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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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## Jelly Bean Prayer

Little jelly beans tell a story true.

A tale of Father's love, just for me and you.

**GREEN** is for the waving palms.

**YELLOW** is for the sun above.

**BROWN** is for the soft earth where people sat hearing of HIS love.

A **SPECKLED** bean for fish and sand.

**RED** for precious wine and **BLACK** is for the sin  
He washed from your soul and mine.

**PURPLE's** for the sadness of HIS family and friends,  
and **WHITE** is for the glory of the day HE rose again.

Now that you've heard the story, you know what each color means.  
The story of our Father's love told by some simple jelly beans.

Dear Friends,

May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year bring peace  
and happiness to you and those you hold most dear. And may Christ, Our  
Risen Savior, always be there by your side to bless you most abundantly  
and be your loving guide.

Until Next Month,  
Warmly, Carolyn

## 42nd Quadrennial Convention Announcements

**Bylaw Changes:** Any Principal member wishing to submit a bylaw  
change for consideration must do so in writing to the attention of Cynthia  
Maleski, National President, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122.  
All submissions must be signed and postmarked, delivery service, or elec-  
tronic media dated by Monday, April 29, 2019.

**Candidates for National Office:** Any Principal member wishing  
to run for a national office must return an intent form, along with a resumé  
and non-refundable registration fee. Intent forms are available from Kimberly  
Graham, National Secretary. All materials must be postmarked or dated by  
delivery service by August 2, 2019. Please review the requirements for na-  
tional office, including Court of Appeals, in the 2015 Constitution and Bylaws.

**Convention Donation Applications:** Convention donation  
information and application can be found on our website. Applications are  
due April 27, 2019.

**Guests:** Guests are allowed to attend the convention, but are respon-  
sible for all their expenses (travel, room, meals). More information to follow.

# ST. BERNADETTE

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

St. Bernadette was born in Lourdes, France in 1844. Her baptismal name was Marie Bernarde Soubirous but her pet name was Bernadette. She was the oldest of nine children, three of whom died shortly after birth. Her father was a miller by trade, but the family was extremely poor. They lived in a dungeon-like room in the basement of a dilapidated building that was a former jail, provided for free by the mother's cousin. The children were uneducated. As a toddler, Bernadette contracted cholera after which she suffered extreme asthma. She lived her entire life in poor health and only grew to be 4'7" tall.

On Thursday, February 11, 1858, when Bernadette was fourteen years old, she was sent with her younger sister and a friend to gather firewood on the banks of the Gave River near Lourdes. As Bernadette's sister and friend walked on through the stream, Bernadette lagged behind to remove her shoes and stockings. She heard a rustling and looked up. A very beautiful lady appeared to Bernadette above a rose bush in the grotto above the riverbank. The woman smiled at Bernadette before making the sign of the cross with a rosary. Bernadette took out her own rosary and knelt to pray. Although her sister and friend were unable to see the woman, Bernadette could describe her vision in detail. Three days later Bernadette returned to the grotto with her sister and some friends, where Bernadette again saw the woman and fell into a trance before the apparition disappeared.

Bernadette continued to visit the grotto daily from February 18 through March 4. Her visits were drawing large crowds of people. Her parents were embarrassed and tried to stop her but were unable to do so. After visiting the grotto on February 25, Bernadette claimed the vision told her to drink of the water of the spring, to wash in it and to eat the herb that grew there.

The next day, fresh water flowed where once the grotto's muddy waters had been. On March 25, Bernadette's vision lasted over an hour. The vision told her she was the Immaculate Conception and that a chapel should be built on the site.

Although many townspeople believed Bernadette had indeed been seeing the Holy Virgin, her story created a division in the town. Some believed Bernadette had a mental illness and demanded she be put in a mental asylum. Church authorities and the French government thoroughly interviewed Bernadette. In 1862, after four years, they confirmed that she spoke the truth.

You can imagine how Bernadette's life had changed with all the excitement surrounding her. While her family was relieved of some of their financial burden as work became available for her father, at the same time their privacy was continually invaded. People wanted to interview Bernadette at all hours of the day. They wanted her to bless them or their sick family members. When they wanted to give her money, she would always politely refuse. Although the visions had taken place over a course of less than two months, the invasion of privacy was unending. Bernadette decided she did not like the attention she was getting and went to the school run by the Sisters of Charity of Nevers, where she was taught to read and write. In 1866, she joined the same Sisters of Charity. Bernadette spent the rest of her life there, first as an infirmiry assistant and later a sacristan. Eventually she was diagnosed with tuberculosis which made her unable to take part in convent life. She died in 1879 at the age of 35 while praying the holy rosary.

St. Bernadette's body was first exhumed thirty years after her death. Two doctors claimed that her body remained preserved from decomposition. This incorruption was cited as one of the miracles supporting her canonization. Her body was exhumed two more times, and each time doctors were amazed at how well the body and organs were preserved.

St. Bernadette's request to the local priest to build a chapel at the site of her visions eventually gave rise to a number of chapels and churches at Lourdes. The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes is now one of the major Catholic pilgrimage sites in the world. A basilica at the site can accommodate 25,000 people. Millions of pilgrims have visited Lourdes, many seeking a miracle. Since St. Bernadette first caused the spring to produce clean water, 69 miracles have met the stringent requirements of the Vatican and have been verified by the Lourdes Medical Bureau, the last being in 2013, while more than 7,000 others have been reported. St. Bernadette is the patron saint of the poor and the sick and of those ridiculed for their faith. *St. Bernadette, pray for us, that we may attain the vision of God and Mary in Heaven!*

Lastly, as we continue our journey through this Lenten Season, I wish for its culmination to be a Holy and Happy Easter for all of you and your loved ones!

## *Applications for Scholarships Available Online*

The United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH, announces 2019 scholarship availability to graduating high school seniors who are entering college and are five year members of our local lodges that include: National Slovak Society Assembly 160, Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111, First Catholic Slovak Union #228, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch #114 and Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union #77. The one-time scholarship application and rules may be obtained by visiting [www.americanslovakclub.com](http://www.americanslovakclub.com). Deadline for completion is May 30, 2019.



# Message from our National President

## CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear fellow members,

We have many things going on in the home office in preparing for the quadrennial convention in Tampa, Florida, launching our newest Guaranteed Issue Program (see announcement in this issue and in your mail), planning and hosting Strategic Planning and Visioning for our board of directors, preparing and filing 2018 Financial State-

ments and Annual Reports for YOU, our esteemed members, doing an analysis of the impact of the new 2017 CSO Mortality Tables on our life products, and delivering presentations to our top sales qualifiers and various districts. The list goes on and on as we move forward for the benefit of our association and our members.

During these last few weeks of Lent, it is ESSENTIAL that we take some time out of our busy lives

to quietly spend some time with our Lord, meditate, think and pray. It is a wonderful way to separate out what is truly significant in this life and what is not. Let us not forget that God loves us and forgives us even when we don't have everything together. Many times we overlook things and are unappreciative. Yet God accepts us and deals with our imperfections.

Can we deal with the people in our lives in the same way? This is the test put before us.

On Easter Saturday, I hope you and your family take your Easter basket to church with the specially prepared foods to have them blessed. This ritual is a century's old tradition and binds us together as family, with friends and the Church.

We hope that your Easter Day is filled with the JOY of the Resurrection of the Lord and that the JOY of Christ's Resurrection fills us with the bright promise of His love throughout the year!

Christ is Risen, Yes, He is Truly Risen!

**Cynthia M. Maleski**  
National President

### Pro-Life March in Washington, D.C.



FCSLA sponsored two buses (with FCSU) to Washington, D.C. for the Pro-Life March on January 18<sup>th</sup>. We thank Chris Kiggins, Father Frank Basa and Dr. Deborah Brindza for volunteering as co-captains. Thank you also to Donna Oros for her assistance as well as Father Michael Brunovsky for leading the Benedictine High School young men and reciting the rosary on the bus.

## FCSLA Annuity Rates

Rates for our deferred Elite Annuities:

**SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)**

**3.25% APY\***

**GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)**

**3.50% APY\***

**PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)**

**3.75% APY\***

\*This rate is in effect 4/1/2019 thru 6/30/2019.

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 2019 is 2% APY and for the Platinum Elite is 2.5% APY.



Most of you know we have an amazing program called **Matching Funds** – for those that do not, it is a way for our branches to raise money for a charitable or benevolent cause and FCSLA will match up to \$600 of what the branch raises.

This program was started at the end of 2011 and has really grown by leaps and bounds. Every year more branches do projects. In 2018 we had a HUGE year! Just look at these numbers:

- Number of branches that did a project: 110
- 48 branches did 2 projects (the max that they are allowed)
- 14 branches did a project for the very first time
- 175 projects were completed in 14 states
- The 110 branches raised \$520,638.69
- FCSLA matched \$100,930.45

Did you just say WOW!? I know I did when I was compiling my year end numbers.

Every year I think “wow” there is no way the branches are going to surpass last year’s totals, but they do! And they just don’t surpass it by one or two projects, they do it by 10! In 2017 they did 165 projects.

I want to congratulate the 110 branches (you know who you are) on a VERY successful 2018! You are all amazing and I appreciate all the hard work you do year after year on these projects. I also want to thank the branch officers that take extra time to help other branches get started in doing a project. I appreciate you very much (and once again you know who you are).

Please check out our website [fcsla.org](http://fcsla.org) for guidelines on how to do a project. You can also see all the projects that were completed, not only last year, but the past several years as well! If you are a member and would like to do a project contact your branch officer.

How many will we do for 2019? I can’t wait to see!



## Blessing Baskets



The blessing of food baskets on Holy Saturday is a long-standing Central/Eastern European tradition that has been brought to the U.S. by immigrants from Slovakia, Poland, Lithuania, etc. Many times the baskets of food are covered with elaborate, hand embroidered cloths that are only used on Holy Saturday.

The tradition celebrates our joy of the Resurrection. The foods in the basket are our Easter meal and represent fare traditionally abstained from during Lent (in times when Lenten regulations were much more severe than today): meat, butter, rich breads, desserts. The food is placed in a wicker basket and brought to the church on Holy Saturday where it is blessed in a short liturgy.

The rules are relaxed for the modern Easter basket at the pre-feast blessing, but Slovak tradition calls for nine items to be in it.

### They are:

**Eggs:** Brightly decorated eggs are a symbol of new life in the risen Christ.

**Pascha, or Easter bread:** It’s sweet and rich in eggs and butter. It’s a symbol of Christ, Christians’ “true bread.”

**Kielbasa:** A spicy sausage that indicates God’s favor and generosity.

**A piece of uncooked bacon, cured with spices:** It symbolizes the abundance of God’s mercy.

**Salt:** It reminds people to flavor their dealings with others by Christ’s example.

**Ham:** It was popular with Czechoslovakians because of its richness, and it is symbolic of Easter’s great joy and abundance.

**Cheese:** A custard-style cheese, shaped into a ball and having a bland but sweet taste, indicates the moderation Christians should have in all things.

**Horseradish and beets:** They symbolize the suffering of Christ, who was put to death on a cross and rose from the dead three days later, defeating the sins of the world.

**Butter:** It’s shaped like a lamb, a small cross or placed in a glass dish. It reminds people to have Christ-like goodness toward all things.

# 2019 FCSLA FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR

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

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



## GUIDELINES:

- ◆ All FCSLA members are eligible to submit a nominee for this award.
- ◆ The nominee must be a member in good standing of the FCSLA, age 23 and older, with a history of fraternal and community service.
- ◆ National Officers, Home Office Employees and previous recipients of this award are not eligible.
- ◆ Include a head and shoulders photo of nominee.
- ◆ Nomination Form, additional sheet of paper and photo should be mailed to: FCSLA, Kelly M. Shedlock, Fraternal & Youth Director, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122 or email to: [kelly@fcsla.org](mailto:kelly@fcsla.org).
- ◆ If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Shedlock via email at [kelly@fcsla.org](mailto:kelly@fcsla.org) or at the home office 800.464.4642 EXT 1051.
- ◆ You may also print this form off our website [www.fcsla.org](http://www.fcsla.org).
- ◆ An independent committee will select the winner.
- ◆ **Deadline for Entries is May 3, 2019.**

## 2019 FCSLA Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Form

PLEASE PRINT!

### NOMINEE:

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FCSLA Branch #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Widowed

If Married Spouses Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer/School: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please review the following categories.**

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

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


### NOMINATOR:

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_





Jesus Christ sacrificed his life  
to save us all,  
and on this day He was resurrected.  
May you have a blessed Easter  
filled with joy and peace.

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Happy Easter to you and your family

## FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA BISHOPS

Sister Pamela Smith, SS.C.M., representing Bishop Guglielmone and the Diocese of Charleston, SC, joined bishops and clergy from the Episcopal, Lutheran, African Methodist Episcopal, United Methodist, Christian Methodist Episcopal churches who are involved with the Fellowship of South Carolina Bishops. The Fellowship of South Caro-

lina Bishops have committed themselves to advocating for improving education in the rural and impoverished areas of South Carolina (sometimes called "the corridor of shame"). The group held a listening session in Allendale County, SC. Parents, grandparents, teachers, volunteers, former school board members, middle school students, the State House representatives, and clergy were among those in attendance.

While the Diocese of Charleston, SC is committed to Catholic schools and has a strategic plan for strengthening them across the state, the Diocese is also engaged in public action and policy proposals on behalf of public education. Teachers' salaries, incentives to retain excellent teachers, parenting programs, giving additional support for updated supplies and facilities, along with after school activities were among the topics discussed. A next step is for many of the participants and leaders to interact with legislators on behalf of public schools. The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius sponsor St. Francis Center on St. Helena Island, SC. The center provides a variety of programs such as housing repair assistance and food primarily for the elderly poor, and programs for migrants.



**NOW AVAILABLE!**

## **FIVE VOCATIONAL TRADE/TECHNICAL SCHOOL \$1,250 SCHOLARSHIPS**

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association is pleased to announce a new scholarship opportunity in 2019

Vocational, Trade and Technical school scholarships are now available for the 2019 scholarship program

The Vocational/Trade/Technical Scholarship is intended to help members planning to attend a community college, vocational school, trade school or other short-term training program in fields such as automotive technology, plumbing, heating, construction, welding, advanced manufacturing, cosmetology, computer repair as well as other fields. To learn more about the scholarship see our Vocational/Trade/Technical School Scholarship Application available online at [FCSLA.com](http://FCSLA.com).

The deadline for this scholarship category has been extended to Monday, April 1, 2019. Winners will be notified in May. If you have questions, call us at 800-464-4642 extension 1054 or email us at [Scholarship@fcscla.com](mailto:Scholarship@fcscla.com).



## **SLOVAKIA HERITAGE TOUR September 6-15, 2019**

2019 Slovakia Heritage ten-day, small group tour from September 6-15. We'll explore age-old cities, medieval towns and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, the Tatry mountains and picturesque villages. We'll join in the wine and harvest festivals that bring alive Slovakia's long music and craft traditions. Optional genealogical research, and ancestral village and family visits available. For more information: Visit [www.slovakiaheritage.com](http://www.slovakiaheritage.com) or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 [slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com](mailto:slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com).

## **SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE**



WPSCA and the Stephanie Husak Scholarship Fund are offering a scholarship to attend the Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia from June 30 to July 19, 2019. WPSCA will award \$3,000 to cover transportation, tuition, room and board to the successful candidate. Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a full time college student
- Must be of Slovak heritage
- Must not have previously attended the program
- Must apply to Comenius University for acceptance
- Must be willing to attend WPSCA events when requested to discuss the program

The SAS Summer School is the oldest summer language school in Slovakia and is designed to enable students to improve and enhance their Slovak language competency as well as increase their knowledge of Slovak literature and culture. More information is available at [www.cdv.uniba.sk/en/summeruniversity](http://www.cdv.uniba.sk/en/summeruniversity).

For further information or for an application, contact Joe Senko at [jtsenko@aol.com](mailto:jtsenko@aol.com) or (412) 956-6000. Completed applications must be received by WPSCA on or before April 15, 2019 at: WPSCA, Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

## **Branch W001 Makes Donation to St. Wenceslaus School**



Branch W001, New Prague, MN made a donation to St. Wenceslaus School in memory of John Bisek, Sr. who passed away on December 13, 2018. John was an officer for 51 years and a very dedicated member. He was first elected as Secretary of Catholic Workman in December 1967 and served in that position until December 2005. He was then elected Vice-President and served in the capacity until his death in December 2018. The branch is very thankful for his hard work and enthusiasm for so many years. May he rest in peace.



## W137 Wine Tasting

Branch W137 held an adult-only wine tasting at Cedar Ridge Winery and Distillery on Sunday, February 24, 2019. Wines and bourbons were available to sample along with wood-fired pizza and snacks. Members were able to tour the winery and distillery facility. All attending went home with gift bags.



## Hallow Brothers of Branch 452, Both Graduate in 2018



**LUCCAS HALLOW** graduated from Valparaiso High School in Valparaiso, IN, May 2018. Luke is attending Indiana University in Bloomington, IN studying Media, Advertising and Marketing. He is the son of Cindy and Dave Hallow of Valparaiso; grandson of the late MaryLou Adam and great-grandson of the late Mary Benak. All are members of FCCLA, Branch 452 (Whiting, IN).



**ZACCARY HALLOW** graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree in December 2018. He is the son of Cindy and Dave Hallow of Valparaiso, IN; grandson of the late MaryLou Adam and great-grandson of the late Mary Benak. All are members of FCCLA, Branch 452 (Whiting, IN).

## SLOVAKIA RECOGNIZES WORK OF AMERICANS

Slovak Ambassador Ivan Korcak presented gold medals from Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak to Honorary Consul Joseph Senko and former U.S. Ambassador Theodore Russell for their outstanding work in promoting Slovakia through their numerous programs in the "Friends of Slovakia" organization of which Mr. Senko was Chairman and Mr. Russell was Founding Chairman.



L-R: Ted Russell, Ambassador Korcak and Joseph Senko.

**All Cleveland, OH Members!**

## Join FCCLA at a Lake County Captains Game



(Class A Affiliate  
of the Cleveland Indians)

**Classic Park**

35300 Vine Street, Eastlake, OH

**Friday, May 31, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.**

Fireworks after the game

**\$20** per person

**Includes: Ticket (3B side)**

**All you can eat buffet from 5-7:00 P.M.**

**Left Field Picnic Area**

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

**Limited Number of Tickets Available.**

**Reserve your tickets now.**

**Contact Kelly Shedlock  
via email: [kelly@fcscla.org](mailto:kelly@fcscla.org)**

# JUST A REMINDER!

**THE FCSLA GUARANTEED ISSUE LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM**  
is available for the period of March 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019

## WHAT IS IT?

### WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER THIS GUARANTEED ISSUE LIFE INSURANCE OFFER?

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, a fraternal benefit society with an A- Excellent rating from A.M. Best and an outstanding financial position, offers this program to YOU, a loyal and dedicated member, to say **THANK YOU** and provide you with a way to better meet the rising costs of final expenses.

It is easy to apply for this program. Just complete the simple application you received by mail, indicate your choice of the amount of life insurance, and return it in the envelope with your check. That's it! There are no health questions and no medical exams. It is a guarantee that you cannot be turned down for any medical reason. If you accept this offer, it does not alter your existing coverage.

This offer is made to select members only age 0 to 80 using our standard rate. This means that you are buying life insurance with NO EXTRA PREMIUM due to medical conditions. There are no future premiums and your life insurance will never decrease in value if you do not access the cash value (by taking a loan).

If you have not had a chance to participate in the past, please consider taking advantage of this offer now. It is an opportunity for you to purchase life insurance in an easy, affordable way. If you are not interested in this offer, no action is needed.



Questions regarding this offer should be directed to the New Business Department  
at 1-800-464-4642, extension 1062 or by e-mailing [NewBusiness@fcsla.com](mailto:NewBusiness@fcsla.com).



## Junior Member Caroline Kcenich Wins Gold Ribbon in Pie Baking Contest

Caroline Rose Kcenich, a member of J207 (Shamokin, PA) won a gold ribbon, many prizes and gift cards in the 2018 Kids' Category of California's Radio Station KCRW Good Food Pie Contest with her Lemon, Blueberry Icebox Pie.

This year was the first time the competition sported the new kids' category that had 30 budding bakers ages 10 and under vying for top honors and Caroline was a winner. The beloved event returned after a one-year hiatus to UCLA's Royce Quad on Sunday, May 6, 2018. Caroline loves to bake and help her Mom cook. Her favorite shows on TV are on the cooking channels. Her parents Carolyn and David are members of S350 (Shamokin, PA) and her "Baba" Rita Kcenich is President of these branches. Her winning recipe is below!

Congratulations Caroline, maybe one day you will have your own cooking show!



### Sunday Service Lemon, Blueberry Icebox Pie

**TOTAL TIME:** 1 HOUR TO MAKE PIE, 6 OR 7 HRS. COOLING  
AND FREEZING – MAKES (1) 9" INCH PIE

#### INGREDIENTS

14 whole graham crackers, broken  
¼ cup sugar  
¼ teaspoon salt  
8 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted  
Two 14-ounce cans sweetened condensed milk  
1¼ cups fresh lemon juice, plus 2 tablespoons finely grated lemon zest  
8 large egg yolks

#### DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 325°. In a food processor, pulse the graham crackers with the sugar and salt until finely ground but not powdery. Add the butter and pulse until the crumbs are evenly moistened; transfer to a 9-inch pie pan and press into the bottom first and up the sides of the pan. Set the pan on a rimmed baking sheet.

In a medium bowl, whisk the condensed milk with the lemon juice. In another bowl, using a hand-held mixer, beat the lemon zest with the egg yolks until they are pale yellow. Beat in the condensed milk mixture into the eggs and lemon zest until smooth. Pour the filling into the crust. Bake the pie for 25 minutes, until the center jiggles slightly and the edges are set.

Transfer the pie pan to a rack; let cool for 1 hour. Cover the pie with plastic wrap and freeze the pie for at least 6 hours. Wrap a warm, damp kitchen towel around the side of the springform pan to release the pie; remove the ring. Using a hot knife, slice the pie, transfer to plates and serve.

#### Blueberry Layer (Optional)

Empty a small bag of frozen blueberries or 2 pints of fresh blueberries into a small saucepan. Add a tablespoon of lemon juice, a ¼ cup of sugar, and ½ cup of water to the saucepan. Heat the fruit mixture and mash the blueberries with a potato masher or fork. Bring mixture to a boil over medium heat and stir until it thickens. Liquefy blueberry mixture in a blender and strain it and let it cool. Pour over the top of frozen lemon pie and freeze until frozen. Top pie with fresh whipped cream and sprinkle with lemon zest.



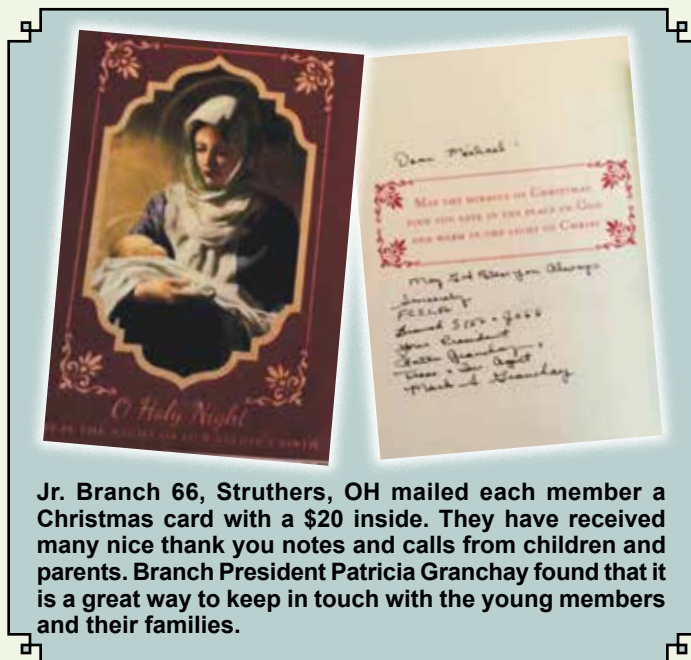
## Struthers Sr. Branch 156 Annual Branch Christmas Party

Over 60 members of Branch S156, Struthers, OH attended the annual branch Christmas party on December 8, 2018 at Tavola in Austintown, OH. Tables were covered with white clothes highlighted with red and green napkins, poinsettias and centerpieces of Christmas penguins and snowmen.

A delicious dinner was served with homemade desserts including home baked cookies made by Ashlee Hull, Leah

Hunter and Patti Granchay. Two junior members from J66 were elves and passed out the gifts of Macy's and Home Depot gift cards to members.

Nina Perkins from the Youngstown Vindicator was a special guest at the party. The branch donates money each year so that the Harding Elementary School in Youngstown gets the newspaper for the year. In addition the branch donated money to member Brandon Yunsisin, for travels to several countries this summer with his school. Everyone left smiling with a gift from the National Office.



Jr. Branch 66, Struthers, OH mailed each member a Christmas card with a \$20 inside. They have received many nice thank you notes and calls from children and parents. Branch President Patricia Granchay found that it is a great way to keep in touch with the young members and their families.



## St. Ann's Lodge S153 Holds Annual Holiday Party

St. Ann's Lodge S153, Farrell, PA held their Annual Christmas Party on Sunday, November 11, 2018 at the Park Inn by Radisson in West Middlesex, PA.

After Santa checked his "naughty and nice" list he said, "oh my, we have some questionable members here." Ha... Ha... But with a bribe of a few extra special cookies, everyone made it to the "nice list." Members were treated to a sit down dinner followed by bingo for prizes; door prizes and a box of candy were given to every member in attendance. Gifts from the national office were also given out. The afternoon ended with the singing of Christmas Carols in both English and Slovak. Deceased members were remembered in prayer and Christmas wishes were extended to all!



## BINGO WITH THE VETS AT HINES VA

**ANNA HURBAN CHICAGO DISTRICT  
INVITES ALL CHICAGO AREA MEMBERS  
TO JOIN HANDS DAY 2019**

*Join members gathered together with residents  
at the Edward Hines VA Hospital  
in Maywood, IL to play Bingo!*

**Saturday, April 27th  
from 1:30-3:00 p.m.**

*No RSVP needed! For more information please contact  
Lorraine Gibas, District President, 630-728-7518.*

## Convention Donation Information is Available on Our Website

Information regarding requests for convention donations is available to print out from our website ([fcsla.org](http://fcsla.org)) under the Quadrennial Convention tab. It must be completed in full in order to receive consideration for financial assistance at our 42nd Quadrennial Convention in October 2019.

The request must be submitted on your stationery and received at the national headquarters (address below) by April 27, 2019.

To ensure that the national headquarters receives your request in time, you may want to send it "return receipt requested" or express mail.

**Cynthia M. Maleski, National President  
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association  
24950 Chagrin Blvd. , Beachwood, OH 44122**

Requests sent by electronic media will be accepted at [cynthia@fcsla.org](mailto:cynthia@fcsla.org). If you received a convention donation from our 41st Quadrennial Convention in 2015, your Status Report from that donation must be on file at the national headquarters in order to apply again. The Philanthropic & Scholarship Committee, with the approval of the board of directors, has determined the budget for convention donations will be based on 10% of net income for the four calendar years preceding the convention or 1% of surplus at the year-end prior to the convention, whichever is greater, with a cap of \$1 million.

If you have any questions, please contact Jayne at the national headquarters: (800) 464-4642 ext. 1034 or [jneelon@fcsla.org](mailto:jneelon@fcsla.org).

## 15th Consular Tour of Slovakia

**JULY 13-27** – Visit the historic sites of three beautiful countries for the price of one tour. Begin in Vienna to tour the city, a visit to Schonbrunn Palace. Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, St. Martin Cathedral, Primatial Palace, Devin Castle. Visit nearby towns for wine tasting, folk music, a traditional folk wedding and the famous Cerveny Kamen and the Trencin Castle. Also an opportunity to enjoy spa treatments at Trencianske Teplice. Towns in Slovakia include the Tatras, Cicmany, Levoca, Kezmarok, Kosice, Bardejov and Presov. Demanovska caves, rafting on the Dunajec, another wine tasting in the Tokaj region and meeting with the Mayor of Presov. While in Poland, we will shop in Zakopane, visit Auschwitz, Pope John Paul II former home, Shrine of St. Stanislaus, Shrine of Blessed Faustina, Our Lady of Czestochowa and the Wieliczka salt mine. The total package price for this tour is \$4,300 per person (DO). This includes round trip airfare from Pittsburgh or New York, two meals daily, four star hotels, free admission to all the sites, air conditioned bus, a professional guide and more. For a detailed copy of the daily itinerary or more information, contact Joe Senko at [jtsenko@aol.com](mailto:jtsenko@aol.com) or 412-956-6000.

# FRIENDS & FAMILY

## • REWARDS PROGRAM •

**We value and appreciate our Members!**  
**Thank you for telling everybody you know about us!**

**A valid referral meets ALL 3 of these requirements:**

- Has completed contact information including address & phone number
- Is interested in FCSLA and is not yet a member
- Is willing to meet with an FCSLA representative

**Each Valid Referral Earns You \$25!**

*Submit form on page 15 by mail, fax or email*

First **Catholic Slovak**  
**Ladies Association**  
of the United States of America  
a Fraternal Benefit Society domiciled in Beachwood, OH



**FRATERNAL LIFE INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES**





## Governor Presents the Ben Black Elk Award to Dennis and Sherry Povondra

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Department of Tourism presented awards to tourism industry members at the 2019 Governor's Conference on Tourism in Pierre, SD on January 20. The Ben Black Elk Award honors Ben Black Elk, who personally greeted visitors at Mount Rushmore National Memorial for more than 27 years. The award is presented annually to an individual (or individuals) who makes outstanding contributions to the state's visitor industry.

The 2019 Ben Black Elk Award recipients are Dennis and Sherry Povondra. Their story actually began 145 year ago, because that's when Czechoslovakian families immigrated to southeastern South Dakota.

Over time, the community of Tabor became the unofficial capitol of South Dakota's Czech population. And, for the last 71 years, people have come together to celebrate that heritage in the form of Czech Days. This two-day celebration brings 5,000-10,000 people to a community of only 400. Parades, music, dancing, food, faith, and family are all celebrated.

Dennis and Sherry grew up around Czech Days and began taking a lead role in the celebration starting in 2007. Since then, they have coordinated events that have brought more than 80,000 people to the town of Tabor over the years.

Dennis and Sherry have danced the Beseda Dance, held leadership positions in church groups, overseen food stands, organized local subcommittees to take on components of the annual celebration. They belong to the Tabor Chamber of Commerce, Tabor Development Corporation, Czech Heritage Preservation So-



**South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem presents the Ben Black Elk Award to Dennis and Sherry Povondra. Governor Noem is assisted by Tourism Secretary James D. Hagen.**

ciety, Inc., and both are FCSLA members in Branch W093. Dennis currently serves as a National Auditor in FCSLA.

"Dennis and Sherry wear many hats in Tabor, and they do it to bolster a legacy for generations to come," said Noem. "They have been actively involved in Czech Days since 1975. Their role with Czech Days and all aspects of their community are valued and appreciated by many." The South Dakota Department of Tourism, led by Secretary James D. Hagen, is comprised of Tourism and the South Dakota Arts Council. That is why Dennis and Sherry Povondra were named the 2019 Ben Black Elk Award recipients.

### First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

of the United States of America  
Beachwood, OH



#### FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERSHIP REWARDS PROGRAM

**We value and appreciate our Members! Thank you for telling everybody you know about us!**

*Submit this form by mail, fax or email*

FCSLA Fax: 216-464-9260  
24950 Chagrin Blvd. Email: [heather@fcsla.com](mailto:heather@fcsla.com)  
Beachwood, OH 44122 Website: [www.fcsla.org](http://www.fcsla.org)

**A valid referral meets all 3 of these requirements. Each valid referral earns you \$25!**

- Has completed contact information including address & phone number
- Is interested in FCSLA and is not yet a member
- Is willing to meet with an FCSLA representative

#### Your (Current Member) Information:

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please Have An FCSLA Representative Contact:

Prospective Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your FCSLA Representative

*If you do not know an FCSLA representative, leave blank and the National Office will find the right representative for you.*

# Magdalen I. Iskra District Celebrates the Birth of Jesus

Magdalen I. Iskra District, Wilkes-Barre, PA celebrated Christmas with a Junior Branch Christmas Party held at Touch of Class on Sunday, December 2, 2018. The branches that participated in the celebration were J362 - Martha Iskra, President, J168 - JoAnn Klinesmith, President, J072 Antoinette Kravits, President, and J042 Diane Gregor, President.

Invocation was by JoAnn Klinesmith, President J168. A buffet menu followed which consisted of fresh fruit, chicken fingers, hot dogs, macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, corn, rolls with butter and an ice cream bar.

"The Christmas Story" was read by Jordan Ceklosky J362. The children played games and made crafts led by Linda Shemansky S172. Jingle Bells was sung by everyone as Santa arrived bringing gifts for all the children.

A Matching Funds raffle was held by Jr. Branch 72, Antoinette Kravits, President to benefit the Magdalen I. Iskra District Educational Fund.



Children with Santa Claus.



Having fun dressing like a Christmas tree.



Martha Iskra leads a sing-along with the children.



L-R: Noah Ceklosky, Lauren Shemansky, Jordan Ceklosky, reading "The Christmas Story", Caleb Ceklosky and Brody Ceklosky.



Magdalen Iskra, District President, Sister M. Madonna, SSCM, Martha Iskra, President J362.



L-R: Martha Iskra, President J362; Ann Dougher, District Fraternal Coordinator J168; Antoinette Kravits, President J073, District Auditor; Theresa Ceklosky, J362 Secretary; Barbara Ceklosky, J362 Treasurer.





Joann Klinessmith is pictured giving the invocation along with Ann Dougher.



Junior members enjoy coloring at the party.



L-R: Sr. Catherine Ann Morris, SSCM; Martha Iskra and Theresa Ceklosky.



The Sierko family, children members of J362.

## Council 27 of The Polish Women's Alliance of America

(A PART OF THE FCSLA FAMILY SINCE 2017)

### IS HOSTING A TREASURE SWAP CLOTHING PARTY & ART SALE FOR CHARITY

**Saturday, April 27, 2019**

12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Morton Grove American Legion Civic Center  
6140 Dempster Street, Morton Grove, IL  
The Community Hall, 2nd Floor



#### *Here's how it works:*

For every piece of women's clothing, accessories (hats, scarves, belts, shoes, purses, jewelry) outerwear, etc. that you bring, you get to select up to the same number of "new to you" items to take home. All items must be in "gently used", "like new" or new condition or they will not be accepted. All clothing must be brought on throw-away hangers so they look their best.



All items remaining at the end of the Party, will be donated to the Anawim Shelter for Women.

#### — ART SALE —

All paintings and other works of art will be displayed throughout the afternoon. 50% of the proceeds will be donated to the Anawim Shelter for Women. Artists are members of Group Z822 Art Po.

- Complimentary Wine & Appetizers Will Be Served
- All Are Welcome – Bring Your Friends For A Fun Afternoon!
- Let's Do Some Good...Together!

#### **For Information:**

Bo Padowski (847-420-4070) or [padowski@ameritech.net](mailto:padowski@ameritech.net)  
Antoinette Trela (847-323-1005) or [polprin@aol.com](mailto:polprin@aol.com)



# IN MEMORIAM

## Theresa M. Martin, SZJH



Theresa M. Martin, 90, of Huntsville, AL passed away September 27, 2018. She was born in Detroit, MI to Louis, who immigrated from Czechoslovakia, and Anna Zelenak. One of ten siblings, Theresa graduated from high school in Danville, PA and married George P. Martin in 1949. Theresa and George had four children, Kathleen Weston (Miles, deceased), Mary Schrenk (William), Diane Rodgers (David), and George, Jr. (Judy). She has five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. She was a member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church since moving to Huntsville in 1960 and enjoyed singing in their choir. The family wishes to thank all the nurses, caregivers, and sitters who took wonderful care of our mother at Harbor Chase and Madison Manor.

## Robert L. Strohl, S230



Robert L. Strohl, 83, of N. Catasauqua, passed away peacefully on November 25, 2018 at home surrounded by his loving family. Robert and his wife, Jean R. (Hutnick) Strohl, celebrated 58 years of marriage on May 28th. Born June 17, 1935 in Northampton, PA, he was a son of the late George E. and Hannah E. (Dilliard) Strohl. Robert was a member of Branch 230, Immaculate Conception, Catasauqua, PA.

Robert honorably served his country in the United States Army and was a member of Macungie VFW Post 9264. He worked as a foreman at the former Bethlehem Fabricators as well as Dent Manufacturing.

Robert was a member of St. John Fisher Church. Survivors: wife, Jean; sons, David A. Strohl and companion, Sandy Youngelman, and Joseph M. Strohl; daughter, Dr. Suzanne V. Strohl and fiancé, Eugene F. Downey; grandchildren, Nicholas, Sam, Charlie and Molly; and sisters, Emma Hartzell, Nancy Birosik, Shirley Eberhardt, Fern Pletchen and Janet Hagenbach. Robert was predeceased by his son, Samuel M. Strohl, and brothers, George, Carl and Erwin.

## Mercedes Rogers, Z221

Mercedes lost her fight to metastatic sarcoma of the soft tissue on September 17, 2018. She was 76 years old. Mercedes was born on January 10, 1942 in Braddock, PA, to Michael and Catherine Motkowski. Surrounded by a large family, her Polish roots and Roman Catholic faith were the foundation on which she drew her unusual strength and her loving, effervescent nature. A consummate nurturer in all facets of her life professionally and personally, she met life head on and intentionally, with humility, love, laughter and grace. Her loving sacrifices and warm sense of humor were gifts to those around her, and by which she will always be remembered. Mercedes enjoyed sports, with particular affinity for the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Minnesota Vikings. She was a wonderful gardener, and saw the beauty in all living things. During her life, she lived in many states and had many homes, and in every case, she left things much more beautiful than before. Her genuine presence and never ending encouragement will be deeply missed by all, but none more so than the family she treasured above all else. She

is survived by her treasured husband of 56 years Bill; children, Mark (Ann) Rogers of Savage, MN, Mary (Jim) Reiff and Michelle (Jeff) Hopkins of Salisbury; brother, Michael (Jeannie) Motkowski of Gainesville, GA; ten grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; brother-in-law, Edward (Millie) Tirpak; aunts, Elizabeth Lawrence, Dolores (Vincent) Sweatlock and Stephanie Fichtner; uncle, Andrew Kolano; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

## GARY LEE WOITA, W017



Gary Lee Woita died January 14, 2019. He was born November 30, 1955 at David City, NE to Leonard and Frances Havlovic Woita. In 1981 Gary took a job with Curry Farms North of Atkinson. He worked in the cattle division and enjoyed working cattle and calving heifers. In June of 1981 he met his wife Jan Barlean at his cousins wedding. They were married November 7, 1981.

In 1986 Gary and Jan purchased the Woita Family Ranch. Gary loved building their ranch and worked unlimited hours keeping the ranch on track. He made sure his children were always involved with the chores, learned proper livestock care, and good work ethics. He will be remembered for his honesty, integrity, and great sense of humor. Best of all, Gary was a loving husband, Dad, Grandpa, brother, friend, and neighbor. He loved his Lord and Savior. When Gary was diagnosed with CMML July 3rd, 2018, it was the beginning of haying season. Friends and neighbors put up over 1,100 big round bales for the Woita Family. Gary is survived by his wife Jan of Atkinson; children Lee Woita and his wife Mary of Atkinson, Eric Woita and his wife Katie of Plainview, NE, and Lindy Woita of Atkinson; four grandchildren; brothers Kevin Woita and his wife Joy of David City, NE and Mike Woita of Linwood, NE; and a sister Karen Moss and her husband Joe of Kansas City, MO.

## ADRIENNE DAINKO MILLER, S53



Adrienne Patricia Dainko Miller entered into eternal life on September 16, 2018. She was born in Joliet, IL on March 5, 1938 to Dr. Edward A. and Marie (Hucek) Dainko. She graduated from Barat College of the Sacred Heart in Lake Forest, IL. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Pierre "Val" Valcour Mille; brother, Dr. Edward A. Dainko II, Dana Point, CA, children, Pierre V. Miller II (Kelly, deceased), Alyson Rau (John), Marc (Susan),

Collin, and Erich (Jodi); grandmother of 13; numerous nieces and nephews. Adrienne was a long time member of the "Children of Mary." She was a parishioner of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Metairie and a devout Catholic who was presented with the Order of St. Louis medal by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. She was dedicated to religious education; along with her husband she also worked with many engaged couples preparing them for marriage in the "Evenings for the Engaged" program. She served as Eucharistic minister at St. Francis Xavier. She will be remembered for her strong devotion to the Lord, her love of Jesus and His blessed mother Mary and her love for family and friends. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her. Memorial contributions may be forwarded to the Will Woods Community, 3900 Howard Ave., New Orleans, LA.



# "The Tragedy of Slovak Jews"

by Dr. Jacob LaBendz, Director of the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies  
Youngstown State University

"The Tragedy of Slovak Jews," an exhibit on the Holocaust in Slovakia curated by the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, IA, will be on display at the Tyler History Center in Youngstown, OH from April 30 through May 31, 2019.

Slovakia, under the leadership of Jozef Tiso, was the only country that paid Germany to deport its Jewish citizens. After the passage of anti-Jewish legislation, Slovak fascist forces gathered nearly 60,000 Jews in ghettos and work camps. They then transported Jews to the border and transferred them into the hands of the Nazis, who murdered them in industrialized death camps. Additional Nazi-administered deportations and murders followed the Slovak Uprising of 1944. By the end of the war, the Nazis, Slovak fascists, and their collaborators had murdered over 67% of the 85,950 Jews who had lived in Slovakia. Many of those who survived did so by fleeing the country. The non-Jewish population responded in varied ways. Some aided their Jewish compatriots, while others profited from confiscated Jewish properties. Many did nothing at all. Only a few thousand Jews live in Slovakia today.

The primary sponsors of the exhibit "The Tragedy of Slovak Jews" include the Mahoning Valley Historical Society, the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley, and the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies at Youngstown State University and FCSLA Headquarters in Cleveland. Community organizations such as FCSLA Branch 161 and Youngstown Sokols Group 17 and others have contributed as well.

Dr. Rebekah Klein-Pejšová, an expert on Slovak and Jewish history from Purdue University, will present a lecture at the exhibit's opening event on April 30. Doors will open for a reception at 5:30 p.m. and the lecture will begin at 6:00. There will be time to view the exhibit both before and after the talk. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

In preparation for the exhibit, the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies will screen *The Shop on Main Street* (Czechoslovakia, 1965) at 5:00 p.m. on April 8 in the Knox Building (110 W.

Federal Street, Youngstown). Center director Dr. Jacob Ari Labendz will lead a discussion following the film, reflecting his research on Czechoslovak Holocaust cinema. The event is free and open to the public.

The film, which explores issues of inter-ethnic relations in Slovakia during the Holocaust, won the Oscar for best foreign-language film in 1966. This film will be shown at least once more during the month of May while the exhibit is still being displayed. (*Date and time to be announced, contact [loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com](mailto:loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com) for more information*)

[A note from ASCA President, Loretta Ekoniak]

A little about the post war history of Jewish remembrance: the Communist government obliged historians to conform to Marxist historiography (preventing study of the Holocaust), and Communist memorials to the victims of fascism did not mention Jews or the Romani people. In the 1960s, which were characterized by a liberalization known as the Prague Spring, discussion of the Holocaust began in Slovakia. The political climate was more favorable to exploration of the Holocaust in fiction than in academic history, leading to the publication of memoirs and novels by Holocaust survivors. A popular 1965 film, *The Shop on Main Street*, focused on Slovak culpability for the Holocaust. According to several sources, it was only after the fall of the Communist regime in 1989, that the Holocaust could be discussed openly by the public and in academia. The Slovak government viewed remembering the Holocaust as a way of demonstrating the country's European identity before it joined the European Union in 2004. Memorials were constructed in many Slovak cities during the 1990s to commemorate Holocaust victims, and in October 2001 Slovakia commemorated the victims of the Holocaust, for the first time ever on a state level, with the participation of all heads of government and in the presence of a high-level Israeli delegation and designated 9 September (the anniversary of the passage of the Jewish Code) as Holocaust Victims and Racial Hatred Day.

Come join us for a sobering look into a little known part of Slovak history.



## ANNA HURBAN CHICAGO DISTRICT

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1**

**ALS Walk**

Cantigny Park, 15151 Winfield Road, Wheaton, IL

**SATURDAY, JUNE 22**

**Chicago District Scholarship Luncheon  
and District Meeting following**

11:30 a.m. – Camelot Banquets,

8624 West 95th Street Hickory Hills, IL

Contact your branch officer or District President

Lorraine Gibas, 630-728-7518.

# **FCSLA Executive Committee Second Quarterly Meeting**

## **National Headquarters, Beachwood OH • May 9, 2018**

### **Call to Order/Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance**

National President Cynthia M. Maleski called the meeting to order at 9:26 a.m. at the national headquarters, Beachwood, Ohio and asked Director Lawrence Golofski to open the meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Opening Business**

#### **Roll Call**

Secretary Denise Mackura was asked to call the roll. Members present were:

Cynthia M. Maleski	President
Jeanette E. Palanca	Director
Lawrence M. Golofski	Director
Virginia A. Holmes	Trustee
Barbara Novotny Waller	Trustee

It was noted that Chaplain Monsignor Peter M. Polando would be joining the meeting via telephone after attending to some ministerial duties. Treasurer Stephen C. Hudak and Secretary Denise Mackura were also in attendance.

#### **Approval of the Agenda**

President Maleski called for approval of the agenda. Trustee Waller moved and Director Palanca seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

Monsignor Polando joined the meeting via telephone.

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

President Maleski called for approval of the February 13, 2018 minutes. Trustee Holmes moved and Director Palanca seconded to approve the minutes as corrected.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

### **National President's Comments**

#### **Pittsburgh Pact Ceremony**

President Maleski gave a historic overview of the Pact. She encouraged board members to attend the upcoming ceremony in Pittsburgh on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Slovak League of America**

President Maleski gave the main address at a meeting of the Slovak League of America on April 15th, in New York City. The meeting was well attended and the address was well received.

#### **A.M. Best Interview**

The interview is May 16<sup>th</sup>. There is a new analyst and a new format.

#### **Merger Update**

The operational transitions teams have primarily completed their work. The sales team is putting together a proposal for series of cluster meetings. The purpose of the meetings is threefold: leadership, fraternal, sales. The meetings will be held in key areas of the country. The fraternal team is working on a branch framework document and the advisory boards are in formation.

#### **District Presidents Meeting**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual District Presidents Meeting will be held May 10<sup>th</sup>. Fourteen out of fifteen districts will be represented, as well as two new members from the Polish American community. A casual dinner will be held prior to the meeting. Various reports and updates will be presented to the attendees.

#### **Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)**

President Maleski thanked Director Palanca for providing a

different document. The operational ERM committee reviewed the provided draft on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Additional comments on the draft were recently received and will be forwarded to appropriate parties for review.

#### **Ohio Department of Insurance (ODI) Quarterly Call**

The call was held May 4<sup>th</sup> with the National President and National Treasurer on the call. Questions were asked and answered on the integration of the mergers. Other topics discussed were the district presidents meeting, annuity crediting rates, and the newly hired head of human resources. The regular ODI five year review be held in 2019.

#### **Whistleblower & Hotline Policies**

The Board policies were discussed with the outside employment/HR counsel and recommendations will be reviewed by the appropriate parties.

#### **H.R. 10 – Fraternal Tax Exemption**

The National President was part of a delegation that visited various Ohio congressional representatives asking for their continued support of the resolution.

Trustee Waller moved and Director Golofski seconded to accept the President's report.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Hudak presented the Treasurer's report. He indicated a good first quarter.

*Supplement 1*

#### **Investments**

Treasurer Hudak went over details on the Acquired Securities Report and discussed various investment strategies. A number of questions were asked and answered.

#### **Annuity Reserves by Product**

Treasurer Hudak reported on annuity reserves by product. He explained significant statistics on the report. Several questions on the current and legacy annuity products were asked and answered.

#### **First Quarter Budget vs. Actual**

Controller Frank Rando was invited to the meeting to discuss the report and reviewed both life and annuity sales compared to the detailed budget. Questions on the report were asked and answered. Controller Rando was excused from the meeting.

The meeting was recessed for lunch and a special meeting of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

Monsignor Polando returned to the meeting via phone after leaving during the special meeting of the Board of Directors.

#### **Treasurer's Report (continued)**

Treasurer Hudak distributed and reviewed the investment watch list.

*Supplement 2*

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

#### **Unfinished/New Business**

##### **Yield Curve**

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

*Supplement 3*

*(Continued on Page 21)*



### **Annuity Interest Yield (July 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018)**

After discussion and at Treasurer Hudak's recommendation, Monsignor Polando moved and Director Golofski seconded that the Executive Committee recommend to the board that the annual annuity yield rate credited for the third quarter 2018 (July 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018) remain the same:

#### Elite products

Silver Elite – 5 yr, 3.00% APY

Gold Elite – 7 yr, 3.25% APY

Platinum Elite – 10 yr, 3.50% APY

**MOTION ADOPTED**

### **DOL Fiduciary Rule**

President Maleski stated that she and other staff members will continue to follow the status of the fiduciary rule to determine how it impacts the association.

### **Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Act (CGAD)**

CGAD is now in effect in Ohio. The disclosure is being worked on and will be filed by June 1<sup>st</sup>. The disclosure will be sent to the board in advance of the filing date.

### **Meeting Dates**

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Executive Committee meeting: August 08, 2018, 9:30 a.m.

4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Executive Committee meeting: November 14, 2018, 9:30 a.m.

### **Adjournment and Prayer**

Monsignor Polando moved and Director Palanca seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m. Meeting ended with prayer led by Monsignor Polando.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

Cynthia M. Maleski, President

Katherine M. Bowes, Interim Secretary

### **ATTEST:**

Monsignor Peter M. Polando, Chaplain

Jeanette E. Palanca, Director

Lawrence M. Golofski, Director

Virginia A. Holmes, Trustee

Barbara Novotny Waller, Trustee

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Tabor, South Dakota**

**April 14** — Easter Party, 5 p.m. — Potluck and meeting at Beseda Hall, Tabor. We will be electing delegates to the Quadrennial Convention.

**May 1** — Deadline for nomination for Fraternalist of the Year.

**June 2** — Czech Days Float Assembly at Joyce Sestak Shop at 1:30 p.m. Volunteers needed.

**June 14 & 15** — Czech Days in Tabor, SD. Branch W093 volunteers needed.

**July 1** — Deadline for Branch W093 High School Seniors to apply for local scholarships. Contact W093 officer for application.

**July 7** — Monthly meeting after Mass in Tabor, SD.

# HAVE YOU MADE YOUR IRA



## CONTRIBUTION?

Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's) are an excellent way to help save for retirement. IRA's (excluding Roth IRA's) offer several benefits including a tax deduction for the tax year the contribution is made and the earnings grow tax deferred. Your annual contribution may be limited. Here are the 2018 and 2019 annual contribution limits and deadlines for making the contributions:

	<b>Under Age 50</b>	<b>Age 50 and Older</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>2018</b>	\$5,500	\$6,500	April 15, 2019
<b>2019</b>	\$6,000	\$7,000	April 15, 2020

**New accounts can be opened with as little as \$250.**

*For existing IRA account holders, please use the form below. For anyone interested in establishing a new IRA, contact the annuity department at (800) 464-4642 for more information.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Amount \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Traditional IRA for Year \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Roth IRA for Year \_\_\_\_\_

# Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

The Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal, which raises funds to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius to assist with its day to day operations, is progressing well. **As of February 28, \$8,450 has been received from 79 donors.** On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2019 Appeal, but did not receive a letter asking for a donation, is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2019 will be credited toward the 2020 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

*The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdivic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.*

## 41st Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to  
**Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to:**

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta  
National First Vice President, SCF  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
120 Jefferson Street  
Swedesburg, PA 19405

# REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

## BALANCE SHEET AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2018

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 16,870,884
Bonds	942,737,443
Preferred Stock	2,212,846
Common Stock	6,511,299
Investment Income Due & Accrued	13,583,746
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,125,728
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,698,380
Other Assets	940,695
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 990,681,022</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Life Reserves	\$ 298,759,644
Annuity Reserves	563,567,249
Death Claims Payable	3,415,009
Unearned Premiums	425,218
Matured Endowments	322,566
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,702,421
Accrued Convention Donations	777,000
Provision for Future Conventions	478,371
Asset Valuation Reserve	8,168,537
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,163,219
Other Liabilities	1,812,779
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 884,992,012</b>
Surplus	\$ 105,689,010
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 990,681,022</b>

## INCOME STATEMENT

### For the Eleven Months Ending November 30, 2018

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 3,463,283
Annuity Premiums	32,491,780
Investment Income	42,399,742
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	209,565
Rental Income	340,864
Other Revenue	30,318
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 78,935,552</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 1,121,644
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	23,773,727
Insurance Benefits	7,076,189
Annuity Benefits	28,836,588
Commission Expense	1,020,786
Surrender Benefits	3,689,496
Post Mortem Benefits	1,369,922
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	120,658
Matured Endowments	26,003
Donation Expenses	116,516
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	231,000
Convention Expenses	183,337
Bank Service Charges	75,312
Data Processing Service Fees	215,089
Accounting Fees	174,472
Actuarial Fees	225,252
Legal Fees	52,293
Consulting Fees	134,313
Branch and District Funding	742,911
Fraternal Activities	117,382
Official Publications	436,237
Scholarship Awards	268,448
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	512,237
Fees — Directors	148,777
Salaries — Employees	1,853,294
Salaries — Officers	464,902
Interest Expense	362,413
Tax Expense	(254,737)
Depreciation Expense	203,097
Utility Expense	94,628
Postage and Printing	210,660
Advertising	104,287
Travel Expense	90,163
Insurance Department Fees	94,633
Sales Promotion	224,498
Rental Expense	349,439
Other Expense	633,670
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 75,099,539</b>
<b>Income (Loss) from Operations</b>	<b>\$ 3,836,014</b>
Dividends to Members	1,246,714
<b>Subtotal Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,589,300</b>
Capital Gains (Loss)	39,946
<b>NET INCOME (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,629,246</b>





# Easter Treats!

## EASTER EGG BREAD

- 2 cups plus 2 teaspoons water, divided
- 4 teaspoons white vinegar
- 4 different food colors
- 4 eggs
- 1 pound frozen bread dough, thawed
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup confectioners' sugar

In each of 4 cups or small bowls, combine  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup water and 1 teaspoon vinegar. Add about  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon of a different food color to each cup.

Place 1 egg (in shell) in each cup and allow to sit until the desired color is attained, turning eggs occasionally with a spoon. Remove to paper towels to drain and dry completely.

Divide dough into thirds. On a lightly floured surface, roll each piece of dough into a 24-inch rope. Braid strips together then place on a baking sheet and form into a ring, pinching ends together to seal. Tuck colored eggs into the braid, spacing them evenly. Cover loosely with plastic wrap and let rise at room temperature 1 hour, or until doubled in size.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Bake 25 to 30 minutes, or until golden; allow to cool slightly.

In a small bowl, combine confectioners' sugar and the 2 teaspoons remaining water, stirring until thoroughly blended. Brush warm bread with sugar glaze, being careful not to coat the colored eggs. Serve warm, or cover and chill until ready to serve.

## PERFECT EASTER HAM

- 1 good quality name bone-in smoked ham
  - $\frac{1}{4}$  cup white wine
  - $\frac{1}{4}$  cup vegetable stock
- FOR THE GLAZE**

- 1 (6-ounce) can pineapple juice
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup vegetable stock
- $2\frac{1}{2}$  cups brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup Dijon mustard

- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon ground dry ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon dry sage
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cinnamon stick

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Place ham skin up on a cutting board and make half inch deep cuts in a criss-cross pattern across the top and sides. If using a cut ham, place cut side down into a roasting pan. Pour in wine and stock. Lift ham slightly so the liquid gets under the bottom cut so the ham doesn't stick to the pan. Also the liquid will keep it moist while it cooks. Tent with foil and cook for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 hours depending on the size of your ham.

While the ham is cooking, place all glaze ingredients into medium sauce pan and bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook to a thick syrup-like consistency. When hot, it should be thick like maple syrup. Set this aside.

Once the ham is at 130 degrees, remove from oven and increase oven temperature to 425 degrees.

Remove foil but do not discard foil yet. If the glaze has cooled and thickened, heat back to a syrupy state and using about one third of the glaze, slather the ham and place uncovered back in the oven. Set time for 15 minutes.

Remove and use one more third to slather all over the ham. Return to the oven and set timer for 15 more minutes.

Finally, slather the remaining glaze on the ham and place just in oven long enough to get desired crispy crust but not burned; approximately for five or ten minutes.

Remove from the oven and tent with the reserved foil and let rest for 20 minutes. Move ham to a cutting board and discard liquid left in pan.

Carve and serve with pineapple raisin sauce. Recipe follows.

## PINEAPPLE RAISIN SAUCE

- 4 teaspoons corn starch
- 2 (6-ounce) cans pineapple juice
- 1 (20-ounce) can crushed pineapple
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon ground cloves
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 cup raisins

In a small cup, dissolve corn starch with enough of the pineapple juice to make a slurry. (A slurry is cold liquid mixed with corn-starch until smooth and glossy.) Set aside.

Mix all other ingredients in a medium-sized sauce pan and bring to a boil over low heat.

Add slurry mixture and stir until thickened. Remove from heat.

Serve over sliced baked ham.

Note: Sauce may be thinned with additional pineapple juice if it becomes too thick.

## CHOCOLATE EGG NESTS

- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup ( $\frac{1}{2}$  stick) butter
- $4\frac{1}{4}$  cups mini marshmallows
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 4 cups pretzel sticks, coarsely broken
- 1 package (10 ounces) candy covered chocolate egg candies

Line 2 baking sheets with waxed paper. In a large soup pot over medium heat, melt butter and marshmallows until smooth. Stir in chocolate chips until melted. Remove from heat and stir in pretzels until evenly coated.

Drop by rounded tablespoons onto wax paper, making 24 nests. Press 3 chocolate egg candies into center of each nest and allow to cool until firm. Serve, or store in airtight container.

Note: You'll want to work quickly to build your nests, since the chocolate mixture will harden pretty quickly! If it does harden before you've built all your nests, just warm it over low heat for one minute and it'll soften back up.

## EASY COCONUT CREAM PIE

- 1 rolled refrigerated pie crust (from a 14.1-ounce package)
- 2 cups milk
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sweetened flaked coconut
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar
- 6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- $\frac{1}{8}$  teaspoon salt
- 2 cups frozen whipped topping, thawed

Unroll 1 pie crust, press into 9-inch pie plate, and flute edges. Bake pie shell according to package directions; let cool.

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, whisk together remaining ingredients except whipped topping. Cook 5 to 7 minutes, or until thickened. Pour into pie shell. Chill at least 4 hours, or until set.

Spread whipped topping over pie and serve, or cover and keep chilled until ready to serve.

Optional: Sprinkle your pie with  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup toasted coconut to give it a nice golden-topped finished appearance.



## 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.