O'Connell (S287), Morgan Dolehide (S485), Sophia Lehocky (S485), Sarah Rose Valek (S485), Sean Sroka (S485), and Jessilyn Gibas (S421). As the awardees in attendance were called up to receive their certificate from the District, a short family and scholastic biography of each was read aloud. The Chicago District is proud of all our scholarship winners and wishes them continued success in their studies. (To see additional photos from this event go to: <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)



Chicago District Officers and Scholars.



2017 Chicago District Scholars: L-R Julia Bajek, Rebecca Bajek, Jessilyn Gibas, Sophia Lehocky, Julia Podgorni, Rebecca O'Connell and Grace Clements.





Branch W016 Provides Funding for Local Cemetery Directories

FCSLA Branch W016 (Brainard, NE) provided funding for all three Cemetery Directory Stands and all the notebooks and supplies needed to complete the Directories, totaling \$753.63.

Carolyn Dvorak compiled the information for the Directory Books for each cemetery using an alphabetized list of burial names, birth and death dates if known, and grave locations. The list was obtained from the Butler County Cemeteries data base of the Butler-countygallary.com web site.

Father Steven Snitily, Vern Dvorak, and Clair Kriz assisted members Jerome Svoboda and Tom Pesek with the installation.



Pictured at the Old Holy Trinity Cemetery is Carolyn Dvorak.



Holy Trinity Cemetery in Brainard are (L-R) Jerome Svoboda, Father Steven Snitily, Vern Dvorak, Tom Pesek and Carolyn Dvorak.



St. Luke's Cemetery in Loma, NE is (L-R) Clair Kriz, Jerome Svoboda and Carolyn Dvorak.

BRANCH 88 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

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 the son of Kate and George Horensky.



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

BRANCH W001 ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

The weather was perfect for Branch W001's annual Summer Picnic on Sunday, August 27. The picnic was held at Memorial Park in New Prague, MN and roughly 100 people attended. Members and their families were treated to a delicious Chicken Barbeque with all the fixings. There were games for the kids and many gift certificates were awarded to lucky winners.





IN MEMORIAM

Agnes Kalina, W149



Agnes A. Kalina, 97, of Elberon, IA passed away January 4, 2017. Agnes was born April 21, 1919 to Charles and Mary (Dostal) Nekola on the family farm in Toledo, IA. After attending Clutier High School, she worked on the family farm and Murty's Station, Toledo. Agnes married Milo Kalina November 28, 1939 at Immaculate Conception Church, Clutier, IA. Together they raised six children on their family farm near Elberon, where Agnes lived for 77 years. Along with being a wonderful mother, housewife and gardener, Agnes was a great cook especially known for her noodles and world famous caramel rolls. She enjoyed playing cards, dancing, and making crafts. Agnes was a very religious person and active in her faith as a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, Belle Plaine, and Rosary Society of Vining, CCD teacher at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Vining and a member of Elberon Homemakers. She will always be remembered as being a very generous person and gracious host. Agnes is survived by her sons, Ronald (Cheryl) Kalina of Freeport, IL, Larry (Betty) Kalina of Potosi, WI, Robert (Sandi) Kalina of Mt. Carroll, IL and Daniel Kalina of Elberon; daughters, Charlene (Kevin) Willaby of Toledo and Nancy (Gene) Garling of Williamsburg; sister, Pauline Dvorak of Cedar Rapids; 17 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

Irene Ann Kula, S200



Irene Ann Kula, 93, of Glassport, PA stepped into perpetual light on January 13, 2017. She is the daughter of the late George and Mary (Kushner) Dobos. Beloved wife of the late Albert Kula. She is survived by daughters Valeria Kula of West Virginia, Marge (James) Wolff of Murrysville and Terry (Lewis) Speiran of Murrysville; sons Albert Kula, Jr. of Glassport and Timothy Kula of Glassport; four grandchildren; sisters Betty Janov of North Versailles, Velma Rollison of Scottsdale and Sr. Marion Dobos, OSB of Pittsburgh; also nieces and nephews. She was a member of Queen of the Rosary; Ladies of Charity; Christian Mothers and the Rosary Society. She was an officer of St. Anne's Auxiliary for many years. She loved to bake and was an avid Pirate's fan. Memorial contributions may be made to either Queen of the Rosary Parish or Ladies of Charity.

Veronica Lucas Humenay, S154



Veronica Lucas Humenay, age 98, passed away on January 15, 2017, at Edinboro Manor, Edinboro, PA. She was born in Grassflat, PA, on February 3, 1918, the daughter of the late Demeter and Anna (Dzurko) Lucas. Veronica lived her first 83 years in Grassflat and was an active member of Ss. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church. She lived her later years with her children Roni and Jerry /or Mary. She was a devoted wife and mother, who lived an unassuming life of love and faith. She loved her Slovak heritage and kept its traditions alive and continued to sing its songs that she learned from her mother. Veronica is survived by her children, Mary, Gene and

Lisa, Bernie and Charlie, Roni and Jerry; her five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and step-great-granddaughter. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Dorothy Tudjan, S273



Dorothy A. Tudjan, age 92, of Kenosha, WI passed away on January 25, 2017. Born in Kenosha on July 25, 1924, she was the daughter of the late Klement and Eva (Balaz) Jurik. A lifelong resident of Kenosha, she attended local schools and was a 1942 graduate of Kenosha High School. On September 27, 1947, she was united in marriage to Edward J. Tudjan at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. As a young woman, she was employed as a stenographer in the Plant Engineering department with Nash/Kelvinator. Following her marriage, Dorothy dedicated her time to raising their children. She was a lifelong member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, and was a member of their Rosary Society. Dorothy was a former member of the VFW Junker-Ball Post #1865 Ladies Auxiliary, a current member of St. Jude, the Senior Action Council, Friends of the Museum and the Encore Club of Johnson Bank. In her spare time, she enjoyed traveling, baking, playing pinochle and spending time with her family. Dorothy will be deeply missed by her three children, Jeanne (Donald) Howland, Nancy (Andrew) Schwarz and Randy (Sheryl) Tudjan; her sister, Mary Slivon; six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Jennie Mary Sukalich, S023



Jennie Mary Sukalich of Hartford, WI passed away on February 3, 2016 at the age of 88. She spent her final days surrounded by her loving family. Jennie was born and raised in Milwaukee, WI. She attended St. Rose for grade school and also graduated from High School in Milwaukee. She married Paul Edward Sukalich on May 1st, 1948. They had three children: Paul, Patty, and Bob. Jennie worked as a bookkeeper, at the original Kohl's department store, and was also a homemaker. She and Paul lived in Milwaukee and Wauwatosa during their younger years. After retirement, they also traveled yearly to New Port Richey, FL before permanently returning to their home on Pike Lake in Hartford, WI. Jennie actively volunteered in her community as a part of her Catholic faith throughout her life. She and Paul were Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound, hospital patients, and at Mass. They also enjoyed traveling the world, visiting much of Europe and the United States, as well as special trips to China, Egypt, and Rome. Jennie was known for her talents in the kitchen, a passion she shared and inspired in her family. Jennie is survived by her beloved children Paul (Sue) Sukalich, Patty Sukalich, and Bob (Lynelle) Sukalich; her nine and two great-grandchildren. Jennie is also survived by other relatives and friends. Despite her illness, she enjoyed the company of family and friends in her final months. A special thank you is extended to the compassionate caregivers who helped her during this time.

FCSLA Executive Committee First Quarterly Meeting

Home Office, Beachwood OH • February 22, 2017

Call to Order/Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

National President Cynthia M. Maleski called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. at the home office, Beachwood, Ohio. She asked Chaplain Monsignor Peter M. Polando to open the meeting with prayer.

Opening Business

Roll Call

Interim Secretary Katherine M. Bowes was asked to call the roll.

Members present were:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Monsignor Peter M. Polando | Chaplain (via phone) |
| Cynthia M. Maleski | President |
| Sue Ann M. Seich | Director |
| Joann Skvarek Banvich | Director |
| Virginia A. Holmes | Trustee |
| Barbara Novotny Waller | Trustee |

Treasurer Stephen C. Hudak and Interim Secretary Bowes were also in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda

President Maleski called for approval of the agenda. Trustee Barbara Novotny Waller moved and Director Joann Skvarek Banvich seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION ADOPTED

Approval of the Minutes

President Maleski called for approval of the November 17, 2016 Executive Committee Meeting minutes. Monsignor Polando moved and Trustee Virginia A. Holmes seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Director Skvarek Banvich amended the minutes to note that Interim Secretary Bowes should also be listed as being in attendance.

MOTION ADOPTED, As Amended

National President's Comments

President Maleski opened her comments by presenting that FCSLA experienced a record year in 2016 in terms of assets, surplus, and income. She gave a synopsis of the year's accomplishments and congratulated the Executive Committee for its part in this work.

Strategic Plan

The executive staff spent time developing priorities and target dates around initiatives set forth in the strategic plan. This will be presented more fully at the March board of directors meeting.

National Secretary Position

An independent hiring team was assembled to interview candidates. Plans are being made to bring final candidates to the March meeting of the board of directors.

Merger Update

The vote for the mergers is now underway. The delegates are directed to return ballots to H2R CPA, the firm of Leo Hannah, to be counted, as directed by the board and in accordance with the bylaws. Positive comments have been received on the merger materials.

A.M. Best

After an update on A.M. Best, it was noted that a new financial analyst has been assigned to FCSLA. The interview has been scheduled for May 2, 2017.

125th Anniversary

The anniversary theme, "Security, Faith, Traditions" was created by our 125th Anniversary Steering Committee and was modeled after our mission statement. The anniversary colors will be blue and white, our traditional colors. The invitation is in draft stage as are the guidelines for

districts planning to host their own celebrations as well as the national events. The restoration of the St. Ann's statue is in the development stage. The Philanthropic and Scholarship Committee designated our Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund to be the 2017 Annual President's Appeal. This collection will add to the \$250,000 already allotted from annual operating funds for scholarships.

Marketing Position

A position description has been developed for a marketing position that will be published in the March 2017 *Fraternally Yours*. The ideal candidate would have a combination of marketing and data analytic skills. The position will also be posted in appropriate online job boards.

Sales Report

National Sales Manager Albert Heiles will present his sales report at the March board meeting. The 2017 Sales Incentive Program has been rolled out.

Directors Desk Portal

All members of the board have completed training. Board members are encouraged to use their iPads and to bring them to the board meetings.

Branch Services

The new pamphlet for the 2017 promotional items to be used at branch and District events received positive feedback. Approval has been given for the opening of two new junior branches, one in Nebraska and one in Wisconsin.

Strategic Planning Committees of the Board

Committees have been appointed and most have already had a meeting to develop plans and action steps.

Regulatory Report

Plans are in place to implement the new U.S. Department of Labor fiduciary rule, as necessary. It is likely that the rule will be delayed by the new administration. This situation will be monitored. Because of the election of a new Congress, Congressional Resolution 19 ended with the former Congress. Another resolution will need to be introduced regarding the tax exemption for fraternal. The American Fraternal Alliance is working on another congressional resolution. The Ohio Department of Insurance recently adopted the Corporate Governance Disclosure Act and fraternal will be expected to comply at a future date.

Pro Life March

Two buses were sponsored and a number of young people from various high schools rode on the buses, as well as FCSLA members. The Cleveland District provided lunches once again.

Director Sue Ann M. Seich moved and Trustee Holmes seconded to accept the President's report.

MOTION ADOPTED

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Hudak presented the Treasurer's Report.

Supplement 1

Investments

Treasurer Hudak went over the details on the Acquired Securities Report. Questions were asked and answered.

Annuity Reserves by Product

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

(Continued on Page 22)

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Branch W130

Root Beer Floats at Bohemian Plum Festival



FCSLA Lodge #130 of Clutier, IA had a successful Matching Fund activity selling root beer floats at the Bohemian Plum Festival in Clutier on August 5th and 6th. \$526 was sent from the Home Office in Matching Funds. The money will go towards the St. Wenceslaus Cemetery Evergreen Restoration Project.



Warren & Bev Colvin make a float for a happy customer.



Jr. Branch 115

Walk for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

Jr. Branch 115, Clairton, PA, sponsored a team to walk in the Second Annual Walk for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. The walk was held on Saturday, June 3, 2017, at Flagstaff Hill at Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, PA.

The junior members asked family and friends for pledges and walked with senior members in honor of Blake Stover a junior member. Blake is the son of Kevin and Heather Stover, junior branch vice president, and grandson of Gerald and

Monica LaFrankie, junior branch financial secretary. Blake was a patient at Children's Hospital in 2012 and received wonderful care while he was a patient and during his checkups. They raised \$710 for Children's Hospital. Blake would like to thank FCSLA for the \$600 matching funds for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Photo at right: Blake and his mother Heather Stover.



Junior and Senior members with Blake Stover in the center.

Wesley Schak Baptism

On June 25, 2017, Pastor Rev. David Nuss baptized member Wesley Schak (J538) at Little Flower Church in Toledo, OH. Pictured (below) are Amy Schak, Fr. Nuss holding Wesley, Melissa Schak, and Wesley's parents Jeff, holding brother Alexander and Branch President Andrea (S639), holding sister Evelyn. A celebration party was held afterwards at the home of Tim and Kathy Snyder, grandparents of Wesley.



Executive Committee First Quarterly Meeting

Annual Statements

Treasurer Hudak stated that the Annual Statement has been completed and will be distributed in the near future. He reviewed the investment section of the Annual Statement.

The meeting was recessed at 11:07 a.m. for short break and was reconvened at 11:21 a.m. Treasurer Hudak introduced Controller Frank Rando.

1st Quarter Budget vs. Actual

Controller Rando discussed the report and reviewed both life and annuity sales compared to the detailed budget. He also highlighted some items on the general budget. Questions on the report were asked and answered.

Controller Rando was excused from the meeting.

PUA Recalculations

Treasurer Hudak gave an update on the reserves relating to Paid-Up Additions issued prior to 2012.

Yield Curve

Treasurer Hudak reviewed the yield curve and the interest rate environment.

Annuity Interest Yield (April 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017)

After discussion, Monsignor Polando moved and Director Seich seconded that the Executive Committee recommend to the board that the annual annuity yield rate credited for the second quarter 2017 (April 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017) remain the same:

Elite products

Silver Elite – 5 yr 2.75% APY

Gold Elite – 7 yr 3.00% APY

Platinum Elite – 10 yr 3.25% APY

Legacy products

Legacy 3.5% - 3.5618% APY

Legacy 4.5% - 4.6025% APY

MOTION ADOPTED

Director Seich moved and Trustee Waller seconded to accept the Treasurer's report.

MOTION ADOPTED

District Quotas

At the behest of President Maleski, Interim Secretary Bowes presented a history and overview of the current district compensation and quota system. It may need to be changed because the method and formula by which it is calculated is outdated. Discussion ensued regarding possible district goals from which a new system could be developed. It was suggested that the directors and trustees from the Executive Committee meet after adjournment of the meeting to develop proposed goals that are to be presented at the March board meeting.

Executive Committee Meeting Dates (start time 10:00 a.m.)

2nd Quarterly Meeting – May 16, 2017

3rd Quarterly Meeting – August 16, 2017

4th Quarterly Meeting – November 2, 2017

Adjournment and Prayer

Director Seich moved and Trustee Holmes seconded adjourning the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m. with prayer led by Monsignor Polando.

MOTION ADOPTED

Cynthia M. Maleski, President

Katherine M. Bowes, Interim Secretary

ATTEST:

Monsignor Peter M. Polando, Chaplain Virginia A. Holmes, Trustee

Sue Ann M. Seich, Director

Barbara Novotny Waller, Trustee

Joann Skvarek Banvich, Director

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 30, 2017

ASSETS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Cash & Short Term Investments | \$ 28,579,835 |
| Bonds | 828,750,919 |
| Preferred Stock | 1,814,619 |
| Common Stock | 6,958,759 |
| Investment Income Due & Accrued | 12,575,560 |
| Property Plant & Equipment, Net | 5,521,292 |
| Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest | 2,555,525 |
| Other Assets | 8,013,563 |

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 894,770,073

LIABILITIES

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Life Reserves | \$ 262,030,621 |
| Annuity Reserves | 510,809,389 |
| Death Claims Payable | 2,128,599 |
| Unearned Premiums | 505,807 |
| Matured Endowments | 298,019 |
| Provision for Dividends Payable | 1,400,000 |
| Accumulated Dividends & Interest | 4,536,008 |
| Accrued Convention Donations | 420,000 |
| Provision for Future Conventions | 316,052 |
| Asset Valuation Reserve | 8,214,524 |
| Interest Maintenance Reserve | 904,711 |
| Other Liabilities | 1,464,607 |

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$ 793,028,336

Surplus

\$ 101,741,737

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

\$ 894,770,073

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Six Months Ending June 30, 2017

REVENUE

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Insurance Premiums | \$ 2,271,088 |
| Annuity Premiums | 21,612,797 |
| Investment Income | 22,104,830 |
| Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve | 55,973 |
| Rental Income | 268,138 |
| Other Revenue | 14,234 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$ 46,327,060 |

EXPENSE

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Increase in Reserves — Life | \$ 936,598 |
| Increase in Reserves — Annuity | 17,935,389 |
| Insurance Benefits | 3,274,717 |
| Annuity Benefits | 13,622,037 |
| Commission Expense | 636,825 |
| Surrender Benefits | 1,964,692 |
| Post Mortem Benefits | 724,046 |
| Miscellaneous Member Benefits | 35,325 |
| Matured Endowments | (10,292) |
| Donation Expenses | 61,179 |
| Change in Accrued Convention Donations | 126,000 |
| Convention Expenses | 123,368 |
| Bank Service Charges | 44,199 |
| Data Processing Service Fees | 108,911 |
| Accounting Fees | 22,992 |
| Actuarial Fees | 153,575 |
| Legal Fees | 90,824 |
| Consulting Fees | 60,520 |
| Bonus to Branches | 414,700 |
| Fraternal Activities | 74,368 |
| Official Publications | 235,208 |
| Scholarship Awards | 156,498 |
| Miscellaneous Employee Benefits | 216,670 |
| Fees — Directors | 89,835 |
| Salaries — Employees | 888,297 |
| Salaries — Officers | 287,675 |
| Interest Expense | 134,428 |
| Tax Expense | 159,743 |
| Depreciation Expense | 120,428 |
| Utility Expense | 66,106 |
| Postage and Printing | 112,422 |
| Advertising | 67,721 |
| Travel Expense | 54,529 |
| Insurance Department Fees | 52,648 |
| Sales Promotion | 110,592 |
| Rental Expense | 246,878 |
| Other Expense | 308,802 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | \$ 43,708,455 |

Income (Loss) from Operations

\$ 2,618,606

Dividends to Members

707,600

Subtotal Income (Loss)

\$ 1,911,005

Capital Gains (Loss)

(89,905)

NET INCOME (Loss)

\$ 1,821,100



FLAVORS OF FALL

ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH & BRUSSEL SPROUTS WITH BACON

17 ounces butternut squash (or pumpkin),
diced into 1-inch pieces
14 ounces brussels sprouts, halved
2 tablespoons honey (plus an additional
tablespoon for after roasting, if desired)
1 tablespoon olive oil
Salt to taste
3 slices of bacon, diced

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease a
baking sheet or tray with cooking oil spray,
wipe over with a paper towel; set aside.

Add the butternut squash and brussels
sprouts together on prepared baking sheet.
Drizzle with honey and olive oil, season with
salt. Toss to evenly coat.

Arrange in an even layer and roast for 45
minutes until the sprouts are slightly charred
and the squash is fork tender.

In the last 10 minutes of roasting time,
pan fry the bacon pieces over medium-high
heat in a small pan or skillet until crisp and
cooked to your liking.

Remove squash and sprouts from oven
and allow to cool slightly. Taste test at this
point and add an extra drizzle of honey if
you wish. Mix in the fried bacon pieces.

CREAMY SLOW COOKER MASHED POTATOES

5 pounds, peeled (or unpeeled if desired)
and cut into 1½-inch pieces
1 cup chicken broth/stock
4 cloves garlic, crushed
⅓ cup butter, diced
Pinch of salt and pepper
(adjust to your tastes)
⅔ cup sour cream
⅓ cup - ½ cup hot milk
½ cup fresh grated parmesan cheese
(optional -- substitute with cheddar
if you prefer)

Place the potatoes, broth, garlic and
butter into a 6 qt. slow cooker. Season with
salt and pepper; mix together and cover
with lid. Cook on high setting for 4 hours or
low setting for 7-8 hours, until very tender.

Mash potatoes with a potato masher or
electric beater. Stir the sour cream and milk
through until well combined and creamy
(add more milk if desired). Stir through the
parmesan cheese. Keep covered, on low or
warm setting until ready to serve.

ONE PAN JUICY HERB ROASTED TURKEY & POTATOES WITH GRAVY

1 whole, skin-on, bone-in turkey breast
(6 pounds)
4 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons minced garlic (6 cloves)
4 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley leaves
1 tablespoon thyme leaves
1 teaspoon mild paprika
2 teaspoons kosher salt
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons {extra} olive oil
5-6 small sweet potatoes
5-6 potatoes

Gravy:

1 cup pan juices
1 cup chicken broth or stock
1 tablespoon corn starch mixed with
2 tablespoons water

Extra salt to season, if desired.

Turkey and Potatoes:

Preheat the oven to 200 degrees. Place
the turkey breast in a large roasting pan
lined with parchment paper, skin side up.
Pierce through the skin and flesh with a fork,
all over the breast. Set aside.

In a small bowl, combine 4 tablespoons
olive oil, garlic, parsley, thyme, paprika, salt,
and pepper. Rub half of the mixture evenly
all over the skin of the turkey breast. Loosen
the skin and rub the seasoning underneath
the skin and onto the meat. Pour the {extra}
2 tablespoons oil underneath the turkey
breast onto the parchment paper. Turn the
breast over, skin-side down.

Arrange the sweet potatoes and pota-

toes around the turkey, and rub them with
remaining seasoning. Season with extra
salt, if desired.

Cover pan completely with aluminium
foil. Roast for 2 hours.

Remove from oven, carefully uncover
the turkey, and turn in the pan to be skin-
side up. Change oven setting to grill or
broil, and continue to roast the turkey for
an additional 30-45 minutes, or until the
skin is crispy and the turkey is completely
cooked through.

When the turkey is done, remove from
the oven, cover the pan with the same foil,
and allow to rest at room temperature for
15 minutes. Slice and serve warm with the
gravy.

For the Gravy:

Pour out all the pan juices into a medium-
sized pan and bring to a simmer. Mix in the
broth and continue to simmer over low heat.

Pour in the corn starch mixture while
whisking continuously, until a nice and thick
gravy begins to form.

SPIKED CRANBERRY COBBLER CAKE

For the Filling:

2½ cups cranberries (frozen slightly thawed,
or fresh)
½ cup brown sugar
⅓ cup maple syrup
6 tablespoons bourbon (or more)
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
3 teaspoons cornstarch

Cobbler Topping:

½ cup melted butter or apple sauce
½ cup milk
1 cup all purpose flour
½ cup brown sugar, packed
1 egg
1½ teaspoons baking powder
Pinch of salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a
9-inch pie dish or a nonstick round baking
pan with cooking oil spray, and set aside.

Filling:

Combine all filling ingredients together
in a medium sized bowl, mix well and set
aside.

Topping:

In a separate bowl, whisk together the
butter or apple sauce, milk and sugar until
combined. Whisk in the egg. Add flour,
baking powder and salt, and whisk batter
until smooth and lump free.

Fill pie dish with cranberry mix and
evenly pour the cobbler cake batter over
the top.

Bake for about 35-45 minutes, or until
the cranberry juices are bubbling and the
cobbler cake is golden and firm to the
touch.

Cool for 15 minutes before serving.



PERIODICAL

11/17

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.