



Jednota

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

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President's Annual Report for the Year 2017 Presented at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting Friday, March 23, 2018

Fellow Officers, Members of the Board of Directors and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union:

First, I would like us to remember and pray for all District and Branch Officers and all of the Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union who have reached Eternal Life since our March 2017 Board Meeting.

I want to thank our employees for their efforts and the Board of Directors for their support, and our Members for your continued interest in and support of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

The general U.S. economy has shown signs of significant improvements with added job growth and low unemployment. The nation continues to be divided, centered on ideology, economics, religion and some would say, race.

European economies are showing signs of growth, world-wide interest rates are still very low but rising. Stimulus is still the aim for many central banks but there are signs of ending stimulus. The European continent is threatened with the potential break-up of the common market and possibly the euro.

The price of oil has recovered, apparently stabilized in the \$60 range, subject to world events.

The Ukraine situation has not been in the headlines recently, even the news of the mass migration of potentially millions of peo-

ple, many of them Muslims, from war town countries like Syria, Iraq, and elsewhere in North Africa has subsided.

Is this a calm before the storm? Who knows?

In recent news the Prime Minister of Slovakia, Robert Fico, suddenly resigned following the recent murder of a Slovak investigative reporter. Any connection? Who knows? Time will tell.

The US stock market has experienced new highs, then retrenched and then recovered most of the losses while interest rates continued to be in a low historic range, however with indications that rates are rising slowly; but who knows how far and how fast.

This has continued to cause reduced yields on new bond investments, resulting in slightly reduced overall investment yields in our bond portfolio. There has also been some "flight to quality" in the bond sector. This has caused some competing fraternal who chased yields by purchasing lower rated and/or longer duration bonds to experience changes or little growth in their Risk Based Capital (RBC).

In the meantime our Society, the First Catholic Slovak Union, must prudently invest our Members' funds while also trying to grow our membership, promote Slovak culture and our Catholic Faith.

Again, in 2017 we did not want to unnecessarily take added risk in our portfolio. Our number one priority is the protection of funds entrusted to us by our Members, whether it be in insurance or annuities. Some other companies, including some fraternal, have chosen to substantially increase their annuity liabilities in a manner we believe is not in our Members' best interest in today's investment environment. Could we and/or should we substantially increase our annuity exposure?

The First Catholic Slovak Union has made

a conscious decision not to aggressively increase our annuity sales. In 2017 we had about \$19 million dollars in new annuity sales, in line with our plan.

That being said, I am proud to report that our December 31, 2017 financial report filed as required with the State of Ohio, our state of domicile, as confirmed by our outside Actuary Ed Cowman with Miller & Newberg, and audited by the outside Auditors Hosack, Specht, Muetzel and Wood, LLP, shows that the Society has reached another new record in total assets



Andrew M. Rajec

of \$395,965,421 compared to assets of \$382,391,381 at 12/31/2016. This is an increase in assets of \$198 million dollars, an over 100% increase in the last eleven years.

In addition, and more importantly, surplus for 2017 increased by \$2,683,449 dollars to another new record of \$30,782,846 at 12/31/2017, even after giving a dividend to our Members slightly above that of 2016. This is an increase in surplus of 166% in the last eleven years.

Keep in mind as of 12/31/1995 the Society

continued on page 3

Spring has arrived!

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Insights and Viewpoints



St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies, Father Killian Loch, O.S.B., Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B.

April 22, 2016 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

John 10: 27 – 30

The image that Jesus uses of the Good Shepherd is one that is easy to picture. It is a beautiful image of how Jesus looks upon each of us. He is the good shepherd who cares for us, searches for us when lost, and protects us from harm. He is not a hired hand who works for pay and lacks a personal connection with the sheep. Je-



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

sus loves us and it is the total, pure and unconditional love that he gives us that is at times difficult to accept, for most love we experience or express is tainted with the struggles and imperfections we have with totally loving without conditions. Hopefully we are not at the level of the hired hands, but we struggle to accept and to give that perfect love of Jesus.

On one of our College Service trips the students and I stayed at the home of a young couple with several young children. The couple were a beautiful example of a holy family in how they related to one another, prayed together and obviously loved each other. One day the wife told our students of how it dawned on her what truly love is. She had a successful career, and worked for a company that was very much into affirming their employees. Company memos regularly were sent out that included commending some employee for a job well done. She got use to these pats on the back for everything she did. She stopped working when they had their first child. This was a very dramatic shift for her, and she shared how on one day, with a two-year old and a newborn, she was trying to cook dinner for her husband and some guests. The baby started fussing and wouldn't stop crying, and the baby's crying woke up the two-year old from her nap who became cranky and into a tantrum mode. She was busy giving both attention hoping to calm them down, as well as to keep her eye on dinner. Finally, things settled down, the two-year old went about playing, the baby fell back to sleep, and the dinner was almost ready. She paused and thought to herself, "I just did a great job; where's the pat on the back? Where's someone to tell me what a great job I did? There was no one. As she thought about this, it dawned on her that when she worked outside the home the affirmation was good, and was expected. As a wife and mother she wasn't doing these things for affirmation, she was doing them out of love. When we do things out of love we aren't looking for affirmation. It's not about what we get out of it, but rather the love we have that moves us to give of ourselves.

A few weeks ago when we recalled the Passion of Jesus there were no words of affirmation to Jesus as he hung upon the cross. No one was saying, "Good job, Jesus." No one was patting him on the back. The crowds were yelling "Crucify him," and the soldiers were scourging and beating him. Jesus didn't suffer for us so that he could be affirmed; He suffered and died for us because He loves us.

This is the Love we celebrate during the Easter Season. It is the Love of God that conquered sin and death and is freely given to us. It is the Love shown in the Good Shepherd. It's the love we are called to make our own so as to serve God and one another. It is not like a hired hand waiting to be paid, but as the Good Shepherd, not seeking anything, but only loving.

April 29, 2018 - 5th Sunday of Easter

An appreciation for humor, irony, and laughter are authentic signs of a Christian, I believe, since we are only able to truly laugh—to laugh with joy, not the nervous bluster of the arrogant or insecure—because in Jesus Christ we see the definitive answer to the otherwise confounding inanity and tragedy that so often mark our world. The frustrations, sufferings, embarrassments, and missteps that leave many people who have no faith despondent can be seen by Christian believers as part of the irony of human existence.

We have the chance to see a bit of "divine humor" in today's readings when Paul, having just made one of the most dramatic religious conversions in history, from Pharisaical Judaism to Christianity, struggles to find acceptance among his new Christian fellows. "When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple" (Acts 9:26). One can hardly blame those who shunned Paul's first inroads into the Church community; after all, until recently, he had been an energetic persecutor of these very same Christians. Still, his situation has something of a tragi-comic cast to it as he tries to meet and affirm new friends in Christ while they desperately flee from him. Some earnest intervention from Barnabas saved the day for Paul, and he eventually became a pillar of the early Christian Church.

The humor we might find in Paul's plight in Jerusalem gives us a chance to reflect on coming into the Church and the way we are welcomed when we try to do so. Catholics are rightly proud of our home parishes and churches, our schools, our Altar Guilds, Men's Clubs, and our CYO leagues, all of which ought to remind us of the catholicity and universality of the Church. Yet we may have experienced less than an opened-armed welcome at one point or another when joining a new parish or a group within our parish. Catholics are famous for this sort of territoriality, which is very often built on lines of ethnic identity and which can be seen in the proliferation of small Catholic churches in an ethnically rich area like our own.

A sure way to celebrate our rightful Catholic identity and to make sure that it does not become parochial or unwelcoming is to see to it that our identity is rooted first in Christ, "the true vine" (John 15:1) and then in the more particular cultural or regional expressions of our Christian identity. This proper ordering of values gives the Church its catholicity—the unity in diversity that has been part and parcel of its existence from the earliest days and which continues to strengthen the Church today.

The "mark" of catholicity (do you remember the four "marks" of the Church?) should be kept in mind – both when we graft ourselves onto a new branch of the Church by joining a new parish or Catholic organization, and when we encounter others trying to make their way in the Church. If we do this faithfully we show that we properly understand the relationship between Christ, the vine, and the many branches that make up his living body, the Church. Welcoming others into the Church is eventually part of the experience of every Catholic, and doing so consciously is a sharing in the apostolic work Paul himself began with great difficulty in Jerusalem. His evangelical efforts eventually paid off in spite of his humorous misadventures, and ours will be sure to "bear much fruit" (John 15:8) if we keep our eyes centered on Christ the true vine.



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

**Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union
website at www.fcsu.com**

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President's Annual Report

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had assets of only \$100,267,344 dollars and surplus of only \$3,649,651 dollars.

As I noted in my 2016 report we cannot expect a new record of profits and increased surplus every year. We cannot take these favorable results for granted.

As of December 31, 2017, FCSU solvency ratio was over 107%, higher than many of the 25 largest insurance companies in the United States. The solvency ratio means that there are assets of \$107 dollars for every \$100 dollars of liabilities.

The FCSU continues to fully fund its annuity reserves from the date of deposit, which means that FCSU's reserving method establishes annuities at full fund account value, without adjustment for surrender penalties. FCSU is one of only a handful of fraternal insurers that uses this conservative reserving method, another step to protect Member's funds.

As I have reported previously the NAIC (National Association of Insurance Commissioners) and the various State Insurance Departments have been more aggressive in monitoring the financial strength of all insurance companies and fraternal.

As a measure of an insurance company's financial health, all states require each company's Actuary to run and provide what are called "Cash Flow Studies" every year. These are complex and costly to the FCSU and to all other insurance companies and fraternal.

"Risk Based Capital Calculation" (RBC) - many State regulators consider the test to be a litmus test of financial strength. A RBC ratio of under 300 is a red flag warning. Under 200, a State Insurance Department can start regulatory action, which could include forcing the company to raise capital, cease writing new business, and even liquidate. There is talk of making this ratio even more stringent.

I am pleased and proud to report that the First Catholic Slovak Union has a Risk Based Capital ratio of 1001, even higher than the 860 of last year, a sign of financial strength. Surplus is very important. If we want to attract young, financially savvy new Members, we must show financial stability and strength. While this can be a volatile number, we have one of the highest RBC ratios in the fraternal world.

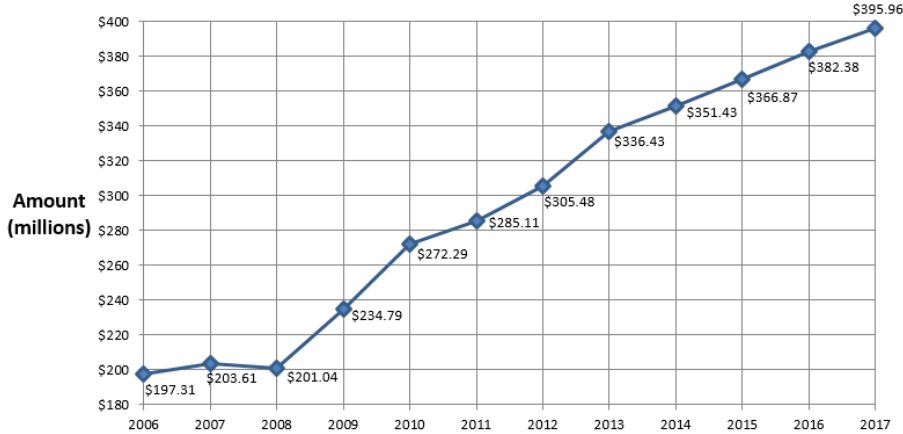
Those fraternal with the strongest financials will survive and thrive.

While we have been criticized for stressing surplus and RBC ratios, financial strength is paramount. I have said many times it's harder to be fraternal when you don't have money to fund fraternal activities or causes.

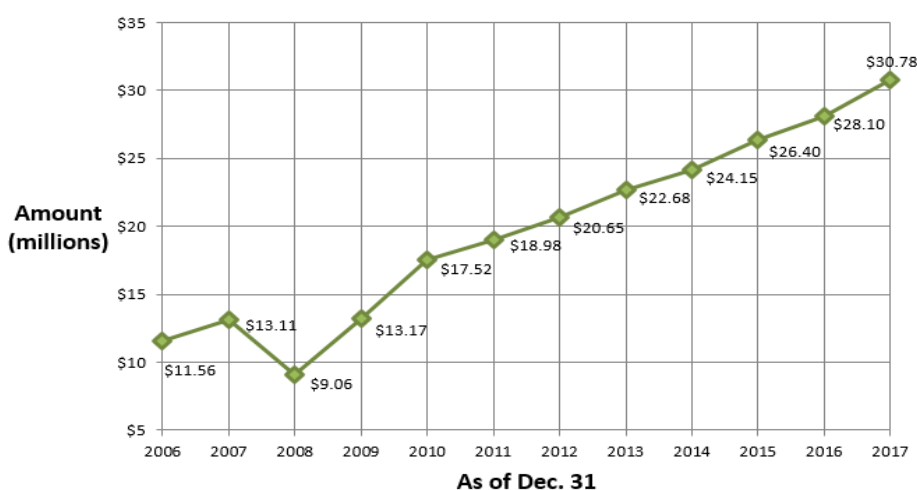
The challenge, however, continues for us in many areas and for various reasons, which I will discuss. As I have said before, our Society wants to have a goal of attaining an A.B. Best rating of A- within four years. It will not be easy.

Attached is a graph showing the change in assets and surplus from 2006 thru 2017.

**FCSU Total Admitted Assets
2006-2017**



**As of Dec. 31
FCSU Surplus
2006 - 2017**



2018 CHALLENGES

The challenges the Society faces in 2018 are varied and some are not new. They include the investment environment, interest rates, the number of Recommenders, new agents, existing and new Branches, membership and fraternalism.

The challenges have changed and only increased in recent years. I previously have quoted in part from an article in a 1995 issue of the Jednota written by Joseph C. Krajsa, then Editor Emeritus:

"In the last two decades we have seen the fraternal dwindling in membership and primar-

ily urban Slovak parishes losing members to suburban ones. Why? Because the first and second generation Slovak Americans assimilated into American society in a relatively short time. Today their duties, responsibilities, and problems are vastly different from those of 50 or 75 years ago when Slovak immigrants struggled to survive the Great Depression, poor working conditions, and a language barrier."

Today fraternal must redefine their goals or continue to lose membership and premium income and eventually fall victim to increasing government regulation of the insurance industry until they face total extinction.

Jednota membership peaked in 1964 at 105,000 members. By 1990 the membership had declined to the 70,000 range. Today we have slightly under 50,000 members.

I think the time for change has come. The founding fathers and mothers of the Slovak fraternal societies did not establish them to compete against one another, nor did they ever think for a moment that they would go out of existence. They founded them to help Slovaks. Does this sound too "old fashion" and out of date? We have actively explored merger of Slovak fraternal; so far without positive responses.

Today, increasing our membership and helping Slovaks and our other members, are still the primary goals of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Mr. Krajsa said this in 1995:

"It is time that we sit down and put petty jealousies and perceived rivalries aside. Will we still be around ten years into the next century to inventory that which we have today, or will we find that it has dwindled away to nothing?"

INVESTMENT YIELDS

The year 2017 was another positive year for the Society with the assistance of the investment firm of AQS. The investment climate for bonds, in which the Society by law must invest most of its assets, has continued to provide historically low yields. The Federal Reserve has provided almost unlimited dollars at historically low rates to try to stimulate the U.S. economy. The Society has had to adjust its annuity rates to maintain our "spread". The Board unanimously approved the action to reduce the interest rates on 4 1/2 + % annuities that have passed their maturity date. This was done successfully.

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

We have made some strides in membership aided by our very competitive annuity rates. Our annuity rates continued to be attractive during 2017. We met our budgeted annuity target. We could have sold millions more of annuities if we had wanted by raising commissions paid to independent agents. We will consider raising commissions cautiously. But as I have said previously, we want controlled growth to protect our Members investments in a rising interest rate environment. Our model has proved successful as evidenced by our RBC ratio and our continued surplus growth. We have heard thru our consultants that some fraternal are experiencing RBC problems. We addressed the issue of licensing PA Recommenders and are looking at a method to give a "referral fee" in all other states.

We will continue to add more independent agents. We took steps starting in late 2012 to contract more independent agents. We now have over 290 independent agents, up from about 260 last year.

We increased the stipends to branches and districts in 2015. Too many Branches receive the annual FCSU stipend and don't use it for membership activities. Too many Branches are not active enough to even qualify for the stipend, even some of our harshest critics. In Compliance with our By-Laws we have combined a number of Branches in 2017 and 2018.

We contracted with Visa Marketing, a Cleveland area advertising firm with insurance related experience. They had an initial effort to review and upgrade our website, which is done. We are now focusing on our agent recruitment, including emails and mass mailing.

FRATERNALISM and HERITAGE

The Society was originally founded by Slovak immigrants in 1890 and attracted and served as means of bonding together like-minded people sharing a common language, heritage and religion in a strange new land. As time passed newer generations gradually assimilated into the American fabric and common ethnic bonds stretched, as to be expected and as experienced by all ethnic fraternal.

We have heard some criticism from a few people that we are not fraternal enough and put too much stress on financials. However, good business practices and oversight by the Ohio Insurance Department reinforces this necessity. Fraternalism must be, not only from the top down but also from the bottom up. Our Branch and District Officers and Members must be willing to make the effort to build their Branches and Districts, holding events such as Christmas parties, Vilijas, kids' events, community and church projects, etc., and attending funeral wakes for deceased Members. Other fraternal have had some success in these areas.

We continue to add to and change displays in our museum at our Home Office in Independence. We welcome donations of artifacts.

The delicate issue of our Convention costs has been raised with our Board members as well as with our general membership. We have already received comments from state regulators and the American Fraternal Alliance.

We also continue to publish and improve the contents of our newspaper, the Jednota, our own FCSU website, as well as support various Slovak and Catholic organizations, and causes, including the Slovak Catholic Federation, Slovak League of America as well as many others, including charities in Slovakia. I pledge to continue to support our Slovak heritage and Slovak and Catholic organizations, and causes, as well as a continuing relationship with the Slovak Republic through its Embassy in Washington, D.C. I want to thank Editor Terri Ivanec for the job she has done and also Anna Sutherland for her work on the Slovak section of the Jednota.

SEWER LINE

The sewer line serving the Jednota Building No. 2 in Middletown, Pennsylvania and that would also serve additional buildings on the Jednota property, runs through land owned by

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2017 Annual Report of the Executive Secretary

March 23 - 24, 2018

Reverend Father, Mr. President and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States of America and Canada; it is my pleasure to present this 2017 report to you, the Board of Directors of the FCSU.



Kenneth A. Arendt

The Society enjoyed continued successful operating results for the year 2017. Operating profits and net income were consistent or exceeded 2016 and continued a long string of profitable years. Net gain from operations before capital gains amounted to \$2,326,018 (16.9%). Total asset value increased 3.6% (+\$13,576,959). There were realized capital losses of \$151,690 and \$784,400 of unrealized capital gains, primarily from common stock and other invested assets. Liabilities increased \$10,893,510 (3.1%) and surplus increased 9.5%. Details follow:

Listed below is a five-year comparison of assets, premium income, investment income, net income and surplus.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Assets	336,431,292	351,426,549	366,868,306	382,380,128	395,957,087
Prem Income	22,216,307	16,870,446	18,573,260	21,457,823	19,448,102
Inv Income	14,149,981	14,710,566	15,210,048	15,527,524	15,764,562
Net Income	1,455,635	1,368,485	2,153,545	1,990,356	2,326,018
Surplus	22,681,610	24,149,682	26,397,416	28,099,397	30,782,846

Total Operation and Capital Gains Profits for 2017

Gain per Page 4, Line 29	\$ 2,326,018
Total Capital Gains	<u>\$ 709,120</u>
Subtotal	\$ 3,035,138
Deferred Capital Gains (IMR)	<u>\$ (806,810)</u>
Net Gain Page 4, Line 31	\$ 2,174,328

The surplus increase of 9.5% was due to several factors in addition to the net income of \$2,174,328. Unrealized gains/ (losses) were as follows:

(a) Bonds	\$ 0
(b) Common Stock	\$ 17,570
(c) Com. St. Jednota, Inc.	\$ 238,164
(d) Other Invested Assets	<u>\$ 528,666</u>
	\$ 784,400

The following additional items affected Surplus:

(a) AVR	\$(305,475)
(b) Change in Non-Admitted Assets	\$ 2,919
(c) Accrual & Asset adjustment	\$ 27,278
(d) Increase in Post Retirement Cost	<u>\$ 0</u>
	\$(275,278)

In 2017 the surplus increased by \$2,683,450. This increase in surplus resulted from the strong operating gains and realized capital gains. Insurance in force decreased \$2,709,000 in 2017. The AVR balance at the end of 2008 was only \$235,339 and now stands at \$2,913,033 and is at its current maximum.

The Society emphasizes Bonds (89.1%) and Stocks as its main investments. The Society had almost \$30,811,000 of cash and short term investment at year end.

The Society is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank and uses funds available at very favorable interest rates to help generate interest income. The funds acquired through the FHLB are managed by an investment management company.

Since 2009, the Society has employed the services of AQS (a fraternal benefit society experienced investment management firm) to assist in guiding its investment activity.

There are no known items which would cause the financial results to be inaccurate.

Financial Position:

Our 2017 premium income is broken down as follows:

Life Insurance	\$ 1,608,294
Annuities	<u>17,839,808</u>
Total	\$19,448,102

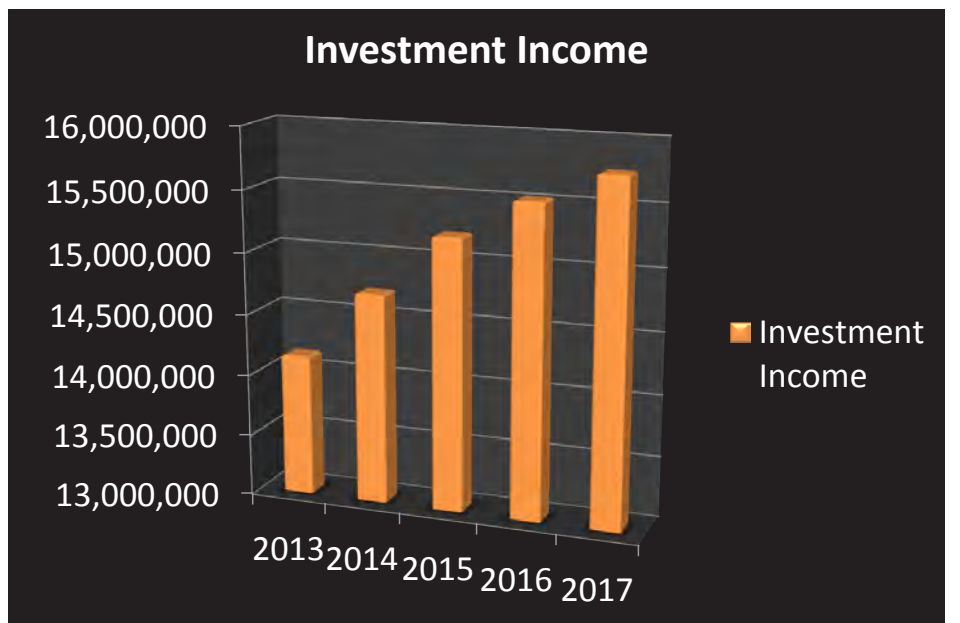
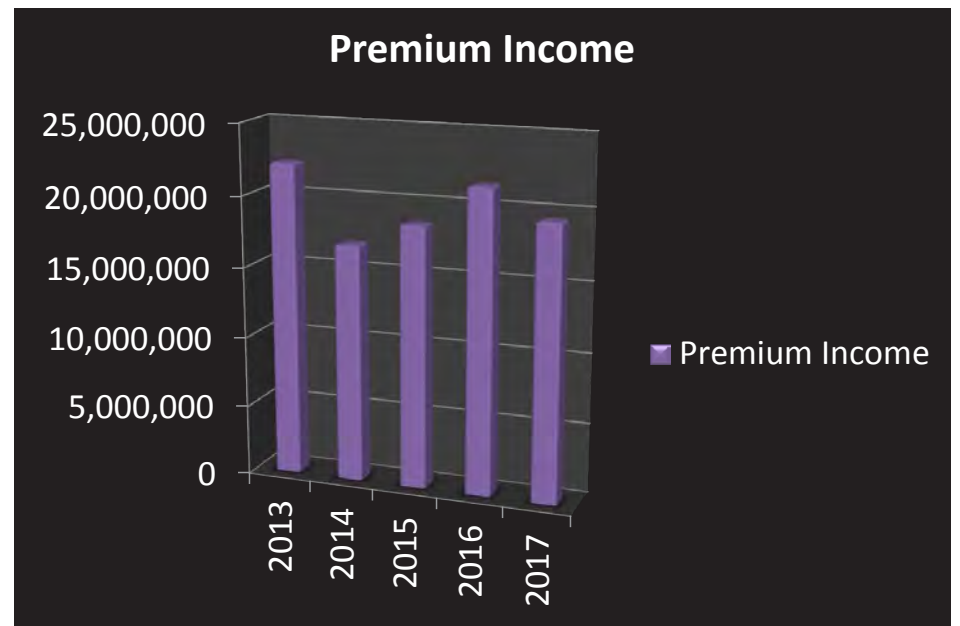
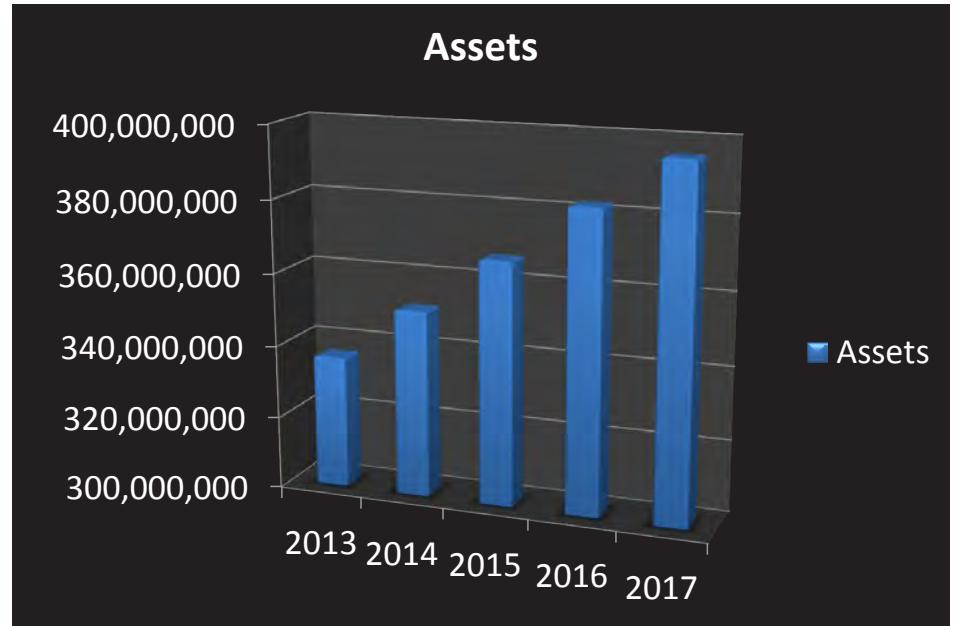
Investment income for 2017 is broken down as follows.

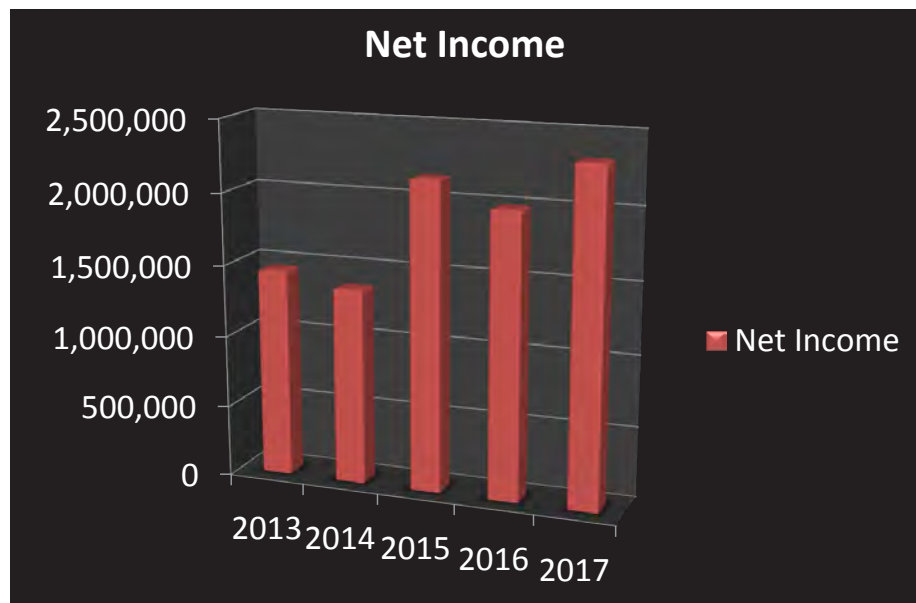
Investment Income for 2017:

Government Bonds	\$ 559,543
Bonds	16,543,765
Common Stocks/Un-Affiliates	80,500
Mortgage Loans	52,605
Real Estate	362,650
Certificate Loans	63,639
Short Term Investments	262,256
Write-ins for Investment Income	<u>(670,570)</u>
Total Investment Income	\$ 17,254,388

Investment Expenses:

Depreciation on Real Estate and Other Investment Expenses (Investment Taxes, License Fees, etc.)	<u>\$(1,489,826)</u>
Net Investment Income	\$15,764,562





Summary: Unrealized Capital Gains increased surplus by \$784,000; in addition to the net income of \$2,174,328 (includes realized losses). Surplus increased due to the increase in non-admitted assets and an asset accrual adjustment of \$30,197, and decreased due to the 2017 AVR deposit of \$305,478.

The Society's IMR now stands at \$1,128,886, and the AVR is at \$2,913,033. The bond component of the AVR is at 99.5% of the 2017 maximum.

The Society's solvency ratio is 108.4%. When the IMR and AVR are combined with surplus, the solvency ratio is 109.6% (an increase from 2016).

The Society experienced a decrease in premium income of 9.4%, from the previous year increase of 15.5%, as annuity premium income dropped 10.9%. Investment income increased 1.5% in spite of limited availability of high interest rate bonds.

Bonds are 89.1% (-1.5%) of the Society's assets, with an average maturity of 15 years. The Organization enjoys excellent bond quality with 97.0% of the bonds in the two highest NAIC rating classes. Common Stocks make up .7% of invested assets, and serve to provide diversity and balance to the portfolio, as well as to provide the benefit of growth potential of the market. Other assets consist of mortgages (0.2%); and all others (9.9%), including cash on hand \$30,811,526. About a third of the cash is in Government securities.

The most significant changes in liabilities were: policy reserves increased 5.1%; Deposit type accounts decreased 5.7%, IMR increased 149.9%; AVR increased 11.7%; Funds held as Trustee 17.0%. The AVR increase largely reflects increased bonds owned and the AVR is 99.5% of the 2017 maximum and the common stock component is 100.0% of the 2017 maximum. The Society established \$650,000 of reserves toward its year 2018 convention. Average lapse ratio was a very favorable 2.04% over 5 years. The Society enjoys loyal membership.

The Organization's total admitted assets are \$395,957,087, a 3.6% increase. Five year asset growth is 17.7%.

Operations:

Life premium increased 11.4%, led by a 20.9% increase in Single Premium and despite a 16.8% decrease in Renewal Premium income. First year premium increased 4.0%. Annuity premium income decreased 10.9% and totaled \$17,839,808. Overall total premium income decreased 9.4%. Sales activity consists of contracted General Agencies, Independent Agents, and Member Agents. Investment income was 1.5% higher despite the current low interest rates available; portfolio repositioning and the general unfavorable economic climate. Total income for the year was 5.0% lower.

Total member benefits were 7.2% higher primarily because of a 6.7% increase in annuity benefits paid. There was an 11.3% increase in Cash Surrenders; 9.3% increase in Death benefits; a 9.9% increase in interest payment benefits. Life reserve demand was 3.3% lower, and annuity reserve demand was \$3,786,522 (-27.9%) lower, consistent with the lower annuity premium production and increased benefit paid activity. Total Operation Expenses were 3.4% higher. Commissions were only 13.3% higher, despite the lower annuity premium but reflecting the higher life insurance production. General Expenses were 3.9% higher. Management continues to monitor expenses, and expense levels in relation to income. Dividends to members were \$420,527 which is at the same level as 2016. The Society realized a gain from operations of \$2,326,018 (16.9%) after payment of dividends. Realized capital losses were \$151,690 mainly due to OTTI write-down.

Net Income was \$2,174,328 (+19.1%). The AVR increased by \$305,475, mainly due to an increase in Bonds owned.

There are no known trends which will cause future operation results to deviate materially.

Surplus increased 9.5%. Surplus is at its highest point in the history of the Society and currently stands at \$30,782,846.

Cash Flow and Liquidity:

The items which provide liquidity are \$30,811,526 of cash, \$2,710,635 of common stock, over \$18,300,000 of bonds maturing in less than one year; over \$19,400,000 of premium income; and over \$15,700,000 of investment income. Expected outgo for benefit payments, commissions, dividends and expenses are about \$22,100,000, if the same amount of premium income and withdrawals are incurred in 2018. The Society enjoyed \$15,000,000 of positive operations cash flow in 2017.

The Society experienced level operating profits, and comparable asset growth in 2017. The net investment rate of return, although somewhat affected by the low interest rates available, will be at a competitive level. The Society markets no other major interest sensitive

product other than annuities.

There are no plans for any major expenses or outlays.

Risk Based Capital:

The Risk Based Capital calculations indicate that total adjusted surplus is \$33,895,879. This does not include the \$1,128,886 in the IMR. The total for 50% of the calculated RBC was \$3,387,634.

The Society had no Insurance Regulatory Information System ratios outside NAIC designated ranges.

Total security trading activity was over \$56,265,217 in 2017.

Insurance in Force:

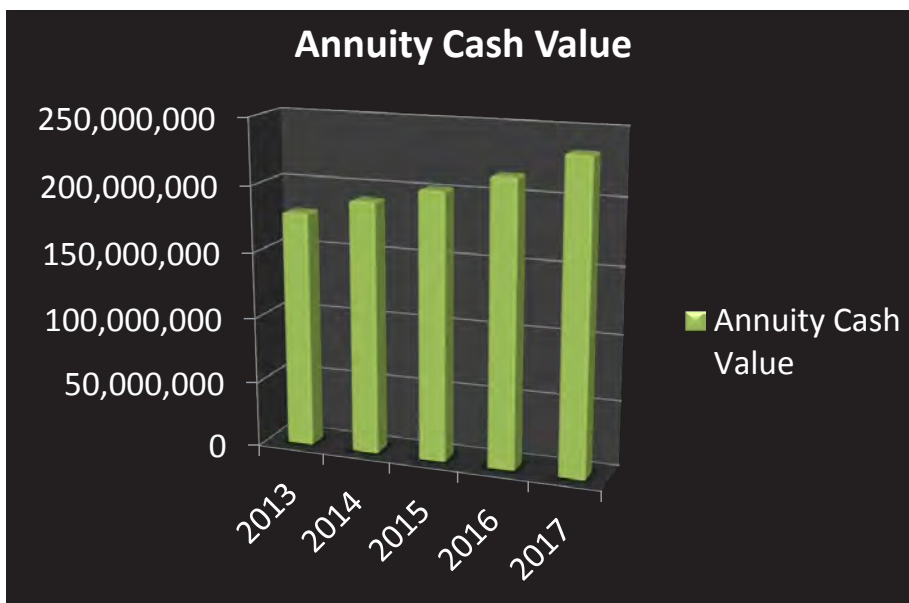
The Society recorded a decrease of \$2,709,000 in insurance in-force. Insurance in-force has decreased 2.2% since 2013.

Summary:

Our 2017 financial statements, quarterly and year-end were compiled and completed on a timely basis and filed with the various states in which we are licensed to do business. We are continually in contact with the regulatory agencies of the various states regarding their requirements, which are constantly changing. We are in compliance with all of the states' and NAIC accounting regulations.

In 2017 we had a loss in insurance membership (death claims, cash withdrawals, expels, etc.) of 952 members compared to a loss of 877 in 2016. We had a decrease in the number of life insurance certificates of 1,245 in 2017 compared to a loss of 1,152 in 2016.

As of December 31, 2017, the Society had 5,905 annuity certificates. As of December 31, 2017, annuitant membership totals 2,529 annuitant members (this total does not reflect members who have both insurance and annuity contracts). The total cash value of our annuity accounts for 2017 was \$222,726,777 compared to \$215,956,006 in 2016. Our annuity products continue to be the bright spot in our portfolio, bringing in \$66,738,596 in the last



five years alone. This represents great confidence in our Society and its continued growth.

The First Catholic Slovak Union's insurance and annuity portfolio contains many products, which suit all insurance and annuity needs. The Membership and Marketing Committee, along with our actuarial firm, Miller & Newberg Inc., and our Financial Consulting Firm, ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting, LLC, continues to explore avenues to improve and enhance our existing products and develop new products.

Our expanded search for new independent insurance agents to sell our products has been successful. We are approaching 300 agents with signed contracts with our Society and they are making our products available to their clients. Our agents have access to our agent portal which allows them to view their client's accounts.

We are licensed in 27 states. We are licensed in the following states: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, Virginia, and Wisconsin. This will provide an opportunity to market our insurance and annuity products and recruit new independent agents in these states.

In 2017 our marketing firm began working on a new presentation that will be used at our training seminars offered to branches and districts. These seminars are designed to educate our branch officers, district officers and recommenders not only about our existing products but also our new products and ways to present them. We believe these seminars will help stimulate the growth of our Society, develop motivation and strengthen the relationship between the Home Office, our branches and recommenders. Our goal is to keep the lines of communication open among our branches, districts, recommenders and the Home Office. We encourage our district officers, branch officers and recommenders to personally discuss their thoughts and ideas with us.

In 2017 we continued to encourage our current recommenders to obtain their state insurance license. Generally, to obtain a full insurance license a person will be required to take an exam and must take continuing education classes to maintain the license. A full insurance license allows a person to solicit any amount of insurance or annuities with no restrictions. In some states a person may apply for a restricted fraternal license and not be required to take an exam or to take continuing education classes. A restricted fraternal license limits



Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II For Illinois, Indiana & Wisconsin • March 2018



Hey Kids.....

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II of the First Catholic Slovak Union is sponsoring an "EASTER COLORING CONTEST" for all boys and girls ages 4 thru 12 that are members of District II for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Color the picture and you could win. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, for age groups from 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. All entries will receive a "Certificate" for participating.

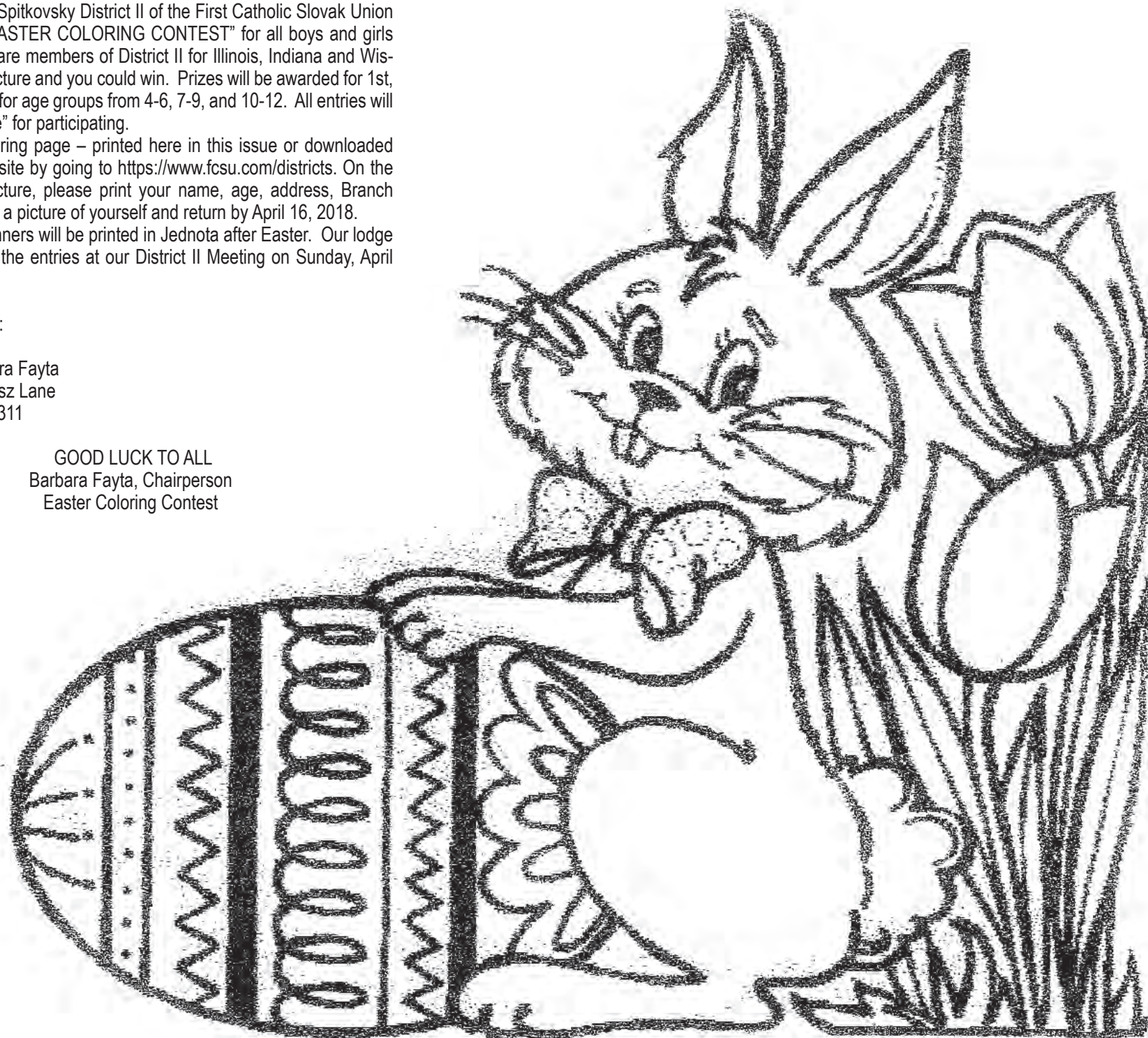
Send in your coloring page – printed here in this issue or downloaded from the FCSU website by going to <https://www.fcsu.com/districts>. On the back side of the picture, please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by April 16, 2018.

Pictures of the winners will be printed in Jednota after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2018.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



Pittsburgh Agreement Celebration Planned for May

On Thursday, May 31, 2018, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement with a commemorative program at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The program, which will begin at 6pm, will feature presentations by various government officials from the Czech Republic and Slovakia as well as local officials. A reception will follow the formal program.



The signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement on May 31, 1918, was an important occurrence in the course of events leading to the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state after the First World War. The catalyst for drafting and signing of this agreement was the visit to Pittsburgh of Professor Thomas Masaryk, who later became the first President of Czechoslovakia. The agreement was also signed by leaders of local and national Slovak and Czech fraternal organizations.

Admission for this memorable event is \$35.00 per person (NO tickets will be printed). Admission can be purchased from Carol Hochman at carolh1541@aol.com or from Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000. Make checks payable to WPSCA and mail to Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220. No admissions will be sold at the door. Admission must be purchased by May 15.

A special commemorative limited edition medal has been struck for this event. See photo below. The medal and wooden stand are available for \$35.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. They



will also be on sale at the reception. They can be purchased through the same contacts as above.

A poster (11x17) of the Pittsburgh Agreement will also be on sale at this event for \$10.00 or through the contacts listed above.

Special hotel accommodations have been made with the Hampton Inn across the street from the History Center and the Homewood Suites one block away. The group rate at the Hampton is \$169.00 a night plus tax. The Hampton can be contacted at 412-288-4350 or you can book online. The rate at the Homewood Suites is \$179.00 a night plus tax. Their phone number is 412-232-0200. At either hotel, just mention you are with the Pittsburgh Agreement group. Cutoff deadline is May 2, 2018.

A symposium is planned for the afternoon of May 31st from 1:30pm to 3:30pm at the University of Pittsburgh in room 4130 of Posvar Hall.

Everyone is welcome to attend. The panel will include speakers familiar with Czech, Slovak and U.S. history during years surrounding the signing of The Pittsburgh Agreement. The panelists will be Dr. Milada Polisenka from Anglo American University in Prague, Dr. Slavomir Mihalek from the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Dr. Hugh Agnew from George Washington University.

If you have any further questions, you can contact Czech Honorary Consul Carol Hochman at 412-855-6581 or Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko at 412-956-6000.

- Submitted by Joseph Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul and Branch 254 Member

President's Annual Report

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a third party that is subject to an Easement Agreement signed by the FCSU in 1975. As you know the current owner of that property (Linden Center) based on the 1975 Agreement has filed suit (\$450,000) against the FCSU regarding improvements to that easement that the owner of the property claims is the obligation of the FCSU. I retained Atty. Paul Minnich with the firm of Barley Snyder Law Firm to represent the FCSU. I was present at the deposition of Mr. James Nardo (Linden Center) on December 11, 2017 in the Middletown, PA area. Prior to the start of the depositions we discussed settlement. We arrived at a sum of \$300,000 with certain provisions that would fully protect the Society for any past and future liabilities. The final agreement is being drafted as we speak.

There have been several recent inquiries and offers of purchase for the Jednota estate/ Middletown properties subject to contingencies. The Board has been fully aware of these offers and in fact attended presentations by the two parties at the Home Office on January 23rd and 24th, 2018. We had retained atty John Feichtel, a real estate specialist. Both the Board and Atty Feichtel had the opportunity to extensively question the presenting parties. The Board passed a motion to accept offers of \$12,500,000. The 2015 appraisal of the properties was \$11,660,000. A more recent appraisal has been ordered. No action has been taken either on acceptance of any offers. No commission agreements have been signed. There have been several opinions that we need to take action while a limited marketing window of opportunity exists.

The Board will act on the offers at the March 2018 Board meeting. The Jednota Inc. and Jednota Properties Board at their March 10, 2018 meeting unanimously voted to sell Building #2. Any offer will insure that our monument will be protected for future generations.

MONUMENT

We have installed 15 panels with "bricks" at the Monument. Brick sales are continuing. Several more plaques have been commissioned. I am obtaining quotes both in Middletown and Cleveland for moving and re-bronzing the Fr. Furdek statue to our Independence property from Middletown, PA.

I also made several visits to our properties in Middletown to meet with our Jednota Slovak Editor Anna Sutherland and the maintenance personnel of our land and properties, and oversee our investment. Building No. 2 is fully rented at this time, with leases signed in late 2017. There will be a report on them later by easier with time and complications. Building No. 2 (Conduent lease) was up for renewal in 2017 and lease has been renewed for 2 years, but with a 6 month tenant opt-out under certain circumstances.

Personally, 2017 has again been a very busy year. I had bypass surgery in June 2017 to replace a clogged stent. I did not miss any Executive Committee or Board meetings. My attendance at Branch and District meetings was temporarily reduced somewhat, but I attended meetings in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Some people have questioned the need for making personal visits and/or hold seminars and the expenses incurred. Ken Arendt and I travel together by car (with one mileage charge) wherever possible. My wife frequently travels with me and she receives no per diem or reimbursement of any kind. She does it to meet our Members and promote our Society. I still believe that the Society and myself need to be visible to our Members and potential members.

SUPREME COURT

In 2017 Robert Kristofik filed a Complaint with the FCSU Supreme Court against President Rajec and Executive Secretary Arendt, seeking their immediate removal from office. The complaint also included several members of the FCSU Board of Directors. That Complaint was answered timely by Mr. Rajec, Mr. Arendt and the named Board Members. A hearing by the Court was held on September 21, 2017 at the Home Office with the results published in December 6, 2017 issue of the Jednota.

The Court declined to remove Mr. Rajec and Mr. Arendt from office as Mr. Kristofik had sought.

Since that time, Mr. Kristofik refuses to accept the decision of the Court and continues to complain and agitate.

It is of some note that Robert Kristofik filed a complaint with the Supreme Court in 2006 against past President Mr. Thomas Hrick.

Also in 2009 Michael Kristofik, Robert's brother, filed a complaint against Mr. Rajec and Mr. Arendt also seeking to remove them from office. That complaint was also rejected by the Court.

There is an apparent reoccurring pattern every pre-election year. Incidentally, the Mr. Kristofik's branch did not qualify for the 2016 Stipend since it did not even meet the required minimum sales requirement of the Bylaws. This was not the first time.

STATE OF OHIO AUDIT

Every four years the State of Ohio Insurance Department conducts a thorough examination of every fraternal and insurance company domiciled in Ohio. Their very thorough audit of the FCSU started in late 2017 thru early 2018. The time frame is very typical. Their final Report and the FCSU Answer has been given to the Board.

The state was aware of the 2017 Supreme Court hearing, the charges and the responses. They also had a complaint from an apparent ally of Mr. Kristofik that they examined carefully.

While the State audit found no errors and certainly no thefts or defalcations or violations of the FCSU Bylaws either by Mr. Rajec, Mr. Arendt or the Board of Directors, they did find that one of our auditors was not qualified to serve and also made a recommendation for a bylaw change to determine any future bonuses.

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Committee and the Board for their help and cooperation. With continuing and new challenges, 2018 will require all of our skills and efforts to continue and expand our success. This year's results show, that with the cooperation

of our Home Office, the Executive Committee, and all our Officers and Board of Directors working together as a team, we can accomplish outstanding results.

Also, I want to thank our Members and especially our Branch and District officers for their continued support and commitment to our Society.

Dakujem. Thank you. Za Boha a Národ – For God and Nation.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Executive Secretary Annual Report

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the amount of insurance or annuity products sold. We are offering an incentive plan to our recommenders and any member interested in representing the FCSU as a state licensed insurance agent an opportunity to do so with this incentive plan. The FCSU will pay ½ (one half) of the cost to obtain a life insurance license in your state. This includes the cost of the required courses and the license fee (the tuition and license fee varies by state). Based on productivity the FCSU will pay for ½ (one half) of the renewal. For additional information please contact our Home Office.

The Home Office maintains a supply of sales material, which will aid our officers, recommenders and independent agents with their presentation of our products. Some of these tools are sales kits, which contain information regarding our products (rates, application forms, etc.) and sales brochures describing our products. Our pamphlet: What is the Jednota, is available upon request. This pamphlet gives a brief history of our Society. We also have an informational video that gives a brief history of our society, the goals of our society and describes who we are. Our highly qualified Home Office staff is also available during normal business hours to answer any questions concerning rates, completing applications, etc. To better serve our members and to increase efficiency, we offer an automatic premium payment service, which enables our members to have their premium payments automatically deducted from their bank accounts. Automatic deposit for annuity checks is also available to our annuity holders. For the convenience of our members, we accept Visa and MasterCard for premium payments, loan payments and newspaper subscriptions.

We continue to use direct mail as a means of contacting our branches and our members, giving them information about our existing and new products. Direct mail is a necessary tool in marketing our products as we can reach a vast majority of our members in a short time. We have expanded our use of social media by creating a Facebook page. Please visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion/>. Email has become one of the main ways to communicate with our members and as we expand our email base we are reaching out to more members and providing up to date information. We use email to send out information on branch activities and meetings to our members. We are encouraging our members and officers to use e-mail when corresponding with the Home Office and to provide the Home Office with members email addresses so everyone is kept informed. Please email us at fcsu@fcsu.com.

Our in-house marketing team is working with a local marketing firm, Visia to modernize our marketing efforts with innovative newspaper ads, promotions, and emails. Visia is also working with our marketing team to create education videos, and assist in designing ads for mailing. In 2017, Visia developed an informational video about our Society. This video is posted on our website and also available as a DVD upon request.

We have published more information concerning our products in our Jednota, our official organ, to better inform our members about our products. Teresa Ivanec, our editor, has really worked hard to improve the appearance of our paper by adding color and additional articles to the paper. All articles should be sent to the Home Office or they may be emailed to fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com.

In 2017 we continued to update our website, <https://www.fcsu.com/> so that when you visit it you will not only have the latest information regarding our insurance and annuity products but also information about what is going on in the FCSU (branch meetings, district meetings, etc.). We are encouraging all branches and districts to send information about their activities to the Home Office so we may include the news on our website and in the Jednota newspaper (English and Slovak sections). The current issue of Jednota is available our website as well as issues dating back to 2006. The site contains links to Slovak news agencies, the Slovak Embassy and other interesting topics. We continue to offer insurance quotes on our website for the convenience of all our members.

Our Slovak Editor and Home Office Editor use the Internet daily to communicate with our members and to receive information from the Slovak Embassy and the Slovak News Agency. This information is used by our Slovak Editor to write articles about current events in Slovakia.

We are continually updating our computer system to be more efficient to ensure that it meets and exceeds all state and NAIC requirements. We strive to improve our Home Office operations and have taken every precaution to protect our computer system. We have purchased Cyber Security Insurance for the protection of our members. We believe a strong communication and working relationship between the Home Office, branches and recommenders is vital. Input from our members is necessary and very important to us. The Home Office always welcomes suggestions about ways to improve service to our members.

In 2017 our internal auditors and outside auditors, Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, conducted their audits for the period ending December 31, 2017. Their audits consisted of a complete review of our quarterly and year-end financial statements and our Home Office operations. As a result of these audits our Society received an excellent review.

The Ohio Department of Insurance also conducted their quarterly audit as required by every insurance company domiciled in the state of Ohio. They found everything to be in

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(L) Branch President Jan Skrkon along with other Branch 716 members and St. John Nepomucene Father Martin Kertys with hot lunch prepared.



(L - R) St. John Nepomucene Pastor Father Richard Baker sampling the food with Branch 716 President Jan Skrkon



The ladies preparing to serve the Bratislava Boys Choir and guests after Sunday morning Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City.

Branch 716 Hosts the Bratislava Boys Choir in March

The Bratislava Boys' Choir has been part of the Slovak artistic scene since 1982. The group's concert ensemble has 45 members and has enjoyed years of collaboration with world class orchestras, enriching its repertoire with dozens of oratorios, cantatas, and symphonies. The boys' vocal training allows them to perform in musicals as well. They also enjoy singing alongside artists from the pop music scene. They have appeared in television films, cooperated with motion picture companies (Hallmark, Miramax), and has recorded seven CDs.

On March 10, 2018, the Bratislava Boy's Choir performed in a concert at St. John Nepomucene Church; and the following Sunday, March 11th, they sang at the Slovak Mass. Branch 716 later hosted and prepared lunch for the Choir before they departed to the airport, returning home to Slovakia.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Recording Secretary



FCSU Members at Bringing America Back to Life included (L - R): Miriam Visnovsky, Terezia Rozmus, Barbara Sutilla, and Andrew P. Rajec

FCSU Supports Bringing America Back to Life

The First Catholic Slovak Union participated in this year's Bringing America Back to Life held March 9 - 10, 2018, at the Embassy Suites in Independence, OH. This annual convention of Cleveland's Right to Life has become a premier educational platform of the pro-life community, featuring local, national and internationally recognized speakers. The FCSU was a sponsor, and members manned the exhibit table over the two-day event.

Branch 493's Ryan Peters Receives Computer Science Degree



Ryan Peters, a member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, IL, recently graduated from Purdue Calumet College in Indiana, with a degree in Computer Science. He has obtained a job at a software development company in Oak Brook, IL, and recently moved from Highland, IN, when he grew up, to his first apartment in Wheaton, IL. Ryan is a past FCSU College Scholarship winner. He is engaged and plans to wed in October at Our Lady of Grace church in Highland. Congratulations, Ryan!

- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, Branch 493 Financial Secretary/Treasurer



Photo credit Ryan Ranahan

Branch 746's Spring Meeting

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, held its spring meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2018, at Luciano's Restaurant in Rahway, NJ. Delegates for the 51st National Convention were voted and a fruitful discussion was held on upcoming events including a trip to see Paul the Apostle the movie, the upcoming pilgrimage to the National Basilica in Washington DC for the annual mass held on Sunday, Sept 16th at 11am, and Mother's Day, and so on. Following the Branch, District 4 Msgr. John E. Rura was held where officers were elected. The gathering was a great opportunity for Jednota members to get together and enjoy a delicious meal! Thank you to all members that were able to attend.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

Branch 764 Helps Celebrate SS Cyril & Methodius Feast Day in February

On February 17, 2018, SS. Cyril & Methodius Social Hall, of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Warren, OH, was once again the site of an evening of fellowship celebrated with traditional Slovak food, in recognition of the SS Cyril and Methodius Feast day. Sponsored by Branch 764 in conjunction with FC-SLA Branch 422, a feast of stuffed cabbage, pirohy, klobasa and kraut, bacon seasoned green beans, pickled beets and kolach was enjoyed by some 180 guests. Accordion music by Joe Ohlin, of St. James site of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish was enjoyed by all, as were wines provided by the Slovak Club of Warren. Proceeds of ticket sales were donated to Easter Seals of Trumbull County.

- Submitted by William Hrusovsky,
Branch 764 Recording Secretary



Happy Birthday to Branch 716 Members Anna Bilik & Maria Bozekova



Anna Bilik blows out the candle on her birthday cake.

Earlier this year, Branch 716 celebrated the birthdays of two of its members. On January 10th the branch celebrated Anna Bilik's 60th Birthday and on Feb 25th members helped celebrate Treasurer Maria Bozekova's birthday in St. John Nepomucene Hall in New York City.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon,
Branch 716 Secretary



(L- R) Father Richard Baker, Eva Lysakova and Maria Bozekova toasting to Maria's good health.

Branch 716 Members helped Anna Bilik celebrate her 60th birthday.



Some of the Branch 716 members who were there to honor Maria on her birthday: (L - R) Jan Skrkon, Helen Nigerovic, Maria Bozekovia, and Father Richard Baker, pastor of St. John Nepomucene.





A Forgotten Paschal Tradition Worth Remembering

Daniel Černý

Almost everyone coming from Eastern Slovakia, or with family ties to Eastern Slovakia, is familiar with the blessing of the so-called Paschal baskets, filled with goods to be blessed and eaten on Easter Sunday. This custom spread from the Byzantine rite tradition to have since been adopted by Roman Catholics living in the same areas as those with a strong Byzantine-rite presence. The practice of blessing Paschal baskets continues even among the diaspora.

When doing research on the Paschal tradition among the Byzantine Slovaks in Canada, I focused on what the parishioners remembered from their native villages. When doing so, I came across one other tradition connected with the celebrations of the feast of Pascha. An old man, born during the first Czechoslovak Republic (1918-1938) and who came to Canada before the outbreak of the WWII, remembered how his family and his native village of Nižné Nemecké (district of Sobrance) kept a special Paschal tradition. It was the tradition of receiving new clothing on the occasion of this feast. Further research showed that this tradition was kept in various other villages throughout Eastern Slovakia. The custom was still followed in the villages near the city of Trebišov at the end of the 1950's. It is also a known practice among other Eastern Slavs, although to find it in Slovakia was indeed an initial surprise. To fully understand the value of this tradition, it is important to keep in mind two elements.

First is a Christian one, which has been present in Slovak history and culture since the language was first codified, tracing back to the times of Ss. Cyril and Methodius. For Christians, the gift of new clothing is probably among the best symbols of the Paschal mystery of Christ – his death and above all his resurrection, which leads us to our own resurrection and spiritual rebirth. Baptism, which reenacts the death and resurrection of a person in Christ, is the first holy mystery (sacrament) for all Christian churches. The baptismal robe is thus reminded to the faithful, when receiving another new item of clothing for the day of Pascha.

The second interesting element is the fact that in the past our people didn't receive gifts throughout the year – not even for Christmas. Kids were treated with sweets on the day of St. Nicholas, but clothes were given on the Easter, not on Christmas, as is common nowadays. With globalization and cultural exchanges, it is now almost unthinkable to imagine Christmas without gifts, but the omission of this tradition on Easter is regrettable.

The book of Revelation, describing in picturesque language the last events of the world and the glorious coming of Christ, once again mentions clothes being washed in the blood of the Lamb (7:13-14). May we appreciate the gifts given to us by our Lord, not only during this Paschal season, but every day, and may we cherish the memory of our beloved ones who preceded us in life and who kept the living faith thanks to traditions such as this one.

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen! - Kristus vstal z mŕtvych! Skutočne vstal z mŕtvych! Christos voskres! Voistinu voskres!

About the Author

Daniel Černý was born in Košice, Slovakia, in 1983. He currently lives and works in the capital city of Bratislava. He received his PhD in 2014 from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome, with a doctoral thesis on *The History of the Slovak Greek Catholics in Canada before the creation of their own Eparchy*. He continues writing in his spare time, focusing on Slovaks and their diaspora, especially those of the Byzantine rite. His articles have been published by the Slovak Academy of Sciences (Jan Stanislav Institute of Slavistics), and can be found in numerous other publications and on web pages, both home and abroad – most recently in the 2017 *Slovakia*, published annually by the Slovak League in America.

Executive Secretary Annual Report

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order and stated there were no violations of the FCSU bylaws.

During 2017, we merged 37 inactive branches with active branches. This is an ongoing issue since many of our branch officers are unable to continue to service the members in their branches.

Per FCSU bylaws the branches are still required to meet the requirements set forth by our FCSU Convention to qualify for the branch stipend. We encourage our branch officers that if they are unable to perform their duties and cannot find anyone in their branches to take over their duties, to call the Home Office. We will try to merge them with an active branch. For those branches that do not wish to merge, the Home Office can offer you guidelines as to how you can meet the requirements and receive the stipend. Throughout 2017 the requirements for the financial obligations (bylaw section 4.05) has been mailed to all branch officers and published in the Jednota newspaper as a reminder of the expectations for each branch.

The FCSU has an outstanding scholarship program, which is available to our members who meet the requirements. Members may contact the Home Office for information concerning the scholarship program. We continue to award 75 one-time scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00, 3 Nursing one-time scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00, and 2 one-time Honors scholarship (1 male and 1 female) for \$1,250.00 each year to the highest ranking applicants.

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, which is separate from the Society's scholarship program, is available to any person pursuing post-secondary education. To be eligible for this one-time scholarship, the applicant must be of Slovak descent and Catholic faith. At this time, ten non-renewable scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 each are expected to be awarded.

One of the activities that the FCSU takes part in each year is the March for Life, which is held in Washington, D.C. in January. Members of our Society join with all others who respect the rights of the unborn. We sponsor and support local groups including the Slovak Radio Club, St. Andrew's Abbey, Slovak Catholic Federation, Slovak League and Slovak dance groups. We will continue to explore possible joint adventures with other fraternal for the future.

As I have stated in the past, the economic success of our Society hinges on four factors: the effective sale and promoting of our insurance and annuity products to increase premium income; the effective management of our investment portfolio to increase our investment income; continuing to control our operating expenses; and also investigate new ways to attract new members. New members are vital to our growth.

As your Executive Secretary, I represented the FCSU on the Board of Directors of the Slovak Catholic Federation and Slovak League as well as an Advisor of the Secretary Section of the American Fraternal Alliance. I have attended and represented the Society at fraternal functions not only within our FCSU but also other fraternal societies. I represent the society at various branch and district meetings throughout the year. Each year I attend the American Fraternal Alliance Annual Convention. I also attend many seminars, including the ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting Seminars, which are always very informative regarding current insurance trends and pending state and NAIC regulations that might affect the FCSU. I am in constant contact with all state Departments of Insurance to ensure that FCSU is at all times in compliance with state regulations. We continue to meet all state requirements.

My wife, Theresa, and I appreciate your trust and support as your Executive Secretary. I will continue to work and do my very best for our society. I will work towards a stronger society and address all issues with honesty and integrity. We are the First Catholic Slovak Union and I pray for our Society's continued growth. We have outstanding products with competitive rates and we all need to be involved in reaching new members and promoting our society.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of my fellow officers and board members who assisted me throughout the year. A special thank you goes to our Home Office staff, a very hard-working entity of our Society.

Fraternally,

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



Regional Director Rudy Bernath Receives Appreciation Award

On Friday, March 16, 2018 Rudy Bernath, FCSU Region 7 Director, received a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Chicago Public Schools. This award was for serving 25 years as an Exhibit Judge for the CPS Student Science Fair held at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry each year.

Congratulations, Rudy!



Scholarships Available Through United Slovak Societies in Lorain, OH

The United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH, announces 2018 scholarship availability to graduating high school seniors who are entering college and are five-year members of our local lodges that include: First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 228; National Slovak Society Assembly 160; Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111; First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch #114; and Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union #77.

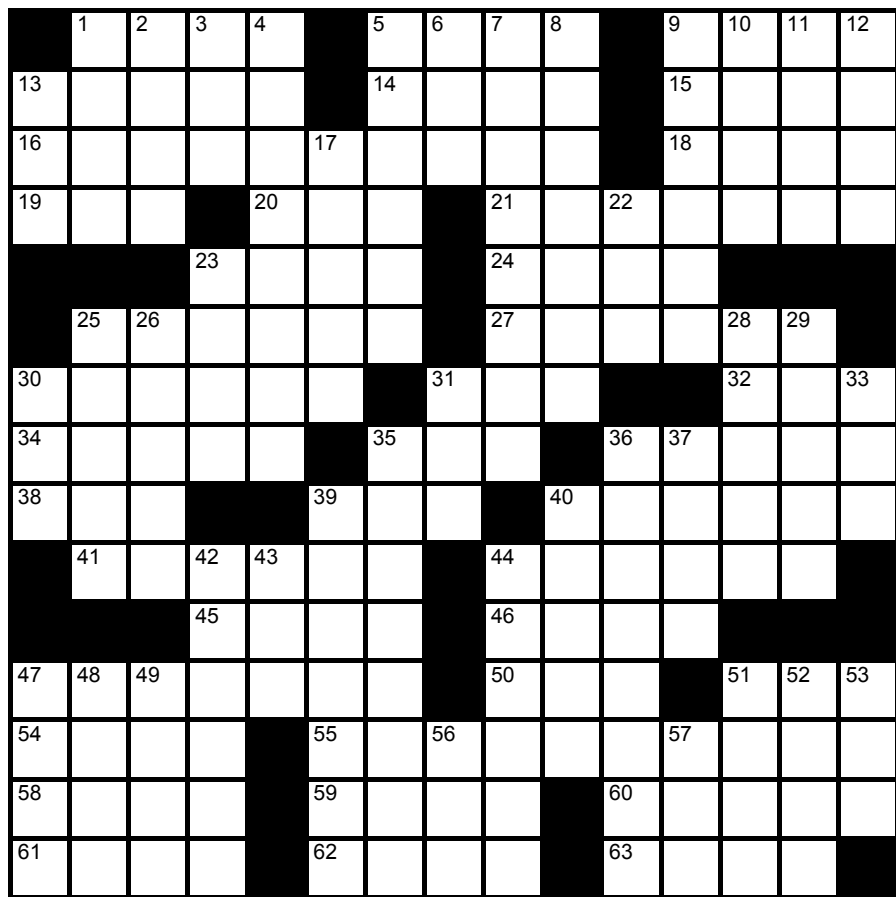


The one-time scholarship application and rules may be obtained by visiting www.americanslovakclub.com.

Deadline for completion is May 30, 2018.

- Submitted by Michele Mager
FCSU Branch 228 Member
Secretary-United Slovak Societies
Board of Director Member,
American Slovak Club- Lorain, OH

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



SLOVAK RADIO CULTURAL & SOCIAL CLUB FUNDRAISER

WHEN: SATURDAY: APRIL 28, 2018
WHERE: PARMA TAVERN
5680 BROADVIEW RD.
PARMA, OH
TIME: 6:00P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

ADMISSION IS BY TICKET ONLY
TICKETS ARE \$25.00 PER PERSON

For tickets, contact: Henry Horvath at 440-463-2009

Across

- 1 Greek war god
- 5 Peter the Great, e.g.
- 9 Aberdeen native
- 13 Meager
- 14 *Zuckerman Unbound* novelist
- 15 Pitch
- 16 With great strength, usually
- 18 Sprint
- 19 "I agree"
- 20 "The Sweetheart of Sigma ____"
- 21 Sent with a click
- 23 It's got you covered
- 24 Adam's apple spot
- 25 Church plates
- 27 Balkan nation
- 30 Foxy faced primates
- 31 "____ De-Lovely"
- 32 Wet behind the ears
- 34 Reaches over
- 35 "____ la la!"
- 36 "Good job!"
- 38 Egyptian boy king
- 39 Holiday ____
- 40 Split, like a hoof
- 41 SD capital
- 44 Island in 27 Across
- 45 Rod attachment
- 46 Leisure
- 47 Nazareth native
- 50 Navy office workers (Abbr.)
- 51 Arctic explorer John
- 54 ____ Bay, Oregon
- 55 Hostility
- 58 Ultimatum word
- 59 Tidings
- 60 Fmr. Portuguese colony

- 61 Honeybunch
- 62 "Dang!"
- 63 Stairs part

- 40 ____ Jiang, Asia's longest river
- 42 Pencil attachment
- 43 Sandpiper
- 44 Meal
- 47 Frigid
- 48 Shoe part
- 49 Spanish flower
- 51 Houston university
- 52 Without delay, for short
- 53 Outback runner
- 56 Bygone airline inits.
- 57 Rebellious Turner

Down

- 1 Flu symptom
- 2 Some stingers
- 3 Dash widths
- 4 Thorns
- 5 Passenger carriers
- 6 Our sun
- 7 In a prolonged manner
- 8 Poets
- 9 Protest type
- 10 Fossil fuel
- 11 ____ and for all
- 12 Before up or off
- 13 Operative
- 17 Double features?
- 22 Expert
- 23 Knock for a loop
- 25 Enliven
- 26 Valuable violin
- 28 Hunger for
- 29 Roof overhangs
- 30 Mil. transport
- 31 Charged particle
- 33 Hit the jackpot
- 35 Gag type
- 36 Florets
- 37 Took the car
- 39 Emerald Isle

See Solution on Page 20

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2018

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
April 25	April 16
May 9	April 30
June 6	May 29 (to accommodate Memorial Holiday)
June 20	June 11
July 18	July 9
August 22	August 13
Sept 19	Sept 10
October 17	October 8
November 14	November 5
December 12	December 3

You Can Still Participate in the Jednota Memorial



The First Catholic Slovak Union dedicated a Jednota Memorial site in September 2016 for our members and their families. The site is on a permanently dedicated 3 1/2 acres of land of Jednota property fronting on Rosedale Avenue in Middletown, PA. The land was once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage, purchased at the urging of our founder Fr. Štefan Furdek for just such a purpose. A rebronzed "Doughboy" statue is a key highlight of this Memorial, honoring those who served in any wars and also giving the opportunity for our Members to honor and remember their ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great.

9	PAUL & MARY CUPA JURICKÝ FURDEK BARDEJOV SLOVAKIA	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MICHAEL KIRCH WOLF	LOVING MEMORY OF MY WIFE VIRGINIA KOK VOLTER OF 55YRS 2016
DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 196K		IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF LOVING PARENTS 5307 US MARINE CORPS WORLD WAR II FRANCIS & SOLO CATHERINE M	FRANK T. JR. ELIZABETH G. MIDDLETOWN, PA
CHARLES RODACY BOONE KEYSTONE OAKS HS-PA CLASS OF 2018	RODACE CHARLES & ELIZABETH CHARLESTON, PA	BOONE FAMILY RON MONICA & CHARLES SCOBRY & VELMA	BERTOVIČ MICHAEL & MARGARET AND FAMILY
MAY THE SACRED HEART BLESS & PROTECT THE HARCHARIK FAMILY	IN LOVING MEMORY OF WONDERFUL PARENTS FRANK & ANNA CHMELA	HOWATROSKI BERNARD KATHERINE BRANCH 858	
IN LOVING MEMORY FRANCIS AND MARY SEMLAR	IN LOVING MEMORY JOSEPH HELEN SÄMMER SCRANTON, PA BR 382	REMEMBERING MEMBERS OF BRANCH 05P PITTSBURGH, PA	TELMAR A. NELLER JR. 30 THS MARINE CORPS UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN
IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANDREW B. DELDRES LEIKO	IN MEMORY OF GEORGE "MORGE" DORKO GERALDINE BONCHAK	IN HONOR OF JOHN P. YURICEK SR. WARREN OHIO	
JOZEF ZUZANA STANKAY BRADDOCK PENNA. ZA BOHA ZA NAROD	IN LOVING MEMORY OF ELIZABETH J. GERKO AUNT BETTY	IN LOVING MEMORY OF STEPHEN G. GERKO ELIZABETH T. GERKO	IN LOVING MEMORY OF EDWARD & DOROTHY A TURCHKI FRENCH
IN GOD'S KEEPING ANTHONY & EVIE MACHAK	REMEMBERING DEPARTED MEMBERS BRANCH 721 BANNISTER, MICHIGAN	DEDICATED TO THE LOYAL MEMBERS LIVING AND DECEASED REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT #8 PA. IND. D.C.	
ARTHUR J. FAYTA OUR SLOVAK HERO WORLD WAR VETERAN	IN LOVING MEMORY EMIL & VERONICA BAYUS SR. BRANCH 1	JOSEPH AND CECELIA PETRAŠEK AND FAMILY AKRON, OH BRANCH 553	

This is one of the completed panels. To view more complete panels, or if you haven't yet ordered your "brick" you can go to www.fcsu.com to Jednota Memorial to download your order form. Or you can request an order form by calling the FCSU Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

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AGE 15 \$5,000 for \$670	AGE 15 \$5,000 for \$570

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Attention: FCSU 2018 Convention Delegates



The 51st International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will convene Saturday, August 4, 2018 - Wednesday, August 8, 2018, at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown, 100 Lakeside Ave East, Cleveland, OH, 44114.

Located on the corner of Ontario Street and Lakeside Avenue, the site of our 2018 Convention sits alongside The Mall, a public park in downtown Cleveland. It is convenient to restaurants, breweries, and entertainment venues including Playhouse Square – the second largest performing arts district next to NYC – the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and JACK Casino.

The 32-story property opened in 2016. It is the tallest and largest hotel in the city, offering spectacular views of either Lake Erie or the city from virtually every of its 600 guest rooms.

Please remember to wait until you receive your official delegate packet from the Home Office to make your hotel reservations – to ensure you will receive all the advantages of an FCSU Convention Delegate.



Spacious and Modern Rooms – With Views

The Hilton Cleveland Downtown hotel features spacious and modern guest rooms, virtually all of which offer a lakeside or cityscape view. Each room comes fully equipped with a 55-inch LCD TV, WiFi access, mini refrigerator, in-room safe, hair dryer, and more.

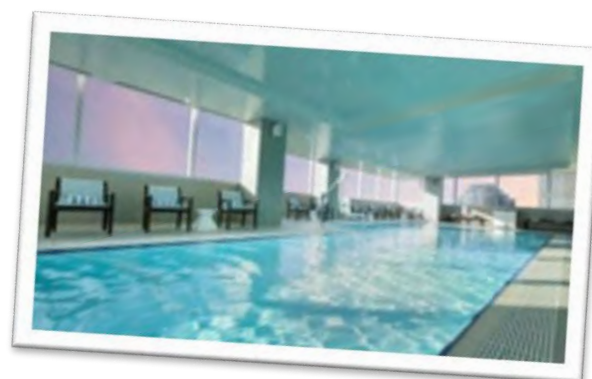


Ready for Business

To accommodate any business needs you may have while at Convention, the hotel offers a business center as well as fax and photo copying services.

Designed for Convenience

The hotel features such onsite amenities as an Automated Teller (ATM), Concierge Desk, Gift Shop Laundry/Valet Service, Lounge, and Safety Deposit Box.



Workout Away from Home

For those whom fitness and recreation is important, the Hilton Cleveland Downtown has both a fully equipped fitness room and an indoor pool.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 2 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint Michael Society, Branch 2, will hold its semiannual meeting on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at Kretzler's Tavern, North Hills, Pittsburgh, PA. On the agenda will be election of delegates for the 2018 Convention. All members interested in being a delegate must attend this meeting. Please RSVP to Joanne 412 715 5577.

Joanne Lako, Secretary

BRANCH 35 - BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael, Branch 35, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Centurion Commons, 1987 Centurion Drive, Forest Hills, PA. The agenda will include officers' reports and a discussion of district and branch activities.

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 12:00 PM after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. The agenda will include election of delegates to the 51st Convention in Cleveland, OH. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 60 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its annual meeting Sunday, May 20, 2018 at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swissvale) at 1:00 p.m.

On the agenda will be Officers' reports, discussion of convention and other upcoming events. All members are urged to attend.

Julie Perla, Secretary

BRANCH 112 - MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 112 Mahanoy City will host a meeting and family day on Monday, June 11, 2018 at Knoebels Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA.

The branch meeting will begin at noon, the agenda will include officer's reports, the convention and new business. Following the meeting members can enjoy lunch and the family amusement park.

Please contact Karen Sterling at 570-640-1796 by June 4 if you plan to attend.

Karen Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, June 10, 2018, at 9:00AM at the Uniontown Country Club, 25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, PA, 15401.

Officers' reports will be given, and upcoming events and branch activities will be discussed. Any further news regarding the 51st International Convention in Cleveland, OH, will also be discussed. Regional Director James Marmol will advise us of activities from the Home Office.

All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the brunch meeting. Call for reservations by June 4, 2018, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 as well as any changes for policies or address changes.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 199 - HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 199 will meet for a luncheon meeting at 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at Sharky's Café, 3960 Route 30/Lincoln Highway, Latrobe, PA.

Call 724-423-4745 to confirm your reservation for lunch, provided by the branch.

We look forward to meeting you, to sharing lunch with you, and discussing ideas for 2018 summer/fall activities.

Barbara Patula, Secretary

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 extends a warm "welcome" to those in the former Branch 280 who now hold membership in Branch 200. We hope to see you at our

meetings, which are held the 1st Thursday of every month (except June & July) in the upstairs Social Hall, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226.

Our meeting schedule for the remainder of 2018 is as follows: May 3rd, Aug. 2nd, Sept. 6th, Oct. 4th, Nov 1st with nomination of branch officers; and Dec. 6th with election of branch officers

We look forward to your presence at the monthly meetings directly following the BOD's meeting at 7pm. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone: 724-763-9229 or email: vschaub123@gmail.com

Fraternally,

Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228, holds meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's meeting for election of branch officers is December 17, 2018. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

Please attend the branch meetings to stay informed. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. You will enjoy the comradery.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 276 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 276 will holds its next meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2018, at 1:00PM at St. Patrick's Church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, PA. The upcoming topic for this meeting will be the National Convention to be held in Cleveland, OH this August. Delegates for the convention were elected and should be present. We would welcome new members.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 313 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Branch 313, St. John the Baptist, will be holding a Semi-Annual meeting on Monday, April 30, 2018 at 11:30 am. The meeting will be at Southfork Restaurant, located at 14631 South LaGrange Road, Orland Park IL. Branch members are welcome to attend. This meeting will include the electing and voting of Delegates to represent our Branch at the 51st Convention, for The First Catholic Slovak Union. The meeting will be followed by a complimentary fraternal luncheon. For further information, please contact Marge at 708 226 8157.

Marge Dickinson, President

BRANCH 315 - WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 315 members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 315 is greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than May 31, 2018.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 320 - BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 11:00AM at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since a light brunch will be prepared, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending. Members of Branch 320 are urged to attend.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 1:30

PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. All members of Branch 410 are invited to attend.

Call for reservations by Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 724-425-2576.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 419 - WILKES BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Stephen the Martyr, Branch 419, will hold a regular meeting on Sunday May 20, 2018, at Norms Restaurant, Sherman Street, Wilkes Barre, PA, beginning at 12:30PM. On the agenda: general branch business. All are welcome, particularly those in the former Branch 090 who now hold membership in Branch 419. We hope to see you there to help us kick off our new, grand association. Lunch will be served following the meeting.

Francis Wassil, President

BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at 11:00 A.M., at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, OH, 44129 (between Brookpark and Snow Roads).

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and the election of delegates /alternates to represent the branch at the upcoming 51st International Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, August 4th - 8th, 2018.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Fraternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 484 - CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 24, 2018, at 2:00PM. It will be held at the home of Financial Secretary Monica Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, PA, 15731. The agenda will include discussion of the upcoming National Convention, membership, and scholarship recipients' life insurance. Members are welcome to participate.

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 580 - WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Sacred Heart of Jesus Branch 580 of Holy Trinity Church will hold a meeting on April 12, 2018, at 1PM at Rodney's, 557 Wendell Rd. Irwin, Pa at 1PM. All members are welcome. If interested in going please contact Virginia Jasek at 724-593-2715.

Virginia Jasek, Secretary

BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON HTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, April 15: Post 9 Steak Fry; \$15.00 per person.

Sunday, May 6: Polka Dance from 3pm-6pm; food available for purchase.

Food Day is all day each Tuesday and Thursday! Come on down and see what's on the menu! Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday; .50 off

Hours are Mon-Fri, 1pm-8pm; Sat 12noon-8pm
Come down and enjoy yourself. All events take place at Tatra Hall, 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights, 231-733-2575.

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 670 - DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 15, 2018, at noon at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. There will be a re-election of delegates to the upcoming FCSU Convention in Cleveland. Members of Branch 670 are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 628 - MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 3:00 PM at 141 Bellevue Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

The agenda will include a discussion of upcoming events.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 706 - DYER, INDIANA

St. Anthony Society, Branch 706, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, June 16, 2018, at 3 pm, at the residence of Branch Treasurer, Barbara Fayta, in Dyer, IN. We will be discussing ongoing updates to the Slovakia Tree, decorated by the branch, at the Museum of Science and Industry. Also on the agenda is the Easter Coloring Contest and District 2's Spring Brunch/Show, organized by Barbara Fayta and Lynda Tanis. Please email Lynda Tanis at Lynda.tanis@comcast.net if you would like to attend the meeting.

Lynda Tanis, Branch 706 Vice President

BRANCH 716 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 716 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 3, 2018, after the Slovak Mass at 1:00 P.M. in meeting room downstairs in St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, NYC, NY.

On the agenda will be a financial report, Discussion on Marianist Shrine Pilgrimage and FCSU Convention in August. All Members are urged to attend. Lunch will be served before the meeting and prepared by our Branch President Jan Skrkon.

Joan Mary Skrkon, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 756 - OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Branch 756 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, May 6, 2018, in the Gym of the St. Joseph School on 811 E. Oliver Street in Owosso, MI. We are still looking for some additional paid officers. After a short meeting, we will go to the Knights of Columbus Center, on East Main St. for a delicious Chicken Dinner. All members and guests are invited. We will reimburse you for the cost, of the first 10 members. Hope to see you there to meet your friends. Please RSVP your attendance to 517-381-8358.

Stephan J. Patoprsty, President

BRANCH 831- TARANTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 831 members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 831 is greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than April 30, 2018.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 853 members: any member interested in the history of the Slovakia, may be interested in attending the Pittsburgh Agreement 100th anniversary celebration at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, PA, on May 31, 2018. Please contact branch president Monica Rodacy Boone at FCSUBranch853@gmail.com or by calling 412-886-6938 by April 15 regarding tickets. Tickets for the event only will be purchased by the branch for Branch 853 members. Members must provide their own transportation to and from the event. Details of the event are on page 10 of this issue.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 857 - LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The next meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA, will be held on Saturday April 28, 2018. The meeting will be held at 2:00PM at The Sacred Heart Church meeting room, 120 Jefferson Street, Bridgeport, PA 19405. If you plan on attending, please call 267-795-7930 and leave a message. Election of delegates for the 2018 convention in Cleveland, OH will take place at the meeting.

Fraternally,

Nicole L Nasta, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 - THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2018. We will elect the district's Convention Delegate and alternate delegate. The meeting will take place at the Missionary Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, IL. Attendees will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments. We will vote on the entries for the District Easter Coloring Contest. The meeting will start promptly at 2:00 pm. After the meeting, attendees will enjoy a delicious dinner. All branches are encouraged to send delegates. Individual Jednota members who wish to become more active in District 2 activities are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, call District 2 President John Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810.

Sincerely,

Robert Ľapák Magruder, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 5 – MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2018, at Roma's Back Door located at 200 East Comstock St., Owosso, MI 48867.

Our meeting will begin at 12:45 pm. A buffet lunch will be served at 1:00 pm. The business meeting will follow the lunch. On the Agenda will be Officer Reports and New Business.

Branch 721 is hosting this meeting. Please notify Dianna Rimarcik at (PHONE NUMBER) 248-714-9620 with the number of delegates attending from your branch no later than April 13th so the restaurant can be notified of the number of attendees expected. If you are unable to confirm prior to the event but wish to attend, a \$15.00 fee will be collected at the restaurant. Those making advance reservations will not be charged.

****Please remember, a branch delegate must attend at least one District meeting in order to be eligible for compensation from the Home Office.

**Dianna Rimarcik, Secretary, 4945 Wavewood Dr.
Commerce twp., MI 48382
248-714-9620**

DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Fathers' Day is Sunday, June 17. The district Fathers' Day brunch still needs a host branch. Branch 38 will host the Fall Meeting at a date to be determined, probably after publication of the 2018 Steelers schedule.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. The national convention is coming; be careful to fulfill all requirements for sending delegates.

While we look forward to seeing everyone at the FCSU district meetings, remember there are many other local Slovak events that also merit your attention:

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: May 7 - Slovak Weddings, June 4 - the Pittsburgh Agreement. Meetings resume October 1 when Lisa Alzo will be speaking on Slovak genealogy. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

** 100th Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Agreement: Senator John Heinz History Center - Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 6 PM. Contact Joe Senko regarding tickets.

** 95th Slovak Day at Kennywood - Thursday, July 19, 2018.

** Slovak Language Classes are held on Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Bozena Hilko at bozi@comcast.net. Fall classes are directed toward intermediate and advanced students. Spring classes are for beginners. Children's classes in the summer.

** Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour - 3-4 PM, Sunday's - WPIT-AM 730. The program is also streamed live at www.wpitam.com.

** You can follow the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association on Facebook. The National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids also has a Facebook page. Check out your family's hometown in Slovakia. Even a small village may have a Facebook page.

** Various Slovak programs and courses are available through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. See www.slavic.pitt.edu

** If you're interested in study abroad, Slovakia has a number of major universities; some have programs taught in English. Check out www.slovakia.com/study-in-slovakia/

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations. See www.nsslife.org/Museum.php. Plan a Christmas trip to see the animated, hand-carved Nativity.

** The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will hold its next meeting in Nebraska in 2019. "Nasa Rodina," their quarterly publication, has many interesting articles on Slovak history and genealogy. See www.cgsi.org.

** FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com. Many interesting Slovak-related links may be found at fcsu.com/resources.

If anyone knows of additional Slovak events in Western Pennsylvania that they wish to be included in our district notice, they should email information to the secretary.

Fraternally,

**Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary Pittsburgh District
manasta@verizon.net**

DISTRICT 7 – THE REVEREND JOHN MARTVON

All branches of District 7 are welcome to attend the first district meeting for 2018. The meeting will be held on April 29th, at 2 pm, at Denny's Restaurant in Richland, Johnstown, Pa. 15904. Branch 23 will host the meeting. We will elect an alternate delegate for the upcoming FCSU Convention and discuss the upcoming things to look forward to in the New Year. Please come and support your branch and enjoy a delicious dinner, and fellowship together. Any questions call Sharon Allison 814-322-1052.

Sharon Allison, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 8 – THE REV STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

District 8 will hold a meeting on April 22, 2018, hosted by Branch 3P, St. Joseph Society, Hazelton, PA. Mass, luncheon and meeting will be held at St. Joseph's Church, located at 604 North Laurel St., Hazelton, PA. 18201. Mass will be at 11:15am, luncheon & meeting immediately following in the Church basement.

The meeting agenda will include discussion about the upcoming FCSU Convention to be held in Cleveland, OH, August 2018. Election of the district delegate will take place at this meeting; if you have any suggestions for any By-Law changes or any other pertinent information you would like see discussed at the convention, please submit them at this meeting.

ALL BRANCHES are encouraged to send representatives to District 8 meetings.

***Please remember, a branch delegate must ATTEND at least one District Meeting in order to be eligible for compensation from the Home Office.

Any questions feel free to contact Monica Fabian at mfabian922@gmail.com or President Katherine Nowatkoski at knowa000@hotmail.com.

Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 9 – THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 3, 2018 at 1:00 P.M. at the Uniontown Dairy Queen Grill and Chill ,575 West Main Street. Regional Director James Marmol will brief the group on current events taking place at the Home Office.

Plans will be discussed regarding the upcoming 51st International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada on Saturday, August 4, 2018 thru August 8, 2018. All delegates, alternate delegates and members are urged to attend. A Dairy Queen social will follow.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 11 - MSGR JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The 2018 semiannual meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District (District 11) will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2018. Agenda will include:

- reports on successful Branch mergers/consolidations (Brs 164, 600, 701 into 401; Br 280 into 200) effective October-December 2017 and actions still pending to reactivate/ rejuvenate Brs 429 & 831 as soon as possible, including election of a district delegate and alternate to the convention.

- issues/concerns for FCSU Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland in August 2018 - including election of a district delegate and alternate to the 2018 FCSU convention this August

- suggestions for activities to stimulate fraternal interaction among District 11 Branches and within Region 5.

Meeting time and place are 2:00 PM at the C.U.Club, 910 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. All branches should identify representatives who will attend to Grace Charney, District Secretary, at (724) 664-7185 as soon as possible. Walk-ins are welcome.

Reminders

- Per FCSU By-Laws, branch representation at one (1) District meeting per year is required to qualify for a branch to be classified as active, for receipt of the annual branch stipend, and for branch eligibility to elect delegates to the FCSU Quadrennial Convention.

- Any beneficial member is welcome to represent his/her branch at District meetings with or without formal identification by the Branch or to the District secretary of intent to attend District meeting(s); representatives need not be Branch officers.

Grace M. Charney, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 - THE MSGR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Andrew Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 14-REV. JOSEPH KOSTIK DISTRICT- YOUNGSTOWN, OH

District 14 will hold a meeting on April 17, 2018 at 6 pm at St. Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Ave., Youngstown, OH.

We will be discussing the meeting held in Akron in March; the FCSU Convention in August and discussion on suggested changes of by-laws for the convention. Please try to attend and bring any member who has not previously attended our meetings.

Grace Kavulic, Secretary

DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT

Saints Cyril and Methodius District 17 will conduct its Spring Meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2018, in the Shrine Dining Room of the Saint Ann Shrine Basilica, 1250 St. Ann's Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Auditors will meet at 1:00 P.M. to audit the books. The meeting will convene at 1:30 P.M. Election of the district delegate to the Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will take place.

All Branches are urged to send representatives to this meeting.

Please contact District President Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. at 570.342.7562 to confirm your Branch's attendance at this important meeting.

Light refreshments will be served. Please join us for an informative, fraternal and social afternoon.

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., President

DISTRICT II ANNUAL 2018 BRUNCH & SHOW

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018, 2PM

located at:

**FOX'S PUB AND PIZZA
in Orland Park, Illinois
9655 W. 143RD ST, ORLAND PARK, IL 60462**

Please join us for our 2018 annual District 2 Brunch Outing. This year, we will be heading over to Fox's Restaurant in Orland Park for a family style brunch, then a live musical performance by Chicagoland's favorite entertainer, Peter Oprisko. His performances reminisce through legendary artists like Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Nat King Cole, with old Broadway tunes from composers like Irving Berlin and George Gershwin. Peter has also has done work in commercials and movies, entertaining for the last three decades.

(wine, soda, tea & coffee service included, there will be a cash bar)

----- ✂ ----- PLEASE MAIL THE BELOW PORTION ONLY ----- ✂ -----
District II Annual 2018 Brunch

Attendees \$28.00 x _____ = \$ _____ total

Member's Name: _____ Branch #: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

List names of all those attending on the back of this sheet.
Make checks payable to **Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II**
and mail together with check to: Lynda Tanis at 3141 N. Campbell, Chicago, IL 60618.

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.

Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name
001K	John F Lukach	122K	Randall J Bizon Sr	367K	Joseph A Baranek	729K	Joseph Stotka
001P	Geraldine Mitcho	122K	Genevieve Lachmanek	367K	Marianne J. Humbert	738K	Mary Jane Tomchik
003P	Mary K Menghini	152K	Edmund L Stush	367K	Helen M Mandock	746K	John Balas
005P	Elizabeth Lorusso	157K	Bernard M Burda	382K	Susan A Kobar	746K	Marianne Brehun
019K	Anna B Drob	157K	Stephen M Ezar	382K	Joseph M Mecca	746K	Francis J Kish Jr
019K	Mary S Gerics	162K	George B Balchak	382K	John Olenchak	796K	Mary C Fedorak
019K	Daniel J Mizak	166K	Mary A Barina	393K	George C Blahovec	796K	Joseph T Hudak
038K	Agnes B Kovac	173K	Cyril Fricovsky	393K	Mary Boshinsky	796K	Paul J Kerak
038K	Carolyn C Matta	181K	Mary M Krivoniak	401K	William A Vasilko Sr	796K	Daniel P Klase
038K	Jeffrey M Matta	181K	Joseph A Lawrence	410K	Charles E Chabanik	831K	Michael Sepelyak
040K	Joyce Learned	199K	Joann F Gornik	410K	Norma Jean Hunchuck	855K	John J Bukovina
041K	Margaret Bosko	200K	Joseph A Onofrey	484K	Helen Cordek	856K	John Balog
041K	Irene Duff	228K	Harold M Bainbridge	493K	John R Dzurko Jr	862K	Theodore F Kozenko Jr
041K	Elizabeth Kreutzberg	228K	Carl Elenin	553K	Catherine E Vrana	862K	Charles A Sherlock
041K	Wallace Sandbach Jr	238K	Nancy R Cherniga	580K	Helen Therese Getner	900K	Mary Jean Hutkowski
075K	John Palkovic	260K	Stanley Bonish	580K	Constance M Miller	916K	Susan W Kujawa
085K	Daniel Joseph Krakosky	293K	William M Balazovich	581K	Anthony Barilla	926K	John E Tieman
085K	Beatrice Newell	293K	Joan F Lesisko	618K	Dorothy M Boross		
086K	Carmella M Anthony	313K	Theodore A Horwath	628K	Agnes R Ducko		
102K	Frances R Jakubisin	313K	Joseph W Knapcik	670K	Iris Fay Boyles		
112K	Elizabeth Drosey	315K	Francis E Forgacs Sr	670K	Clara Bulko		
		333K	James M Palush Sr	682K	Edward M Makosky		

*Processed through the month of March

OBITUARIES

STEPHEN M. EZAR BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENN- SYLVANIA



Stephen M. Ezar, 86, of Bethlehem, PA, died on Sunday, December 24, 2017. Born in Bethlehem on February 9, 1931, he was the son of the late John and Josephine (Vlasko) Ezar.

Stephen was a Cpl. in the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War from 1952 – 1954 for 16 months in Pusan, Korea. He also worked in the Bethlehem Steel Plant for 42 years. His enjoyment in life was 30 years of polka dancing at the Ukes Club in Allentown, PA, where the Melody Aces were his favorite band. During his last years he kept busy putting hundreds of jig saw puzzles together and later giving them to charity. He was a member of the Incarnation of Our Lord Parish previously known as Ss. Cyril & Methodius.

Survivors: His one daughter, Tina Marie Ezar and husband, David of Gaithersburg, MD; sisters, Anna Zaun and Margaret Carnihan; brother, Francis Ezar and wife, Dorothy; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his siblings: Joseph, John, Andrew, Michael, Helen and Mary Mitko.

A viewing was held on the morning of December 29, 2017, in the Connell Funeral Home, Bethlehem, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at the Incarnation of Our Lord Church, Bethlehem. Burial was at the Ss. Cyril & Methodius Cemetery, Bethlehem.

- Submitted by Margaret M. Carnihan

JAMES M. PALUSH BRANCH 333 – GRASSFLAT, PENNSYLVANIA



James M. Palush, Sr., of Upper Southampton, PA, passed away on August 29, 2017. He was born in Grassflat, PA, to Anna (Jetko) and George J. Palush. James is survived by his loving wife,

Dorothy (Boris); his children, James, Jr., (Judith) and John (Nicole); grandchildren, Patrick, Caitlin Benetz (Ryan), Shannon, Connor, James, and Olivia.

Jim graduated from Cooper Township High School in Winburne, PA. After graduation he worked alongside his dad in the coal mines for a year. He then attended Clarion State College and was offered the postmaster job in Grassflat but his brothers felt he needed to come to New Jersey to find better employment and continue his education. He began working for Gulton Industries and went to Rutgers at night. He was an Army veteran who had been stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany as a Nike Guidance Missile Specialist. After the Army, he left his job at Gulton Industries in New Jersey, and took up employment with Philco Corp. in Philadelphia, PA, where he met his wife Dorothy of 54 years. While working at Philco, he also attended Drexel at night. In 1973 he took a job as Facilities Manager at Brandt/De LaRue where he worked until his retirement in 1998.

Jim loved his garden, the outdoors, and most of all, a good conversation on the front lawn benches under the Dogwood tree. He will truly be missed, but is joining in heaven, his brothers Michael, George, and Lou, and his sisters Mary, Betty, and Ann

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Southampton. Interment followed with military honors at Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Newtown, PA.

-Submitted by Dorothy Palush

ANNA B. DAMKOEHLER BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

Anna B. Damkoehler, age 81 of Gulfport, FL, passed away peacefully on January 22, 2018 at Bayfront Health Hospice in St. Petersburg, FL. Anna was born in Leechburg, PA, on April 29, 1936, to the late Jozef and Elizabeth Mago. Anna is survived by her son Thad of Georgia, daughters Jana Treadway of North Carolina and Beth Ann Ellis and husband Kevin of Georgia also survived

by five grandchildren Amber, Ian, Nickolis, Gracie and Christopher; and five great grandchildren. Also surviving are brothers Steve of Omaha, NE, Paul of Pinehurst, NC; sisters Veronica Hogue of North Apollo, PA, Katherine Nowatkoski of Cary, NC, and Elizabeth Racon of Berwick, PA; her brother-in-law Gary Damkoehler and wife Gail and their family Todd and wife Lisa, Shawn and wife Gina and their children all of Gulfport, FL; many nieces and nephews; and dear friends in Pennsylvania and Florida. Anna was preceded in death by her husband Kent who died in 1996; her parents and her brothers John, Joseph, Rudolf, and Michael; and grandson Jessie Treadway. Anna was a member of The First Catholic Slovak Union, and the Czech Club of Gulfport, FL where she was Secretary. She was an avid bowler and a great fan of the Tampa Bay Rays. Just this past summer Anna and her son took a trip to Europe visiting several countries and stopped in Slovakia to see her sister Katherine in Piešťany. They went around visiting all the relatives and the cemeteries where relatives are buried, but the highlight of the trip she said was visiting the church in Ardanovce where their parents were married back in 1919. Anna was surprised at all the changes that have happened over the years. At Anna's request there was no viewing. Arrangements were with David C. Gross Funeral Home of St. Petersburg, FL.

-Submitted by sister
Katherine Nowatkoski

HELEN CORDEK BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

Helen Cordek, 95, formerly of South Fork, PA, died March 14, 2018, at The Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg, PA. Born November 14, 1922, in Croyle Township, PA, daughter of Nicholas and Susanna (Smrek) Blaner.

Preceded in death by parents; husband, John C. Cordek, who died February 27,



1960; daughter-in-law, Joyce (Smithmeyer) Cordek; sisters, Josephine Todd and Ann Rinna; brothers, Andrew, Steven, Joseph, John and Michael; and sister, Mary and brother, Steve who died in childhood.

Survived by sons, Lawrence D., Hollidaysburg, PA; John M., married to Carol (Brenna), Sidman, PA; daughters, Patricia, wife of Terry Petrun, Harrisburg; and Christine M., wife of David Bright, Chesapeake, VA; grandchildren, Chris (Jacy), Chad, Jocelyn (Paul), Kevin (Jenna), Kerian (Tony), Erin (Casey) and Adam; great grandchildren, Madison, Caroline, Josh, Natalie, Kylie, Chris, Caleb, AJ, Lauren, Kiaya and Luca.

Helen was a retired seamstress and former member of Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church, South Fork. She enjoyed her family, praying the rosary, church, crossword puzzles and strawberry ice cream on Sundays. Her family will hold dear memories of a woman who was steadfast throughout her entire life, strong willed, and true to her faith. She was warm and gentle in every way to everyone she met. Her stories she told of her childhood will be remembered by all.

Friends were received on Friday afternoon and evening, March 16, 2018, at the Charles O. Dimond Funeral Home, Inc., South Fork, where a vigil was also held that same afternoon.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated on the morning of Saturday, March 17, 2018, at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church, with Father Joseph C. Nale as Celebrant. Committal was in St. James Cemetery.

- Submitted by Patricia S. Petron

STEVE BENA BRANCH 789 – WINDSOR, ONTARIO

Mr. Steve Bena, age 98, pioneer member of Branch 789, Windsor, Ontario, passed away on February 12, 2018.

Born on May 1, 1919, in the Presov Region of Eastern Slovakia, Mr. Bena emigrated



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BRANCH REQUIREMENTS FOR BRANCH STIPEND

The following are requirements to complete in order to qualify for your branch stipend:

Bylaw Section 4.05 FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

“By the end of March of each year, the Home Office shall pay each local branch \$5.00 per member, per year, not to exceed \$8,000.00, provided the local branch has fulfilled the following requirements:

- (a) Published, announced and conducted two (2) semiannual meetings, one (1) of which shall be an annual meeting held for the election of officers. Meeting attendance (sign in) sheets or copies shall accompany the reports submitted to the Executive Secretary.
- (b) Submitted an annual report to the Executive Secretary on a provided form, by February 15th of the following year.
- (c) Submitted a financial report to the Executive Secretary on a provided form, by February 15th of the following year.
- (d) Hosted, sponsored, promoted, or attended at least one (1) fraternal activity in the past year.
- (e) Produced at least one (1) new contract in the previous calendar year. Branches with two hundred fifty (250) or more members must produce at least two (2) new contracts.
- (f) Provided the Home Office, on a continuing basis, current addresses of members and completed change of beneficiary forms, death reports, and such other documents as required by the Home Office.
- (g) Sent a branch representative to attend at least one (1) district meeting per calendar year. Those in attendance at the district meeting may vote to provide a branch with an excused absence.
 - 1. Members attending a district meeting shall sign an attendance sheet evidencing their presence at the event. No later than February 15th the District shall notify the Executive Secretary of those branches failing to meet this attendance requirement of article “g” above.
 - 2. The Executive Secretary shall publish no later than May 1st in the Official Organ those branches failing to meet the requirement of section 4.05.
- (h) Maintained good standing within its district by paying current fiscal year dues and any dues that may be outstanding from previous years.
- (i) The requirements of this Section must be met by the branch to receive payment of any other compensation.

Bylaw Section 11.04 BRANCH REPRESENTATION AND DISTRICT REPRESENTATION:

- (a) Every local branch having fifty (50) or more members and current good standing financially in its district (i.e., up to date with dues payments), may send at its own expense, one (1) of its members as a delegate to the Convention. Said delegate shall have the right to vote, but in no case, shall any delegate have more than one (1) vote. Local branches, at their own expense, which have more than one hundred fifty (150) members are entitled to two (2) delegates and one (1) additional delegate for each additional one hundred (100) members, according to the number of their members on the 1st day of February of the Convention year. Each District (Okres) shall be entitled to only one (1) district delegate.
- (b) Any two (2) branches in the same district having less than fifty (50) members can combine if they total fifty (50) members or more. They can send one (1) delegate representing both branches at their own expense with one delegate vote.
- (c) The delegate count shall be based on members as of February 1st in the Convention year. The maximum number of delegates per branch will be twenty (20).
- (d) A local branch that has no delegate elected may request that a delegate already elected from another branch represent it. A delegate shall not represent more than two (2) branches, but has only one (1) vote. No National Officer shall represent any local branch.
- (e) Notice of all meetings for the election of delegates to the next Convention shall be published at least twice in the Official Organ prior to the date of the branch or district meeting.
- (f) Any branch or district which fails to comply with article 4.05 in two (2) of the four (4) years preceding a Convention will not be permitted to send any delegates to that Convention, excluding Canada.

Bylaw Section 14. RULES GOVERNING LOCAL BRANCHES

14.01 General Rules

- a) Branch and district meetings shall be held in the close proximity of the hub of its members. The meetings shall be held at least semiannually, one of which must be for the elections of officers, who shall assume their duties upon election. Notice of each of these meetings shall be published in the Official Organ at least thirty (30) days in advance of such meeting.
- b) The local branches are authorized to establish their own rules and regulations for the operation and control of their branch and members in accordance with the Charter and Bylaws of the FCSU.
- (c) Local branches may use the ritual form and prayers as contained in Section 20 of these Bylaws.
- (d) Every local branch may observe the anniversary of its patron saint in a manner conforming to the Roman or Eastern churches of the Catholic Church.
- (e) A Branch or District Officer who ceases to be a resident within a general area of a branch or district he/she represents is automatically disqualified from office. An exception may be granted by the President and the Executive Secretary.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY			
AS OF APRIL 1, 2018 THE FOLLOWING BRANCHES DID NOT MEET			
ALL OF THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THEIR 2017 BRANCH STIPEND			
PER BYLAW 4.05 FINANCIAL OBLIGATION &			
PER BYLAW 14.01 RULES GOVERNING LOCAL BRANCHES			
Branch #	Branch #	Branch #	Branch #
001P	224K	429K	729K
004K	226P	430K	733K
006K	233K	434K	735K
007K	238K	456K	769K
010K	293K	465K	780K
041K	294K	472K	831K
055K	299K	487K	858K
064K	313K	497K	862K
083K	315K	510K	888K
086K	321P	517K	890K
096K	322K	543K	
102K	330K	571K	
108K	333K	584K	
114P	348K	586K	
122K	353K	618K	
128K	353P	628K	
132K	358K	635K	
144P	362K	636K	
149K	368K	638K	
152K	372K	652K	
165K	373K	667K	
169P	402K	682K	
175K	403K	686K	
189P	404K	700K	
198P	417K	702K	
215K	419K	704K	
221K	425K	706K	

OBITUARIES

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ed to Canada with his parents and siblings in the 1930's and they settled in Cottam, Ontario to farm the land. When Steve married his sweetheart Mary Maceyovski, they purchased their own farm to grow fruits and vegetables. Their union was blessed with three beautiful daughters who grew up helping their parents in the farming industry. And so the years went by and the family reached many memorable milestones such as anniversaries, weddings, christenings, holy communions, etc. After 50 years of marriage, Steve's beloved Mary passed away in 1998. Steve continued to farm for several years and decided to move into the nearby town of Essex. He was not content to just sit away his retirement years so his days were spent helping family and friends with whatever had to be done. He was independent and lived alone. People would see him peddling his bike around town even into his nineties. Steve and Mary Bena were very proud of their Slovak heritage. They passed on to their children and grandchildren a love of Slovak traditions. Steve looked forward to receiving and reading the JEDNOTA. In her Eulogy, granddaughter, Jennifer spoke about Steve's love of Slovak music and

song and his ability to sing his favorite Slovak songs. Looking back...In the 1950's and 1960's, The Bena Strawberry and Raspberry Farm was well known throughout Essex County especially to the Slovak youth in Windsor, Ontario. The Bena Truck would come to the city in the early morning and stop at selected spots throughout the city and pick up students who were eager to make money during the hot summer months. Mourning the loss of Steve Bena are his daughters Marge, Julie, Jean, as well as their husbands, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Several siblings, many nieces and nephews also survive. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Essex, Ontario, and interment to Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery in Leamington, Ontario followed. On behalf of Branch 789, Mary Boldizar Jacko bid farewell to fellow fraternalist Brother Bena with a prayer in English and Slovak. Rest in Peace Brother Steve Bena until we meet again in God's Heavenly Kingdom. **- Submitted by Mary Boldizar Jacko, Branch 789**

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA DECEMBER 16, 2017 INDEPENDENCE, OHIO, (TELECONFERENCE)

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer and to pray for our deceased officers and members.

The President asked Regional Director Sabina Sabados to lead the Board in singing the Anthems of the United States, Canada, and Slovakia, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

READING OF THE CALL:

The Executive Secretary then read the Call to the Quarterly December 2017 Meeting.

ROLL CALL:

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain – present via telephone;
Andrew M. Rajec, National President – present;
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President – present;
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary - present;
George F. Matta II, National Treasurer – present via telephone;
Karen M. Hunka, Chairman of Auditors – present via telephone;
Rudolf Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director – present via telephone;
Sabina Sabados, Regional Director, Region 1 –present via telephone;
Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2 – present via telephone;
Martha Zavada-Wojcik, Regional Director, Region 3 – present via telephone;
James Marmol, Regional Director, Region 4 – present via telephone;
Michael Lako, Regional Director, Region 5 – present via telephone;
Henry Hassay, Regional Director, Region 6 – present via telephone;
Rudolph Bernath, Regional Director, Region 7 – present via telephone;
Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 – present via telephone;
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel – present via telephone.

All present and accounted for.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 2017:

A motion was made by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. and seconded by Rev. Thomas Nasta to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting of September, 2017, as presented. Motion passed with a Vote of 13 for and 1 against.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by George F. Matta II and seconded by James Marmol to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary. Motion passed.

AQS REPORT:

Larry White, representing AQS Asset Management, Inc., presented his extensive investment portfolio report by teleconference to the Board of Directors. Each member of the Board of Directors received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review. During and after the presentation, Larry White answered questions from the Board.

Larry White then led a discussion on our Investment Policy. Following a further review of our existing investment policy, he presented several alternative investment possibilities and asked the Board to review them to make any possible changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer and Executive Secretary presented a written report to the Board of Directors. After the presentation, they answered the Board's questions.

The President stated that the Executive Committee will review suggested changes to the Investment Policy presented by Larry White of AQS and present them to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting for approval.

The President stated that the Executive Committee will review any new investment opportunities presented by Larry White to determine which ones we may want to take advantage of.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2017:Executive Secretary's Report

The Executive Secretary and the Treasurer presented the financial summary report for the

third quarter and answered the Board's questions. The Secretary also stated that the third quarter financial statement was published in the Jednota newspaper.

The Executive Secretary also presented a comparison report between what was budgeted for 2017 and the actual expenditures.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

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

Portfolio Custodian

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

Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary and Treasurer reviewed the UBS Fund, and MAI Fund, and the Executive Secretary gave a complete transaction report for the month.

The Executive Secretary stated that the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) is proposing possible changes to the way the bonds within our portfolio are rated. These changes may have a minor impact on our reserves and may go into effect in January 2018. These changes may also affect the way our RBC (Risk Based Capital) is calculated. Currently our RBC stands at 910.

Security Update

The Executive Secretary gave an update on our IT Security. The Executive Secretary stated we are constantly reviewing and updating our security measures to protect our members and their financial information. The Executive Secretary stated we also carry Cyber Insurance as additional protection for our members.

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have 291 agents.

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the IRS approval for FCSU to act as a passive or non-passive nonbank trustee or custodian of health savings accounts and as a passive or non-passive nonbank custodian of Coverdell education savings accounts. The Home Office is ready to accept applications for Coverdell and plans to promote the plan through mailings, email and on our website.

PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:Executive Committee

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

Investments

The Executive Secretary stated all investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the investment policy adopted by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee members work very closely with AQS Asset Management Company and all investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS:

James Marmol, President of Jednota, Inc., gave an update on the rental property in Middletown, Pennsylvania and answered the Board's questions.

The Executive Secretary stated that our promotion on the JEP policy, first year premium free, has been extended to August 31, 2018.

Rudolf Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director stated that the Golf Tournament will be held July 20-21, 2018. Once more information is available it will be published in the Jednota and on our website.

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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA JANUARY 23-24, 2018 • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

FIRST SESSION:

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain – present via telephone
Andrew Rajec, President - present
Andrew Harcar, Sr., Vice President - present
Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary - present
George Matta II, Treasurer - present
Karen Hunka, Chairman of Auditors - present
Sabina Sabados, Regional Director, Region 1 - present
Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2 - present
Martha Zavada-Wojcik, Regional Director, Region 3 - present
James Marmol, Regional Director, Region 4 - present
Michael Lako, Regional Director, Region 5 - present
Henry Hassay, Regional Director, Region 6 - present
Rudolph Bernath, Regional Director, Region 7 – present via telephone
Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Region 8 - present
Rudolf Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director – present via telephone
Gary Matta, General Counsel – excused
Joseph Senko, Treasurer of Jednota Properties, Inc. – present
Joseph Minarovich, Vice President of Jednota Properties, Inc. – excused
Joseph S. Bielecki, Secretary of Jednota Properties, Inc. – present via telephone
Carl Ungvarsky, Member of Jednota Properties, Inc. – present via telephone
James Bacon, Member of Jednota, Inc. – present via telephone

All present and accounted for.

PURPOSE:

The President stated that this Special Board of Directors Meeting has been called so that the board can be presented with the offers we have received on our property in Middletown, Pennsylvania.

All the members had previously been given copies of all offers along with supporting data. They also received comprehensive analysis of the offers by John Feichtel, an Attorney from the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania area who has extensive experience with real estate. Attorney Feichtel previously represented the Society in our negotiations with Sunoco regarding the long-standing easement issue that resulted in a settlement of \$397,000 to the FCSU. The President asked Attorney Feichtel to be present to hear the offers and give the pros and cons of each offer.

PRESENTATIONS:

The President introduced Trammel Crow Company, who presented their offer to the Board. The four presenters included: Craig Dunkle, Jeff Goggins, Andrew Mele, and Matt Nunn. After their presentation, they answered questions from both the Board and also Attorney Feichtel.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct the meeting was adjourned for the day.

SECOND SESSION:

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain – present via telephone
Andrew Rajec, President - present
Andrew Harcar, Sr., Vice President - present
Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary - present
George Matta II, Treasurer - present
Karen Hunka, Chairman of Auditors - present
Sabina Sabados, Regional Director, Region 1 - present
Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2 - present
Martha Zavada-Wojcik, Regional Director, Region 3 - present
James Marmol, Regional Director, Region 4 - present

Michael Lako, Regional Director, Region 5 - present
Henry Hassay, Regional Director, Region 6 - present
Rudolph Bernath, Regional Director, Region 7 – present via telephone
Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Region 8 - present
Rudolf Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director – present via telephone
Gary Matta, General Counsel – excused
Joseph Senko, Treasurer of Jednota Properties, Inc. – present
Joseph Minarovich, Vice President of Jednota Properties, Inc. – excused
Joseph S. Bielecki, Secretary of Jednota Properties, Inc. – present via telephone
Carl Ungvarsky, Member of Jednota Properties, Inc. – present via telephone
James Bacon, Member of Jednota, Inc. – present via telephone

All present and accounted for.

PRESENTATIONS:

The President introduced D&H Distributing Company and Kinsley Properties, who presented their offer to the Board. The four presenters included: John Kinsley, Tim Kinsley, Michael Schwab and Brad Swidler. After their presentation, they answered questions from both the Board and Attorney Feichtel.

The President stated a third company, Vision Group, had made an offer on the property and was to make a presentation to the Board. However, Vision Group withdrew their offer. The President called Eric Revene from Vision Group to give an explanation to the Board for withdrawing their offer.

Attorney Feichtel offered his analysis of the two presentations given to the Board and offered his recommendation. He also responded to questions from several Board Members. An extensive discussion among the Board followed.

The FCSU Board had previously voted to sell the properties at a price of at least \$12.5 million, which is in excess of the 2015 appraised value of \$11,660,000, subject to negotiable contingencies.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct the meeting was adjourned.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

QUARTERLY MEETING

continued from page 18

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING:

A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by George F. Matta II to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Sabina Sabados to adjourn. Motion carried.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – FCSU Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2018, in observance of Memorial Day.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar, Sr., to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta II, Treasurer
 Milos Mitro, Board of Director, via teleconference (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE JANUARY MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the January 2018 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George F. Matta II, and seconded by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer and the Executive Secretary gave a full written report on the investment update and answered the Committee's questions.

The Treasurer presented suggestions and updates to the Investment Policy to be reviewed by the Executive Committee.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report by telephone and WebEx to the Executive Committee. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, Mr. White answered the Committee's questions.

Larry White led a discussion regarding investments in asset backed securities. The Executive Committee asked for further information before a decision can be made.

The Executive Committee then conducted an extensive review of our current Investment Policy. The President stated that any suggested changes will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at the Annual Meeting in March.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates:
 The President led a review of the current annuity rates. It was decided the rates remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting in March.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary and Treasurer submitted a written report to the Executive Committee on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. Following the report, the Executive Secretary answered the Executive Committee's questions and the Committee discussed the reports.

Portfolio Review

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, found everything in order, and answered the Committee's questions.

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of January 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 January:

Disbursements for the month of January 2018:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 131,230.29
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 49,898.86
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report. The Executive Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered all questions.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have 291 agents. The Home Office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products. The independent agents are also in frequent contact with Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents. Agents

now produce over 70% of annuity sales. The Home Office is starting an email campaign to recruit agents in Florida and Iowa.

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the IRS approval for FCSU to act as a passive or non-passive nonbank trustee or custodian of health savings accounts and as a passive or non-passive nonbank custodian of Coverdell education savings accounts. The Home Office is ready to accept applications for Coverdell and plans to promote the plan through mailings, email and on our website where applications are available for download.

The Vice President stated he is in the process of setting up training seminars and is encouraging branches and districts to contact him for available dates.

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 Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by George F. Matta II to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., closed the meeting with prayer.

 Andrew M. Rajec
 President

 Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

1968 Slovakia Topic for April 21 Talk In Falls Church, VA

The historical complexities and long-term legacies of Slovakia in 1968 will be explored by Dr. Carol Skalnik Leff of the University of Illinois on Saturday, April 21, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. The talk by Dr. Leff will be held at the Thomas Jefferson Library at 7415 Arlington Blvd. in Falls Church, VA. This event is jointly sponsored by the Slovak American Society of Washington and the Friends of Slovakia. Admission is free, but RSVP requested to Rsvp@dcslovaks.org.

What role did Slovakia play in the Prague Spring and its aftermath? This lecture will consider two issues. First, it will explore the somewhat provocative, counterfactual idea that there would have been no Prague Spring without the "Bratislava Spring." Then it will consider the long-term effects of two of its legacies: the institutional legacy of federalization, and the attitudinal legacy of Czech and Slovak (mis)perceptions of the role each played in both the politics of reform and the Warsaw Pact occupation.

Professor Skalnik Leff, who received her PhD in Government at Harvard, teaches political science at Illinois where she specializes in East European politics. She has written a number of articles and two books on Czech and Slovak politics: *The Czech and Slovak Republics: Nation vs. State* (1997) and *National Conflict in Czechoslovakia: The Making and Remaking of a State, 1918-1987* (Princeton University Press, 1988).

- Submitted by Ray Luca, Slovak American Society of Washington
 & Vice President, FCSU Branch 856

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

Správy zo Slovenska

Bratislava - Pacientom chýba v nemocniciach kvalitné ubytovanie a strava, tí dávajú mínus aj postojom personálu k upratovaniu priestorov. Ľudia sú, naopak, spokojní s prístupom zdravotníkov k hospitalizovaným i s tým, ako ich informujú o zdravotnom stave. Vyplýva to z prieskumu najväčšej súkromnej zdravotnej poisťovne Dôvera na vzorke 6300 pacientov, ktorí sa minulý rok liečili v niektorej zo slovenských nemocníc.

KOŠICE - Z Košíc sa od októbra bude opäť lietat do Nemecka. Rozhodli o tom vyše tri pätiny hlasujúcich, vďaka ktorým metropola východu uspela v konkurencii šiestich nominovaných destinácií v jedinečnej súťaži nízkonákladových aerolínií Eurowings. Pred Košicami sa museli pri finálovom hlasovaní skloniť aj írsky Cork a nemecký Friedrichshafen, ktoré získali len 30, resp. 9 percent hlasov. „Blahoželáme Košiciam ako víťazom a tešíme sa na to ako sa uvidíme na Slovensku,“ reagovala spoločnosť Eurowings na svojej facebookovej stránke na víťazstvo metropoly východu. Jej lietadlá zatiaľ spájajú 160 destinácií vo viac než 50 krajinách.

Levoča - Mesto Levoča bude v tomto roku pokračovať v rekonštrukcii Námestia Majstra Pavla, radnica získala okrem iného dotáciu vo výške 500.000 eur z Prešovského samosprávneho kraja. „Plánujeme začať s obnovou inžinierskych sietí, povrchov komunikácií a chodníkov, verejného osvetlenia a zelene. V tomto prípade ide o druhú z celkovo piatich etáp rekonštrukcie námestia,“ uviedla pre TASR zástupkyňa primátora Levoče Lýdia Budziňáková.

Štrasburg/Bratislava - Delegácia poslancov, ktorú Európsky parlament (EP) vyslal na objasnenie situácie súvisiacej s vraždou Jána Kuciaka a Marty Kušnírovej, príde na Slovensko pravdepodobne znova. Europoslanci budú v rámci stredajšej rozpravy o ochrane novinárov v Štrasburgu požadovať ďalšie informácie a navrhnu aj otvorenie prípadov ďalších dvoch nezvestných slovenských novinárov. Uviedol to slovenský europoslanec József Nagy (EĽS/EPP).

Bratislava - Štát by mal urýchlene riešiť situáciu približne 70 bývalých hasičov, ktorí pre stratu výsluhového dôchodku poberajú iba ten starobný v nízkych sumách. Vyzýva ich na to opozičné hnutie OĽaNO, ktoré pripomína, že na takúto situáciu upozornili Ministerstvo vnútra (MV) SR a Sociálnu poisťovňu (SP) už vo februári tohto roka „a odvtedy sa vec nepohla dopredu.“

Bratislava - Predčasné voľby do Národnej rady SR sa majú konať 8. septembra 2018. Navrhujú to opozičné strany SaS, OĽaNO a Sme rodina, ktorých zástupcovia predložili do parlamentu ústavný zákon o skrátaní aktuálneho volebného obdobia. Na jeho prijatie je potrebných minimálne 90 hlasov. O predčasných voľbách sa má rokovať na mimoriadnej schôdzi. Rokovací priadok NR SR však hovorí, že zákon, o ktorom má diskutovať plénum, musí byť predložený aspoň 15 dní vopred. Podpisy na zvolanie mimoriadnej schôdze tak budú predložené najskôr o týždeň, pričom predseda NR SR Andrej Danko (SNS) bude mať následne ďalších sedem dní na to, aby rokovanie zvolal.

Bratislava - Generálna prokuratúra (GP) SR postúpila trestné oznámenie zo strany ministerstva zdravotníctva na osoby a spoločnosti, ktoré uzatvárali zmluvy s dodávateľmi zdravotníckej techniky a požadovali za to províziu, na Úrad špeciálnej prokuratúry a Krajskú prokuratúru v Bratislave. TASR o tom informovala v utorok hovorkyňa GP SR Andrea Predajňová.

Bratislava - Slovenskí historici sa obracajú na Generálnu prokuratúru (GP) SR s výzvou, aby im sprostredkovala celý dokumentačný materiál týkajúci sa Sviečkovej manifestácie v roku 1988. Na tlačovej konferencii pri príležitosti blížaceho sa 30. výročia sviečkového zhromaždenia v Bratislave o tom informoval František Neupauer, jeden zo signatárov výzvy. Dôvodom je, že historikom doteraz ostávajú neprístupné niektoré dôležité materiály o tejto udalosti, ktoré sa nachádzajú v archíve prokuratúry. „Ide najmä o vyšetrovací spis Vojenskej obvodnej prokuratúry Bratislava z roku 1990,“ priblížil Neupauer.

Bratislava - Malé a stredné nemocnice potrebujú na platy a dopady sociálneho balíčka milióny eur. Od zdravotných poisťovní preto žiadajú väčšie platby a opäť s nimi majú naplánované rokovania, ktoré sú pre nemocnice dôležité. Tie upozorňujú, že tento rok treba počítať s vyššími nákladmi na platy a odvody, a to pre vyššiu minimálnu mzdu, svoje robia i opatrenia zo sociálneho balíčka. „Ak sa nemocnice nedofinancujú, hrozí prepúšťanie či zmeny úväzkov zamestnancov,“ uvádza Asociácia nemocníc Slovenska, ktorá združuje viac ako 70 neštátnych zdravotníckych zariadení.

Bratislava - Slovensko patrí medzi krajiny s najväčším výskytom rakoviny hrubého čreva a konečníka na svete. Dá sa jej pritom predísť prevenciou a pri včasnej diagnostike je dobre liečiteľná. Práve marec je mesiacom povedomia o tomto druhu rakoviny. „Rakovinu hrubého čreva a konečníka na Slovensku každý rok diagnostikujú 5000 ľuďom,“ informoval na tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave primár onkologického oddelenia Fakultnej nemocnice v Nitre Juraj Detvay. Až štvrtina z nich sa však o chorobe dozvie v metastatickom štádiu, kedy je už liečba zložitejšia. Podľa Detvaya preto treba spozornieť už pri prvých príznakoch, ako sú poruchy vyprázdňovania, bolesti v okolí konečníka, chudnutie a najmä krv v stolici. Posilniť by sa mali aj preventívne vyšetrenia. Ministerstvo zdravotníctva SR aj v spolupráci s patientskou organizáciou Europacoln pripravujú testovacie verziu národného skríningu. V roku 2019 by ním malo prejsť okolo 80.000 ľudí, informoval zakladateľ a ambasádor občianskeho združenia (OZ) Europacoln Patrik Herman.

Bratislava - Sviečková manifestácia z roku 1988 bola impulzom, ktorý výrazne zapadol do procesu rúcania sa komunistickej moci v bývalom Československu v druhej polovici 80. rokov minulého storočia. V súvislosti s 30. výročím najpočetnejšieho verejného protestu proti komunistickému režimu po roku 1968 na Slovensku sa na tom zhodli historici Róbert Letz a Patrik Dubovský. Dubovský pripomenul, že zásah polície voči pokojnému zhromaždeniu mal veľký ohlas v zahraničí.

Bratislava - Akcia „Vír“ bola zásahom Štátnej bezpečnosti (ŠtB) z 27. marca 1983 o siedmej hodine, ktorým boli na Kvetnú nedeľu prepadnuté domy bratov františkánov a sestier františkániek v bývalej Československej socialistickej republike (ČSSR). K zásahu došlo v Prešove, Košiciach, Poprade, Tvrdošíne, Ružomberku, Bratislave, Jindřichovom Hradci, Prahe a Plzni. Od tejto udalosti uplynie v utorok 27. marca 35 rokov. Príslušníci ŠtB v domoch vykonali domovú prehliadku, pri ktorej zhabali náboženskú literatúru, liturgické predmety, písacie stroje a vkladné knihy. Františkáni a františkánky boli zatknutí, uväznení a obvinení z marenia dozoru nad cirkvami, lebo tajne vstúpili do františkánskeho rádu a vyvíjali v ňom činnosť. V spojitosti so zásahom ŠtB vypočúvala desiatky ďalších ľudí, ktorí mali kontakt s františkánmi. O tomto zásahu proti františkánskym reholiam informovali zahraničné médiá, protesty proti ich zatknutiu prichádzali z rôznych častí Slovenska aj zahraničia.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Stretnutie mužov čipkárov v Krakovanoch



FOTO TASR - Martin Palkovič

Na snímke čipkár Michal Halabrin z Myjavy počas medzinárodného stretnutia čipkárov Men Making Lace Festival v Krakovanoch 18. marca 2018.

The international Men Making Lace Festival was held March 18, 2018 in Krakovany.

Výstava Krása pre ženu stvorená predstavuje v SNM v Martine vyše 200 čepcov

Výstava Krása pre ženu stvorená predstavuje v Slovenskom národnom múzeu (SNM) v Martine viac ako 200 čepcov z rôznych oblastí Slovenska, spoločenských vrstiev a prostredí.

Podľa kultúrno-propagačnej manažérky SNM Mileny Kiripolskej zastával čepiec v tradičnom ženskom odevu veľmi dôležitú úlohu. „Symbolizoval zmenu stavu svojej nositeľky – z dievčaťa sa stala žena. Vzhľad a výzdoba čepcov ovplyvňovali geografické, hospodársko-sociálne a kultúrne podmienky. Nemalou mierou sa na tomto zložitom procese podieľala aj migrácia obyvateľstva, administratívne zákazy a nariadenia, súdobá móda a obchod,“ uviedla Kiripolská.

Doplnila, že v SNM v Martine sú uložené početné zbierky ľudového odevu a textilu. „Najväčšiu skupinu v tomto fonde tvoria ženské čepce a ich torzá, ktoré v minulosti predstavovali neodmysliteľnú súčasť ženského odevu. Z viac ako desaťtisíc kusov vybrala kurátorka Eva Dudková dve stovky, ktoré reprezentujú nielen rôznorodosť tvaru a výzdoby jednotlivých regiónov, ale aj príležitosti, na ktoré sa nosievali či prostredie, v ktorom sa pohybovali ich majiteľky,“ dodala kultúrno-propagačná manažérka SNM.

Na výstave môžu návštevníci okrem sviatočných čepcov vidieť aj pracovné, svadobné, smútočné či mestské. „Na čepcoch z Norovíc ukazujeme vývoj čepca v tejto obci z topolčianskeho okresu. Zaujímavé sú aj pokrývky ženskej hlavy, ktoré do zbierok múzea venovali rôzne spolky či významné osobnosti,“ podotkla Kiripolská.

„Počas dlhodobého vývoja odevu vo všetkých vrstvách spoločnosti na území Slovenska, ako aj u ostatných národov, patrilo významné miesto pokrývke ženskej hlavy. Nosenie čepca malo v ľudovom prostredí v minulosti jednoznačný význam. Potvrďovalo, že žena je vydatá. Okrem vydatých žien ho nosili aj slobodné dievčatá, ktoré mali dieťa – prespanky. Takéto vyjadrenie stavu sa prísne dodržiavalo dovtedy, pokiaľ sa nosil tradičný odev,“ vysvetlila kultúrno-propagačná manažérka SNM. Výstava Krása pre ženu stvorená je sprístupnená do 31. augusta 2018.

TASR

Absolventom SOŠ gastronómie a CR je majster sveta i michelinský kuchár

Kvalitné vzdelanie a veľmi úzke prepojenie s praxou sú dôvodmi, pre ktoré sa absolventi Strednej odbornej školy (SOŠ) gastronómie a cestovného ruchu na Levickej ulici v Nitre dokážu bez väčších problémov uplatniť v praxi. Podľa slov riaditeľky školy Aleny Panisovej sa ich žiaci dokážu presadiť na domácom i zahraničnom pracovnom trhu.

Škola už viac ako tri desaťročia vychováva odborníkov v gastronómii. Mnohí z nich dnes šéfuju veľkým kuchyniam v špičkových reštauráciách. „Spomenula by som napríklad Matúša Remenára, ktorý v súčasnosti pracuje ako šéfkuchár a bol v tíme kuchárov, ktorí vlastnili michelinskú hviezdu. Som rada, že nám o tomto svojom úspechu bol porozprávať aj na škole a vysvetlil našim žiakom, aké bolo náročné stať sa michelinským kuchárom,“ uviedla Panisová.

Ako pripomenula, absolventkou SOŠ gastronómie a CR v Nitre je aj Barbora Benková, ktorá je absolútnou víťazkou v oblasti baristiky a svoje skúsenosti si dopĺjala aj na káveovej plantáži v Brazílii. „V súčasnej dobe študuje na vysokej škole a baristike sa stále venuje,“ povedala Panisová.

Škola je pyšná aj na Erika Lörincza. „Ten je absolútnym víťazom sveta v príprave miešaných nápojov a v tejto oblasti pracuje aj naďalej. Je jedným z našich prvých veľmi úspešných svetoznámych absolventov. Dnes pracuje v Londýne i v Los Angeles. Pripravoval dokonca aj nápoj pre britskú kráľovnú Alžbetu. Má o tom celý článok publikovaný v odborných časopisoch,“ skonštatovala Panisová.

Ako zdôraznila, za úspešných absolventov sa dajú považovať všetci študenti, ktorí sa dokázali uplatniť na trhu práce, prípadne pokračovali v ďalšom štúdiu. „Sú medzi nimi napríklad aj rozhlasoví a televízni redaktori či kuchári ako Bruno Helebrant, ktorý je zástupcom šéfkuchára v reštaurácii Gaucho v Anglicku či Roman Borovský, ktorý bol kuchárom v známom pražskom Kampa Parku a pracoval aj v Londýne,“ dodala Panisová.

TASR

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Členská schôdza spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční polročná schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v **nedelju 15. apríla 2018** o 12:00 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Program schôdze bude zameraný na výber delegátov 51. konvencie IKSJ v Clevelande, Ohio. Láskaivo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Juráši – pokladníčka

Spomienkova oslava storočnice od podpísania Pittsburghskej dohody

Od podpísania Pittsburghskej dohody uplynie 31. mája už sto rokov. Slovenská liga v Amerike usporiada pri tejto príležitosti spomienkovú oslavu v **nedelju 15. apríla 2018** o 1:00 hodine popoludní v spoločenskej hale Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého (East 66th Street and First Ave. New York, NY.) Slávnostný prejav bude mať Cynthia M. Maleski, predsedníčka Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Ženskej Jednoty. V kultúrnom programe vystúpi detská folklórna skupina a slovenský operný spevák Andrej Pulver.

Slovenská liga pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na túto významnú spomienku, ktorá sa zapísala do dejín slovenského národa. Slovenské organizácie, združené v Slovenskej lige v Amerike podpísali spolu s Českým národným združením v USA a s Tomášom G. Masarykom tento historický document 31. mája 1918. Dokument zaručoval identitu a samosprávu slovenského národa v budúcom spoločnom štáte, ktorý mal vzniknúť po skončení I. Svetovej vojny. Je to Magna charta slovenského národa. Slovenská liga uložila originál Pittsburghskej dohody v prestížnom Heinz History Center v Pittsburghu, PA.

Oslava v Pittsburghu, PA

Oslava v Pittsburghu, PA bude vo **štvrtok 31. mája 2018** o 6.00 hodine večer v Heinz History Center. Vstupné je \$35.00. Vstupenky sú na predaj do 15. mája u Carol Hockman, e-mail: carolh254@aol.com alebo honorárneho konzula SR Jozefa T. Senko, e-mail: jsenko@aol.com tel. 412 956 6000.

Slovenská vedkyňa v Oxforde:

Zahraničie mi poskytlo úplnú vedeckú slobodu

Zahraničie mi ponúklo úplnú vedeckú slobodu. Financie boli na všetko a cenili sa dobré nápady a tvrdá práca, povedala slovenská vedkyňa Monika Gullerová, ktorá v Oxforde šéfuje vlastnému laboratóriu a v súčasnosti pracuje na oprave poškodenej DNA.

Molekulárna bioložka z Trenčína je vo svete vedy uznávaná odborníčka. Za objav transkripčného vypínania génov, ktoré dovtedy nebolo popísané, získala uznanie vedeckej obce. Jej vedecká cesta sa začala na Prírodovedeckej fakulte Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave. Za doktorátom sa vybrala do Rakúska.

„Viedeň bude pre mňa navždy miestom, kde som vedecky dozrela a dospela,“ uviedla.

Zaspomínala si aj na prvé chvíle v zahraničí. „Moje začiatky v zahraničí boli ťažké, ale zároveň vzrušujúce. Ťažké, lebo som mala syndróm malej žienky z malej krajiny a veľmi som sa bála, či uspejem. Vzrušujúce preto, lebo som mala úplnú vedeckú slobodu, kde boli na všetko peniaze a cenili sa dobré nápady a tvrdá práca.“

Následne sa Slovenke naskytla možnosť na postgraduálne štúdium na Oxfordskej univerzite v Británii, kde potom od roku 2006 fungovala ako vedecká pracovníčka. Grant vo výške dva milióny libier jej neskôr v britskom „meste mozgov“ umožnil šéfovať vlastnému laboratóriu.

Oxford teraz považuje za svoj druhý domov. „Vo vede je tu tvrdá konkurencia, čo vôbec nie je na škodu, človeka to stále posúva vpred,“ konštatovala Slovenka, ktorá minulý rok ako jedná v Anglicku získala prestížny grant od charitatívnej organizácie Cancer Research.

Vedecké projekty ju zaviedli aj do USA a Japonska. Na americkej Harvardovej univerzite, ktorá je podľa Gullerovej „v konkurencii a ambicióznosti vedcov na prvom mieste“, pôsobila niekoľko mesiacov. „Tam som sa naučila, že keď človek verí v samého seba, presvedčí o svojej schopnosti aj iných,“ vyhlásila.

Na Kjótskej univerzite strávila šesť mesiacov a tvrdí, že Japonsko je voči USA úplný protiklad. „Vládne tam štruktúrovaná hierarchia a v laboratóriu sa robí to, čo povie šéf. Je to sčasti na škodu, lebo bez voľnosti a kreativity tam vedci dozrejú pomalšie,“ vysvetlila.

Voľnosť si slovenská molekularna bioložka, ktorá v Británii získala aj ocenenie „vedkyňa roka“, užíva najmä vo vlastnom laboratóriu. K tomuto splnenému snu sa podľa svojich slov dostala tvrdou prácou. „Nikdy som sa nevzdávala - aj keď som sa bála, aj keď som nevládala, vždy som bojovala ďalej,“ priblížila.

Gullerová okrem toho prednášala i na univerzitách a konferenciách v Rakúsku, Španielsku, Nemecku, USA, v Británii, Japonsku či Singapure. Za svoj najväčší úspech však pokladá svoju dcéru Charlotte. „Žiadny vedecký úspech, publikácia alebo cena sa jej ani zďaleka nevyrovňajú,“ vyhlásila vedkyňa.

Svoj návrat na Slovensko si vie predstaviť, má však pocit, že pre zahraničných vedcov nie sú v tejto krajine dobré podmienky. „Mám pocit, že zatiaľ vedu na Slovensku riadia ľudia, ktorí vedcov zo zahraničia doma nechcú. Vidím však, že postupne vznikajú aktivity ako „Žijem vedu“, takže je nádej, že sa situácia na Slovensku zmení.“

TASR



Foto: modernamedicina.sk



Podujatie k 66. výročiu založenia Slovenskej záhrady vo Winter Park na Floride

V sobotu 3. marca 2018 sa uskutočnilo slávnostné podujatie k 66. výročiu založenia Slovenskej záhrady vo Winter Park na Floride. Na festivale sa zúčastnilo viac ako 100 amerických Slovákov, pre ktorých bol pripravený bohatý kultúrny program: premietanie krátkych filmov o slovenskej kultúre, tradíciách, prírodných a historických krásach. Účastníci si vypočuli naživo tóny fujary v podaní slovenského krajana Petra Sallinga. Do tanca hrala slovenská ľudová skupina Kontakty v podaní Márie a Jozefa Jurašiovcov z New Jersey. Krajanom sa prihovril veľvyslanec SR v USA Peter Kmec.

Slovenská záhrada vo Winter Park je centrom stretávania sa a života amerických Slovákov na Floride. Podporuje zachovanie slovenského jazyka, kultúry a dedičstva v USA. Poskytuje možnosti pre ubytovanie slovenských dôchodcov. Zhromažďuje slovenskú literatúru a historické dokumenty o živote Slovákov v USA. Múzeum má bohatú zbierku hudobných diel, umenia, krojov a umeleckých predmetov slovenského pôvodu.

MZV SR



Matica slovenská naštartovala spoluprácu s viacerými inštitúciami

Nové vedenie Matice slovenskej má za sebou sériu rokovaní s dôležitými slovenskými inštitúciami a organizáciami v oblasti kultúry, vedy a vzdelávania. Spoločne sa dohodli na konkrétnej spolupráci, a tým aj na vytvorení alebo zintenzívnení vzájomných vzťahov. Informovala o tom hovorkyňa Matice slovenskej Veronika Matušková.

Stretnutie predsedu Matice slovenskej Mariána Gešpera s predsedom Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí Jánom Varšom uzavrelo sériu nadväzovania či zlepšovania vzťahov s inštitúciami a organizáciami. Predsedovia hľadali možnosti, ako podporiť najmä krajanskú mladú generáciu. Dňa 20. marca diskutoval predseda Matice slovenskej s riaditeľom Múzea SNP v Banskej Bystrici Stanislavom Mičevom o organizácii spoločných vedeckých konferencií, podujatí a o aktivitách pre mládež. Matica slovenská pripravuje memorandum s Klubom UNESCO Slovakia, spolupracovať bude aj so Štátnym pedagogickým ústavom, školami, knižnicami, kultúrnou inštitúciou s medzinárodnou pôsobnosťou Bibiana či Rusínskou obrodou. Na odprezentovaní významných matičiarov zapojených do protifašistického odboja sa Matica slovenská dohodla so Slovenským zväzom protifašistických bojovníkov. S Politickými väzňami – Zväzom protikomunistického odboja sa zameria na slovenské osobnosti perzekvované komunistickým režimom.

Matičná delegácia sa stretla aj s arcibiskupmi katolíckej, evanjelickej, gréckokatolíckej a pravoslávnej cirkvi. Dohodla si užšiu vedeckú spoluprácu s Maticou srbskou a Maticou chorvátskou. Spolupracovať bude s Národným osvetovým centrom, pričom Matica slovenská sa stane spoluorganizátorom festivalov Východná a Scénická žatva. Väčší priestor zároveň dostane aj záujmový odbor Mladá Matica.

TASR

V Košiciach uvedú knihu “Kardinál Jozef Tomko – život v službe evanjelia”

Katolícka univerzita v Ružomberku, Teologická fakulta v Košiciach v spolupráci s Arcibiskupským úradom v Košiciach pozývajú na prezentáciu knihy Mons. Mariána Čizmára pod názvom “Kardinál Jozef Tomko – Život v službe evanjelia”. Prezentácia knihy sa uskutoční dňa 3. mája 2018 o 10:00 hod v

Aule Teologickej fakulty v Košiciach

(Hlavná 89). Hostom na prezentácii knihy bude Jozef kardinál Tomko. Kniha vychádza vo vydavateľstve INREMAX.



TK KBS

V Bratislave otvorili prvé Centrum pre obnovu rodiny

Poskytnúť dočasný domov rodinám v ťažkej životnej situácii, pomôcť rodičom postaviť sa na nohy a zabrániť tak umiestneniu ich detí do detského domova, prípadne zabezpečiť ich skorý návrat späť k biologickej rodine. Aj to je cieľom krízových Centier pre obnovu rodiny, ku ktorým aktuálne pribudlo ako piate v poradí nové centrum v Bratislave.

„Základným cieľom je pomôcť rodinám. Deti z detských domovov nemajú ľahké zaradiť sa do života. Väčšina z nich nie sú ani siroty, tie tvoria len dve percentá, a z prieskumov vieme, že mohli vyrastať so svojimi rodinami, keby s nimi niekto pracoval,“ priblížil Jozef Mikloško, predseda spoločnosti Úsmev ako dar, ktorá za projektom stojí. Až 80 percent rodín, ktoré prejdú programom takéhoto centra, okrem dočasného ubytovania poskytujúceho aj sociálne, psychologické, ekonomické či iné odborné poradenstvo, dokáže následne fungovať samostatne.

Cieľom centra totiž nie je zabezpečiť ubytovanie pre čo najviac rodín pod jeho strechou, prípadne im takto s bytovou otázkou pomáhať desiatky rokov. „Ale naopak, mať ich tu čo najkratšie, ale následne im pomáhať ambulantne,“ doplnil Mikloško. Aj preto je do budúcnosti v pláne nadstavba budovy a vytvorenie siete ambulancií. Maximálna hranica na zabezpečenie prechodného ubytovania sú tri roky.

Otvorenie nového centra vníma pozitívne aj Bratislavský samosprávny kraj (BSK). Ten zo zákona finančne podporuje prácu s rodinami v ťažkej životnej situácii a prispieva organizáciám, ktoré takýmto rodinám pomáhajú. „Sme presvedčení, že každé dieťa si zaslúži v prvom rade svoju biologickú rodinu a spoločnosť je povinná týmto rodinám pomáhať tak, aby deti mohli vyrastať vo svojich biologických rodinách. Verím, že každá rodina, pokiaľ o to stojí a je tam vôľa, že by sme mali takúto rodinu podporiť, aby rodina zostala spolu,“ skonštatovala riaditeľka Odboru sociálnych vecí Úradu BSK Michaela Šopová.

Nové Centrum pre obnovu rodiny sídli v Petřalke, kúpa a rekonštrukcia budovy vyšla na 83.000 eur. Doteraz podobné centrá fungujú v Dunajskej Lužnej, V Košiciach, Prešove a vo Zvolene. Do budúcnosti sa plánuje vybudovanie ďalších centier na území Slovenska. Pomôcť má aj novela zákona o sociálno-právnej ochrane detí a sociálnej kuratele. Tá má pojednávať okrem iného aj o tom, že detské domovy by sa mali postupne otvoriť aj ambulantnej a terénnej službe a sociálnej práci.

TASR

Slovenské veľvyslanectvo v USA predstavuje úspešných krajanov

Hostia majú jednu milú povinnosť, a to odpovedať okrem otázok o svojej kariére aj na otázky spojené s 25. výročím samostatnosti Slovenska.

Mnohí Slováci dosiahli úspech vo svojom povolání v Spojených štátoch. Slovenské veľvyslanectvo vo Washingtone ich tento rok predstavuje širokej verejnosti.

Podujatie s názvom Slovak-American Café (Slovensko-americká kaviareň) je sériou neformálnych verejných diskusií moderátora s hosťom - Slovákom, ktorý dosiahol úspech v USA. Diskusii bude niekoľko počas celého roka, veľvyslanectvo ich totiž organizuje pri príležitosti 25. výročia samostatnosti Slovenska.

“Cieľom podujatia je dostať úspešných a významných Slovákov viac do povedomia aj krajanov aj Američanov,“ uviedla Terézia Filipejová, atašé pre verejnú a kultúrnu diplomaciu.

Hostia majú jednu milú povinnosť, a to odpovedať okrem otázok o svojej kariére aj na otázky spojené s 25. výročím samostatnosti Slovenska.

Prvým hosťom bola džezová speváčka Hanka G v súčasnosti žijúca a vystupujúca v New Yorku. Hanka G získala v roku 2017 Cenu Ladislava Martonika, najznámejšie džezové ocenenie na Slovensku. Dvojnásobná víťazka Ceny Grammy Cassandra Wilsonová ju zároveň uznala za predstaviteľku toho “najlepšího z ďalšej generácie”.

Ďalšími hosťami budú Slováci, ktorí v USA dosiahli úspechy v oblastiach ako šport, veda a výskum, medicína, kultúra či diplomacia.

TASR Katarína Bačová



Bratislavský chlapčenský zbor v New Yorku, NY

Bratislavský chlapčenský zbor vystúpil 10. marca 2018 v New Yorku v slovenskom kostole Sv. Jána Nepomúckeho. Bol to posledný koncert počas ich turné v USA. Nadšené publikum si vypočulo ukážky z rozmanitého repertoára, ktorý podčiarkol talentovanosť všetkých účinkujúcich. Koncert sa uskutočnil v spolupráci so slovenským kostolom Sv. Jána Nepomúckeho v New York City, NY.

Bratislavský Koncert pre Jána a Martinu

V kostole Cirkvi bratskej na Cukrovej ulici v Bratislave sa 13. marca 2018 uskutočnil Koncert pre Jána a Martinu. Na podujatí, ktoré pripravoval tím festivalu komornej hudby Konvergencie, zazneli skladby od Antonína Dvořáka, Vladimíra Godára, Ilju Zeljenku, Johna Tavenera, Romana Bergera, Mariána Vargu, Arvo Pärta a Borisa Lenka.

Koncert bol ďalším zo série podujatí, ktorými si umelci uctili pamiatku zavraždeného novinára Jána Kuciaka a jeho priateľky, archeologičky Martiny Kušnírovej.

Ján Kuciak a Martina Kušnírová sa spoznali v Nitre, kde študovali na Filozofickej fakulte Univerzity Konštantína Filozofa. V meste pod Zoborom si ich pamiatku uctili na nedeľnom koncerte 18. marca 2018.

„Hlavným poslanstvom koncertov je spolupatričnosť s rodinami Martiny Kušnírovej a Jána Kuciaka a spolupatričnosť s ľuďmi, ktorým záleží na našej krajine. Vražda Martiny a Jána je tragédiou, ktorá nás hlboko zasiahla. Umenie potrebuje pre svoju plnohodnotnú existenciu slobodu, za ktorej obranu zomreli Martina s Jánom. Koncertmi im chceme vziať úctu,“ povedal o koncertoch ich spoluorganizátor Michal Kaščák. Realizovali ich už v Bratislave, Žiline a Prešove.

TASR

Deti sa v múzeu v Humennom učili zdobiť kraslice

Deti sa učili vo Vihorlatskom múzeu v Humennom zdobiť tradičné veľkonočné kraslice. Ukážky im predstavil pracovník Michal Pasternák, ktorý sa tejto záľube venuje už niekoľko desiatok rokov. Predstavil im metódu batikovania, reliéfného voskovania i drôtovania, ale aj máčania v rôznych odvaroch.

On sa najčastejšie venuje prvej spomínanej technike. Podľa neho sa to dá naučiť, potrebná je len trpezlivosť. Niekedy sa pri batikovaní vraj používali najviac dve farby. „Ja väčšinou kombinujem štyri,“ povedal Pasternák, ktorý sa už 25 rokov zapája do Karpatskej kraslice.

Vyskúšané má už však viaceré techniky. Pri motívoch sa inšpiruje bežnými vecami, napríklad aj záclonami. Vajíčka si zháňa sám po celý rok. „Keď sú biele, tak ich kúpim, vyfúknem a odložím,“ poznamenal. Pred zdobením ich poriadne odmastí. Kedysi sa podľa neho farbilo napríklad v cibulovom odvare, krepovom papierom, vývarom z cvikly či čučoriedkami.

Zdobenie vajíčok v múzeu si vyskúšala aj štvrtáčka Alexandra zo Základnej školy na Pugačevovej ulici v Humennom. Nebolo to však prvýkrát. „Ja som vajíčka zdobila aj predtým s babkou. Maľovali sme ich tak, že do farbičky sme zapichli špendlík, a tak sme to zdobili. Z jednej strany bol napríklad zajačík v košíku a tráva a z druhej bolo kuriatko,“ uviedla s tým, že používali rôzne farby.

Cieľom týchto aktivít v múzeu je oboznámiť verejnosť s touto tradičnou tvorbou. „Som prekvapená, pretože ešte aj v súčasnosti je stále dosť veľký záujem o zdobenie tradičných kraslíc. Tieto workshopy sú vo Vihorlatskom múzeu pripravované pravidelne a každým rokom sa stretávame s pozitívnou odozvou,“ uviedla pracovníčka galerijného oddelenia Dana Kataniková.

Workshopy sú súčasťou výstavy Karpatská kraslica, ktorú v múzeu pripravujú už 26 rokov. Tento rok sa do nej zapojilo 83 autorov zo Slovenska i zahraničia. Návštevníci humenského zámku si tak môžu do 6. apríla pozrieť približne 800 zdobených vajíčok.

TASR



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



ÚRADNÝ ORGÁN PRVEJ KATOLÍCKEJ SLOVENSKEJ JEDNOTY V SPOJENÝCH ŠTÁTOCH A V KANADE

Ročník 127

STREDA, 11. APRÍLA 2018

Číslo 5968



The 30th anniversary of the Candle Demonstration was observed in Bratislava.

FOTO: TKKBS/Peter Zimen

Kladdenia vencov k 30. výročiu Sviečkovej manifestácie v Bratislave

Pred 30 rokmi komunistický režim potlačil pokojné zhromaždenie veriacich za náboženskú a občiansku slobodu v Bratislave (25. marca 1988). V Československu toto podujatie vošlo do dejín ako Sviečková manifestácia. Na Hviezdoslavovom námestí vtedy zástup modliacich sa veriacich so sviecami v rukách násilne rozohnali príslušníci verejnej a štátnej bezpečnosti. Ide o jeden z najvýznamnejších verejných prejavov odporu voči komunistickému režimu v Československu. Udalosti spred 30 rokov si tisícky ľudí pripomenuli v uplynulých dňoch sériou viacerých podujatí v Bratislave. Odštartovala ich manifestácia za život a spravodlivú spoločnosť pre všetkých. Program pokračoval mládežníckou svätou omšou so sviečkovým sprievodom, rekonštrukciou policajného zásahu proti Sviečkovej manifestácii, slávnostnou svätou omšou, modlitbovým zhromaždením, kladením vencov pri pamätníku a koncertom v Slovenskej filharmónii - Redute.

TKKBS

Bratislavský pomocný biskup J. Haľko strávil Veľkú noc so Slovákami v USA

Bratislavský pomocný biskup Jozef Haľko, poverený Konferenciou biskupov Slovenska (KBS) starostlivosťou o zahraničných Slovákov, strávil veľkonočné sviatky v americkom New Yorku. Haľko sa na stretnutie so slovenskými veriacimi, ktorí žijú v USA, veľmi tešil "Veď aj to je zmŕtvychvstanie vo vzťahoch, keď sa môžeme stretnúť, podať si ruky a zaželať hojnosť Božieho požehnanja. Ježiš hovorí, kde sa dvaja alebo traja zídu v mojom mene, teda v mene dobroprajnej lásky, tam som aj ja medzi nimi," povedal.



FOTO: TKKBS/ Andrej Jasko

Na Zelený štvrtok 29. marca sa pripojil k americkým kňazom, ktorí slávil tzv. omšu svätenia olejov s kardinálom Timothy M. Dolanom, predsedom Konferencie biskupov USA. Jeho Eminencia, kardinál Timothy M. Dolan a Mons. Jozef Haľko, tiež prišli požehnať veľkonočné košíky s jedlom do Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Manhattane v sobotu 31. marca o 11.00 ráno. Prítomných povzbudzovali, aby prišli oblečení do slovenských krojov. Mons. prof. ThDr. Jozef Haľko, už podobnú cestu v zámorí absolvoval v roku 2013. Počas leta zavítal na okružnú cestu s relikviou svätého Konštantína Cyrila po slovenských komunitách v Kanade a v USA.

TKKBS

Novovymenovaní členovia vlády Slovenskej republiky

Novým predsedom vlády, ktorý vo funkcii vystriedal Roberta Fica (Smer-SD), sa stal Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD). Do funkcie ho vo štvrtok 22. marca vymenoval prezident SR Andrej Kiska. Následne vymenoval aj ostatných členov nového kabinetu. Výmenu vlády si vyžiadala vládna kríza, ktorá nastala po vražde novinára Jána Kuciaka a jeho snúbenice a po ďalších okolnostiach vrátane informácií o údajných prepojeniach vládných politikov na kalábrijskú mafiu, o čom písal Kuciak. Po vražde vyšli do ulíc desaťtisíce ľudí žiadajúcich odchod Roberta Kaliňáka (Smer-SD), následne aj Roberta Fica. V hre boli aj predčasné parlamentné voľby, po ktorých volá opozícia, ale žiadal ich aj Most-Híd. Vládna strana zmenila názor, keď Fico oznámil, že podá demisiu, čo vyústilo do rekonštrukcie vlády.



TASR - Martin Baumann

Na snímke novovymenovaní členovia vlády SR, horný rad zľava ministerka kultúry SR Ľubica Laššáková, minister práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR Ján Richter, vedúci Úradu vlády SR Igor Federič, minister spravodlivosti SR Gábor Gál, šéf poradcov Úradu vlády SR Vladimír Faič, ministerka školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR Martina Lubyová, ministerka zdravotníctva Andrea Kalavská. Stredný rad zľava minister hospodárstva SR Peter Žiga, minister obrany SR Peter Gajdoš, minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslav Lajčák, minister vnútra SR Tomáš Drucker, minister dopravy a výstavby SR Árpád Érsek. Dolný rad zľava minister životného prostredia László Sólymos, minister financií SR Peter Kažimír, predseda vlády SR Peter Pellegrini, ministerka pôdohospodárstva a rozvoja vidieka SR Gabriela Matečná a podpredseda vlády SR pre investície a informatizáciu Richard Raši v Bratislave 22. marca 2018.

President Andrej Kiska named the new government of the Slovak Republic on March 22, 2018.



Svätenie veľkonočných pokrmov v Košiciach, v sobotu 31. marca 2018.

Blessing of Easter baskets in Kosice, Slovakia.

FOTO: TASR/Milan Kapusta