

Fraternally Yours®



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First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

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*May the Blessings of this Thanksgiving
fill your hearts and home*

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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YOU ARE UNIQUE

Think what a remarkable, unduplicatable and miraculous thing it is to be you! Of all the people who have come and gone on the earth, since the beginning of time, not one of them is like you. No one who has ever lived or is to come has had your combination of abilities, talents, appearance, friends, acquaintances, burdens, sorrows and opportunities. No one's hair grows exactly the way yours does. No one's finger prints are like yours. No one has the same combination of secret inside jokes and family expressions that you know. There are few people who laugh at all the same things you do or sneeze the way you do. No one prays about exactly the same concerns as you do. No one is loved by the same combination of people that love you.



YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY UNIQUE!

Enjoy that uniqueness. You do not have to pretend in order to seem more like someone else. You weren't meant to be like someone else. You do not have to lie to conceal the parts of you that are not like what you see in anyone else. You were meant to be different. Nowhere ever in all of history will the same things be going on in anyone's mind, soul and spirit as are going on in yours right now. If you did not exist, there would be a hole in creation, a gap in history and something missing from the plan for humankind.

TREASURE YOUR UNIQUENESS.

It is a gift given only to you. Enjoy it and share it!

No one can reach out to others in the same way that you can. No one can speak your words. No one can convey your meanings. No one can comfort with your kind of comfort. No one can bring your kind of understanding to another person. No one can be cheerful and light-hearted and joyous in your way. No one can smile your smile or can bring the whole unique impact of you to another human being.

Dear Friends,

This month, share your uniqueness. Let it be free to flow out among your family and friends and people you meet every day. That gift of yourself was given you to enjoy and share. Give yourself away and always remember you are unique!

For food in a world where many walk in hunger; For faith in a world where many walk in fear; For friends in a world where many walk alone; We give you thanks, O Lord.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Until next Month,
 Warmly, Carolyn



Our Life's Journeys with Friends ~ Part 2 of 3

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

In September, I published Part I of the article with this introductory statement. Outside of family, what would I do without friends? As I look over the years of my life, there have been many people with whom I considered to be my friends. But because of changes in times, distances, priestly assignments, and the mobility of moving from one city, state, country to another, I have sadly lost contact with some of them - grade and high schools, seminary and graduate schools, and the various parishes/schools in which ministered. I attempt, to the best of my ability, to let them know that I still appreciate our friendships by sending Christmas greetings, a simple email or telephone call, sympathy and congratulations when learning about such events, and, through the celebrations of my Masses and prayer life, maintain my appreciation to the Almighty Father for everything they have generously done for me. But I do have several friends who are quite special to me because of life-long dedications for each other and continued communications, some very and others not so often, but we know that when we have not heard from each other, one of us has the impetus to initiate some kind of communication. This article picks up where I left off.

A brother to me also is my friend John who is from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. John was about two years behind me in the graduate school and did his undergraduate degree at

Saint Meinrad Seminary in Indiana. He has the personality that is comforting when needing comfort, a very prayerful person, a kind shepherd leading his flock who love him for his gentleness, his kind demeanor, an open personality, and a teacher/preacher that he, himself, lives. In his ministry at the church he now pastors, he has built a beautiful, new church, expanded the parish grade school, and built a new parish rectory. This is who John is and lives. Unlike me, he is very humble and that humility, his lifestyle, his preaching and living the Good News of Jesus Christ is not only an inspiration and path of the Holy Spirit at work in his life but to the flock in which he shepherds. We gather to shoot the breeze, update each other about our families and friends from the seminary days about a couple days each year. Like the others, I truly enjoy the time in renewing our friendship with one another. Both of us have active schedules that lead to just a few times to meet. However, John is an upbeat person who gives me peace of heart and renewal in spirit. My hope is just the same!

It was my first parish in which I was assigned after my presbyterial ordination that I met Kathy and later her husband, Dick. There was a group of women in the suburbs that rotated their homes to have a Bible study each week throughout the school year. Prior to their gathering, they would either read chapters of the Hebrew/Christian Scriptures and then gather to discuss and meditate on the particular reading. The former associate pastor went to their meetings and the group asked if I would take his place. They were so into the Bible - I was very impressed. But this Kathy was always digging deeper and I thought that she was tempting me, placing me in the corner. And thus began our friendship! They have a daughter who has four boys. They assist her in taking the boys to their sport practices and games and they are the center of their lives. Kathy and Dick call/meet me at least every other day to make sure I am doing well and if I do not hear from them, I call. They are down to earth and friends that make me who I hope to be. I am impressed by their living out the Gospel of Jesus by who they are and what they do it in spreading the Gospel in their devotion to their family and friends.

And finally there are Jane and Terry who I met while doing work on a Master of Arts degree at the University of Notre Dame in the mid-eighties. I had a tooth problem and inquired of Jane's mother, who was employed in the bursar's office of the university (I saw her daily because we had to have so much money in UND's bank to live out the time you were there and could only withdraw twenty-five dollars a day and that is how we came to know each other), if she could assist me with my malady. Bingo, her son-in-law was/is a dentist, was in the infancy of his practice, and his personality and mine were on the same track and I was invited to their home for dinner. Thus a very close relationship has existed since 1983. I experienced with them the deaths of his father and her father and mother and a miscarriage. But we have shared the best times of my life together.

Let us remember that as Christians, we are to be friends to everyone we encounter every day of our lives. As John 15, verse 13 says - "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

BIG NEWS!

The ORIGINAL
Slovak-American Cookbook
will be BACK IN STOCK
for the holidays!



Featuring hundreds of
well-loved, time tested
recipes to keep tradition
alive in your kitchen.

To be the first to know when it's back,
follow us on social!

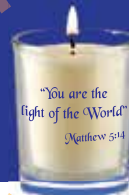
 @FCSLALife  @FCSLALife  @FCSLALife

Note: The FCSLA Life Slovak-American Cookbook is one of a kind!

Please make sure to purchase your cookbook from
FCSLA Life ONLY!

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING AND AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE



Dear fellow members,

As we approach the Thanksgiving and Advent season, it is most important that we continue to focus on our attitude of positive thinking, and gratitude for whom and what we have in our lives.

On November 11th, with a spirit of gratitude and awe, we honor all men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, including those still with us. The name of the holiday has been changed over the years, named

“Armistice Day” in 1919 up until 1954, when the name was changed to Veterans Day, to honor all veterans, both living and deceased. Let’s all make a special effort to recognize and show our appreciation for what all veterans have done.

I continue to be in awe of the visionary leaders who have formed, led and steered our beloved society since its very beginnings. Since our founding in 1892, we have been blessed with women leaders of foresight, grit and determination, willing to take long-term prudent risks for the benefit of our members and our society. We have grown exponentially mainly due to this brand of leadership, wisely chosen by our delegates at our conventions.

Since 2012 we have increased our membership by 25% (to approximately 105,000 members), we have expanded our membership criteria, we have increased our assets from \$690M to \$1.16B and surplus from approximately \$83M to \$109M. We have reached over \$1B of life insurance in force and cultivated great fraternal benefit programs at branch, district and national levels. This has been done despite a number of extraordinary obstacles including a once-in-a-century pandemic, a prolonged extremely low interest rate environment, staffing changes and internal major changes necessitated and managed along the way.

The American Psychological Association has noted a dramatic increase in anger and other mental health issues surfacing from the pandemic and related economic and environmental conditions.

Through our FOCUS on positive thinking and an attitude of gratefulness, we can practice acts of kindness and gratefulness every day to benefit all those around us. While we must continue to assess the risk of our business actions, we find optimism even in times where obstacles present themselves on a daily basis.

By cultivating a positive outlook, optimism, hope and joy are all possible when we take a thoughtful approach and

perspective in our life, especially in relations to others. Let us make some time every day, including the workday, to take the opportunity for the activities which make us happy. Relish the small things, a special prayer or good deed for a friend, keep a diary of positive activities, call a friend, kiss or hug your spouse or family member. Give a true compliment to someone around you – a co-worker or family member. Read a good book. Spend time to connect and be courteous to those around us. Practice gratefulness. Make sure to smile!

Our leaders and members have found this secret to success over a span of 130 years. By overcoming stress in these ways and keeping our FOCUS on our goals in a positive way, we are resilient and can thrive. We can keep on track together!

Cynthia Maleski

FCSLA Annuity Rates

Rates for our deferred Elite Annuities:

SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)

3.10% APY*

GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)

3.15% APY*

PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)

3.25% APY*

***This rate is in effect 10/1/2022 thru 12/31/2022**

The credited rate is reviewed quarterly by the Board of Directors and will never go below the minimum guaranteed rate.

The guaranteed rates on contracts issued October 1, 2022 and later are:

Elite Silver (5 year) 2.00% APY • Elite Gold (7 year) 2.00% APY
Elite Platinum (10 year) 2.00% APY



More than \$287,000 in Scholarship Awards!



FCSLA Life is pleased to announce its **2023-24 Scholarship Program**. An eligible candidate for an FCSLA Life Fraternal Scholarship Award shall be a member of good standing for at least three years prior to date of application and hold a \$1,000 permanent life insurance certificate, a \$5,000 term certificate or an annuity certificate in his or her name. *See the full application for additional rules of eligibility.*

Winners will be chosen by a committee of impartial judges from the educational field, based on the following: **Academic Standing, Church/Community Service Value and School Involvement/Essay.**

127 College Scholarship Awards - \$1,250 Each
19 Graduate Awards - \$1,750 Each
36 High School Awards - \$1,000 Each
2 Florence Hovanec Memorial Awards - \$1,250 Each

32 Elementary School Awards - \$750 Each
2 John & Geraldine Gaydos Awards - \$1,250 Each
32 Early Elementary School Awards - \$750 Each
5 Vocational/Trade/Technical School Awards - \$1,250 Each

Application submission deadline is Tuesday, February 14, 2023.
Electronic copies (PDF file) and faxed copies are acceptable.
Applications postmarked or electronically received after such date will not be considered.

APPLICATIONS AND FURTHER DETAILS FOR THIS PROGRAM MAY BE OBTAINED BY:

- Visit our website at www.fcsla.com • E-mail us at Scholarship@FCSLA.com • Fax the form at 216-464-9260
- Call the home office at 800-464-4642, ext.1054 • Complete the form on this page and mail it to:

FCSLA Life

Scholarship Department • 24950 Chagrin Blvd. • Beachwood, OH 44122-5634

2023-2024 FCSLA Life SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST

Please send a scholarship application form by: _____ US Postal Mail _____ Email
(PLEASE PRINT)

Application requested for the following award category:

- ☐ College/Graduate ☐ High School ☐ Vocational/Trade/Technical School
☐ Seminary or Deacon ☐ Grades 1-4 ☐ Grades 5-8

Branch No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

THIS FORM IS NOT THE APPLICATION.

Branch S077 Makes Donation to Homeless Organization

To recognize the 130th Anniversary of FCSLA Life, Branch S077 donated 130 pairs of wool socks to the Intersection in McKeesport. The Intersection provides food and essentials to the homeless.



L-R: Kathleen Cicak, Regina Smith, Carol Yurechko, Jerry Holmes, Judy Fedor and Virginia Holmes.

Cadet Thomas J. Liuzzo III Graduates from U.S. Military Academy

Cadet Thomas J. Liuzzo III of Woodbridge, VA graduated from the U.S. Military Academy on Saturday, May 21. Liuzzo graduated from St. John Paul the Great High School in Potomac Shores in 2018. His family are members of Branch S490.

While at West Point, he concentrated his studies in Operations Research. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Armor branch of the U.S. Army. Liuzzo has reported for his Basic Officer Leader Course in Fort Benning, GA, after which, he will report to Fort Stewart, GA for his first assignment.

The mission of the U.S. Military Academy is to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the Nation as an officer in the United States Army.



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
Anna Hurban Chicago District
Christmas Luncheon

Contact your Chicago District Branch Officer or email the District email
fcslachicagodistrict@gmail.com for more information!!!

December 3 2022	11:00 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.	Camelot Banquets 8624 W. 95 th St. Hickory Hills, IL
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All female FCSLA members in the Wilkes-Barre PA area ages 15-19 are invited to participate in

The 42nd Annual
DEBUTANTE BALL

to be held Saturday, April 22, 2023.

This is your opportunity to join in a tradition dating back to the 1700s that presents you to society! More information and an application can be found on the FCSLA website. This event is sponsored by the Wilkes-Barre area U branches (formerly the Polish Union).

Branch S177 Honors FCSLA Life 130th Anniversary with Food Donations

In honor of the 130th anniversary of FCSLA Life Branch S177 Clairton, PA donated 130 boxes of macaroni and cheese and 130 cans of vegetables to the Elizabeth Boro

– ANNOUNCEMENT – **ATTENTION Z MEMBERS**

According to our current guidelines for the 2023 Scholarship Program Z Branch members will be eligible to apply for scholarships if the student has held an **FCSLA issued** policy for at least three years prior to the date of application and hold one of these policies in his/her own name:

1. \$1,000 minimum permanent life insurance policy,
2. \$5,000 minimum term policy,
3. or an annuity policy

For more information contact scholarship@fcsla.com or call the Home office at 800-464-4642, extension 1054.

The Remkus Sochacki Scholarship is also available to Z Branch members through the PWAA Charitable and Educational Foundation.

Clergy Food Pantry. The food pantry serves the residents in the Elizabeth Boro area. The branch made donations to the food pantry several times a year for many years. Darlene Brown has been the coordinator of the food pantry for many years and has seen a large increase in the need lately. Pictured L-R are: Gerald LaFrankie, president, Monica LaFrankie, financial secretary, Darlene Brown, food pantry coordinator and Anthony Covelli, member.



L-R: Gerald LaFrankie, president, Monica LaFrankie, financial secretary, Darlene Brown, food pantry coordinator and Anthony Covelli, member.



\$1,250 VOCATIONAL / TRADE / TECHNICAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!!!

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.

The deadline for this scholarship category is **Tuesday, February 14, 2023**. Winners will be notified in May.

If you have questions, call us at 800-464-4642 extension 1054 or email us at Scholarship@fcsla.com.



Days Gone By . . .

This year, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, now known as FCSLA Life, celebrates its 130th Anniversary, providing insurance you can trust since 1892. Throughout this anniversary year, *Fraternally Yours* will feature select stories and photos to remind readers of our long and rich history of providing financial security to our members while embracing our Catholic values and Slavic traditions. Look for additional information on our website www.fcsla.com and on our social media feeds throughout the year.



50th Anniversary – 1942



125th Anniversary – 2017



75th Anniversary - 1967



100th Anniversary - 1992



100th Anniversary - 1992



100th Anniversary - 1992



100th Anniversary 1992

YOUNGSTOWN DISTRICT HONORS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Youngstown District 2 (Maria E. Grega Okres) held its annual Scholarship Dinner, honoring fifteen winners, on Sunday, August 21, at Saint Christine's Catering Center, Youngstown, OH.

District President, Bernadette Demechko, welcomed the winners and congratulated them on their achievement for competing against 300 applicants nation-wide. Since the spotlight should be on the winners, the normal business of the District, the Secretary and Treasurer's Reports, will be postponed until the November Meeting.

Bernadette said the 127 members present at this dinner was much lower than other years, but the pandemic was influencing our lives. It is important to send an email, or a written note or to make a call to anyone affected. Keep information cheerful and positive.

She introduced Carol Dumez, Branch 169, that was hosting the affair because their President, Dolores Sonoga, has been in surgery and rehab since January when she broke her hip, thigh, and leg bones. Dolores was present and had many "visitors" come to the Board table to speak to her.

Bernadette called on newly ordained Reverend John T. Rovnak, to speak before leading us in the Grace before our delicious chicken franchise meal. He also spoke about keeping in touch with members and always projecting a positive attitude.

For the preceding month, Carol was busy purchasing school items for the gift bags which would be the door prizes. She must've seen the local florist's billboard ad which stated "August is the 'sunflower' month, send a bouquet of sunflowers to someone to make them happy. There will be no delivery charge." She also was able to buy the old-fashioned pint glass canning jars. When buckets of flowers were delivered, she cut them to decrease their height to fit in the jars. It was a surprise bonus, for guests at a table could

see one another over the lowered centerpieces. She had two large bouquets on the Board table. She ordered special round, floral type cookies with yellow icing and wrapped each in clear plastic, tied with a yellow ribbon. In addition, each place setting had an FCSLA giveaway of a snow-ice scraper and FCSLA pen.

The dessert was cake topped with an array of sunflowers made of yellow icing. When all were served, Bernadette explained the procedure we use for winners. Each President is introduced and she, in turn, calls up members from her Branch who then must speak on any topic: their educational goals, extra-curricular clubs or activities, or sports program participation. It is our way to understand our students better. In Branch 161, we always invite our teenagers or even young junior members and assign them the task of distributing raffle gifts to winners or other jobs.

Each FCSLA winner would receive a Branch monetary award and a cash gift from the district presented by District Treasurer, Shirley Zura. Gifts not picked up today would be mailed to the winners.

Winners were also reminded that there would be a group



Patty Granchay with Reese McCluskey, the winner of the Anna S. Granchay Scholarship, Anne Marie Barbato, Representative of the Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust Scholarship, Leah Hunter, winner of that Scholarship, and Branch 066 FCSLA Scholarship, Henry Schur.



Scholarship winners – Front Row, L-R: Dean McCluskey, Patty Granchay, Bernadette Demechko. Standing: Leah Hunter, Nathan Smrek, Reverend John Rovnak, Megan Petty, Samantha Missik, Reese McCluskey, Karen Curtis, and Henry Schur.



L-R: Patty Granchay, Anne Marie Barbato, Ashlee Hull, Leah Hunter, Mark Granchay.

WITH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER ON AUGUST 21st

photo taken at the conclusion of the event. Individual Branches were also invited to take photos for separate articles to submit to the magazine.

Bernadette then called President, Mary Lou DiPillo, Branch 30, Youngstown, OH, who had three winners. Since John Joyce already was away at college, his father spoke on his behalf. Reverend John T. Rovnak spoke of his previous seven years spent in Graduate School and on-the-job training at various parishes. Nathan Smrek said he would be attending Youngstown State University. Youngstown, OH, this semester as a freshman.

Frances Chervinko, Branch 153, Farrell, PA, had no winners, but Fran was representing their president, Dolores Medvec, who is recuperating from recent surgery.

Patty Granchay, President of Branch 156/ 066 Struthers, OH, had three FCSLA winners and the Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust winner. Tabitha Granchay, Dublin, OH, is already in class at Ohio State, Columbus, OH. Christine Guidos of Ashburn, VA, is in her second year at Kent State, Kent, OH, and Henry Schur is attending 8th grade at Saint Ursula Villa School, Cincinnati, OH. Henry and his family were present, and Patty asked them to stand for they drove over two hours to attend. The crowd gave them a standing ovation.

Melanie Leonard, President of Branch 161/J192, Youngstown, OH, had eight winners. Four Junior winners. FCSLA winner Dean McCluskey, Tallmadge, OH, spoke for himself and for his cousins, Harrison and Maggie Brooke, Jacksonville, FL, whose classes began August 1st. Mark and Karen Curtis spoke for their grandson Jacob Pelic, who resides in Mount Pleasant, SC.

Four Senior Winners: Reggi Demechko who is attending the University of South Florida in Jacksonville. She sent a personal thank you which Melanie read: *My name is Regina Demechko, and I would like to thank the FCSLA and local chapter (Branch) J192 for the scholarship. I would especially like to thank my grandma, Bernadette Demechko, for educating me on my Slovak heritage and encouraging my Catholic Faith.*

This fall I will be a sophomore at the University of South Florida. I am studying Environmental Engineering with hopes to improve our environment to make it a healthier place to live. At my school I am involved in club rowing, softball, and a member of the Environmental Engineering Club. So far, my time at school has been spent studying, creating new relationships, exploring environments in Tampa, and staying close to God.

Thank you again to the FCSLA and local J192 for awarding me this generous scholarship as it will assist me in my studies, faith, and new adventures. Reggi

Bernadette Demechko asked to speak and told the group Reggi has already told the family, upon graduation, she will return to Akron to work, enjoy winter sports like skiing where she was on the Ski Patrol at Brandywine Ski Slopes and be with her family where her sister and Uncles Mark and Edward Demechko work and reside.

Michael Jordan did not attend due to the death of his grandmother, Ann Hruska, who died the week before. She had served as S161 Auditor for 15 years. Megan Petty spoke. She provided me with some photos in this article. She is a sophomore at Youngstown State University. Gina Zamar, Aurora, OH, is working on her Graduate Level Degree and did not attend.

Shirley Zura, President of Branch 344, Campbell, OH, had three Winners: Samantha Missik, Austintown, OH, is a freshman at Ohio State in Columbus and classes are already in session; Bryson Merrel, Fort Wayne, IN is in seventh grade at Saint Charles Borromeo School and Ava Melfi, Girard, OH, is in 7th grade at Saint and addressed the crowd.

Sandi Saluga, Branch 422, Warren, OH, had no winners, but attended the Board Meeting.

Patty Granchay then made the presentation of \$500 from the Anna S. Granchay Scholarship to the winner Reese McCluskey, J192, Tallmadge, OH.

She gave a history of the Scholarship. It was established in 1996 upon the death of Anna S. Granchay who had served as National President of the FCSLA in the 1990's. She had been a second-grade teacher at West Elementary School, Boardman, OH, and expressed a need to provide a scholarship for a student in the area of education.

Bernadette Demechko introduced Anne Marie Barbato, representing the Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust Scholarship. The Fund was begun 15 years ago and originally \$1,000 was given to a college student. Over \$25,000 has been donated to the Scholarship by the Ann Lisko family. This is the final year of the Scholarship.

This year the award of \$500 was presented to Leah Hunter of Branch 156 who thanked Anne Marie and the Youngstown District for the event.

Bernadette reminded the group that the annual Christmas Party would be hosted by Mary Lou DiPillo, Branch 30, at Avian on the Water Banquet Facility, Canfield, OH, on November 20. Branch Officers will receive a flyer with the reservation deadline and contact person. Branches are reminded to bring a \$15 gift to be used toward the door prizes.

Bernadette said she would be available after the meeting for any questions regarding insurance. She called on Father John to lead us in a Hail Mary and prayer for the deceased members of our organization.

Door and raffle prizes were awarded. Everyone was told to drive safely and enjoy the Labor Day weekend.



Find us on
Facebook

FCSLA Life

Pittsburgh District Holds Summer Meeting

The Pittsburgh District held its summer meeting on July 31, 2022 at the Lamp-lighter in Delmont, hosted by Branch S343.

Archabbot Douglas Nowicki said the opening prayer and after the pledge of allegiance, National President Cynthia Maleski led the singing of "God Bless America". Following the luncheon, Archabbot Douglas lead the members in a prayer service to St. Anne.

President Judy Fedor introduced Branch Secretary Joanna Hageder, who recognized the branch officers, and presented her with a check for the District's contribution to the luncheon and Mass for the members of Branch S343.

Following roll call and the reading of the minutes and Treasurers report, President Judy recognized Aimee Per-



ry, President of Branch 433. Aimee has been making the lottery tree for the district meetings for over 5 years. She was presented with a gift in appreciation.

National President Cynthia Maleski addressed the members. She spoke of the celebration of St. Anne's day and the annual Slovak Day at Kennywood Park. She updated the members on home office business and various issues such as Founders Month, Interest rates and new employees. We are ranked one of the strongest fraternals

by AM Best. President Maleski congratulated Archabbot Douglas for his 50 years in the priesthood; he was ordained on May 21, 1972.

This is an election year for the Pittsburgh District. Dr. Judith Figura, Chair of the Nominations Committee, along with her committee members, presented the Committee's slate of nominees. As there were no additional nominees from the floor, the candidates will be sworn in at the October meeting. The District conducted drawings for the Share the Wealth and the lottery tree, and Branch S343 gave away lovely centerpieces.

The meeting was adjourned and Father Chad Ficorilli lead the closing prayer. The meeting was concluded with the singing of "Hej Slovaci".



Helen Kocan District Baseball Outing

Just as baseball is a rite of summer, a FCSLA Life district baseball outing at the Steel Yard in Gary, IN is a favorite tradition for the Helen Kocan District. On September 2, 2022, the Helen Kocan District, led by President Lillian Zaborske, attended the night game between the Gary Railcats vs. the Milwaukee Milkmen. This outing was put together by Agnes Chervenak, President of Branch S409. Aggie reserved several lovely Skyboxes along the first base side of the field. What a view of the field!

The kids in the group got a treat as they had a chance to run the bases during the 7th inning stretch. Included with the Skyboxes was a delicious spread of ballpark food including hamburgers, hot dogs and brats. There was also plenty of ice-cold drinks, chips, popcorn and chocolate chip

cookies. Almost 80 senior and junior members from the district attended this exciting ballgame. There were also several guests in attendance, including National Director Joann Skvarek-Banvich and several entertainers and friends from the annual Slovak Day celebration last July.

Although everyone root, root, rooted for the home team, the Milkmen won the game, what a shame. After the game, we were entertained by a fireworks display that rivaled any 4th of July show. Everyone had a great time at the old ballgame.

A big THANK YOU goes out to all the ticket sellers, Becky Coleman, Branch S081, Mary Weber, Branch S289, Betty Ortiz, Branch S452 and Alane Walk, Branch S475.



FCSLA Chicago District Summer Celebration in the Park

On Saturday, August 6, 2022, the FCSLA Chicago District hosted its first summer picnic in the park! Branch officers, members, and their families and friends gathered to enjoy a warm day filled with food, fun, and fraternal fellowship at Katherine Legge Memorial Park in Hinsdale, IL.

Attendees of all generations participated in several festivities including raffles, outdoor games, and bingo. There was also time to simply relax and unwind under the shade of the pavilion while relishing group camaraderie and friendship. We thank all members who attended this extraordinary day filled with a collection of beautiful fraternal memories.

We look forward to making this celebration in the park an annual summer activity for the Chicago District!





THE WAIT IS OVER!

The ORIGINAL
Slovak-American Cookbook
will be BACK IN STOCK
for the holidays!



Featuring hundreds of
well-loved, time tested
recipes to keep tradition
alive in your kitchen.

To be the first to know when it's back,
follow us on social!



Note: The FCSLA Life Slovak-American Cookbook is one of a kind!
Please make sure to purchase your cookbook from reputable sellers
only (*at this time, it's only us!*) to avoid the risk of an inauthentic copy.

Often imitated, never duplicated!

Branches S101 & J011 Celebrate 122nd Anniversary Luncheon

The St. Louis Branches of S101 and J011 celebrated their 122nd Anniversary Luncheon with a plethora of Junior Members!

Headlining the Banquet was Junior Member Eagle Scout Sam Miklovic, in the middle, who thanked the FCSLA Life members for their financial support completing his Eagle Project which entailed completely rehabbing the St. Cecilia's St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Sam is surrounded by his BSA cousins and Junior members Lukas Lyons, right and Josef Duffie, who provided BSA manpower during the rehab.

Sam also coordinated a FCSLA Matching Funds Drive during the month of August collecting over \$600 in donations and lots of food items!



Baptism and First Communion

Junior members Luke Donovan Miller and Ivy Christina Miller received the sacraments on Sunday, July 3 at St. Angela Merici Parish in Youngstown, OH.

Luke received Baptism and Ivy received First Communion. Their great uncle, Monsignor Kenneth E. Miller, bestowed the sacraments. Ivy and Luke are members of Branch J030. They are the children of Jonathan and Kimberly Miller. The family lives in Gahanna. Grandparents of Ivy and Luke are Gary and Dr. Linda Lucarell Miller. Linda is a member of Branch 30 Youngstown.



L-R: Kimberly, Luke, Jonathan, Ivy, Father Ken, Linda and Gary Miller.



Do you

like to raise awareness and money for charities?

Are you

a good organizer who likes meeting new people?

Interested in

making a difference in your community?

Why not become an FCSLA Life branch officer!

The following branches are looking for new officers. To be an officer, you must currently be a local member in one of these branches, at least 22 years old, and a Principal member. If interested, contact the Fraternal Department - fraternal@fcsla.com or 800.464.4642 x1051 by 11/18/22.

S066 Streator, IL
S180 Chicago, IL
S191 Barberton, OH

S234 Newark, NJ
S620 DeMotte, IN
U275 Palos Park, IL

Branch W137 Holds Annual Family Fall Festival

On Sunday afternoon, October 2, FCSLA Life Branch W137 held it's annual Family Fall Festival at Bass Farms. Thirty-one W137 members enjoyed the beautiful weather while choosing pumpkins, taking a hayrack ride and partaking in the various fall activities. Everyone also received treat bags with beverages and snacks.



Branch W137 members Kathy Shelton, Barb Morrissey, Rick Samek, Jeff Drahozal and Elaine Samek took a break from the fun to select pumpkins and socialize with each other.



Everyone had fun playing the various games and activities.

6th ANNUAL BRANCH S319 BASEBALL OUTING

As we slide into World Series season, memories float back to summer. Over 70 FCSLA Life members from Branch S319 came out for some minor league baseball this past July to see the Iron Pigs come from behind to beat the Rochester Red Wings 6-5. Besides the baseball magic, members were treated to a buffet dinner before the baseball game started.

Great event to see friends I haven't seen in a while.



Never been to a minor league baseball game. This was fun!

Wholesome family entertainment. Thanks FCSLA!

Branch S114 Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

St. Ann Lodge Branch S114 in Lorain, OH will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, December 18th at 1:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway, OH. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Please make your reservations by calling Bernie Danevich at 440-960-2605. Deadline for reservations is December 13th. We hope you will join us.



IN MEMORIAM

Ann Marie (Mastej) Burns, Z277



Ann Marie (Mastej) Burns, 96, passed away peacefully in her sleep on July 3, 2022. Ann, daughter of the late Frank and Caroline Mastej was born and raised in Detroit, MI and lived her adult life in Livonia and Waterford, MI, before moving to Richmond, VA in 2014. Ann graduated from the Felician Academy High School in 1943 and from the University of Detroit in 1947. As a social worker, Ann spent her life helping others in her community and worked a 50-year career at the Polish Activities League, St. Elizabeth Community Center, Guardian Angel Home, Catholic Social Services, and Wyandotte General Hospital, all in Southeast Michigan. Ann was an avid reader, proud of her devotion to the Catholic Church and in the Divine Mercy Cenacle group. She was a woman of great wisdom. "Success is not a big thing, it is a million little things." She was a success because of the million little things she did for everyone. She seemed to have unlimited compassion, time and prayers for those who needed her help. Ann was preceded in death by her husband Fred Burns, and siblings Joseph (Bertha) Mastej, Edward (Ann) Mastej, Stanley Mastej, Sr. Mary Martina Mastej, Ph.D., Sr. Mary Concepta Mastej, Cecile Wiseman, Lillian Taylor, and Theresa Kopczyk. Ann will be greatly missed by her children Keith (Christine) Burns and Corinne (Bill) Engle, grandchildren Andrew (Mesha) Burns, Carolyn (Gregg) Burns, Matt (Andrea) Engle, Brian (Teresa) Engle, Kelly Roberson, Samantha (Christian) Blackhurst, great-grandson, Ezra Engle, and many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews, and dear friends that she loved as part of her extended family.

Stanely James Varilek, W093



Stanley J. Varilek, age 92 of Tabor, SD passed away on July 29, 2022, in Tyndall, SD. The son of Paul James Varilek and Marie (Mary) Bares, he was born on October 23, 1929, in Tyndall, SD. In 1951, he was drafted into the USMC and served from 1951 to 1953. Stanley served during the Korean War and was stationed in Japan. Stanley married Rita Uhing on May 11, 1954, at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Bow Valley, NE. Together they farmed in South Dakota and Nebraska for a short time; then returned to South Dakota to a farm northeast of Springfield, where Stan farmed and worked construction. In 1974, Stan worked for the Bon Homme Highway Department until retiring in 1992. During retirement, Stan enjoyed volunteering at the Tyndall Good Samaritan Center Nursing Home. Stan's hobby was woodworking. He built nearly all the military flag cases which are on display at the Tabor American Legion. He was a lifetime member of the Kortan-Hatwan Legion Post #183, of which he was a chaplain for many years. Stan was also a lifetime member of the VFW in Tyndall. In January 2013 he received an honorary high school diploma from the Bon Homme School District #4-2. Stanley is survived by his wife, Rita of 68 years; 8 children Theresa (Duane) Swensen of Ida Grove, IA; Wayne (Becky) Varilek, Bettendorf, IA; Roger (Nola) Varilek, Rice, MN; Jerry (Pam) Varilek, Yankton, SD; Kathleen (Laverne) Schieffer, Tabor, SD; Dennis (Diane) Varilek, Clark, SD; Jean (Howard) Souhrada, Lesterville, SD; Kay (Larry)

Tramp, Crofton, NE; 17 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren; 3 sisters Dorothy (Craig) Smith, Evelyn (Loren) McKittrick, Adeline (James) Harris.

Margaret Ann Janos, S490



Margaret Ann Janos age 89 of Perry was the daughter of John and Johanna (Moskalcik) Lihvar born on February 20, 1933, in Cleveland and passed away peacefully at the David Simpson Hospice House in Cleveland on August 22, 2022. Margaret was a member of St. Cyprian Catholic Church in Perry and was very devoted to her faith. Margaret is survived by her children Peggy (Tom) Liuzzo; Edward (Lorie) Janos; Lisa (Cameron) Keyhani; Robert (Kimberly) Janos; Karen (Joshua) Robbins; grandchildren Tommy, Garret, Christopher, Kelsey, Cole and Lexi. She was the youngest of six siblings who preceded her in death, she is also preceded in death by her husband Edward in 2003 and a daughter Stephanie Ann Janos in 1977.

Anna T. Hruska, S161



Anna T. Hruska passed into eternal life April 26, 2022. Anna was born in Youngstown on November 26, 1924, to Joseph and Anna (Kubalec) Duncko. She graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and worked at GF during WWII manufacturing materials for military aircraft ("Rosie the Riveter"). Anna married her loving husband Steve J. Hruska on February 8, 1947. Among various work experiences, she retired from Modern Home Service as a seamstress. Anna was an avid bowler, and a member and auditor for Slovak Catholic Sokols, Group 17. She was also the local Financial Secretary of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch 161. She was a lifetime member of St. Matthias Church, a member of the Ladies' Guild, the Quilters' Club, and was active in the Senior Citizens group. Together, Anna and Steve celebrated their Slovak heritage with prayers, songs, and traditional foods that they passed onto their children. Her family came first, but Anna also donated much of her time and energy to working on various projects for the Church and school. Anna was a loving mother and grandmother. Over the years she and Steve enjoyed gardening, and canning produce for the family. She loved playing cards with friends. Anna gifted her children and grandchildren with her beautiful, crocheted afghans. The legacy that Steve and Anna left their children was to always remember that each of us is a gift from God to enjoy, cherish and support always. Ann leaves her children, Nancy (James) Hildebrand of Boardman, Rosemary (John) Goodwin of Youngstown, Linda (Gary) Frank of Poland, her son-in-law Richard Testa, and her daughter-in-law Cathy Hruska. She also leaves nine grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. Anna also leaves her sister Millie Kust of Campbell, and many nieces and nephews.



Benefit Concert Held at Epiphany Ukrainian Catholic Church

Deborah Kerker, President of S640 shared that Miss Natalka Karpa traveled through the U.S. raising funds for medical treatment of Ukrainian Soldiers. FCSLA Life Branch S640 sold advance tickets and provided a silent auction prize generating \$3,000 at a benefit concert at Epiphany Ukrainian Catholic Church on August 28.



Branch W137 Members Gather for Septemberfest Event

FCSLA Life Branch W137 adult members gathered at a local brew house, Iowa Brewing Co. on Sunday, September 11th for our Septemberfest event. While we sampled the beer, we snacked and cheered on our favorite football teams.

Four lucky winners received gift cards to Iowa Brewing to continue the fun.



Jeff Upah and Mike Drahozal enjoy a local amber beer.



Members of W137 toast to our good health, Na Zdravi!!

Branches S089 and S319 Combined Christmas Party Scheduled

FCSLA Life Branches S089 (Hellertown, PA) and S319 (Allentown, PA) will host a joint Christmas Party for members on Sunday, November 27, 2022 at the Heintzelman Carriage House, 326 Main St., Rear, Hellertown. The dinner will be followed by a seasonal reflection presented by Fr. John Krivak. Plan to join us at the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Theresa Parish in Hellertown before the event. We will meet at the Carriage House 12-12:30 p.m. Reservations are required for the luncheon. Please contact Loretta Ulincy at (610-737-8207) or email (lordolo27@outlook.com) no later than Friday, November 18th.



S140 Annual Christmas Dinner

St. Ann Society S140 of Lansford, PA will hold their annual Christmas dinner on December 4, 2022 in Macaluso's The Lantern in Nesquehoning, PA. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Dinner will be served at 1:00 p.m. and reservations must be made before November 22, 2022 by calling Louise Dunstan 570-645-4354. Thank you – Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas to all.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

FCSLA Life Branch W001

St. Wenceslaus Catholic School Benefit

Golfers, Paul Maruska, Norb Sticha, Steve Schoenbauer and John Coldagelli enjoyed a beautiful day on the golf course on June 10, The tournament was a fundraiser for St. Wenceslaus Catholic School in New Prague and Branch W001 sponsored a hole.



month of May we supported two projects which assist women in their roles as mothers. The Wyoming Valley Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life promotes the sanctity of human life. Support was made by contributing donations to the Baby Bottle Project and a Mother's Day Carnation Sale. Both events were a great success.



Special thanks goes out to these ladies (L-R): Ann Hudock, Pat Baran, and Mary Griffin.

FCSLA Life South Dakota #13

Czech Heritage Preservation Society

Czech Heritage Preservation Society treasurer Becky Herman receives a District Matching Funds check from FCSLA Life Okres South Dakota #13 treasurer and FCSLA Life National Auditor Dennis Povondra. Funds raised during the annual Czech Days celebration in Tabor, SD were used for the upkeep to the CHPS museum, historic buildings, and park.



FCSLA Life Branch J093

Swimming Pool Matching Donation

The Tabor Town and Country Pool is receiving a FCSLA Life Matching Funds check sponsored by the Tabor, SD W093 Junior Branch. On the left is Amanda Richey, Vice-President next to Katie Stutzman, President, and Treasurer. Giving the check is National Auditor Dennis L. Povondra and Town and Country Pool Fund-Raising Chairman, Susan

continued next page



FCSLA Life Branch S350

Golf Tournament Proceeds

A matching fund was sponsored by Branch S350 for "Pennsylvanians for Human Life". This event was done in the month of May. A FCSLA Life poster was displayed at the entrance of the church. A basket was provided for monetary donations. This was a Social Justice Council News Project: May is the month we honor Mothers. This year during the

MATCHING FUNDS

Shrader. The swimming pool was closed for 2½ years due to Covid and had deteriorated. A new lining and other improvements had to be made. It was opened this August for area use again.



FCSLA Life Branch S077 & J032

Kane Foundation

On Saturday, September 17, McKeesport branches S077 and J032 participated in a matching funds event with the Kane Foundation. The Kane Foundation was created to raise private funds to help enhance the quality of life of the residents of the Kane Centers and their families. Attendees and residents walk the grounds and enjoy a picnic lunch with entertainment and prize drawings.

Photo at right: Jerry Holmes walking with one of the Kane residents.



Jerry and Virginia Holmes, along with Judy Fedor at the Kane walk.

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

Slovak Embassy Dedicates Štefánik Memorial

On September 8th, the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. held an unveiling ceremony of the Milan Rastislav Štefánik memorial located near the entrance of the building.

Milan Rastislav Štefánik was a Slovak astronomer, scientist and inventor, photographer, military aviator, brigadier general of the French armed forces, organizer, diplomat, politician, and statesman. He had the greatest merit in shaping the Czech-Slovak foreign resistance during the First World War. He played an important role in organizing Czech-Slovak legions and mediating contacts with French state officials. Together with Thomáš Garrigu Masaryk and Edvard Beneš was a key person in the founding of Czechoslovakia. Štefánik was the vice-chairman of the Czechoslovakia National Council, the Minister of War in the Provisional Czechoslovak Government and subsequently also in the newly formed Czechoslovakia.

At the dedication ceremony, 30 roses, commemorating the 30-year anniversary of Slovakia's existence as an independent state, were distributed to attendees, who each went forward and laid the rose at the base of the memorial. The memorial will enhance the experience of visitors to the Slovak Embassy in Washington and their appreciation for this great Slovak patriot.



Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph Senko (S262) and his wife, Albina, attended the unveiling ceremony of the Milan Štefánik memorial.

Branch J157 Breakfast with Mr. & Mrs. Santa in Monessen, PA



Monessen Branch J157 will hold a breakfast with Mr. and Mrs. Santa on Sunday, December 18, 2022 from 9:30 to 11:30. The breakfast will take place at Epiphany of Our Lord Parish, 44 Pennsylvania Blvd., Monessen. For reservations call: Rosemary Betza 724-684-9778 by December 16, 2022.

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 20,213,647
Bonds	1,078,421,875
Preferred Stock	2,071,482
Common Stock	7,195,712
Investment Income Due & Accrued	14,406,469
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	4,509,864
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,908,175
Other Assets	850,177
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,129,577,401

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 308,419,524
Annuity Reserves	686,244,108
Death Claims Payable	2,417,596
Unearned Premiums	429,480
Matured Endowments	348,202
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	5,049,432
Accrued Convention Donations	412,500
Provision for Future Conventions	481,203
Asset Valuation Reserve	12,989,848
Interest Maintenance Reserve	526,063
Other Liabilities	1,894,841
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1,020,612,798
Surplus	\$ 108,964,603
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS FUNDS	\$ 1,129,577,401

The balance sheet above is recorded on an adjusted statutory accounting basis and includes \$759,483 in prepaid assets (and surplus) that are not recognized for purposes of statutory accounting.

INCOME STATEMENT For the Sixth Month Ending June 30, 2022

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 2,308,130
Annuity Premiums	21,504,080
Investment Income	25,256,740
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	39,728
Rental Income	202,062
Other Revenue	35,688
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 49,346,429

EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 1,323,524
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	11,802,088
Insurance Benefits	4,585,050
Annuity Benefits	22,204,281
Commission Expense	685,713
Surrender Benefits	1,320,755
Matured Endowments	(2,632)
Interest Expense	196,119
Salaries — Employees	350,390
Payroll Tax Expense	27,638
Underwriting Expense	28,891
LIFE AND ANNUITY EXPENSES	\$ 42,521,817

Revenue Less Life and Annuity Expenses

Bank Service Charges	\$ 71,361
IT Expenses	146,034

Accounting Fees	103,502
Actuarial Fees	125,937
Legal Fees	37,961
Consulting Fees	3,111
Employee Benefits	345,014
Fees — Directors	95,968
Salaries — Employees	721,081
Salaries — Officers	324,156
Temporary Office Expenses	91,076
Payroll Tax Expense	92,298
Depreciation Expense	115,220
Utility Expense	63,892
Postage and Printing	113,430
Advertising & Marketing	54,140
Travel Expense	37,294
Insurance Department Fees	66,089
Sales Expense	70,502
Rental Expense	202,062
Building Expense	83,105
Insurance Expense	29,303
Office Equipment & Supplies Expense	57,587
Dues & Subscriptions	41,907
Human Resources	27,191
Other Expense	8,537
SALES & OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 3,127,758

Revenue Less Sales & Operating Expenses

Post Mortem Benefits	\$ 839,369
Misc. Member Benefits	35,502
Donation Expenses	57,095
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	75,000
Convention Expenses	87,522
Branch and District Funding	367,998
Fraternal Activities	80,426
Official Publications	300,018
Scholarship Awards	208,102
DIRECT FRATERNAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,051,033

Income (Loss) from Operations

Dividends to Members	\$ 707,190
Subtotal Income (Loss)	\$ 938,631
Capital Gains (Loss)	(6,520)
NET INCOME (Loss)	\$ 932,111

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT FCSLA LIFE

From time to time, FCSLA Life either has vacancies for current positions or looks to expand its staff to meet our growing needs. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities please contact our HR manager at 800-464-4642 X1076 for more information or email a current resume to hr@fcscla.com.

Monessen Branch S088 Christmas Party

Monessen Branch S088 Christmas Party will be held December 4, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Doors will open at 1:15 p.m. The event will be held at the Cedarbrook Golf Club, Route 981, Rostraver, PA. Your attendance will result in the return of your deposit. No show will forfeit deposit.

Send deposit of \$15.00 per member to Dorothy Urbanowicz, 27 Crescent Drive, Monessen, PA 15062-2550. **Deposits must be received no later than November 16.**

Join Senior Branch 111 for Our Annual CHRISTMAS PARTY

FCSLA Senior Branch 111
December 4, 2022 | 12:00 PM
Doors open at 11:30 p.m.
Mon Valley Country Club



1188 Country Club Road | Monongahela, PA 15063
RSVP to Eileen at 724-797-3407 by November 27, 2022



Tradition...

SLOVAK SAUERKRAUT SOUP

1 (32 ounce) package sauerkraut, chopped
 2½ quarts chicken broth
 6 black peppercorns
 4 bay leaves
 salt to taste
 2 cups dried forest mushroom blend
 ¾ pound Hungarian style dry paprika-sausage
 ¾ pound smoked ham
 ¾ cup chopped pitted prunes
 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
 1 large onion, finely chopped
 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 2 teaspoons sweet Hungarian paprika
 1 cup water
 1 cup sour cream

Place the sauerkraut, chicken broth, peppercorns, bay leaves, salt and mushrooms into a large pot, and bring to a boil. Add the sausage and whole piece of ham. Let it simmer over medium heat for 1½ hours. Add the prunes after the first hour.

Remove the meat from the soup, and set aside. Remove bay leaves, and discard.

Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion, and fry until tender. Sprinkle the flour and paprika over the onion; cook and stir for a minute. Gradually stir in the water with a fork so that no lumps form. Bring to a boil, and allow to thicken. Pour into the soup pot. Cube the sausage and ham, then stir into the soup. Bring to a boil, and cook for another 10 minutes.

Top with a dollop of sour cream when serving.

LOKSE POTATO FLATBREAD

1 lb. potatoes, peeled
 1 cup all-purpose flour,
 plus some for dusting
 pinch of salt
 butter, for topping
 plum jam or other solid jam, for filling

Boil the potatoes in lightly salted water until tender. Remove and let them cool.

In a bowl grate the cooled potatoes finely.

Add flour, salt, and create a smooth, non-sticky potato dough.

Divide the dough into six equally sized pieces.

Dust the worktop with flour. Roll out each piece into a thin circle about 8 inches in diameter.

Preheat an iron skillet and fry each lokše in a dry pan from both sides until golden.

Remove and brush hot lokše on both sides with melted butter.

Allow them to cool for a while before spreading with jam; roll up.

When preparing lokše, add just enough flour to the grated potatoes to make a non-sticky dough. If there is too much flour, the pancakes will be dense.

Properly prepared potato dough will puff up during baking. This means that the lokše will be perfectly soft and tender.

Between baking each lokše, wipe the pan clean of any leftover flour; otherwise, it will burn.

ZAZVORNIKY GINGER COOKIES

Cookie Dough

2 cup all purpose flour
 2 tbsp. ground ginger
 ½ tsp. baking powder
 pinch of salt
 2 cup powdered sugar
 2 large eggs, at room temperature
 4 tablespoon melted butter, cooled
 ¼ teaspoon Vanilla Extract

Into a large bowl sift flour, ground ginger, baking powder and pinch of salt. Set aside.

At medium high speed, in a stand mixer bowl, using a wire attachment, beat eggs and powdered sugar for 10 minutes, or until thick and doubled in volume and pale in color.

Gradually beat melted and cooled butter on medium speed into egg mixture. Add vanilla and beat until well blended together, about 2-3 minutes.

Swap out wire attachment for a paddle attachment. On low speed gradually add egg yolk mixture to flour mixture and beat till blended. Cookie dough will be dense.

If dough is too dry and is not holding together when pressed together between fingers beat in 1 teaspoon milk.

Roll the ginger cookie dough between 2 pieces of parchment paper or use a silicone mat. Roll it out about ¼ inch thick. Cut out shapes with a cookie cutter.

Transfer cut out cookie onto a tray lined with wax paper. Allow dry/rest uncovered overnight. Top of the cookies will be dry to the touch.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Using a spatula transfer cookies onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Do not crowd the baking sheet. Bake cookies for 10-12 minutes, until edges are well risen and cookies are lightly golden around the edges.

Remove baking sheet from the oven and let the cookies cool to on a baking sheet for 5 minutes. Then transfer to a cooling rack to cool completely.

PUMPKIN RAISIN MUFFINS

2 cups sugar
 ½ cup vegetable oil
 3 large eggs
 1½ cups canned pumpkin
 ½ cup water
 3 cups all-purpose flour
 1½ teaspoons baking powder
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 ½ teaspoon ground cloves
 ¾ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
 1 teaspoon salt
 1½ cups raisins
 1 cup chopped walnuts

In a large bowl, beat sugar, oil, eggs, pumpkin and water. Combine flour, baking powder, soda, spices and salt. Add to pumpkin mixture; blend well. Fold in raisins and walnuts. Spoon into greased muffin tins, filling ¾ full. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes.

HOMEMADE PUMPKIN PIE SPICE

4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
 2 teaspoons ground ginger
 1 teaspoon ground cloves
 ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg

Mix all ingredients. Store in an airtight container in a cool, dry place up to 6 months. May be used as a substitute for store-bought pumpkin pie spice.



The FCSLA Life Mission Statement

We provide financial security to our members while embracing our Catholic values and Slavic traditions.

The FCSLA Life Vision is to:

Be a Premier Fraternal Benefit Society that offers quality financial products and benefits.