



Catholic Fraternal

Jednota

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Volume 133

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NUMBER 6043

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Please Join Us for Our First

Family Fall Festival

Saturday, October 5th, 2024



11:00am - 4:00pm
Simmons Farm
170 Simmons Road
McMurray, PA

See Page 5 For All the Details

Please RSVP by
September 20, 2024

September Reflection

On September 8, we celebrated the birthday of God's mother, Mary. Then on September 12, we honored her holy name, Mary. Another special Marian feast is on September 24 when we honor her as Mother of Mercy. For my name I prefer the Slovak form, Mária—beautiful in its simplicity, yet it resounds worldwide in various forms, combinations, cultures, countries, languages. How many have you encountered? Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

Spevníček (Songbook) — Mária, Mária

Translation

Mária, Mária, nad slnko jasnejšia,
Nad mesiac svetlejšia—nad hviezdy
krasnejšia,
O Mária! Meno tvoje ctené—nech je
oslávené,
Od nás pozdravené, O Mária!

Maria, Maria—more brilliant than the sun,
--- more radiant than the moon,
--- your beauty dims the stars, O Maria!
Your sacred holy name,
--- be honored and revered
--- by all with joyful praise, O Maria!

Mária, Mária, pros Boha večného,
Otca, Syna Jeho, I Ducha Svatého,
O Mária! Bud pri nás v žalosti,
V potrebe, uzkostí, dla svojej milosti,
O Mária!

Maria, Maria—please intercede with God,
--- Our Father with His Son,
--- and Spirit, Triune One, --- O Maria!
Be with us when we grieve,
--- our losses and our needs,
--- with mercy give relief, O Maria!

Mária, Mária, pros Ježiša Syna, By nám
naša vina večne neškodila, O Mária,
Vypros na výsosti, nad hriechom lutosti
Pravej skrušenost, o Mária!

Maria, Maria—ask Jesus your own Son,
--- to pardon all we've done,
--- with His most gracious love, O Maria!

[V roku 1853 mešťanosta Anton Krajčovič založil fundáciu pútnického miesta Topolčany za účelom prehĺbenia úcty k Panne Márii prostredníctvom spevu mariánskej piesne. Každý deň pred ranným zvonením sa podobná pieseň z veže farského kostola na oslavu nebeskej Matky spievala táto pieseň.

In 1853, the burgher Anton Krajčovič established the foundation of a pilgrimage site at Topolčany in order to deepen reverence for the Virgin Mary through the singing of a Marian hymn. Every day before the morning bell rang, a song similar to this was sung from the tower of the parish church in praise of the Heavenly Mother.

— Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., PhD.

Message from the National Chaplain

The texts that are used for the celebration of the church's liturgy have been undergoing an updated translation from the Latin to English over the course of the last several years. Work on the Roman Missal, the Order for the Baptism of Children, the Order of Confirmation, the Order of Penance, and the Order of Celebrating Matrimony has been completed already and are used today in celebrating these sacraments.



Rev. Thomas Nasta
Chaplain

Another translation is finished and may be used beginning September 14, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. It is Holy Communion and the Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass. Its usage becomes mandatory on the First Sunday of Advent, December 1.

The new book replaces Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass, which has been used by the Church in the United States since the mid-1970's.

Like its predecessor, the first half of Holy Communion and the Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass consists of three chapters. Chapter One provides the liturgical texts for the Distribution of Holy Communion Outside Mass, either by a priest or deacon, or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Chapter Two offers the liturgical texts in those cases when an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is called upon to administer Holy Communion and Viaticum to the Dying.

The third chapter is concerned with Various Forms of Worship of the Most Holy Eucharist. This includes Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction, and guidelines for Eucharistic Processions and Eucharistic Congresses.

The second half of the book contains an extensive selection of readings from Sacred Scripture that can be chosen for all the above mentioned liturgies.

Among the differences one notices between the former text and the newer one are the changes to reflect our current practice at Mass. For example, "And also with you" is replaced with "And with your spirit." "The Word of the Lord" replaces "This is the Word of the Lord." Other revisions include the current Penitential Act ("I confess to Almighty God...") and the exchange between the minister and those receiving Holy Communion ("Behold the Lamb of God.... Lord, I am not worthy..."). The translation of texts from the New Testament are now consistent with the translation used at Mass.

Within a matter of weeks, the next updated translation of a liturgical text will become available. The new Order for Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is to replace the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

Check out our website: www.fcsu.com

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY THE WEEK BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated below because of special holiday scheduling. Any article that is not received by this deadline will not necessarily appear in the following Wednesday's issue. All articles will be reviewed for possible publication.

COPY DATE

Monday, September 30
Monday, November 4
Monday, December 2

ISSUE DATE

Wednesday, October 9
Wednesday, November 13
Wednesday, December 11

When submitting announcements for upcoming events, remember that JEDNOTA is printed MONTHLY, and time is lost in the postal system. Please plan to have your announcements to us in ample time for them to be edited and printed. **Please send all Branch & District announcements to branch@fcsu.com or district@fcsu.com.**

Send all articles (English AND Slovak) to:
Shannon Travise, Editor; editor@fcsu.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398
FAX: 216-642-4310

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Update from the President

How Sound Is The FCSU?

From time to time, we receive inquiries as to the strength of our Jednota and how financially sound we are. This is understandable, especially in view of the recent economic turmoil and financial troubles of some larger corporations. Following are some facts regarding our organization.



Kenneth A. Arendt
President, CEO

- The Society was incorporated in 1890!
 - That means we have been in continuing successful operation for over 133 years.
 - How many businesses can make that boast?
- Our assets now exceed \$582,360,000.
 - In just the last 5 years, assets have increased 30% or \$165,835,490. In 2019 assets totaled \$416,524,510.
- Our financial position as of June 30, 2024 is as follows:
 - Bonds constitute 84.2% of the Society's assets and have an average maturity of 11.9 years. The Society enjoys excellent bond quality, with 99% of the bonds in the two highest NAIC rating classes. Preferred and Common Stock now makes up 1.1% of invested assets in an effort to diversify the portfolio and increase investment return. Other assets consist of cash (5.3%); mortgages and real estate (7.7%); and all others (1.7%). The Society's net investment rate of return is at a competitive level.
- Surplus funds and other non-liability reserves total over \$60,557,948 an increase of \$7,911,239. These funds are available in case of market downturn, or an unforeseen emergency.
- The Society is regulated by the insurance department of the state of Ohio, as well, as the insurance departments in each state it is licensed.
 - The Insurance departments conduct regular examinations on a periodic basis and a regular examination was completed during 2019. We received an excellent review.
- The Society is a member of the American Fraternal Alliance (AFA). The AFA was founded in 1886 and is the recognized leader of the Fraternal Benefit System. Its member organizations work together to meet the challenges of a changing world. Member organizations must meet the AFA's established Membership Standard and agree to follow the business principles and ethics as prescribed by the Alliance.
- The First Catholic Slovak Union files financial statements on a quarterly and annual basis using the prescribed industry forms and format.
 - The financial statements are filed with and reviewed by the 27 states in which the Society is licensed.
 - The Society has regular audits by its internal auditors.
 - The Society's external auditors annually audit the financial operations of the Society and submit the required certified report to the State insurance departments.

We point with pride to our long, sound service to our members and the public sector.

Executive Secretary's Message

September is known as Life Insurance Awareness Month.

Here are some interesting statistics:

- 60% of life insurance owners say they feel financially secure*
- 29% of millennials feel they can personally benefit from life insurance*
- 54 million women say they need life insurance, or more coverage*
- 78% of adults overestimate the cost of life insurance*

**Take a moment and ask yourself this question:
DO I NEED LIFE INSURANCE?**

If you still don't know the answer, ask yourself the following:

- Do you have a mortgage?
- Do you have debt?
- Is anyone financially dependent on you?
- Do you want to protect your family?
- Do you want to leave a tax-free monetary gift to your family?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, then you definitely need life insurance. Visit the FCSU Financial website to review the available life insurance products. Here you will be able to obtain more information, and have the ability to download application forms. Please contact your branch officer and or the home office to open a new policy, this month.

**The statistical data is from the 2024 Insurance Barometer Study, LMRA and Life Happens*



Kevin J. Collins
Executive
Secretary, COO

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2024



- 10/3** Branch 853 - Lecture, "Haunted Happenings" - Charleroi, PA
- 10/4** Branch 132 - Meeting, Boonton, NJ
- 10/4** Branch 746 - MASS - Linden, NJ
- 10/5** FCSU Family Fall Festival - Simmons Farm, McMurray, PA (RSVP 9-20)
- 10/5** Branch 5P - Meeting (**Elections**), Wyoming, PA
- 10/6** District 2 - Meeting (**Elections**), Oak Forest, IL (RSVP)
- 10/7** Branch 6 - Young Frankenstein Play, Streator, IL
- 10/12** Branch 181 - Meeting (**Elections**), Latrobe, PA (RSVP)
- 10/12** Branch 844 - Meeting (**Elections**), Fullerton, CA
- 10/12** District 15 - Meeting (**Elections**), Fullerton, CA
- 10/13** Branch 553 - Pork Chop Dinner, Akron, OH
- 10/13** District 2 - John Denver Tribute Show & Lunch, Munster, IN
- 10/13** District 5 - Meeting (**Elections**), Sterling Heights, MI
- 10/19** Branch 153 - Meeting (**Elections**), Harwood Heights, IL
- 10/20** Branch 7 - Meeting (**Elections**), Ramey, PA
- 10/20** Branch 716 - Meeting (**Elections**), New York, NY
- 10/20** Branch 746 - Meeting, Linden, NJ (RSVP)
- 10/20** District 8 - Zoom Meeting (**Elections**)
- 10/20** District 9 - Meeting (**Auditor Election**), Uniontown, PA
- 10/22** Branch 853 - Lecture, "Western PA Stories and Legends" - Charleroi, PA
- 10/23** Branch 410 - Meeting, Uniontown, PA (RSVP)
- 10/26** District 17 - Meeting, Binghampton, NY (RSVP)
- 10/27** Branch 670 - Meeting (In Person & Zoom, **Elections**), Canonsburg, PA
- 10/27** Branch 856 - Zoom Meeting (**Elections**)
- 10/27** District 4 - Meeting (**Elections**), Middlesex, NJ (RSVP)
- 10/27** District 7 - Meeting (**Elections**), Wilmore, PA
- 10/27** District 10 - Meeting (**Elections**), Parma, OH
- 10/27** District 12 - Meeting (**Elections**), Canonsburg, PA
- 10/29** Branch 313 - Meeting (**Elections**), Mokena, IL (RSVP)
- 10/31** **DEADLINE** - Benevolent Scholarship Applications

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

The 3rd Annual Knoebels National Picnic Was Another Huge Success

On June 22nd more than 175 people gathered for the FCSU National Picnic at Knoebels Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA. The weekend started off with an in-house tailgate party where we had a pizza party in the lobby of the Hampton Inn; some even took advantage of the indoor pool to cool off. Then on a hot, hot Saturday morning members and guests arrived at the FCSU pavilion at Knoebels and were greeted by FCSU staff Pam Kelly, Fran Strekal and Barbara Sutula along with National Auditor, Ann Sutula. There they registered and received their wristband for lunch along with a cooler bag with ice cold water to keep them cool throughout the day. FCSU members were treated to a book of tickets to use on rides, games or food anywhere in the park. The pavilion turned out to be a great place to gather out of the sun with fraternal friends and family. In the late afternoon those who had been out riding rides and playing games returned to the FCSU pavilion for a delicious lunch of hot dogs, burgers, chicken, sides and dessert. After lunch, FCSU National Chaplain, Fr. Tom Nasta, ended the afternoon by celebrating Mass for our members, guests and park guests who wanted to join us. We were happy to see several Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA arrive for lunch and mass. Good times and great memories were made at this first national picnic of the season. Thank you to everyone who came to the event and brought your friends and family. It was great to see everyone come together and have some fun!



FCSU Financial[®]

Family Fall Festival

A Multi-Generational Event for FCSU Members and Guests



*Enjoy a seasonal afternoon
out on the farm!*

Saturday, October 5, 2024 • 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

LUNCH: 12-2 pm • BINGO: 2-3 pm

Simmons Farm • 170 Simmons Rd • McMurray, PA

- 🍂 Take a Hayride to the Outdoor Field Activities
- 🍂 Find your way through multiple Corn Mazes
- 🍂 Pick your perfect pumpkin from the 5-acre Pumpkin Field
- 🍂 Visit the resident farm animals at the Petting Zoo
- 🍂 Race down the chute of the 100 ft. Slide
- 🍂 Enjoy Lunch and Bingo in the Greenhouse
- 🍂 Rest and recharge in the Field Pavilion

Other Field Activities: Pumpkin Corn Hole. Rubber Duck Races. Corn Hopper Basketball. Human Hamster Wheel. Peddle Cars. Tire Maze. Slides. Apple Rock Labyrinth. And More!

More to do:

- Shop for farm fresh produce at the market
- Pick your own apples or flowers. Inquire/purchase inside the market
- For more information visit simmonsfarm.com



Ways to Extend Your Day

5:00 pm Catholic Mass at St. Benedict the Abbot Church, 120 Abington Drive, McMurray - Five minutes from the farm. Shop the Tanger Outlet Mall or try your luck at The Hollywood Casino at the Meadows - Both just ten minutes away.

For a comfortable outdoor experience, please wear appropriate seasonal clothing and sturdy footwear - walking shoes, hiking or rain boots are all good options. The fields may be uneven, hilly and possibly wet. Since this is a **Rain or Shine** event, be prepared with rain gear for the little ones. Both the Field Pavilion and Greenhouse provide picnic table seating and shelter from the elements. (Lunch is inside the greenhouse, located by the market.) If the parking lot is full upon your arrival, you will be directed to the grass parking lot. A wagon shuttle runs from the grass lot to the greenhouse frequently.

The Family Fall Festival is *FREE* for all FCSU members. Reservations are required.

To RSVP: call 800-533-6682 ext. 122 or email events@fcsu.com before September 20, 2024

Your guests are welcome to join us for the catered lunch at no cost.

Guests may purchase hayride/field activities wristbands at the registration table for \$19.00/person.

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

Bingo, Boating, Food and Fun at Weigand Lake Park

On August 10th, FCSU hosted a National Picnic at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty, Ohio. We had a beautiful, sunny day and great turn out of members and guests. Attendees loved all the authentic Slovak food provided by Branch 24 member and Wiegand Lake Park owner, Carrie and Ken Borah. The delicious food, desserts and unlimited ice cream kept everyone going back for more. There were plenty of activities including paddle boats, corn hole, volleyball, face painting, and bingo. The band, NorthCoast Mix, entertained the crowd with a large variety of music. We extend our thanks to the entire staff at Wiegand Lake Park for taking such good care of our members. A special thank you to Rev. Donald Ewulu from St. Bridget of Kildare Parish in Parma, OH who stepped in for Fr. Nasta and celebrated an afternoon outdoor mass on the wedding deck. It was the perfect ending to a day of fun and fraternalism.



2024 SPOOKTACULAR Pumpkin Carving Contest

Enter if You Dare!



Monsters are prowling and werewolves are howling, as witches take flight on their brooms.

Zombies are moaning and ghosts are out roaming, as mummies arise from their tombs.

Jack-O-Lanterns glare in frightful delight, as they glow in the dark on Halloween night.

"More Fraternal Fun from the FCSU"

Carve your
SCARIEST
MOST
ARTISTIC
or
*MOST
REALISTIC*
pumpkin
for your
chance to win
\$100!

CONTEST RULES:

- Your entry may be a real pumpkin or gourd of any color. Craft or foam pumpkins/gourds are not permitted.
- Pumpkins must be carved and/or shaved. Paints or markers may also be used in the design.
- Props may be attached to the pumpkin, if an integral part of the design.
- Craft machine die cuts or pre-cut decals, stickers, etc. are not permitted as part of the final design.
- Carved pumpkins should be illuminated with non-flammable candles or other battery-operated lights.
- All participants must be current members of the FCSU.
- FCSU Members may enter once per category, but cannot enter the same pumpkin in multiple categories.
- A minimum of two entries within each category and age group must be received for a prize to be awarded.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Entries must be received no later than **November 10, 2024**

SUBMIT: Three photos of your pumpkin (only the pumpkin) with the official entry form indicating your selected category.
1. Photo of your pumpkin prior to carving. **2.** Photo of your fully carved pumpkin in daylight. **3.** Photo of your carved pumpkin illuminated at night.

WINNERS: One winner will be selected in each of the three themed categories per age group. Total of **15** winners.
 The decisions of independent judges are final.

PRIZES: **\$100** will be awarded to each individual winner.

-----**ENTRY FORM**-----

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____ **Branch #** _____


Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Category: Scary Artistic *Most Realistic* **Subject:** _____

Age Group: 8-12 13-19 20-34 35-54 55 +

Email your photos (jpeg) and entry form to: Contest@FCSU.com with "Pumpkin Contest" in the subject line. Or mail your entry form and photos to: Joanne Fibbi, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

*** Most Realistic is the depiction of an animal, fictional/movie character or real person (living or dead.) ***



THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC. 2024 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO TEN (10) \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA.

Jednota Benevolent Foundation Award Criteria:

1. Any individual of Slovak descent and Catholic faith who is currently enrolled in college or another post secondary educational institution is eligible for a Scholarship.
2. Applicants will be required to describe accomplishments they believe would qualify them for recognition in general, and specifically, accomplishments in the areas of:
 - Scholarship
 - Leadership
 - Service to school, church and community
3. Applicants will also be required to provide:
 - An official high school or college transcript of grades and all standardized test scores achieved, including all ACT or SAT scores; (if applicable)
 - One (1) letter of recommendation authored by a teacher, counselor, administrator or an employment supervisor familiar with the applicant;
 - Examples of applicant's community involvement;
 - A list and description of leadership positions held by applicant;
 - A list of awards received by applicant for scholastic excellence, community involvement, or leadership ability;
 - A description of the applicant's academic or career objectives;
 - A statement demonstrating an applicant's need for education financing.

Applicants, even those who are previous recipients of this scholarship, may apply yearly.



For applications, please contact:

Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc.
First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
Independence, Ohio 44131
Phone: 800.533.6682 • Fax: 216.642.4310
E-mail: fcsu@fcsu.com

Applications can be downloaded from our website
www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 31, 2024

Family members of the Scholarship Committee are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.

2024 Stephen C. Matula Scholarship Winners



ANTHONY ANGOTTI

College: Utah Tech University
Major: Electrical Engineering



ANGELINA BANAS

College: New Jersey Institute of Technology
Major: Mechanical Engineering



HANNAH BUZA

College: Binghamton University
Major: Social Work



LAUREN KUKUCKA

College: Bowling Green State University
Major: Psychology



MICAH KRAJSA

College: East Stroudsburg University
Major: Undecided



MARTIN MEYER

College: Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Major: General Music BA



ISABEL OWENS

College: Lehigh University
Major: Biology



NOAH PELES

College: Temple University
Major: Data Science



JOSEPH PUMFORD

College: College of St. Joseph the Worker
Major: Electrical/Liberal Arts



ANASTAS RAYKOV

College: The Ohio State University
Major: Biology



CHARLES ROBERTS

College: Franciscan University of Steubenville
Major: English



NATHAN SCHWERTFEGER

College: West Virginia University
Major: Finance/Management Information Systems



2024 Stephen C. Matula Scholarship Winners

Continued from page 9



LEO SOLGA

College: University of Pennsylvania
Major: Political Science



AMY VARJAN

College: Sacred Heart University
Major: Psychology



JOHN ZBIHLEY

College: Purdue University
Major: Chemical Engineering



THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC. 2024 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

See page 9 for all the details.



Scholarship & Graduation Updates

Logan Snively Receives Scholarship

The St. John the Baptist Society – Branch 181 of United, PA is pleased to announce the one-time scholarship award of \$1000 to Logan Snively of Jeannette, PA. He is the son of Kelly R. Snively and Samuel T. Snively. Logan is a 2024 graduate of Greensburg Central Catholic High School. He plans to attend John



Carroll University in Ohio to study Biology with a minor in Chemistry. His career goal is to become a medical doctor. Logan's community service along with being a member of the Spanish National Honor Society and receiving the Blase Caranese III Memorial Scholarship and the Catholic Commitment Award makes him a well-deserved scholarship recipient. In Logan's own words, "My desire is to make a difference and commit to serve in an underserved community." Logan received his award at a lunch in his honor at Applebee's in Greensburg, PA. His father, Samuel T. Snively, his brothers Colin and Alexander, and his grandparents Genevieve T. and Samuel W. Snively accompanied him to the award lunch. Presenting the scholarship were the Branch 181 officers - President Darlene Patty, Vice President Ed Mizikar, Treasurer-Financial Secretary Richard Mizikar, and branch member Bill Patty. We wish Logan all the best in his academic pursuits!

Submitted by Vicki Hricik



Branch 162 Honors Scholarship Winners

The officers of the St. Wendelin Branch 162 honored their 2024 Jednota scholarship recipients. A brunch was held at Shoney's restaurant in Uniontown, PA on July 21, 2024 for the recipients, their family members and the officers of Branch 162. Shown in the front row of the photo is Branch 162 president, Joanne Marmol. In the second row, left to right, is Owen Reed, Sydney Marmol and Paul Mills.

Officers in attendance included Secretary Dolores Marmol, Auditor Frank Marmol and Treasurer Patty Marmol. Former president Mark Marmol was in attendance and Regional Director James Marmol. The officers of Branch 162 would like to extend their congratulations to the graduates on all their achievements and wish them future success.

Photo taken by Kim Marmol
Submitted by Patty Marmol



Magee Family Graduate Updates

As a proud grandmother, I wish to acknowledge the accomplishments of brothers and my grandsons, Andrew and Brian Magee.

- Andrew, a Jednota scholarship winner in June 2020, graduated Magna cum Laude in May, 2024 from Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ.
- Brian, a June 2024 scholarship winner, graduated with a 4.0 average for four years from Cherokee High School and will attend St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA in the Fall.
- Another grandson, Aidan Bruccoliere, a Jednota scholarship winner in June 2023 will be a Sophomore at Eastern Carolina University in the Fall.

All 12 grandchildren - 11 grandsons and one granddaughter - along with my six children are members of Jednota Branch #157. My father, Andrew J. Lakatos, was Financial Secretary for many years of the former Branch #175 in Reading, PA.

Submitted by Joan S. Magee




OVER \$200,000

FCSU Financial has awarded over \$200,000 in Scholarships in 2024 alone!

Take Me **OUT** to the Ball Game!

As the song goes, "Take me out to the ball game, Take me out with the crowd..." Several of our branches enjoyed time with the crowd and each other this summer. Enjoy these recaps of the "old ball game!"

Districts 4 and 16 organize a Day at the Ballpark with the Somerset Patriots

On Sunday, July 28th, the First Catholic Slovak Union District 4 (Msgr. John E. Rura - New Jersey) and District 16 (Msgr. Stephen Krasula - New York) organized a thrilling day at the Somerset Patriots baseball game. The sunny and warm weather added to the vibrant atmosphere at the stadium, which was filled with a large number of enthusiastic attendees. Members of all ages, including our youngest baseball fans from Branches 45, 290, and 746, were present and enjoyed the event. With more than 50 Jednota members attending, it was nice to see both new faces and old at this event!

The highlight of the day was the enthusiastic rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" by our Jednota kids (with a little help from their parents), who wowed the crowd with their spirited singing of the classic baseball song. The day was made even more special when we had the opportunity to meet the team's beloved mascot, much to the delight of the kids. It was a memorable outing filled with smiles and laughter, celebrating our shared love of sports and the spirit of togetherness.

Submitted by Jo Anne Peppe, District 4 Fraternal Activities Director



Ohio and Pennsylvania Districts Gather for a Baseball Game

On Sunday, September 2nd, members and guests of FCSU Regions 4, 5 and 6 joined together to watch the Cleveland Guardians and Pittsburgh Pirates at Progressive Field in downtown Cleveland, OH.

Members and guests of Branches 1, 24, 38, 162, 181, 228, 410, 450, 553, 682, 731, 855 gathered in the parking lot at the home office in Independence, OH for a tailgating party with over 165 people in attendance! We enjoyed chicken, sandwiches, cheesy potatoes and cupcakes arranged by District 10 Treasurer, Ann Sutilla, and District 10 Secretary, Barbara Sutilla, along homemade Slovak sausage and peppers prepared by Branch 553 President Debbie Speck and her team from the Slovak J Club in Akron, OH who also helped serve the food. The food was delicious and plentiful...no one left hungry! We had time to toss around a football, play some cornhole and make new friends while waiting for the buses that drove everyone to the stadium.

Many thanks to the branches and districts who contributed money and food for this joint venture. And to the hardworking volunteers who helped before and after the event. A special thank you to the Home Office for the use of the parking lot for the tailgate.

This was an enjoyable day of food, fraternalism and fun. Much to the chagrin of the Pirates fans who drove from Pittsburgh to root for their team, the home team won the game 4 – 2 with a couple of home runs to make the game exciting!

Submitted by Greg Petrasek, President, District 10



District 12 & The Wild Things

Friends and family of FCSU, District 12, enjoyed a fraternal day of Frontier Baseball. The Washington Wild Things are a professional baseball team in the Frontier League that play in Washington, PA. Our District 12 children outvoted the adults to attend "Disney Night at the Park". Everyone was extremely excited to learn that Bluey and Bingo were holding a pregame meet and greet. We were proud to see our young members enjoying this District outing. Our Wild Things team beat the New York Boulders by a score of 8-1. This was an extra special day for our District. Branch 320 & Branch 670 would like to offer a special thanks to all involved in making this a successful fraternal event. May God Bless our First Catholic Slovak Union.

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, District 12, Vice-President



Region 3 Branches Enjoy Exciting Yankees Minor League Baseball Game

Members of several Region 3 branches attended a Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railriders baseball game on June 8th. The region had arranged for a suite and buffet food for its members and guests to enjoy. The event was held in conjunction with the Fraternal Societies of Northeastern PA whose 70 members were also in attendance with their own outdoor deck. Members of the FSNEPA were able to throw out the first pitch, and all of the societies, including the FCSU, were announced on the Jumbotron.

While the Railriders were down 7-1 in the bottom of the seventh inning, they were able to fight back to within one run at the bottom of the eighth. They completed the comeback with a three-run walk off homer to win. It was perfect summer weather at the game, and everyone enjoyed the exciting finish.

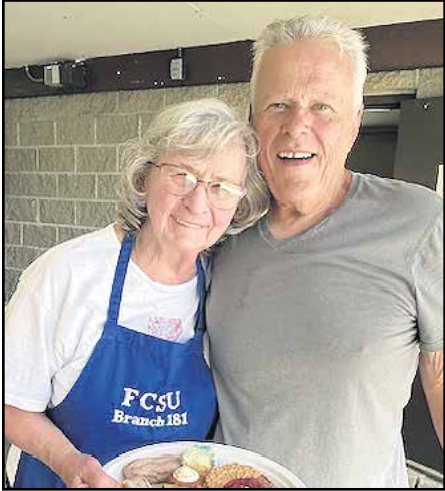
Submitted by Martha Zavada, Region 3 Director



Branch 181 Annual Family Picnic

Members and guests of The St. John the Baptist Society - Branch 181 - United, PA enjoyed gathering at Mammoth Park for their Annual Family Picnic on Sunday, June 30, 2024. It was a bright sunny day with a gentle breeze and beautiful backdrop of Mammoth Lake. Everyone savored the lunch of chicken, halupki, kielbasi, haluski, macaroni salad and other tasty dishes and desserts brought by attendees. Many great door prizes were awarded to members along with a drawing for a 50/50 raffle. It was our pleasure to spend the afternoon with FCSU President Ken Arendt and his wife, Theresa, Executive Secretary Kevin Collins, General Counsel Gary Matta and his wife, Larissa. Our Region 4 Director James Marmol and his wife, Patty, were able to join us as well. National Officers from our branch, Chairman of Auditors Greg Maurer and Supreme Court Member James Bench and his wife, Kay, attended and assisted with the picnic. Seeing our members having a great time makes the family picnic worthwhile! Looking forward to seeing everyone next year!

Submitted by Vicki Hricik





Baby Nathanael!

Branch 320 is proud to announce the arrival of Nathanael Gabriel. The Tiech family have been FCSU members for over 50 years. Nathanael will be 4th generation. Branch 320 can be seen throughout the hall celebrating. May God's Blessing be with Nathanael now and forever.

Submitted by Mary Ann Higginbotham and Joe Tarquinio



5th Generation Members

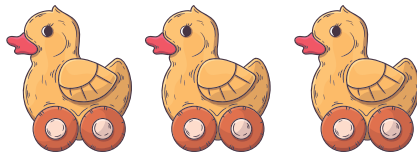
Three-year-old Thomas Wojnar, a member of Branch #35 - Pittsburgh, PA, welcomes his baby sister as the newest member of the branch. Abigail Rose was born in May, 2024 to proud parents Andrew and Chrissy Wojnar of Plum Borough, PA.

Thomas and Abigail, fifth generation members of the FCSU are the grandchildren of Joseph and Patricia Wojnar, and great grandchildren of the late Joseph and Berniece Yuros, all of Branch #35.

Submitted by Patricia Wojnar



From left to right: Bruce Higginbotham, Mary Anne Higginbotham (Branch 320, President), Frances Tarquinio (Financial Secretary), Chelsea Tiech (mom), Nathanael Tiech (arrived July 30, 2024), Chris Tiech (dad), Joseph Tarquinio (Branch 320 - Vice-President)



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Slovak Day at Kennywood

On August 18, 2024, FCSU members from Branches 38, 320, 670 and 853 enjoyed a perfect fraternal day at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA. It was the 101th year that the Slovak nationality day was observed. Slovak food was served, Slovak music played and Mass was said with Slovak readings and songs. Thanks for making it a great day and fun for all.

Pittsburgh's local park was founded as a recreational playground far away from the hustle and bustle of downtown. This idyllic site overlooking the Monongahela River has transformed over the past 12 decades into one of the world's greatest amusement parks, featuring rides and attractions fit for all ages. Kennywood Park was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987.

Photos and stories submitted by Monica Boone, Logan Hasselhoff and Joe Tarquinio



On July 18, the Hlinka district shared the fun at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA as they enjoyed the 101st celebration of Slovak Day. 21 members of branches 853, 670 and 320 were in attendance.



Patty Davies (Branch 320, Auditor), Thomas Davies (Branch 320) and Mandy Davies were seen here enjoying a relaxing afternoon at Kennywood.



Branch 853 members, Michael Bertovich, Charles Boone, Susan Painter, Ronald Boone and Monica Boone



Some young members of Branch 38 enjoying the Slovak Day festivities at Kennywood Park .



Sara Davies (Branch 320) and Nathaniel Edwards were caught enjoying fries with Kenny Kangaroo. Look close...The cheese can be seen on Kennys vest.



Bob and Kim Bury (Branch 320) enjoying Kennywood Slovak Day. The Burys drove from Alabama for this Slovak Event.

Edward and Bernadine Kapura Celebrate Golden Anniversary

Edward and Bernadine Kapura, Carlisle, PA, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their family while on vacation in Chincoteague, VA. They were married on August 17, 1974 at St. Patrick's Church in Carlisle, PA, the church they still attend today. They met in Carlisle, PA in the early 1970's while living in the same apartment building. Edward (Member Branch 181K), a graduate of Penn State University, worked his entire career at PPG Industries in Mt. Holly Springs, PA as an electrical engineer. Bernadine, a graduate of Edinboro University and a Master's from Cabrini College, worked as a reading specialist and retired as a 3rd grade teacher. They have 2 children, David Kapura (wife Johanna), and Jennifer Adams (husband Timothy). They have 4 beautiful granddaughters that are the light of their lives. Congratulations Edward and Bernadine and Happy Anniversary!

Submitted by Vicki Hricik



Bill and Darlene Patty Celebrate 40th Wedding Anniversary

Bill and Darlene Patty celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on June 9. Family and friends gathered to celebrate on June 8th at the Stone Villa Winery in Acme, PA. They have three sons, Robert Patty and his wife Lindsay, and Ryan Patty and his wife Shannon, and Bill Patty and his husband Mel Metts Patty. They are the proud grandparents of Reid and Wells Patty, sons of Robb and Lindsay. Their sons and spouses hosted the anniversary event. Darlene is the President of Branch 181 and Bill is the President of District 3 - George Onda District. Congratulations and Happy Anniversary with many blessings for Darlene and Bill from Branch 181!

Submitted by Vicki Hricik



Members Attend Danville Festival

Members of Branches 5 and 173 enjoyed a day of festivities at Danville, the mother-house of the sisters of St. Cyril and Methodius. Members were able to enjoy Slovak food, listen to live music, and visit with other people from the community. There was also a flea market, a basket raffle, and bingo to keep members entertained. The sisters sold homemade baked goods including bread, poppyseed rolls, and scones.

Submitted by Martha Zavada, Region 3 Director



From left to right: Marion Rubino, President of Branch 5; Martha Zavada, Regional Director; Anna Hudock, member of Branch 173; and Adelle Zavada, member of Branch 05 who attended St. Cyril Academy and traveled from Tennessee for this event.

Anna Matas of Branch 746 celebrates her 93rd Birthday

On June 11, our dear mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Mrs. Anna Matas of Branch 746, Linden, New Jersey celebrated her 93rd birthday. We are blessed that she is able to share her wisdom and love with all of us for so many years. From our hearts, we wish her much health, happiness, joy, contentment, and God's blessing. We raise a toast to our matriarch, "živio!"

Dňa 11. júna sa dožila krásnych požehnaných 93 rokov, naša drahá mamička, babička a prababička pani Anna Matas (Branch 746). Zo srdca jej želáme veľa zdravia, šťastia, radosti, spokojnosti a Božieho požehnanie, nech ju i naďalej chráni ruka Božia. Dcéry s rodinami, vnúčatá a pravnúčatá jej ďakujú za lásku a starostlivosť a pripijajú na jej zdravie "živio!"



Submitted by Emilia Filak, Supreme Court member, Branch 746

2024 Perryopolis Parish Festival

Branch 320 would like to thank all volunteers of the St. John the Baptist Perryopolis Parish Festival. We were excited to see Bishop Larry J. Kulick (FCSU – Protector) celebrating a Polka Mass. Numerous FCSU brothers and sisters were seen enjoying Mass.

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Vice-President, Branch 320





Region 1's Annual Summer Picnic in the Park

On Saturday, August 6, 2024, the warm, humid air of Al Kalla Park in Linden, NJ, buzzed with excitement as members of Region 1 gathered for their Annual Summer Picnic, hosted by Branch 746. This much-anticipated annual event brought together the community for a day filled with fraternal spirit, hearty Slovak cuisine, and joyous camaraderie.

The day kicked off with a warm welcome from Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados, setting the tone for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. Despite the looming threat of thunderstorms, the weather held up, allowing everyone to enjoy the festivities to the fullest.

A highlight of the day was the mouthwatering Slovak food provided by Julie and Steve Rada Catering, where members indulged in authentic dishes including holupky. As the afternoon heat intensified, an unexpected treat arrived—a neighborhood ice cream truck, offering refreshing soft-serve delights that brought smiles to young and old alike.

The picnic also served as an occasion to celebrate the achievements of the younger generation. The Jednota Branch 746 Scholarships were awarded to three outstanding students—Isabel Jabornik, Oliver Feco, and Anna Zvoc—each receiving a \$1,500 scholarship in recognition of their academic excellence and leadership within the community. Isabel and Anna, both aspiring filmmakers, and Oliver, who is set on pursuing sports management, exemplify the values of hard work and dedication that Branch 746 proudly upholds.

The day concluded with heartfelt thanks to all the members and friends who attended, reinforcing the strength and unity of the Jednota community. As the sun set over Al Kalla Park, plans were already being made for next year's gathering, with everyone looking forward to continuing this cherished tradition.

Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director



The Pilgrimage Site of Levoča Became the Destination of Our Trip Through Slovakia

Members of FCSU Branch 844 Los Angeles visited Slovakia in June and early July 2024. On their way through the Slovak spa resorts Trenčianske Teplice, Piešťany, Rajecké Teplice, Bešeňová, Tatralandia, Vysoké Tatry, Štrbské Pleso, Skalnaté Pleso, they went as far as the pilgrimage site on Marian Mountain (Mariánská Hora) in Levoča.

In Levoča, we participated in mass in the Basilica of St. James, which is a Gothic sacral building. Together with the nearby Renaissance town hall, it forms a dominant feature of the Town square of Master Paul.

Already after entering the church, the visitor is charmed by the wealth as well as the artistic and historical value of its interior furnishings, which are among the rarest sacral interiors offered in Slovakia.

The main altar of the Church of St. James, which fills the end of the church presbytery, is its most valuable art-historical artifact and attracts every visitor upon entering the church not only with its monumentality but also with its artistic design. With its height – 18.62 meters (the tallest Gothic wing altar in the world) – and width – 6.21 meters – it majestically fills the space at the end of the presbytery. The altar belongs to the largest works of art of its kind in Transalpine Europe.

According to contemporary records, the altar was created in several stages between 1508 and 1517. The basic carving part dates from 1508 and 1510; The carving part of the altar is the work of Master Pavol from Levoča.

On November 30, 2015, Pope Francis elevated the church to a basilica minor.

On Sunday, July 7, 2024, a pilgrimage took place in Levoča near the church on Maria Mountain (Mariánská hora), which, according to estimates, was attended by around 100,000 pilgrims.

Submitted by Paul Skuben



Pútnické miesto Levoča sa stalo cieľom našej cesty po Slovensku.

Členovia FCSU Branch 844 Los Angeles navštívili v júni a začiatkom júla 2024 Slovensko. Na ich ceste po Slovenských kúpeľných miestach Trenčianske Teplice, Piešťany, Rajecké Teplice, Bešeňová, Tatralandia, Vysoké Tatry, Štrbské Pleso, Skalnaté Pleso, zašli až na pútnické miesto na Mariánsku Horu do Levoče.

V Levoči sme sa zúčastnili sv. omše v Bazilike svätého Jakuba čo je gotická sakrálna stavba. Spolu s neďaleko stojacou renesančnou mestskou radnicou tvorí dominantu Námestia Majstra Pavla.

Už po vstupe do chrámu návštevníka očarí bohatstvo ako aj umelecká a historická hodnota jeho interiérového vybavenia, ktorá patrí k tomu najzaujímavejšiemu čo sakrálny interiéry na Slovensku ponúkajú.

Hlavný oltár Chrámu svätého Jakuba, vyplňajúci záver chrámového presbytéria, je jeho najcennejším umelecko-historickým artefaktom a už pri vstupe do kostola upúta každého návštevníka nielen svojou monumentalitou ale aj výtvarným prevedením. So svojou výškou – 18,62 metra (najvyšší gotický krídlový oltár na svete) – a šírkou – 6,21 metra – majestátne vyplňa priestor záveru presbytéria. Oltár patrí k najväčším umeleckým dielam svojho druhu v zaalpskej Európe.

Podľa dobových záznamov oltár vznikol vo viacerých etapách medzi rokmi 1508 – 1517. Základná rezbárska časť pochádza z rokov 1508 – 1510; Rezbárska časť oltára je dielom Majstra Pavla z Levoče a jeho dielne.

30. Novembra 2015 pápež František chrám povýšil na baziliku minor.

V nedeľu 7. Júla 2024 sa konala púť v Levoči pri kostolíku na Mariánskej hore, na ktorej sa podľa odhadov zúčastnilo okolo 100 tisíc pútnikov.



Zapísal Ing. Pavol Skuben

Chewy's Corner

Hi friends, it's Chewy! I have missed you. I've been busy with back-to-school activities. It was fun to meet my new teachers, see classmates I didn't see all summer and get back into my hobbies. I don't want to toot my own horn, but I am pretty good at chasing a ball. Playing an instrument in the band is pretty cool too. I have friends who play the saxophone, tubas and drums. They are so different from each other but each sound is needed to complete the song. I love music! Oh, and the dances. I really like school and am excited to learn new things every day.

It is also one of my favorite seasons - Fall! We still have warm days, but the nights are cool. One of my favorite things is going to pumpkin farms. Do you know FCSU is hosting a Family Fall Festival? We get to choose a pumpkin, go on hayrides, run around mazes, roll on a hamster wheel and so much more. I sure hope I get to see you there.

I don't want to leave you, but I have homework to do. You understand...you might have some too. Until next month, study hard!

Your Friend, Chewy



Where's Chewy?

Hey kids, remember the search and find game we are playing in the Jednota with my sticker? If you are joining the game late, you can still play! Have you ever played Where's Waldo? Or an I Spy game? Well, this is kind of like that. Find the Chewy sticker!

Here's how to play: In the June and July issues, I hid my sticker somewhere in the paper. Maybe on somebody's photo, on a flyer or hidden in the corner of a page. Your job is to find my sticker in THREE newspapers. This is the **final issue** to find me.

After I you have found me all three times (June, July, September) send the three newspaper clippings of my hidden sticker to the Home Office: 6611 Rockside Rd. Suite #300, Independence, OH 44131. I will select one special winner for a grand prize*! Make sure to include your name, branch number and return address so I know where to find you. Remember, if you do not have a physical copy of the Jednota, or forget to cut out my sticker, you can always find the issues online at www.fcsu.com/newspaper.

Here are your hints for this issue:

- I am in the front half of this issue
- Play ball!
- I am on the bottom of the page.

Where am I?

Good luck and I can't wait to see how many people played our game.

*Must be a Member in good standing
12 years of age or younger

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.

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

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001P	Lewis Maylath	112K	Carolyn A Obrzut	410K	Lillian A Mesco	746K	Catherine Banas
002K	Frank J Franek	112K	Paul Gardinsky	410K	Mary K Balog	746K	William Grzybowski
004K	John S Gronsky Sr	157K	Marilyn Katrinak	417K	Merlin E Bock	764K	William E Trunick
005P	Jane Ann Sobota	166K	Josephine A. Lukacs	456K	Martin S Rusnak	785K	Alexander Dobrik
005P	Michael Kocis Jr	173K	Cyril J Wallo	484K	Gertrude J Mlinarich	831K	Agnes Dubnicay
006K	Marilyn Massey	173K	Herbert Otto Jr	484K	James Geletka	853K	David Bertovich
019K	Edward P Fedor	181K	Dorothy J Vidakovich	553K	Catherine H Pachipka	855K	Robert J Jasko
019K	John M Prokop	181K	James Androstic	553K	Edward Kacsanek	856K	Stephanie G Sloan
019K	Mary B Henchar	200K	Michael Tomaswick	553K	James A Misanko	857K	Edward Pokorny
023K	Joseph E Reynolds	200K	Robert Smith	587K	Joseph V Lakas	900K	Carol Ann Ball
023K	Joseph John Palus Jr	228K	Catherine Brest	615K	Rita Rose Zane	900K	David M Allen
024K	Mildred C Bibb	294K	Raymond Jaszczak	670K	Arthur F Hruby	916K	John J Ferrari
024K	Norman G Birosh	312K	Michaelene T Smolleck	670K	Maureen Jenkins	919K	Russell A Ash
024K	Vera Baka	322K	Robert Pinchot	682K	Joan Madsen	923K	Dianne Devine
038K	Carole A Severa	333K	Joseph Lyncha	721K	Paul Thornton	926K	M Susan Kraft
102K	Jacqueline M Rodriguez	382K	Joseph Hanicak	743K	Frances Smetanka		

* Processed in the month of July 2024

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
006K	Gary S Sedlacko	200K	Lori A Whipkey	330K	Gloria J Spicer	746K	Florence Kopchak
019K	Mariellen Krajcik	260K	Irene Parker	382K	Anna Mae Stracham	746K	John Rokita
024K	Rosemary E Benesh	276K	Kelly Miller	382K	Helen L Carroll	746K	Michael G Torhan
038K	Jeffrey Paul Mustovic	293K	Anna Zaba	393K	Michael F Birchak	746K	Robert Francis Cavanagh
045K	Kristina Zaprazna	293K	Theresa A Yakup	401K	Stephanie Ciesielski	764K	Barbara Greavu
060K	Joseph S Harbulak Sr	293K	Thomas Lakata	553K	Darlene Mehalko	796K	Frank J Noti
075K	Alfred Freistak	312K	Martha J Rullo	553K	Vincent Zahora	831K	Karl Buday
075K	Richard T Freistak	313K	Augustine Tartol	581K	Agnes Marzec	900K	Michael J Novak
085K	Stephen Tobias	313K	Eleanor Moravcik	652K	Robert Kopen	919K	Samuel Cunningham
086K	Rita A Brandt	315K	Robert F Vereb	682K	Michael J Belcik	922K	Margaret E Bucciaglia
157K	Leo Pavelco	320K	John Dudas	721K	David Michael Beno	927K	Thomas Rebic
181K	Paula Marie Yohman	320K	Margaret A Graytok	731K	Raymond Feranchak		

* Processed in the month of August 2024

Nekrológy – Obituaries

**CAROLE SEVERA
BRANCH 38
EDENTON, NC**



Carole Ann Ferer Severa, 86, of 417 Captains Cove, Unit A, Edenton, NC, died Saturday, June 15, 2024, in Chowan River Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Mrs. Severa was born in Homestead, PA on February 14, 1938 and was the daughter of the late George and Stella Kowalski Ferer. A homemaker, she was a member of Resurrection Catholic Church in West Mifflin, PA.

Surviving is her husband of 65 years, Richard J. Severa; their sons, Richard M. Severa (Joann) of Pittsburgh, PA, Raymond J. Severa (Rose) of Westlake, OH, and Dr. Jeffrey Severa (Lindsay) of Merry Hill; a sister, Janice Bolster of Marquette, MI; eight grandchildren, Jessica Peek (Kyle), and Ricky, Lauren, Julia, Alexander, Justin, Holden, and Chandler Severa.

Contributions in her memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or online at www.stjude.org.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.millerfhc.com.

**MICHAELENE SMOLLECK
BRANCH 312
LATROBE, PA**



Michaelene T. "Micki" Ridilla Smolleck, 77, of Latrobe (Unity Township) passed away Saturday, June 22, 2024, at her home. Born August 6, 1946, in Latrobe, she was a daughter of the late Michael J. and Helen A. (Wasileski) Ridilla. Micki was an active and devoted member of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Bradenville, and its Ladies Guild.

Prior to her retirement, she had been employed in the Unity Township Tax Collector's office and also served as president of Jednota Branch 312. A terrific baker, she was especially known for her trays of wonderful Christmas cookies.

Throughout her life, she enjoyed traveling all over, and her most memorable and favorite trip was an Alaskan cruise. Micki's kind and caring personality stood out to those who knew her. Her compassion and concern for the well-being of others, even despite her own health concerns, was a testament to her loving heart. Her family meant everything to her, and she was a dedicated and loving

wife, mother and grandmother.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved dog, Blaze. Micki is survived by her husband of 56 years, Mark E. Smolleck of Latrobe; three children, Dr. Kelly L. Hale and her husband, Jeffrey, of Ashburn, Virginia, Scott M. Smolleck of Lewisburg and Kristi L. Miller and her husband, Barry, of Canonsburg; five grand-children, Ryan, Taylor and Connor Hale, and Dominic and Gabriella Smolleck; her brother, Lawrence M. Ridilla of Ligonier; two sisters, Karen Gross and her husband, Tom, of Ligonier and Janet Ridilla of Buford, Georgia, and several nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend a special thank-you to the staff of Excelsa Health Home Care and Hospice, serving Independence Health System, for their kind and compassionate care.

**MARGARET GRAYTOK
BRANCH 320
CANONSBURG, PA**



Margaret A. Graytok age 97 of Canonsburg, passed away peacefully, Sunday, May 5, 2024, in McMurray Hills Manor,

Peters Twp.

She was born March 27, 1927, in Youngstown, OH, a daughter of the late Andrew and Mary Voytilla Canter. Mrs. Graytok lived most of her life in Canonsburg where she was a member of St. Oscar Romero Parish St. Patrick Church.

Margaret attended the Western Area Vo-Technical School and prior to her retirement she had been employed as a Certified Nursing Assistant in Home Health Care.

Margaret had been a member of the Christian Mothers and Guild of St. Patrick and had served as an officer of the local Jednota Lodge #380, which is now 320.

She enjoyed reading, crocheting and spending time with her grandchildren. She married Andrew Graytok who passed away February 2, 1978. Left behind to cherish her memory are her children, Bonnie (the late Jack) Wesolowski, of Cuyahoga Falls, OH, Barbara (Henry) Shuba of Akron, OH, Bernie (Linda) Graytok of Canonsburg, Paul (Dawn) Graytok of Wheeling, WV, 13 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Margaret was the last of her immediate family. Deceased in addition to her husband and

continued on page 21

Nekrológy – Obituaries

continued from page 20

parents is her granddaughter Jennifer Graytok, sisters Marie McCormick-Presco and Florence Maholtz, and her brothers George, Edward, James and Jack Canter.

She was laid to rest in Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Peters Twp.

To view or extend condolences please visit www.salandrafunerals.com.

**FLORENCE KOPCHAK
BRANCH 746
WALLINGTON, NJ**



Florence J. (nee Tencza) Kopchak, 93, of Wallington, passed away peacefully on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at home surrounded by her loving family. Born in Wallington, Mrs. Kopchak was a lifelong resident. She had been employed as a nurse at Beth Israel Hospital in Passaic for many years before retiring to raise her family. In retirement, Mrs. Kopchak worked part-time at Gimbel's Department Store at the Garden State Plaza in Paramus. She enjoyed cooking, crocheting, and rooting for the NJ Devils & NY Giants. Never missing the news, she would faithfully watch the ABC 7 nightly lineup. Most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her family.

Mrs. Kopchak was a long-time faithful parishioner of St. Mary's Assumption R.C. Church in Passaic. She was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Wallington Fire Department Company 202. She was also a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokols, Assembly #1, Wreath #2 of Passaic and the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch #746.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, John P. Kopchak, Sr. in 1998; two daughters, Gail Bilicska in 2002 and Judith Kopchak in 2018; her son-in-law, Charles Bilicska in 2014; one granddaughter, Cheryl Bilicska; and her siblings and their spouses, Edward Tencza (Josephine), John Tencza (Marian) and Irene Kopec (Henry).

Survivors include: her devoted son, John P. Kopchak, Jr.; five loving grandchildren, Michael Bilicska, Suzanne Bilicska, Lauren DeSopo (Robert), Kayla Murry (Joseph) and Tyler Kopchak; and three dear great-grandchildren, Matthew and Nicholas DeSopo and Claire Murry.

Memorial contributions may be made to Wallington Emergency Squad, 178 Maple Avenue, Wallington, NJ 07057. Please visit www.bizubquinlan.com to leave condolences to the family on the Tribute Wall section of the obituary.

**ROBERT JASKO
BRANCH 855
DAYTON, OH**



Robert J. Jasko, 92, of Dayton, peacefully joined his Lord in Paradise on November 9, 2024 at Hospice of Dayton. He was born in Cleveland, OH, on April 12, 1931, the son of Paul and Susie (Grieger) Jasko who preceded him in death. Robert, "Bob," was also predeceased by his beloved wife, Bette (DiSalvo) Jasko, his brother, John Jasko, his sister Anne Adamcik, and his dear great-granddaughter Penelope Juniper Jasko. He is survived by his siblings, Ray Jasko and Rudy Jasko; his loving children, Susan Jasko, Michael Jasko, and Nancy (Gregg) Clark; four cherished grandchildren, Kathrine (Thomas) Herbert, Christopher (Melissa) Jasko, Matthew (Audrey) Jasko, and Shannon Clark; twelve adored great-grandchildren with one on the way, and many nieces, nephews and friends. He is also survived by his first wife and good friend, Sally Jasko.

Bob graduated from St. Ignatius Academy in Cleveland, and was a devout Catholic his entire life. He served his country in the Army during the Korean War. He was hired by IBM as a field engineer and later promoted to a technical writer, moving the family to Endicott, New York. He retired as a member of the IBM Quarter Century Club.

Bob enjoyed traveling and simple pleasures, often camping with his young family. He loved to garden and could fix anything, especially as a volunteer at the Spiritual Life Center in Windsor, NY. After moving to Dayton, Bob met Bette, and together they enjoyed cooking, traveling with Elderhostel, and auditing classes at UD. Bob was an active member of the St. Vincent DePaul Society at St. Helen's Parish. He was well-respected and well-loved by all for his simple, kind, and gentle ways. Bob lived with a sense of awe and wonder for all God's creation. He walked lightly on this earth, but his impact on others will last through the generations.

He is buried at Calvary Cemetery. Contributions may be made in Bob's name to the St. Vincent DePaul Society at St. Helen's. Visit www.tobias-fh.com to share fond memories and expressions of sympathy for the Jasko family.



Leave On a Good Note...

FINAL EXPENSE INSURANCE
is coverage specific to the costs of a funeral and memorial service.

Median Funeral Cost
\$8,000 – \$10,000

- Life insurance is an effective way to plan ahead for funeral expenses.
- Avoid leaving your family facing a steep bill

CALL US AT **800-533-6682**

First Catholic Slovak Union | FCSU Financial
Contact your Branch Office or the Home Office
601 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131
annuity@fcsu.com | www.fcsu.com

FCSU Financial* Founded in 1899
• \$600M in Assets
• Solvency Ratio 115%
• Governed and Regulated by the DOI

Please Join Us for Our

Giving Thanks Dance

Saturday, November 2nd
Branch 220's Social Hall
910 6th Avenue • Ford City, PA
Doors open at 5:00pm

DISTRICT 11 IS PROVIDING ENTERTAINMENT
RATTLEBONES
7:00 – 10:00pm
80'S to newer variety of music

Admission is by donation of non-perishable items or cash donation.

There will be a cash bar and food sold.

SUPPORT OUR FOOD BANKS!
We look forward to seeing you at this event.

Watch for final standings from the
2024 INTERNATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
in the October issue of Jednota

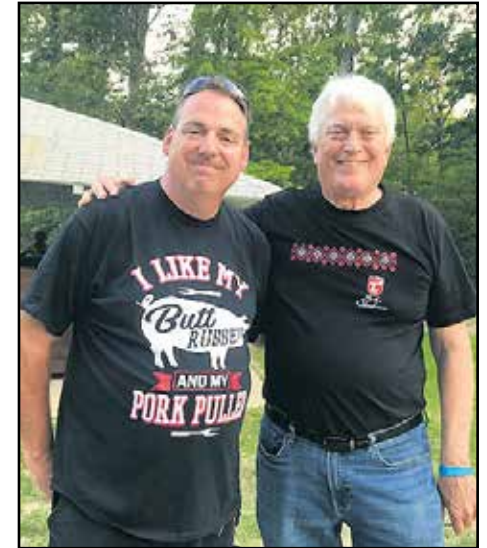
Annual Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland Pig Roast 2024

The Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland held its annual Pig Roast on August 24, 2024, at the Slovak Sokol Campground in Broadview Heights, OH. Some 90 people attended, many of whom were from Branches 1, 24, 228, 450 and 855. Our National President Kenneth Arendt and his wife, Theresa also attended. Everyone enjoyed a delicious all you-can-eat meal featuring a roasted pig that was prepared by Tim Scally, Slovak Heritage Society Auditor and Branch 855 member, with help from Mark Cvicela, Slovak Heritage Society and Branch 24 member and Slovak Heritage Society and Branch 450 member Tom Scally. Sides included the traditional Slovak živánska. Every meal also came with choices among tasty desserts baked and plated by Branch 24 Treasurer and Slovak Heritage Society First Vice President Joe Oros. Children 10 and under had available kids' meals hot dog, chips, and juice box.

Karin Scally, Slovak Heritage Society Corresponding Secretary and Branch 855 Vice President, ran the kitchen and served with help from Branch 450 and Slovak Heritage Society member Adriana Scally and Branch 855 and Slovak Heritage Society member Anita Anderko Nedrich. Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director and Slovak Heritage Society member Fran Strekal tended bar. Branch 24 member and Slovak Heritage Society Recording Secretary Sue Halley ran the 50/50 raffle. FCSU Branches 24 and 855 once again offered discounted tickets to their members who attended, which was a total of 41 members this year.

Many thanks go out to everyone – those who worked so hard preparing for and working at the Pig Roast, and all those who came out to support it and enjoyed a great afternoon of good food and good company that showcased our wonderful Slovak traditions.

Submitted by Tom Ivanec, Slovak Heritage Society President and FCSU Region 6 Director





FCSU PUZZLE CONTEST ENTRY

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

“September” Word List

- AUTUMN KNIHA (Book)
- BONFIRE STROM (Tree)
- BACK TO SCHOOL ZEMIAKY (Potatoes)
- ACORN SLNEČNICA (Sunflower)
- HARVEST JESEŇ (Autumn)
- HIKING HRABAŤ (Rake)

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip code: _____
 Email: _____
 Branch #: _____ Phone: _____

RULES

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

FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131

Entries must be received by **October 31, 2024.**

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

Each winner will receive \$50.

Congratulations to JULY PUZZLE WINNERS

Thomas Grobinski Br 173 Teresa Maslar Br 372

Katie Fenstamaker Br 181 Richard Hlozek Br 465

Christopher Petrus Br 670

KEEP PUZZLING!

Jednota Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 1 French friends
- 5 Female sib
- 8 Happen again
- 13 Mascara site
- 14 Exploits
- 16 Muse of poetry
- 17 Winglike
- 18 Orderly
- 19 Coincide
- 20 Elevator alternative
- 22 Game fish
- 24 Zenith
- 25 *Hunchback of Notre Dame* novelist
- 26 Rascal
- 29 Fireplace tool
- 31 Mile-High City
- 34 Summer in France
- 37 Dander
- 38 Sierra ____
- 39 Cancel
- 42 Allows for
- 44 Colorado resort
- 45 King topper
- 46 Twisty curve
- 47 Golf shot

Down

- 1 “C’est la vie”
- 2 Mediterranean island
- 3 Writer Asimov
- 4 Cocktail forerunner
- 5 Without (Fr.)
- 6 Swelling reducer
- 7 Height

- 8 Gather
- 9 Hence
- 10 Bear or wolf, e.g.
- 11 Colorado native
- 12 Fish eggs
- 15 Hart
- 21 Early auto
- 23 Staff
- 25 Animal group
- 27 Patches up
- 28 Newspapers, e.g.
- 30 Relative
- 32 *The Lord of the Rings* figure
- 33 Newcomer, briefly
- 34 Wipe clean
- 35 Ill-tempered
- 36 Strong black coffees
- 40 Boardroom bigwig
- 41 Squid’s squirt
- 42 Farm measure
- 43 Honorarium
- 45 Achieves
- 48 Fraternity letter

- 50 Stumble
- 51 Russian country houses
- 54 Table scraps
- 56 Lake Volta locale
- 57 Buenos ____
- 59 Between ports
- 60 *Bonanza* brother
- 61 Exhort
- 62 Tidings
- 63 *Pink Panther* actor Herbert
- 64 White House nickname
- 66 ____ de vie

ANSWERS
can be found on
page 31

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	
13					14			15		16				
17					18					19				
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63	64						65		66			67		
68							69					70		
71								72					73	

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new BRANCH Announcements should be sent to branch@fcsu.com

BRANCH 1 - LAKEWOOD, OH

The members of Branch 1 are invited to attend the Annual Harvest Festival and Pork Chop Dinner held on Sunday, October 27, 2024 in the St. Clement's Parish Hall at 2022 Lincoln Avenue in Lakewood, OH. Dinners will be served from 12:00pm - 4:00pm. Dinner tickets are \$25.00 for adults, \$13.00 for children ages 5 to 13, and free for children 4 and under. Dinner tickets for Branch 1 members are free if you attend the event; the free ticket per member is not eligible for takeout.

The dinners include pork chops, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, applesauce & cake. This family event is more than a delicious dinner. There will be a Gift Card Raffle, Grand Raffle, and Split-the-Pot drawing.

Reservations are required - Reserve your ticket by calling Mary Dubber at 216-228-0654.

The deadline to order dinner tickets is October 15, 2024.

Submitted by Mary Dubber, Treasurer & Barb Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 2, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 7:00pm at Eat-N-Park, 1002 Ohio River Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15202. Please notify the branch secretary, Linda Collins, if you are planning to attend; Call 412-266-2119 or email to lindaco243@gmail.com.

Submitted by Linda Collins, Secretary

BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, will hold a meeting on Saturday, October 5, 2024, at 11:30am at Angelo's Restaurant and Pizza, Midway Shopping Center, 1000 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, PA. Pizza luncheon will be provided.

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities. We will also have an election of officers. Members are invited and encouraged to attend. Members who want to attend the branch meeting should contact Marion Rubino, President, by October 1 at 570-693-0399.

Submitted by Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, IL

The St. Stephens Society, Branch 6K, Streator, IL will sponsor a fraternal activity. The branch members will attend a play at Engle Lane Theatre at 1012 Columbus Road in Streator, Illinois on Monday, October 7, 2024. The play begins at 7:00pm. The play is Young Frankenstein and the branch will purchase the tickets. We urge all members to attend. Please contact Paul Chismar at 815-822-8851 before October 1, 2024.

Submitted by Paul Chismar, Secretary

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch 7 will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 20, 2024 at 9:00am at Holy Trinity

Catholic Church Parish Hall, 52 Parish Street in Ramey, PA 16671. Election of officers will be held. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Submitted by Joseph C. Cervenak, President

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 10, 2024 starting at 1:00pm. Branch 24 members will meet at the Multi-purpose room of the Walton Hills Community Center located at 14660 Alexander Road, Walton Hills, OH 44146. This is about three miles west of our usual community room. Please enter using the Nodding Hills entrance.

Lunch will be served directly following the conclusion of the meeting. All members please contact branch 24 fraternal activities director Fran Strekal at 216-308-1728. On the agenda: Election of Officers, general branch business and fraternal activities. All members welcome.

Submitted by John Moynihan, President

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 1:00pm after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, election of officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Submitted by Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

Ročná Schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 1KSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 1KSJ v New Yorku bude v nedeľu 1. decembra 2024 o 13:00 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st Avenue a 66th Street. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančnej správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie potom budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo Vás žiadame, o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi.

Ďakujem s pozdravom, Mária Juráši, pokladníčka

BRANCH 132 – BOONTON, NJ

Branch 132 will be attending the Simmons Farm National Picnic on October 5th and we will be having a meeting at 5:00pm on October 4th. There is still room for one more in the van. This is a free event open to all members! Please contact Sue at 973-386-1936 if interested in joining us.

Please note that our Christmas meeting is December 5th at 7:00pm and Josephine will be bringing her delicious Christmas cookies. Please try to join us for the skiing, weather permitting, on Saturday!

One of our members has moved to South Carolina and welcomes you to visit when in the area. Call Sue for phone number and address!

Submitted by Sue Salko, Secretary

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, IL

St. Stephen Branch 153 will hold the Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 19th at 11:30am at Cucina Biagio, 7319 West Lawrence, Harwood Heights, IL. Election of officers, charitable donations, and future activities will be on the agenda. A fraternal luncheon will follow the meeting. Reserve your place by calling Dorothy at 708-995-7378 before October 14th.

Submitted by John Jurcenko, President

BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, NY

Greetings members of St. Joseph the Protector branch! We hope you are enjoying the last days of summer! It was nice to see some of our members at our second annual Ice Cream Social in August! We will have our Semi-Annual Branch meeting with Elections of Officers on Sunday, November 10, 2024, at 2:00pm at St Cyril's Hall at 14 St Cyril Ave. in Binghamton, NY. All members are urged to attend. We have some urgent business to discuss. We recently lost our beloved Vice President, William Wallick, who passed on August 14, 2024.

We are also hosting the District meeting being held on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at 1:00pm at the Red Oak Restaurant at 305 Front Street in Binghamton, NY. Your attendance is encouraged there also! Come out to support our District! Direct any questions you may have to Morgan Dendler 607-206-7243.

Submitted by Judie Dendler, Secretary

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA

Branch 181 members are invited to a dinner meeting at Aroma Italiano at 5:30pm on Saturday, October 12, 2024. It is located at 220 Ligonier Street, Latrobe, PA 15650. BYOB if desired. Reservations are required, so please RSVP by Tuesday, October 1, 2024. Walk-ins without a reservation will not be served dinner. RSVP to Vicki at 724-547-0803 or Darlene at 724-493-8712. The meeting agenda will include Election of Officers.

Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA

Meeting for the Nomination of Officers will be held Thursday, November 7th at the Slovak CU, 910 6th Avenue at 7:00pm. Meeting for the Election of Officers will be held Thursday, December 5th at the Slovak CU, 910 6th Avenue at 7:00pm.

All members welcome to attend. We appreciate fresh ideas. There are Board positions open. Direct inquiries to Vicki Schaub at vschaub123@gmail.com or leave a message at 724-763-9229.

Submitted by Vicki Schaub, Treasurer

BRANCH 260 – COITSVILLE, OH

The officers of Branch 260 invite all of our members to join us this year at any or all of our meetings. Our last meeting for 2024 will be December 5th (this will be our election of officers meeting and holiday celebration). The meeting will begin at 5:00pm and will be held at Belleria Restaurant at 1010 Youngstown-Poland Rd in Struthers, OH. Hope to see all of you in the coming year and God Bless!

Submitted by Carlie M. Peshek, Vice President

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PA

The next meeting will be held Sunday, November 17 at 1:00pm at Tillie's Restaurant at 308 36th Street in McKeesport. We will hear reports from the treasurer and financial secretary and will discuss upcoming district events. Officers for 2025 will be elected. Meeting dates for next year will be selected.

Submitted by Margaret Nasta, President

BRANCH 313 - ORLAND PARK, IL

Happy Fall, y'all! Branch 313 will be hosting its 2nd semi-annual branch meeting of the 2024 year on the date of, October 29, 2024 at 12:00pm. This meeting will include the "Election of Officers". Our meeting will conclude with a complimentary fraternal luncheon. The location of the meeting will be at Fox's on Wolf at 11247 W 187th St. in Mokena, IL 60448. Since it is that time of year to pumpkin spice things up...feel free to dress up in a "family friendly" style costume or in a fall festive outfit! We look forward to seeing you there! Please RSVP to 313 President, Marge, at 708-226-8157 by October 22, 2024. Thank You!

Submitted by Jennifer Carlton, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 320 – ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA

Welcome to Fall 2024...

Please check the Jednota for all scheduled events. Various Branch 320 members reached out with interest in the following:

- September 28, 2024 - Septemberfest will be held at The NSS Life (351 Valley Brook RD. Cannonsburg, PA). This Slovak event is an open to the public with no admission charge.
- October 5, 2024 - FCSU is sponsoring fraternal outing on Simmons Farm in McMurray, PA. All are welcome.
- October 24, 2024 - Christ Our Shepard Center, 2900 Seminary Dr., Greensburg, PA. Prayer and Perfect Pairing (supporting Catholic Charities). Branch 320 members please contact Frances Tarquinio (Financial - Secretary) at 724.929.9788, ASAP if interested. Any charges are NOT covered by Branch 320. Tickets are limited and will be on a first come basis.

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new BRANCH Announcements should be sent to branch@fcsu.com

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- December, 2024 - TBA. Time to think Christmas. Branch 320's annual Christmas Luncheon will be held immediately after the Fall 2024 meeting. Watch the Jednota for time and dates.

Mary Anne Higginbotham (President - Branch 320) would like to thank Branch 320 for their support of Wildthings baseball. A special thanks to Joseph Tarquinio (District 12 - Vice-President) for going above & beyond with both District 12 and Branch 320 events.

Submitted by
Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 382 - SCRANTON, PA

Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K of Scranton, PA, will conduct its Annual Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 3, 2024. Officers and members will gather at 12:30pm in the VFW at 110 Chestnut Street in Dunmore, PA.

The agenda will include a report by the Branch officers and the representatives to the District 17 meeting.

A report of the August 24 Branch Picnic will be presented.

Members will also discuss future branch activities, donations, and the Annual Report for 2024. Information from the home office will be disseminated.

Election of Officers for 2024-25 will be held.

Refreshments and socializing will follow. All members are urged to attend. Please contact the Branch President at 570-344-3854 to confirm your attendance and to allow for adequate food and beverage arrangements.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai is the branch president. Other officers include Michael J. Czankner, vice president; Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., treasurer; Laura Christianson, recording secretary; and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., financial secretary.

Submitted by **Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, President**

BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PA

The SS Peter and Paul Branch 410 of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 1:30pm at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. All members are encouraged to attend. Please call for reservations by October 21, 2024 at 724-245-2576.

Submitted by **Geraldine Buchheit, Financial & Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OH

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 450 will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, November, 23, 2024. The meeting will be held at 11:00am, at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, (between Brookpark and Snow Rd.) On the agenda will be officers' reports, the financial report for the year 2024 and a discussion of branch activities and other business pertaining to the branch. The

Election of Branch Officers will take place at this meeting. All members are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served after meeting.

Submitted by **George Carny, President**

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OH

Join us at the Slovak J Club at 485 Morgan Ave. in Akron for the following events open to the public:

- September 18 - The Slovak Connection Dinner - Homemade Sausage & Pierogies - 4:30 - 6:30pm
- September 29 - Breakfast Buffet - 9:00am - 11:45am
- October 16 - Pork Chop Dinner 4:30 - 6:30pm
- November 20 - Meatloaf Dinner 4:30 - 6:30pm

2025 SAVE THE DATES

- November 27, 2024 - Scotch Doubles
- January 11 - Annual Casino Night
- February 22 - Chardon Polka Band

Submitted by **Debbie Speck, President**

BRANCH 670 - DONORA, PA

Branch 670 will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 27, 2024, at 11:30am at Kings Restaurant, 580 McClelland Rd, Canonsburg, PA. This meeting will include the election of officers for 2025. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, the meeting will also be held via Zoom. Any branch member wanting to attend the meeting via Zoom, please contact branch670secretary@gmail.com, a day in advance, for the Zoom link. All Branch 670 members are invited to attend the meeting.

Submitted by **Maureen Massafra, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 716 - NEW YORK, NY

The St. Stephen Society Branch 716 will hold its second semiannual meeting of the year 2024 on Sunday, October 20th, 2024. The meeting will be held in person at St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 E 66th St, New York, NY, following the conclusion of the Slovak Mass at 12:30pm. The agenda will include the year 2024 financial report, an overview of branch activities throughout the year, and the election of Branch Officers for the year 2025. Refreshments will be provided at the meeting and all members of Branch 716 are highly encouraged to attend.

Submitted by **Emily Lysáková, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 743 - STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

The Home Office and Branch 743 are unable to contact the following members because we do not have their current address:

John Bacha*	Louise M Cassar
Natalia Greslikova	Ann Moss
Christine Harman	Judith Madar
Elizabeth Harman	Judith Likavec
Diane F Rench	Daniel M Reszka
Joseph Tribisondi	Joseph Laichalk

*John Bacha passed away Sept. 8, 2006 survived by son John Jr and daughter Carolyn who have unknown addresses.

If you have information, or know of someone who might help, please contact me at josephrimarcik@gmail.com or call 248-714-9620.

Submitted by **Joseph Rimarcik, President & Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

MASSES - Members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7:00pm (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Masses are offered for the intention of all Branch members living and deceased as follows: October 4th, November 8th, and December 6th.

Submitted by **Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

FALL MEETING:

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, October 20, 2024 at 1:00pm in the basement meeting room of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The meeting agenda will include discussion of plans for the Christmas party meeting and activities for 2025. Lunch will be served following the meeting. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt at 732-762-3148 by October 11th if you plan on attending.

Our branch is participating in the Fraternalism in Action program. We are asking all members to bring non-perishable food items for donation to our local food pantry. In return our efforts will be matched by the Home Office with a \$250.00 donation to the food pantry.

SAVE THE DATE:

September 15 - Mother of Sorrows Chapel Pilgrimage in Washington, DC
September 29 - Slovak Heritage Festival in East Brunswick, NJ

Submitted by **Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

BRANCH 785 - MISSISSAUGA, ON

Branch 785 and District 19 will co-sponsor a Community Breakfast in celebrating the feast day of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia on Sunday September 15 2024 at Sts Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Drive, Mississauga Ontario, after the 9:00am and 11:00am masses. All are Welcome!

Submitted by **Anne Mitro, Secretary**

BRANCH 785 - MISSISSAUGA, ON

Branch 785 will be holding its annual Toronto Slovak Open Golf Outing on Sunday, September 22, at Centennial Park Golf Centre. For more information and to register, call John Tokarsky at 416-948-6606.

Submitted by **John Tokarsky, Fraternal Activities Director**

BRANCH 785 - MISSISSAUGA, ON

SS Cyril and Methodius Slovak Parish will be Celebrating 90 Years as a Slovak Parish in Toronto/Mississauga, Ontario, on November 3, 2024.

Mass: 10:30am at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church 5255 Thornwood Drive, Mississauga, Ontario.

Banquet Immediately Following Mass: at the Mississauga Grand Banquet Hall 35 Brunel Rd - Mississauga. Ticket Prices: Adults are \$70.00; Children 6-12 years old are \$35.00; Children under 6 are FREE. Deadline is October 20, 2024.

For tickets call Anne at 905-279-8154, the Parish Office at 905-712-1200 or scan the QR code from the poster found on page 26 of this issue of the Jednota.

Submitted by **Anne Mitro, Secretary**

BRANCH 844 - LOS ANGELES, CA

Branch 844, St Joseph the Guardian Society, will hold:

1. Semi-annual Meeting on Saturday October 12, 2024
2. Annual Meeting on Saturday November 30, 2024

All meetings will be at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Meetings will start at 11:00am with agenda as follow: Officer Reports and Financial Report, Annual Meeting for Election of Officers for the year 2025, preparation of the Slovak Christmas mass, and plan activities for year 2025. All members in our area are encouraged to participate. After the meeting lunch will be served at the restaurant.

Submitted by **Milan Konkol, Secretary**

BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PA

Attention Branch 853 members - make your plans now to enjoy time with your fellow FCSU branch members. Come join us as we have interesting events planned:

- October 3 - Lecture at Bethel Park Library. Haunted Happenings. Join the branch members to have coffee before the fun lecture at the library as they hear local folklore.
- October 22 - Lecture at the Mt. Lebanon Library. An hour of Western PA Stories and Legends.
- October 27 - Hlinka District meeting, King's Restaurant in Canonsburg. (see notice on the District Announcement page for District 12)
- November 10 - Branch annual meeting at Speers Street Grill in Lower Speers. The meeting will include the election of officers for 2025 plus planning events for the year. Participate in the branch's Fraternalism in Action event by bringing products to help local shelter animals (food, litter, blankets, towels, new toys) which would then be donated to a local animal shelter.
- December 8 - Branch Christmas cookie baking meeting. Come and share the Christmas spirit and bake cookies. Then take some home with you.

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 25

For all events a reservation is required so we know to look for you and so that the entrance fee can be paid by Branch 853 for its members.

For more information and reservations, email FCSUBranch853@gmail.com or call 412-341-1577 for specifics of where and when to meet.

Submitted by **Monica Boone, President**

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC

Branch 856 will hold their next meeting on October 27, 2024 at 1:00pm on Zoom. At this meeting we discuss activities for the coming year 2025, the financial report, and the Slovak mass in honor of our chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Plans are in process for the 60th Anniversary of the dedication of our chapel. We would like to see more of our members at this mass. Were you there 60 years ago? Would like to see you come back next year 2025.

We will also have Election of Officers for the year 2025 at this meeting. For more information call Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363

Submitted by **Katherine Nowatkoski, President**



Sts. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Parish

90th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

November 3, 2024

Mass: 10:30 am Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church
5255 Thornwood Drive, Mississauga

Banquet Immediately Following Mass:
Mississauga Grand Banquet Hall
35 Brunel Rd., Mississauga

Ticket Prices: Deadline October 20, 2024
Adults: \$70 Children 6-12 years old: \$35 Children under 6: FREE
For tickets call: Anne Mitro: 905-279-8154 or Parish Office: 905-712-1200 or scan:




American Slovak Club Fish Fry

Served Every Friday **All Year Long** (Not Just During Lent)
Perch, Walleye, Shrimp, Cod & Chicken Dinners Available

2915 Broadway Ave. • Lorain, OH 44055
Please call ahead for reservations for parties of six or more at 440-245-5146
For complete menu & pricing, please visit www.AmericanSlovakClub.com/Fish-Fry




DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new DISTRICT Announcements should be sent to district@fcsu.com

DISTRICT 2 – REVEREND JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT – IL, IN, WI

Reverend John J. Spitkovsky District 2 will meet on Sunday, October 6, 2024 at the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL. Fraternal Social at 1:30pm and meeting begins at 2:00pm. This is a very important meeting as it includes Election of Officers. There will be open positions so consider serving the District as an officer.

There will be a catered luncheon after the meeting. Please call Dorothy at 708-995-7378 before September 30. Bring a raffle prize and come and join us for an enjoyable afternoon.

Submitted by **John Jurcenko, President**

DISTRICT 3 – GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – PA

The George Onda District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, September 28, after the 5:00pm Mass at St. Florian Parish, 4263 Route 981, United, PA. The meeting will take place in the Parish Social Hall. The agenda will include Election of Officers, planning our upcoming Štedrý Večer, and receiving news from our branches. Food and refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712. We look forward to a great turnout!

Submitted by **Darlene Patty, Vice President**

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

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. John E. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2024 at 1:00pm. Branch 290 will host the luncheon meeting at Carpaccio Ristorante, 651 Bound Brook Road, Middlesex, NJ 08846. Please RSVP to Steve at 908-507-0505 or via email (minarovich@hotmail.com) by October 18th if you plan on attending. Agenda will include Election of Officers for 2025, as well as discussion of plans and activities for the next year. Lunch will be served after the meeting.

The district is participating in the Fraternalism in Action program and asking all members to bring non-perishable food items for donation to our local food pantry. In return our efforts will be matched by the Home Office with a \$250.00 donation to the food pantry.

SAVE THE DATE:

September 26 - Slovak Heritage Festival, East Brunswick, NJ.

Submitted by **Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

DISTRICT 5 - MICHIGAN DISTRICT – MI

The Michigan District will hold a meeting on October 13th 2024 at Saints Cyril and Methodius - 41233 Ryan Road in Sterling Heights, MI 48314. The meeting will begin at 1:00pm. On the agenda will be our plans for 2025. We have open positions for officers and would like to fill them. Will be holding elections for officers for the next year also. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by **Robert Kristofik, President**

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH, PA

FCSU Family Fall Festival - A New Event on October 5th - at Simmons Farm in McMurray, PA 15317 – 11:00am until 4:00pm - Lunch and fun activities including hayride, pumpkin picking, petting zoo, corn maze, etc.

Branch 254 will host the Fall Business Meeting on Sunday, November 24, 1:00pm at Holy Trinity Church of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, PA. We will discuss business matters and plan events for next year. Officers for 2025 will be elected.

Other announcements of local interest.

- WPSCA: meets 7pm first Mondays at Mt. Lebanon Public Library. October 7: Study & Travel in Slovakia, November 4: Warhol Museum in Slovakia, December 2: Show & Tell
- WPSCA sponsors scholarships and hosts events such as wine tastings. Join the organization to get the newsletter.
- September Fest at NSS - Saturday, September 28 – 11:00am to 4:00pm - free admission
- Western PA Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance - Saturday, October 13
- Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt - Sunday, November 3 - Noon to 5:00pm - free admission
- 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 as well as social events and contests. Be sure your beneficiaries are up to date. FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at FCSU.com

Submitted by **Margaret A Nasta, Secretary**

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new DISTRICT Announcements should be sent to district@fcsu.com

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DISTRICT 7 – REVEREND JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT – PA

Please note that the District 7 Meeting will be held on October 27, 2024 at St. Bartholomew Church Hall at 1850 Church Hill, Wilmore, PA. The doors will open at 1:00pm, meeting to start at 1:30pm and the dinner to follow. We will be electing officers for the coming year; you need to think of whom you would like to hold office.

Submitted by Ruth Gerko, Secretary

DISTRICT 8 – REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – PA, NC

The Reverend Stephen Furdek District will hold its fall meeting Sunday, October 20, 2024 at 1:00pm. The agenda will include Election of Officers for District 8. This will be a ZOOM meeting. The meeting will take place on October 20, 2024 at 1:00pm Eastern Time (US and Canada).

To Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87834915579?pwd=q19ZONw4K3OiuORTUbTIsjdUZcltZo.1>

Meeting ID: 878 3491 5579

Passcode: 045746

Please contact District Recording Secretary Jo Austin with questions. jeaustin89@gmail.com or call 315.391.0526.

Submitted by Joanne Engle Austin, Recording Secretary

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

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 20, 2024, at 1:00pm at the Dairy Queen Grill and Chill, 575 West Main St., in Uniontown.

This is a special election meeting for the office of auditor.

Regional Director James Marmol will be informing the members of upcoming Jednota events.

Submitted by Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 – REV STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – OH

All members of District 10 from Branch 1, Branch 24, Branch 228, Branch 450, Branch 553 and Branch 855 are invited to our semi-annual meeting on October 27, 2024. The meeting will be hosted by Branch 855 and take place at Parma Memorial Hall - 6637 Ridge Rd – Parma, OH at 2:00pm.

On the agenda – Election of Officers for 2025. If you would like to be an officer of the District (President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer or Auditor) please submit a Letter of Intent including the position you wish to hold. Please email your Letter of Intent to Barbara Sutilla at ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com by October 21, 2024.

We will be having a halupki/stuffed cabbage dinner following the meeting. We hope you can join us in fraternal fellowship with other members of your district on a fall afternoon.

Fraternalism in Action: As we have in the past, we will be having a Fraternalism in Action project to support those in need. It's no fun to say that winter is right around the corner but it is! Let's take a minute to think about our brothers and sisters who are in need of some warm winter socks – men, women and children. Please be generous in supporting your fellow man with donations of socks for the West Side Catholic Center.

If you could RSVP a headcount to Barbara by calling/texting 440-864-4744 or emailing ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com that would be greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Greg Petrsek, President

DISTRICT 11 – MSGR JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT - PA

MSGR Josef Tiso District will conduct its annual meeting on Saturday, November 9, at 1:00pm at the CU Club, 910 6th Ave., Ford City, PA 16226. At this meeting we will discuss plans for the coming year and hold Election of District Officers for 2025 year. Refreshments will be served.

District 11 is sponsoring a "Giving Thanks" dance on Saturday, November 2, at Branch 200's Social Hall, 910 6th Ave. Ford City, PA 16226. Rattlebones band will be playing music from the 80's to newer variety of music. Admission is by donation of non-perishable items or a cash donation. There will be a cash bar and food will be sold. Doors open at 5:00pm. Come help to support our local food banks. This dance is open to the public. We look forward to seeing you there!

Friday, November 1 at 10:00am district members are encouraged to come to the CU Club in Ford City to help set up for the dance.

Submitted by Karen Greggs, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 – MSGR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT – PA

The Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District will hold the annual meeting on Sunday, October 27, 2024, at 1:00pm at the Kings Restaurant in Canonsburg, PA. The election of officers for 2025 will take place at this meeting. Also on the agenda will be the activities for next year along with our annual Memorial Service for Deceased Members.

At the meeting, the Hlinka District will take part in the newly revised Fraternalism in

Action program of the FCSU. We will be collecting shelf stable food for the St. Andrew the Apostle Church Food Bank in Charleroi and Donora, PA. Please be as generous as your financial situation allows. With our donations to the Food Bank, the Home Office will add a cash donation of \$250.

District members wanting to attend virtually should contact the District Secretary Monica Boone at hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com for information. Through the options of in-person and virtual attendance, we urge members to attend.

Submitted by Monica Boone, District Secretary

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

Following is the currently Scheduled District Meetings for Calendar Year 2024.

1. Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 6:00pm. Our Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2024. The meeting will be held at The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd., Poland, OH 44514. For questions or additional information please contact John L. Leskovyansky Jr. 330-549-3788 (home) or 330-559-5981 (cell).
2. Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:00pm (Short Meeting and Christmas Dinner); Location TBD

Submitted by John L. Leskovyansky, Jr., President

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

Christmas Party Announcement

District 14, Region 6, Rev. Joseph Kostik District will hold its annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:00pm, at Rachel's Restaurant; 54 Westchester Dr., Austintown, OH. The cost is \$30.00 for adults and \$20.00 for Children 6 and under. RESERVATIONS are required and must be paid by December 1, 2024. Contact and mail payments to Sue Carney, 6810 Blue Ridge Dr, Poland, OH 44514, (330-770-6810). Make checks payable to Rev. Joseph Kostik District. Include your branch number and number of persons attending, also gender and ages of any children attending. We look forward to an enjoyable evening with all our members and guests.

Submitted by John L. Leskovyansky, Jr., President

DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT – AR, CA, KS, MN, OR, WA

Prince Pribina District will hold:

1. Semi-annual Meeting on Saturday, October 12, 2024
2. Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 30, 2024

Each meeting will be held at 11:00am at Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. On the agenda will be: Activities focused on membership drive, and at the Annual Meeting we will be hold our Election of Officers. All Branches in our area are encouraged to participate.

Submitted by Paul Skuben, President

District 17 – STS CYRIL & METHODIUS – NY & PA

Saints Cyril & Methodius District 17 of Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in Pennsylvania and Broome County New York will conduct its Semi-Annual Fall meeting on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at 1:00pm. The meeting location is at The Red Oak Restaurant, 305 Front Street Binghamton, NY. Dinner will be provided. All branches are urged to send representatives to this meeting. Directions to The Red Oak Restaurant from Scranton: take 81 North to exit 5 go left on Front Street the restaurant is on the right. Please RSVP by October 19th to Morgan Dendler at 607-206-7243.

Submitted by Morgan Dendler, Vice President

DISTRICT 19 – MSGR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT – CANADA

Branch 785 and District 19 will co-sponsor a Community Breakfast in celebrating the feast day of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia on Sunday, September 15, 2024 at Sts Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, after the 9:00am and 11:00am masses. All are welcome!

Submitted by Anne Mitro, Secretary

DISTRICT 19 – MSGR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT – CANADA

SS Cyril and Methodius Slovak Parish will be Celebrating 90 Years as a Slovak Parish in Toronto/Mississauga, Ontario, on November 3, 2024.

Mass: 10:30am at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, 5255 Thornwood Drive, Mississauga, Ontario.

Banquet Immediately Following Mass: at the Mississauga Grand Banquet Hall 35 Brunel Road - Mississauga.

Ticket Prices: Adults are \$70.00; Children 6-12 years old are \$35.00; Children under 6 are FREE. Deadline is October 20, 2024.

For tickets call: Anne Mitro: 905-279-8154 or the Parish Office: 905-712-1200 or scan the QR code from the poster on page 26 of this issue of the Jednota.

Submitted by Anne Mitro, Secretary

News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

Poslanci Smeru a SNS podali návrh na odvolávanie M. Šimečka

Na snímke podpredseda NRSR Michal Šimečka (Progressívne Slovensko). Foto: TASR - Jaroslav Novák



Huliak verí, že poslanci Hlasu-SD za odvolanie Šimečka zahlasujú, hoci nepridali svoje podpisy pod návrh.

Bratislava 5. septembra (TASR) - Poslanci Národnej rady (NR) SR za Smer-SD a SNS podali vo štvrtok návrh na odvolanie šéfa PS Michala Šimečka z funkcie podpredsedu NR SR. Mimoriadna schôdza k odvolávaniu by sa mala konať do siedmich dní od podania návrhu. Inicialoval ho premiér Robert Fico (Smer-SD). Vyčíta Šimečkovi prepojenie nadácií, ktoré získali peniaze od štátu, na jeho rodinných príslušníkov, ako sú strýko, mama či partnerka.

“V prvom rade ide o prijímanie štátnych dotácií blízkymi osobami Michala Šimečka, ktoré sú priamo v príbuzenskom pomere cez dve občianske združenia v období 2020 až 2024, keď mal podľa nás priamy vplyv na poskytovanie dotácií týmto subjektom,” povedal na tlačovej konferencii podpredseda parlamentu Tibor Gašpar (Smer-SD), ktorý návrh podal spolu s Rudolfom Huliakom (SNS). Gašpar hovoril aj o podozreniach z nezákonného postupu pri ovplyvňovaní procesu prideľovania štátnych dotácií a odvoláva sa na audit, ktorý prezentovalo ministerstvo spravodlivosti.

Šéf PS tiež podľa návrhu zneužíva protesty proti ministrom, ktorí vedú rezorty kultúry či spravodlivosti, čo sú rezorty, v ktorých Šimečkova rodina podľa koalície “stráca finančné zázemie”. Ďalším dôvodom na odvolanie Šimečka je podľa Gašpara to, že jeho otec je spoluakcionár média, ktoré označil za “protivládne” a je podľa neho politicky aktívne v prospech PS. Vidí v tom narušenie základnej politickej súťaže. Gašpar tiež kritizuje verejné vystupovanie šéfa PS. Jeho rétorika a vedenie opozičnej politiky sú podľa Gašpara “naďalej konfrontačné do takej miery, že môže eskalovať napätie v spoločnosti”.

Huliak verí, že poslanci Hlasu-SD za odvolanie Šimečka zahlasujú, hoci nepridali svoje podpisy pod návrh. Predstavitelia Hlasu-SD opakovane hovoria, že Šimečka by mal z postu odstúpiť sám.

Šimečka tvrdí, že premiér útokmi na neho a jeho rodinu odvádza pozornosť od skutočných problémov Slovenska. Upozorňuje, že všetky nadácie a občianske združenia, ktoré Fico a koalícia spomínajú, čerpali dotácie dávno predtým, ako vstúpil do politiky. Šimečka doplnil, že PS nikdy nevládlo, a teda nikdy nemalo dosah na prerozdelenie dotácií.

MPs of Smer and SNS filed a motion for the dismissal of M. Šimečka

Pictured: Vice-Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Michal Šimečka (Progressive Slovakia). Photo: TASR - Jaroslav Novák

Huliak believes that Hlas-SD deputies will vote for the dismissal of Šimečka, although they have not added their signatures to the proposal.

Bratislava, September 5 (TASR) - Members of the National Council (NR) of the Slovak Republic for Smer-SD and SNS filed a motion on Thursday to dismiss the head of the PS, Michal Šimečka, from the position of vice-chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. An extraordinary meeting on the appeal should be held within seven days of the submission of the proposal. It was initiated by Prime Minister Robert Fico (Smer-SD). He blames Šimeček for linking the foundations that received money from the state to his family members, such as his uncle, mother or partner.

“First of all, it is about the receipt of state subsidies by Michal Šimečka’s close relatives, who are directly related through two civic associations in the period from 2020 to 2024, when, in our opinion, he had a direct impact on the provision of subsidies to these entities,” said Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Tibor Gašpar (Smer-SD), who submitted the proposal together with Rudolf Huliak (SNS), at a press conference. Gašpar also spoke about suspicions of an illegal procedure in influencing the process of allocating state subsidies and refers to an audit presented by the Ministry of Justice.

According to the proposal, the head of the PS is also abusing protests against ministers who lead the ministries of culture or justice, which are ministries in which Šimeček’s family “loses its financial background”, according to the coalition. Another reason for the dismissal of Šimečka, according to Gaspar, is that his father is a co-shareholder of the media, which he described as “anti-government” and is politically active in favor of the PS. According to Gaspar, his rhetoric and leadership of opposition politics “continue to be confrontational to such an extent that it may escalate tensions in society.”

Huliak believes that Hlas-SD deputies will vote for the dismissal of Šimečka, although they have not added their signatures to the proposal. Representatives of Hlas-SD have repeatedly said that Šimečka should resign from the post himself.

Šimečka claims that the prime minister is diverting attention from the real problems of Slovakia by attacking him and his family. He points out that all the foundations and civic associations mentioned by Fico and the coalition drew subsidies long before he entered politics. Šimečka added that the PS has never governed, and therefore has never had an impact on the redistribution of subsidies.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Archangels Heal, Guide, and Protect

**Fr. Ed Dougherty, M.M.,
The Christophers’ Board of Directors**

September 29th is the Feast of the Archangels, when we honor Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel, and Saint Raphael, the only angels mentioned by name in Sacred Scripture. In 1986, over the course of six General Audiences, Pope Saint John Paul II gave a Catechesis on the Holy Angels in which he offered amazing insight on these three great figures. Of Raphael, the pontiff said, “He is made known to us by the story of Tobias in the Old Testament, which is so significant for what it says about entrusting to the angels the little children of God, who are always in need of custody, care, and protection.”

Pointing out that the name Raphael means “God heals,” John Paul II’s reflection references the Archangel’s encounter with Tobias, who is the child of Tobit. Raphael protects Tobias on the journey he makes for his father, and also heals Sarah, Tobias’ future wife, and cures Tobit of his blindness. Today, we recognize Saint Raphael as the patron of travelers, the blind, and bodily ills. We also see his intercession on behalf of Tobit’s family as signifying the power Raphael wields to the benefit of those who implore his assistance.

Saint Gabriel is the patron of messengers, and John Paul II called him “a figure bound especially to the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God,” in reference to Gabriel’s Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Gospel of Luke.

Gabriel first appears in Sacred Scripture to the prophet Daniel to assist in the

interpretation of his visions, which prefigures the clarity Gabriel brings about the coming of Christ in the New Testament.

John Paul II explained that the name Gabriel means “power of God,” and it is “as if to say that the culmination of creation, the Incarnation, is the supreme sign of the omnipotent Father.”

Of Saint Michael, John Paul II said, “His name is a synthesis that expresses the essential attitude of the good spirits. ‘Mica-EL’ in fact means: ‘Who is like God?’ In this name, therefore, we find expressed the salvific choice thanks to which the angels ‘see the face of the Father’ who is in Heaven.”

Michael appears in the Book of Daniel in a prophetic role, which prefigures his appearance in the Book of Revelation, where he leads God’s armies in the victory of good over evil. Many know the Prayer to Saint Michael, which begins, “Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.” We should invoke that prayer in our own struggles to see good triumph over evil in our lives and in the world around us.

In his Catechesis on the Holy Angels, John Paul II said, “According to Revelation, the angels who participate in the life of the Trinity in the light of glory are also called to play their part in the history of the salvation of man, in the moments established by divine Providence.”

And Saint John Chrysostom said, “When you are before the altar where Christ reposes, you ought no longer to think that you are amongst men; but believe that there are troops of angels and archangels standing by you, and trembling with respect before the sovereign Master of Heaven and earth.”

These mighty Archangels are given to us by God to intercede in our struggle for salvation, so let us pray for Saint Michael to protect us, Saint Raphael to bring us healing and guidance, and Saint Gabriel to herald at all times the coming of Christ in our lives.

Slovaks Play Key Roles in NATO 75th Anniversary Summit

The 75th anniversary of the establishment of NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) was commemorated and celebrated in Washington, D.C., during the second week of July (9-11). Representatives of the 32 NATO member nations came to Washington to engage in discussions about the past, present, and future of the alliance; to make decisions affecting the collective defense and security of their respective nations; and to discuss related matters. Of course, a major focus of the summit was the situation in Ukraine, arising from Russia's invasion in February 2022 and its continuing aggression. Ukraine, a non-member country, has long desired NATO membership and has been supported in its defense efforts by NATO and other countries. One of the key issues that was discussed is the commitment of each NATO member country to reach a level of defense expenditures equivalent to 2% of its GDP (gross domestic product). As of 2024, 23 of the 32 NATO member countries have met the 2% goal, including Slovakia.

Because Slovakia has been a member of NATO since 2004, a delegation of Slovak officials came to Washington to participate in the summit. Most notably, recently inaugurated Slovak President Peter Pellegrini headed the delegation, which also included Foreign Minister Juraj Blanár and Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Robert Kaliňák. The evening prior to the opening of the summit (July 8), Slovak Ambassador to the US Radovan Javorčík hosted a reception at the Slovak Embassy for the president and his delegation, all of whom wished to meet Slovak-Americans and other friends. Ambassador Javorčík provided opening remarks, and then President Pellegrini spoke briefly. Afterwards, Pellegrini graciously spent the evening in conversation and photo ops with the attendees.

On Tuesday, July 9, the summit opened with remarks made by President Joe Biden to the NATO representatives in the historic Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium (where the NATO Treaty was signed in 1949). The official proceedings continued on July 10 and 11, culminating in the traditional NATO Summit Declaration, which pledged long-term security assistance to Ukraine. The Declaration also affirmed that "Ukraine's future is in NATO," while continuing to withhold a formal invitation for membership.

Parallel with the main summit, the NATO Public Forum was held to provide various members of the foreign policy community and other interested parties with a chance to review the many issues that NATO faces. On the afternoon of July 10, Pellegrini got the opportunity to address the Public Forum in the form of opening remarks at a session entitled "NATO Policy Toward Russia." He emphasized the Slovak government's support for NATO and for Western institutions, stating that "Slovakia has been a reliable ally for the past 20 years, and we will continue to do so in the years to come..." He continued, "The engine of our success has been, and remains, a commitment to democracy, freedom, and human rights, with a clear understanding where we belong. Our present and future is in NATO and the European Union." The Slovak president went on to discuss the many ways in which Slovakia has supported Ukraine since the Russian invasion.

Pellegrini generated considerable controversy and concern during the Slovak presidential campaign when he argued for a 'peaceful' solution to the Ukraine conflict and characterized his opponent's strong pro-Ukraine position as being in favor of 'war.' In his remarks to the strongly pro-Ukraine audience, Pellegrini sought to clarify his position when he stated "...we need to invest more into wide international understanding that we are not trying to disintegrate Russia, but to change its behavior to one that fully respects its obligation under the UN charter, international law, and its OECD commitments...Supporting peace...does not mean supporting the aggressor. It is up to Ukraine to decide on this, but a just and sustainable peace can only be a peace based on international law." He then went on to stress that NATO needs to continue to build its strength as a defensive alliance, particularly in the areas of defense-related industrial production and technology, as the Ukraine conflict has displayed evolving methods of conflict (drones, electronic warfare, and hybrid warfare).

The Public Forum itself was organized under the auspices of five non-profit foreign policy organizations. One of these organizations was the Bratislava-based GLOBSEC, which focuses on international foreign-policy and national-security issues, primarily from a European perspective. GLOBSEC was the only European partner among the five organizers of the Forum. Several Slovak experts and policy analysts, including GLOBSEC's president and founder, Robert Vass, played a key role in the sessions held during the Forum. The Forum was a hybrid event that included in-person and online attendees. Interestingly, even the Internet conferencing platform 'Slido,' which was used for the Forum, is a Slovak-based company that was founded in 2012 and now has wide international distribution.

The hope is that the 75th Anniversary Summit will be successful in advancing NATO's mission of promoting freedom, security, prosperity, and peace among its members and the world. Slovakia and Slovaks are continuing to make key contributions and to play increasingly important roles, on many levels, as part of the international community.

Submitted by Ken Bombara, Representative of the Slovak League of America to the Central and East European Coalition



Slovak President Pellegrini speaks at the Slovak Embassy in Washington DC on July 8, 2024

Branch 853 Goes to the Fair

Branch 853 enjoyed a trip to the Washington County Agricultural Fair on August 12. Everyone who attended participated at the fair in different ways:

- Susan Painter won an impressive 3rd place white ribbon in the major Crock Pot Contest.
- Michael Bertovich brought his farming knowledge and agricultural expertise. He comes from a family of Washington Fair County winners! His late mother and our late fraternal sister Margaret Bertovich, won her way to the State level competition for her delicious chocolate cake.
- Ronald Boone designed intricate earrings which earned him a winning ribbon. Not only did he impressively win with his unique designs, but a fair employee ran up to him and offered to buy the earrings on the spot. She had a friend they were perfect for and couldn't leave the fair without them!
- Monica Boone won ribbons for her original seamstress designs and skills.
- Marianne Rodacy continued to impress the judges which earned her many wins for her homemade soaps.
- Charles Boone designed one-of-a-kind crafts earning him many first-place blue ribbons.

Congrats to all Branch 853 members and to all FCSU Financial members who participated and won at their local county fairs.

Submitted by Branch 853 president Monica Boone



Monica Boone, Charles Boone, Marianne Rodacy, Susan Painter, and Michael Bertovich at the Washington County Fair



Susan Painter and Charles Boone with a 4 month old calf from Twin Brook Dairy

RIGHT: Branch members Marianne Rodacy, Susan Painter, Michael Bertovich and Charles Boone enjoying the crafting area



FAR RIGHT: Michael Bertovich looking at Best of Show award winning vegetable display





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SLOVAK J CLUB



SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 18 Homemade Sausage & Pierogi Dinner- 4:30-6:30 pm RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- Sept. 21 Ohio State vs. Marshall – TBD
- Sept. 22 Browns vs. NY Giants – 1:00pm
- Sept. 28 Ohio State vs. Michigan State – TBD
- Sept. 29 Breakfast Buffet – 9:00-11:45am
Browns vs. Las Vegas Raiders – 4:25pm

OCTOBER

- Oct. 2 Spaghetti Dinner – 4:30-7:00pm
- Oct. 5 Ohio State vs. Iowa - TBD
- Oct. 6 Browns vs. Washington Commanders – 1pm
- Oct. 12 Ohio State vs. Oregon – TBD
- Oct. 13 Browns vs. Philadelphia Eagles – 1pm
- Oct. 16 Pork Chop Dinner – 4:30-6:30pm
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- Oct. 20 Browns vs. Cincinnati Bengals – 1pm
- Oct. 26 Ohio State vs. Nebraska – TBD
- Oct. 27 Breakfast Buffet – 9:00-11:45am
Browns vs. Baltimore Ravens – 1pm

SAVE THESE DATES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2024
SCOTCH DOUBLES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025
CASINO NIGHT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025
CHARDON POLKA BAND

MONTHLY DINNER

- SEPTEMBER 18 – HOMEMADE SAUSAGE/PIEROGIES
- OCTOBER 16 – PORK CHOPS
- NOVEMBER 20 – MEAT LOAF

CALL 330-786-9972 BY THE MONDAY BEFORE DINNER FOR RESERVATIONS

485 MORGAN AVE • AKRON, OH

Branch 853 Happy Summer

Branch 853 members showed the ways they are celebrating their days in style by participating in the "Happy Ways of our Summer Days" branch event. Looks like everyone had an enjoyable summer.

Submitted by Monica Boone, President, Branch 853



Andrew Krizman and his daughter Tatum at a summer festival.



Katie Krizman enjoying the city and visiting the docks



Fred and Andrea Krizman enjoying their backyard.



Monica and Ronald Boone at a summer wedding

Minutes Of The Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, July 19, 2024

Videoconference

OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and asked Damian Nasta to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE JUNE MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the June 20, 2024 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 the Executive Committee. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his 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 next 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 the first quarter of 2024 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 June for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

Monthly Disbursements

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of May:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 111,062.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 51,504.00
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 Home Office is working with our outside marketing firm on a marketing program to recruit independent agents. We are waiting on the approval of getting licensed in 10 additional states to improve our marketing base and recruit new agents.

The Executive Secretary led a discussion regarding the tv ads running on Fox 8 and stated they will be doing a second taping.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The President asked the Treasurer for an update on the Golf Tournament held on July 12-14 at Oglebay Park. The Secretary stated that the National picnic on June 22 at Knoebels Amusement Resort was very successful and there was a great turnout. The Secretary gave an update on the upcoming picnics on August 10 at Wiegand Lake Park and a fall family picnic on October 5 at Simmons Farm. The Home Office is working with Joanne Fibbi on the events.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President reviewed the call he had with Sean Hardy from UBS regarding an update on our holdings and a review of new investment opportunities.

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 John Tokarsky and seconded by Damian Nasta to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Damian Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Kenneth A. Arendt
 President

Kevin J. Collins
 Executive Secretary

Jednota Publication Schedule

Copy Deadline Date:	Issue Date:
Monday, Sept. 30	Wednesday, Oct. 9
Monday, Nov. 4	Wednesday, Nov. 13
Monday, Dec. 2	Wednesday, Dec. 11



PUZZLE ANSWERS
 Solution to the Crossword Puzzle on page23

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

So little can protect so much...



JEP Term Insurance

\$14.00 credit will be applied to the 1st year payment

\$27.50

annual payment
[25K policy]

DEADLINE:
December 31, 2024

**Higher amounts available-contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office. Standard underwriting applies*

- Premium never increases
- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 *(no medical examination required)*
- College scholarships available *(min. \$25,000 policy)*
- Fun youth activities



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