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Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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NOVEMBER, 2011

*As we
express our
gratitude, we
must never
forget that
the highest
appreciation
is not to utter
words, but to
live by them.*

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Happy Thanksgiving

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

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Be Thankful

BE THANKFUL that you don't already have everything you
desire ... if you did, what would there be to look forward to?

BE THANKFUL when you don't know something ... for it gives
you the opportunity to learn.

BE THANKFUL for the difficult times ... during those times
you grow.

BE THANKFUL for your limitations ... they give you
opportunities for improvement.

BE THANKFUL for each new challenge ... which will build
your strength and character.

BE THANKFUL for your mistakes ... they will teach you
valuable lessons.

BE THANKFUL when you're tired and weary ... because it
means you've given your all.

It's easy to be thankful for the 'good' things ... yet, a life of rich
fulfillment comes to those who are thankful for the setbacks.

Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive ... find a way to be
thankful for your troubles and they can become your
blessings.

Dear Friends,

*This year let us remember the true meaning of Thanksgiving.
As we see the beauty of Autumn, let us acknowledge the many
blessings which are ours ... let us think of our families and
friends ... and let us give thanks in our hearts. Finally, re-
member to praise and thank God even when you don't under-
stand what He is doing!*



Until Next Month — **Warmly, Carolyn**

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

FORTIETH QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION IS NOW HISTORY

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

October 2011 has come and is gone. With that, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association has passed another milestone in its history as we have celebrated the Fortieth Quadrennial Convention on 9-13 October 2011.

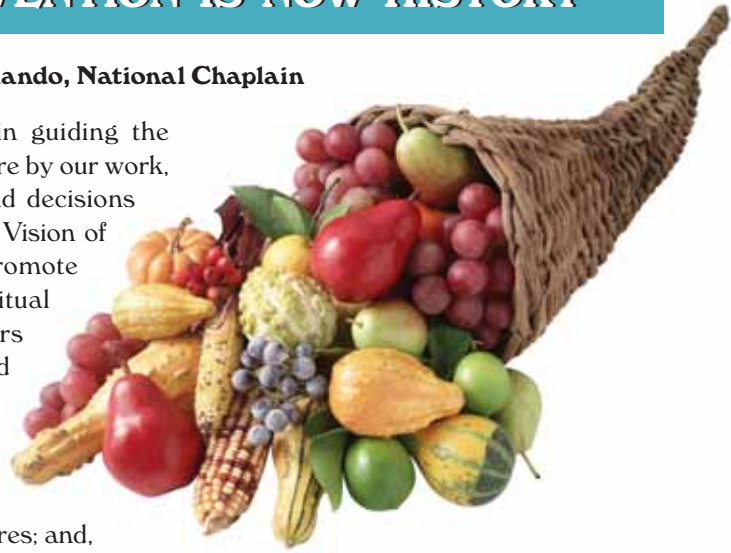
Many participants in the convention began to arrive in Baltimore, Maryland, at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront on the Saturday before and I experienced the renewal of friendships that have been made in prior convention years. It was such a pleasant and beautiful time! On Sunday, we had the opportunity to participate in Holy Mass at the first cathedral in the United States of America, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The architect of the basilica was Benjamin Henry Latrobe, the same architect of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. Latrobe's friend, Thomas Jefferson, was influential in incorporating skylights in the dome of the Capital and insisted that Latrobe do the same in America's first cathedral. Built in the Neoclassical, the basilica was opened in 1821 and had gone through many changes through the course of time. An extensive renovation and restoration was made in 2004-2006 under the guidance of the Archbishop of Baltimore, William Cardinal Keeler. The Most Reverend Roger W. Gries, O.S.B., auxiliary bishop of Cleveland, was the principal celebrant of the convention's opening liturgy at the basilica. We are so grateful to him, the musicians and choir, and the staff of the basilica for such a solemn liturgy!

Then all of the work of the convention commenced on Monday morning. As I sat during the hours and days in the convention room, I could not but marvel of the many people of past generations who sat at our Association's conventions and assisted in making the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association the fraternal that it is today. Like them, we

were making history in guiding the Association into the future by our work, debate, deliberation, and decisions that will underscore the Vision of FCSLA, namely to, "promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of the members through fraternal and charitable activities in our communities; promote our Slovak Catholic values and traditions and all Slavic cultures; and, be a premier Fraternal Benefit Society that offers quality financial products and benefits." As the convention concluded on Thursday, I believe there was a sense of accomplishment among the participants of the convention that will bring about a stronger spirit of fraternalism, a better understanding of leadership models for the Association, and the need for future growth in membership.

The members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association acknowledge the fine efforts that have been set forth by the outgoing officers. All three of our vice presidents decided to step down from their positions and we are grateful to Rosemary A. Mlinarich, Linda M. Killeen, and Bernadette J. Demechko for their participation on the Board of Directors. Each in their individual ways contributed in the decisions of the Board and also in the strategic planning process. Rosemary sat next to me at the Board meetings. She and I enjoyed a beverage in common, Dunkin Donuts coffee. I made sure that she had a cup of it each morning of our meetings.

The three members of the management team decided to retire from their positions - John M. Janovec, treasurer; Irene J. Drotleff, secretary; and Mary Ann S. Johaneck, president. I have grown to respect them over these past four years in their skills of leadership, legal and financial knowledge, and their appreciation of the Catholic Faith and Slovak/Slavic heritage. Although Mary



Ann will ride off into the sunset and begin a new phase in her life, Irene and John have been elected to new positions on the Board of Directors. I salute the newly elected members of the Board of Directors. I pray that they will be showered with the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit during their terms of membership on the Board.

In this month of Thanksgiving, I am grateful to Almighty God that I have had the experiences and opportunities to be the national chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association these past four years. I hope that my monthly columns in *Fraternally Yours* have been spiritually inspirational and a personal connection with me in my priestly ministry. Saint Paul's words come to my mind in my thanksgiving to all of you when he wrote: "I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right that I should think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, you who are all partners with me in grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel" [*Philippians 1:3-7*].

**Have a Blessed
Thanksgiving!**

Celebrates 60 Years of Marriage



Jim and Evelyn (Rizek) Hurley celebrated 60 years of marriage on Sunday, August 21, 2011.

They were married on August 22, 1951 in St. George Catholic Church, Munden, KS. Father Barry Brinkman celebrated the mass and gave them a special blessing at the end of mass. The celebration continued with a dinner for the honored couple, family and friends at the "Treasure Tree" in downtown Belleville, KS.

They are the parents of four children: Son Justin (Barb); daughters Nancy (Richard Sandell) both of Republic, KS; Jackie (Jim Koch) of Clyde, KS; Marcy (Cliff Blow) of Burlington, KS. They have 15 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Also helping them celebrate were sisters and sister-in-law Illene and Gerald Blazek, Maurene Kesl and Eleanor Rizek.

The Hurley's continue to reside on their farm and raise cattle near Republic, KS. They are members of St. George Parish and Branch W086 of the FCSLA in Munden, KS. Both have been active in farm and county organizations and in St. George Parish.

May God Bless our anniversary couple.

**FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH
DECEMBER 31, 2011,
OLDER FCSLA ANNUITIES**

(issued prior to 2005)

with a guaranteed minimum rate of

4.50%

will earn a yield of 4.6025%.

NEWER FCSLA ANNUITIES

(issued 2005 and after)

with a guaranteed minimum rate of

3.50%

**will earn a yield of 3.5618% while those with a
guaranteed minimum rate of**

3.00%

will earn a yield of 3.0453%.

Agnes Stephan's 90th Birthday Celebrated with Mass



**Agnes was presented roses by
the choir director, John
Stofanek on her big day.**

Agnes A. Stephan (Sr. Branch 89, Bethlehem, PA) celebrated her 90th birthday on September 10, 2011. On Sunday, September 4, a mass was celebrated for her at Incarnation of Our Lord Parish (the former Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church) by Father Stan Moczydlowski and beautiful music including a Slovak hymn was sung by the choir.

She was born to the late Joseph and Mary (Mizak) Labuda. She was married to Michael Stephan, Jr. for 60 years Agnes has three children, Nancy Hutt, wife of Carl Hutt, Michael Stephan III and his wife, Linda and Michelle Shannon, wife of Pat Shannon. Her grandchildren are Ryan and Kyle Shannon and Taylor and Madison Stephan.

Family and friends wished her many blessings on her special day.



Agnes Stephan with family and friends who helped her celebrate her 90th birthday.

Christmas Luncheon Scheduled

The FCSLA Anna Hurban District of Chicago is hosting their Annual Combined Branch Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 3, 2011. It will take place at Orland Chateau, 14500 S. LaGrange Road, Orland Park, IL. The event begins with raffle sales being held at 11:00 a.m. with the luncheon following at 12:00 p.m. (noon). Raffle drawing will be held at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$18.00 per person. Please RSVP by November 21, 2011 to Jarmila Hlubocky at 773-776-2167.

FRANCES JAKABCIN EASTERN PA DISTRICT FALL MEETING

The Frances Jakabcin Eastern PA District held its Fall Meeting on Sunday, September 25, 2011 at the Northampton, PA Community Center. The meeting was graciously hosted by Jean Strohl, Branch 230 of Catasauqua, PA.

After a delicious homemade meal, President Bazik opened the meeting by calling on District Chaplain Monsignor Thomas Derzack to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Star Spangled Banner. She then called on Recording Secretary Michele Mrazik and Financial Secretary Treasurer Louise Dunstan for reports which were ap-



District Officers, seated L-R: Louise Dunstan, Barbara Waller. Standing, L-R: Veronica Bazik, Karen Kukol, and Michele Mrazik.

proved as read. National Editor Carolyn Bazik spoke about the current financial position of the organization and the upcoming National Convention in Baltimore. She thanked Michele Mrazik for co-chairing the convention salary committee and Barbara Waller for chairing the convention by-law committee. District Vice President Barbara Waller then spoke about the proposed by-law amendments. At the conclusion of the business meeting, a raffle was held to raise money for the district. The meeting closed with prayer. Branch 319 of Allentown, PA will host the spring meeting on April 29, 2012

at 1 p.m. also at the Northampton Community Center. Members mark your calendars now!



Members of the Eastern PA District enjoying their delicious meal, and standing to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

40th Wedding Anniversary Celebrated

Gerald and Monica (Geletko) LaFrankie celebrated their 40th anniversary at a mass in Saint Isaac Jogues Church in Elrama, PA, on Saturday, September 17, 2011.

A family dinner was held at Franco's Trattoria in Canonsburg, PA after the mass.

Gerald and Monica live in Elizabeth, PA. They are the proud parents of Beth (Brian) Konick of Jefferson Hills, Amy (Jason) Thomas of Glassport, and Heather (Kevin) Stover of Elizabeth. Their five grandchildren Camden, Emma and Blake Stover and Grace and Jack Konick bring great joy and meaning to life.

Gerald is president of Sr. Branch 177 in Clairton, PA and Vice President of the Pittsburgh District. Monica is the Financial Secretary of Sr. Branch 177 and Jr. Branch 115. Their entire family are members of FCSLA.



Pictured (at right) is Margaret McHugh, Branch 230, Catasauqua, PA, at the Eastern PA District Meeting on September 25, 2011. Margaret who is 98 years young is holding a 1940 FCSLA Convention photo where she is pictured as a delegate. She is the former Treasurer of Catasauqua Jr. Branch 158.





Deborah Brindza, M.D.

IN 2011 WE RESOLVE TO IMPROVE THE WORLD — ONE STEP AT A TIME

*From the desk of Deborah Brindza, M.D., National Medical Examiner
and Sue Ann M. Seich, Fraternal & Youth Director*



Sue Ann M. Seich

2011 FCSLA CREATIVE CONTEST GOES “GREEN”

Members of all ages are encouraged to use originality and submit a handmade “green”* article for the contest. Please make sure you read over the guidelines entirely since they have changed slightly from last year. If you have questions please contact Sue Ann, our Fraternal & Youth Director, by calling 1-800-464-4642, Ext 1051 or email her at sueann@fcsla.org.

*You will earn extra points for all the recycled materials you use for your creation.

FCSLA CREATIVE CONTEST GUIDELINES

- Contest is open to FCSLA members of all ages.
- Item entered must be handmade between October 1st, 2011 – November 30th, 2011.
- The item should not be too large. (It has to be mailed to the Home Office.)
- Entry for judging is limited to one item per member. Other items may be sent to donate along with the item to be judged. Please mark which item you want judged.
- The entered item may be painted, sewn, knitted, crocheted, carved, etc. The more recycled material you use the more points you will earn. (If you have a question about your item qualifying, please call or email Sue Ann.)
- Item(s) will not be returned. They will be donated to a nursing home, assisted living facility, or area hospitals during the Christmas season.
- There will be three cash prizes in each age category:
**1st Prize \$50.00 2nd Prize \$25.00
3rd Prize \$10.00**
- Items must be mailed to the Home Office, postmarked by November 30th, 2011. (Please note: Items received at the Home Office postmarked after November 30th, 2011 will not be entered in the contest and will not be returned. FCSLA is not responsible if items are received broken or damaged.)
- An entry form must accompany your item to be considered for the contest.
- Age Groups**
Group one — Ages 0-6 Group two — Ages 7-13
Group three — Ages 14-22 Group four — Ages 23-40
Group five — Ages 41-65 Group six — Ages 66 plus
Please select your group number according to your age. You will need to use the Group Number on the entry form you submit with your item.

FCSLA CREATIVE CONTEST GOES GREEN ENTRY FORM

October 1, 2011 – November 30, 2011

Name _____

Branch _____ Age _____

Entry Group No. _____ (According to Guidelines)

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

What are you entering? _____

Where did you get the idea/plans for your item? _____

Describe your entry including what recycled material you used and the number of items _____

DEADLINE NOVEMBER 30, 2011 (postmarked)

Mail to: Sue Ann M. Seich, FCSLA
Fraternal & Youth Director
24950 Chagrin Blvd.
Beachwood, OH 44122

SR. BRANCH 376 CELEBRATES 50-YEAR MEMBER AND SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

At their Fall Meeting, members of Sr. Branch 376 in Milwaukee, WI honored their 50-year member, Nancy Danhauer, who drove from Illinois to be with us (pictured with her Mother, Helen Glocka and cousin Betty Novak). We also celebrated with our two Scholarship winners, and each received a \$100 check from the branch.

Ellen Ringle won a \$1,250 College Scholarship. She is starting her 2nd year studying nutritional sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and plans to attend a school of optometry upon graduation. Ellen is very active in student organizations such as Health Profes-

sions Society, Pre-Optometry Club, Dietetics and Nutrition Club, and CALS Health and Research Society. This past winter, she served as a member on the fundraiser organizing committee that held the first annual indoor cycling event to benefit eye cancer research at the UW Hospital. In her spare time, Ellen enjoys cooking, yoga, running, and cycling, and is a member of the UW cycling team. She competed in her first collegiate cycling race this past spring. This summer, Ellen pursued her goal of becoming an optometrist through an internship position at Door County Eye Associates and has a research position in the Department of Ophthalmology this fall.



Scholarship winner Ellen Ringle receiving her \$100 check from the Branch.



50-year member Nancy Danauer being honored.

Libby Peterson won a \$750, 8th grade scholarship for Christ King School in Wauwatosa. She is a Cadet Girl Scout. Last year, she earned the Silver Award, and this year she will be completing the Marian Award, which is the highest Catholic religious award that a Cadet can earn. It involves an in-depth study of the life of the Blessed Virgin. Through service projects, as well as in their everyday interactions with others, these Cadets try to emulate how Mary lived her life. Libby was one of the violinists who played so beautifully at our 95th Anniversary celebration. She is a member of that group, called the Music Makers. They play at various events ranging from farmers' markets to weddings, as well as playing for Mass at St. Anne's Nursing Home.

Jim Peters, a new FCSLA Agent, was introduced to the members. Libby Peterson played "Hej, Slovaci" beautifully on her violin, and everyone received a trick or treat bag from our branch witch, Vice President Mary Jo Noyes, on their way out the door! Our next meeting will be held December 10th at Klemmer's Banquet Center. Members should call 414-744-3496 to RSVP for this meeting.

BENEDICTINE MONKS OF SAINT ANDREW SVORAD ABBEY PRESENT BENEFIT

The Benedictine Monks of Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey will present their Abbey Benefit on Sunday, November 6, 2011. "Dedicated Commitment to the Lord", is this year's theme. The benefit will celebrate the fiftieth (50th) anniversary of the profession of Monastic Vows of Rev. Anselm Zupka, OSB, and the thirty-fifth (35th) anniversary of Priestly Ordination of Rev. Dismas Boeff, OSB.

A Mass of thanksgiving will be offered at 12:15 p.m. at the Church of the Assumption, 9183 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights, OH, 44147. A reception, banquet and program will follow at the Parish Center.

Rt. Rev. Abbot Christopher Schwartz, OSB will be the main speaker for the banquet. Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB will be the Master of Ceremonies. He will present recognition in memory of Dorothy Hudac, who volunteered for twenty years as a member of the Benefit Committee.

Entertainment will be provided by Swing City Big Band. Catering will be provided by Billy Hricovec, of Tom's Country Place. Center piece flowers donated by Urban's Flowers. A silent Slovak auction will be held. The event concludes about 4:00 p.m. with the Monks singing the "Benedictine Anthem" — *The Ultima*.

Your support of our Annual Benefit is a very important part of the monks' present and future ministry. Please join in honoring our Monks for their many years of service. If you can not attend, a gift in their honor will be greatly appreciated.

Ticket price is \$65. Additional sponsorships, including \$100 "Honor-a-Monk" contributions, are available. For reservations and additional information please contact Rev. Albert Marflak, OSB at 216-721-5300 ext. 209, Marie A. Golias at 216-228-8179, or Rose Stiflar at 216-721-5300 ext. 0. Please make reservations by October 27.



Scholarship winner Libby Peterson receiving a \$100 check from the Branch.



Scholarship winner Libby Peterson playing "Hej, Slovaci" for our members.

FCSLA PRODUCERS MEET IN WISCONSIN

The fourth annual Midwestern Sales Conference was held in Pewaukee, WI on Thursday, July 14, and Friday, July 15 at the Country Springs Conference Center. Fifty general agents, sales representatives, recommenders and FCSLA Home Office personnel gathered to learn more about FCSLA, the Association's products, and general sales and marketing strategies.

On Thursday, after an invocation by Deacon Albert Heiles Jr. and introductions, national sales manager Patrick Braun showed the new fraternal presentation which will be available on the FCSLA website. Patrick then gave a thorough explanation of the product line with special emphasis on the great need for life insurance in the country today.



National Sales Manager Patrick Braun.



NAFIC President Paul Hill explains how earning the FIC designation helped him succeed.

Paul Hill, the 2010-2011 President of the National Association of Fraternal Insurance Counselors addressed the attendees on the Fraternal Insurance Counselor (FIC) designation and how it has helped him to be a Million Dollar Roundtable qualifier. His presentation was followed by Danielle Duke, FCSLA promotions coordinator. Danielle told the assembly about the special "portal" which has been designed for FCSLA to make attainment of the FIC and FICF designations much easier.

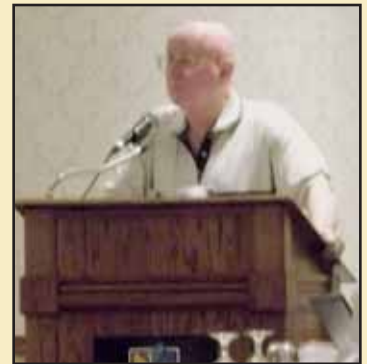
After lunch, Heather Schultz and Jennifer Brickman, from the FCSLA New Business Department, gave a presentation on life insurance underwriting and how our producers can help speed up the processing of their applications. They also answered a number of questions from the group.

Glen Miller, owner of the Miller-Reeseman Funeral Home, located in Union Grove, WI, gave a very informative presentation on the actual costs involved in planning a funeral. Glen gave the attendees a handout which documented national averages of the costs, including many, which people are not aware of. He answered many questions in a very forthright manner, and discussed a number of money saving ideas on planning a funeral.

After a very popular, "ice cream break", which featured "make your own sundae", Sue Ann Seich, FCSLA's fraternal and youth director, took the stage and gave an exciting presentation on how to start new FCSLA Branches. Sue Ann has worked with the sales force to start nine new branches in the past year and her enthusiasm came through clearly. Many attendees came to Sue Ann later to show interest in

starting branches in their area!

FCSLA Producer of the Year, Ron McBroom showed how he earned that title. He gave a wonderful presentation on the methods he uses to sell life insurance. Ron also is a humorist and threw out a few zingers from his comedy routine. It was a great way to wrap up the meeting!



Ron McBroom, FCSLA Producer of the Year.

On Friday morning, the meeting continued with Heather Schultz showcasing the new FCSLA illustration system and answering many questions. Danielle Duke discussed the Co-op Marketing program and showed how producers could be reimbursed for some of their marketing expenses.



Keynote Speaker Mike Wershay.

Friday's Keynote Speaker was Michael Wershay, a perennial Million Dollar Roundtable qualifier and an FCSLA sales representative. Mike gave an outstanding presentation on how retirees could use life insurance cash values to receive income in the "0%" tax bracket. His enthusiasm for the life insurance business greatly excited the crowd and he received the highest accolades for his presentation!

The conference wrapped up with a "listening session" and a video of the 2012 Leaders Conference which will be a Mediterranean Cruise on a Royal Caribbean cruise ship, April 29-May 6, 2012. Feedback from the attendees was excellent!



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

Major Chris Lincoski, MD, was Trauma Surgeon in Afghanistan

Major Chris Lincoski, MD, recently returned from Afghanistan where he served as an trauma surgeon with the 455th Expeditionary Medical Group at Craig Joint Theater Hospital at Bagram Airfield providing combat medical support services to the U.S. and coalition forces throughout Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. Previously he was a Flight Surgeon at McGuire Air Force Base, Lakehurst, NJ and at Eglin Air Force Base, Fort Walton Beach, FL.



He currently is a member of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, the American Association for Hand Surgery and the Pennsylvania Orthopedic Society.

Dr. Lincoski, son of John and Mary Lincoski, has accepted a position with University Orthopedics, State College, PA, and is residing in State College with his wife, Susan Lincoski, DVM, and their daughter, Paige Marie.

Chris is a member of Sr. Branch 36, Swoyersville, PA.

Golf Hole Sponsored by Branch W001

Branch W001 of New Prague, MN, sponsored a hole at the St. Wenceslaus School Golf Tournament on June 17. Golfers representing the FCSLA were Paul Maruska, Norb Sticha, John Coldagelli and Dick Hruby.



Sr. Branch 111 Sponsors Slovak Food Booth

Members of Sr. Branch 111, Charleroi, PA, sponsored a Slovak food booth at Mary, Mother of the Church Festival of Nations.

Branch members, with the assistance of Father Jerry and church members, prepared and sold halupki, halushki and pieroghi. The Slovak booth raised \$1,601.10. The money was donated to the church.



Branch W001 Hosted Annual Summer Picnic

On August 28th, Branch W001 of New Prague, MN, hosted their annual summer picnic held at Memorial Park in New Prague, MN. Members from Branch W001 and W035 enjoyed the afternoon of visiting and playing cards. Drawing for prizes were held and also games for the children were provided. A Subway lunch was served and a good time was had by all.

~ NOTICE ~

Fraternally Yours is also available on the website as a pdf file. **Please log onto www.fcsla.com** and click on *Fraternally Yours Magazine* found under Fraternal Tab in the column on the left side of the home page.

FCSLA Branches Honor Scholarship Winners

■ Branch 214

Frank Feola of Olyphant, PA, is being congratulated by officers of Branch 214 in Throop, PA, upon receipt of his FCSLA Scholarship. Frank is a nursing major at Marywood University in Scranton, PA, and is the son of Janet Halloran Feola and Frank Feola. He and his family are all members of the branch.



L-R: Barbara Zilla, Frank Feola, Catherine Stedina and Elizabeth Chimock.

■ Branch 424

James Dubina, secretary of Branch 424, Homestead, PA, presented Charles G. Vargo with his scholarship check at the summer Pittsburg Okres meeting. His parents also attended the luncheon where he was recognized by President Judy Fedor. His entire family holds membership in Branch 424, Homestead, PA.

Charles attended St. Elizabeth of Hungary Pre-K to 8th grade, then Baldwin High School where he graduated with honors. In May 2011 he graduated from the University of Pittsburgh magna cum laude. He will further his education at the University of Notre Dame Law School in South Bend, IN.



■ Branch 77

On Sunday, August 21, 2011, Branch 77, McKeesport, PA, honored their scholarship winner with a celebratory dinner at the Rose Restaurant in White Oak, PA. Melinda Buker, who is a freshman at Allegheny College, is majoring in Neuroscience with a minor in Spanish. She is working as the house manager for the theater as well as playing flute in the Wind Symphony. Mindy belongs to three clubs – Medication, Philosophy and Kendo. She enjoys reading, swing dancing and swimming.

Mindy's brother Daniel is also a member of Branch 77. Aunt Irene Fedor and Judy Fedor are branch officers.



Mindy with parents Trish and Ken Buker.



Branch officers Carol Yurechko, Judy Fedor, Audrey Podlesny, Virginia Holmes, Irene Fedor, scholarship winner Mindy Buker, Jerry Holmes, and Marian Greenland.

Attends Ceremony at Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica

Members of Sr. Branch 44 of Mount Pleasant, PA and Sr. Branch 177 of Clairton, PA, attended the 165th Annual Solemn Vespers and Conferral of Degrees Ceremony at Saint Vincent Seminary. The ceremony was held on Friday, May 6, 2011 at St. Vincent Archabbey Basilica in Latrobe, PA.



L-R: The Very Reverend Justin M. Matro, O.S.B., S.T.D., Rector; Agnes Farcosky and Wallace Witig of Sr. Branch 44; The Most Reverend Lawrence E. Brandt, J.C.D., Ph.D., Bishop of Greensburg; Gerald M. and Monica LaFrankie of Sr. Branch 177.

His Excellency, The Most Reverend Donald W. Trautman, S.T.D., S.S.L., Bishop of Erie, was the commencement speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient. Presiding was His Excellency, The Most Reverend Lawrence E. Brandt, J.C.D., Ph.D., Bishop of Greensburg. The Right Reverend Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B., PhD, is the Archabbot and Chancellor of Saint Vincent Seminary.

A reception and dinner followed the Vespers and Commencement Ceremony in the Fred M. Rogers Center.

■ Marie E. Grega District

Maria E. Grega (Youngstown, OH) District hosted its scholarship winners with dinner at the Elm Tree, Struthers, OH, on Sunday, August 28, 2011. Fourteen of the twenty-six winners were in attendance and those not attending were represented by family members.

Virginia DeLuca, President of Branch 161 which hosted the event, welcomed the 155 attendees. The Branch 161 committee provided a festive autumn atmosphere with a football-back-to-school theme. Potted white chrysanthemums containing miniature triangular football banners graced the tables. Each plant contained a \$5 bill. Door prizes were dish towels and a \$10 bill in a yellow gift bag adorned with school buses and stickers expressing scholastic themes.

District President Bernadette Demechko introduced National Chaplain, Monsignor Peter Polando. He commended the parents and grandparents for the support they continually give their children. He also congratulated the winners on their academic achievements.

After lunch Bernie gave a traditional "remember your Slovak heritage" speech. She told the group of the talk given by a Judge who presided over the installation of new immigrants that she attended. He told the new citizens that although the United States is referred to as a "melting pot", he prefers that they consider themselves part of United States stew. When you cook a stew, the vegetables are unique items: potatoes, celery, carrots, etc. Even if you cook the stew for hours and hours, the vegetables retain their individuality. Thus the new citizens should always be proud of their nationality and unique heritage. Bernie told the scholarship recipients that they must also be proud of their Slo-

vak heritage and always mindful of their ancestors who made the supreme sacrifice of leaving their beloved homeland of Slovakia, often their parents, relatives and all they loved to come to a new country, so their descendants could have a better life. She reminded them that they are now getting excellent educations because of this. She told them to keep in mind these four things: (1) Be proud of your Slovak heritage; (2) Stay close to your family; (3) Stay close to God; and (4) remember the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

Branch Presidents then introduced the members of their branch that had won an FCSLA Scholarship and each was given a monetary gift from their branch. Shelly Zura, Treasurer of the District, also presented each winner with a monetary gift from the District.

Special scholarship winners included John Zajac, Branch 161, who won the Anna S. Granchay Scholarship and Alexis Gordulic, Branch 161 who won the Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust Scholarship.

Winners who were unable to attend included: Patrick Joyce, Jane Clarke, and Taylor Walczak, Branch 30; Megan Eggleston, John Zajac, Alexis Gordulic, and Natasha Alvarez, Branch 161; Geoffrey Blake Kim, Branch 169; Alexa Mary Suhich, Ryan Kish and Alyssa Podwika, Branch 344; and William Hrusovsky, Branch 422.

The President spoke briefly about the FCSLA Convention and advised the group that a brief meeting concerning Convention results will be held at the Christmas Party in November.



Seated (front row) L-R: Jenna Lynn Hamrock and Brittany Bobovnyik, Branch 169; District President Bernie Demechko, Branch 161; and Reggi Demechko, Branch 192. Second row, seated, L-R: Rachel Probst and Laura Ann Sefcik, Branch 169; Amanda Malloy, Branch 344; Jamie Dolan, Branch 161; Amy Lynn Vinopal, Branch 30; Jill Jonda, Branch 161. Standing, L-R: Msgr. Peter Polando, National Chaplain, Branch 169; Patrick Kern, Branch 30; Justin Curtis Getz, Branch 156; Joseph Sebest III, Branch 161; Evan Rebillot, Branch 202, and John Bahmer, Branch 161.



Branch 161 officers that hosted the Scholarship Dinner. L-R: Virginia DeLuca, President; Millie Kust, Recording Secretary; Melanie Leonard, Treasurer; Loretta Ekoniak, Branch 161 Auditor; Bernie Demechko, Financial Secretary and Nancy Clausen, Jr. Branch 192 Auditor.

Youngstown Sister Cities 15th Annual Slovak Heritage Tour

Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities has scheduled its 15th Heritage Tour to Slovakia for the first two weeks of July 2012. Jim and Kay Bench will again be tour guides. Look for more details in future articles during 2012.

ST. ANN'S DAY CELEBRATION HELD IN INDIANA

It was a beautiful July 26, 2011 in St. John, IN when the Helen Kocan District of Indiana hosted the St. Ann's Day Celebration at the Shrine of Christ Passion with the Anna Hurban District of Chicago and the Louise M. Yash District of Wisconsin as their guests. As the 152 guests arrived by bus and automobile they were treated with kolacky and coffee before starting their tour.



L-R: Margaret Abildua, President Helen Kocan District; Mary Jo Noyes, President Wisconsin District; and Betty Yurechko, former National Auditor.



L-R: Dorothy Hoover, Florence Hovanec, Anthony Abildua, Annette Markovich and Mary Markovich all members of Branch 81.

Everyone experienced Christ's journey to Calvary in a very real and personal way. Each pilgrim sat at the table of the Last Supper; prayed with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane; stood beside Our Lord as Pilate washed his hands, condemning Jesus to his death; walked alongside Him on the rocky road to Calvary; held His hands as He met His Mother and finally rejoiced with the apostles as they entered



Members seen departing a bus that arrived carrying members from the Wisconsin District.



the empty tomb. As guests exited the tomb, they continued down the path to meet Mary Magdalene and experience the glorious Ascension to heaven.

Those persons unable to walk the mile long journey were transported in golf carts, stopping at each station to hear the description of the scene.

After the emotional tour of Christ's Passion, everyone went to the nationally known Tiebel's Restaurant for a delicious lunch and were awarded the centerpieces of miniature rose bushes, many door prizes and a beautiful statue of St. Ann with Child. This was the most emotional and enjoyable St. Ann's Day celebration hosted by the Helen Kocan District for the Tri State Area.



L-R: Lillian Zaborske, Agnes Chervanek and Margaret Abildua choosing raffle winners at the St. Ann's Luncheon.



Geraldine Tumidalsky, Financial Secretary of Branch 81 and Agnes Chervanek, President of Branch 409 serving coffee and kolacky before and after touring the shrine.

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT HOLDS SUMMER MEETING

The Pittsburgh District held its summer meeting on July 31, 2011 in conjunction with the celebration of the 100 year anniversary of Branch 313, Natrona Heights, PA at the Magnolia Room in Creighton, PA.

Prior to the meeting, entertainment was provided by two talented young people. Elizabeth Groch, Pittsburgh Slovakian Dancer and daughter of Branch 313 President Cynthia Maleski, sang for the members, accompanied on the accordion by Mark Stafura, former Duquesne University Tamburitzan.

President Judy Fedor opened the meeting and introduced the national officers in attendance. In addition to Virginia Holmes, Cynthia Maleski, Dorothy Urbanowicz and Linda Killeen, who are members of the Pittsburgh District; President Mary Ann Johanek, Secretary Irene Drotleff and Auditor Steve Hudak were guests in attendance. Father Justin Matro led the prayer before the meal.

President Judy Fedor called Cynthia Maleski to the podium and presented her a check for the District's contribution to the luncheon, Mass for her members and a gift for the 100th anniversary. Cynthia Maleski introduced her officers as follows: Barbara Gajdosik, Jr. Branch 138 Secretary; Cecilia Szymkiewicz, Treasurer; Kate



District and Branch 313 Officers — Seated L-R: Barbara Gajdosik, Jr. Branch 138 Secretary; Gerry LaFrankie, District Vice President; Judy Fedor, District President; Maggie Golofski, District Auditor; Norene Yandura, Branch 313 Vice President; Suzy Rapp, Branch 313 Vice President.



Branch, District & National Officers.

Szymkiewicz, Auditor; Suzy Rapp, Vice President and Norene Yandura, Vice President. She expressed her appreciation for all of their assistance in planning and organizing this event. She read several proclamations and President Johanek congratulated Branch 313 for 100 years of fraternalism.

Following the luncheon, Archabbot Douglas Nowicki led a prayer service.

Roll call was taken and there were 168 members from 22 branches in attendance. Recording Secretary Judy Yates read the minutes of the April meeting

which were approved as read. Marian Gatto, Financial Secretary read the treasurer's report which was also approved.

President Judy presented a gift from the Pittsburgh District to Father Micah Koziol of Branch 88 who celebrated his 35th anniversary in the priesthood this year.

Three District scholarship winners were in attendance and were recognized — John Brian Fullen and Charles C. Vargo of Branch 424 and Megan Rosenberg of Branch 313.

President Judy congratulated members of the District for their efforts to achieve the assigned sales goal of 1.5 million dollars. As of the end of June the District showed sales of 7.5 million and so had already far surpasses the goal.

District Vice President Gerry LaFrankie, Chair of the Convention Transportation Committee gave an update on plans for the bus transportation to Baltimore, MD.

Linda Killeen gave the National Officers report, updating members on what is happening at the National level.

Nominations were held for election of District officers which will take place at the October meeting. Jerry Holmes, Nomination Committee Chair, along with his committee members Cathy Esack and Elizabeth Butler presented the slate.

Drawings were held for the prizes provided by Branch 313. The meeting closed with a prayer led by Father Micah, along with the singing of "Hej, Slovaci".





We Want to Hear From You!

- Did your children, grandchildren receive special awards or achievements in school?
- Baptisms? Confirmations? New Members?
- Participated in Volunteer and Community Projects?

If they are members of the FCSLA please send us a photo and short article about their special achievements!



ANNA LISA NOVAK a member of Jr. Branch 529, Cleveland, OH is pictured on her bike holding a certificate she received for participating in Anna's Trike-A-Thon where she raised money for St. Jude's Children's Research.



Jr. Branch 485 in Cleveland, OH, is proud to announce a new member, **LAUREN ELIZABETH OLEXA**. Her proud parents are Elizabeth and William Olexa of Parma, OH. Lauren was born on September 23, 2010. Proud grandparents are Mary and Milan Kobulsky. Milan is the director and announcer of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Program; heard every Sunday morning from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. over station WERE 1490 on your AM dial in Cleveland, OH.



Happy Thanksgiving!



JACK ALEXANDER KONICK, son of Beth and Brian Konick of Jefferson Hills, PA received his First Holy Communion at St. Thomas Á Becket Church on May 14, 2011.

Jack and his sister Grace are members of Jr. Branch 115 in Clairton, PA. Jack's mother Beth is the Treasurer of Sr. Branch 177 and his father, Brian is a member. Jack's grandparents are Monica LaFrankie, Sr. Branch 177 and Jr. Branch 115 Financial Secretary and Gerald M. LaFrankie, Pittsburgh District Vice President and Sr. Branch 115 President.

Jack is a student at Gill Hall Elementary School in Jefferson Hills. He plays basketball, baseball and football for Thomas Jefferson. Jack and his family are active with local branch activities.

CHICAGO DISTRICT JUNIOR BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

All Chicago area junior members are invited to a Christmas party sponsored by Jr. Branches 174, 322, 339 and 427, on Sunday, November 13, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at St. Simon Parish Gymnasium, 5135 S. California Ave., Chicago, IL. For more information about this exciting event, please go to the Chicago District Web site found on www.fcsla.org to view the calendar of events and more.

ST. ANN'S DAY CELEBRATED BY BRANCH 114

Members of Branch 114 celebrated St. Ann's day with a luncheon at the American Slovak Club.

President Bernadette Robertson honored the scholarship winners Kasey Bilancini, Elizabeth Forgacs, Stephanie Myers and Kelsey Bobek.

Two Branch 114 Officers were honored with certificates from the Home Office for their 50 years of marriage. They were Betty and Gerald Boone and Bernadette and Victor Danevich. A monetary donation was also given to the couples by the branch.



Bernadette Robertson President of Branch 114 is pictured with all the Branch Officers.

The Queen Kaitlyn Knick and the Slovak Princess Anastasia Krafcik from the Lorain's International Festival were both present at the St. Ann's Day Celebration.

Also honored were President Bernadette Robertson and all her fine officers from Branch 114. Everyone had a beautiful day.



Members enjoying the St. Ann's day luncheon.



L-R: Bernadette Danevich, Cynthia Sams, Bernadette Robertson and Betty Boone.



L-R: Branch Secretary Cynthia Sams, President Bernadette Robertson, Slovak Princess Anastasia Krafcik and International Slovak Queen Kaitlyn Knick.



Scholarship Winners of Branch 114, L-R: Kasey Bilancini, Elizabeth Forgacs Stephanie Myers, Kelsey Bobek (not present for the photo).

STUDENT IN THE NEWS

ANTHONY SURACE (Branch 422) graduated in June 2011 from Twinsburg High School in Twinsburg, OH. Anthony was the recipient of one of the Twinsburg Athletic Boosters Awards and also one of the Twinsburg PTO Scholarship winners.



While in high school, Anthony was a 4 year member and 3 year letter winner of the Tiger football team and a 4 year member and 1 year letter winner of the track team. He was a member of National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars. Anthony and his fellow Latin classmates recently traveled to Rome this summer with their teacher for a 13 day visit to many of the cities in Italy.

Anthony is currently attending The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH studying Bio-Chemistry.

He is the son of Mary Jean (Branch 422) and Stephen Surace of Twinsburg. His sister and brother, both FCSLA members, are also currently in college.

Magdalen Benish Receives Award at Luncheon

Magdalen Benish (S172) a Plains, PA resident received the Dean School of Business Outstanding Alumni Service Award at a reunion luncheon held at Wyoming Seminary, Kingston, PA.

Ms. Benish received the award in appreciation of her many years of dedicated service to Wyoming Seminary. She is a member of St. Andre Bessette Parish in Wilkes-Barre, PA and a former member of Sacred Heart Slovak Church where she was actively involved as a lector, Eucharistic Minister, a member of the choir and a member of the Parish Finance Committee.

She is a retired vice-president of the First Union Bank in Wilkes-Barre, PA, a member of the President's Council at King's College in Wilkes-Barre; a Financial Advisor on the Board of Direc-

tors of the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania and a very active member of FCSLA Sr. Branch 172 also in Wilkes-Barre, PA.



Shown at the award presentation, L-R: John Shafer, Vice-President of Advancement, Wyoming Seminary; Magdalen Benish, award recipient; and Dr. Kip Nygren, President of Wyoming Seminary.



IN MEMORIAM

KRISTIE LYNN CLARKSON Sr. Branch 84



Kristie Lynn Clarkson, age 32, of Beesley's Point, NJ passed away Friday, August 19, 2011 in Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA.

Born in Somers Point, NJ she had lived in Erma and Ocean City before moving to Beesley's Point two years ago. Kristie was an Insurance Agent for Barra Vaughn Insurance Agency in Ocean City.

Surviving are her husband, Jason Clarkson; her parents, Gregory and Patricia Reichenbach of Erma; two sisters, Danielle Cammarano and her husband James of Wildwood, Michelle Reichenbach of Villas, nieces and nephew: J.D. Cammarano, Devin and Jasmine Kent.

The family suggests those who desire send memorial contributions to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 6931 Arlington Road, 2nd Floor, Bethesda, MD 20814.

DUANE C. HOFF Branch W080



Duane C. Hoff died on August 3, 2011 in Columbus, NE. He was born January 5, 1929, in Colfax County to Emil and Augusta (Kroeger) Hoff. He graduated from Leigh High School.

He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War on the USS Shangri-la and Yorktown Carriers from April 1949 through February 1953.

Duane married Doris Reznicek on December 27, 1955, at the SS Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Clarkson, NE. The couple lived in Leigh, NE where he worked at the Leigh Hatchery and then at the Leigh Post Office serving as a clerk and then a rural mail carrier for over 20 years. In 2000 the couple moved to Columbus.

Duane was a member of the Leigh volunteer fire department where he served in various offices. He was also a mem-

ber of the American Legion. His passion was sports, including officiating and announcing various athletic events. He especially loved Nebraska football and attended many games. Duane was a member of St. Isidore Catholic Church in Columbus, NE.

He is survived by his wife Doris Hoff of Columbus, daughter Skye (Dennis) Kiolbasa of Columbus; daughter Sandy (Brad) Angle of Smithville, MO; a sister Shirley (Bill) Micek of Lincoln; a granddaughter Alecia Kiolbasa of Columbus; a grandson Joe (Jen) Kiolbasa of Omaha, great-granddaughter Taileigh Kiolbasa of Omaha, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father Emil Hoff and mother Augusta Hoff, brothers Donald Hoff, Gordon Hoff, Ken Hoff, Melvern "Whitey" Hoff; sisters Donna Olson, and Elaine Sprague.

JOSEPH J. CHOLICK Branch W139



Joseph J. Cholick, age 92, passed away on March 21, 2011. He was born in Scappoose, OR on September 12, 1918 and was the son of Andrew Cholick and Lillian (Havlik) Cholick. He owned and operated Western

Lithograph.

Joseph is survived by his wife, Edith A.; son, Jerome J.; and daughter, Anne Cholick-Itel. A funeral Mass was held in St. Brigitta Church. Joseph was a member of Branch W139 for 86 years.

JOHN H. NOVACEK Branch W032



John H. Novacek, age 88, of Dwight, NE, passed away January 27, 2011. Born July 15, 1922, oldest son of John Anton and Mary (Hamsa) Novacek.

He was a 1939 graduate of Dwight Assumption High School; U.S. Navy 1942-1946; also owner of John H. Novacek Agency.

He was a member of Dwight Assumption Catholic Church and choir, FCSLA Branch W139, 50+ year member of Dwight American Legion Post No. 110, Dwight Volunteer Fire Department, and Dwight Community Club.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Laurine, of Dwight; sons and daughters-in-law and their families, David and Kathy Novacek of Seward, Hunter Novacek, Jesse, Emmi and Morgan Prochaska; Don and Liz Novacek of Utica, Mikayla and David Weigle; Clair Novacek of Dwight, Russell, Brendan and Dustin Pond; daughters and sons-in-law and their families, Eloise and Larry Schwartz of Lincoln; Mary Kaye and Chuck Kost of Lincoln, Luke Kost, Alayna Fleshman; Lori and Dana Miller of Gering, Noah Miller; brothers and sisters-in-law, Francis and Cecilia Novacek of Fort Worth, TX, Alfred and Yvonne Novacek of Portland, OR; brother-in-law and spouse, Al and Irma Kudlacek of Geneva; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Art and Leona Divis of Brainard, Arnold and Ilene Divis of Prague, Florence Parnham of Lincoln, Vera Divis of Beaver Crossing; numerous nieces and nephews.

HELEN G. FERENS Sr. Branch 424



Helen G. Ferens, beloved wife of Andrew B. Ferens, passed away July 25, 2011. A long time resident of Whitaker, PA, she was a member of Resurrection Parish, West Mifflin, PA.

Helen was born May 30, 1922 to Anna and John Suba, in Homestead, PA. She married the love of her life, Andy, March 4, 1943.

They traveled many times to their family towns in Slovakia and other parts of the world. They loved to dance and spend time with family. Helen loved to make Slovak foods and bake the traditional desserts. She volunteered with the Girl Scouts, CCD classes and her dance group, the Nickettes, who entertained in retirement homes. Helen worked many years with Sears and Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

She served on the Court of Appeals for

the FCSLA and enjoyed many conventions with Andy.

Besides her husband Andrew, she was the mother of Gerry (Steve) Smith, Roberta (John) Ames and Andrea (Kevin) Cipa. She had eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her grandson Nick Cipa, a sister, Mary Stecik, and brothers, John and George Suba.

She is sadly missed by her family and friends. God blessed her with a long life and her family and friends with many wonderful memories. May she rest in peace.

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL
CYRIL M. FERENCHAK (RET)
Sr. Branch 161**



Lieutenant Colonel Cyril M. Ferenchak (retired U.S. Army Special Forces), born in Youngstown, OH on December 3, 1949, passed away August 28, 2011.

He is survived by his wife Marta (Prado) Ferenchak and son, Christopher, both of McLean, VA, sisters Paulette Smith, Canfield, Margaret, Youngstown, Theresa Kantz (David), Wexford, PA, brothers Kenneth, Cleveland, George (Nancy), Atlanta, GA, Gregory, Miami Beach, FL, Michael, Cocoa, FL, nieces and nephews and many friends.

Cyril is the son of Cyril Sr. and Wilma Ferenchak, formerly of Youngstown, both deceased.

He is a 1967 graduate of Cardinal Mooney High School and a graduate of Youngstown State University and Oklahoma State University. At the time of his death Cyril was Foreign Services Officer with the U.S. State Department's Foreign Services Management Office in Washington, DC. Previously, Cyril served as the Vice Consular Affairs Officer at the American Consulate in Guadalajara, Mexico. Cyril retired from the U.S. Army Special Forces after 30 years of service. After initial extended tours in Vietnam and Korea, Cyril's special training and service was mainly in Central and South America, including Panama, El Salvador, Bolivia, and Columbia.

**ANNA BACAK
Sr. Branch 89**



Anna Bacak, 89, died September 6, 2011 at home with family. She will reunite with her loving husband Mickey and her beautiful daughter Sophie. She will be remembered for her loving smile and kind words. She will

be sadly missed by daughter Mary and son-in-law Ernie Sr., grandchildren: Ernie Jr., Christina and her husband Sam; three great-granddaughters: Anicia, Melinda and Marissa.

The family would like to thank Hospice for all the kindness and care they gave her.

**MONICA L. GRABOWSKI
Sr. Branch 248 / Jr. Branch 175**



Monica L. Grabowski, 89, (nee Povraznik), of Chicago, IL, passed away on February 22, 2011 with her loved ones at her side.

Born on December 12, 1921 in Jasenie, Slovakia she was the daughter of John and Mary Povraznik. In 1922 at the age of one, she left Slovakia for the United States with her mother Mary. While Monica loved her new country and felt privileged to be an American citizen, her favorite song was "God Bless America", she never forgot about her Slovakian roots. Ever so proud of her Slovak heritage she always took the time to teach her family and friends Slovak customs and traditions, especially the culinary delights, as were passed down to her. As a result, Slovak pride and traditions will live on in her surviving family and their future generations.

Monica was married for 61 years to Severian (Tom) Grabowski, who preceded her in death in 2001. She is survived by her two children Thomas Grabowski and Barbara Mugavero; daughter-in-law Connie and son-in-law

Tony; four grandchildren Kimberly, Jeffrey, Sandra and Amy and seven great-grandchildren Patrick, Hailey, Christopher, Sydney, Braiden, Kayleigh, and Laura.

Monica was a member of the 31 Club and a member of St. Anne Sr. Branch 248 of the FCSLA for 83 years prior to her passing. Up to the time of her death she served as President of FCSLA Branches Sr. Branch 248 and Jr. Branch 175. She was a skilled seamstress and loved to bake for family and friends. She is greatly missed. May she rest in peace.

**AGNES MARTHA FOLEY
Sr. Branch 150**

Agnes Martha (Kovach) Foley, 85, widow of Paul R. Foley of Manatawny Manor Nursing Home, East Coventry Township, PA and formerly of South Street, Pottstown, PA, died September 14 at the nursing home surrounded by her family.

Born in Pottstown, PA she was the daughter of the late John and Mary (Petro) Kovach. Mrs. Foley had worked as a seamstress her whole life, working at various clothing factories in the Pottstown area until her retirement in the early eighties.

She was a member of St. Aloysius R.C.C. Pottstown. She was also a member of the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary of Stowe and the St. Aloysius Senior Citizens. She was an avid sewer. She loved traveling and enjoyed playing bingo.

Surviving is a son, Paul Foley, husband of Jill of Lansdowne, VA, and a daughter, Jan Marie Foley and companion, David Knoll of Mertztown. She is also survived by three sisters, Theresa, wife of John Duke of Spring City; Dorothy Mitro of Feasterville, and Jean Kovach of Harleysville, and two grandsons, Matthew and Christopher Foley both of Virginia and two great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Manatawny Manor Nursing Home/"Something Concrete" c/o P.O. Box 799 Pottstown, PA 19464.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

**PLEASE USE THE FORM
ON THE BACK COVER AND MAIL
TO THE HOME OFFICE ADDRESS**

St. Wenceslaus Parish Celebrates Centennial Anniversary

The St. Wenceslaus Parish of Scappoose, OR, observed its Centennial Anniversary on September 26, 2011. Archbishop John Vlazny of Portland (a member of the local branch) celebrated Mass. The Mass was followed by a dinner, program and a strolling accordion player who provided the entertainment. Branch W139 was well represented by its members and donated \$1,000 toward the publishing of a book chronicling the parishes 100 years of service to God and country.

In 1905, when John Havlik Sr. and his family arrived in Scappoose from Nebraska, they began a campaign to entice other Czech families to the new settlement with the help of Benedictine Father Urban Fischer, a missionary priest who served the area. They wrote letters to Czech newspapers, relatives, friends in Europe and the Midwest. By 1910, the community had grown such that it was time to build a Catholic church, placed on two acres of forested land donated by Havlik — one acre for the church; one acre for a cemetery. St. Wenceslaus, named in honor of the Czech king and saint, was blessed July 2, 1911, by Archbishop Alexander Christie.



Archbishop John Vlazny, together with visiting priests, celebrated the 100th Anniversary Mass at the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Scappoose.

Order Christmas Oplatky and Slovak Christmas Cards

Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers and Slovak Christmas cards are available from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 24 until December 16, 2011.

The Oplatky, five per packet, thermal-sealed and securely packaged can be obtained for a donation of \$3.00. The price for one package of 9 Slovak Christmas cards is \$6.75. In addition, shipping and processing has a minimum cost of \$5.75 and upwards. Customized requests can be packaged to meet your needs.

For more information or to place an order contact: Sister Catherine Labouré, 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.

By the 1940s, it was clear that the original church was too tiny to suit the needs of the growing community, so the pastor, Father Joseph Manik, applied for a chapel that was Army surplus after World War II. The community was awarded the chapel, but it was located in Fort Stevens, 10 miles north of Astoria. To transport the structure, the church was cut in half and reassembled in Scappoose. Many skilled workers donated hours to expand and remodel the chapel, adding a brick veneer.

To this day, parishioners of the church witness their faith through their involvement in parish life, but also in the community, serving as teachers, community leaders, school volunteers, firefighters, and making other contributors that make their overall community strong.

Parishioners support and operate a food bank, contribute emergency funds to neighbors in need and serve a Thanksgiving meal to the entire community. Once a month, parish volunteers provide a meal to a men's shelter in Southeast Portland, a project started in 1998 by parish youth that has continued. The parish is home to Branch W139.



Parishioners line up to enter St. Wenceslaus Church in Scappoose.

Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble to Hold Fall Gala

The Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble will hold a Fall Gala on Saturday, November 12, 2011 at Pokrova Hall, 6812 Broadview Road, Parma, OH 44134.

Performances will be given by Lucinka Children's Ensemble and special guest *Living Traditions*. Music and dancing will follow by Ralph the Accordion Man and Party Band.

Tickets are \$30 per person. It includes a full-course dinner with a cash bar. Raffles will be held and gift baskets will be awarded during the event. Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. with dinner starting at 6:30 p.m.

For tickets please contact Tom Ivanec at 440/668-7797 or Mary Ann and Dan Dzurec at 440/930-2197. All proceeds to benefit the Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble. Thank you for your support.



NIGHT WITH THE MONSTERS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2011

7:30pm at Quicken Loans Arena

Come out and support Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble as they perform in the SPOTLIGHT during the first intermission at the Lake Erie Monsters Hockey game!

Save \$3 on each ticket with this special offer!



Features:

- \$1 Dogs & Sodas – Presented by FS Ohio and Pepsi
- Free Post Game Skate (must provide own skates)
- Mustache Sticker Giveaway
- \$3 Discount off game day value for Lúčina Family & Friends!

Complete order form below and return with payment to Mary Montani by November 4th! Questions call Mary at 216-849-7553



Complete the order form below and return with payment to Mary Montani by **November 4th**.

Please make all checks payable to: Lake Erie Monsters

IF PLACING ORDER AFTER NOV. 4, CALL JESSICA at 216-420-2402

All group members and spectators must have a game ticket.

\$15 TICKETS (\$18 game day value)	
TOTAL:	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	

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ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL (REQUIRED- Seats cannot be issued without valid email address) _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION (Please select one)

☐ CHECKS PAYABLE TO LAKE ERIE MONSTERS

☐ PLEASE CHARGE ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS ☐ DISCOVER

CARD# _____ EXP. DATE _____ SIG. _____

METHOD OF DELIVERY:

ALL SEATS WILL BE DELIVERED VIA FLASH SEATS - Just swipe the credit card used to make the purchase at any arena gate to enter with ease and convenience. Flash Seats eliminates paper tickets and prevents lost or stolen tickets. It's really fast and easy!

All orders are subject to availability. No ticket required for children under the age of two. Video cameras are not allowed in Quicken Loans Arena. Orders must be placed online, by mail, fax, or phone. Offer and discounts not available at arena box office. No refunds or exchanges.

Jessica Naderer W: 216-420-2402 E: jnaderer@lakeeriemonsters.com



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O Strašne Smutnom Medveďovi

Krista Bendová

(Please enjoy the English translation of this Slovak fable on Page 21)

Žil v jednej hore medveď Brumlíček veselý a dobrý. Nikomu neublížil s nikým sa nehádal, jedol maliny a bylinky a spieval si tichúčko: „Brum, brum, brum . . .”

Aj lesné včely ho považovali za dobrého medveďa, hoci im neraz pojedol zásoby medu. Ale pojedol ho veľmi slušne. Povedal: „Brum, brum, brum, dobrý deň, včielky-vrtielky. Musím spaťkať váš medík, lebo som obyčajný medveď obecný a mám takú náтуру. Ale prosím vás o prepáčenie a už vopred vám ďakujem, že ste ho urobili taký sladký!”

Včielky zabzučali: „Čo sa dá robiť? Keď je medveď, nemôže sa správať ako vrabec. Aspoň že je kultúrny a vychovaný a slušne sa ospravedlní a veci vysvetlí.“

Tak si teda Brumlíček spokojne žil a na svete sa mu veľmi páčilo.

Až tu jedného dňa – nikto nevie, prečo sa to stalo, ani sám Brumlíček nevie, ako to naňho prišlo – zobudil sa vo svojom brlohu a z ničoho nič začal strašne plakať.

„Čo ti je, Brumlíček?“ opýtala sa ho verná manželka Brumlíka. „Prečo plačeš? Bolí ťa bruško?“

„Jojojój, brúúú, jojojój!“ zanariekal Brumlíček hrubým hlasom. „Nič ma nebolí, ani bruško, ani uško, ale ja musím plakať, musím nariať, lebo som strašne smutný . . .“

Naľakala sa medvedica Brumlíka, zopala predné labky: „Ach, ty môj nešťastný Brumlíček, a čože sa ti stalo, že si taký smutný? Sníval sa ti azda smutný sen?“

„Nič sa mi nesnívalo, brúúú, uááá, je neviem, prečo som smutný, ale som smutný a nič ma nemôže rozveseliť, bruááá, búúú . . .“

A Brumlíček vyšiel von, padali mu slzy nie ako hrachy, ale ako slivky. A zavolať do celej hory: „Priatelia moji milovaní, na vedomosť vám dávam, že už nie som veselý medveď Brumlíček, ale strašne smutný Brum, uááá, uááá . . .“

Všetky zvieratká sa zľakli, pribehli pred brloh:

„Prečo si smutný, kamarátik, umrel ti azda niekto?“

„Brúúú,“ zaplakal žalostne smutný Brum. „Nikto mi neumrel, ale som smutný, pretože som smutný, a vôbec neviem, prečo som smutný, a preto som ešte smutnejší, uááá, brúúú . . .“

Všetečná straka poskočila na konári: „No-to-to, no-to-to, počuli ste už niečo také? Je smutný preto, že je smutný a vôbec nevie, prečo je smutný! No-to-to, no-to-to!“

Stará kuna šibla chvostom: „Kto to kedy videl – aby bol niekto smutný, keď je zdravý a má dostatok potravy! Asi sa zbláznil!“

„Ste hlúpe a nevzdelané zvery!“ ozval sa vážny hlas učenej sovy.

„Fa-k-t! Fa-k-t!“ zaropotala straka. „Ale je veľmi trápne žiť v jednom lese s takým smutným zvieratkom. Nedá sa s tým niečo robiť?“

A tak sa začala veľká porada: ako rozosmiať plačlivého medveďa Brumlíčka.

Prvý pokus urobila stará lesná myš. Zvolala všetky myšatá z celého okolia, myšací sprievod prišiel pred brloh a všetky myšky začali Brumlíčka štekliť po podošvách všetkých štyroch labiek. Od takého šteklenia by sa aj slon rozosmial, ale Brumlíček nie a nie. Ležal ako poleno a len plakal: „Ó, ja nešťastný Brum, som taký smutný až som smutný!“

„Nič nepomáha,“ povedala stará myš. „To je zbytočná robota, poďme domov!“

Myšky odišli, pribehla veverička: „Pozri, Brumlíček, ukážem ti veľkú švandu!“ zakričala na Brumlíčka a začala robiť kúzla s orieškami. Najprv ich šikovne vyhadzovala a chytala ako žonglér v cirkuse a nakoniec začala hrať s desiatimi orieškami naraz – futbal! Bolo to smiešne, zvieratká sa išli popučiť, no Brumlíček sa ani len neusmial a vzdychal: „Čože je mne futbal aj hokej, keď som už len taký smutný . . .“

„Viac už nedokážem,“ povedala veverička a celkom spotená odišla domov.

Keď veverička odbehla, pribehli tri zajačiky. Postavili sa pred Brumlíčka na zadné nôžky a začali tancovať. Najprv odzemok. Dupkali, vyskakovali a do taktu strašne smiešne pišťali. Celá hora sa smiala, iba Brumlíčkovu tiekli slzy ako hrušky. Potom začali zajačiky pišťať inú pesničku a zatancovali starodávny valčík – „tralalala, lala, lala . . .“ a držali sa pritom za ušká a vyzerali ako baletky. Všetci v lese sa už váľali od smiechu, iba Brumlíčkovu kvapkali slzy, veľké ako tekvice. Zajačikovia sa poškrabali za uškami a jeden z nich zapišťal: „Twist! Twist!“

Celá hora už zavýjala od smiechu, lebo zajačiky sa krútili a smiešne natriasali a kývali chvostíkmi do taktu a trojhlasne pišťali: „Twist! Twist! Miluji ho, jmenuje se Twist!“

Brumlíček vypustil slzy ako dyne a vzdychol: „Smutné je moje medvedie srdce, óóó, smutné, presmutné . . .“ a pobral sa pomalým, vážnym krokom k lesnej studničke, že sa napije trocha vody.

„Nič mu nepomôže,“ povedala učená sova, ktorej od veľkého smiechu až srdce klovalo. „Keď sa na tomto nezasmial, už sa nezasmeje . . .“

Brumlíček zatiaľ doľapal k lesnej studničke a naklonil sa nad hladinu. Odrazu však – čo to? Na

Pokračovanie na str. 21

About a Terribly Sad Bear

Krista Bendová

A very big brown bear by the name of Brumlíček lived in a forest. He never hurt anybody or anything and he argued with no one. He simply ate raspberries and plants and always sang: Brum, Brum . . .

Even the forest bees considered him a good bear, although he often ate their honey supply. He was always polite. He said: "Brum, good day honey bees. I have to eat your honey because I am a bear; but I want to thank you that you made such sweet honey." The bees said: "What can we do? He is a bear and not a bird. At least he is polite and he explains his behavior.

So Brumlíček lived happily and enjoyed life. However one day — nobody knows why it happened, not even Brumlíček knows — he woke up in his home and started to cry. "What is it Brumlíček?" asked his wife Brumlica. "Why are you crying?" Is your stomach upset?" "Joj, Joj" cried Brumlíček in his deep voice. "Nothing hurts, not my stomach, not my ears, but I must cry because I am sad . . ." Brumlica was concerned: "You poor bear what happened that you are so sad, did you have a bad dream?"

"I did not have a bad dream, I do not know why I am so unhappy, and nothing can be done . . ."

Brumlíček went outside, his tears were as big as plums and he cried: "My friends I am letting you know that I am not that happy bear anymore, but a very sad one."

O Strašne Smutnom Medveďovi

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

hladine uvidel hlavu akéhosi čudného zvera. Zver vyzeral celkom ako medveď, Brumlíčekovi sa dokonca zdalo, že sa trochu ponáša aj naňho. Lenže ten zver sa tváril strašne hlúpo, očká mal vyvalené, uši ovisnuté papuľku vykrivenú do smutnej podoby. Zviera vyzeralo síce strašne smutne, ale aj strašne smiešne a tak hlúpo, že Brumlíček naň pozrel ešte raz a ešte raz . . . Zviera na hladine studničky vyvalilo naňho smutné hlúpe okálie, pootvorilo smutnú smiešnu papuľu – a Brumlíček sa tak rozchichotal, že si musel sadnúť pod strom. Tak tam sedel, držal sa za brucho, smial sa, už sa skrúcal „hua-hua-huá, hue-hue-hué . . .“ a keď sa prestal smiať, spomenul si na tú smiešnu papuľu v studničke a znovu spustil: „Huahuahuahúáá, huehuehuehuééé . . .“

Pribehla Brumlica aj všetky lesné zvieratká – a Brumlíček len ukazuje na studničku, skrúca sa od smiechu: „Tamto . . . huehuehue, tamto v studničke . . . huihuihuihui . . . taká hlúpa smiešna papuľa, híhíhíhíí . . .“

Zvieratká pozreli do studničky – a nič nevideli, iba ako v zrkadle odrazené svoje vlastné podoby. A tak podnes rozmýšľajú: Čože to len vtedy rozosmialo Brumlíčka?

A Brumlíček kade chodí, tade sa smeje, a je z neho od tých čias najveselší medveď. Do smrti sa nedozvie, že tá smutná hlúpa papuľka, ktorú videl v studničke, bola jeho vlastná, najvlastnejšia papuľka.

All the animals were concerned: "Why are you so sad, did somebody die?"

"Brum," the bear cried, "nobody died, but I am sad because I am sad and I do not know why, and that makes me even more sad."

The all knowing crow hopped on the tree branch: "Have you heard something like this? He is sad but does not know why?" The old ferret said: "Whoever heard that someone is sad when he is healthy and has enough to eat! He must be crazy!"

"You are stupid and uneducated animals," said the wise owl. "It is apparent that you do not know anything about the world."

"Fact!" said the crow again. "It is very difficult to live in the same forest with such a sad animal. Can we do something?"

"We have to make him laugh," said the wise owl. So they had a meeting to figure out how to make the sad bear happy.

First the old mouse tried. She called all the mice from everywhere and all of them started to tickle the bear. Any animal would laugh from such a tickling, but the bear did not even smile. He just continued crying. "I am so unhappy that I am sad."

Nothing is helping," said the old mouse, "it is a wasted effort."

The mouse left, but just then the squirrel arrived: "Look Brumlíček, I will make you laugh," and she started to juggle nuts. She was throwing the nuts into the air then catching them just like a circus juggler. At the end she was juggling ten nuts at the same time. All the other animals were laughing because it was funny, but the bear did not even smile and said: "Everything makes him sad . . ."

"I cannot do more," said the sweaty squirrel, and left for home. When the squirrel left, three rabbits appeared. They stood in front of the bear and started to dance. The whole forest was happy but Brumlíček. The rabbits then sang a song and were dancing a "waltz". They were holding each others ears and they looked like ballerinas. Everybody was laughing but the bear was crying. The rabbits scratched their ears and danced the "twist." Everybody was laughing because the rabbits were twisting and shaking and singing: "twist we love to twist!"

Brumlíček cried some more and said: "My heart is sad, very sad and walked very slowly to the pond to drink some water. "Nothing will help," said the wise owl: "If he did not laugh at this he will never laugh . . ." Brumlíček reached the pond and looked at the image in the water. He saw a strange animal. The animal looked like a bear, maybe even like him. But the image looked foolish, the eyes were bulging, the ears were droopy, the mouth made a sad grimace. The animal in the water looked sad but also funny, so Brumlíček looked again and again.

The animal looked back at him and Brumlíček found it funny, he had to sit down because he was laughing. So he was sitting down and laughing and laughing. Brumlíček's wife and all the other animals ran to see what was going on. But Brumlíček was just laughing and pointing to the pond. The animals looked into the pond but did not see anything but their own images. They were puzzled at the bear's laughter. Once again Brumlíček is a happy smiling bear as he had been all his life. Curiously he still does not know that the funny face that made him smile was his own image.

ST. DOMINIC BOOK RELEASE

"Saint Dominic — A Cornerstone of Community" is the title of a newly published book about the first Catholic church in Donora and the first Slovak church in the mid-Monongahela Valley.

The keepsake book grew out of the desire of former members of the parish to preserve their heritage after the church was ordered closed by the bishop.

When former Donoran and professional photographer Joseph Rudinec was taking photos of his boyhood church, people he didn't know asked what he was doing and then proceeded to tell him their stories and how they were connected to the church.

When he returned to Ohio he showed his photos to a colleague, Karen Kelly Hill. She was not only impressed by the beauty of the church, but also became interested in its history. When they found out that Ruth Ann Yatsko had a history prepared for a book that was to celebrate 100 years of Catholicism in Donora, but never was published, the project took off from there.

The first half of the 50-page, soft cover book shows detailed photos of the church and explains the imagery of the stained glass windows, murals and statues of saints. The second half documents the history of the church and Slovak people from 1902 to the present.

The book is available for \$14.95 with shipping free. Orders may be placed at rudinec@rudinec.com or by calling 330-726-2572.



L-R: Ruth Ann Yatsko, Joseph Rudinec, Karen Kelly Hill.

NEBRASKA STATE PICNIC



The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association State Officers of St. Isidore District, NE, hosted their annual picnic on Sunday, July 10, 2011 at the North Bend Park. Despite hot and humid weather conditions 100 plus members and their families attended the picnic. Special guests were Irene

Drotleff and Rosemary Mlinarich. Their presence was appreciated by all in attendance.

Twenty door prizes were given out to adult and junior members. Hot and cold drinks were furnished by the State Council as well as swimming tickets for those who wanted to go swimming. There was an abundance of food brought in by all to enjoy. We hope to see all District members next year in North Bend in July 2012 for another day of good food and lots of visiting.

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 30, 2011

ASSETS

Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 13,575,588.31
Bonds	616,841,316.69
Preferred Stock	6,580,430.87
Common Stock	710,981.84
Investment Income Due and Accrued	9,955,696.72
Promissory Notes	34,934.70
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	6,690,251.34
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,847,857.84
Other Assets	231,203.29

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 656,468,261.60

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 194,431,229.08
Annuity Reserves	349,725,359.50
Death Claims Payable	619,505.71
Unearned Premiums	569,376.00
Matured Endowments	315,073.00
Provision for Dividends Payable	2,082,178.00
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,712,922.58
Accrued Convention Donations	802,669.00
Provision for Future Conventions	658,381.65
Asset Valuation Reserve	6,936,586.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,373,028.00
Other Liabilities	1,117,888.44
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	4,284,000.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ 566,628,196.96

SURPLUS

Surplus	\$ 89,840,064.65
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TOTAL SURPLUS \$ 89,840,064.65

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS \$ 656,468,261.60

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Six Months Ending June 30, 2011

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 12,491,091.19
Annuity Premiums	11,576,278.41
Investment Income	17,770,590.08
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	65,494.58
Rental Income	207,210.00
Other Revenue	8,244.36

TOTAL REVENUE \$ 42,118,908.62

EXPENSES

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 12,858,229.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	7,962,359.00
Insurance Benefits	2,236,238.98
Annuity Benefits	9,669,086.28
Commission Expense	1,200,129.45
Surrender Benefits	807,658.05
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	94,848.87
Matured Endowments	6,590.31
Donation Expenses	172,055.00
Convention Expenses	91,604.96
Dividends to Members	1,049,337.73
Post Mortem Benefits	509,952.67
Bonus to Branches	498,690.00
Fraternal Activities	35,869.93
Bank Service Charges	33,747.71
Data Processing Service Fees	158,595.45
Accounting Fees	64,194.00
Actuarial Fees	79,340.00
Legal Fees	1,530.80
Consulting Services	73,367.50
Official Publications	168,182.00
Scholarship Awards	(2,500.00)
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	206,090.29
Fees — Directors	55,935.16
Salaries — Employees	730,588.34
Salaries — Officers	219,265.69
Interest Expense	131,381.23
Tax Expense	153,973.41
Depreciation Expense	145,018.00
Utility Expense	44,150.58
Postage and Printing	169,823.52
Advertising	42,023.45
Travel Expense	70,695.17
Insurance Department Fees	49,815.83
Sales Promotion	83,120.49
Rental Expense	207,210.00
Other Expense	238,574.90

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 40,316,773.75

NET INCOME \$ 1,802,134.87



Seasonal Entertaining

BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP

- 1 orange
- 3 thin slices peeled fresh ginger
- 2 teaspoons coriander seeds
- 10 whole black peppercorns
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 sweet onion, cut into ½-inch pieces
- Pinch of cayenne pepper
- 6 cups low-sodium canned chicken stock
- 1 sweet potato, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 small (about 1¾ pounds each) butternut squash, peeled, halved and seeded, and flesh cut into 1-inch pieces

Using a vegetable peeler, remove zest from orange in long strips; reserve flesh for another use. Make a bouquet garni by wrapping zest, ginger, coriander, and peppercorns in a piece of cheesecloth; tie kitchen twine around top of bundle.

In a medium stockpot, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion and cayenne; cook, stirring occasionally, until onion is soft and starts to brown, 4 to 5 minutes. Add bouquet garni and cook for 2 minutes more. Add stock and bring to a boil.

Add the sweet potato and squash to pot; return to a gentle simmer, and partially cover. Cook until vegetables are just beginning to fall apart, about 25 minutes. Remove from heat, and let cool slightly.

In a blender, puree soup in batches, being careful not to fill more than halfway. Pour soup into a pot; cook over medium heat until just heated through.

EASY CRANBERRY GELATIN SALAD

- 2 cups boiling water
- 2 boxes (4-serving size each) lemon-flavored gelatin
- 2 tubs (10 oz. each) frozen cranberry-orange sauce, thawed
- 1 cup fresh raspberries

Lightly brush 6½-cup ring mold or 1½-quart decorative bowl with vegetable oil.

In large bowl, pour boiling water on gelatin; stir until gelatin is dissolved. Stir in cranberry-orange sauce. Fold in raspberries. Pour into mold or bowl. Cover and refrigerate at least 6 hours but no longer than 24 hours.

To unmold salad from ring mold, dip mold into hot water for 10 seconds. Place serving plate upside down onto mold; turn plate and mold over, then remove mold. Refrigerate salad until serving. If using decorative bowl, do not unmold; scoop salad from bowl to serve.

TURKEY AND WILD RICE CASSEROLE

- 4 cups cut-up cooked turkey
- 1 bag (12 oz.) frozen mixed vegetables, thawed
- 3 cups cooked wild rice
- 1½ cups uncooked instant brown rice
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme leaves
- 1 cup chicken broth, heated
- 3 containers (10 oz. each) refrigerated reduced-fat Alfredo sauce
- ½ cup plain bread crumbs
- ¼ cup finely chopped walnuts
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 3-quart casserole with cooking spray.

In large bowl, mix turkey, vegetables, cooked wild rice, uncooked brown rice, salt and thyme. Stir in heated broth and Alfredo sauce. Pour into casserole. In small bowl, mix bread crumbs, walnuts and butter; sprinkle over turkey mixture.

Bake uncovered about 45 minutes or until hot.

CRUNCHY ONION POTATO BAKE

- 2½ cups milk
- 1½ cups water
- ¼ cup butter
- 1 box (7.2 oz) home-style creamy butter or roasted garlic mashed potatoes
- 1 can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese (4 oz.)
- 1 can (2.8 oz) French-fried onions

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 13x9-inch (3-quart) glass baking dish with cook-

ing spray. In 3-quart saucepan, heat milk, water and margarine to boiling. Stir in contents of both pouches of potatoes (from potatoes box) just until moistened; let stand 1 minute. Stir with fork until smooth. Stir in corn.

Spoon half of potato mixture into dish. Sprinkle with ½ each of the cheese and onions. Top with remaining potatoes; sprinkle with remaining cheese and onions.

Bake 10 to 15 minutes or until cheese is melted and onions are golden.

PUMPKIN STREUSEL CHEESECAKE BARS

- 1 pouch (1 lb 1.5 oz.) oatmeal cookie mix
- ½ cup crushed gingersnap cookies
- ½ cup finely chopped pecans
- ½ cup cold butter or margarine

Filling:

- 2 packages (8 oz. each) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup canned pumpkin (not pumpkin pie mix)
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
- 2 tablespoons whipping cream
- 2 eggs

Toppings:

- ⅓ cup chocolate topping
- ⅓ cup caramel topping

Heat oven to 350 degrees. In large bowl, stir together cookie mix, crushed cookies and pecans. Cut in butter, using pastry blender or fork, until mixture is crumbly. Reserve 1 cup mixture for topping. Press remaining mixture in bottom of ungreased 13x9-inch pan. Bake 10 minutes. Cool 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, in large bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Add remaining filling ingredients; beat until well blended. Pour over warm cookie base. Sprinkle with reserved topping.

Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until center is set. Cool 30 minutes. Refrigerate about 2 hours or until chilled.

Before serving, drizzle with chocolate and caramel toppings. For bars, cut into 6 rows by 4 rows. Store covered in refrigerator.



11/11

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