



# Jednota®

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Volume 134

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NUMBER 6053

## Message from the President

As we enjoy the blessings of summer and prepare for the busy fall season ahead, it's a good time to pause and reflect—not only on God's goodness but also on how we care for our families and communities in times of need.



**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
President, CEO

Each year, summer and fall bring their share of potential disasters. From severe thunderstorms and wildfires to hurricanes and even early snowstorms in some regions, these events can strike quickly and leave us scrambling. While we pray we're spared from harm, our faith also calls us to be wise stewards—prepared and ready to help others.

### Keep Important Records Safe

In the aftermath of a disaster, having access to critical documents makes all the difference. Make sure your family's records—such as insurance policies, birth and marriage certificates, and financial information—are stored in a secure place like a fireproof safe or bank deposit box. It's also wise to keep digital copies in a secure cloud account or USB drive, and to share copies with a trusted loved one outside your area.

### Create a Home Inventory

If you've been doing any spring cleaning or summer organizing, now is a great time to take photos of your home and possessions. Document what's in your closets, basement, garage, and attic. This inventory will help you tremendously if you ever need to file an insurance claim.

### Keep Emergency Cash on Hand

In our increasingly digital world, we often forget that a power outage or system failure can make it hard to access banks or ATMs. Have some cash on hand—enough to help your family for five to seven days—in case card payments or mobile apps aren't working.

### Rely on Good Resources

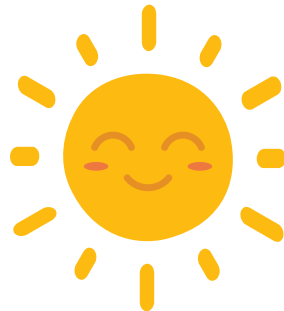
A helpful guide to financial disaster planning is available through the American Red Cross and the American Institute of CPAs. You can find *Disasters and Financial Planning: A Guide for Preparedness* by visiting [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

A little planning today can ease worry tomorrow—and help you offer assistance to others when it's needed most.

Stay safe, stay prepared, and may God continue to bless you and your loved ones.



*The Home Office  
Will be Closed  
on Monday,  
September 1st  
in honor of  
Labor Day*



## SUMMER FUN WITH FCSU!

Thanks to everyone who came out to Knoebles! See more photos on page 9 or view them on-line through our website at [fcsu.com](http://fcsu.com).



FOR GOD AND NATION - ZA BOHA A NÁROD



Father Stephen Furdek and twelve other men formed the First Catholic Slovak Union in 1890. The Jednota branches were instrumental in the founding of hundreds of Catholic parishes in the United States and Canada. The first edition of its renowned bilingual newspaper was published

in 1891. Today, *Jednota* is still read by members and people interested in Catholic and Slovak life all over the world.



### FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada

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6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300  
Independence, OH 44131-2398  
**800.533.6682**

## VISION STATEMENT

Enhancing your financial future through fraternalism.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Since 1890 the FCSU mission has been to provide financial security for our members through competitive investment products, while offering fraternal and cultural benefits through community-based member events.

Send all articles (English AND Slovak) to:  
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## Message from the National Chaplain

Slovaks have venerated Mary under her title Our Mother of Sorrows for centuries, way before the Vatican in 1927 officially named her Patroness of Slovakia.

Another popular title given to Mary is Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Mount Carmel (the word "carmel" in Hebrew means "garden" or "vine of God") is the location where the prophet Elijah offered proof to 450 prophets of the false god Baal that the Lord, and the Lord alone, is God. (See 1 Kings 18.)

In the Middle Age a group of hermits living on Mount Carmel established a chapel in honor of Mary. There is a story of an early Carmelite, Simon Stock (1165-1265), who claimed to have a vision of Mary and personally received a scapular from her. Whether this actually happened continues to be a subject for debate.

The scapular is a sacramental, something that does not bestow grace in and of itself, like the seven Sacraments. Rather, sacramentals serve as aids for prayer or reminders to be holy. Graces can be received when we use them with devotion to draw us closer to God. Other examples of sacramentals include crucifixes, holy water, rosaries, statues and images of saints, and the ashes imposed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday.

By the 16th century Carmelites were giving the Brown Scapular to people who wanted to have a spiritual association with them. Persons who wear a Brown Scapular profess a devotion to Mary, seeking her protection in this life and the life to come. They also promise to imitate Mary's chastity, humility, and prayer.

Devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel is popular in Spanish and Italian cultures. Father Gabriel of Saint Mary Magdalene (1893-1953) was a noted authority on Carmelite spirituality. He once wrote that people devoted to Our Lady of Mount Carmel are to follow and imitate her both outwardly and inwardly. "Carmel is the symbol of the [life] ... wholly oriented towards intimacy with God."

The liturgical observance of Our Lady of Mount Carmel throughout the universal church started in 1726. The feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is July 16.

By way of coincidence, the first atomic bomb was detonated on July 16, 1945 at the Trinity test sight in the New Mexico desert. An Eastern Rite priest, Father Emmanuel Charles McCarthy (born 1940) on July 16, 1990 organized a 24 hour day of prayer at the test site. Every year since on July 16, prayers for forgiveness, for peace, for the elimination of nuclear weapons, and for the protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel are offered at that site.



**Rev. Thomas Nasta**  
Chaplain

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE, Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

### Steve Guttenberg on His Caregiving Journey

When Steve Guttenberg's father, Stan, was diagnosed with kidney failure requiring dialysis, the actor would drive 400 miles from Los Angeles to Phoenix every week to be with him during his treatments. Eventually, Steve and his sister, Susan, even learned how to administer dialysis themselves so Stan could have it done at home. Steve's devotion to his father stems from a lifetime of love and wisdom, which he shared in his Christopher Award-winning memoir "Time to Thank: Caregiving for My Hero."

During a "Christopher Closeup" interview, Steve recalled, "My dad loved to be with his family. At the end of the day, he left the office and came home, never went out with the boys. A guy who was always there for me, who was very gentle in his discipline, but firm. I was in love with my dad. He was my best friend."

That relationship never faltered, even as Steve moved to Hollywood, to pursue an acting career. He shared a story about meeting a photographer who told him the town would eat him alive. But Steve credits both his parents with giving him the foundation to make it in Hollywood without losing his soul.

He said, "I think that I was able to—and am still able to—navigate my business with a great deal of values. And that's what it's all about. Your values create your behavior. Then your behavior creates your habits, your habits become your destiny. So I was lucky to have a great mom and dad who taught me at our kitchen table, how to swim the river of life."

Steve also grew up in a family that accepted God and the importance of faith: "[My parents are] both Jewish, and they both taught me the meaning of faith, of belief, that we are not alone here, that there's another force in control...which is God. Whatever you believe, there is something else going on. You may not believe in gravity because you don't see it, but it's going on. Same thing with faith...I'm Jewish, and I'm quite religious. I think about God all the time...and I believe that God has a lot to do with my success."

Though Steve treasures his acting career, it will always come in second when the needs of family arise. That's why he did not hesitate to make the long weekly trip to his father's side when he fell ill. "What I [and my family] went through with my dad," Steve reflected, "taught us about love...Love is the most powerful form of integrity in the universe that will ever be. There's nothing more powerful. So, when you love somebody or somebody loves you...you can stay up and show up more than you ever thought you could."

For Steve, writing "Time to Thank" was both heartbreaking and joyful, so he hopes that readers take an important message from this Christopher Award-winning memoir. He concluded, "I'm so honored because the Christopher Awards are about books, art that expands the consciousness and creates a place where you can learn about people and incidents that you never knew existed. What I would love people to take away from my book...is that if you are called and you're able to, don't run from the situation. Run toward the situation and see what you can do and what you can contribute. There are two types of people in this world: the givers and the takers. And believe me, the givers are the winners."

### NEWSPAPER GUIDELINES

All copy is due by 4:30pm, THE MONDAY THE WEEK BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated because of special holiday scheduling. All articles are reviewed for possible publication. FCSU reserves the right to edit and format submitted articles and pictures. Remember that JEDNOTA is printed MONTHLY. Submit your articles in ample time for them to be received at the Home Office.

### ISSUE DEADLINES

**AUGUST 2025 ISSUE**

**COPY DATE - MONDAY, AUGUST 4**  
**ISSUE DATE - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13**

**SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE**

**COPY DATE - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**  
**ISSUE DATE - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

## Message from the Executive Secretary

June was a very busy and exciting month for our members. I would like to thank all the members and their guests for attending the Simply Slavic Festival, and the national picnics at Knoebels and Wiegand Lake Park. It was a pleasure being able to spend time with so many members and their families and guests. I look forward to seeing more members at upcoming events.

On another bright note, we finally finished up our Ohio Department Audit (occurs every 5 years), with our exit interview being held on June 26th, 2025.

We are pleased to announce that ODI had no issues to report. This audit started back in Nov. 2024 and lasted for 8 months.

Finally, thank you to all our members who have attended the new Branch and District Virtual call program these past two months.



**Kevin J. Collins**  
Executive Secretary, COO

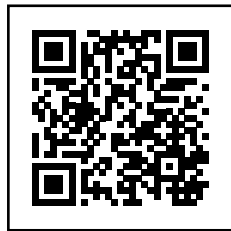


**Join Us for our Next Session:**

**Tuesday, July 29th • 2:00pm (EST)**

**Tuesday, July 29th • 7:00pm (EST)**

More details about this virtual call will be posted on the FCSU website under the newsroom tab.



Visit our website at  
[fcsu.com/about/newsroom/](https://fcsu.com/about/newsroom/)  
or scan the QR code to get the Zoom link.

## July Reflection

In this Jubilee Year 2025, as we journey through life's challenges, we are truly Pilgrims of Hope.

Travel is not always as in a straight line of satisfaction (-----). Being human, we may encounter conflicting experiences (X) along the way. These may come from the top ↑ (joyful) or from the bottom ↓ (sad). To help us manage these different events we need to look for strength at the center ☩. Here is where we can find the Source of our Hope. It is God who chooses first to meet us at the center of our daily experiences with an everlasting bonding Love, particularly our "hidden God in Bread divine." Our Sacred Scriptures provide us with varied ways the Lord reaches out to us and calls us to share His love and blessings in response to our hopes and desires. St. Paul explains: "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance." (Romans 8: 24-25); and "Be at rest, my soul, in God alone, from whom comes my hope." (Psalm 62:2) Other Hope passages: 1Peter: 1:13; Romans 5:3-5; Psalm 37-9.

*Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.*

### GRANT YOUR HOLY BLESSING

**(Daj Nám Sväté Požehnanie)**

(Poetic translation to Slovak melody)

- Grant Your holy, gracious blessing,  
O Jesus, dearest Lord!  
As you reach with Your gentle caring,  
Long to hold and embrace our hearts.  
Now protect us each day and night,  
Guide and Guardian in every plight.
- Loving Jesus, we so promise You,  
To be ever faithful to Your Heart.  
How we cherish Your words of kindness,  
Treasure them dearly until we die.  
Make us strong in times of weakness,  
Hidden God, in this Bread divine.
- Lord, receive the hopes we present to You,  
Grateful trust within Your gen'rous Heart.  
Your compassion full of mercy,  
Longs with love to bless us here below.  
Lead us in Your way of goodness  
'Til we come to eternal joy!

### DAJ NÁM SVÄTÉ

**POŽEHNANIE**

- Daj nám sväté požehnanie, ó  
Ježišu náš milý!  
By sme Tvoje zmlovanie v každom  
čase skúsili.  
Opatruj nás vo dne, v noci, buď  
nám vždy na pomoci.
- Ó Ježišu, sľubujeme, že Ťa chceme  
milovať:  
Tvoje slová vždycky chceme až do  
smrti zachovať;  
Ráč posilniť nás v slabosti, skrytý  
Bože v sviatosti.
- Pane, naše čuj žiadosti, ktoré Ti  
predkladáme,  
V Tvojej láske a štedrosti nádej  
svoju skladáme.  
Veď nás tu po ceste čnosti po smrti  
do radosti.

The music for the hymn above can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/HOLYBLESSING>

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### JULY 2025

- 7/12 Branch 853 - Museum, Donora, PA
- 7/13 Branch 731 - Meeting, Poland, OH
- 7/13 District 4 & 16 - Somerset Patriots Baseball Game, Bridgewater, NJ
- 7/13 District 9 - Meeting, Uniontown, PA
- 7/17 Branch 410 - Meeting, Uniontown, PA (RSVP by 7/14)
- 7/17 Branch 628 - Meeting, West Mifflin, PA
- 7/17 Slovak Day at Kennywood, West Mifflin, PA
- 7/18-20 FCSU International Golf Tournament - Morgantown, WV
- 7/19 Slovak Festival, Cleveland, OH
- 7/20 Branch 23 - Meeting, Johnstown, PA
- 7/20 Branch 746 - Region 1 Picnic, Linden, NJ (RSVP by 7/11)
- 7/20 Region 1 - Picnic, Linden, NJ (RSVP by 7/11)
- 7/20 Late Nite Catechism - Munster, IN
- 7/23 Branch 553 - Meeting, Akron, OH
- 7/25 District 12 - Wild Things Baseball Game, Washington, PA
- 7/27 Branch 40 - Meeting, Streator, IL (RSVP by 7/25)
- 7/27 Branch 55 - Meeting & Event, Doylestown, PA (Hybrid)

### AUGUST 2025

- 8/1 Branch 746 - Mass, Linden, NJ
- 8/1 Branch 855 - Fraternal Friday, Seven Hills, OH
- 8/2 Branch 132 - Meeting, Whippany, NJ
- 8/2 District 10 - Crushers Baseball Game, Avon, OH (RSVP by 7/15)
- 8/7 Branch 200 - Meeting, Ford City, PA
- 8/10 Branch 393 - Meeting, Greensburg, PA (Election) (RSVP by 8/3)
- 8/12 District 14 - Meeting, Poland, OH
- 8/15 District 17 - RailRiders Baseball Game, Moosic, PA (RSVP by 8/8)
- 8/17 Branch 35 - Meeting (Zoom)
- 8/17 Branch 89 - Meeting, Menomonee Falls, WI (RSVP by 8/12)
- 8/23 Branch 6 - Meeting, Streator, IL (RSVP)
- 8/23 Branch 382 - Picnic, Covington Twp, PA (RSVP by 8/14)
- 8/24 Branch 254 - Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA (RSVP)
- 8/25 Branch 764 - Meeting, Warren, OH

**For more information, go to the Branch and District Announcement pages or visit our website at [fcsu.com](https://fcsu.com).**



Several members of our Home Office team shared updates during our second Virtual Call, held on June 25th. Topics included forms, branch announcements, and fraternal programs. The well-attended meeting encouraged interactive questions and valuable discussion. We will continue to hold these meetings throughout the year—please reach out to Kevin with any suggested topics you'd like to see covered.

## Branch 24 Member is A National Rugby Champion

*Submitted by Susan Capuano, Branch 24 Member*

Rocco Capuano, a dedicated member of the Saint Ignatius High School Rugby team, helped lead his team to victory at the High School National Rugby Championship, held May 22–24 in Elkhart, Indiana. The prestigious tournament welcomed top teams from across the country, and Saint Ignatius emerged victorious in a thrilling 20–17 win over Herriman High School from Utah. As a flanker on the varsity squad, Rocco has distinguished himself with his skill and commitment, earning multiple awards for his performance on the field. This fall, he will continue both his academic and athletic journey at West Virginia University, where he will join the WVU rugby team.

Rocco, along with his parents Rob and Sandy, and sisters Isabella and Gianna, are proud members of FCSU, Branch 24. His cousin and godfather, John Moynihan, serves as president of the branch.



## Branch 89 Baseball Game Outing

*Submitted by Suzy Scaife, Branch 89 Member*

Members of Branch 89 (Milwaukee, WI) attended a minor league baseball game on Sunday, June 8th. Seventeen members and guests had a fun afternoon watching the Milwaukee Milkmen beat the Gary Southshore RailCats. A little rain didn't stop the fun! We all enjoyed food, drinks, laughs, conversations, and a great baseball game. Pictured are members of the Hlavac, Hruz, Novak, Pollack and Scaife families. Thanks to all who attended.



## 93rd Annual Slovak-American Day Sunday, July 27, 2025

Croatian Park • 9100 S. 76th St • Franklin, WI  
11:00am – 5:00pm • HOLY MASS at 12:00 Noon

## FREE ADMISSION

Cultural Presentation featuring the Tatra Slovak Dancers

Food, Bakery and Refreshments will be available.

## Win up to \$250! Summer Essay Contest

For Children & Grandchildren of Branch 856 Members

### Submit a Slovak Themed Essay

#### Age 10-14 Essays

Limited to 400 words  
Two \$150 Prizes Awarded

#### Age 15-18 Essays

Limited to 800 words  
Two \$250 Prizes Awarded

Contest runs July 1 - August 31, 2025

Winners will be announced September 8, 2025

Entrants must include:

- Entrant's name, age & address
- Entrant's school
- Name of the Branch 856 member & relationship

Essays should be mailed and postmarked by August 31st to:

Essay Contest  
P.O. Box 2502  
Springfield, VA 22152-2502

Questions? Email Ray Luca, Summer Essay Contest Chairman at rayluca@cox.net

Topic suggestions include Slovak cultural and political history, biographies of famous Slovaks, history of the FCSU/Jednota, the influence of religion in Slovakia, and the impact of automobile production on the Slovak economy. All subjects related to Slovakia will be considered.

## Branch 553 & Slovak J Club Support St. John The Baptist Feast Day Celebration

*Submitted by Thomas Ivanec, Region 6 Director*

On June 22, 2025, St. John The Baptist Parish in Akron, OH, celebrated the Feast Day of its patron saint, St. John the Baptist with a 10am Mass followed by a family luncheon in the school cafeteria. Officers and members of Branch 553, as well as members of the Slovak J Club, supported the event before and during the celebration. Members were tasked with selling two hundred \$50 raffle tickets to the parish's popular fundraiser, the 2nd Annual Summer Cash Sweepstakes. They also cooked and served many of the delicious entrees at the luncheon.



Linda Hanko, Financial Secretary/Treasurer, Bob Danish, Auditor, Paula Danish, Recording Secretary, Reverend Dismas Byarugaba, AJ, St. John the Baptist Pastor, Debra Speck, President, Thomas Ivanec, Region 6 Director, Richard Shen, Auditor Emeritus and Joan Dilauro-Lewis, Vice President.

# MEMBER TRAVEL ADVENTURES

## From Donora to Antarctica: Steve Rudinec's Incredible Journey Across All Seven Continents

*Submitted by Stephen A. Rudinec, Branch 670 Member*

Stephen A. Rudinec, a native of Donora, Pennsylvania, and longtime member of Branch 670, has achieved something very few people on Earth can claim—he's set foot on all seven continents! A 1975 graduate of Ringgold High School, Steve's journey began not with wanderlust but with work.

He didn't travel much growing up—vacations rarely stretched beyond New Jersey, and he had never been on a plane. But all that changed in 1984 when his job with a German-based mining equipment company sent him on his first international business trip to Bochum, Germany. It was the first step in a globe-spanning career that would take him to over 20 countries and, eventually, every continent on the planet.

While still with the German company, a surprise assignment sent Steve on an emergency trip to Johannesburg, South Africa. From there, he spent 12 years with the company, visiting underground mines across Europe, Canada, the U.S., and even beneath the ocean in Nova Scotia.

A second career opportunity brought him to Australia, where he regularly visited sister plants and coal mines. His travels through Europe deepened, with frequent stops in England, Ireland, France, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden, and Germany.

In 1997, he accepted a role as VP of Product Development at a U.S.-based mining company that aimed to expand globally. The job came with big responsibilities—and big travel. He headed to Chile to study copper mining techniques, marking his first trip to South America. There he earned five patents for innovations in battery-powered mining equipment, improving the health and safety of underground miners.

A promotion led Steve to spearhead a strategic alliance with a Chinese firm, taking him to Asia and mining operations across China, Mongolia, and Indonesia. Amid the demanding travel, he made time to explore iconic landmarks like the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, and Tiananmen Square, and even stood face to face with the Terracotta Warriors in their original burial pits.

By 2012, it struck him—he had now visited six of the world's seven continents. Only Antarctica remained.

What began as a half-joking conversation with a friend, Dave Grube of Indiana, PA, about traveling to Antarctica together quickly evolved into a serious goal. The idea took hold, especially after a 2021 health scare during a stress test when his heart stopped momentarily. "I took that as, OK, anything can happen at any moment. I really wanted to get to do all seven," he said. After years of research, he finally found the perfect opportunity.

In February 2025, Steve and Dave made the journey. They flew from JFK to Santiago, Chile, then south to Patagonia. From there, they boarded a three-hour flight across the treacherous Drake Passage to King George Island in Antarctica. Greeted by Zodiacs—small inflatable boats—they boarded the National Geographic Explorer, an icebreaker ship that would be their home for the adventure of a lifetime.

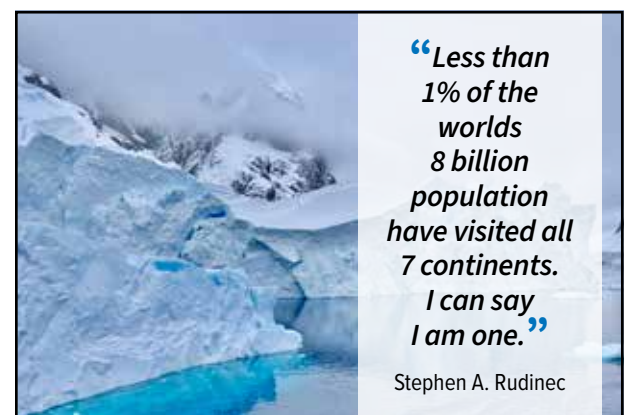
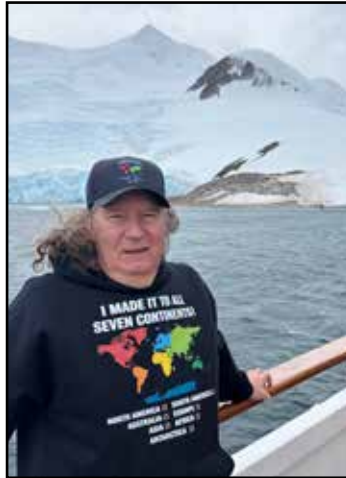
Their days were filled with breathtaking sights: killer whales hunting a 5,000-pound elephant seal, kayaking near whales, blue icebergs, daily hikes, abundant wildlife and unforgettable landscapes. "Penguins everywhere. Whales everywhere. Seals everywhere. Just truly an amazing place," Steve said.

As always, Steve brought a little piece of Pittsburgh with him: a Terrible Towel, which he carried to every continent. In true yinzer fashion, he often left it behind as a gift to hosts who helped along the way.

In total, Steve estimates he's racked up nearly a million air miles. But it was never about the miles. His favorite memories are about the people. "You come to realize that people are people. We start talking about our kids. We start talking about our hobbies," he shared.

Back home, surrounded by treasures from his global adventures, Steve has set his sights on a new milestone—visiting all 50 U.S. states. With only Hawaii and Alaska left, he jokes that after traveling to every corner of the globe, a few more hours in the air to reach states 49 and 50 is no big deal.

For a man who once never imagined leaving Pennsylvania, Steve Rudinec has certainly come a long way—across continents, cultures, and life experiences few can imagine. And through it all, he's carried with him a spirit of curiosity, gratitude, and hometown pride.



Steve at South Africa's Lion Park, where he was bitten by the lion cub during the photo.



Steve sporting his Terrible Towel at the Sydney Opera House in Australia.



Steve visiting the Great Wall of China.



## Toronto Slovak Bowling League Annual Banquet

*Submitted by Helen von Friedl, Branch 785 Member*

The Toronto Slovak Bowling League had their 2024-2025 Annual Banquet on May 23, 2025. Pennant Award Winners include first, John Golla, Ron Zucchetto, Milan Zoldak, Jan Jursa, Nicole Zoldak and second, Jara Ragan, Marilyn Jursa, Milan Rekem, Rick Tonkovich, and Jim Szabo. Playoffs in Series A include first, Frank Bokor, Rick Turosky, Tricia Olivia, Joe Fotia, Christ Goodyear and second, Jara Ragan, Marilyn Jursa, Milan Rekem, Rick Tonkovich, and Jim Szabo. Playoffs in Series B include first, Jason Ubeika, Rose Quan-Hin, Tracie Jennett, Diane Cincar, Chris Tokarsky and second, Peter Popik, Mike Shea, Dragan Blagojevich, Jana Shea, and Kim Pines-Popik. Congratulations to everyone, including all of the individual winners. Thanks for a great season.



## District 14 Members Enjoy The Simply Slavic Festival

*Submitted by Tom Ivanec, Region 6 Director*

The Simply Slavic Festival launched in 2011 to showcase and celebrate the Slavic roots – including Slovakia -- of residents in the Youngstown, OH, area. The 2025 Festival was held Friday, June 13 – Saturday, June 14 at the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheater. It featured ethnic food vendors, a Slavic beer garden, an ethnic marketplace, as well as music, exhibits, and folk dancing.

The FCSU was on site to support the event and help our members enjoy the Festival. Any current member of an active FCSU Branch in District 14 who registered in person at the Festival received \$20 from their branch to use toward purchases at the event that day. Children (12 and under) received \$10. All five of the active branches in District 14 – Branches 259, 260, 682, 731, and 764 – participated in the program. Over the two days of the Festival, 57 members attended the event.

Kevin Collins, Executive Secretary, COO was on hand at the FCSU booth throughout the Festival to pass out information and answer any questions about our Society. Beata Begeniova-Fedorouk, FCSU Chief Marketing Officer, her husband Alex and her children Sofia and Artem – all members of Branch 24 – performed in the award-winning band Harmonia.

It was a great event filled with fun and fraternalism. A special thank you to Suzanne Carney, Branch 682 Financial Secretary/Treasurer, for helping me and my wife Terri register members on Saturday. And most of all, thank you District 14 Branches for once again showing that membership has its privileges!



Branch 89 (Milwaukee, WI) welcomes its newest member, Mackenzie Pollack, age 3. She is the daughter of Jeff and Amanda Pollack and granddaughter of Paul and Nancy Carol Novak.

Open to the Public  
**SLOVAK J CLUB**



### JULY

- July 16 Pork Chop Dinner – 4:30-6:30pm  
\*RSVP REQUIRED
- July 19 Slovak Festival sponsored by Cleveland Slovak Radio Club♦
- July 26 **Annual Kielbasa Open**  
Mayfair Country Club  
8am Shot Gun Start
- July 27 Breakfast Buffet - 9:00-11:45am  
\$12 - All You Can Eat!

### AUGUST

- Aug. 2 Lake Erie Crushers Picnic & Baseball Outing♦
- Aug. 6 Spaghetti Dinner – 4:30-7:00pm
- Aug. 20 Meatloaf Dinner – 4:30-6:30pm  
\*RSVP REQUIRED
- Aug. 30 OSU vs. Longhorns – Noon
- Aug. 31 Breakfast Buffet – 9:00-11:45am  
\$12 - All You Can Eat!

### SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 3 Spaghetti Dinner – 4:30-7:00pm
- Sept. 6 OSU vs. Grambling – 3:30pm
- Sept. 7 Browns vs. Bengals - 1:00pm
- Sept. 13 OSU vs. Ohio University - 7:00pm
- Sept. 14 Browns vs. Ravens - 1:00pm
- Sept. 17 Fried Fish Dinner - 4:30-6:30pm  
\*RSVP REQUIRED
- Sept. 21 Browns vs. Packers - 1:00pm
- Sept. 27 OSU vs. Washington - Time TBD
- Sept. 28 Breakfast Buffet - 9:00-11:45am  
\$12 - All You Can Eat!  
Browns vs. Lions - 1:00pm

♦ See Branch Announcements for additional information and RSVP Deadlines.

**\*Call 330-786-9972 to RSVP**

**485 MORGAN AVE  
AKRON, OH**



## Rest in Peace Our Departed Members

The First Catholic Slovak Union has a Mass said for each of our deceased members at St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio.



Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Odpočinutie večné daj im, Pane, a svetlo večné, nech im svieti. Duše všetkých verných zomrelých, pre milosrdenstvo Božie, nech odpočívajú v pokoji. Amen.

BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME
1K	Gary David Liskey	60K	Elizabeth Vavrek	410K	Dorothy Zawacki	796K	John E. Godiska
4K	Mary Campbell	153K	Adela Neuhengen	410K	Richard Decenzo	900K	Edward Philip Sardigal
5P	Patrice A. Ackerman	162K	Regis M. Zerecheck	410K	William Britt	900K	Mary Mitchell
19K	Lillian Baron	181K	Lawrence Miller	484K	Joseph Andrew Mesanko	907K	Margaret Lorenz
38K	Alberta Asbury	199K	Cecelia E. Menarchek	553K	Betty L. Smollen	916K	Gerald W. Day
38K	Gary Antol	367K	Gladys M. Collins	553K	James A. Misanko	919K	Dorothy A. Leonard
38K	Kenneth Gajdos	382K	James Hlavaty	670K	Dennis Dalola	926K	Leah R. Weinhold
38K	Nancy Skolnik	382K	Roseann Palickar	764K	John P. Yuricek, Sr.		
55K	Betty Brezina	393K	Mario A Dominick	796K	Albert J. Czankner		

\* Processed in the month of June 2025

## News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

### PS: Slovak Post is on the verge of collapse

The opposition PS called on the government to proceed with a comprehensive reform of the Slovak Post.

Bratislava, July 1 (TASR) - Slovak Post is on the verge of collapse, it has no vision or future. Martin Pekár, a transport expert from the opposition Progressive Slovakia (PS), criticized the organization's functioning on Tuesday. According to him, Slovakia needs a network of modern, large-capacity postal centers that will have enough staff, technology and infrastructure.

"It is unacceptable that the main logistics center of the post office in Bratislava still operates in a building from the 1970s, where shipments are sorted on the first floor - this is a logistical absurdity in the world," Pekár said.

"Instead of the Smer government finally building a modern center, which Bratislava urgently needs as a key node of the postal network, Minister Ráž wants to sell it. This is a failure of the management of public services of the coarsest grain," added Pekár.

According to the PS transport expert, the functioning of the post office lacks a concept. "Slovakia needs a network of modern, large-capacity postal centers that will have enough staff, technology, and infrastructure. We presented exactly such a solution seven years ago - but the government ignored it," Pekár emphasized.

He added that modern postal client centres could bring better service to citizens and entrepreneurs, better logistics connections, shorter waiting times, comfortable services and extended opening hours. "A new strategy of placing them according to the real needs of the regions, not according to outdated and inefficient models, would also make sense," said Pekár.

The opposition PS called on the government to proceed with a comprehensive reform of the Slovak Post. "Modernization, digitization and conceptual renewal of infrastructure are the only way to save the national postal operator and restore the trust of citizens and business," said the PS.

Slovak Post responded that it had launched the process of transforming the post office because of the outdated, no longer suitable and expensive model of operation for clients, which it informed about at the beginning of June. The process is focused on network optimization, streamlining processes, and investing in technology and innovation. It is to be completed in 2028.

"Slovak Post is already actively implementing steps to increase the availability of services and the efficiency of their provision in both cities and municipalities, to modernize them to reflect the current needs of customers with regard to the use of digital alternatives and with the aim of making society healthier, strengthening its financial stability so that it can be a stable employer in a few years," said Slovak Post spokeswoman Eva Peterová.

She added that the post office is preparing to unify the opening hours of branches, strengthen the counters and move branches to shopping centers, where they will be more accessible. The Slovak Post plans to expand its services, invest in digitization and the development of a mobile application, Peterová reminded. "The transformation of the post office is an important step towards sustainability and competitiveness in the dynamic environment of postal and logistics services," she added.

### PS: Slovenská pošta je na pokraji kolapsu

Opozičné PS vyzvalo vládu, aby pristúpila ku komplexnej reforme Slovenskej pošty.

Bratislava 1. júla (TASR) - Slovenská pošta je na pokraji kolapsu, nemá víziu ani budúcnosť. Skritizoval v utorok fungovanie organizácie expert na dopravu opozičného Progresívneho Slovenska (PS) Martin Pekár. Slovensko podľa neho potrebuje sieť moderných, veľkokapacitných poštových centier, ktoré budú mať dostatok personálu, technológií a infraštruktúry.

„Je neprijateľné, že hlavné logistické centrum pošty v Bratislave stále funguje v budove zo 70. rokov, kde sa zásielky triedia na poschodí - to je vo svete logistický absurdistan,“ uviedol Pekár.

„Miesto toho, aby vláda Smeru konečne postavila moderné centrum, ktoré Bratislava ako kľúčový uzol poštovej siete nevyhnutne potrebuje, minister Ráž ho chce predať. To je zlyhanie manažmentu verejných služieb najhrubšieho zrna,“ doplnil Pekár.

Podľa dopravného experta PS fungovaniu pošty chýba koncepcia. „Slovensko potrebuje sieť moderných, veľkokapacitných poštových centier, ktoré budú mať dostatok personálu, technológií, aj infraštruktúry. Presne také riešenie sme predstavili už pred siedmimi rokmi - no vláda ho ignorovala,“ zdôraznil Pekár.

Dodal, že moderné poštové klientske centrá by mohli priniesť kvalitnejšiu obsluhu občanov aj podnikateľov, lepšie logistické napojenie, kratšie čakacie doby, komfortné služby či predĺžené otváracie hodiny. „Zmysel by mala aj nová stratégia ich umiestňovania podľa reálnych potrieb regiónov, nie podľa zastaralých a neefektívnych modelov,“ uviedol Pekár.

Opozičné PS vyzvalo vládu, aby pristúpila ku komplexnej reforme Slovenskej pošty. „Modernizácia, digitalizácia a koncepčná obnova infraštruktúry sú jedinou cestou, ako zachrániť národného poštového operátora a vrátiť mu dôveru občanov aj biznisu,“ uviedlo PS.

Slovenská pošta reagovala, že práve z dôvodu zastaraného, pre klientov už nevyhovujúceho a nákladného modelu fungovania spustila proces transformácie pošty, o ktorom informovala už začiatkom júna. Proces je zameraný na optimalizáciu siete, zefektívňovanie procesov a investície do technológií a inovácií. Ukončený má byť v roku 2028.

„Slovenská pošta už aktívne realizuje kroky s cieľom zvýšiť dostupnosť služieb a efektívnosť ich poskytovania tak v mestách, ako aj v obciach, zmodernizovať ich, aby reflektovali na aktuálne potreby zákazníkov s ohľadom na využívanie digitálnych alternatív a s cieľom ozdraviť spoločnosť, posilniť jej finančnú stabilitu, aby dokázala byť stabilným zamestnávateľom aj o pár rokov,“ uviedla hovorkyňa Slovenskej pošty Eva Peterová.

Doplnila, že pošta pripravuje zjednotenie otváracích hodín pobočiek, posilnenie priehradiek či presúvanie pobočiek do nákupných centier, kde budú dostupnejšie. Slovenská pošta plánuje rozšíriť svoje služby, investovať do digitalizácie i rozvoja mobilnej aplikácie, pripomenula Peterová. „Transformácia pošty je dôležitým krokom k udržateľnosti a konkurencieschopnosti v dynamickom prostredí poštových a logistických služieb,“ dodala.

# SIMMONS FARM



## FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL NATIONAL PICNIC SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

170 Simmons Rd • McMurray, PA • [simmonsfarm.com](http://simmonsfarm.com)

**FREE ADMISSION & PARKING  
FOR ALL FCSU MEMBERS  
FROM 11:00AM – 4:00PM**

### JOIN US FOR FUN:

- Take a Hayride to the Outdoor Field Activities
- Find your way through multiple Corn Mazes
- Pick your perfect pumpkin from the 5-acre Pumpkin Field
- Visit the resident farm animals at the Petting Zoo
- Race down the chute of the 100 ft. Slide
- Lunch served 12-2pm
- Bingo played 2-3pm

### OTHER FIELD ACTIVITIES:

- Corn Bus
- Peddle Cars
- Flower Fields
- Tire & Hay Mazes
- Human Hamster Wheel
- Basketball Corn Hopper
- Slides
- Photo Ops!
- Piggy Race Ride
- Pumpkin Corn Hole
- Rubber Duck Races
- Apple Rock Labyrinth

### MORE TO DO AT SIMMONS FARM:

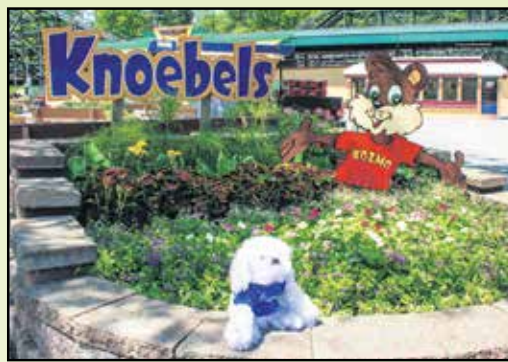
- Shop for farm fresh produce at the market.
- Pick your own apples or flowers.

**GUESTS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR  
THE CATERED LUNCH AT NO COST AND MAY  
PURCHASE HAYRIDE/FIELD ACTIVITIES  
WRISTBANDS AT THE REGISTRATION  
TABLE FOR \$19.00/PERSON.**

Check-in begins at 10:45 am in the Greenhouse.  
Wristbands are required for the hayride/field activities.

**3 WAYS TO REGISTER  
BY SEPTEMBER 20, 2025**

Register Online • Email [events@fcsu.com](mailto:events@fcsu.com)  
Call the Home Office at 800.533.6682 ext. 122



## Chewy's Corner

Hi friends! How is your summer going so far? What have you been up to? Are you heading to any theme or overnight camps (letný tábor)? Spending time at the pool (bazén)? Riding your bike (bicykel) around the neighborhood? All of that sounds like a blast!

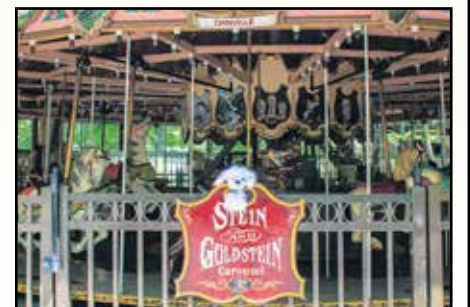
Is your family taking a vacation soon? My family just went to the FCSU National Picnic at Knoebels Amusement Park. We had a great time meeting members from lots of different branches. My friend (kamarát) dragged me all around the park and made me stop for tons of pictures—way too many! But it was so much fun. I'm excited to share a few of my favorites with you.

One of the best rides at the park is a chairlift that takes you up a mountain and then back down. The view of the woods and the whole park is beautiful. My friend really wanted to try it but she's afraid of heights. I told her I'd ride with her, along with another friend so she could sit in the middle. Even though she was nervous, she trusted us and gave it a try. She was brave (udatný) and faced her fear—and she did it!

If there's something new you're a little scared to try, that's okay. Talk to your parents or a friend. You might be surprised how much a little support can help.

Let me know what you are doing this summer. I would love to hear your stories. Wishing you a fun-filled and unforgettable summer!

Chewy!



## Branch 200's 130th Anniversary Celebration!

**Saturday, October 11, 2025 at 1pm**

Slovak CU Branch 200, Ford City, PA

Please join us in celebrating this special occasion!

**Tickets - \$25 each**

Includes appetizers, a 3-meat buffet with some Ethnic foods, a glass of wine with dinner, dessert (including nut roll), beer, coffee & iced tea.  
Dinner served around 4:30pm • A cash bar will also be available.

**Contact Vicki Schaub To RSVP by July 31st**

724-763-9229 or [uschaub123@gmail.com](mailto:uschaub123@gmail.com)

Tickets will be mailed @ a later date

Our National Picnic was held on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at Knoebels Amusement Park. This year, our pavilion was in the back of the park. It was shady and cool with the sounds of a bubbling brook beside us. Once again, it was hot, but some of our members made the best of it and played in the creek. The lunch was delicious as hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, potato salad, macaroni salad and cookies were provided. We had over 250 members register for the event! We appreciate everyone who braved the heat, and the traffic, to join us for this lovely day.



## Branch Announcement Section Organized by State!

Branch announcements will now be organized by state, and then numerically within each state. This new format will make it easier to find updates from your Branch, stay informed about nearby activities, and help members connect with other Branches in their area. We're also streamlining how shared events are communicated. Instead of repeating event details under each participating Branch, we'll now feature them in a centralized event box. These boxes will appear first under the state where the event is taking place and will be clearly marked with a thick border to help them stand out.

Whether your Branch is hosting a community dinner, a service project, or a social gathering, we want every activity to be seen, shared, and well attended.

All Branch announcements are posted on our website, and email reminders are sent 7–10 days before each meeting or event. If you're not receiving email updates and would like to, please ensure we have your current email address by calling 800.533.6682 ext 119 or emailing [branch@fcsu.com](mailto:branch@fcsu.com).

**All BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS should be sent to [branch@fcsu.com](mailto:branch@fcsu.com)**

### CONNECTICUT

#### BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CT

*Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary*

The St. Joseph Society will hold a hybrid regular meeting in-person for the Executive Board at the offices of Kurt P. Solek in Fairfield and via Zoom for members on Sunday, September 14, 2025 at 10am. We will plan our scholarship meeting for November 2nd. Email [csteacher3@gmail.com](mailto:csteacher3@gmail.com) with questions. We look forward to reconnecting with our members.

Zoom link: [tinyurl.com/FCSUBr19](https://tinyurl.com/FCSUBr19)  
Meeting ID: 871 9564 0926  
Passcode: 027496

### ILLINOIS

#### BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, IL

*Paul Chismar, Financial Secretary*

The St. Stephen Society will hold their semi-annual meeting on Saturday, August 23, 2025 at 11am at More on Main, 317 E. Main St. in Streator. We will discuss scholarships and fraternal activities for members. Please contact Paul Chismar at 815-822-8851 if you plan to attend. May we all have a healthy and happy summer.

#### BRANCH 40 – STREATOR, IL

*Theresa Graves, Financial Secretary*

The St. Clement Society will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, July 27, 2025 at Chipper's Grill, 1733 N. Bloomington St., Streator at 2pm. All members are urged to attend the meeting. Lunch will follow. Please RSVP by calling 815-257-6142 (leave a message) by July 25th.

### NEW JERSEY

#### BRANCH 132 – BOONTON, NJ

*Susan Salko, Secretary*

Save the date for our 2025 meetings:

- August 2nd
- October 4th
- December 6th

All meetings will be at the home of Sue Salko, 56 Lefke Ln., Whippany and start at 7:30pm. We will discuss our summer trips and ideas for 2025-26 winter.

#### BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ

*Mary Kapitan, Secretary*

Branch 746 is hosting a Summer Picnic in the Park for Region 1. Join us on Sunday, July 20, 2025 at 1pm at Al Kalla Park (2801 Highland Ave., Linden) to gather for food and fun. Branch scholarships will also be presented this afternoon. Food will be provided by Julie Rada Catering.

Members are free. Non-members are welcome to attend for a nominal fee of \$30. RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt at 732-762-3148 by July 11th.

Members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7pm (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden. Masses are offered for the intention of all Branch members living and deceased as follows: August 1st, September 5th, October 3rd, November 7th, and December 5th.

### OHIO

#### SLOVAK FESTIVAL Saturday, July 19, 2025

12pm - 11pm - \$1 Admission

St. Sava Serbian Church Property  
2151 W. Wallings Rd.  
Broadview Heights, OH

Members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club will serve traditional Slovak food and pastries for purchase; there will also be a full bar and music for dancing and your listening pleasure.

#### DISTRICT 10 EVENT LAKE ERIE CRUSHERS PICNIC & BASEBALL OUTING Saturday, August 2, 2025

6:05pm Doors Open  
6:30pm Food Served • 7:05pm Game  
Crushers Stadium  
2009 Baseball Blvd. • Avon, OH

Join District 10 members for a fun evening of minor league baseball with the Lake Erie Crushers. Dine in the outdoor Beatbox Party Plaza on a buffet of BBQ ribs, pulled chicken, mac and cheese, potato salad, cookies, candy bites, lemonade, and iced tea. Then enjoy watching the Crushers take on the Washington Wild Things at 7:05pm followed by fireworks. RSVP by July 15th.

#### BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH

*Barbara J. Golias, Secretary*

We invite you to attend the Slovak Festival. **See event details on this page.** For Branch 1 members who attend, we are offering adults (Age 11+) \$15 in food/beverage tickets and children will receive \$5 in tickets.

We encourage members to attend the District 10 Picnic & Baseball Outing. **See event details on this page.** Branch 1 will cover \$25, so members pay just \$14 per

ticket! Non-members are welcome at the full ticket price of \$39. All attendees must register by calling Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 no later than July 15th.

#### BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

*John Moynihan, President*

We invite you to attend the Slovak Festival. **See event details on this page.** For Branch 24 members who attend, we are offering adults (Age 11+) \$10 in food/beverage tickets and children will receive \$5 in tickets.

We encourage members to attend the District 10 Picnic & Baseball Outing. **See event details on this page.** Branch 24 will cover \$25, so members pay just \$14 per ticket! Non-members are welcome at the full ticket price of \$39. All attendees must register by calling Fraternal Activities Director Fran Strekal at 216-308-1728 no later than July 15th.

#### BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OH

*Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary*

We encourage members to attend the District 10 Picnic & Baseball Outing. **See event details on this page.** Branch 228 members are free and invited to bring one non-member guest for free. Additional non-members are welcome at the full ticket price of \$39. All attendees must register by calling Lisa Trifiletti-Palos at 440-960-2111 by July 15th.

We invite you to attend the Slovak Festival. **See event details on this page.** For Branch 228 members who attend, we are offering adults (Age 11+) \$10 in food/beverage tickets and children will receive \$5 in tickets.

#### BRANCH 260 – COITSVILLE, OH

*Carlie Peshek, Vice President*

We will have the following 2025 meetings: Thursday, September 25th, and Thursday, December 4th (this will be our election of officers and holiday celebration). All meetings will begin at 5pm and are held at Belleria Restaurant, 1010 Youngstown-Poland Rd. in Struthers. Hope to see all of you and God Bless!

#### BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OH

*Frank Woyma, President*

We invite you to attend the Slovak Festival. **See event details on this page.** For Branch 450 members who attend, we are offering adults (Ages 11+) \$10 in food/beverage tickets and children will receive \$5 in tickets.

We encourage members to attend the District 10 Picnic & Baseball Outing. **See event details on this page.** Branch 450 will cover \$25, so members pay just \$14 per ticket! Non-members are welcome at

the full ticket price of \$39. All attendees must register by calling Frank Woyma at 216-225-5688 no later than July 15th.

#### BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

*Debbie Speck, President*

A Branch meeting open to all bona fide members will be held on Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at 6pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Ave., Akron. We will answer questions regarding the proposed amendment to the St. John the Baptist Society Branch 553 Bylaws. That will be followed by another meeting on Wednesday, September 24th at 6pm at the Slovak J Club where a vote on the proposed amendment will take place.

We invite you to attend the Slovak Festival. **See event details on this page.** For Branch 553 members who attend, we are offering adults (Ages 11+) \$10 in food/beverage tickets and children will receive \$5 in tickets.

We encourage members to attend the District 10 Picnic & Baseball Outing. **See event details on this page.** Branch 553 will cover \$25, so members pay just \$14 per ticket! Non-members are welcome at the full ticket price of \$39. All attendees must register by calling Debbie Speck at 330-620-1794 no later than July 15th.

#### BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

*Anna Schwanitz, Recording Secretary*

**\*IMPORTANT CHANGE\***

Our next meeting on July 13, 2025 will be held at Coaches (3032 Center Rd. in Poland) at 5pm.

The locations of the remaining meetings (September 14th & November 16th) are currently TBA. Please refer to future issues of Jednota for meeting locations. Meetings will begin at 5pm.

A Mass for deceased members will be held November 11, 2025 at 12:10pm at St. Columba Cathedral, 159 W Rayen Ave., Youngstown.

#### BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OH

*Bill Hrusovsky, President*

Our next meeting will be August 25, 2025. It takes place at Panera Bread, 3641 Elm Rd., NE in Warren and begins at 10am. We will discuss the fall fundraiser and overview of fall activities.

#### BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

*Stephanie Sutilla, Activities Director*

We invite you to attend the Slovak Festival. **See event details on this page.** For Branch 855 members who attend, we are offering adults (Ages 11+) \$10 in food/beverage tickets and children will receive \$5 in tickets.

We encourage members to attend the District 10 Picnic & Baseball Outing. **See event details on this page.** Branch 855 members are free! Non-members are welcome at the full ticket price of \$39. All attendees must register by calling me at 440-409-9409 no later than July 15th.

Fraternal Friday = friendship, food and fun!! Come join us on August 1, 2025 for a Fraternal Friday get together at Dairy Queen, 7331 Broadview Rd., Seven Hills from 5–7pm. All members who attend will receive a \$15 gift card to use at this location for any eats and treats.

**All Branch and District  
Announcements are  
posted on our website  
at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)!**

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PA**

*Dr. Michael Kopanic, Rec. Secretary*

A special meeting will be held on Sunday, July 20, 2025 at 1:30pm at the Graystone Restaurant at 375 Theatre Drive in Johnstown. We will discuss news from the Home Office and possibly decide to use it before the fall meeting. We will discuss representing the FCSU at the 10th Annual Johnstown Slavic Festival. It will be held on September 19-20 in the Heritage Discovery Center in Johnstown's Cambria City. The festival is a celebration of Slavic culture and traditions featuring music, dance, and ethnic foods.

**BRANCH 35 – PITTSBURGH, PA**

*Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary*

St. Michael the Archangel will hold a semi-annual meeting virtually on Sunday, August 17, 2025 at 7pm. The agenda will include officers' reports, branch business, and discussion of upcoming events.

Zoom Link: [tinyurl.com/FCSUBr35](https://tinyurl.com/FCSUBr35)

Meeting ID: 715 7421 1804

Passcode: 3MfkcF

**BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PA**

*Helena T. Gaydos, Secretary/Treasurer*

The St. Joseph Society's semi-annual meeting and branch activity will be held Sunday, July 27, 2025 at 1pm as a combined Zoom and in-person event. It will be held at Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa at 654 Ferry Rd., Doylestown. We will gather for the 11am Mass followed by lunch in the cafeteria preceding our meeting.

We will discuss fraternal gathering activities and the possibility of making a bus trip to Washington, DC for Mass at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of our Jednota Chapel dedicated to Our Mother of Sorrows.

After the meeting, we will celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope at the Feast of St. Anne by visiting St. Anne's Chapel, Barn Chapel, Rosary Chapel and the lower chapel, a replica of Jasna Gora in Poland.

We will honor all 2025 graduates and invite them to share any Awards or

Scholarships they received. Any high school or college student that attends this meeting will receive a copy of Joseph Trojcek's essential book, FOCUS ON YOUR LIGHT. Joe presents helpful ideas for anyone interested in starting a business or furthering their career.

Please send your email address to our Branch Zoom Coordinator Technician at [John@JohnGaydos.com](mailto:John@JohnGaydos.com) so he can send you the private Zoom link to attend the meeting.

**BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA**

*Vicki Schaub, Secretary*

Please join us at our regular Board Meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month except June & July. Our next meeting will be August 7, 2025. The meeting will be held at the Slovak CU at 910 Sixth Ave., Ford City, PA. The Board Meeting starts at 7pm. All other members will be called in around 7:20pm. Bring your ideas and suggestions. We look forward to seeing you there!

See page 8 for information about our 130th Anniversary Celebration. Please RSVP by Thursday, July 31st.

**BRANCH 254 – PITTSBURGH, PA**

*Joseph Senko, Financial Secretary*

St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, August 24, 2025 at 12:30pm at Panera in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. The meeting will include a report of past and future activities and the financial report. Contact Joe Senko at [jtsenko@aol.com](mailto:jtsenko@aol.com) or 412-956-6000 to RSVP.

**BRANCH 312 – LATROBE, PA**

There has been a merger between Branch 312K Latrobe, PA and Branch 181K United, PA. All members of Branch 312K will now hold membership in Branch 181K. This merger took place on June 16, 2025. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

VICKI HRICIK  
660 N GEARY ST  
MT PLEASANT, PA 15666  
724-433-8469

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kevin J. Collins, Executive Secretary, COO

**BRANCH 320 – ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA**

*Joseph Tarquinio, Vice President*

District 12 continues with a Washington Wild Things baseball game with fireworks on July 25th. We will be having an ice cream social (TBA). Our District meeting location will need to be moved because of the abrupt closing or our favorite meeting place. Please see the District Announcement page in the Jednota for all event times and location.

A stipend may be given to Branch 320 members in attendance for most events. FYI: All non-members are welcome to join but will be charged full price. Please RSVP 10 days prior to events to Frances Tarquinio at 724-929-9788. Please see the Jednota for details.

**BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PA**

*Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, President*

SS. Cyril & Methodius Society will hold its Summer Picnic on Saturday, August 23, 2025 from noon to dusk. Branch members and guests will gather at the pavilion on the grounds of the Holy Family Social and Welfare Club, 486 Jubilee Rd, Covington Twp. Join planning committee members Laura Christianson, Becky Czankner, and Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. for an afternoon of good food and friendly socializing in the beautiful setting of Northeastern Pennsylvania. A catered lunch will be served. Attendees will enjoy beverages and snacks throughout the day. A late-

afternoon cook-out will be served.

Reservations are required so that adequate food and beverages can be purchased! To RSVP by Thursday, August 14th, contact me at 570-344-3854 and leave a message. The cost for Branch members is \$10 each. The price for guests is \$25 each. Children age 10 and under are free. Your check guarantees your reservation and should be received by Tuesday, August 19th. Make checks payable to FCSU Branch 382K and mail to Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, 505 Emmett Street, Scranton, PA 18505-1016.

**BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PA**

*Kirstin Meyer, President*

The Saint Joseph Society will hold a meeting and dinner on Sunday, August 10, 2025 at 4pm. It will be held at New City Buffet, 5142 State Route 30, Suite 175, Greensburg. The agenda includes election of officers, future plans, latest Home Office updates and updates on the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Please consider nominating someone for office. We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the Catholic Charities emergency food program.

Members and their families are invited to attend and are encouraged to bring guests. Please RSVP by August 3rd to Eileen at 724-539-2764 or email [FCSU.branch393@gmail.com](mailto:FCSU.branch393@gmail.com). We extend the invitation to members of Branches 86 & 122. For updates, follow the branch on Facebook or Instagram at FCSU Financial Br 393, Greensburg (@fcsu.branch393).

**BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PA**

*Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary*

The SS. Peter and Paul Society will hold a meeting on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 1:30pm at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown. Please RSVP by Monday, July 14th to 724-425-2576. All members are encouraged to attend.

**BRANCH 587 – ALIQUIPPA, PA**

*Joanne Fibbi, President*

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION (FIA) - We are asking members to help our neighbors overcome food insecurity by collecting non-perishable food. All food will be donated to St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Food Bank in Monongahela,



To receive Branch and District meeting reminders please make sure the Home Office has your current email address.

**Jednota Crossword Puzzle**

**Across**

- 1 Romaine lettuce
- 4 Ayn Rand's \_\_\_\_\_ Shrugged
- 9 Indian state
- 14 Strike
- 15 Prepared
- 16 Money, in slang
- 17 Fla. neighbor
- 18 Cutworm
- 20 Hair controllers
- 22 Rich brown pigment
- 23 Press for payment
- 24 Hightails it
- 26 Bull's eye
- 28 Spirit sessions
- 31 Spring sign
- 34 Stern
- 35 Chum
- 37 Lennon's love
- 38 Farm young
- 41 Vacation spots
- 43 Greek vowel
- 44 Tappan \_\_\_\_\_ Bridge

**Down**

- 45 Binds
- 46 Western group
- 48 Take aback
- 51 Sporting figure
- 54 Wine label info
- 55 Resinous deposit
- 56 Big ape
- 59 Beef cut
- 61 Angler's tool
- 64 Game piece
- 65 Signed
- 66 Hitching post?
- 67 Chemical suffix
- 68 Conquers
- 69 Must-haves
- 70 Viña \_\_\_\_\_ Mar, Chile
- 1 "The Chinese Parrot" hero
- 2 Tankers
- 3 Sculpture
- 4 Curve

- 5 Receptions
- 6 Tardy
- 7 Tao virtuosos
- 8 Mid-East nation
- 9 French friend
- 10 Fuse material
- 11 Answer
- 12 Astronaut Bean
- 13 Deface
- 19 Golf score
- 21 Tangle
- 25 Common cold symptoms
- 27 Golf match audience
- 29 Blanchett of "Elizabeth"
- 30 Limerick language
- 32 Conclusion
- 33 Letters of distress
- 35 Brad of "Burn After reading"
- 36 Where Bhutan is
- 38 Liveliness

- 39 Japanese admiral
- 40 Certain respirators
- 42 Fall flower
- 47 Perfumed bag
- 48 Mainstay
- 49 Praised
- 50 Fur source
- 52 Bamboozle
- 53 Club publication
- 55 Field of work
- 57 Musical mark
- 58 Pleased
- 60 Drink garnish
- 61 Little lie
- 62 Psyches
- 63 Trauma ctrs.

Answers can be found on Page 15

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17				18						19				
20			21		22						23			
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61					62					63		64		
65							66					67		
68							69						70	

Charleroi and Donora. You may arrange to drop off your donations at my home by calling 412-953-4721 or emailing jfibbi@gmail.com. For members living outside the area, please consider mailing a gift card for Giant Eagle, Shop N Save, ALDI or Walmart to Joanne Fibbi, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. We will collect donations until July 15th. With this FIA project the food bank will also receive a \$250 donation from the FCSU. Thank you for your support.

**BRANCH 628 – WEST HOMESTEAD, PA**

*Sylvia Vehec, Recording Secretary*

St. Michael the Archangel Society will meet on Thursday, July 17, 2025 following the Slovak Day Mass at Kennywood, 4800 Kennywood Blvd., West Mifflin. We will gather at the back of the pavilion and have a short meeting to discuss current and upcoming events in the District.

**BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PA**

*Monica Boone, President*

Please join us for upcoming events: July 12, 2025 – Smog Museum, 595 McKean Ave., Donora. There will be a presentation at 11am followed by an on-your-own tour of the museum. Afterwards the branch members will have lunch.

**BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PA**

*Anthony Nasta, Recording Secretary*

Our Annual Meeting will be in-person and taking place on November 30th. Further details will be sent in the fall.

**WISCONSIN**

**BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI**

*Mike Novak, President*

Please join us for our meeting on Sunday, August 17, 2025 at 11:30am. On the Agenda: Donations and activities. Members are free. Guests are welcome but will pay for their own meal and beverages. The meeting location is Bandero County Wood Grill, N96W16865, Cumberland Court, Menomonee Falls, WI. That is at Highway 41 North and County Q Exit.

Please call to make your reservation by August 12th. You MUST CONFIRM by calling me at 414-445-5382.

The 93rd Annual Slovak-American Day is on Sunday, July 27th from 11am-5pm at the Croation Park, 9100 S. 76th St, Franklin, WI. Free admission. Holy Mass at 12pm and cultural presentation featuring the Tatra Slovak Dancers.

The Pilgrimage To The BASILICA *of the* NATIONAL SHRINE *of the* IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

**Saturday, September 13 • 400 Michigan Ave • Washington, DC**

To encourage strong member participation, the FCSU Home Office is offering up to \$500 in financial reimbursement for bus trips organized by Branches or Districts specifically for transporting FCSU members to this important fraternal event. For full details or to request sponsorship, contact Barbara at 800.533.6685 ext. 122 or email branch@fcsu.com.

JOIN US FOR THE

FCSU Financial - Jednota

**REGION 1 PICNIC**

**SUN, JULY 20th at 1 PM**

Al Kalla Park

2801 Highland Avenue, Linden, NJ

RSVP by July 11 to Joanne: 732-762-3148

Members FREE; Non-Members: \$30

**DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Send **DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS** to [district@fcsu.com](mailto:district@fcsu.com)

**DISTRICT 1 – REVEREND MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT – CT, MA**

*Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary*

The Reverend Matthew Jankola District will conduct a Hybrid Annual Meeting on September 14, 2025 at 11:30am. The Executive Board will meet in-person at the offices of Kurt P. Solek in Fairfield, CT. All other members will meet via Zoom. We will discuss plans for the coming year and hold the election of officers for the district. Please contact me at [csteacher3@gmail.com](mailto:csteacher3@gmail.com) to RSVP. We look forward to seeing our dedicated members.

Zoom Link: [tinyurl.com/FCSUdT1](https://tinyurl.com/FCSUdT1)  
 Meeting ID: 847 8986 0228  
 Passcode: 554867

**DISTRICT 4 – MSGR JOHN E RURA DISTRICT – NJ**

**DISTRICT 16 – MSGR STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT – NY**

*Mary Kapitan, Branch 746 Secretary*

Branch 746 is hosting a Summer Picnic in the Park for Region 1. Join us on Sunday, July 20, 2025 at 1pm at Al Kalla Park (2801 Highland Avenue, Linden, NJ) to gather for food and fun. Branch scholarships will also be presented this afternoon. Food will be provided by Julie Rada Catering. Members are free. Non-members are welcome to attend for a nominal fee of \$30. RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt at 732-762-3148 by July 11th if you plan to attend.

**DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT – PA**

*Margaret A. Nasta, Recording Secretary*

Save the date:

- Slovak Day at Kennywood: Thursday, July 17, 2025
- Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt: Sunday, November 2, 2025
- Western PA Slovak Radio Hour: WPIT 96.5 FM / 730 AM

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters, social events, and contests. Be sure your beneficiaries are up to date. FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at FCSU.com.

**DISTRICT 9 – THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT – PA**

*Barbara A. Holly, Secretary*

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, July 13, 2025, at 1pm at the Dairy Queen, 575 West Main St., in Uniontown. Region 4 Director James Marmol will be there with updates. All members are urged to attend.

**DISTRICT 10 – REV STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT - OH**

*Greg Petrasek, President*

Save the date for our fall meeting on September 21, 2025 at 2pm at Walton Hills Event Center. Branch 24 will graciously host this meeting which will include a Fraternalism in Action activity, election of officers and a discussion about the upcoming convention.

**DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L KOSTIK DISTRICT – OH, PA**

*Submitted by Jackie Bobby, Secretary*

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at The Fireplace, 2075 East Western Reserve Rd, Poland, OH starting at 6pm.

**DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS DISTRICT – NY, PA**

*Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Fraternal Activities Officer*

Join us for a Baseball Game and Party Box Event on Friday, August 15, 2025 at PNC Field, Moosic, PA. The Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders will face off against the Indianapolis Indians at 6:30pm. Attendees will gather at the Right Field Party Suite and Covered Deck. Admittance will be through the Mohegan Sun Club Entrance at approximately 5pm.

The cost for members is \$15. Non-members are welcome at a cost of \$40. The price includes entrance to PNC Field, food and beverages on the covered deck, all the friendly socializing you can get, and fireworks after the game!!! Food will be available at 5:30pm.

Contact your branch officer for reservations by Friday, August 8, 2025. Make your check payable to your Branch!

- Branch 5P .....Martha Zavada .....570-954-3771
- Branch 166K.....Morgan Dendler .....607-206-7243
- Branch 173K .....Carl Ungvarsky .....570-868-6066
- Branch 382K .....Elizabeth M. Slovenkai .....570-344-3854

**DISTRICT 19 – MSGR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT – CANADA**

*Anne Mitro, Secretary*

Branch 785 is hosting the annual Slovak picnic on Sunday, September 7, 2025 from 9am to 6pm. Mass will be celebrated in Slovak at 11am. The location is Croation Park, 9118 Winston Churchill Blvd, LOP 1KO on the north of the 5th side Road, Norval, ON. The cost is \$10/adult and \$5/child (6-12), under 6 years is free. Lunch will be for sale. The admission to the grounds will be free to all members. Contact me at 905-279-8154.

**6** reasons you don't need **Life Insurance**

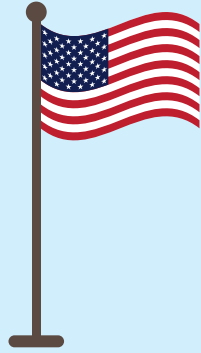
1. You are never going to die.
2. You are going to win the lottery.
3. You are going to inherit a fortune.
4. Your children are going to support you.
5. You are never going to retire.
6. The government will take care of you.

**4** things that determine the amount of **Life Insurance** coverage you need:

1. Your outstanding **DEBTS**.
2. The amount left on your **MORTGAGE**.
3. Your children's cost of **EDUCATION**.
4. Your **CURRENT INCOME** multiplied by the number of years your dependent families will need it.

# FCSU Search-A-Word

# JULY Word List



- |                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>PICNIC</b>       | <b>VLAJKA (Flag)</b>         |
| <b>AMERICA</b>      | <b>HORÚCE (Hot)</b>          |
| <b>FESTIVAL</b>     | <b>SLOBODA (Freedom)</b>     |
| <b>FREEDOM</b>      | <b>PLÁVANIE (Swimming)</b>   |
| <b>FIREWORKS</b>    | <b>GRILOVANIE (Grilling)</b> |
| <b>INDEPENDENCE</b> | <b>DOVOLENKA (Vacation)</b>  |

H N S L O B O D A A S D G J K  
 G F L M I N B F J T Y U I O P  
 V I T F N P I C N I C H K O E  
 D R R D D D S A E C U R O H I  
 E E E C E F D A I U Y T F L N  
 W W S V P R N H M D G K K B A  
 M O A G E A T L R E T L J N V  
 O R K H N K R D A W R P B D O  
 D K N J D J D V C V Q I V T L  
 E S E N E A V C V B I R C R I  
 E L L B N L X T B O I T H A R  
 R K O V C V A Y N P K L S L G  
 F J V I E G H J G D S X C E M  
 C G O U P E I N A V A L P V F  
 S F D Q W S X C H G F D S Z G

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Branch #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Search-A-Word Rules

**Five monthly winners will receive \$50!**

All FCSU members are eligible to enter. One entry per member! Complete the puzzle and email it along with your name, address, email and branch number to contest@fcsu.com. Or mail puzzle and form to:

FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Road • Independence, OH 44131  
**Entries must be received by August 28, 2025.**  
 Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

## May Puzzle Winners

- David Bacha (Branch 200)
- Debra Bruening (Branch 89)
- Carol Galinsky (Branch 746)
- Agnes Hogue (Branch 731)
- Patty Ragan (Branch 23)

**Congratulations and Keep Puzzling!**

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Mississauga ON  
 and FCSU Financial present

# Farský Píkník

9118 WINSTON CHURCHILL BLVD, NORVAL, ON LOP 1K0

A great time for our parish family, where we spend time together, laugh, and create beautiful memories together.

**NEDELA**  
**SEPTEMBER 7**  
**SUNDAY**

**Admission**  
 adults : \$10  
 children (6 -12) : \$5  
 under 6 : free  
Vstupné

- OMŠA / MASS : 11:00 AM**
- Play Family Games/ Sports**
- OBED / LUNCH**

# Parish PICNIC

Bring lawn chairs • Open 9am-6pm



After a great day at the FCSU Financial National Picnic at Wiegand Lake Park, members of District 10 supported the Ukraine Pirohy Festival.

# FRANTastic Cuisine

BY FRAN STREKAL



## CHLEBÍČKY

- 1 French baguette sliced in 1/2 inch slices
- 1-2 sliced peppers (any color)
- ~ 5-6 hardboiled eggs sliced into circles
- ~6 sliced dill pickles
- Deli turkey, ham, or chicken (enough to put one slice on each piece of bread)
- Shredded cheddar cheese
- Butter
- Dijon mustard
- Paprika (optional)

Prep your eggs, peppers, and pickles and set aside. Take your bread slices and spread equal amounts of butter and Dijon on each slice. Next add your deli meats (One piece per slice of bread and rotate through the meats). Next you will add 2 slices of egg, a pickle slice and a pepper slice to each, and finally sprinkle with shredded cheddar cheese and a dash of paprika. Wrap sandwich plate up with cling wrap and refrigerate for at least one hour.

# Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of The First Catholic Slovak Union of the USA and Canada March 22, 2025 • Home Office

## OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth Arendt called the meeting to order at 8:00am and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer.

## ROLL CALL:

Kevin Collins, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

Rev. Thomas Nasta .... National Chaplain .....Present  
Kenneth A. Arendt ..... National President.....Present  
Damian Nasta ..... National Vice President...Present  
Kevin Collins ..... Executive Secretary .....Present  
John Tokarsky..... National Treasurer .....Present  
via teleconference  
Gregory Maurer ..... Chairman of Auditors.....Present  
Joanne Fibbi..... Fraternal Activities  
Director .....Present  
Sabina Sabados..... Region 1 Director .....Present  
Nicole Nasta ..... Region 2 Director .....Present  
via teleconference  
Martha Zavada ..... Region 3 Director.....Present  
James Marmol ..... Region 4 Director.....Present  
Bradley Matta ..... Region 5 Director .....Present  
Thomas Ivanec ..... Region 6 Director .....Present  
Timothy Graves..... Region 7 Director .....Present  
Milos Mitro..... Region 8 Director .....Present  
Gary J. Matta ..... General Counsel .....Present

## READING OF THE CALL:

The Call to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union was posted on our website and published in the Jednota newspaper.

## PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Arendt presented the agenda for the Annual Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Sabina Sabados and seconded by James Marmol to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary, as he presents each item on the agenda with appropriate comments or recommendations. Motion carried.

## ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 14, 2024:

A motion was made by Thomas Ivanec and seconded by James Marmol to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held December 14, 2024, as presented. Motion carried.

## APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES:

The President appointed the following committees:

DONATION COMMITTEE	RESOLUTION COMMITTEE
Thomas Ivanec	Timothy Graves
Rev. Thomas Nasta	Rev. Thomas Nasta
	Martha Zavada

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME:

The President welcomed the Board of Directors to the 2025 Annual Meeting.

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT:

President Arendt presented his Annual Report for review and answered the Board's questions. The President's report will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

## CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT:

Chairman of Auditors Gregory Maurer presented the 2024 Auditors' Annual Report and found everything in excellent order. Following the report he answered the Board's questions.

Ohio Department of insurance is conducting their 5-year audit. Mr. Mauer did a 2-hour interview with the state.

## ACTUARIAL FIRM:

The President requested a motion to re-appoint Edward

Cowman of Miller & Newberg as our Actuary. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by James Marmol. Motion carried.

## STATE LICENSINGS:

The President gave a report with the addition of 11 states that we have added. Once we receive final approval and documentation, we can start to update policies and forms and begin to market and sell. The new states are Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Utah, and Vermont.

## OUTSIDE AUDITORS REPORT:

Stephen Niedenberger, CPA, of the accounting firm of Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP, joined the meeting. Mr. Niedenberger presented his annual report to the Board. He indicated the scope of his work and found all FCSU financial reports in excellent order. Mr. Niedenberger answered all the Board's questions to its satisfaction.

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2024:

### Executive Secretary's Report

President Arendt presented the financial summary report for the year ending 2024 and answered the Board's questions.

### Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Board of Directors giving a complete update of the investments and all current transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

### Portfolio Custodian

The Executive Secretary updated the Board of Directors on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank. Everything was found in order, and he answered the Board's questions.

### Investment Updates

The President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer led a review on the investments and transactions with the UBS Fund, MAI Fund, and the Clutterbuck Fund.

Following the reports, the President and the Executive Secretary answered the Board's questions.

## TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky presented a detailed Treasurer's Report for 2024 summarizing all the financial reports. The Treasurer's Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

The Treasurer's Report will be posted on the FCSU website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com).

## DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The President recognized Director of Fraternal Activities Joanne Fibbi, who presented a detailed report of all the 2024 activities to the Board of Directors.

The Director of Fraternal Activities Report will be posted on the FCSU website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com).

## ACTUARIAL REPORT:

Nick DePersis of ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting, Inc., presented his Management's Discussion and Analysis Report and the actuarial report for 2024 from Edward Cowman of Miller & Newburg. Mr. Cowman was available to join the meeting and answer questions, if necessary. Mr. DePersis stated that since each Board member received a copy of both reports, he will not read the entire report, but will just give the highlights. He gave a very extensive positive report for 2024. The FCSU continues to be a well-run profitable fraternal with outstanding financials as noted in our excellent RBC (Risk Based Capital) rating. A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Martha Zavada to accept the reports as presented. Motion carried.

Nick DePersis presented a report prepared by Bruce & Bruce regarding the FCSU pension plan and answered the Board's questions. The report indicated the plan is in compliance with all federal regulations.

Our Actuary, Edward Cowman, recommended that a dividend be paid in 2025 using the same format as used in 2024. A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Martha Zavada to pay the dividend. Motion carried.

## PRESENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### Executive Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Executive Committee Meetings. He stated that in accordance with the Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Executive Committee meets monthly and whenever else it is necessary to take care of the business of the Society.

Investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the investment policy adopted by the Board of Directors. All investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee members work very closely with the Society's Investment Advisor, AQS Asset Management.

### Pension Committee

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the current FCSU Pension Plan which was passed out to the Board of Directors for review. He stated that we are in full compliance with all federal regulations and answered the Board's questions.

### Scholarship Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Scholarship Committee, which is comprised of three independent professionals led by Father Gerard Gonda, OSB. Applications for the current FCSU scholarship program are being received and they will be sent to the Scholarship Committee. The Executive Secretary also gave a report on the Jednota Benevolent Foundation and answered the Board's questions.

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Executive Secretary gave a sales report on the \$100 annuity campaign. It was stated that it was a success.

The President stated we will reinstate the annuity campaign on June 1, 2025 or July 1, 2025. There will be a Zoom meeting with the Board to review the campaign before it is launched.

The Executive Secretary will start monthly Zoom meetings for all the branch officers. These meetings will include important information about products, forms, and current fraternal event. He encourages all branches to participate.

The Executive Secretary will begin to explore advertising in different markets. These markets include Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

The Executive Secretary stated that all pictures taken at all meetings and events need to have consent to be published in the newspaper and on the website. This includes adults and children. Any further questions can be directed to the Editor.

The President encourages Regional Directors to get feedback about the ads in the newspaper and on the website from Branches and Districts.

The Executive Secretary presented an overview on the updated website and encourages the Board to visit and give feedback.

The Executive Secretary's Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

## AQS REPORT:

Larry White, representing AQS Asset Management, presented an extensive PowerPoint presentation detailing our Investment Portfolio Transaction Report to the Board of Directors. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review. During and after the presentation, Larry White answered questions from the Board.

Mr. White reviewed our investment policy and stated we are in complete compliance with policy. Mr. White suggested that in 2025 we make reserve adjustments pertaining to annuity products, this will indicate an increase in reserves to align with compliance.

## MIDDLETOWN MEMORIAL:

The President asked Vice President Damian Nasta to conduct an onsite visit and meet with a landscaper

# Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting Friday, May 16, 2025 • Home Office

to review what is needed to maintain the memorial in Middletown, Pennsylvania. They will work on planting new flowers, trim overgrown shrubs, and power wash the Memorial.

**BUDGET COMPARISON:**

The President led a review of actual expenditures vs. what was budgeted for 2024. Everything was all in-line as budgeted. He answered the Board’s questions.

**REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL:**

General Counsel Gary Matta gave his 2024 report and answered the Board’s questions.

**CONVENTION SITE:**

The Executive Secretary presented a detailed PowerPoint about the location.

During the December 2024 Board of Directors meeting a motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Thomas Ivanec for the President to choose the location for the 2026 Convention after making a site visit and to review the hotel contract with General Counsel Gary Matta.

The site visit was conducted and the contract for the 2026 Convention will be signed. The convention will be held June 20-23, 2026 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Golf Resort & Conference Center in Greenville, South Carolina.

**INTERNAL AUDITOR:**

After the death of John Leskovyansky, the president advertised the position of Internal Auditor in the newspaper and on the website; per the bylaws. The President received 3 resumes, and sent them to Gregory Mauer and the Board for review. After discussion Gregory Mauer recommended Thomas Krispinsky from Youngstown, Ohio to complete the term. The motion was made by Thomas Ivanec and seconded by Damian Nasta.

The President wrote to the remaining applicants and encouraged them to remain involved in the Society.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND NATIONAL CHAPLAIN:**

The Regional Directors and the National Chaplain presented their annual reports and answered the Board’s questions.

All reports will be posted on the FCSU website at www.fcsu.com.

**DONATION COMMITTEE:**

All donation requests were reviewed. A motion was made by Thomas Ivanec and seconded by Sabina Sabados to accept the recommendations of the committee. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:**

No resolutions to review at this time.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING:**

A motion was made by Nicole Nasta and seconded by Gregory Maurer to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF ALL REPORTS:**

A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Milos Mitro to accept all the reports as presented. Motion carried.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Milos Mitro and seconded by Martha Zavada to adjourn. Motion carried.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with a Mass and memorial service for our deceased members and officers.

Kenneth A. Arendt                      Kevin J. Collins  
President, CEO                              Executive Secretary, COO

**OPEN MEETING:**

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 9am and asked Damian Nasta to lead the prayer.

**ROLL CALL:**

Members Attending By Video Conference:  
Kenneth A. Arendt ..... National President  
Damian Nasta ..... National Vice President  
Kevin J. Collins ..... Executive Secretary  
John Tokarsky..... Treasurer  
Nicole Nasta ..... Regional Director  
(by invitation of the President)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the March 22, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by John Tokarsky to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report to Executive Committee. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his/her review. Following the report, he answered the Committee’s questions.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

Treasurer John Tokarsky presented his monthly written Treasurer’s report to the Executive Committee. Following the report, he answered the Committee’s questions.

**ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:**

*Annuity Rates*  
The President led a discussion on the current annuity rates. The Executive Committee decided the annuity rates will remain the same and be reviewed at the May Executive Committee meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT:**

*Investment Updates*  
The President and the Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee Meeting on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. The Committee discussed the report and the Executive Secretary answered the Committee’s questions.

*Financial Report*  
The President and the Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for Quarter 1 of 2025 and answered the Committee’s questions.

*Portfolio Review*  
The President and the Executive Secretary updated the Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, found everything in order, and answered the Committee’s questions. The President stated he will invite representatives from MAI, UBS and Clutterbuck to attend a future Executive Meeting to review our investment portfolios.

*Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages*  
The President and the Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of March for the Committee’s review and answered their questions. The President led a discussion regarding new mortgage investments and answered the Committee’s questions.

*Monthly Disbursements*  
The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month March:  
Death Benefits & Accumulations..... \$311,687.00  
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations..... \$60,242.68  
Matured Endowments & Accumulations ..... \$0.00  
Trust Fund..... \$0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

The Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered all questions.

The President led a review of our FHLB advances and their current rates for possible future advancements.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The Executive Secretary stated a Zoom call will be set up next month for Districts and Branches to participate in to discuss current insurance and annuity products. Further details will be on the website and published in the newspaper.

The Executive Secretary will be sending an email to Districts and Branches outlining talking points for their meetings.

The Executive Secretary is exploring new markets for advertising; these markets are Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Advertising will continue on Fox 8 in Cleveland and on the 2 Slovak radio stations.

**FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:**

The President and Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on upcoming fraternal activities. The International Bowling Tournament was held April 26-27, 2025 at Kent Lanes in Kent, Ohio. There was excellent turnout and participation. A National Picnic will be held on June 21, 2025 at Knoebels in Elysberg, Pennsylvania. Another National Picnic will be held on June 28, 2025 at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty, Ohio. The 2025 FCSU International Golf Tournament will be held July 18-20, 2025 at Lakeview Golf Resort in Morgantown, West Virginia. All upcoming fraternal activities will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

The President stated the 2026 Convention will be held June 20-23, 2026 at Embassy Suites by Hilton Greenville Golf Resort & Conference Center in Greenville, South Carolina. The call for the convention will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by John Tokarsky to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Damian Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Kenneth A. Arendt                      Kevin J. Collins  
President, CEO                              Executive Secretary, COO

*Crossword Puzzle Solution from Page 11*

C	O	S		A	T	L	A	S		A	S	S	A	M					
H	I	T		R	E	A	D	Y		M	O	O	L	A					
A	L	A		C	A	T	E	R	P	I	L	L	A	R					
N	E	T	S		S	E	P	I	A		D	U	N						
				R	U	N	S			T	A	R	G	E	T				
				S	E	A	N	C	E	S		A	R	I	E	S			
						R	E	A	R		P	A	L		O	N	O		
				P	I	G	L	E	T	S		I	S	L	A	N	D	S	
				E	T	A		Z	E	E		T	I	E	S				
				P	O	S	S	E			S	T	A	R	T	L	E		
						M	A	S	C	O	T			Y	E	A	R		
						L	A	C		O	R	A	N	G		R	U	M	P
				F	I	S	H	I	N	G	P	O	L	E		D	I	E	
				I	N	K	E	D			A	L	T	A	R		E	N	E
				B	E	S	T	S			N	E	E	D	S		D	E	L

**What’s black and white and red all over?  
“A zebra with a sunburn”**

**What did the sand say when the tide came in?  
“I’m shore glad to see you!”**

# Hot fun in the summertime!

## Dog Days of Summer 2025 Photo Contest



### Enter a Favorite Photo of your Furry Friend

FOUR CATEGORIES OF PHOTOS - Open to Dogs and Cats

- Keeping Cool
- Playing Around
- Looking Alike
- Making Mischief

- KEEPING COOL** Show us how your pet keeps cool in the summer sun. How do they beat the heat?
- PLAYING AROUND** Capture your pet in action -- jumping, running, catching, etc. -- just having fun.
- LOOKING ALIKE** Send us your best look-a-like photo of you with your fur baby. (Not just dressed alike.)
- MAKING MISCHIEF** Catch your furry friend in the act of being naughty. "Who me?"

Portraits of cute pets are adorable, but please be sure your photo represents one of the four categories. The most unique photos have the best chance to win. (It is difficult to select a winner from dozens of dogs sitting by a pool.) Cash prizes of \$200, \$150, \$100, and \$50 will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places within each category.\* Sixteen prizes in total. Limit of one photo submission per member. The pet may be yours, belong to a friend, neighbor or another family member. Winning photos will be published in the Jednota.

## Dog Days of Summer Photo Contest Entry Form

Email your digital photo and completed entry form to [jfibbi@fcsu.com](mailto:jfibbi@fcsu.com).

Or mail your entry form and a printed photo to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. **Missing information will result in disqualification of entry. Each entry must be submitted in a separate email.**

Email Subject line must read: Dog Days Entry.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SELECT ONE CATEGORY:

KEEPING COOL       PLAYING AROUND

LOOKING ALIKE       MAKING MISCHIEF

PET'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTO CAPTION: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Please print in ink or fill-in on-line.  
\*The decisions of independent judges are final.  
Additional entry forms are available on-line at [fcsu.com](http://fcsu.com).

**Entry Deadline: September 10, 2025, no exceptions.**

**Saints Cyril & Methodius District 17**

**Party Box Event at PNC Field**  
**Friday, August 15, 2025**  
Game Time - 6:30pm  
Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders vs. Indianapolis Indians  
PNC Field • Moosic, Pennsylvania

Members: \$15 each  
Non-Members: \$40 each

- Entrance to PNC Field
- Entry through the Mohegan Sun Club Entrance!
- Food and beverages on covered deck in right field!
- Food will be available at 5:30pm
- All the friendly socializing you can get!
- PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!!!
- Fireworks after the game!!!!

**Contact Your Branch Officer to RSVP:**

Branch 5P Martha Zavada 570.954.3771	Branch 173K Carl Ungvarsky 570.868.6066
Branch 166K Morgan Dendler 607.206.7243	Branch 382K Elizabeth M. Slovenkai 570.344.3854

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID FOR BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2025**  
Make your check payable to your Branch!

**Saints Cyril & Methodius Branch 382**

**Annual Summer Picnic**  
Saturday, August 23, 2025  
Noon to Dusk

Holy Family Social and Welfare Grounds  
486 Jubilee Road  
Covington Township, Pennsylvania

Members: \$10 per person  
Non-Members: \$25 per person  
Children age 10 and under: Free

For reservations and additional information, contact Branch President **Elizabeth M. Slovenkai at 570.344.3854.**

*Reservations close on Thursday, August 14th*  
*Payment must be received by Tuesday, August 19th*  
**Your check guarantees your reservation!**

Checks are to be made payable to FCSU Branch 382K and mail to:  
Elizabeth M. Slovenkai  
505 Emmett Street  
Scranton, PA 18505-1016

**Cleveland Slovak Radio Club**  
is hosting  
**SLOVAK FESTIVAL**

**Saturday, July 19**  
**from 12pm to 11pm**  
**Admission - \$1**

St. Sava Serbian Church Property  
2151 W. Wallings Road  
Broadview Heights  
(Between State Rd. and Broadview Rd.)

Serving Traditional Slovak Food,  
Full Bar & Pastries  
Live Music for Listening & Dancing  
by the Harmonia Band

Sponsored By: