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Volume 134

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025

NUMBER 6052

Message from the President

Young FCSU members are out of school for summer, but we're still celebrating students! We are excited to congratulate all of our 2025 FCSU Scholarship winners. With so many incredible applicants and thought-provoking essays, we were inspired to launch a brand-new feature: the FCSU Scholar Spotlight. In this first edition, we highlight Patrick Monks, learning more about his journey with FCSU, his aspirations for the future, and sharing his inspiring essay.

We want to feature more students in the future! If you are a past scholarship recipient, we'd be thrilled to hear your updates—whether it is about your education, career, or achievements.

Several years ago, we received a generous endowment from Stephen C. Matula, who earmarked the funds for scholarships for students of Slovak heritage. Following his lead, we have decided to build up our established FCSU Benevolent Scholarship Fund. Contributions of any size are appreciated—and you can even include the fund in your estate planning.

We are proud to introduce a new initiative, Branding Bucks! Members are encouraged to promote FCSU in their communities by wearing or displaying our new FCSU Financial® logo. When Branches or Districts purchase display materials, apparel, or accessories from our online gift shop, we will reimburse them up to \$300 annually for qualifying purchases.

National Events are in full swing! In this issue, we are excited to share highlights from the International Bowling Tournament held in April. Thank you to everyone who participated! Up next are our popular summer picnics at Knoebels and Wiegand Lake Park, both happening in the coming weeks. Attendance continues to grow each year, and we look forward to seeing many families join us. Our Annual Golf Outing weekend is coming in July!

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the National Shrine Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows, and we are planning a memorable celebration. Branches and Districts that wish to rent buses for the event will be eligible for reimbursement from the Home Office. Finally, our Family Fall Festival returns to Simmons Farm this autumn!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our Fraternal Activities Director, Joanne Fibbi, the dedicated Home Office staff, and all our members who bring these events to life. We especially encourage our newer members to join us—come have fun, get involved, and meet fellow members. We hope to see you soon!



Kenneth A. Arendt
President, CEO

Last-Minute College Financing Ideas

The cost of a college education continues to rise. For the 2024–2025 academic year, the average total cost — including tuition, fees, and room and board — is approximately \$24,030 at four-year public colleges and \$56,190 at four-year private colleges, according to the College Board. If your child is heading to college soon and your savings aren't where they should be, there are still several strategies you can consider to help bridge the gap.

Find Financial Aid Dollars

Today, nearly 85% of full-time undergraduates receive some form of financial aid from federal and state governments, colleges and universities, and private organizations. If you believe you might qualify, start by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at studentaid.gov. Submitting the FAFSA is essential even if you think you may not qualify — most schools require it for merit-based aid, too.

In addition to federal aid, search for private scholarships. FCSU offers three types of scholarships throughout the year. Look next for the Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc. Scholarship applications this fall. The College Board's BigFuture (bigfuture.collegeboard.org) and Fastweb (fastweb.com) offer free scholarship databases. Check with community foundations, local businesses, religious organizations, and even your employer for additional opportunities.

Beware of scams. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) warns against companies that charge fees to "guarantee" scholarships or financial aid. Always use free and reputable resources.

Seek a Strong Academic Match

Students who apply to schools where their GPA and test scores

Continued on Page 7

UPCOMING

EVENTS

SUMMER/FALL 2025

Plans are well underway for our National Events. We look forward to seeing you at one or all of these fun activities!



Saturday, June 21

391 Knoebels Blvd • Elysburg, PA • 12pm - 8pm

UPDATE! Now Meeting in Pavilion "R"



Saturday, June 28

9346 Kinsman Rd • Novelty, OH • 11am - 7pm



Friday, July 18 - Sunday, July 20

One Lakeview Dr • Morgantown, WV

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

Saturday, September 14

400 Michigan Ave • Washington, DC

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL
at **SIMMONS FARM**

Saturday, October 4

170 Simmons Rd • McMurray, PA • 11am-4pm

All event details are
available on our website
fcsu.com/events

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

FCSU Corporate Center
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.

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Shannon Trivise, editor@fcsu.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attn: "JEDNOTA"
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Message from the National Chaplain

Since June is the month dedicated each year to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, here is a summary of the fourth encyclical by Pope Francis, *He Loved Us (Dilexit Nos)*, on Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, issued on October 24, 2024



**Rev. Thomas Nasta
Chaplain**

CHAPTER ONE

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HEART: The heart has symbolized the love of Jesus for countless generations. In today's world, we need to rediscover the importance of the heart.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "THE HEART"?: Kardia, the word for heart in classical Greek, is used in Greek literature to describe everything from the inmost part of the plant and animal world, to the center of a person's soul and spirit, to the place from where one's thoughts and feelings are manifest, to "the locus of desire and the place where important decisions take shape..."

RETURNING TO THE HEART: The philosophies of rationalism, idealism, and materialism have historically ignored the heart in favor of concepts such as reason, will, and freedom. To devalue the heart is to "devalue what it means to speak from the heart, to act with the heart, to cultivate and heal the heart..."

THE WORLD CAN CHANGE, BEGINNING WITH THE HEART: The heart is the source of union, reconciliation, and peace. The human heart, frail and wounded, needs the help of God's love in order for us to live the Gospel authentically and carry out its demands.

CHAPTER TWO

ACTIONS THAT REFLECT THE HEART: By examining the manner in which Jesus interacted with others during his public ministry, we can discover how he treats and loves each of us.

JESUS' GAZE: When the Lord calls us for a mission, "he first looks at you, plumbs the depths of your heart and, knowing everything about you, fixes his gaze on you..."

JESUS' WORDS: At times, the Gospels have Jesus speak to us inwardly, calling and leading us to his heart. They show Christ's emotions. His love was compassionate and passionate; he really cared about people who were, for example, weary and hungry. The Gospels also reveal his deep feelings towards Jerusalem and his impending crucifixion.

CHAPTER THREE

THIS IS THE HEART THAT HAS LOVED SO GREATLY: Devotion to the Sacred Heart is to the whole person of Jesus Christ, Son of God. It is not an adoration of the human heart of Jesus separate and distinct from the other organs of his human body.

WORSHIPING CHRIST: While we venerate the image of the Lord's heart, we worship Jesus in his divinity and humanity in order that his human and divine love may embrace us.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus points us to Christ himself, who calls us to a deep and personal friendship.

VENERATING HIS IMAGE: Throughout history, the heart has been a symbol of "intimacy, affection, emotional attachment and capacity for love." When we "speak from the heart," we say something very personal. It makes sense, then, for the image of the heart to represent "the human and divine love of Jesus Christ and the inmost core of his Person."

A LOVE THAT IS TANGIBLE: We need to recall that not only love reigns in the human heart. Hatred, selfishness and indifference also can find a home there.

By meditating upon Christ's heart, we meditate upon a physical reality in and through which he possessed "genuine human emotions and feelings, like ourselves..." The image of his heart of flesh helps us to recall Christ's divine love and his human love are inseparable.

A THREEFOLD LOVE: The love of the Lord that comes from his heart is threefold. It is divine. It is human. It is sensible. It is in Christ's human love that we encounter his divine love.

"It is the constant and unequivocal teaching of the church that our worship of Christ's person is undivided, inseparable both his divine and his human nature."

TRINITARIAN PERSPECTIVES: All hopes and desires of Christ's human heart were directed always to God the Father.

The Holy Spirit alone can cause our human hearts to gain strength from the fullness of Christ's love, symbolized by his heart.

The liturgy always gives glory to the Father from the risen heart of Christ through the vitalization work of the Holy Spirit.

RECENT TEACHINGS OF THE MAGISTERIUM: Christ's heart never has been absent from the history of Christian spirituality. This spirituality, originally centered on the wounded side of Christ, gradually over the centuries became devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Continued on Page 4

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

JULY 2025 ISSUE

COPY DATE - MONDAY, JUNE 30
ISSUE DATE - WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

AUGUST 2025 ISSUE

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



Message from the Executive Secretary

The new Branch and District Virtual Call Program launched last month and was well received! Thanks to everyone who attended and asked thought-provoking questions. I will continue to conduct these meetings that are scheduled to last 45 minutes. Our next session will be held at two different times on Wednesday, June 25th. When logging in please keep your microphone muted on your computer or cell phone muted during presentation.

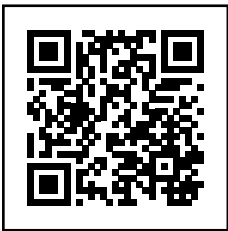


Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary, COO



Join Us for our Next Session:
Wednesday, June 25th • 12:00pm (EST)
Wednesday, June 25th • 6:00pm (EST)

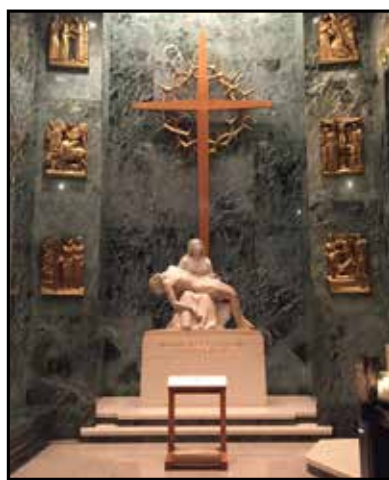
We will review several key forms—Beneficiary Update Form, Service Request Form, Deceased Claim Report, and Branch Member Transfer Form—and highlight important recent updates. In addition, we’ll go over the Branch announcement guidelines, including what’s required when submitting announcements for General Meetings, Election Meetings, and Fraternalism in Action articles for the newspaper or website. Lastly, we’ll discuss the Branch Reimbursement Program and share tips on how to maximize your event reimbursement.



Visit our website at
fcsu.com/about/newsroom/
or scan the QR code to get the zoom link.

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the National Shrine Chapel on September 13th

On September 5, 1965, thousands of Slovak Catholics gathered at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, for the blessing of a chapel honoring their patroness, Our Mother of Sorrows. This chapel was a gift from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU Financial), commemorating the society’s 75th anniversary. Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi, the apostolic delegate to the United States, performed the blessing.



Following the blessing, Bishop Andrew G. Grutka of Gary, Indiana, celebrated a Mass of consecration in the Slovak language. Bishop Paul Hnilica, S.J., visiting from Rome, delivered a sermon in Slovak, while Coadjutor Bishop Joseph A. Durick of Nashville spoke in English. The chapel’s altar had been consecrated the previous day, September 4, by Bishop Grutka. The Mass and sermon for that ceremony were led by Abbot Theodore Kojis, O.S.B., of St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio.

To honor the 60th anniversary of this significant event, a pilgrimage will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, September 13, 2025. The full schedule of events is provided, and all are warmly invited to take part in this special celebration. Food will not be available for purchase inside the Basilica, but the cafeteria is available to enjoy your own lunch or snacks.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



JUNE 2025

- 6/14 Branch 153 - Meeting, Harwood Heights, IL (RSVP)
- 6/14 Branch 166 - Ice Cream Social, Windor, NY
- 6/14 Branch 484 - Meeting, Indiana, PA
- 6/14 Home Office - Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting
- 6/15 **Father's Day**
- 6/16 Branch 228 - Meeting, Lorain, OH
- 6/16 Branch 785 - Meeting, Mississauga, Ontario
- 6/16 District 19 - Meeting, Mississauga, Ontario
- 6/17 Branch 367 - Meeting, Fairchance, PA (RSVP)
- 6/18 Branch 857 - Meeting (Zoom)
- 6/21 **National Picnic - Knoebels, Elysburg, PA (RSVP)**
- 6/21 Branch 112 - Meeting, Elysburg, PA
- 6/21 District 8 - Meeting, Elysburg, PA
- 6/22 Branch 162 - Meeting, Connellsville, PA (RSVP by 6/16)
- 6/22 Branch 320 - Meeting, Belle Vernon, PA (RSVP)
- 6/25 Branch 553 - Meeting, Akron, OH (Bylaws)
- 6/28 **National Picnic - Wiegand Lake Park, Novelty, OH (RSVP)**
- 6/29 Branch 181 - Picnic, Mammoth, PA

JULY 2025

- 7/4 **Independence Day - Home Office Closed**
- 7/4 Branch 746 - Mass, Linden, NJ
- 7/6 Branch 716 - Picnic, New York, NY
- 7/7 Branch 199 - Meeting, Erie, PA
- 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 (RSVP by 6/20)
- 7/13 District 9 - Meeting, Uniontown, PA
- 7/17 Branch 410 - Meeting, Uniontown, PA (RSVP by 7/14)
- 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 Region 1 - Picnic, Linden, NJ
- 7/20 Late Nite Catechism - Munster, IN (RSVP by 6/21)
- 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

For more information, go to the Branch and District announcement pages.

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

- 11am Pilgrims Arrive
- 11:30am Welcome (Upper Church)
- 11:45am Seated overview tour (Upper Church)
- 12-1:15pm Confessions in Memorial Hall
Lunch in cafeteria
- 1:30pm Mass Celebration (Upper Church)
- 2:30pm Procession to Chapel of our Mother of Sorrows
Litany
Final Blessing
Blessing of Religious Articles
- 4pm Pilgrims Depart



Nasta, Continued from Page 2

FURTHER REFLECTIONS AND RELEVANCE FOR OUR TIMES: Francis reminds the faithful they are under no obligation to put the same level of belief in apparitions to private individuals as we are to do with public revelation, for example, the Word of God. Nonetheless, stories of private revelations can be most helpful in one's spiritual journey.

Francis proposes a renewed reflection for the entire church of Christ's love represented by and in his Sacred Heart. He sees it as a way to combat certain attitudes and movements that run contrary to true prayer, worship, and devotion.

CHAPTER FOUR

A LOVE THAT GIVES ITSELF AS DRINK: The pope invites the reader to join him in reading and gaining insight into passages of Scripture that have guided the spiritual journey of God's people throughout history.

A GOD WHO THIRSTS FOR LOVE: The annual Feast of Booths, which Jews commemorated the 40-year journey of their ancestors in the desert before reaching the Promised Land, "gradually adopted the symbolism of water as a central element." The arrival of the Messiah was looked at as a fountain that would spring up. The water that flowed from Christ's pierced side (cf. John 19:34) was interpreted as a fulfillment of that prophecy.

THE SPREAD OF DEVOTION TO THE HEART OF CHRIST: Over time, devotion to the heart of Christ spread from the medieval monasteries to all across the world. Particular mention is given to Saint John Eudes, who in the 17th century initiated a movement for his local diocese to have a feast of the Adorable Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ. A liturgical feast honoring the Sacred Heart soon spread to other dioceses in France.

A NEW DECLARATION OF LOVE: Jesus appeared to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque a number of times between December 1673 and June 1675. Francis reminds us that we are not obligated to believe every detail of her experience. The core of the message, summarized in the words that Saint Margaret Mary heard, is more important than any other detail. "This is the heart that so loved human beings that it has spared nothing, even to emptying and consuming itself in order to show them his love."

SAINTE CLAUDE DE LA COLUMBIÈRE: Saint Claude de la Columbière took on a responsibility to develop the understanding of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To reflect upon the Sacred Heart is to surrender oneself completely to Christ.

RESONANCES WITHIN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS: Saint Ignatius of Loyola suggests retreatants are to share their concerns with Christ and seek his wisdom by entering into the Lord's Sacred Heart. The saint also invites the retreatant to place himself or herself at the foot of the Cross and ask what he or she is to do for him.

Saint John Paul II recognized the relationship between Ignatian spirituality and devotion to the Sacred Heart and so urged all members of the Society of Jesus to promote its devotion zealously.

THE DEVOTION OF CONSOLATION: The wound in Christ's side, caused by the soldier's lance and the wounds from the Crown of Thorns cannot be separated from devotion to the Sacred Heart in which one reflects on the complete and total self-sacrifice of Christ.

CHAPTER FIVE

LOVE FOR LIFE: The spiritual experiences of Saint Margaret Mary draw us not only to announce our love for Jesus, but also inspire us to accept his loving invitation to entrust our lives to him, despite our shortcomings and weaknesses

A LAMENT AND A REQUEST: During his second apparition to Saint Margaret Mary, Jesus spoke of his sadness because so many have greeted his love with indifference and ingratitude. This "is more grievous to me than all I endured in my Passion."

Christ's heart is not indifferent to the manner in which we respond to his thirst for his love.

EXTENDING CHRIST'S LOVE TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS: The Scriptures, especially Matthew 25:40; Galatians 5:14; John 3:14 and 4:20, are clear in telling us the best way to show our love for Christ's Sacred Heart is to love our brothers and sisters. This work requires the transforming selfish hearts to selfless hearts.

Francis recalls the works of love early Christians showed to people in the Roman Empire who lived on the fringes of society. They did such a good job that the Emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363) attempted a secular version of the social services offered by the Christians in order to gain admiration from the citizenry. His efforts were unsuccessful, for they were unable to match the charity which respected the dignity of each person upon which the works of Christians were based.

REPARATION: AN EXTENSION OF THE HEART OF CHRIST: Our turning away from Christ's gracious gift of his love creates a barrier to his love. Our acceptance of it presents a means by which his love enters our hearts.

Francis describes reparation as removal of any lack of trust or gratitude we place in the way of Christ's merciful love.

ECHOES IN THE HISTORY OF SPIRITUALITY: Integrity and Harmony - When we allow the love of Christ to enter our hearts and let its fire inflame us, we become able of loving one another as Christ did and taught.

The pope reminds us the act of reparation has a Trinitarian dimension: "[R]eparation made by Christ in his humanity is offered to the Father through the working of the

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Fasting from Media to Connect with God

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Never before have we been inundated with as many media choices as today. From TikTok and Instagram to TV, movie, and music streaming services, the amounts of news and entertainment competing for our attention can be overwhelming and disorienting to our hearts, minds, and spirits. Sometimes, the healthiest solution is to step away from it all for a while. As a Daughter of St. Paul and the Director of Pauline Media Studies in Los Angeles, Sister Nancy Usselman's work often focuses on media literacy, but she has also explored how people can come to control their media consumption instead of letting it control them. Her book is titled "Media Fasting: Six Weeks to Recharge in Christ."

Sister Nancy approaches media not as a scold but as a fan, having grown up loving books, films, and TV programs. On social media, she particularly enjoys Instagram Reels, which she finds funny and creative. The fact that the Daughters of St. Paul use media to teach about Jesus and communicate gospel principles is what drew her to the order. "We need to be able to look at our media culture and integrate our faith with it, not keep it separate," she noted during a "Christopher Closeup" interview. She also acknowledges the downside to our modern media approach, saying, "Twenty years out from social media's invention, we're considering now, especially for children and teens, that it can lead to greater depression or...isolating ourselves. It can lead to sadness, to anxiety. It's time to pause and question, 'How am I using these media?'"

Sister Nancy wrote "Media Fasting" to help young people—and people of all ages—answer that question. She doesn't consider social media a bad thing. What matters is how—and how much—we use it. She and the Daughters of St. Paul create their own posts and reels "to give inspiration, hope, light, and joy to people, helping people to recognize that Christ is with them and Christ desires a relationship with them...These are technologies that God has allowed human beings to create. They're fantastic for sharing information and entertainment, but we also have to find when our brains and our souls need a little silence from all the digital noise."

In the book, Sister Nancy introduces readers to a variety of ways to engage in a digital fast because it can differ according to what each individual needs. For herself, she created time limits to keep from spending too much time watching Reels. Some give up watching the news. Others fast from social media for a weekend—or for several weeks. As the book's subtitle states, Sister Nancy offers a plan to take readers through a six-week fast if that's what they think they need.

"Try to eliminate that one element that's causing you the most trouble," Sister Nancy recommends. "Then, what's important is to consider, what will you replace that time with? Can it be a little bit more time for prayer?...Ten minutes of prayer a day can be truly transforming...Also, how do I reflect upon all my media use, so that when I do go back to it after the fast, I do so in a different way...It's going to challenge us to think about, 'What am I engaging with and why?' Consider, 'Hey, invite Jesus to watch it with me. Would I feel comfortable with that?...'There's a lot of secular media fasting out there, but this offers a spirituality, a way of living it while integrating it with our relationship with God."

Holy Spirit in each of us."

BRINGING LOVE TO THE WORLD: Mission radiates the love of the Sacred Heart within a person. It requires people in love with Christ to share this transforming love with others.

We are never to feel ashamed or embarrassed to speak of our friendship with Christ.

In communion of service - Our acts of love for members of the community may be the best and perhaps only way we can show our love for Christ to others. Helping others does not mean turning away from Jesus. Instead, we meet him in another way. Christ is with us when we attempt to help and care for another.

We must be missionary as the Christians of the first century, who proclaimed God's love and Christ as risen and worth knowing. Do not worry about seeing immediate results. "Keep experiencing the joy born of our efforts to share the love of Christ with others."

CONCLUSION

The pope relates He Loved Us with two of his earlier encyclicals, Praise Be (Laudato Si) from 2015 and Brothers All (Fratelli Tutti) from 2020 by stating they all deal with "our encounter with the love of Jesus Christ." Experiencing that love can lead us to unity with each other, respect for the dignity of each individual, and a common aim to care for the earth.

N·E·W·S *from the Home Office*

Attention Branches & Districts!

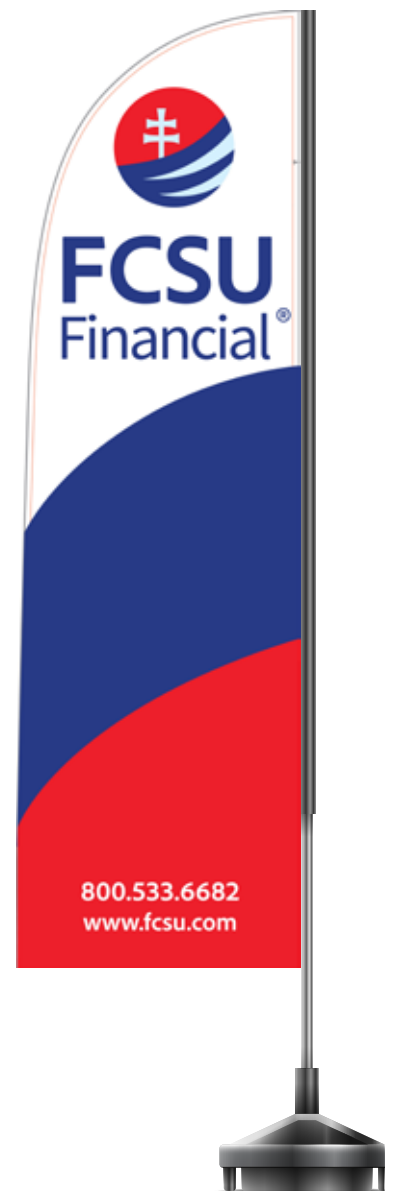
Introducing the \$300 Branding Bucks Program!



We love our new logo and need your help to show it off!

As part of our rebranding effort, we are proud to introduce our new program, Branding Bucks! We are excited to offer each Branch and District up to \$300 per year to purchase promotional materials to help represent FCSU Financial® at events, meetings, and community gatherings.

Displaying our brand and wearing logo apparel is a great way to show your pride, promote our fraternalism and mission, and spark conversations about the value of our Life Insurance and Annuities.



ELIGIBLE ITEMS INCLUDE:

DISPLAY MATERIALS: Table Runners and Feather Banners

APPAREL: Shirts, Jackets, and Sweatshirts for Men and Women

ACCESSORIES: Hats, Beanies, Backpacks, and Tumblers

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- **Orders must be placed through the FCSU Gift Shop at fcsu.com.**
- Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery.
- Submit Branding Bucks Payment Form and receipt(s) to the Home Office by mail or email to branch@fcsu.com and/or district@fcsu.com.
- Branches and Districts will be reimbursed up to \$300 annually.
- Unused amounts do not carry over.

Let's work together to spread the word and strengthen our identity - in style!

All members are encouraged to purchase FCSU Apparel. All proceeds benefit our FCSU Benevolent Scholarship Fund.

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It's Crucial to Keep Your Contact Information Updated

At FCSU Financial® our top priority is ensuring that you and your loved ones receive the benefits you've planned for — whether it's through your Annuity, IRA, or Life Insurance policy. One of the simplest but most important steps you can take to protect your financial future is keeping your contact information up to date.

Why It Matters

We're here to serve you, but we need to be able to reach you. Life changes—like a move, a new phone number, or a different email address—can easily create communication gaps. If we don't have your most current contact details, there may be delays in getting your benefits to you or your beneficiaries when the time comes.

What You Should Do

Please take a moment to verify that your email, phone number, and mailing address are correct. Also, make sure your listed beneficiaries and their contact information are up to date. This ensures that the right people receive the right support—without delays or confusion.

Your Privacy is Our Priority

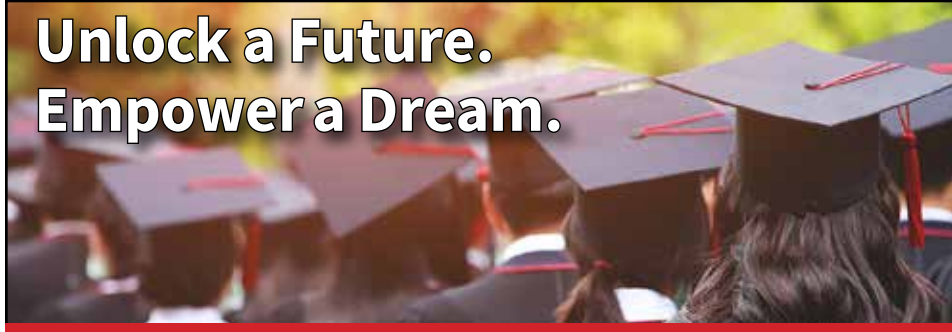
Rest assured, we do not sell or share your information. The updates we request are solely to make sure we can reach you promptly when it matters most. Your peace of mind is important to us. Keeping your contact information current is a small step that makes a big difference.

Update Your Address, Phone and Email Through Our On-line Portal

If you have already created an on-line account, *log in to the portal* and follow these simple directions.

- #1: The home screen gives a summary of your accounts. Click on "Update Profile".
- #2: One piece of required information is your certificate number. The number is listed under "policy" on the previous page. The back arrow can not be used, but you can click on the still open tab labeled fraternalsoftware.net. Copy and paste or retype the number in the designated area.
- #3: Fill in all required information. If you have additional instructions, use the "Comments" area. Hit submit.

If you are the owner of multiple policies, you will only have to change your address/email one time. Our staff will receive a notification and will update your accounts. If the staff has questions they will call you directly. If you have questions about updating your information please contact the Home Office at 800.533.6682 ext. 125. Should you receive a message stating that "your credentials do not match our records," please dial ext. 129.



Donate to the FCSU Benevolent Scholarship Fund

A college education has the power to transform lives—opening doors to opportunity, growth, and a brighter future. But for too many students, rising costs put that dream just out of reach.

At FCSU Financial, we proudly uphold our commitment to faith, heritage, and community by awarding more than \$200,000 in scholarships each year to students of Slovak-Catholic descent. These scholarships do more than ease a financial burden—they ignite potential and shape futures. To continue giving generously and sustainably, we are building our Endowment Fund—a lasting source of support that ensures our scholarship program will thrive for generations to come.

Your donation to the FCSU Benevolent Scholarship Fund is not just a gift—it's an act of hope. It's an investment in tomorrow's leaders, caregivers, innovators, and citizens.

When you contribute, you're helping a young person go further than they ever thought possible. You're honoring our shared values and ensuring they live on in the next generation.

You can give in honor or memory of someone special, or make a tax-deductible gift through your IRA's Required Minimum Distribution. We also gratefully accept planned gifts through wills, trusts, or property.

Education changes lives. Together, we can be the reason why.

Donate Today. Inspire Tomorrow.

YES! I want to help. Here is my gift to help support the future.
Please accept my tax-deductible contribution of:

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Special Instructions: _____

I have included the FCSU Benevolent Scholarship Fund in my estate plans.

Please send me information on gifts of trusts, property, will and deferred giving.

Please make checks payable to
"FCSU Benevolent Scholarship Fund" and mail to:

FCSU Benevolent Scholarship Fund
6611 Rockside Road • Suite 300 • Independence, OH 44131

MEMBER *Spotlight*

SISTER KAITLIN TROKAN

Sr. Kaitlin Trokan Professes First Vows with Salesian Sisters

On August 5, 2024, Sr. Kaitlin Trokan took a significant step in her spiritual journey by professing her first vows with the Salesian Sisters of Saint John Bosco in North Haledon, New Jersey. Surrounded by loved ones, Sr. Kaitlin embraced her calling during a joyful and faith-filled celebration.

Following the ceremony, Sr. Kaitlin traveled to Naples, Florida, where she currently teaches theology at St. John Neumann High School. As she continues to live out her vocation, she will spend the next six to nine years in further discernment before making her final profession of vows.

A proud member of Branch 89 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Sr. Kaitlin grew up in a devout Catholic and Slovak family. In 2014, she was awarded a Jednota scholarship, which helped support her college education. She began her studies at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire and later transferred to the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, where she earned a Bachelor’s Degree in English Education in May 2018.

Sr. Kaitlin first visited Slovakia for three weeks during college. She has always felt a connection to Slovakia through family, traditions and the exchange students her family hosted. After graduation, she was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship and spent a year in Košice, Slovakia, teaching English as a foreign language. While living with a local family and immersing herself in Slovak culture, Sr. Kaitlin encountered the Salesian community while teaching at Gymnázium sv. Edity Steinovej. Inspired by the joyful witness and dedication of the Salesian Sisters and Priests, she began to feel a call to religious life.

Sr. Kaitlin’s ties to Slovakia extend beyond her own travels. While she was a student at Catholic Memorial High School, her family hosted two Slovak exchange students and one from the Czech Republic. These relationships have remained strong over the years, and Sr. Kaitlin even had the honor of standing in the wedding of one former exchange student in Bojnice, Slovakia—a celebration held in the picturesque Bojnice Castle.



Altogether, Sr. Kaitlin has visited Slovakia four times, with her parents accompanying her on two of those trips. Their most recent journey in August 2023 included visits to her host family in Košice, previous exchange students and their families in Ružomberok and Bratislava, and the Trokan family’s ancestral village of Dolná Poruba. There, they explored the local church and cemetery, toured a distillery, and discovered a charming restaurant named Pizzéria u Trokana. They also had the pleasure of meeting the town’s mayor, Zuzana Vániová, who shared stories of Dolná Poruba’s rich history.

Sr. Kaitlin’s decision to become a Salesian Sister was deeply influenced by the example of the community she encountered in Slovakia. Today, she continues to embody the mission of the Salesian Sisters of Saint John Bosco—to bring Christ to young people through education, presence, and joyful service. To learn more about the Salesian Sisters and their mission, visit salesiansisters.org.

We offer our heartfelt congratulations and prayers to Sr. Kaitlin as she continues her journey of faith and service.



Continued from Page 1

place them in the top 25% of applicants often receive the most generous aid. Many colleges use merit-based aid to attract top students. This can significantly reduce out-of-pocket costs.

Negotiate Your Offer

If your student is accepted but the financial aid offer isn’t enough, consider appealing the decision. Contact the school’s financial aid office and explain your financial situation. Be honest and provide documentation, especially if your circumstances have changed (e.g., job loss or medical bills). Many colleges are willing to reconsider aid packages if they know the student is serious about attending.

Start at a Community College

Community colleges remain one of the most cost-effective ways to earn college credits. Many students begin at a local community college and then transfer to a four-year university, earning a bachelor’s degree for a fraction of the price. Just be sure to verify transfer agreements and GPA requirements with your target institution before enrolling.

For Younger Students, Maximize Tax Benefits with a Coverdell Education Savings Account with FCSU Financial

Opening a Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA) can provide your child with the financial support they need for future education expenses, from elementary school through college. With tax-free growth on your contributions, a Coverdell ESA is a powerful tool to help you save for educational expenses.

- Your contributions grow tax-free, and withdrawals for qualified education expenses are also tax-free, maximizing your savings for education.
- You can use funds for a wide range of education-related expenses, including tuition, fees, books, and even K-12 education.
- Unlike other education savings plans, there are no penalties for withdrawals when used for qualified education expenses.
- Contribute up to \$2,000 per year for your child until they turn 18.

the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius
invite you to Villa Sacred Heart in Danville PA
to celebrate with us the

50th Anniversary

of the Summer Festival

Saturday, July 12, 2025
10:30 am to 5:00 pm
Saturday Mass for Sunday
5:00 in the Basilica

Enjoy:

- Food Trucks
- Sisters' Bakery
- Flea Market
- Furniture
- Arts & Crafts
- Religious Articles
- Bingo
- Books
- Silent Auction
- Games for Children and Cornhole

The 2025 FCSU International Bowling Tournament Continues on a Roll

Submitted by Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director

FCSU members and guests gathered in Kent, OH in April for the 2025 International Bowling Tournament. It was a spectacular two-day event with great displays of bowling prowess. In addition to the spirited competition, all enjoyed amazing fellowship and shared meals throughout the weekend.

The FCSU staff warmly welcomed our bowlers who came ready to battle it out for bragging rights and cash prizes. On Saturday, the tournament fielded 18 entries in the Teams event and 34 entries in Doubles competition. On Sunday, 43 bowlers competed in Men's Singles, with 15 bowlers in Women's Singles.

Topping off the experience was the chance to win an amazing array of raffle prizes, door prizes, plus three 50/50 jackpots. In all, participants won over \$12,000 in cash awards and prizes.

Father Thomas Nasta, FCSU National Chaplain, celebrated Mass before an outstanding celebration dinner at the Kent State University Hotel. Guests were challenged to a bowling trivia contest, which generated lots of laughter amid fierce competition, while the basket raffle offered many fabulous prizes and gift cards.

Thanks to our bowlers for a fantastic tournament. Any member, aged 18+, is welcome to join us next year. The Bowling Tournament is just one of many fraternal benefits and activities you can enjoy as a member of the FCSU. See you in 2026!



Mara-thon 1st Place Team Handicap: Team members include Mark Mara, Butch Pizzute, Steve Mara, and Paul Mara.



Wolf Ledge A/C 1st Place Team Scratch: Team members include Jeffrey Bardoun, Jay Fazek - Tournament Manager, Jeff Fazek and Howard Fincham.



Jeffrey Bardoun racked up the awards as the 1st Place Winner in Men's Singles Scratch, and as Men's All Event Scratch Winner. He topped off his stellar performance by rolling a perfect game. Congratulations Jeffrey!



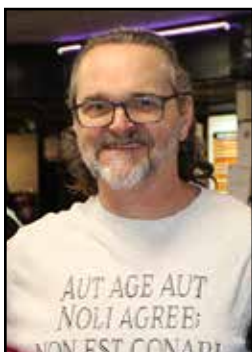
Women's All Events Scratch Winner Lynda Walters with teammate Ceil Kruly, 1st Place Women's Singles Scratch winner. Ceil also took top honors with highest game Handicap and Scratch.



1st Place Women's Singles Handicap winner Carol Ungvarsky pictured with her husband, FCSU Medical Director Dr. Richard Ungvarsky.



Women's All Events Handicap winner Anne Mitro with her husband, Region 8 Director Milos Mitro.



Tom Silay bowled his way to the top spot in Men's All Events Handicap. He also captured Highest Game in Doubles Scratch.



1st Place Men's Singles Handicap winner, and Teams highest game winner Alvin Ferreira had a great tournament.

Thanks for a GREAT Tournament!

Bowlers are eligible to win one prize per event, with the exception of Highest Game. If a bowler finishes in the prize money in both the scratch and handicap of the same event, they will receive the higher monetary prize. Next highest scorers will move into the prize money, based on their respective place finishes. First place bowlers will be acknowledged with a tournament shirt to commemorate their accomplishments. Limit of one first place shirt per bowler, regardless their number of first place finishes.



See **All Prize Winners** on the Next Page!

SAVE THE DATES

Announcing the
2026 FCSU International Bowling Tournament
April 25-26, 2026

Eastway Lanes, Erie PA
 Sheraton Bayfront Hotel • Erie, PA



TOURNAMENT PATRONS

- GOLD**
 - AQS Asset Management
 - ENDepersis Fraternal Consulting
 - FCSU Branch 553, Akron, OH
- SILVER**
 - Ken Arendt
 - Father Thomas Nasta
 - Pinpoint Computer Systems
- BRONZE**
 - Ray Lako
 - Dr. Rick and Carol Ungvarsky

LANE SPONSORS

- District 10
- Kevin Collins
- Joanne Fibbi
- Tom & Terri Ivanec
- Gary Matta
- Milos & Anne Mitro
- Fr. Thomas Nasta
- John Tokarsky
- Toronto Slovak Bowling League
- Dr. Rick & Carol Ungvarsky
- Branch 162
- Branch 553
- Branch 785
- Branch 855
- Branch 857
- Nicole Nasta
- Damian Nasta

Sincere Thanks to our Sponsors
 for Your Generous Financial Support

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP BOWLERS

Official Prize Winners by Events

Teams Event - Handicap (18 Entries)

1st Place	\$500	.....Mara-thon
2nd Place	\$450	..... Eastern
3rd Place	\$400	.....Don't Like It Dry
4th Place	\$350	.....P Stains
High Game	\$ 50	.....Alvin Ferreira

Teams Event - Scratch

1st Place	\$400	.....Wolf Ledge A/C
2nd Place	\$350	.....The DJs
3rd Place	\$300	..... Apollo 3
High Game	\$ 50	.....Alvin Ferreira

Doubles Event - Handicap (34 Entries)

1st Place	\$300	.....S. Mara/M. Mara
2nd Place	\$275	..... McGalliard/Semelsberger
3rd Place	\$250	..... Woichevich/Biscan
4th Place	\$225	.....Barton/Silay
5th Place	\$200	.....P. Mara/Pizzute
6th Place	\$175	.....Tatton/Gainer
High Game	\$ 50	..... Todd Semelsberger

Doubles Event - Scratch

1st Place	\$250	..... Fazek/Bardoun
2nd Place	\$225	.....Brottish/Johnston
3rd Place	\$200	..... Thorne/Fincham
4th Place	\$175	..... Kuvinka/Berestecky
High Game	\$ 50	..... Tom Silay

Singles Event - Men's Handicap (43 Entries)

1st Place	\$200	.....Alvin Ferreira
2nd Place	\$175	..... Rick McGalliard
3rd Place	\$150	..... James Saul
4th Place	\$125	..... Ron Derita
5th Place	\$100	.....Butch Pizzute
6th Place	\$ 75	..... Tom Silay
7th Place	\$ 50	..... Dennis Bradshaw
High Game	\$ 50	..... Rusty Groner

Singles Event - Men's Scratch

1st Place	\$175	.....Jeffrey Bardoun
2nd Place	\$150	.....Steve Bauer
3rd Place	\$125	..... Jeff Fazek
4th Place	\$100	..... Jay Fazek
5th Place	\$ 50	.....Derek Johnston
High Game	\$ 50	.....Jeffrey Bardoun

Singles Event - Women's Handicap (15 Entries)

1st Place	\$200	.....Carol Ungvarsky
2nd Place	\$150	.....Anne Mitro
3rd Place	\$100	..... Nancy Rice
High Game	\$ 50	..... Ceil Kruly

Singles Event - Women's Scratch

1st Place	\$175	..... Ceil Kruly
2nd Place	\$150	.....Lynda Walters
High Game	\$ 50	..... Ceil Kruly

All Events Men (40 Entries)

1st Place (H)	\$75	..... Tom Silay
1st Place (S)	\$75	.....Jeffrey Bardoun

All Events Women

1st Place (H)	\$50	.....Anne Mitro
1st Place (S)	\$50	.....Lynda Walters



Slovaks of Western PA to Celebrate on July 17th

Slovaks from the Tri-State area and beyond will once again present our rich Slovak heritage with a day long celebration in Kennywood Park on Thursday, July 17th. Slovak music will be heard, Slovak dishes will be offered, and souvenirs will be sold.

The Slovak kitchen will begin serving favorite homemade traditional food at 12:30pm. There will be games and prizes for the children as well! Musical entertainment will be provided by the "Gypsy Strings" throughout the afternoon. Following a short program in the afternoon, Clergy from the Pittsburgh and Greensburg Dioceses' will join to celebrate Mass at 4:00pm in the Main Pavilion. Songs and dances representing our rich cultural heritage will round out the day with a program by the "Pittsburgh Slovaksians." **For more information or discount tickets contact Mary Lou at 412-462-1957 or Sue at 412-421-1204.**

TICKET ORDER FORM: Make All Checks Payable to W. PA Slovak Day Assoc.

Number of Slovak Day Tickets (Valid on July 17th Only) _____ x \$33 = _____

Number of FLEX Day Tickets (Valid ALL Summer) _____ x \$40 = _____

Total = _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Email: _____

MAIL TO: S. ONDREJCO • 234 ILION ST. • PITTSBURGH, PA 15207

FCSU Branch 746 Hosts Outing to Sight & Sound Theatre

Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

On a beautiful Saturday morning on May 10, 2025, members of FCSU Branch 746 enjoyed a memorable day trip to Lancaster, PA, for a special outing to the renowned Sight & Sound Theatre. The group gathered to experience NOAH, an awe-inspiring stage production that brought the biblical story to life with dramatic storytelling, elaborate sets, live animals, and stunning special effects.

NOAH captivated the audience with its message of faith, obedience, and hope, as the theatre's talented cast portrayed the epic journey of Noah and his family amidst the Great Flood. The immersive production left a lasting impression on all who attended.

Following the show, the group continued their day with a hearty lunch at Miller's Smorgasbord, where everyone enjoyed traditional Pennsylvania Dutch cuisine in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. It was a perfect way to end a wonderful day of fellowship, entertainment, and community spirit.

FCSU Branch 746 thanks all who participated and looks forward to organizing more outings in the future!



Hlinka District 12 Annual Picnic

Submitted by Monica Boone, District Secretary

On June 1, 2025, the Hlinka District held their picnic at the Cedar Creek Park in Belle Vernon, PA. Twenty-four members enjoyed the beautiful sunny day at their annual tradition which featured good food, where conversations boomed and games were played. While everyone enjoyed the event, the clear, calm air was interrupted with a cracking sound and then with a thud of an 80ft tree being uprooted, and falling to the ground. With no one hurt and the ranger immediately on scene, the picnic continued. Many generational ages attended, from a one year old to retirees. Branch 853's Charles Boone presented the District President Cheryl Hyatt with an apron as a thank you for all of her work in keeping the district active and interesting. Thank you goes out to everyone who attended because it is the members who make this thriving event, successful and fun.



Front seated: Darla Hubert, Patty Marmol, Maureen Massafra, Cheryl Hyatt, Dorothy Rudenic, Kathy Jakela. 2nd row seated: Larry Healey, John Curcio, Jim Marmol, Monica Boone, Kevin Collins, Charles Boone, Nikki Hyatt. Back row: Destyni and Baby Isaac Hall, Isaac Hall, Joe Matinko, Teresa Matinko, Ron Boone, Ed Petrus, Susan Painter, Lorraine Petrus



Charles Boone presenting a gift to District President Cheryl Hyatt.



Larry Healey and Darla Hubert enjoying a game with other members.



Isaac Hall, Maureen Massafra and Nikki Hyatt taking a break from the picnic activities to sit on the tree which fell only moments before.



Ed and Lorraine Petrus (Left) and Joe and Teresa Matinko (Right) relaxing with the afternoon game.



Region 4 Director Jim Marmol and district member John Curcio.



Isaac Hall intently savoring the moment to win the game.

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

Balance Sheet As of March 31, 2025

ASSETS

Bonds	\$478,742,081
Preferred Stock	4,750,000
Common Stock	1,569,074
Mortgage loans on real estate	56,783,925
Property Plant & Equipment	621,180
Cash	26,349,156
Certificate Loans	1,278,542
Other Invested Assets	13,930,580
Investment Income Due & Accrued	5,801,404
Uncollected premiums in course of collection	174,116
Total Assets	\$590,000,058

LIABILITIES

Life & Annuity Reserves	506,209,536
Liability for deposit type contracts	16,185,146
Death claims payable	300,000
Provision for dividend payable	400,000
Interest maintenance reserve (IMR)	174,269
Asset valuation reserve (AVR)	5,613,374
Accrual for future convention costs	675,000
Post retirement reserve	769,082
Amounts retained as trustee	6,551,460
Other liabilities	361,735
Total Liabilities	\$537,239,602
Surplus	52,760,456
Total Liabilities and Surplus Funds	\$590,000,058

Income Statement As of March 31, 2025

INCOME

Insurance & Annuity Premiums	\$10,653,459
Net Investment Income	6,218,789
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	81,459
Miscellaneous Income	4,598
Total Income	\$16,958,305

EXPENSES

Death Benefits	604,960
Annuity Benefits	11,506,925
Surrender Benefits	111,169
Interest on deposit-type contracts	45,616
Increase in reserves - Life & Annuity contracts	4,423,689
Commissions paid on new contracts	312,237
General Insurance & fraternal expenses	1,303,622
Insurance taxes, state licenses & fees	49,362
Total Expenses	18,357,579
Net Gain from operations before dividends	-1,399,275
Dividends paid to policyholders	80,182
Net Gain from operations after dividends	-1,479,457
Net Realized Capital Gains (Losses)	0
Net Income (Loss)	-1,479,457

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS ACCOUNT

Capital & surplus, Dec. 31st, prior year	54,418,491
Net Income current year	-1,479,457
Change in unrealized capital gain (loss)	-145,639
Change in asset valuation reserve	-44,309
Other gains & losses in surplus	11,370
Net change in capital & surplus current year	-1,658,035
Capital & surplus, Dec. 31st, current year	52,760,456

Update on Annuity Product Reserves Due to New NAIC Regulations

In response to recent regulatory changes introduced by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), we have adjusted the reserve allocations for certain annuity products. These changes require us to hold a higher percentage in reserves to maintain compliance and ensure continued financial stability.

To meet these requirements, we have strategically reallocated funds from our surplus accounts. This proactive approach reinforces our commitment to sound financial management and long-term security for our members and policyholders.

We recorded an increase of nearly \$3 million in total assets during the first quarter and continue on a positive growth trajectory. Despite these adjustments, taken in the first quarter, our society remains financially strong. We appreciate your continued trust and partnership as we uphold the highest standards of financial responsibility.



FCSU Shows Up in Force For Member Lexi Glova's Final Performance

Submitted by Tom Ivanec, Region 6 Director

On Sunday April 27, 2025, over 145 members and friends of the Greater Cleveland Slovak-American community, including 63 members of FCSU District 10, enjoyed the Tamburitzans' latest show, "Legacy!" The performance was held at the Independence High School Auditorium in Independence, OH.

The troupe is known for lively tours around the world in song and dance. The Legacy! show included visits to Croatia, Bulgaria, Armenia, Serbia, Mexico and – this year as in last – Slovakia. Branch 24's Lexi Glova, a student at the University of Pittsburgh and longtime member of the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Greater Cleveland, was featured. The rousing medley of songs and dances from Eastern Slovakia, led by Lexi was met by thunderous applause from the many Slovak-Americans in attendance. It was a fitting tribute to her final performance. Congratulations, and well done, Lexi!



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

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

11:00am – 5:00pm
HOLY MASS at 12:00 Noon
CULTURAL PRESENTATION
 featuring the Tatra Slovak Dancers

FREE ADMISSION
 Croatian Park • 9100 S. 76th Street • Franklin, WI

Food, Bakery and Refreshments including imported beer will be available.

FCSU SCHOLAR
Spotlight

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM PREVIOUS FCSU SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!
 Share updates about your education, career, or achievements.

email_editor@fcsu.com

Night with the... WILD THINGS

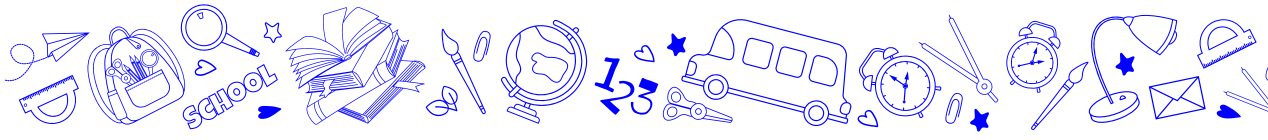
Firework Friday
 July 25th - 7:05 p.m.

Join us for a fun night of baseball, fireworks, and fun!
This is a District 12 event, but everyone is invited to join us for this fraternal night at the park.

Questions?
 Contact: Joseph Tarquinio (District 12 – Vice-President)
tark918@gmail.com

Congratulations!

2025 FCSU Scholarship Winners



CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOLS (5-8)



Logan Doig
Branch 238
St. Mary Magdalen
8th Grade



Joseph Miller
Branch 900
Padre Pio Academy
7th Grade



Braden Skoloda
Branch 254
Christ the Divine Teacher
5th Grade

*"Why fit in
when you were
born to
stand out?"*

— Dr. Seuss



CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL 9-12



Kevin Bulic
Branch 1
St. Ignatius High School
Senior



Samuel Dlugos
Branch 199
Greensburg Central Catholic
Sophomore



David Kovaleski
Branch 5P
Holy Redeemer High School
Freshman



Anne Miller
Branch 900
Padre Pio Academy
Freshman



David Norton
Branch 24
Padua Franciscan
Junior



Juliana Oost
Branch 313
St. Mary Catholic
Freshman



Matthew Pafford
Branch 382
Padua Franciscan
Senior



Jonathon Puskar
Branch 199
Salesianum School
Sophomore



Masley Reising
Branch 2
St. Cecilia Academy
Sophomore



Kaitlyn Shenloogian
Branch 716
Academy of Saint Elizabeth
Freshman



*"You can find magic wherever you look. Sit
back and relax all you need is a book!"*

— Dr. Seuss

Please join us in congratulating our 2025 FCSU Scholarship winners! We wish them continued success in their educational pursuits.

MICHELE MAGER SCHOLARSHIP

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL



Ava Marie Scally
Branch 450
St. Ambrose
5th Grade

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Lauralei Kroniser
Branch 38
Our Lady of Sacred Heart
Freshman

COLLEGE



Mia Gaffney
Branch 731
Kent State University
Biochemistry
Freshman

GRADUATE SCHOOL

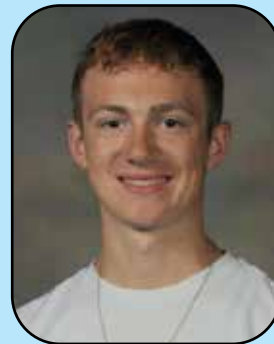


Corianne Holzman
Branch 382
University of
Massachusetts Lowell
Masters in Curriculum
and Instruction
1st Year



TOP COLLEGE

MALE



Matthew Schwertfeger
Branch 162
West Virginia University
Mechanical Engineering
Freshman

FEMALE



Anna Zvoc
Branch 746
Savannah College of Art
& Design - Film
Sophomore

COLLEGE



Annabella Barnes
Branch 626
Juniata College
Politics & Law
Freshman



Chelsea Bednar
Branch 421
Indiana University
of Pennsylvania
Secondary Ed - History
Freshman



Renee Cicco
Branch 200
University of Mount Union
Chemistry
Freshman



Oliver Feco
Branch 746
Kean University
Sports Management
Sophomore



Sofia Fedoriouk
Branch 24
The Ohio State University
Biochemistry
& Pre-Med
Freshman



Jack Foley
Branch 153
Southern Illinois
University - Carbondale
Social Work & Marketing
Sophomore



Samantha Griebel
Branch 484
Gannon University
Communication
Sciences & Disorders
Freshman



Michaela Hilley
Branch 5P
Auburn University
Aerospace
Engineering
Freshman



William Lemerond
Branch 553
Eastern Michigan University
Japanese Language
Junior



Thomas Lloyd
Branch 796
Mount St. Mary's
Accounting/Business
Freshman



Sydney Mihalko
Branch 290
University of Kentucky
Civil Engineering
Freshman



Lincoln Nichols
Branch 19
Ava Maria University
Business
Freshman



Margaret Pegula
Branch 238
School - Undecided
Business
Freshman



Marco Pietropaolo
Branch 181
Pennsylvania College
of Technology
Landscape Management
Freshman



Clare Ruffing
Branch 670
Penn State University
Accounting
Freshman



Adam Sedlock
Branch 1
Texas A & M University
Geographic Info
Systems & Tech
Junior



Alek Skwirut
Branch 181
University of Akron
Chemical Engineering
Freshman



Vincenzo Zaccagnini
Branch 393
St. Vincent College
Pre-Law/Pre-Med
Freshman

**SOLTIS & BOSAK
FAMILY NURSING
SCHOLARSHIP**



Leah Bender
Branch 796
Duquesne University
Masters of Physician
Assistant Studies
Freshman

**MARLENE CAMPBELL
SCHOLARSHIP**



Hunter Zaborny
Branch 919
Lansing Community
College
HVAC Technician
Sophomore

GRADUATE SCHOOL



Patrick Monks
Branch 19
New England
Law School
Law
1st Year

"A well-educated mind will always have more questions than answers."

– Helen Keller



FCSU Awarded Over \$200,000 in Scholarships in 2024!

Thank you to everyone who applied!



SCHOLAR

Spotlight

PATRICK MONKS



Patrick Monks is a native of Trumbull, Connecticut. He has been a proud member of FCSU, Branch 19 since 1999 and has an immense respect and love for his Slovak heritage. Patrick is enrolled to attend New England Law School in Boston, Massachusetts, with an aspiration to become a labor law litigant. This summer, he is employed as a cross-country truck driver out of Des Moines, Iowa. Patrick loves to work with his hands and intends to take his trade work experience to the courtroom to help fight for the working class that keeps our country running. Mr. Monks predicts that with the emergence of AI and job automation; millions of workers will be seeking legal guidance as our economy transitions in response to the most impactful technological revolutions in history.

In his free time, Patrick loves exercising, cooking and being outdoors. He is a lover of American history, especially regarding the Civil War. As a Catholic, Patrick attends mass weekly and hopes to one day raise the family in the faith. He is a fourth-generation Slovakian American and plans to visit Košice, the birthplace of his second great-grandfather, Tradvardzik, upon graduation.

Patrick is a recent winner of an FCSU Scholarship. We would like to share his essay with our readers.

As a radio DJ for WXCI 91.7FM Danbury, I ran the air waves from 5:30 to 8:00pm on Friday nights, a cherished time slot because of the positive weeks end energy and cheerful audience. However, not many people expected the sound of Slovak rock music to be playing on college radio during their commute home from work.

Although my radio colleagues thought my choice in ethnic Slovak music was a tad bit bizarre, a good amount of listeners praised the music; one caller even describing it as "sensational." As a senior DJ, former EBoard executive and Life Member at my college radio station, playing the energetic songs of Pavol Habera and other ethnic music to the unsuspecting Connecticut audience is one of my fondest memories during my time in college.

As a volunteer firefighter, it has also been my honor to protect the members of my community. The town of Trumbull, Connecticut has an incredible department with proactive members from all walks of life. Being on call 24/7, one never knows what situation myself and my crew might find ourselves in. Riding the fire truck and responding to calls oftentimes involves everything from structure fires to motor vehicle accidents.

Although these activities have had a massive impact on my life and local community, nothing comes close to the fulfillment I receive from my faith and volunteer efforts at my church. As a sworn in member of the Knights of Columbus, it has been my sincere pleasure to assist my fellow Knights in dinners, food drives and other volunteer activities. As a Slovak American, attending Latin Mass at St. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church in Bridgeport, CT has had a foundational influence on my life and future pursuits in law. By preserving many of the Slovak traditions, arts and architecture, this church has been a great reminder of my cultural identity and stands as a testament to how incredible Slovak Americans are. My family has been attending the church for 4 generations.

Currently, I am on path to becoming a lawyer. After attending and graduating from The John Jay Institute in Langhorne, Pennsylvania, I began my clerkship under the Honorable Matthew E. Frechette and Honorable Robin L. Wilson at the New Haven Superior Court. I had the profound advantage to witness court proceedings and the opportunity to learn the law through the perspective of judges and practicing lawyers. I picked up incredible knowledge and received premier mentorship that I will carry through my whole life.

To conclude, the Jednota institution has always been there for me my entire life. During my childhood years, I would enter Jednota's coloring contests and writing competitions, where my work was published in the Jednota's newspaper. After graduating high school and entering college, the Jednota Foundation awarded me a generous scholarship to begin my education. I will never forget the sincere generosity the Jednota has given me through my entire life and I intend on continuing my education and making the Slovak American community proud.

Introducing FCSU Scholar Spotlight

Celebrating the Promise and Potential of Our Scholarship Recipients

FCSU Financial has long been committed to supporting the educational dreams of its members. Through our scholarship programs, we not only invest in academic achievement, but in the future leaders, innovators, and change makers of our communities.

We are proud to introduce a new feature series: FCSU Scholar Spotlight. This column will highlight stories of FCSU scholarship recipients—students from all walks of life who exemplify dedication, resilience, and a passion for making a difference. Each profile will offer a glimpse into their academic journeys, personal aspirations, and how the support of the FCSU community has helped them pursue their goals.

Whether they are studying medicine, education, engineering, the arts, or anything in between, these young scholars represent our goal to uplift our members and promote faith, heritage, and fraternity through meaningful support.

We invite you to follow along as we share their inspiring paths—and celebrate the impact that your membership and support help make possible.

Calling All FCSU Scholarship Recipients! We Want to Hear Your Story

As part of our new FCSU Scholar Spotlight series, we're inviting past and present scholarship winners to share updates, milestones, and reflections on how the scholarship has impacted their education and goals. Whether they are just starting college, finishing grad school, or already building a career—we want to celebrate their success!

Share your story with us by including:

- Your name and the year you received the scholarship
- Your current school, major, or field of study (or your current job/role)
- A brief update about your journey and what the scholarship meant to you
- A recent photo

Your experience may be featured in our newspaper, website, or social media to inspire other members and future scholars.

Email updates to editor@FCSU.com. Thank you for being part of the FCSU family—we can't wait to hear from you!

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
Anthony Culkar Band & Dancing • Bake Sale

Sponsored By: FCSU Financial (First Catholic Slovak Union)

Save The Date for Our 130th Anniversary Celebration!

Saturday, October 11, 2025

Slovak CU Branch 200, Ford City, PA

Starts With Mass at 1:00pm

Followed By Meet & Greet, Dinner & Dance

Contact Vicki Schaub for Details

724-763-9229 or uschaub123@gmail.com

Branch 682 Announces Their 2025 Scholarship Winner

Submitted by Drew Hirt, Branch 682 President

The Jednota FCSU Branch 682 Scholarship for 2025 was awarded to Struthers High School Senior Mia Clyde. Mia is pictured with Struthers Rotary President and Jednota Branch 682 President Drew Hirt (left) and her mother Carrie Clyde (right). Mia has excelled academically, participated in many civic/club activities and is outgoing Treasurer for the Rotary Interact Club, the National Honors Society and the Medical Careers Club. Of Slovak heritage, Mia was selected from among 21 applicants for her academic achievements and sincere dedication to serving her community. Her academic success and interest in community service were fostered by her mother's example, who serves as President of the Struthers School Foundation for Educational Excellence. Mia plans to study the field of Exercise Science at Youngstown State University and has a potential interest in expanding to Occupational Therapy. The \$1000 award was presented at a Scholarship Luncheon on May 13th hosted by the Struthers Rotary Club.



Branch 670 Announces Their 2025 Scholarship Winners

Submitted by Maureen Massafra, Secretary

Branch 670 of Donora, PA is excited to announce its 2025 Scholarship winners. Jacob Nobili of Belle Vernon, PA will be attending Saint Vincent College pursuing a career in Data Collection. Caitlin Edgerton of North Huntingdon, PA will be furthering her education at The Ohio State University in Medicine specializing in Dermatology, and Clare Ruffing of Bentleyville, PA will be attending a University in pursuit of becoming a CPA. Each was awarded a one-time \$1000 Scholarship. Good luck to you all!



Jacob Nobili



Caitlin Edgerton



Clare Ruffing

District 12 Meeting

Submitted by Monica Boone, District 12 Secretary

District 12 held their semi-annual meeting on April 6, 2025 to start off a busy and productive year. The highlight of the meeting was Branch 320 youth Bruce Higginbotham telling the members about his Eagle Scout project of making raised planters to assist with the church's food bank. District 12 members save the date of November 9, 2025 for the Annual Meeting.



District 12 members and guests: First Row: Patty Marmol (guest), Fran Tarquinio, Nikki Hyatt; Second Row standing: Region 4 Director Jim Marmol, Marianne Rodacy, Monica Boone, Mary-Anne Higginbotham, Maureen Massafra, Cheryl Hyatt; Second Row seated: John Curcio, Larry Healey, Darla Hubert; Third Row standing: Joe Tarquinio, Joe Matinko, Greg Hyatt, Isaac Hall, Dystani Hall holding baby Isaac.

Saints Cyril & Methodius District 17 Party Box Event at PNC Field Friday, August 15, 2025

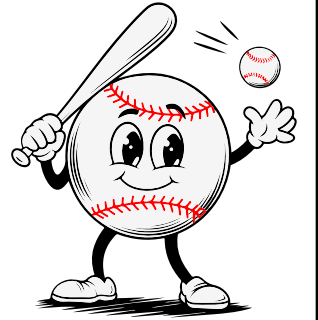
Game Time - 6:30pm

Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders vs. Indianapolis Indians
PNC Field • Moosic, Pennsylvania

Members: \$15 per person
Non-Members: \$40 per person

Includes:

- 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 for reservations:

Branch 005P Martha Zavada570.954.3771
Branch 166K..... Morgan Dendler607.206.7243
Branch 173K..... Carl Ungvasky570.868.6066
Branch 382K..... Elizabeth M. Slovenkai570.344.3854

RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID FOR BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2025

Make your check payable to your Branch!



Districts 4 & 16 The Somerset Patriots Game Sunday, July 13th

TD Bank Ballpark • 860 E Main Street • Bridgewater, NJ

Gates open at 12pm
First Pitch is 1:05pm
Members are FREE
Guests cost \$38 each

RSVP to Jo Anne Peppe
gsmgja@aol.com
by Friday, June 20th

Please Join Us!

Branch 181 Annual Family Picnic Sunday, June 29, 2025 Mammoth Park Mammoth, PA at Pavilion #13

Registration starts at noon with the picnic beginning at 1:00pm. Members are asked to bring their favorite covered dish to share.

Drinks and main entrées will be provided by the branch.

Contact Vicki at 724-433-8469 for more info or directions



Bring your baby items for the Alternatives. Yes! Ministries collection.

Exciting Changes to Our Branch Announcement Section!

We are excited to announce a fresh, more accessible way to present our monthly Branch news. Until now, Branch announcements have been listed in numerical order. While this has served us well, we believe it's time for a change that better reflects the local connections that are the heart of our fraternal family.

Beginning this month, Branch announcements will 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.

We are making these changes for several reasons:

- **IMPROVED READABILITY:** Grouping Branches by state helps members quickly find their announcements.
- **INCREASED LOCAL ENGAGEMENT:** Members can now easily see what's happening in neighboring Branches and consider joining in on events and initiatives.
- **STREAMLINED WORDING:** We are also refreshing the way Branch news is written—keeping it concise, clear, and engaging—making each announcement easier to read.

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.

CANADA

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ON

Anne Mitro, Secretary

Our semi-annual meeting will be held on Monday, June 16, 2025 at 7:30pm. All members are invited and welcome to discuss the balance of the year's activities. The meeting will be held at Sts Cyril & Methodius Slovak Church, 5255 Thornwood Dr, Mississauga. Please meet in the Fr. Danco Meeting room.

ILLINOIS

BRANCHES 153, 313, 581 ARE INVITED TO OUR DISTRICT 2 EVENT

Late Nite Catechism

on Sunday, July 20, 2025
at the Theatre at the Center,
1040 Ridge Rd., Munster, IN

Late Nite Catechism is an uproariously funny stage show, with irrepressible Sister teaching "class" to her room full of students (the audience). It is a sharp satire, but never mean. It's simple fun and laughter with a meaningful message.

A Champagne Brunch begins at 1pm and the show begins at 3pm. Total cost is \$70. See your branch announcements for special pricing. Please RSVP to your branch representative by June 21st.

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, IL 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.

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, IL

John Jurcenko, President

We will hold our semi-annual meeting on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at 11:30am

at Cucina Biagio, 7319 West Lawrence, Harwood Heights, IL. A fraternal luncheon will follow the meeting.

Our branch is invited to attend the District 2 event of viewing Late Nite Catechism. **See the event box on this page.** There is no charge for Branch 153 members but a deposit of \$25 is required. It will be refunded after you attend the event. Contact Dorothy Jurcenko at 708-995-7378 by June 21st to reserve your spot.

BRANCH 313 – ORLAND PARK, IL

Jennifer Carlton, Financial Secretary

Our branch is invited to attend the District 2 event of viewing Late Nite Catechism. **See the event box on this page.** There is no charge for Branch 313 members who attended a branch meeting in 2024 or the May 20, 2025 meeting. Non-member guests may attend at full price. Those wishing to attend, contact Margie Dickinson at 708-226-8157.

INDIANA

BRANCH 581 – PORTER, IN

Ann Buczek, President

Our branch is invited to attend the District 2 event of viewing Late Nite Catechism. **See the event box on this page.** There is no charge for Branch 581 members who attended a branch meeting in 2024 or the June 1, 2025 meeting. Non-member guests may attend at full price. Please RSVP to contact Ann Buczek at 219-947-2793

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. Remember members, on the trip to Knoebels at Elysburg, PA, you may bring

an extra guest at no charge.

We still need items for the July garage sale. Please drop off any salable items at my house.

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: July 4th, August 1st, September 5th, October 3rd, November 7th, and December 5th.

NEW YORK

BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, NY

Judie Dendler, Secretary

Greetings St. Joseph The Guardian Society members! I hope you're well and enjoying summer! We will have our first Ice Cream Social on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at Schoolhouse Creamery, 17 Fox Farm Rd., Windsor from 1-3pm. Celebrate Flag Day by having a frozen treat with us! Members are FREE. Contact Morgan Dendler at 607-206-7243 with questions.

Please join us at the FCSU National Picnic on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at Knoebels. For all Branch 166 registered members, we are providing an extra \$25 for adults (Age 18+) and \$15 for children. Pick up your allowance at **Pavilion R** during lunch, starting at 3pm.

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NY

Emily Lysáková, Recording Secretary

We're excited to announce our summer picnic, open to members and

non-members. The picnic will be held on Sunday, July 6, 2025, at 1pm at St. John Nepomucene Church, located at 411 E 66th St, New York, NY. Branch 716 members will be preparing hot dogs and a variety of summertime favorites for all to enjoy. The event is free for members and \$20 for non-members.

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 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 Fraternal Activities Director Fran Strekal at 216-308-1728 no later than July 15th.

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OH

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

We will hold our next meeting on Monday, June 16, 2025 at 7pm at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. This will be an informative meeting as the summer FCSU activities will be reviewed and refreshments will be served. We respectfully ask all of our FCSU members to pray for a calm environment and unity among the leaders of the world.

We encourage members to attend the District 10 Picnic & Baseball Outing. **See event details on Page 16.** 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 Page 16** 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 be having the following meetings for 2025: 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 Page 16** 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 Page 16** 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 and social members will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 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.

We invite you to attend the Slovak Festival. **See event details on Page 16.** For Branch 553 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 Page 16** 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.

Finally, we would like to congratulate member Tom Krispinsky for being inducted into the Woodrow Wilson Hall of Fame. Krispinsky, who was a 1970 graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School in Youngstown, is a Treasurer for various school districts and a board member for Trumbull County Educational Service Center. His football officiating career includes various levels of high school, collegiate, and bowl games. Krispinsky is an active member of FCSU; he is FCSU's National Auditor, an auditor for Branch 731, and Chaplain for the Reverend Joseph Kostik District 14. Congratulations, Tom!

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 Page 16.** 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 Page 16.** 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.

PENNSYLVANIA

BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PA

Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary

The St. John the Evangelist Society invites members to attend the FCSU National Picnic on Saturday, June 21st at Knoebels. For Branch 5P registered members, we are providing an extra \$25 for adults (Age 18+) and \$15 for children. Pick up your allowance at **Pavilion R** during lunch starting at 3pm.

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 Trojcak'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 so he can send you the private zoom link to attend the meeting.

Remember, the FCSU National Picnic is coming up on Saturday, June 21st at Knoebels. Contact President Erik Payne at 215-280-1554 or me at 215-613-8987 or email helenagaydos@outlook.com with any questions. Reminder to update your Policy Beneficiary.

BRANCH 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PA

Karen Sterling, Secretary

St. John the Baptist will hold a semi-annual meeting on June 21, 2025 at the National Picnic at Knoebels. The meeting will begin at 11am in **Pavilion R**.

The agenda will include office reports and new business. For more information, call me at 570-640-1796 by June 18th.

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PA

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

The St. Wendelin Society will hold our quarterly meeting on Sunday, June 22, 2025, at 11am at the Bud Murphys Restaurant, 718 McCormick Ave. in Connellsville. Officers' reports will be given and a discussion of branch activities, charitable donations and FCSU events. Call me at 724-437-4983 to RSVP by June 16th.

Jednota Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 1 Diner's card
- 5 "Li'l Abner" cartoonist
- 9 Cheese in a ball
- 13 News subject
- 15 Inkling
- 16 Heavenly glow
- 17 Chill-inducing
- 18 Toxic fungus
- 20 Red Army founder
- 22 French vineyard
- 23 Warmed the bench
- 24 W.W. II arena
- 25 Equals
- 27 Resting places
- 30 Cellular stuff
- 32 Velocity
- 35 Map abbr.
- 36 Navy group
- 38 Coat part
- 40 Tuck's partner
- 41 Panorama
- 43 It's bottled in Cannes

- 44 Ski run
- 46 Some Bosnians
- 47 Wapiti
- 48 Fulton's power
- 50 Keyboard key
- 51 To be (Lat.)
- 52 Secret plans
- 54 Buffoon
- 56 Salad ingredient
- 59 "La-la" lead-in
- 60 Inhibited
- 64 Reason to visit a exodontist
- 67 Coquette
- 68 Make eyes at
- 69 Elsa, for one
- 70 Deep-six
- 71 Lymph bump
- 72 "Let it stand"
- 73 Lacking slack

Down

- 1 Convene
- 2 _____ and anon

- 3 Stepson of Claudius
- 4 Consolidates
- 5 Type of slicker or hall
- 6 Ruckus
- 7 Tranquility
- 8 Men with missions?
- 9 "Mangia!"
- 10 Couples
- 11 SA copper center
- 12 Fountain treat
- 14 Reason to cram
- 19 Excess
- 21 Chemulpo locale
- 25 Warehouse plat-forms
- 26 Type of horse or eagle
- 27 Prohibits
- 28 Contents of Pandora's box
- 29 Train stop
- 31 Pinches
- 33 Foil relatives
- 34 Bargains
- 36 Kind of bomber
- 37 Evening, in Roma
- 39 Gospel writer
- 42 Brothers' keeper?
- 45 Vigor
- 49 Aesop's forte
- 51 Result
- 53 Implied
- 55 River isles
- 56 Prince William's school
- 57 Kind of dancer
- 58 Olympian's quest
- 60 Dispatched
- 61 Pasternak heroine
- 62 Son of Rebekah
- 63 Part of U.S.D.A. (Abbr.)
- 65 Casual attire
- 66 Garden tool

Answers can be found on Page 23

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13				14		15				16				
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BRANCH 173 – MOUNTAIN TOP, PA
Matthew Ungvarsky, Rec. Secretary

The St. John the Baptist Society invites you to attend the FCSU National Picnic on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at Knoebels. For Branch 173 registered members, we are providing an extra \$25 for adults (Age 18+) and \$15 for children. Pick up your allowance at **Pavilion R** during lunch.

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA*Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary*

St. John the Baptist Society members and their guests are invited to attend the Annual Family Picnic to be held at Mammoth Park, Mammoth, PA at Pavilion #13 on Sunday, June 29, 2025. Registration starts at noon with the picnic beginning at 1pm. Members are asked to bring their favorite covered dish to share. Drinks and main entrées will be provided by the branch. We look forward to a great turnout! Contact me at 724-433-8469 for more information or directions.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION (FIA): We will be collecting baby items for the Alternatives. Yes! Ministries. The mission of this organization is to give pregnant women and families the resources and support they need to choose life. Bring diapers (sizes 3-6), baby wipes or other items to help this ministry. The Home Office will also donate \$250 to them on our behalf.

Please follow Branch 181 on Facebook - Locate "FCSU Financial Br 181, United, PA" to join the page to keep informed of meetings, events and other good information!

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PA*Barb Patula, Secretary*

A business meeting will be held on Monday, July 7, 2025 at 1pm at the Tunnel #2 Picnic Grove at Waldemeer Park, 3100 West Lake Rd., Erie. A group photo will be taken immediately following the meeting. Afterward, members are encouraged to spend the day in the park to share food and fellowship. Tickets for Branch 199 members are available by contacting Sue Owens at 824-476-1541 or myself at 724-423-4745.

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!

Take a look in this issue for a "Save the Date" ad for our 130th Anniversary Celebration of Branch 200 taking place October 11, 2025. Also, watch your mailboxes for ticket information and the itinerary of the celebration. Make your reservations early – tickets are limited!

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 or 412-956-6000 to RSVP.

BRANCH 320 – ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA*Joseph Tarquinio, Vice President*

Branch 320 members have expressed interest in various summer outings for 2025. Hope to see everyone.

We will have our next meeting on June 22nd at Bills Golfland, 209 Bills Ln, Belle Vernon, PA at 1pm.

Please check the Jednota for information regarding upcoming events such as the FCSU National Picnic at Knoebels on June 21st and Slovak Day at Kennywood on July 14th. In addition, the 2026 FCSU Convention has been announced.

District 12, summer continues with a Washington Wild Things baseball game with fireworks on July 25th. We will also have an ice cream social (TBA). Our District meeting location must be moved because of the abrupt closing of 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.

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PA*Kathryn Baranek, Secretary*

Saint Joseph Lodge will hold a meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at the home of President, Patty Speshock, 11 Ash St., Fairchance, PA at 12:30pm. We will discuss general branch business and fraternal activities. If you plan to attend or need directions, please call me at 724-569-1006.

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PA*Elizabeth Slovenkai, President*

You are invited to attend the FCSU National Picnic on Saturday, June 21st at Knoebels. For Branch 382 registered members, we are providing an extra \$25 for adults (Age 18+) and \$15 for children. Pick up your allowance at **Pavilion R** during lunch starting at 3pm.

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 484 – CORAL, PA*Monica Rura, Financial Secretary*

We will hold our semi-annual meeting on Saturday, June 14, 2025, at 2pm at Eat 'n Park Restaurant, 2301 Route 286 South, Indiana, PA. The agenda will include responses to our year-end financial donations, member participation in FCSU contests and tournaments, scholarship inquiries and other matters concerning our Branch. May we all have a healthy and happy summer!

All Branch and District Announcements are posted on our website!

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, 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 670 – DONORA, PA*Maureen Massafra, Secretary*

We invite members to join us at a Hlinka District 12 Baseball Game on July 25, 2025 All Branch 670 members will receive a free ticket. To reserve your ticket contact Joe Tarquinio at tark918@gmail.com. See more details in the District 12 Announcement and in the ad in this issue of the Jednota and on the website.

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PA*Monica Boone, President*

Please join us for upcoming events:
June 21, 2025 – FCSU National Picnic at Knoebels. Admission is free to the park. All FCSU members who register through the Home Office will receive a free book of tickets for rides, games and food. See the website for more details.

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.

July 17, 2025 – Slovak Day at Kennywood.

July 25, 2025 – Hlinka District Baseball Game. All Branch 853 members will receive a free ticket. To reserve your ticket contact Joe Tarquinio at tark918@gmail.com. Contact me at 412-341-1577 or fcsubbranch853@gmail.com with any questions.

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PA*Anthony Nasta, Recording Secretary*

We will hold our next meeting on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 7:30pm. The meeting will be held over ZOOM. To receive the meeting credentials, text your name to 267-795-7930 or email dnasta@fcsu.com.

Our Annual Meeting will be an in person meeting on November 30th.

The FCSU National Picnic at Knoebels is on June 21st. I hope you can attend!

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 Bander 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.

Open to the Public

SLOVAK J CLUB**JUNE**June 18 **Fried Chicken Dinner**

4:30-6:30pm *RSVP REQUIRED

June 22 **2nd Annual Summer Cash Sweepstakes**

St. John the Baptist Parish and Slovak J Club.

See Board Member for tickets.

June 28 **Karaoke Night** – Cover Charge for Crooning = \$5; Food

Charge an additional \$10. Reservations required. Food begins at 6:30pm; Crooning begins at 7pm.

June 29 **Breakfast Buffet** – 9:00-11:45am**JULY**July 2 **Spaghetti Dinner** – 4:30-7:00pmJuly 16 **Pork Chop Dinner** – 4:30-6:30pm *RSVP REQUIREDJuly 26 **Annual Kielbasa Open**

Mayfair Country Club – 8am Shot Gun Start

June 27 **Breakfast Buffet** – 9:00-11:45am**AUGUST**Aug. 6 **Spaghetti Dinner** – 4:30-7:00pmAug. 20 **Meat Loaf Dinner** – 4:30-6:30pm *RSVP REQUIREDAug. 31 **Breakfast Buffet** – 9:00-11:45am***Call 330-786-9972 to RSVP****485 MORGAN AVE • AKRON, OH**

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send District Announcements to district@fcsu.com

DISTRICT 4 – MSGR JOHN E RURA DISTRICT – NJ

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.

Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

District 4 is organizing an outing to the Somerset Patriots Baseball game and BBQ on Sunday, July 13, 2025. Tickets are free for all members of District 4 (Branches 102, 132, 290, 652, 746). Non-members are welcome to join for \$38 per person/child. The price includes entrance to the ballpark, a 90-minute buffet, and designated picnic style seating. Come join us for a fun evening of fraternalism and baseball! RSVP is required. For details, contact Jo Anne Peppe at gsmgjap@aol.com before June 20th.

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 8 – REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – PA, NC

Jo Austin, Recording Secretary

We will hold our semi-annual meeting during the June 21, 2025 FCSU National Picnic at Knoebels in Elysburg, PA. The picnic will be at **Pavilion R**. Our District will meet under the pavilion for our meeting at 1pm. Please look for our sign. We look forward to seeing you there! Please contact me with questions at 315-391-0526 or jeaustin89@gmail.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.

DISTRICT 12 – MSGR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT – PA

Monica Boone, Secretary

Come join the Hlinka District of Mon Valley for our upcoming summer events!! All members from Branches 320, 853 and 670 are invited to the Washington Wild Things Friday Fireworks game on July 25, 2025 at 7:05pm. The game will take place at Consol Energy Park, 1 Washington Federal Way, Washington. Ticket cost is \$30 for adults and \$20 for children. All members of District 12 can reserve their free ticket from Joe Tarquinio at tark918@gmail.com. Non-members are welcome but must pay full price. Please RSVP by July 10th. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

Submitted by Jackie Bobby, Secretary

With the passing of John Leskovyansky, District 14 president, a special election was held on April 29, 2025 to elect the 2025 District officers. The results are: President Carlie Peshek; Vice President Susan Carney; Treasurer Vivian Sedlacko; Secretary Jackie Bobby; Auditor Carl Terek. Region 6 Director, Tom Ivanec, delivered the oath of office.

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

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.

Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

District 16 is organizing an outing to the Somerset Patriots Baseball game and BBQ on Sunday, July 13, 2025. Tickets are free for members of District 4 (Branches 45, 716). Non-members are welcome to join for \$38 per person/child. The price includes entrance to the ballpark, 90-minute Buffet, and designated picnic style seating. Come join us for a fun evening of fraternalism and baseball! RSVP is required. For details, contact Jo Anne Peppe at gsmgjap@aol.com before June 20th.

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

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, District 17 Fraternal Activities Officer

Please join us at “Night with the RailRiders” on Friday, June 13, 2025, in the Right Field Party Suite at PNC Field, Moosic, PA. At 6:35pm, the Scranton/Wilkes Barre RailRiders – a Triple A Affiliate of the New York Yankees – will face the Syracuse Mets. The event is open to members of FCSU District 17 Branches 5P, 166K, 173K, and 382K. Tickets cost \$45 and include entrance to PNC Field, a buffet supper, water and soft drinks, and a fireworks show following the game. Parking costs an additional \$8. For tickets, contact Martha Zavada at 570-954-3771. Tickets are extremely limited and will be honored on a “first come, first served” basis. Your check for full payment guarantees your ticket.

DISTRICT 19 – MSGR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT – CANADA

Submitted by Anne Mitro, Secretary

District 19 will hold a semi-annual meeting on Monday, June 16, 2025 at 8:30pm. All members are invited and welcome to discuss the balance of the year’s activities. The meeting will be held at Sts Cyril & Methodius Slovak Church, 5255 Thornwood Dr, Mississauga, Ontario. Please meet in the Fr. Danco Meeting room.



IMPORTANT UPDATE!

We are Now Meeting in Pavilion “R”

Not in Pavilion “V” as previously stated

2025 FCSU International Golf Tournament Sponsorships

Support our golfers as a Hole Sponsor

Hole sponsorship signs will be displayed on the course. Offer a good luck message. Promote your branch or business.

<input type="checkbox"/> FCSU Member Sponsor	\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/> FCSU Branch or District Sponsor	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Sponsor	\$150

Sign dimensions: 24” x 18”. Please print your sign copy here:

Become a Tournament Patron

Your name/business logo will be featured on the Tournament Welcome Signs at the clubhouse and lodge.

<input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Patron.....	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Patron	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Patron.....	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Patron.....	\$500

Sponsors and Patrons will be acknowledged during the Saturday Dinner Program. Donations will help to purchase raffle/door prizes.

DEADLINE: JUNE 20, 2025

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please make checks payable to: FCSU (with Hole Sponsor or Golf Patron on the memo line)
Mail to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director
1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

For Complete Golf Tournament Rules,
please visit our website at
fcsu.com/events



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 sviati. Duše všetkých verných zomrelých, pre milosrdenstvo Božie, nech odpočívajú v pokoji. Amen.

BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME
001K	Michael G. Kaleina	382K	Debra Margaret Hamilton
001P	Cecelia Youngcourt	382K	Louise Drob
002K	Roseann Mikulak	382K	Margaret A. Brodowsky
005P	Joseph V. Colarusso	393K	Harry W. Kelly
005P	Theodore A. Sherrill, Sr.	401K	Paul Vozar
006K	Stephen J. Tapocik	404K	Edward Hooks
035K	John R. Ulaky, Jr.	465K	Elaine Bohinsky
038K	Alvin B. King	553K	Irene M. Lionetti
045K	Alois A. Chmela	553K	James E. Misanko
055K	Mary Vannelli	670K	Rita J. Sukel
055K	Michael T. Kravets	682K	Frank Rock
055K	Michael Velos	682K	Thomas E. Filicky
075K	Albert George Gricoski	706K	Barbara J. Fayta
085K	Marie Lechmanik	731K	David J. Roddy
157K	Joseph G. Mraz	731K	Millie Leskovyansky
173K	Mary E. Summa	746K	Anna Richvalsky
181K	Mary Alice Brunozzi	746K	Clara M. Tylor
181K	Pauline J. Kuhar	756K	Morene G. Horvath
181K	Stephen J. Mayger, Jr.	855K	David Charles Helt
199K	Amy L. Graham	855K	Elizabeth Roberts
199K	Richard M. Slifka	855K	Helen Fredericks
228K	Betty J. Yepko	856K	Marion G. Mistrik
238K	John P. Dietz	900K	Stephen M. Dearth
260K	Dolores J. Schrieber	917K	Alice M. Christopher
260K	Rosemarie Pekarcik	919K	Earl D. Parker
293K	Rose Kosch	924K	Nathan A. Carter
313K	Edward J. Vanisko	926K	Michael R. Sheehy
320K	Frank E. Sluciak		
373K	Cecilia A. Petras		

* Processed in the month of May 2025

Barbara Jean Fayta Branch 706 Dyer, IL



Barbara J. Fayta, 85, passed away peacefully into eternal rest on March 26, 2025 after a long battle with dementia.

Born on January 25, 1940, daughter to the late Edward and Ann Dudzik. Barb was born with her twin brother Kenneth Dudzik, and she had an older brother, Edward Dudzik, who recently passed away.

Barb graduated from Chicago Vocational High School in Chicago, IL. On October 15, 1960 she married Arthur J. Fayta, moving to Dolton, IL. They have four children. Barb was a very active volunteer at her children's catholic school, St. Jude in South Holland, IL. She was president of the Women's Club, ran hot lunch day, was heavily involved in Girls Scouts, volunteered for school fund raisers, and performed in the Port-O-Call shows & events. She was a huge sports Mom taking her kids to baseball, softball, basketball and gymnastics.

She had a long career in medical billing.

Barb was a talented artist and crafter who enjoyed drawing and painting. She loved hosting the holidays, baking many various kinds of Christmas cookies and spending time with her family. Barb will be remembered most for her kind and caring nature.

Barb was an officer of FCSU District 2 for many years. She was part of the original Slovak Christmas tree decorating committee for the Chicago Museum of Science & Industry. She ran both the District 2 Christmas coloring contest and Easter coloring contest for many years, encouraging young children to participate and enjoy the arts of which Barb loved so much.

Barb is the beloved wife of the late Arthur of 55 years. Loving mother of Mark (Judy) Fayta, Michael Fayta, Lori (Larry) Seida, Lynda (Terry) Tanis. Cherished grandmother of Chelsea (Ryan), Alex (Melanie), Alexandria, A.J., Julian, Ayden, and Adam (Lacey). Dearest great-grandmother of Ben, Zoey, Van, and Greyson. Dear sister of the late Edward (late Pam) Dudzik and Kenneth (Ruth) Dudzik and sister-in-law of late William (Marion) Fayta and late Stephen Fayta. Fond aunt of many nieces and nephews.

FCSU Financial Helps Honor Long-Time Member Susan Ondrejco

On Saturday, May 31, 2025, Branch 2 member, Susan M. Ondrejco was honored as the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (FSGP) 2025 Fraternalist of the year. The presentation and banquet took place at South Hills Country Club, Pittsburgh, PA.

FCSU Financial, along with other Districts hosted a table at the event to honor Susan on this great achievement. The table included Board Members and their spouses, Jednota past editor and distinguished guests from the University of Pittsburgh Slovak Cultural Center. Congratulations, Susan and thanks to all who attended.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Michael Kopanic, Jr., District 7 President

SIMMONS FARM



FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL NATIONAL PICNIC SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

170 Simmons Rd • McMurray, PA • simmonsfarm.com

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

Hay Rides • Corn Maze • Pumpkin Patch
Children's Games • Petting Zoo • Food • Music
Flower Fields • Photo Ops and More!

FCSU Search-A-Word

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

JUNE Word List



JUNE	SLNKO (Sun)
SUNNY	PLÁŽ (Beach)
SAILING	RELAX (Relax)
SUMMER	OCEÁN (Ocean)
VACATION	BICYKEL (Bicycle)
SUNSCREEN	ZMRZLINA (Ice Cream)

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 July 31, 2025.

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

April Puzzle Winners

Rosanne Hartsog (Branch 670)

Alex Kaczor (Branch 200)

Beverly Nichols (Branch 484)

Michele Porter (Branch 153)

Robert Tomechko (Branch 181)

Congratulations and Keep Puzzling!

Staff Participates in AFA Spring Symposium

Members of our Executive Team and Home Office staff recently took part in the American Fraternal Alliance Spring Symposium, held this May in Cleveland, OH. The event featured a variety of insightful workshops and provided a valuable opportunity to connect with peers from other fraternal organizations.



A highlight of the symposium was its community service initiative supporting Blessings in a Backpack. Attendees came together to pack over 500 bags of food and raised an impressive \$8,000 to help feed children in Akron, OH.

SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 47th year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. Today, the Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors.

As of June 2, 145 donors have given \$16,057.00 for the 2025 Appeal. Among the 48 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 35, Branch 38, Branch 40, Branch 45, Branch 85, Branch 89, Branch 112, Branch 153, Branch 166, Branch 181, Branch 320, Branch 382, Branch 450, Branch 484, Branch 731, Branch 743, Branch 746, Branch 857, District 14 and the Home Office of the FCSU have donated a combined total of \$4,200. Donations have also been received from 4 churches, 20 clergy and religious and 73 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

47th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Amount \$ _____

Please make check payable to Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to:
 Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President
 Slovak Catholic Federation
 Our Lady of Grace Church • 225 Bellevue Avenue • Penndel, PA 19047-4052

Jednota[®]

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MAILING LIST UPDATES

Email changes to editor@fcsu.com or call 800.533.6682 ext. 123.

We are updating our Jednota newspaper mailing list. Please let us know if you would like to update your mailing status:

- You want to receive a newspaper but don't
- You prefer not to receive a newspaper but do
- You receive multiple newspapers at your household
- Address label has an incorrect name

News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

Rules For the Admission of Foreigners Will Change

The amendment includes, for example, the abolition of the obligation to provide evidence of financial security for the stay of foreigners.

Bratislava, June 5 (TASR) - The rules for accepting foreigners in Slovakia will change. Some of their administrative duties will be abolished and some tasks will be simplified. This follows from the amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreigners, which was approved by deputies of the National Council (NR) of the Slovak Republic in a vote on Thursday.

The amendment includes, for example, the abolition of the obligation to provide evidence of financial security for the stay of foreigners. "However, always in accordance with European legislation. In this case, it is a condition that can be verified even after the residence has been granted or renewed, for example, as part of the obligations of foreigners to have financial security for their stay for each month of remaining residence during the granted stay," explained the Ministry of the Interior, which is behind the amendment.

The amendment also abolishes the obligation to attach photographs to the application for residence of third-country nationals. "Biometric data, including a photograph of the face, is taken at the Foreign Police Departments of the Police Force," the ministry noted. The validity of national visas issued for the purpose of obtaining a residence permit is also extended from the current 90 to 120 days.

Slovakia will also be able to set quotas for the number of applications for temporary residence for business purposes received on the basis of the amendment to the law. The government should thus set the maximum number of applications for temporary residence that can be accepted by individual embassies in a calendar year. At the same time, it could designate embassies that cannot accept applications.

The Ministry of the Interior justified the changes with the aim of simplifying the system and relieving the burden on the Foreign Police.

The deputies also approved an amendment from the workshop of MPs Michal Bartek and Paula Puškárová (both Hlas-SD). It introduces the possibility for students from third countries - graduates of the third degree of university studies to apply for a change in the purpose of their stay directly at the police department in the territory of the Slovak Republic, i.e. in the same way as graduates of the first or second level of higher education. At the same time, it deletes the limitation of obtaining higher education only in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

It is proposed to take effect from 1 July this year.

Pravidlá pre prijímanie cudzincov sa zmenia

Súčasťou úpravy je napríklad zrušenie povinnosti prikladať dôkazy o finančnom zabezpečení pobytu cudzincov.

Bratislava 5. júna (TASR) - Pravidlá pri prijímaní cudzincov na Slovensku sa zmenia. Niektoré ich administratívne povinnosti sa zrušia a niektoré úkony zjednodušia. Vyplýva to z novely zákona o pobyte cudzincov, ktorú poslanci Národnej rady (NR) SR schválili vo štvrtkovom hlasovaní.

Súčasťou úpravy je napríklad zrušenie povinnosti prikladať dôkazy o finančnom zabezpečení pobytu cudzincov. „Vždy však v súlade s európskou legislatívou. V tomto prípade ide o podmienku, ktorú je možné overiť aj po udelení či obnovení pobytu, napríklad v rámci povinností cudzincov mať počas udeleného pobytu finančné zabezpečenie pobytu na každý mesiac zostávajúceho pobytu,“ vysvetlilo ministerstvo vnútra, ktoré za novelou stojí.

Novela ruší tiež povinnosť prikladať fotografie k žiadosti o pobyt štátnych príslušníkov tretích krajín. „Na oddeleniach cudzineckej polície Policajného zboru sa totižto odoberajú biometrické údaje vrátane fotografie tváre,“ podotkol rezort. Predlžuje sa aj platnosť národných víz udeľovaných na účel získania povolenia na pobyt zo súčasných 90 na 120 dní.

Slovensko tiež bude môcť na základe zmeny zákona stanoviť kvóty na počet prijatých žiadostí o udelenie prechodného pobytu na účel podnikania. Vláda by tak mala nariadením ustanoviť maximálny počet žiadostí o udelenie prechodného pobytu, ktoré môžu prijať jednotlivé zastupiteľské úrady v kalendárnom roku. Zároveň by mohla určiť zastupiteľské úrady, ktoré nemôžu prijať žiadosti.

Ministerstvo vnútra zmeny odôvodňovalo cieľom zjednodušiť systém a odbremeniť cudzineckú políciu.

Poslanci schválili tiež pozmeňujúci návrh z dielne poslancov Michala Barteka a Pauly Puškárovej (obaja Hlas-SD). Ten zavádza možnosť pre študentov z tretích krajín - absolventov tretieho stupňa vysokoškolského štúdia požiadať o zmenu účelu pobytu priamo na policajnom útvere na území SR, teda rovnako, ako to majú absolventi prvého alebo druhého stupňa vysokoškolského štúdia. Zároveň vypúšťa limitáciu získania vysokoškolského vzdelania len na území SR.

Účinnosť sa navrhuje od 1. júla tohto roka.

The State Sinfonietta Žilina will perform in Paris

Žilina, June 4 (TASR) - The State Sinfonietta Orchestra (SCO) Žilina will perform at the Salle Gaveau Concert Hall in Paris on Thursday, June 5, at a gala concert to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. As informed by the marketing manager of the Slovak Chamber of Commerce, Júlia Molnárová Kráľová, the concert is organized by the Slovak Institute in Paris in cooperation with the Embassy of the Slovak Republic and with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.

The Žilina Symphony Orchestra will perform in the French capital under the baton of its chief conductor František Macek together with Slovak soloists of the Vienna State Opera - soprano Slávka Zámečniková and bass Peter Kellner. "Both soloists of the evening are one of the most promising and sought-after opera singers of their generation," noted the manager of the Slovak Chamber Orchestra.

She added that after the opening Symphony No. 31 in D major "Paris" by W. A. Mozart, a repertoire dedicated to opera works will be heard. "It is a selection of arias and duets from Mozart's Le nozze di Figaro as well as bel canto arias and duets by Rossini and Donizetti. Slovak music will be represented by the Small Suite with Passacaglia op. 3 by Eugen Suchoň," added Molnárová Kráľová.

The Žilina Chamber Orchestra is the only Mozart-type orchestra in Slovakia and last year it celebrated its 50th anniversary. During its existence, it has played more than 3300 concerts in most European countries, in Tunisia, Turkey, Armenia, South Korea, Japan, China, USA, Canada and Brazil.

Štátny komorný orchester Žilina vystúpi v Paríži

Žilina 4. júna (TASR) - Štátny komorný orchester (ŠKO) Žilina sa vo štvrtok 5. júna predstaví v koncertnej sieni Salle Gaveau v Paríži na slávnostnom speváckom galakonzerte k 80. výročiu ukončenia druhej svetovej vojny. Ako informovala manažérka marketingu ŠKO Júlia Molnárová Kráľová, koncert organizuje Slovenský inštitút v Paríži v spolupráci s Veľvyslanectvom Slovenskej republiky a s finančnou podporou Ministerstva kultúry SR.

Žilinský ŠKO sa v hlavnom meste Francúzska predstaví pod taktovkou svojho šéfdirigenta Františka Macka spolu so slovenskými sólistami Viedenskej štátnej opery - sopranistkou Slávkou Zámečnikovou a basistom Petrom Kellnerom. „Obaja sólisti večera sú jednými z najperspektívnejších a najvyhľadávanejších operných spevákov svojej generácie,“ poznamenala manažérka ŠKO.

Doplnila, že po úvodnej Symfónii č. 31 D dur „Parížskej“ od W. A. Mozarta zaznie repertoár venovaný operným dielam. „Je to výber árií a duet z Mozartovej Figarovej svadby aj belcantové árie a duetá Rossiniho a Donizettiho. Slovenskú tvorbu zastúpi Malá suita s passacagliou op. 3 od Eugena Suchoňa,“ dodala Molnárová Kráľová.

ŠKO Žilina je jediným orchestrom mozartovského typu na Slovensku a minulý rok oslávil 50. výročie vzniku. Počas svojho pôsobenia odohral viac ako 3300 koncertov vo väčšine štátov Európy, v Tunisku, Turecku, Arménsku, Južnej Kórei, Japonsku, Číne, USA, Kanade či Brazílii.



Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 17, 2025 • Home Office

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
- Sabina Sabados..... 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 John Tokarsky and seconded by Damian Nasta 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.....	\$279,126.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations.....	\$42,807.64
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 led a discussion about a new program for Districts and Branches. The new program is "Branding Bucks". This program will give a \$300 stipend to all Districts and Branches to purchase promotional items. Details will be sent to Districts and Branches.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The President and Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on upcoming fraternal activities. The International Bowling Tournament will be held April 26-27, 2025 at Kent Lanes in Kent, Ohio. 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 17

M	E	N	U		C	A	P	P		E	D	A	M			
E	V	E	N	T		I	D	E	A		A	U	R	A		
E	E	R	I	E		T	O	A	D	S	T	O	O	L		
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T	O	O	T	H	A	C	H	E		T	E	A	S	E		
O	G	L	E		L	I	O	N		S	C	R	A	P		
N	O	D	E		S	T	E	T			T	A	U	T		

What kind of shoes do frogs wear?
"Open Toad Sandals"
Where do sheep go on vacation?
"To the Baa-hamas"

Home Office Contacts

800.533.6682 • fcsu@fcsu.com

LIFE INSURANCE

SUZANNEExt. 115 suzanneb@fcsu.com
Life Insurance Department Services, Beneficiary Changes, Cash Value / Surrenders and Medical Assistance Information

FRAN.....Ext. 116 frans@fcsu.com
Claims Department, Life Insurance Claims

JULIE.....Ext. 125 juliec@fcsu.com
Life Insurance Department Services, Address Changes, Policy Payments

ANNUITY DEPARTMENT

TEREZIAExt. 118..... terezia@fcsu.com
Annuity Department Director
Deposit Agreements / Settlement Options, RMD, Scheduled Payments and Deposits

SHERIExt. 126 sherir@fcsu.com
Annuity/IRA Department, New Contracts, Deposits from-to Existing Policies

KELLYExt. 127 kellys@fcsu.com
Annuity/IRA Department, New Contracts, Transfers, Withdrawals, Full Surrenders

DOROTAExt. 129 dorotap@fcsu.com
Annuity Claims Department, Member Portal Customer Service

AGENT SUPPORT

ANDREAExt. 112..... andream@fcsu.com
Agent Coordinator, Commissions

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

AMBERExt. 128 amberg@fcsu.com
Accounts Payable, Life Insurance Policy Loans, Mortgages

BRANCH SUPPORT

BARBARAExt. 122 branch@fcsu.com
district@fcsu.com

Branch and District Liaison, Announcements, Activities, Transfers, Mergers, Deposit Agreements, Fraternal Activities & Events

PAMExt. 119 pamk@fcsu.com
Office Assistant, Branch and District Coordinator

COMMUNICATION

BEATAExt. 114..... beataf@fcsu.com
Chief Marketing Officer, Executive Assistant, FCSU Scholarships

SARA.....Ext. 110 saras@fcsu.com
Administrative Assistant

SHANNONExt. 123..... editor@fcsu.com
Jednota Editor, Newspaper Subscription Requests and/or Changes

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SATURDAY, JUNE 28

\$15 per person

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Crooning from 7:00-11:00pm

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- Do you have debt?
- Is anyone financially dependent on you?



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