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NUMBER 6017

Message from the President

Over the weekend I was surfing the TV channels as most of us do. I came across a program on PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) that I had seen several times before. It is called "History Detectives".

Previously, I had watched them researching the backgrounds of various well-known celebrities; researching their ancestors (their roots, so to speak). They had researched ancestors who had served in the military going back to the Civil War and beyond. Many of the stories were fascinating and many uncovered the lives of ancestors of the guest celebrities that they never knew and facts that were very surprising and many times uplifting. The last week's program was about a person who came across a recipe book that he found in the estate items of a deceased uncle. The recipe book was from about the 1860's and was about a method to cut or extend the volume of alcohol spirits, but not how to distill alcohol.

What's my point? History is important. What if no one had kept a copy of the Magna Carta? Or the Declaration of Independence? Or the Bible? What if the Wright Brothers airplane had not been preserved in the Smithsonian in Washington DC along with the Mercury Space Capsule and the shoes Judy Garland wore in the Wizard of Oz?

This is true for all of the exhibits in museums across the world, from well-known, very valuable items to items that were more common, such as an old hat worn by coal



Andrew M. Rajec

miners in Pennsylvania.

You have heard the saying that "if you don't learn from history you are doomed to repeat it" (George Santayana, 1905).

Many of you have items in your attic, garage, or items that you have that have been passed down from parents, relatives etc. I am referring to items that are related to Slovak culture and/or history such as Slovak kroj (folk costumes)

and items related to the old Slovak churches such as paintings, etc., or the First Catholic Slovak Union, for example, the Lodge banners used to parade into Church, or badges or pins or pictures.

If we do not preserve our Slovak heritage who will?

Several times a month I receive a call or a letter from one of our Members who wants to donate items for our Museum. We have to be selective, but will consider everything. A problem is that our exhibit space is limited to the hall and the Board Room. Most of the items are displayed in our hall.

Others have expressed an intention to donate a large number of items to the Society. However, we need to expand our space in our building to do this. That would mean that we would have less space for tenants and less income. The Board has previously approved \$50,000 for a study and proposals to not only expand our existing museum, but also re-do our office space since it is original since 1988.

A few people are opposed to expanding our museum space because we would lose tenant income. That may be true but our Catholic Faith and our Slovak heritage must be honored and preserved for future generations. You may have heard the saying, "You cannot know who you are if you don't know where you came from." We can hear future generations asking, "Where did great grandpa come from? What is a Slovak? Where is Slovakia?"

I repeat, if we do not preserve our Slovak and Society heritage, who will? It is our duty to do so. I hope you agree. Please give me your comments.

God bless and Zbohom.

Andrew M. Rajec
President



FCSU May Rates

8 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	3.70%
6 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	3.35%
6 Year Fixed Annuity or IRA	3.15%
Park 2 Annuity (not available in the state of NY)	2.25%
Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA- 1st year guarantee (new Park Free Plus max deposit \$25,000 per person)	1.75%
Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	2.50% (5 yrs +)



Find an Annuity That's Right for You
Call us at 800-533-6682

FCSU Financial® First Catholic Slovak Union

Contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office

6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131, annuity@fcsu.com, www.fcsu.com



Stephen C. Matula SCHOLARSHIP



FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION announces
STEPHEN C. MATULA SCHOLARSHIP
for 5 college students of Slovak heritage

Who can apply?

Applicants of **Slovak heritage** are eligible to apply as high school seniors, or during any year of full-time enrollment in an accredited College/University. Applicants can apply each year in college (up to 4 years).

Applicants must complete and sign an official Scholarship application obtained from a branch officer, the Home Office or www.fcsu.com and mail it to: Stephen C. Matula Scholarship, FCSU, 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131. Applicants must provide a high-resolution headshot photo and also email it to scholarship@fcsu.com.

Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee and checks will be payable to the winner's educational institution after submitting proof of college enrollment.

Winners must provide a report on their progress in college, including transcript and a summary of use of the funds by the end of the school year.

What to provide?

- Completed application
- Photo
- Official transcript
- Essay
- 3 Letters of recommendation

5 scholarships
\$4,000 each

Deadline to apply May 31, 2022

Find Scholarship Applications at WWW.FCSU.COM (www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships).

For more info call us at 800-533-6682 or email scholarship@fcsu.com.

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Reflection

Queen of Heaven, Rejoice, Alleluia!

With this prayerful refrain, we honor God's Mother and ours in this Easter May. Within the past two months we have relived with her the pain and anguish she shared with her Son in His passion and death.

How comforting when Jesus returned to her early that Easter morn. Seeing His glorious body brought healing to her own. Now her joy reached its pinnacle. And she shares it with us. As we live through our periods of suffering, she is with us as a tender, compassionate mother. Let us reach out to her daily this month, grateful for her loving care and praying for those in need of knowing her aid.

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

Ô Mária, Radosť Moja

1. Ô Mária, Radosť moja,
Sladkosť srdce mojeho,
Prím mňa pod plášť svoj materský,
Zachraňuj mňa od zlého.

SBOR: Ô Mária, ô Mária, Matko,
Tvé meno znie tak sladko.

2. Ô Mária, nádej moja
Dušu, srdce teda dám,
Vypros milosť u Ježiša
Ná opusteným dieťkam.

3. Ô Mária, pevnosť moja,
Pros za mňa Syna svého,
Bych nepadol do priepasti
Hriechov sveta márneho.

4. Ô Mária, biela ruža,
Prečistá má ľalia,
Napln citom skrúšenosti,
Mé k tebe verné srdce.

MARY, MY JOY (Ô Mária, Radosť Moja)

1. Hail! Holy Mary, my joy and comfort,
Most precious treasure of my heart,
Shelter, protect me 'neath your own
mantle,
As you embrace me, shield me from
harm.

Refrain:
O Maria, O Mary my Mother,
Your name we honor, love and praise.

2. O Maria, my hope and refuge
I place my life into your care;
As God's own Mother, bring us
to Jesus,
For help in all the sorrows we bear.

Refrain:

3. O Maria, strength and compassion,
I come to you with my trusting prayer:
Gift us with your dear Son's gracious
mercy.
That we, your children, may not despair.

Refrain:

4. O Maria, white rose most radiant,
Lovely, pure lily, favored by God,
Teach me your song of humble
rejoicing,
So grateful for all things God has done.

Refrain

Message from the National Chaplain

The week between the second and third Saturdays in May is Armed Forces Week in the United States. The third Saturday in May is Armed Forces Day.

Prior to the creation of the Department of Defense during the administration of President Harry S. Truman, the Army and the Navy had their own days of celebration. Louis Johnson, Truman's Secretary of Defense, is credited with establishing Armed Forces Day on August 31, 1949 to unite the separate celebrations.

Armed Forces Week and Armed Forces Day honors active members of all branches of the military: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Army National Guard and Air National Guard. The Week and the Day are intended for us to show support for those who risk their lives to keep us safe and reserve and protect the freedoms we cherish.

The Archdiocese for Military Services, USA was established as a separate and distinct archdiocese by Saint John Paul II in 1985. Archbishop Timothy Broglio is currently assisted by 4 auxiliary bishops, each with a specific responsibility in caring for the pastoral needs of military personnel. Catholics on active duty in all branches of the armed forces, including the National Guard when on active duty under a federal mandate, along with family members living them while away of active duty, and military priest-chaplains are all part of this archdiocese.

Countless videos are available showing members of the military catching their loved ones off guard when they come home unexpectedly. Some haven't seen each other for months and it is very heartwarming to see the hugs and kisses exchanged.

Armed Forces Day and Armed Forces Week reminds us think of those who are now serving their country, thank them for their service, and pray that they receive the graces of courage and perseverance to protect and defend the nation, and for them to rely upon the help of God in the performance of their duty.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

**Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain**

Dear Fellow Fraternal Members and Readers,

This month we prepare for and celebrate the Passion of our Lord and In the month of May (máj – pronounced "my"), we can look forward to spring (jar – pron. "yaar") and prepare as Christians for Pentecost (Turice, or Rusadlá in eastern Slovakia). While pagans celebrate spring like the ancient Slavs as nature awakening, we as Christians commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, and beginnings of the Church as an institution to carry on the work of Christ. In essence, it is the birthday of the Church. Pentecost occurs 50 days after the Resurrection, and 10 days after The Ascension of the Lord (Nanebovstúpenie Pána) into heaven (nebo), which in 2022 occurs on Thursday, May 26th, a Holy Day of Obligation. So let us rejoice in our faith

As Catholics and in Slovak traditions, we also dedicate our prayers in May to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Blahoslavená Panna Mária). We remember all our mothers in May, but especially the Mother of God. Jesus entrusted her to the care of St. John at the foot of the Cross before He died. Marian devotions can be expressed through special prayers for her intercession, reciting the Holy Rosary (svätý ruženec), and commemorating the feast of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13. On page 2, a translation by Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M. of the Marian hymn, Ô Mária, radosť moja (Mary, My Joy), expresses the special devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

On the practical side, the May issue contains a host of minutes and regional reports on the activities of our branches. Pay special attention to the candidates running for FCSU offices at this summer's convention, for they set the course for the future of our society. Stay involved and active, for the members and their input can influence our leaders.

One way to get to know others in the FCSU is to attend one or more of the FCSU picnics in at Wiegand Lake in Novelty, Ohio, and Knoebels Park in Elysburg, PA, not far from Danville, home of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius. Both events also offer the opportunity to attend Holy Mass (svätá omša). I will also be there to talk to you.

In this issue, we continue the column of Dr. Renáta Kamenárová, the Director of the Slovak Program at the University of Pittsburgh, with a summary of the two-day Student Conference in April that was also aired online. Our thanks go to the article's author, Ben Sorensen, a doctoral candidate and History Instructor at Cape Fear Community College, who also tutors students in Pitt's Slovak Program. Many of us know Ben from his fabulous fujara performances at Pitt's annual



**Dr. Michael J.
Kopanic, Jr**

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NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
Wednesday, June 8	Tuesday, May 31
Wednesday, July 13	Monday, July 5
Wednesday, August 10	Monday, August 3

Correspondents who are announcing upcoming events should remember that the JEDNOTA is printed MONTHLY, and should take into account the extra time lost in the postal system. Therefore, please plan to have your announcements to us in ample time for them to be printed and received by the readership.

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Michael Kopanic, Editor; editor@fcsu.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
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Bishop Milan
and FCSU
President
Andrew Rajec
gifting the
Byzantine
Church

Ukrainian Refugees

President Andrew M. Rajec presenting a gift to Bishop Milan Lach of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma.

The First Catholic Slovak Union at its March 2022 annual Board of Directors meeting made a donation of \$50,000 for the refugees of the war in Ukraine.

It is estimated that the Russian invasion in Ukraine has caused millions of Ukrainians to seek safety in neighboring countries. Slovakia shares a 60-mile common border with Ukraine with three official border crossings. Many FCSU members had and still have ancestors that came from Eastern Slovakia.

About 200,000 Ukrainians have sought refuge in Slovakia, with potentially more coming.

The FCSU wired \$25,000 directly (the check was symbolic) to the Slovak Catholic Byzantine Eparchy in Košice, Slovakia, which directly adjoins Ukraine, was one of the first Catholic agencies in Slovakia to help refugees.

Bishop Lach is a member of the FCSU. He is also a Jesuit priest.

Another \$25,000 was sent to the US Bishop's fund for refugees in Ukraine to assist Catholic relief for refugees from the conflict in Ukraine.

We offer our prayers, in addition to monetary help, for the refugees and pray that the conflict will end and Peace can return to Ukraine as soon as possible.

We believe that we as a Catholic Society have an obligation to help our fellow man/woman in their time of need.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

TELECONFERENCE

HOME OFFICE
6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131
PHONE: 216-642-9406 * FAX: 216-642-4310

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022

The Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on:

Saturday, June 18, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. (telephonically)

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, June 18, 2022.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent to the Home Office prior to June 10, 2022.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Global Slovakia May 23, 2022 webinar

Ancient Slovak Summer Customs & Traditions - Webinar

The magic of early summer



Late spring and early summer are filled with enchanting, yet little known, customs. From Turice to St John's Night, we will explore the practices of our ancestors – rooted in the deep past and their agrarian way of life.

Date: May 23rd 2022

Time: 6.30pm EST

To access the webinar, go to: www.tinyurl.com/letowebinar

Meeting ID: 881 7224 3736

Passcode: 886983

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Fr. Ed Dougherty, M.M., The Christophers' Board of Directors

Ten Commandments Lead to Happiness (Desať prikázaní vedie k šťastiu))

Christ said, "Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12). This idea that God's law pertains to how we treat others was later reiterated by St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians, when he wrote: "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Galatians 5:14).

We know these statements aren't telling us to ignore all other laws because Christ also said, "Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them" (Matthew 5:17). Therefore, we must see Christ's words as a lens through which to interpret the law. When we do this, it opens our eyes to God's beautiful plan of love for humanity.

The Ten Commandments provide an excellent opportunity to apply Christ's wisdom to our interpretation of God's law. Many in today's society look upon the Commandments as a set of strict rules utilized to condemn people for wrongdoing. But when seen through the lens presented to us by Christ, they become a trustworthy and benevolent guide through life's trials.

For instance, we are commanded not to do certain things, like steal, kill, covet, commit adultery, or bear false witness. These commandments are all about loving our neighbor and treating them as we would want to be treated. So, we can see why love of neighbor sums up the law, and we can see the wisdom in the law being all about our relationship to others. It is also evident that the law guides us towards a fruitful life because no one who wrongs others could possibly be happy.

The other set of rules in the Ten Commandments relates to respect for God (Note that God put these first!). We are told not to take His name in vain, to keep holy the Lord's Day, and not to worship false gods. We are also told to honor our parents. This relates to our respect for God because respect for one's parents is the first way we learn to respect the order God intends for the world. We are given these commandments because God wants us to avoid the misery that results from bad decision-making. He wants to be our guide and commands us to keep Him as our beacon and lodestar, lest we be led astray.

It's also important to consider what Christ means in saying He came to fulfill the law, because sometimes we need a path back to communion with God and neighbor. Christ fulfills the law by showing us the way of mercy (milosrdenstvo). In the Beatitudes, Christ says, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Matthew 5:7). Here is another aspect of God's law relating to the command to treat others as we would want to be treated. For who among us would not want to be forgiven when we seek mercy for our faults?

Christ's command to show mercy reveals the heart of God because we're made in His image and are constantly being called to renew God's likeness within ourselves. Therefore, when we are told to be merciful, we can take consolation in knowing that God is merciful. So, Christ has provided us with a lens through which to see the law as being like a treasure map, drawn for us by a loving God, who desires nothing other than to lead us to true and lasting happiness

Annual Report of the National Vice President

Thursday March 17th, 2022

Dear Reverend Nasta, President Rajec, Executive Officers, and Fellow Board of Directors,

This is my annual report for the year 2021. It is divided into two parts. In the first almost nine months of the year, I served as National Fraternal Activities Director, a position to which I was elected at the FCSU's 51st Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, August 4 – 8, 2018. Then, at our Board of Directors Meeting held September 17 – 18, 2021, in College Park, Maryland, I had the honor of being elected by the Board to serve as National Vice President until the next FCSU Convention in 2022. The last three and a half months of 2021, I served the Society as National Vice President. I am only receiving a salary for the National Vice President position.

Report as National Fraternal Activities Director: January 1, 2021 – September 16, 2021

As Fraternal Activity Director, I immediately began managing & increasing the number and types of programs we sponsor from 3 or 4 a year to 10 plus. I have continued to regularly talk to my fellow board members and all members throughout the FCSU to ask about and respond to requests for new activities and get new, fresh ideas. In 2021, I promoted & managed the following:

- Jan: announced & opened extremely popular March Madness Contest 2021 in Jednota.
- Feb: Introduced new April Online Talent Contest for members in Jednota; announced 2020 NFL Loser Pool winners, with increased participation to 105 members Society-wide from this contest I initiated in 2019.
- Mar: announced & opened Kentucky Derby Hat 2021 in Jednota after receiving member requests to continue this contest; coordinated & announced winners for 2020 Christmas contests: kids & young-at-heart coloring; ugly sweater; and Christmas tree decorating. Three contests which were new since I took this office in 2019, with participation for all increasing to all-time high of 500 plus contestants overall.
- Apr: announced & opened registration for Aug National Golf Tournament in Jednota; also highlighted FCSU Traveling Challenge Cup in this issue, a highly successful competition I instituted in 2019. Recapped member names by Region that to date had been placed on the cup; also began to advertise 2022 National Bowling Tournament with Save the Dates for May 13 & 14, 2022.
- May: announced winners in Jednota of 2021 March Madness, noting participation increased to 186 members; announced winners of first-ever online talent show in Jednota.
- Jun: Announced winners of 2021 Kentucky Derby Contest, which more than doubled participation since previous year.
- Jul: announced final schedule of events for National Golf Tournament to be held the next month; opened new contest possibility to members for consideration – Pen Pal Program with interested parties in Slovakia.
- Aug: announced & opened popular Loser's Pool Contest 2021; announced and introduced new contest based on member requests – big game hunting contest; hosted & coordinated onsite member participation & events for National Golf Tournament held at Treasure Lake, Dubois, PA, Aug 6 – 8, 2021.
- Sep: announced winners of National Golf Tournament in Jednota, including highlights of all sponsors, contest winners, & golfers.

Report as National Vice President: September 17, 2021 – December 31, 2021

While my official title changed in September 2021, in some ways my duties remained the same. This is for several reasons. First, President Rajec asked me to continue performing the duties of the National Fraternal Activities Director under my duties as National Vice President. He did not appoint a new candidate to replace this vacancy on the Board. To date, the position has not been filled. Second, continuing to work at fraternal activities for our members is near and dear to my heart. My motivation for running for National VP was a lot of the same reasons that I ran for Fraternal Activities Director at our last convention. Namely, to help promote and strengthen fraternalism in our Society.

Continuing Fraternal Activities

So I continued to coordinate, announce, and manage fraternal activities throughout the remainder of the year. These included: new details for National Bowling Tournament to be held May 13 – 14, 2022 in Nov Jednota; announcing & opening four Christmas Contests for 2022 starting in Nov Jednota; beginning prep for contests to continue in 2022.

Coordinating Quadrennial Convention

Our bylaws dictate that FCSU Conventions should be overseen by a convention committee which includes the National Vice President. I was most pleased to introduce fresh new ideas to the convention program – including a fun “casino themed” evening before the official start of convention & a concluding evening at an extremely popular venue Top Golf which is located right next to our hotel.

Sales Input

The bylaws also say the VP oversees sales. Our sales more & more are coming through licensed agents and less & less through the old recommender model. As I have a strong background in sales and account management, I was very much looking forward to contributing to & working with the Executive Committee & the FCSU Director of Independent Agents in this area. However, I have had 2 meetings with the FCSU Director of Independent



Kevin J. Collins

Agents and requested monthly updates. This included rate comparisons and monthly sales figures and to be copied into the monthly flyer that is sent to the agents via the Director. As of the date of this report, I have only received 1 rate comparison for the 1st three months. The sales figures documents I received, were sent from the Executive Secretary.

Meeting Members

After reviewing the bylaws for the National Vice President position, I requested more direction from the National President.

Despite repeated requests to the National President, I have never received any additional direction for my duties as National Vice President. As my election to this office was never formally announced to the membership, I used my first three months as National Vice President to travel to as many member events and meetings as possible throughout our Society, as well as attending Home Office Executive Meetings in person so I could also get to know the Home Office staff. As I had no official guidance, all travel costs such as airfare, car rentals, & hotel reservations have been at my own expense.

What I've learned in my time spent among our dedicated members is that there is a strong need for opportunities to interact with one another, and a desire for better reasons to want to be active members once they've purchased a product from us.

I remain hopeful that working together as a Board and as a Society, we can ensure a strong future for the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Collins
National Vice President

Annual Report of the National Treasurer

Fr. Nasta, President Rajec, Members of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors,

I am pleased to present my report on the FCSU's finances and treasury operations for the year ended December 31, 2021.

I was elected to serve as National Treasurer in September 2021 to succeed Mr. George F. Matta II, who passed into Eternal Life earlier in the year and Mr. James Marmol, Director for Region 4 who was asked to act as Temporary Treasurer until a replacement could be voted upon by the Board. I can only hope to maintain their high standards. As such, my report and comments will reflect only on year end balances and on treasury activities since my appointment.

Highlights

- Total assets increased by 16% to \$530,939,088 (2020 - \$457,648,477)
- Insurance and annuities sold almost doubled to \$92,488,251 (2020 - \$46,423,786), up 99%
- Surplus increased by 6.6% to \$46,657,607 (2020 - \$43,771,595)
- Net investment income decreased by 8% to \$18,621,567 (2020 - \$20,225,043)
- Net income for the year was \$2,880,203 (2020 - \$3,552,357), down 19%
- Reserves for life contracts increased to \$446,187,350 (2020 - \$365,767,214)
- Interest Maintenance Reserve (or IMR) decreased to \$142,354 (2020 - \$921,860)
- Asset Valuation Reserve (or AMR) increased to \$3,724,208
- Average investment quality was 6.99 (2020 - 6.42) on the NAIC 20 scale and approximately 1.49 on the NAIC 6 scale (both meaning investment grades between A2 and A3, the higher the better).

The FCSU had another strong year, marking the first time we ended up with over \$500,000,000 in assets, due mostly to large increases in policy and annuity sales, made possible by offering outstanding competitive products and retaining outside agents to sell them. This has led to sales to persons who would not normally be introduced to the FCSU's products.

Understandably, that has resulted in an increase in sales commissions paid, but worth it as it is part of the process of growth. Also, changes in some state regulations have dictated that larger policies and annuities must be sold by licenced insurance agents and brokers, also a reason for that increase.

IMR and AMR which are liability reserves to provide for changes due to changes in interest rates or asset valuations. These reserves are required by state regulators and are non-cash items caused by changes in amortization.

Surplus was at 8.8% of assets, comparing favorably to other insurance companies and in some cases, much better.

As we all know, interest rates have been rather low for the past few years. The FCSU's investment policy is to invest mainly in interest and income bearing investments (meaning bonds, notes, asset and mortgage backed securities, loans and SEC Rule 144a securities) as opposed to common and preferred stock. All of the FCSU's investments are in 100% compliance with the policy. Because of that, net

2 investment income decreased because of investments earning relatively high rates matured or were redeemed and had to be reinvested at current lower rates of return. As well, all of the incoming funds from the sales of new policies and annuities had to be reinvested at the best rates available to us.

The FCSU achieved a portfolio earning rate of approximately 4.6% at the end of 2021 (2020 - 4.39%). The FCSU achieved a 2021 average gross product margin of 1.16% (2020 - 1.27%), however, that rate is steadily increasing (was 1.34% at January 2022), which allows the FCSU to maintain its current rates it pays on its annuities. Average gross product margin

Continued on page 5



John V. Tokarsky

Annual Report of National Treasurer

continued from page 4

is the portfolio earning rate less the rates it pays out on its annuities and other products.

With rising interest rates, that would tend to increase the rates we earn on our new investments; however, most of the FCSU's investments are currently tied up for longer terms. New investments tend to have shorter times to maturity. The FCSU's investment philosophy is to hold investments until maturity as opposed to active daily buying and selling. This allows us to lock in rates of return, irrespective of what the markets do. However, interest rate changes can cause unrealized gains and losses (another non-cash accounting number), because of changes in market values due to changes in yields, which does not matter so much as again, the FCSU tends to hold to maturity. Over time, unrealized gains or losses disappear at the time of maturity.

The 2021 year saw challenges for most of us, both in the investment markets and also the way we live. The COVID 19 pandemic continued to wreak havoc and government administrations changed leading to effects in regulations and fiscal and monetary policies. Throughout all of this, interest rates stayed low, stock markets reached new highs, unemployment decreased as employers opened up again, energy costs and inflation stayed low for most of the year but started to trend sharply upward toward the end of the year.

With interest rates expected to rise a fair amount during 2022, we would love to be able to hold onto our cash until rates are higher and then invest, however, circumstances dictate that we keep reinvesting. Most of the FCSU's investments are in the \$1-3 million range with maturities ranging from 2 to 40 years. We generally look for investments with grades in the low A's to mid B's, anything lower is generally out of the question. This policy allows for a respectable comparative yield with lower risk.

The FCSU's Executive Board and its Board of Directors are faced with constant reinvestment activity and having to make the decisions that move the FCSU forward and in the right direction. To assist with this, the FCSU engages professional asset managers (currently AQS Asset Management) to assist in locating new investment vehicles and sales and redemptions in its portfolio. AQS Asset Management specializes in managing portfolios for other small or fraternal insurance companies. I greatly appreciate their assistance and wise counsel in assisting us to make informed investment decisions.

In addition to these activities, I have also made inquiries as to the FCSU's financial systems, controls, record keeping, compliance, risk management, strategic planning and cash management. I have found all of those to be more than satisfactory. I have also enquired as to adequate insurances and records being kept for the FCSU's fixed assets, which I also found to be satisfactory.

2021 was a challenging year in that decisions were made to position the FCSU for constant strong future growth as opposed to a view with a shorter time horizon. Because of those underlying structural changes, investment income and net income did decrease, however, both the Board and I firmly believe 3 that 2022 and onward will be better and will exceed our expectations, because of increased assets and rising interest rates.

With the restrictions on the COVID-19 pandemic being slowly lifted, I will be able to and look forward to getting out and about and meeting many of you. Any questions on our treasury activities or my report can be directed to me through the Home Office.

To introduce myself, I have over 37 years of financial experience with public and private companies. I continue to be active in my home Branch 785 and District 19 activities, acting as the District's Fraternal Activities Director, Financial Secretary and Treasurer. I am a member of the Branch's local bowling league and have participated in the International Bowling and Golf Tournaments for many years.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service to your Society and wishing everyone the best in the year to come.

Respectfully and fraternally yours,

John V. Tokarsky
National Treasurer

Annual Report of the Auditors

March 18, 2022

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec, Executive Officers, and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors:

The audit team was able to resume auditing in late 2021. An audit of the 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2021 was conducted in November 2021 and February 2022 respectively. All processes were followed from beginning to end to confirm that all requirements and records were in place. No issues or any discrepancies were discovered. The audit team found everything to be in order.

We feel confident that the audit team will be able to successfully resume our audit schedule in calendar year 2022 and have created an audit schedule for the next 12 months. The auditors and I are fully vaccinated and boosted. The team continues to follow CDC and the state of Ohio regulations.

I attended all 2021 scheduled Board and Executive Committee Meetings. In addition to my auditor duties, I am a member of the Branch Revival Project and Scholarship Committee at the Executive and Branch levels.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require further details.

Srdečne pozdravujem, Best regards,

Gregory J. Maurer
Chairman of Auditors
First Catholic Slovak Union
CP 724-216-7832
Email: gjmtower@hotmail.com

Annual Report of the National Chaplain

Dear Board of Directors and Members of the FCSU: It is an honor to be your National Chaplain.

Three of the four Board of Directors meeting in 2021 were conducted by means of videoconference. I led the Board in prayer at the beginning and end of each session. The National President extended the invitation for me to be present for the Executive Committee meetings in March and December. I opened and closed those meetings with prayer.

The September 2021 Board of Directors meeting was held in the Washington, DC area. While there I offered Mass for National Vice President Andrew Harcar and National Treasurer George Matta, II, both of whom died earlier in the year. I joined the Board on a short trip to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in our nation's capital and there I concelebrated a Mass conducted in Slovak to commemorate the 56th anniversary of

dedication of the shrine of Our Mother of Sorrows in the Basilica.

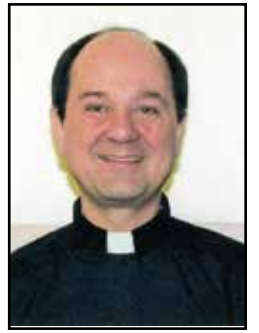
Also in September I travelled to East Brunswick, New Jersey for the 43rd New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival.

By virtue of my position as National Chaplain, I am an ex officio officer of the Slovak Catholic Federation and serve as its First Vice President. My primary responsibility in this role is to coordinate the annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal, which raises funds to support the operating costs of the residence for priests from Slovakia pursuing post-graduate -studies in Rome. Both the meeting in the spring and the convention in the fall were conducted by videoconference. I gave an updated report on the Appeal at each meeting. I was re-elected First Vice President for another four-year term at the convention.

Each month I write either a faith formation article or spiritual message for the Jednota newspaper. I also have responded to correspondence sent to me.

May our Lord continue to bless the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Reverend Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Annual Report of Region 1 Director

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec, Executive Officers, and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors:

It is my honor to be an officer on the Board of Directors representing the members of Region 1. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Executive Board and my fellow board members for the opportunity to work together for the benefit of our society, the First Catholic Slovak Union. I enthusiastically look forward to our continued collaboration in strengthening and revitalizing our Jednota.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the incredibly dedicated Jednota members in my region for their resilience, adaptability, support, and enthusiasm during these unprecedented times! Although the pandemic eased toward the summer of 2021, it was still a difficult time for many members. Many of us lost dear family members and friends. We remember them in our prayers. *Odpočinutie večné daj jim, Pane, a svetlo večné nech jim svieti. Nech odpočívajú v pokoji!*

As Region 1 Director, I have performed all the duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union including, but not limited to, attending all Board of Directors meetings as well as meetings requested by the President. In addition, I volunteered and actively participated in the Scholarship Committee and Branch Rejuvenation Committee. I relentlessly worked to promote our society and products which is evident by the number of successful new members I have recruited and by my sales records in 2019, 2020, and again in 2021.

Moreover, I attended District 1, 4, and 16 meetings in my region. In addition, as a very active member of my branch, I attended all Branch 746 and District 4 meetings and organized various events. I contributed to the Jednota newspaper by providing articles, photos, and encouraging others to do so. I maintained contact with other branches in my region and kept abreast of their activities. I also attended virtual meetings held by Branch 45. I continued with outreach to less active branches notably encouraging them to participate in District meetings and the Region 1 summer picnic.

As we are now in the second year of the global pandemic, I continuously encourage members to keep connected through virtual meetings and activities. One such example is the facilitation of the FCSU webinar on Christmas traditions held on December 5th in collaboration with founders of Global Slovakia – Dr. Zuzana Palovic and Dr. Gabriela Bereghazyova.

In early March 2021, it was my privilege to have the opportunity to have a meeting with Slovak Ambassador to the United States, Radovan Javorčík, shortly after he assumed his post at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, DC. We spoke about the Slovak American community in the United States and the First Catholic Slovak Union. I gave him a brief introduction to the history of our society and gifted him some FCSU memorabilia.

I attended the farewell reception for the Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York, Ladislava Begec whose term came to an end in May 2021. Consul Begec was a large supporter of the Slovak American community in New York and attended many events including those organized by the FCSU.

With departures also came new arrivals, and in August I spent a pleasant afternoon with the new Consul General Milan Vrobovsky who arrived with his three children and was eager to start working with the community on a variety of different projects.

In terms of personal self-development, I embarked on coursework to complete my professional certificate in Enterprise Risk Management (ERM). Previously working in internal audit

Continued on page 9

Annual Report of Region 2 Director

Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors: It has once again been a privilege and an honor to serve as the Regional Director for Region 2.

In 2021, I performed all the duties required of me as stipulated by the bylaws. I attended the Annual and Semi-Annual Board of Directors meetings, as well as one of the monthly executive committee meetings at the invitation of the President. I attended all three of Region 2's district meetings in 2021 which were all held via Zoom meetings. At Region 2's meetings I provided a written update the delegates with information learned at the board meetings and other information as well.

Due to all the Covid restrictions and cancellations, I was unable to participate in the annual bowling tournament in 2021, but was able to participate in the golf tournament in August. Several members of my district participated in the Kentucky Derby Hat Contest, Coloring Contests (Young at Heart and Children's), the Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest and the Football Losers Pool. I'm very happy to report that the overall winner of the Kentucky Derby Hat Contest and 2 of the 3 top winners in the Football Losers Pool were in Region 2. Congratulations to all! It is my intention to participate, and hopefully attend, fraternal events again whenever permissible.

As always, I continue to keep my branches informed through my reports at the district meetings and will continue to do so in the future.

Fraternally,

Damian D Nasta
Regional 2 Director

Annual Report of Region 3 Director

The year 2021 continued to be challenging as the pandemic has still affected many board activities, as well as district meetings, branch meetings and events. Hopefully 2022 will bring increased fraternal participation and more programs. Throughout this difficult time, I have continued to be an active Regional Director. It is an honor to continue serving and working with FCSU.

Board Activities:

- Attended and participated in all in-person and teleconference meetings of the Board of Directors

- Participated in teleconference meeting for the Branch Revival Committee

Activities in our Region:

- Assisted numerous branch members with all of their FCSU concerns, selling policies, completing death benefits and expanding annuity sales in the region

- Coordinated and hosted district meeting in my area

- Arranged Mass for deceased members

- Arranged Zoom district meeting with the help of IT branch member and District President

- Maintained lines of communication throughout the district and branches

- Reported on FCSU concerns, products and programs to update district officers and branch members at district meetings and branch meetings

- Served as branch treasurer for Branch 05P

- Encouraged member participation in fraternal activities and contests

- Arranged and attended Mass for deceased District Chaplain and member

- Viewed with members The Christmas Tradition Webinar and FCSU Talent Show

- Attended Slovak Christmas singalong sponsored by the local Slovak Heritage Society

- Visited memorial in Middletown PA and encouraged members to gift memorial bricks

- Made a donation to the Sisters of Saint Cyril and Methodius in Danville PA in lieu of attending their picnic

Fraternal Activities:

- Completed and renewed professional fraternal insurance license for Pennsylvania

- Prepared advertisements for a local newspaper and church bulletins

- Participated in Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania (FSNEPA), attending meetings in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton areas

- Attended FSNEPA Christmas Party and presented information on Slovak programs

- Planned participation for Region 3 members to attend Minor League baseball game on 06/17/2022

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Zavada
Regional 3 Director

Annual Report of Region 4 Director

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew M. Rajec, Executive Officers and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors,

The Coronavirus and its variants, Delta and Omicron, have impacted all that we do from family gatherings to social activities such as dining out at a restaurant and children attending school.

This past year has been a challenging one just like the previous. Although it appears that times are changing as more people get vaccinated and the virus wanes.

I've attended all board meetings by attendance or teleconference and at the request of the president, attended the executive board meeting by teleconference held on May 14, 2021. I attended meetings of the Frank T. Holly, Jr. District #9 in May, July and November, 2021 and a meeting of the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District #12. I attended two district meetings of the George Onda District in March and June, 2021 and the Vilija dinner on December 5, 2021. Hopefully, this year will see a re-opening of many more facilities causing an increase in fraternal activities including our 52nd Quadrennial Convention scheduled for July

30 through August 2, 2022 in Independence, Ohio.

There were no national events to attend as these activities were canceled because of the virus. Fraternalism was greatly missed by many of the people who participated in the various activities in previous years. 2022 looks to be more active as many planned fraternal events can be found on our website <https://www.fcsu.com/events>.

I was appointed by the president to serve the interim period from June to September as Treasurer. It was an honor to be selected and partially complete the term of former National Treasurer, George Matta, Jr. and John Tokarsky was elected by the board in September 2021 to fill the remainder of the term. I personally wish him well and ask that he guide our fraternal into the future with financial success.

I have encouraged and invited others to become more involved with our fraternal and I look forward to more success in the year ahead.

I'd like to thank all fraternal members for their past hospitality where both my wife and I were graciously welcomed. I hope that I can inspire more members to participate in their branch, district and national activities this coming year. It truly was a pleasure to serve as your regional director and interim Treasurer this past year and I look forward to serving this next year with all of its challenges.

Should you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance, please contact me at my home at 724-437-0892, on my cell at 724-970-7642 or by email at "jrmarmol@verizon.net".

James R. Marmol
Regional 4 Director

Annual Report of Region 6 Director

Dear Reverend Nasta, President Rajec, Executive Officers, and Fellow Board Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union:

Throughout Region 6, COVID-19 protocols remained in place for much of 2021. As COVID restrictions began to lessen in areas throughout my Region, our members were able to attend and/or host in person events and meetings. As the Regional Director, I helped organize as well as attended myself many of these functions.

For example, on June 19th, Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Picnic hosted an outdoor picnic at Sokol Campground in Broadview Hts., OH. I helped organize and manage the participation of three local area FCSU branches at this popular event. Members of Branches 24, 450, and 855 were offered free food & beverage tickets: a total of 71 members attended. I planned a July 31st FCSU outing in Avon, OH with the Lake Erie Crushers Minor League baseball team, which included premium seating and a picnic-style dinner in their open-air pavilion proceeding the game. I coordinated ticket sales with officers from Branches 1, 24, 228, 450, 553, and 855. A total of 77 members and guests attended. On September 11th, I coordinated participation of 33 members from Branches 24 and 855 in the Slovak Heritage Society's annual outdoor pig roast at the Sokol Campground. Members of these two branches received free dinner tickets from their participating branch. Then on December 5th, members of Branches 1, 24, 450, and 855 attended the annual Benedictine Vilija on the grounds of St. Andrew Abbey Svorad, Cleveland, OH. Branches 24 & 855 jointly sponsored a money-tree raffle that benefited the Benedictine Monks of the Abbey.

I fulfilled my duties according to the FCSU bylaws by participating in all National Board Meetings and an Executive Committee Meeting by invitation of the National President.

I am proud to report that during another COVID-challenged year the active districts and branches of Region 6 worked very hard to keep FCSU fraternalism alive and well.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas J. Ivanec
Region 6 Director

0Breakdown of 2021 Events Attended by Date

Attended in person:

- 5/13: George Matta funeral wake, Pittsburgh, OH
- 5/30 & 31: Andrew Harcar, Sr. wake & funeral, Streator, IL
- 6/13: Branch 731 meeting, Boardman, OH
- 6/19: Cleveland Slovak Radio Club picnic, Broadview Hts., OH
- 7/14: Branch 682 meeting, Struthers, OH
- 7/20: District 14 meeting, Poland, OH
- 7/31: Lake Erie Crushers baseball game, Avon, OH
- 8/1: Branch 1 meeting, Rocky River, OH
- 9/11: Slovak Heritage Society pig roast, Broadview Hts., OH
- 9/17 & 18: FCSU Board Meeting, College Park, MD
- 9/21: District 14 meeting, Poland, OH
- 11/7: Branch 1 meeting, Westlake, OH
- 11/14: District 10 meeting, Akron, OH
- 12/5: Benedictine Vilija, Cleveland, OH
- 12/8: Branch 764 meeting, Warren, OH
- 12/12: Slovak Heritage Society Christmas party, Broadview Hts., OH
- 12/14: District 14 Christmas party, Youngstown, OH

Attended virtually:

- 2/13: Branch 24 meeting
- 2/20: Branch 855 meeting
- 3/15: Branch 228 meeting (hosted)
- 3/20: FCSU Board Meeting
- 4/19: Branch 228 meeting (hosted)
- 5/17: Branch 228 meeting (hosted)
- 6/19: FCSU Board Meeting
- 6/21: Branch 228 meeting (hosted)

Continued on page 7

GREG MAURER

For National Chair of Auditors



FCSU CREDENTIALS

Member Branch 181, United, PA

National Chair of Auditors

- 2020 – Present
- Elected by Board, September 19, 2020
- Oversee comprehensive review of all audit types under very challenging circumstances
- Attend all Board meetings
- Attend all Executive Committee meetings at invitation of National President
- Serve on National Branch Revival Committee
- Serve on National Scholarship Committee

National Auditor

- Elected at 2018 Convention

Local positions

- Branch 181 Auditor
- Branch 181 Scholarship Committee Member
- Branch 181 Picnic Committee Member

CONTACT

PHONE: 1-724-216-7832
EMAIL: gmaurer@fcsu.com

EDUCATION

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA
MBA, 2011

Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA
BA in Mathematics, 1991; **BA** in Computing & Information Science, 1981

WORK EXPERIENCE

Kennametal, Inc., Latrobe, PA

Senior Applications Analyst – current

25-year successful work history with Kennametal Inc. This \$1.8 billion world technology leader with more than 8,600+ employees in over 60 countries helps customers stay competitive across industries such as aerospace, earthworks, energy, general engineering, and transportation.

Professional Certifications & Awards

- ISO 9001 Internal Auditor Certification, current
- Kennametal Impact Award, 2018
- Trade Secret Patent, 2014
- Kennametal Safety Award, 2014
- Operational Excellence Certificate, 2007
- Kennametal Managers Award, 2006
- Metal Cutting Professional (CMP) Certification, 2004
- Manager's Award for contribution to CMP program, 2004

INTERESTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Member & Festival Worker**, current, St. Bruno Parish
- Homecoming Liaison**, current, Saint Vincent College
- Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee**, 2011 Saint Vincent College
- President**, 2006 – 2007, Saint Vincent Alumni Association
- Third-Degree Knight**, current, Knights of Columbus
- Chairman**, 2001, ASM Society of Carbide and Tool Engineers Pittsburgh Chapter 10
- Program Creator**, 2001, College and Vocational Scholarships, ASM Society of Carbide and Tool Engineers SCTE Pittsburgh Chapter 10
- Wall of Fame Inductee**, 1996, Greensburg Central Catholic (Scholar Athlete Award)
- Assistant Basketball Coach**, 1995 – 1997, Greensburg Central Catholic High School
- President**, 1986, St. Bruno Parish Council

Based on multiple visits to Slovakia & my own family genealogy, I have conducted research into the history of my ancestral villages. These include the villages surrounding Spiš Castle in the Spiš region and those surrounding Stará Lubovňa Castle in the Prešov region.



Annual Report of Region 6 Director

continued from page 6

- 9/20: Branch 228 meeting (hosted)
- 10/15: Executive Committee Meeting
- 10/18: Branch 228 meeting (hosted)
- 11/15: Branch 228 meeting (hosted)
- 11/20: Branch 24 meeting
- 12/11: FCSU Board Meeting
- 12/20: Branch 228 meeting (hosted)

Annual Report of Region 7 Director

Dear Rev. Nasta, President Rajec, Executive officers, and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors.

As I look back at 2021, I am astounded by the numerous obstacles we, as a Fraternal, have had to navigate. The FCSU continues to strive under its great executive leadership. In business we all know that profit and loss are measurements for a good year. The FCSU had good profit in 2021 coupled with great loss...The month of May was extremely difficult on me personally, as well as the FCSU as a whole. The losses of my beloved Father-in-law, our National Vice-President, Andy Harcar, and our National Treasurer, George Matta, are still hard to process. Their years of dedication are a true testament of fraternalism. Rest in Peace Gentleman!

I have performed all the required duties of a Regional Director as listed in the FCSU bylaws.

It has been my honor and privilege to represent Region 7 for another year. I look forward to continue on as FCSU Regional Director in the future.

Respectfully,

Tim C. Graves
Region 7 Director



Is your FCSU profile up to date?

Help us serve you by making sure we have all your latest information on file – address, phone, email, beneficiary

Call the Home Office and Update Your Profile Today at:
1-800-533-6682 (JEDNOTA)

Or go to <http://www.fcsu.com/update-profile>

Statement of Candidacy

John J. Leskovyansky, Jr.
Auditor

First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada



Objective: Continue to provide High levels of OBJECTIVITY, ETHICS, PROFESSIONALISM, and CONFIDENTIALITY as one of the National Auditors. Continue working as part of a team helping improve the quality and depth of audits, rotating audit areas among the team members for a different look at each area. Apply objective review of practices during audits while providing recommendations for the improvement of the organization from prior knowledge and experience.

Education:

M.B.A., Accounting, March 1978:

Youngstown State University, 1975--1978. Graduate School, concentration in accounting.

Youngstown State University, 1973--1975, General business and accounting courses preparing for the MBA program.

B.A., March 1973: Youngstown State University, 1967-1973. History Major; Political Science Minor; extensive coursework in Psychology and Philosophy. Gamma Pi Chapter, Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity.

Professional: Retired after over 30 years combined in governmental (over 26) sector and private, or corporate accounting, finance, and management.

- Completed various Auditor of State auditing and investment seminars including Commercial Paper and Banker's Acceptance; Treasurer of State continuing education investment classes.
- Audit experience includes cash, loans, collateral, fixed assets, income and expense items, checking and savings accounts, internal control reviews, embezzlement investigation, and consolidation of affiliated bank year end income statements during audits of affiliated banks.
- Adept at reading, interpreting, and applying local, state and federal statutory and regulatory laws, codes, and rules.
- Experienced in analyzing financial and trend information, and financial forecasts; determine and identify potential challenges; plan and recommend changes and alternative courses of action.
- Performed City Administrator duties nearly four years in addition to responsibilities as Director of Finance.
- Experienced in reviewing, analyzing, and negotiating contracts.

2007 – Present	Auditor, First Catholic Slovak Union
2011 – 2014	Accountant/Budget Analyst, Portage County, Ohio, Department of Budget and Financial Management, Ravenna, Ohio
2003 – 2009	Director of Finance, City Of Campbell, Campbell, Ohio
1986 – 2003	Project Accountant, Auditor of State of Ohio, Local Government Services Division
1984 – 1985	Trust Operations Officer, Second National Bank, Warren, Ohio
1982 – 1984	Accounting Manager, Woods Of America, INC., Lordstown, Ohio
1979 – 1982	Cost, Budget, Warranty Analyst, E. W. Bliss Division, Gulf + Western Manufacturing Co., Salem, Ohio
1978 – 1979	Staff Auditor, Internal Audit, Huntington Bankshares, Inc, Columbus, Ohio

Military Service: Enlisted in U.S. Army Reserves December 1969. Received an Honorable Discharge after completing twenty-four qualifying retirement years of reserve service. Placed in Retired Status effective April 21, 2009. Twelve years with a Petroleum Unit (six as Assistant Petroleum Operations Sergeant / Unit Training NCO). Three and a half years as Battalion (8" SP Howitzer) S1 NCO, PAC (Personnel Action Center) Supervisor; responsible for soldiers' personnel actions, strength accounting, and battalion headquarters office administration and coordination. Five years in a Quartermaster Supply Company (Petroleum Platoon Sergeant, additional duties as Mobilization NCO and Movement NCO). Instructor for two and one-half years with the 2077th USARF School and 84th Division (Training), teaching Petroleum Supply Specialist and Motor Transport Operator (Truck Driver) Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Courses.

Annual Report of Region 8 Director

Mr President, Executive Committee, Father Nasta and Fellow Board Members Report for Year 2021

As always, it has been a privilege and honour to Represent the First Catholic Slovak Union as a Regional Director for Region 8 for the year 2021. I have performed all duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws of the FCSU.

The following details are a summary of the activities and events that I participated in and represented the FCSU Region 8.

Once again, due to Covid 19 most Fraternal Activities were cancelled, other than those created by Kevin Collins.

Fraternal Activities

- I was only able to attend all meetings, Annual, Semi Annual and 2 Board of Director meetings via teleconference because of Covid 19 restrictions of the International land Border being closed to non essential traffic

Local Activities – District 8

- I have attended the local annual meeting of Okres Monsignor Michael Shuba District 19 and Branch #785, as well as their semi-annual meetings via Zoom calls. I still keep in touch with Alex Drobnik, Past President of Okres Prince Ratislav District 20 for any updates to the district and branches from the Province of Quebec.
- A Local golf Tournament was held in September 2021 with members attending .
- I also attended funeral services of our deceased members in Mississauga Ontario.
- Please note that all local activities, except the local golf tournament, were cancelled due to the Covid 19 restrictions in Ontario, Canada

Respectfully submitted

Miloš Mitro
Regional 8 Director

Kenneth A. Arendt

For National President

**FCSU CREDENTIALS**50+ year Member
Branch 228, Lorain, OH**National Board & Executive Officer**
Serving in the following leadership positions for 28 years:**Executive Secretary**
1995 – Present

- Elected consecutively at 7 previous Conventions
- Serve on National Executive Committee
- Serve on National Finance Committee
- Serve on National Membership & Marketing Committee

Past Leadership:

- **Trustee**, FCSU Pension Board
- **Director**, Jednota Properties
- **Director**, Jednota Communications
- **Vice President**, District 10
- **Vice President/Financial Secretary**, Branch 228

CONTACTPHONE:
1-800-553-6682, x 113EMAIL:
KenArendt@sbccglobal.net**EXPERIENCE**

First Catholic Slovak Union, Independence, OH
Executive Secretary: 1995 – present
My 28+ year successful work history with the FCSU provides an excellent background to serve as your National President. The Executive Secretary is responsible for all day-to-day operations of the Society as well as serving as Chief Accounting and Corresponding Officer for the FCSU. Duties encompasses all personnel and property management; all financial reporting and compliance at the federal, state, and local levels; and processing and certifying membership requirements.

Accomplishment Highlights:

- Throughout my leadership, I have been instrumental in:
- Delivering sustained, record-setting increases in FCSU finances, including a 16% increase in assets & 6.6% increase in surplus, 2021
 - Focusing on effective product sales and promotions to increase premium and annuity income which increased 99.2% in 2021
 - Expanding network of independent insurance agents to more than 450 as more states look for fraternal sales through these channels
 - Instituting reimbursement program for those FCSU recommenders who wish to obtain their licenses
 - Ensuring that the FCSU is licensed in and in compliance with all regulations in 27 states
 - Consistently receiving excellent reviews from state audits
 - Launching a new website in 2017 and FCSU digital newsletter
 - Continually updating the website including the addition of agent and member information portals
 - Controlling operating expenses through procedural enhancements like automatic premium payments, annuity check deposits, and loan or premium payments via credit card

Prior Experience:

- **Fiscal Officer** – Lorain, OH County Sheriff's Department
- **Controller** – Westcom, Inc., Cleveland, OH
- **Accountant** – Thomas A. Compana CPA, Lorain, OH
- **Auditor** – City of Lorain Income Tax Department
- **Municipal Court Bailiff** – City of Lorain Municipal Court
- **Supervisor, Corporate Trust Dept** – National City Bank of Cleveland

ADDITIONAL FRATERNAL/COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Current Chairman of Auditors & Board of Directors Member – American Slovak Club, Lorain, OH
Current Executive Member – American Fraternal Alliance
Current Vice President – United Slovak Societies, Lorain, OH
Current Board of Directors Member – Slovak Catholic Federation
Current Board of Directors Member – Slovak League of America
Current Member, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
Past Board of Directors Member – National Fraternal Congress of America, Fraternal Section
Past Accountant & Finance Committee Member – St. Mary's Church and School, Vermilion, OH
Past Pastoral Council Member – St. Mary's Church and School, Vermilion, OH

EDUCATION & TRAINING

American Institute of Banking Training Program – Cleveland, OH
Lorain Community College – Elyria, OH
Cuyahoga Community College – Cleveland, OH
Ohio State University – Columbus, OH
Sullivan Military School – Washington, DC

Damian D. Nasta

For National Vice President

**FCSU CREDENTIALS**

- **40+ year Member, Branch 857**, Levittown, PA (since 1979)
- **Financial Secretary** 2018 - Present
- **Recording Secretary** 1983 – 2017

• **National Board Member: Region 2 Director**

- 1999 – Present
- Longest serving Regional Director, elected to this office at the past 6 consecutive FCSU Conventions
- Attend all Board meetings
- Attend all Executive Committee meetings at invitation of National President
- Attend & participate in as many fraternal activities as possible throughout the Society

- **District 8 Officer: Financial Secretary** 1987 – 2014

CONTACTPHONE:
1 (267) 795-7930EMAIL:
dnasta@fcsu.com**EDUCATION**

Bucks County Community College, Newtown, PA
Associate of Arts, Business Data Processing, 1979

Additional Education:
Temple University, 1979 – 1980
Trenton State College, 1981

Earned Continuing Education credits from various courses for using proprietary software products from Ellucian, Inc and MS Office Products.

Attended Annual User Group Meeting and Training Seminars for Ellucian, Inc. (1993-2019)

WORK EXPERIENCE

40+ years successful work history in the Information Technology Department of a secondary education institute has allowed me to develop skills extremely applicable to the position of National Vice President, First Catholic Slovak Union.

Bucks County Community College, Newtown, PA (1979 – 2021)

- **Senior Student Systems Information Administrator** (position at retirement)
- Consistently promoted based on performance, handling such responsibilities throughout the years as:
 - Programmer/Analyst
 - Database Manager
- Recognized for outstanding contributions to operations management by College Board of Trustees Accommodation for protecting data records from fire damage

Additional Community Involvement/Leadership

- **President**, Bucks County Community College Federal Credit Union (1998-2004)
- **Board of Directors Member**, Bucks County Community College Federal Credit Union (1989-2012)
- **Third-Degree Knight**, current, Knights of Columbus
- **Treasurer/Office Manager** – St. Michael's Parish Annual Carnival (2001 – current)
- **CYO Treasurer** – St. Michael's Parish (1998 – 2010)
- **CYO Coach** – Various sports at K-12 grades. St. Michael's Parish (1998 – 2010)
- **Volunteer Worker** – St. Michael's parish, carnival worker for annual 13-night fundraiser for the past 50 years

SKILLS PROFILE

- Works well in a team environment
- Analytical & problem-solving abilities
- Coordinating projects for such operational critical areas as data migration
- Financial acumen within different enterprises, including fraternal, credit unions, and non-profit
- Proven experience working well within a team environment to achieve success
- Negotiating and managing vendor relationships

EDUCATION

CSI Global Education Inc., Toronto

- Canadian Securities Course
- Conduct and Practices Handbook Course

Certified General Accountants of Ontario, Toronto

- Numerous courses completed up to Levels 4 and 5 (CGA)

George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology, Toronto

- Diploma - Culinary Management

WORK EXPERIENCE

Currently serves as National Treasurer, First Catholic Slovak Union. I was elected to this position by the Board of Directors at the September 2021 quarterly meeting. In this capacity, I have successfully performed all required duties of the office including serving as a key member of the Executive Committee which oversees the financial operations of the Society and conduct all pertinent FCSU business as necessary.

Tokarsky Corporate Services, Toronto/Mississauga, Canada
President & Owner (1984 – present)

Services I have provided to clients as or at the level of Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Secretary and/or Controller provide an excellent background for my position as FCSU National Treasurer. These include acting as specialist and provider of public company compliance, filings, disclosure, accounting, governance and other services required by:

- junior public companies
- companies and their management preparing to go public in Canada.

 Clients in the past covered a wide range of industries, including: mineral exploration, oil and gas exploration and production, cannabis production, food sales and distribution, electronics, real estate, capital pools, investment holding companies, restaurants, miniature golf and gaming, consumer information kiosks and small medical devices and supplies.

SKILLS PROFILE

- Long and short-term investment assistance (e.g. term deposits, treasury bills, commercial paper, stocks, bonds, warrants, notes, loans, etc.)
- Preparation of financial statements for public and internal use
- Financial projection and budget preparation
- Cash management, with oversight of client bank accounts
- Oversight of fixed and property assets
- Ensuring sound corporate governance policies and internal controls
- Preparation of public disclosure documents, news releases and other reports as required by regulatory authorities and stock exchanges in North America
- Preparation for board and committee meetings; member and executive management functions such as corporate resolutions, minutes, stock options and compensation planning, annual meeting materials, debenture, and financing documentation
- Management of and participation in corporate transactions such as public offerings, private placements, acquisitions, and dispositions

KEVIN J. COLLINS

For Executive Secretary

**FCSU CREDENTIALS**

- Lifelong Member
Branch 112
- National Board Member:
2019 – Present
 - Current Vice President
 - Elected by Board 9/21
 - Attend all Board meetings
 - Attend all Executive Committee meetings
 - Travel to all member meetings/events possible throughout the Society
 - Serve on 2022 Convention Committee, introducing new venue/ideas
- Fraternal Activities Director
 - Elected by 2018 Convention
 - Tripled # of contests/events
 - Continue to perform fraternal activity duties under office of National VP

CONTACTPHONE:
1 (813) 493-1515EMAIL:
kevinfcsu@outlook.com**EDUCATION**

Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
Bachelor of Science, Hotel, Restaurant, & Institutional Management, 1985

Certifications & Training

Nationwide Instructor - Mountain Challenge Team Building Program
Total Quality Management Training
NCAA College Football Official
Certified Bourbon Steward

WORK EXPERIENCE

30+ years successful work history in the wine, food, & beverage industries. My strong track record of success in personnel and operations management as well as sales and customer service are extremely applicable to the position of Executive Secretary, First Catholic Slovak Union.

National Sales Director for start-up distilleries 2015 – 2022

- Opened new distribution network throughout the country
- Consistently increased sales to record levels
- Launched successful product & incentive programs
- Created presence in major chains like Publix, Total Wine & ABC

Sales Manager/Account Exec for local wineries 1997 - 2014

- Consistently increased sales territories
- Consistently increased sales
- Serviced major accounts like Walmart, Outback, & cruise lines
- Developed private labeling for national accounts

Operations & Staff Management for leading food & beverage enterprises 1986 - 1996

- Served as on-premises staff & sales manager for Lipman Brothers, Nashville, TN
- Managed college dining facilities for Marriott Management Services

Additional Community Involvement/Leadership

- **Co-chairperson** - School-To-Work Program (1991 – 1995)
- **Board of Directors** - Blount County Vocational (1993)
- **Coach** - Special Olympics (1989 – 1990)

SKILLS PROFILE

- Experienced in all aspects of personnel management: recruiting, hiring, training, performance management, and team building
- Business Plan & Mission Statement development
- Managing sales accounts on local, regional, and national levels
- Developing and hosting strategic sales meetings
- Budgeting, forecasting, pricing, programming
- Creating and managing incentive programs
- Launching new product campaigns
- Negotiating large distributor networks
- Negotiating and managing vendor relationships
- Handling customer service for large and local accounts

John V. Tokarsky

For National Treasurer

**FCSU CREDENTIALS**

- **Member, Branch 785**, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada (since 1989)
- **National Board Member:** 2021 – present
 - Elected by Board 9/21
 - Current National Treasurer
 - Current Executive Committee Member
 - Attend all Board and Executive Committee meetings

• **District/Branch Offices: Msgr. Michael Shuba District 19**

- 2012 – present
 - Current Fraternal Activities Director
 - 2011 – present
 - Current Financial Secretary
 - 2009 – present
 - Current Treasurer
 - 2001 – 2003
 - Chairman of Auditors
- Branch 785** 2012 – present
 - Current Fraternal Activities Director

- Annual participant in national bowling and golf tournaments and as many fraternal activities as possible throughout the Society

CONTACTPHONE:
1 (416) 948-6606EMAIL:
jtakar8412@aol.com**Dear Fellow Fraternal Members and Readers**

continued from page 2

Slovak Festival in November. Hopefully, such events will inspire future leaders for Jednota and the Slovak-American community.

On the international stage, the generous people of Slovakia have been continuing to assist Ukraine and its refugees, and the Slovak government has provided its S-300 air-defense system and other arms to drive back Russian invaders. Once again, do not forget to assist our fellow Slavs and send donations through "Slovak-Americans Stand with Ukraine", or directly to "Slovak Catholic Charities". Pán Boh zaplat (The Lord God will repay you)! Links are in the April Jednota issue and on the FCSU website.

Here is an important note for contributors. When making submissions for the newspaper, please do not send me a scanned pdf file. A pdf that is scanned presents obstacles, and the printer cannot edit a scanned document. A Word Doc is always preferable instead, even if you have to type it out.

Otherwise it presents problems for me as editor and for the printer. Also, if you send photos, also upload them as .jpeg files. I also urge you to number them and include captions by the number at the bottom of your Word document. This will lessen and mitigate an already heavy workload.

Finally, I again urge members and readers to send messages to a new section which I plan in the future: Letters to the Editor. Hopefully, this will provide an opportunity for input on our articles and offer some fresh ideas on how we might continue to help our society and publication grow and innovate.

Feel free to send a message to the editor by mail to the society or at the following e-mail address: editor@fcsu.com - Note this is a new e-mail.

With sincere fraternal regards, so úprimným bratským pozdravom,

Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., editor (redactor)
e-mail: editor@fcsu.com

"For God and Nation" (Za Boha a národ).

Gary J. Matta

For General Counsel

**FCSU CREDENTIALS**Lifelong Member,
Branch 38,
White Oak, PA

- **General Counsel:**
2007 – present
 - Elected consecutively at 4 previous Conventions
 - Attend all Board meetings at invitation of the National President
 - Attend & participate in as many fraternal activities as possible throughout the Society
- **Past Pittsburgh District 6 Offices:**
President
Fraternal Activities Director
- **Past Branch 38 Offices:**
President
Secretary
Fraternal Activities Director

CONTACT

PHONE:

Office 1 (412) 243-1600
Cell 1 (412) 965-6151EMAIL:
gmatta@law-dmc.comWEBSITE:
www.yourfcsu.com**EDUCATION**The Duquesne University School of Law, Pittsburgh, PA
Juris Doctor Degree, 2002The University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
Bachelor of Science, 1988**WORK EXPERIENCE**

I have served as the First Catholic Slovak Union General Counsel, for the past 15+ years, with responsibility for reviewing Society legal documents and rendering legal opinions on legal matters referred by the President, minimizing outside legal expenses, and cooperating with all National Officers. Throughout this period, I also have maintained a successful law practice.

Dodaro, Matta & Cambest, P.C., Greater Pittsburgh area
Partner & Attorney at Law (2002 – present)
Serve as principal within this law firm offering a wide range of legal and advocacy services for both public and private clients. Specific practice areas encompass:

- Municipal Law
- Bond Counsel
- School & Education Law
- Criminal Law
- Real Estate Law
- Commercial Law
- Finance Law

Prior ExperienceAllegheny County District Attorney's Office
Law Clerk – Criminal Law, 2000 – 2002Duquesne City School District
Business Manager, Director of Human Resources & Board Secretary,
1992 – 2001Pennsylvania Auditor General's Office
Audit Supervisor, Board of State Aided Audits, 1988 - 1991**SKILLS PROFILE**

Providing legal counsel for business and government clients alike in such key areas as:

- Business Development
- Business Growth
- Land use, planning and zoning
- Labor and employment matters
- Contract award and procurement
- Law enforcement policy, liability, and management
- Developing and drafting policies, regulations, and ordinances
- Public meetings and hearings
- Navigating the complexities of the judicial system

Members and delegates of the First Catholic Slovak Union,

I, Charles Boone, am announcing my candidacy for the office of Fraternal Activities Director of the FCSU. I am publishing this intent according to First Catholic Slovak Union bylaws section 8.02.

The position of Fraternal Activities Director is an important part of our society for it's the catalyst for people of all ages, to become involved. We had diligent people in this position. I want to be the next Fraternal Activities Director to continue the outstanding work and to continue to bring in new ideas and ways to use more technology into the society.

Knowing my Slovak heritage is important to me. I've been involved in Slovak activities and been a lifelong member of the FCSU. For years I danced with the Pittsburgh Junior Slovaks. I received the FCSU scholarship. I'm involved in both Branch 853 and the Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District activities.

In being young in my career as a professional pilot, I can adjust my schedule so that I can dedicate the time that's needed, when it's needed, for this very important position.

As we adjusted our lives these last two years, Covid interrupted college for me. I am currently continuing with my flight hours as I strive towards my ATP and as I finish my degree in Computer Science. Technology is part of all our lives. My degree will enhance my ability to perform this position.

Organizing events is essential for this position. I became a Guinness World Record holder when I was 18. There're many hoops to jump through but I was able to organize it, and get it done.

I am an Eagle Scout in which I made Boy Scouts history by being one of the few scouts who earned every Boy Scout merit badge. When it was time for my Eagle project, I remembered those who do not have a voice. I organized and conducted a community-wide donation event for Animal Friends of Pittsburgh. My project was the largest single donation ever made to the animal shelter. Also, by working with Animal Friends to recruit a merit badge counselor, I organized the Dog Care Merit Badge and Pets Merit Badge programs so that other scouts can earn the badges. In scouts, I stayed true to my religion by earning all the Roman Catholic Scouting Religious Awards. Over Christmas break one year, I presented the Religious Activity Rosary Series program for my troop.

As you can see, I am not a stranger to organizing events. With the FCSU and my Slovak heritage being an important part of my life, I can assure the members of our great FCSU, that I will work to keep the position fun and to increase the membership participation. I respectfully ask for your support and vote at the upcoming Convention. Vote for Charles Boone for Fraternal Activities Director.

Fraternally,
Charles Boone



Announcement of Candidacy of Bradley Matta for Regional Director, District 5

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that I intend to run for the position of Regional Director, District 5 at the upcoming Convention.

First, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Michael E. Lako who is retiring from the position as Regional Director. I have known Mr. Lako since I was a young child participating as a member of the Pittsburgh Junior Slovaks; learning the Slovak language, culture, and folk dances. Mr. Lako is a man of great character. He has always been proud of his Slovak heritage and demonstrated his love for his family. I believe I have these same characteristics and would like to take this opportunity to briefly tell you a little bit about myself and my interest for running for Regional Director for District 5 of the Pittsburgh Region.

I am most proud of my family – so it is only appropriate to start with them. I am blessed to be married to my wife, Gretchen Dimeling Matta, and we have two sons: George Hagen Matta (2 years old), and Bradley Bannon Matta (1 year old). My wife and I are extremely proud to have named our oldest son after my late father and grandfather, George F. Matta. Both my father and grandfather served as National Treasurer to the FCSU, and I am proud to run for Regional Director in their honor. My family has been involved in the FCSU since I literally can remember – and have attended my first convention back in Orlando, Florida back in 1986.

I am a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University (2007), receiving a B.S. in Public Policy and Management, and minor in Business Administration. I next obtained my law degree from Duquesne University School of Law in 2010, and currently work for Viatrix Inc. (formerly Mylan Inc.) as Litigation Counsel, handling litigation through North America, including employment, antitrust, product liability, commercial, and securities matters. I have been in this role since 2015.

I am interested in being elected for Regional Director to bring a young, energetic attitude that is interested in working with, and learning from, the current Board and Executive Officers to be part of the bridge that continues moving the FCSU forward for the Society's future generations.

I look forward to meeting the Delegates and their families at the upcoming Convention and would hope to spend a few moments together in answering any questions and further explaining my interest in serving as a Regional Director, and why I believe I have the background, education, and qualifications to serve in this position.

Sincerely,

Bradley Matta

Annual Report of Region 1 Director

Continued from page 5

and evaluation, risk assessments were an integral part of my work. Enterprise risk management in business includes the methods and processes used by organizations to manage risks while seizing opportunities related to the achievement of objectives. This is important for large companies even for the FCSU!

I am proud of the excellent work that was done by the branches and districts of Region 1 in continuing to meet, host activities (virtual or in person), and fostering a sense of the Jednota community during the global pandemic. Each of us faced different challenges in 2020 and 2021 but we were there for one another. As restrictions eased this summer, I eagerly organized the Region 1 Picnic which has now become an annual tradition and is hosted with the generous financial support of Branch 746.

Let me take this opportunity to highlight some of the activities in 2021 which helped to promote our society, fraternalism, Slovak culture and traditions, the Slovak language and the values of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

The Slovak Ball: Due to the global pandemic there was no Slovak Ball in 2021. [A note for the readers – as I write this, I can confidently say that I know the future, I predict there will be a Slovak Ball in 2022 – it will be the 28th annual Slovak Ball and is predicated to take place on February 26, 2022. I can tell that it will be an absolutely extraordinary event validated by others as “the best ball ever”! I also predict that an article about the event will appear in the April 2022 issue of the Jednota •••;!]

As the Chairwoman of The Slovak Ball I am heavily involved in planning and details of the event, so it was strange to have so much free time on my hands in early 2021! Of course, I quickly began brainstorming on what other activities could be offered to the community! Taking lessons learned from 2020, it was evident that the Slovak American community enjoyed learning through webinars and these events are accessible to people from all over the US.

Webinars: In collaboration with the Slovak-American Cultural Center's excellent team, I helped to organize and moderate several webinars on various topics offered to Jednota members. The webinars were on a wide range of subjects and were made interactive using the Slovak-developed Slido platform, which enabled audience members to participate in polls and ask questions of the guest speakers. In total there were six webinars offered to Jednota members in 2021 building on the six webinars offered in 2020. The webinars were advertised in the Jednota newsletter, newspaper, and links are available on the Jednota website as well as SlovakAmericanCC.org.

In February mountaineer and explorer Vanessa O'Brien – the first woman to reach Earth's highest and lowest points, holding a Guinness World Record for summiting Mt. Everest in 2012 and diving in a submersible to the eastern pool of Challenger Deep in 2020 – shared her electrifying story of endurance, perseverance, athleticism, and courage which was inspiring and riveting. Vanessa also proudly shared her Slovak roots as she elaborated on her family history as well as read excerpts from

her book, To the Greatest Heights: Facing Danger, Finding Humility, and Climbing a Mountain of Truth, remembering fondly the Slovak Roman Catholic Church she attended in PA as a child.

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MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA DECEMBER 11, 2021 INDEPENDENCE, OHIO (TELECONFERENCE)

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked National Vice President Kevin Collins to lead the opening prayer. 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.

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;
Kevin Collins, National Vice President – present;
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary - present;
John Tokarsky, National Treasurer – present via telephone;
Gregory Maurer, Chairman of Auditors – 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;
Thomas Ivanec, Regional Director, Region 6 – present via telephone;
Timothy Graves, Regional Director, Region 7 – present via telephone;
Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 – present via telephone;
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel - present via telephone.

READING OF THE CALL:

The Executive Secretary then read the Call to the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 2021:

A motion was made by Sabina Sabados and seconded by Timothy Graves to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held September 19, 2021, as presented. Motion carried.

AQS REPORT:

Larry White, representing AQS Asset Management Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report to the Board of Directors by teleconference. 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.

Mr. White gave a presentation concerning "Commissioners Annuity Reserve Valuation Method" (CARVM). Mr. White recommends that the FCSU adopts the CARVM when calculating reserves. A motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by Gregory Maurer to adopt this method. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky gave a detailed update on the investments and answered the Board's questions.

FINANCIAL REPORT:Executive Secretary's Report

The President and the Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the third quarter of 2021. After the Executive Secretary's report, he answered the Board's questions. He also stated we are in the process of completing the fourth quarter financial report and once completed, it will be sent to all Directors.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

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

Portfolio Custodian

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

Investment Updates

The President, Executive Secretary, and Treasurer led a review on the investments and transactions with the UBS Fund, MAI Fund, and the Clutterbuck Fund. Following the report, they answered the Board's questions.

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.

Scholarship Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Scholarship Committee, which is comprised of three independent professional educators. Applications for the Jednota Benevolent scholarships are being received and they will be sent to the Scholarship Committee. The Executive Secretary also gave a report on the Jednota Benevolent Foundation and answered the Board's questions.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents to the Board of Directors. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have over 450 agents. This represents fewer than 17 agents for each of the states we are licensed in. The Home Office is sending monthly updates on our products to our independent agents. The Home Office continues an extensive recruiting campaign to recruit agents in the states we are licensed in. The Home Office is currently targeting agents in the 27 states we are licensed in. Annuity sales are well ahead of plan.

The Vice President is working with the Home Office and the outside marketing firm to develop new recruiting campaigns to recruit agents we are currently licensed in.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2022:

The Executive Secretary presented the proposed budget for 2022 to the Board for approval and answered any questions. A motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by Martha Zavada to approve the proposed budget for 2022. Motion carried.

DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN:

The Executive Secretary presented the updated Disaster Recovery Plan which included the Information Security Program (Cybersecurity). A copy of the plans were available for the Boards review. A motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by James Marmol to accept the plans. Motion carried.

LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM:

The Executive Secretary updated the Board on the current life insurance program being offered to all members under the age of 80. 350 members took advantage of this offer. The Executive Committee will review the program and discuss if they should re-run the program or develop a new life insurance program.

CONVENTION:

The Executive Secretary said that the estimated delegate count letters have been mailed out to the Branches who qualify to attend the Convention. He stated that the estimated number of delegates is based on the number of members as of October 1, 2021. The final delegate count will be based on the number of members as of February 1, 2022.

The Executive Secretary stated that electronic voting machines will be used again at the convention for all motions and the election. The voting process will be explained to the delegates.

The Executive Secretary stated that the Home Office is working on a Plan B for the convention due to the pandemic. The Home Office is looking at options for a virtual convention to be held, if necessary. This is not anticipated, but the Home Office is preparing just in case.

LONG TERM PLANNING:

The President stated that he received long term planning strategy proposals from two different consulting firms. He will present them at the Board of Directors meeting in March for review.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

Director of Fraternal Activities Kevin Collins gave an overview of the NFL Losers Pool, Hunting Contest, Ugly Sweater Contest, Tree Decorating Contest, and Coloring Contests. He is looking into expanding the coloring contest to more age groups.

The Director of Fraternal Activities is looking forward to holding the Kentucky Derby Hat Contest and a virtual Easter Basket Blessing.

The Director of Fraternal Activities stated that a regional picnic is planned for June 12, 2022 in Novelty, Ohio and is looking into holding a picnic at Frogbridge in New Jersey and at Knoebles Amusement Resort in Pennsylvania. More details will follow.

The Director of Fraternal Activities stated that he is looking into activities to be held during the Convention. The possibilities include a casino night on Saturday night and either a boat trip or a party at Top Golf on Monday night. More details are to follow.

MATCHING FUNDS:

The President is developing a matching funds program and will present it to the Board at the Annual Meeting for review.

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2022

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and asked Larry White to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kevin Collins, National Vice President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
John Tokarsky, Treasurer (via teleconference)
Michael Lako, Regional Director (by invitation of the President)
(via teleconference)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE JANUARY MEETING MINUTES:

The President presented the minutes of the January 21, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kevin Collins and seconded by Kenneth A. Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

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

Mr. White also reviewed new investment opportunities in commercial mortgages and answered the Committee's questions.

The President reviewed the meeting he had with Sean Hardy concerning our portfolio investments with UBS. He will also contact Robert Clutterbuck from the Clutterbuck Fund to meet with the Committee to review our current portfolios.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary 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. The Executive Committee discussed the report and the Executive Secretary answered the Committee's questions. The Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the third quarter of 2021. After the Executive Secretary's report, he answered the Committee's questions.

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 its 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 2022:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	123,798.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	39,289.63
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$	0.00
Trust Fund	\$	0.00

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

The Treasurer gave a review of his written report and answered the Committee's question.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates:

The President stated that the annuity rates will remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting. The Committee agreed.

SALES AND MARKETING:

Vice President Kevin Collins presented a sales report to the Executive Committee Meeting. After his report, he answered the Committee's questions.

The Vice President stated that he is working with the Home Office and an agency to recruit more independent agents in the states that we are licensed in. The Home Office will continue to use email to recruit agents. As more information is available, he will present it to the Board.

The Vice President stated he will work with the Home Office staff to develop training, recruitment, and informational videos for the Branches and Districts to be used at meetings. He will also work with our outside marketing firm and the Home Office in developing new material to advertise for agents.

The President stated that since the Membership Meet was not held last year due to the

coronavirus pandemic, one is considered to be held in 2022. He is looking into possible sites. He is also looking to create an incentive plan for agents to qualify for the membership meet.

CONVENTION:

The President and the Executive Secretary stated that the Home Office staff is making preparations with the Holiday Inn – Cleveland South Independence, the host of our 52nd Quadrennial Convention. The President and Executive Secretary are working on the Convention Agenda and various activities to include having the talent contest winners perform. As more details are finalized, a report will be presented to the Board.

Executive Secretary reminded the Committee to inform all the Branches and Districts to refer to Bylaw 11.03 and Bylaw 11.04 in preparation for the 52nd Quadrennial Convention. If they have any questions, they should contact the Home Office. The Executive Secretary stated that the final delegate count letter will be mailed out to qualifying branches the first week of February. The final delegate count will be based on the number of members as of February 1, 2022.

HOME OFFICE UPDATE:

The President and the Executive Secretary gave an update on the Home Office operations. The Executive Secretary stated that the Home Office is still following the recommendations of the CDC. The Office is open with limited hours to maintain day to day operations. Any guests are asked to call before visiting.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Editor:

The President stated that Michael Kopanic was hired as the new editor of the Jednota newspaper and he started on February 1, 2022. Any notices for the Jednota newspaper should be sent to editor@fcsu.com.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS:

The President stated that he is still encouraging Branches and Districts to hold either virtual or in-person meetings, and follow all the recommended CDC guidelines. Hopefully, conditions will improve.

LONG TERM PLANNING:

The President stated that he has received information from two consulting firm on long term planning for our Society. He will present it to the Board at the Annual Meeting for review.

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 John Tokarsky to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting

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STEPHEN MATULA SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

The President stated he is in the final stages of setting up the Stephen Matula Scholarship Fund. The President will have General Counsel Gary Matta review the information. An update will be given to the Board at the Annual Meeting.

JEDNOTA MEMORIAL:

The President stated that he in contact with a local landscaper in Middletown, Pennsylvania. The landscaper will power wash the memorial area.

EDITOR:

The President stated that he had several inquiries for the position of Editor of the Jednota newspaper but has not received any applications. He will continue to advertise for the position and use an outside employment firm if necessary.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING:

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Reverend Thomas Nasta to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by James Marmol to adjourn. Motion carried.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

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The March webinar explored one of the world's biggest challenges: ocean pollution. Slovak architect Lenka Petraková, winner of the 2020 Grand Prix Award for Architecture and Innovation of Sea from the Jacques Rougerie Foundation - Institut de France, presented her design concept, "The 8th Continent," which offers a solution to a crucial part of this problem. Adding to the discussion was Bonnie Monteleone, founder of Plastic Ocean Project, a non-profit whose mission is to educate the public through field research and implement outreach initiatives addressing the global plastics pollution problem, and Nick Adamo, technology executive and founder of Making a Mark, a charitable foundation dedicated to empowering change through awareness, knowledge and inclusive opportunities targeting the environment and education. The webinar offered excellent ways each of us can reduce ocean waste.

In late March, a webinar on Slovak Easter traditions and delicious dishes was appropriate for the season. The webinar was presented by Global Slovakia founders Dr. Gabriela Bereghazyova and Dr. Zuzana Palovic. In April these two accomplished women virtually launched their new book *Super Slovaks / Super Slováci* with an interactive discussion and presentation of their 270-page vividly illustrated bilingual book that tells the story of Slovakia through 50 personalities that shaped the country. It was exciting to see so many Jednota members engage in the question-and-answer session.

In May, there was a virtual launch of the children's book *Ja som Milan*, the fascinating biography of a great Slovak statesman, soldier and scientist, designed to entertain audiences both young and old. The authors, Róbert Čemerička and Stanislava Čemeríčková, took the audience behind the scenes of the creation of this unique, beautifully illustrated book which depicts the life journey of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik, one of the greatest heroes of Slovak history. The young authors based in Slovakia are working on a series of books depicting the true life stories of Slovakia's heroes – in summer of 2021 they released *Ja Som Ľudovít* a book about Ľudovít Štúr and are working on *Ja Som Hana* about Hana Gregorova whose most famous book is called *Ženy (Women)* released in 1912.

To conclude the webinar series, in June, a panel of Slovak-American medical doctors discussed how the pandemic, as a chronic stressor, impacts our brains, emotional regulation, decision making, impulses and daily interactions. The panel included renowned scientists and clinicians.

Thank you to the Jednota members that participated, if you did not have a chance to watch live, I encourage you to view the recordings.

Region 1 Picnic: In 2021, I was excited to once again organize the Region 1 Summer Picnic which has become a fun annual summer tradition. The picnic was an initiative on my part as Region 1 Director to have a joint event when I first became Regional Director. Branch 746 had hosted a summer picnic but with my branches financial support, we were able to extend the invitation to all the branches of the region!

After a long hiatus from in-person events, members gathered on a beautiful sunny Sunday under the shade of the Linden trees to spend some quality time together and enjoy delicious Slovak food including holupky, halusky, BBQ ribs, chicken cutlets, sausage and kraut, the obligatory picnic hot dogs, Slovak cucumber salad, watermelon and more!! After enjoying some delicious home-made desserts and refreshing fruit, courtesy of the ladies of Branch 45, 290, and 746, the mood was set for singing of some traditional Slovak folk songs. The young (and young at heart) enjoyed the playground at the park and some special games while others indulged in some wine from Indian Trail Winery courtesy of Slovak winemakers and Jednota members, Mr. and Mrs. Stefan Cuchran. We were honored to have some special guests attend the Region 1 picnic which included: FCSU President Andrew M. Rajec and Mrs. Idka Rajec who addressed the Jednota members; interim Vice President Andrew P. Rajec; Fr. Marek Visnovsky, Rector of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Parma, Ohio and Vicar General of the Eparchy of Parma and Mrs. Miriam Miriam Visnovsky and family.

56th Anniversary of Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel: As the September meeting of the Board of Directors was held near Washington, DC – it was an opportunity for the entire Board to attend the pilgrimage mass. Annually Region 1 Jednota members from New York and New Jersey travel 4 hours each way to attend this beautiful mass organized by Katherine Nowatkoski and Branch 856. The Slovak mass was a beautiful way to commemorate the anniversary of the dedication of the FCSU Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows. FCSU members should be proud that our society's name is prominently displayed in the Chapel along with the inscription in Slovak above the altar, "Our Mother of Sorrows, Virgin Mary, Patroness of the Slovak People, Pray for Us." During this same time Pope Francis visited Slovakia. It was wonderful to see members of Branch 45 and 746 in attendance.

Slovak Heritage Festival: On September 26th the 43rd Slovak Heritage Festival was held in East Brunswick, New Jersey. The program included Holy Mass with celebrant Fr. Stefan Chanas, performances by the children's folklore ensemble Limboráčik from New York, Slovak folk band Pajtáši, jazz artist Hanka G. Jozef Bil, and Vlado Kolenic, leader of the popular Taktici band from the 1970s. This annual event is a wonderful opportunity for Slovaks to reconnect and enjoy great Slovak cuisine. The First Catholic Slovak Union also had an advertising table where we distributed promotional materials, met members and non-members, and spread the word about our society. President Andrew Rajec, Mrs. Idka Rajec, and Miriam Visnovsky (Branch 24) represented Jednota. I also helped at the table throughout the day engaging with the public and disseminating information about our society along with Supreme Court member Emilia Filak and Emil Filak of Branch 746. Members of Branches 45, 290, 716, and 746 also attended the festival and stopped by the table to say hello! Although smaller in size due to the pandemic, about 2,000 people attended. The Slovak Festival continues to be one of the largest festivals organized in the US and is a perfect outlet to promote our society, draw attention to what Jednota does, and solicit new members. A huge thank you to Slovak Festival Committee who organizes the annual event Chaired by Marek Soltis, Vice Chair Jane Konzeln (Branch 45), Mr. and Mrs. Jozef and Anna Korcak (Branch 45), and Eva and Jan Lysak (Branch 716).

United Nations: On September 14th leaders and professionals from the Slovak community were invited to the residence Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, H.E. Michal Mlynar who hosted a reception on the occasion of the official visit of Slovakia's Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, H.E. Ivan Korčok. The event marked the

start of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly. I was honored to be attend and represent the FCSU.

Gala Evening in NYC: On November 15th the Slovak Permanent Mission to the United Nations hosted a special Gala Evening in celebration of the 76th anniversary of the United Nations and commemorated the 125th anniversary of the birth and 30th anniversary of the death of Dr. Ján Papánek, the first Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the UN, and one of the fourteen co-authors of the UN Charter. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth, another important Slovak was remembered, Slovak, Alexander Dubček. Both leaders dedicated their lives to the fight for freedom and democracy, but also to humanism, human dignity and service to the people. By invitation of Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations, Ambassador Michal Mlynár and his wife Andrea I was honored to moderate the event. Amongst those in attendance was the President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly and Archbishop Gabriele Giordano Caccia, Permanent Observer Of The Holy See To The United Nations. Notes of congratulations were also shared by Secretary General of the United Nations and Former Secretary of State Madeline Albright. The program featured Slovak-American performers including Broadway star Luba Mason of Branch 45.

Centennial of St. Michael's Slovak Church: On December 12th Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., celebrated a Mass and blessed a St. Michael mosaic to commemorate the 100th anniversary of St. Michael Church in Trenton, New Jersey. Erected in 1921 to serve the Slovak community of North Trenton, St. Michael Church sits at 1130 Brunswick Avenue. Natives of Slovakia, priests Father Vladimir Chripko (Branch 746) served the Slovak community until 2015 followed by Fr. Peter Budjos (Branch 746) who is currently ministering to the community. Con-celebrating the mass were many priests with links to the parish including priests from St. Filip Neri Oratory namely Fr. Francis Conka (Branch 746) and Fr. Roman Palecko (Branch 746). Following the mass there was a reception which included performances by children from the Slovak school Pramienok and live music by the band Relax. I attended the event along with many members of Jednota from Branch 746: Mr. and Mrs. Emil and Emilia Filak, Mr. and Mrs. Jan and Kristina Draculin, Mr. and Mrs. Jan and Danka Mikulasko, and Mr. Milan Kohany and his grandson.

LUX New York: Jednota members continue to benefit from Holy Mass (in Slovak at 10:15am and English at 12:00pm) being broadcast via Facebook by LUX New York through the live stream masses from St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City. In our region parishes were closed for in-person masses since March 2020. LUX New York brings mass to those that are unable to attend in person to countless Catholics. Branch 45, 716, and 746 members continue to support the mission and work of LUX New York. To learn more about LUX New York and listen to live or archived masses and programs, visit: <http://www.luxnewyork.net>.

I would like to congratulate all of the branches in my region on their efforts in supporting one another and their local parish communities, organizing fraternal activities as possible, engaging in community service activities and giving back to others. Reading the updates below fills my heart with joy because we are doing what we can to fulfill Fr. Furdek's mission and vision. Let us be proud of the community that our ancestors established. Annexed to this report is a detailed summary of activities of the Districts and Branches of Region 1.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the President, Secretary, and Home Office staff for their assistance throughout the year. A special thank you to our fantastic Jednota editor, Terri Ivanec who worked tirelessly to put together the monthly newspaper with endless patience and positivity. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her service to the Jednota as Editor and wish her a wonderful retirement. Last but certainly not least, I want to again thank the amazing members of Region 1 for all of their enthusiasm and support in 2021! We can be proud of the excellent fraternalism throughout Region 1 as is evident by the partnerships and collaboration in different activities – such as the Region 1 Picnic or the pilgrimage to Washington, DC. Region 1 participated in various activities organized by the Fraternal Activities Director including the Kentucky Derby hat contest, the coloring contest, the Ugly Sweater and Christmas tree contest. We even brought home the FCSU Trophy in 2019 and 2020 (arriving to us in October 2021!)

I look forward to working collaboratively with the Board of Directors to ignite our youth's interest in our society, rejuvenate our branches, and strengthen fraternalism so that future generations will look upon us in the same way we do to our founding fathers. We need to start planning for the future and be a forward-thinking organization while ensuring that the legacy of Fr. Fudek's vision will thrive and survive well beyond this generation. For me, Jednota continues to have a resounding presence in my life. I want to continue to work towards strengthening our Jednota community – based on the values and ideals of our founder, but with a vision of sustaining our society for generations to come. I often refer to us as the "Jednota family" and this is what we should continue to foster and build at the local branch level, district level, regional level, and national level.

Respectfully submitted,

Sabina Sabados
Region 1 Director

Region 1 District & Branch Reports

I am honored and proud to represent Region 1 especially when I see the tremendous efforts put forth by our members to keep fraternalism, faith, Slovak heritage, and traditions alive. Below please find the activity reports submitted by the officers of Region 1 Districts and Branches. I have taken liberty to copy and paste them below to provide highlights of the activities in the New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut area.

District 1: Rev. Matthew Jankola

In 2021, the dedicated members of District One/Branch 19 managed to attend meetings and conduct business despite the challenges presented by COVID. Meetings were conducted via Zoom and in person. District 1 held a Zoom meeting in June where the treasurer's report was given and members discussed district dues and the location of the next district meeting. In September, at the annual meeting, donations were discussed, the treasurer's report was given and District Officers were canvassed and all agreed to stay on for another year. The officers are as follows: Michael Kuruc – President; Kurt Solek - Vice President; Laura Minese – Treasurer; Deborah Nelson - Recording Secretary; Jacqueline Zack - Financial Adviser.

- Summary provided by Deborah Nelson, District 1 Recording Secretary

Branch 19

At the March 2021 Branch 19 meeting, Jacqueline Zack made a proposal to memorialize Henry Zack with an annual donation in recognition of the 90-year-old members of the Branch

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to a local food bank for Easter. At the June meeting, the following recipients of the Margaret Evancho award were recognized by the branch: Grace DeDonato, Maeve Mary McMullan and Jenna Grace Zahor. At the September meeting, Laura MInese presented the Treasurer's report for the branch, and donations and scholarship awards were discussed. At the annual November meeting, the recipients of the John

A. Zahor scholarship were acknowledged: Jenna Cichowski (Springfield College), Lia Mercure (Undecided), Maxwell Novak (University of Wisconsin), Madison, Lauren Serdy (Massachusetts College of Art), Elizabeth Zahor (Housatonic Community College) and Joseph Zahor (Housatonic

Community College). The recipients of the Andrew J. Imbro scholarship were: Samantha Piroh (Marist College), Emily Nelson (Columbia University), and Matthew Serdy (University of Massachusetts). Also at this meeting, annual donations were discussed and the election of Branch 19 officers was held. All agreed to stay on for another year: Michael Kuruc (President); Kurt Solek (Vice President); Jacqueline Zack (Financial Secretary); Deborah Nelson (Recording Secretary); and Laura MInese (Treasurer).

- Summary provided by Deborah Nelson, Branch 19 Recording Secretary

District 4: Msgr. John E. Rura

Okres/District 4 had a very busy and exciting year. Some of our plans had to be adjusted due to Covid restrictions but, in the end, we were able to conduct meetings and organized several activities.

On January 5th the District organized a Virtual tour of Jerusalem and Bethlehem via Zoom. Members had the opportunity to have a guided tour led by expert guides who used photos, art, and videos to explain the history and significance of each site visited. The 1.5 hour tour provided lots of historical facts and Jednota members appreciated the plethora of information they learned. Our group traveled "virtually" to places like: The Church of St. James, a 12th century Armenian church, the most decorative of the churches in Jerusalem; the Wailing Wall; Church of the Holy Sepulchre is the location of Jesus's tomb; Dome of the Rock believed by Jews to be the site of the creation of the world and the site of the creation of Adam; Via Dolorosa which marks the Stations of the Cross; and the city of Bethlehem.

On March 14th the District held a virtual meeting. The agenda was to discuss activities for 2021. The District was very active in 2020 despite the pandemic and members agreed that planning virtual activities and meetings was a good alternate to meeting. It was also suggested that we continue to offer a hybrid meeting modality moving forward so that elderly home bound members and/or young students could attend meetings easily.

With the resounding success of the January virtual tour, on April 25th District officers organized a virtual tour of the Vatican, Sistine Chapel and Saint Peter's Basilica. This time members explored the vast collections of the Vatican Museums, visited the world-famous Sistine Chapel, and walked through the halls of Saint Peter's Basilica with a licensed guide of the Vatican in a 1.5 hour virtual tour learning unique insights and fun facts during the informative webinar. For those members attending the webinar who had visited the Vatican, it was a wonderful way to reminisce while those that have not been to Rome, were inspired to visit.

On August 8th, District branches attended the Region 1 Picnic in Linden, New Jersey.

On October 10th, District 4 held its bi-annual meeting and luncheon at Carpaccio Ristorante in Middlesex, New Jersey. As the District held meetings virtually during the pandemic, members were delighted to meet in person after a long hiatus and reconnect. During the meeting members discussed potential Fall events and the upcoming FCSU Convention to be held in Independence, Ohio. Participating in the meeting were members from Branch 290 and Branch 746. The District resumed collection of donations to the local food pantry.

On November 13th the District organized a trip to see "Ester", the biblical story of queen Esther, at the Sight and Sound theater at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA. It was a wonderful performance and enjoyed by all Who attended! Queen Esther's courageous faith was very inspiring. After the performance members of Branches 290 and 746 met at the Hershey farm hotel and

restaurant for a beautiful buffet lunch. Also in November, the District organized two masses for district members living and deceased-- one held at Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey and one at St. Joseph's Church in Raritan, New Jersey.

- Summary provided by Emilia Filak, District 4 Vice President, Supreme Court member

Branch 132

Branch 132 had another great year--in January of 2021, our young members decided to have a meeting at the Elk Mt ski area and enjoy the skiing. We were washed out one day of the weekend but managed to attend mass at the local chapel and gave it for the intentions of Mr. Bolcar--our previous Branch President. April came upon us and a quick get together breakfast meeting and we took off for a tour of the Jockey Hollow Park and war campgrounds in Morristown followed by an early quick lunch at Friendly's. The day was exciting with knowledge gained, fun along the way and tired feet. The month of May was an educational trip since some of our members wanted to tour a college in Scranton and walked the campus; a day well spent we arrived early and luckily we were able to fit in a tour of Binghamton University in upper New York State. Coming back we were showered with a rain storm and took a one hour delay of the beautiful Delaware Water Gap. The teenage members were all eager to talk about a summer tour of Cornell University--the following week. We agreed that April of 2022 would be the best time for that and our annual garage sale or some fund raiser would be necessary for the summer. At our next meeting in September, we discussed honoring Mr. Bolcars five great grandchildren when born with the purchase of JEP policies up to a total of \$700. For our fund raiser we ended up buying 3 bushels of apples in September and four of our members agreed to sell them at their local Senior Citizen Club. Our winter meeting in December had us all getting together to sing Christmas carols at a few shut in neighbors, and our youngest teenage member dressed up like Santa and we delivered cookies and sang songs at the doorsteps-- since it was after Christmas everyone seemed happy to have us and some invited us in to continue our celebration. We all felt good and ended up eating Kolace when we returned back. Our plans for 2022 are a February meeting on a weekend when a forecast of snow is predicted to be able to ski.

- Submitted by Josie Salko, Branch 132 Secretary

Branch 290

Branch 290 held two branch meetings during 2020 and had members attend both District meetings. In addition, members also attended the Regional Christmas party via Zoom. The Branch donated \$200 to the SS Cyril and Methodius Appeal and \$200 to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County. Although sponsored by the District, our church, St Joseph's in Raritan held a mass for past and present FCSU members in November. Branch 290 also welcomed the "Jednota Cup" with thanks to the McMath family which won the "Christmas Decorating Tree Contest" in December 2020.

- Submitted by Steve Minarovich, Branch 290 Recording Secretary

Branch 746

In 2021 Branch 746 was yet again busy by organizing and offering a multitude of activities for members such as the Kentucky Derby hat contest, coloring contests (both youth and adults), Ugly Sweater contest, Christmas tree decorating contest to name a few. Branch 746 members were also winners in some categories! The "Jednota Cup" also made it to Branch 746 in 2021!

Branch 746 attended District meetings and events which included a Virtual Tour to Jerusalem and Bethlehem hosted in January and a Virtual Tour of the Vatican and Sistine Chapel in April. Members contributed with commentary to both articles featured in the Jednota.

Members also attended six webinars offered from February through June which were organized by the Slovak-American Cultural Center and advertised by Jednota on wide ranging topics such as Mental Health, Ocean pollution, and interesting book presentations. Branch 746 members also enjoyed the Easter traditions webinar hosted on March 25th. Members reminisced about many of the traditions which continue to be an integral part Easter such as blessing of the basket and the fun Easter Monday tradition of "sprinkling" women with water and whipping them!

On March 14th Branch 746 held a virtual meeting to discuss plans for activities in 2021.

On April 18th Branch 746 members attended the online FCSU Talent Show in support of one of the contestants -- branch member Emilia Filak who sang a Slovak song. All the contestants were very talented.

On April 27th members attended the webinar on the launch of the book Super Slovaks which highlighted 50 Slovak personalities. The book featured many inventors and figures which some members didn't know about such as the inventor of the parachute who was Slovak! As the book is both in Slovak and English, members felt that this would be an excellent resource for students of the Slovak school, Lipka Academy, in Linden.

On August 8th Branch 746 hosted the Region 1 Picnic. It was a wonderful opportunity to get together after not seeing one another for a long time. There were 50+ Jednota members attending the picnic. Special thank you to Mrs. Julie Rada for catering with delicious Slovak food. It was a fun-filled afternoon with the littlest member enjoying the playground and older members reminiscing about past Jednota events such as zabavas hosted in Msgr. Komar Hall. The afternoon concluded with the awarding of the Jednota Branch 746 Scholarships to two talented young women who have demonstrated scholastic excellence and community leadership. The \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to Elizabeth Banas, who is studying business technology and finance at Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey and Kristina Mylnarova studying International Relations and History at Stony Brook University in New York.

On September 16th members of Branch 746 attended the 56th Anniversary Mass of Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel at National Shrine in Washington, D.C. A few days later, members attended the Slovak Heritage Festival in New Jersey. The event brings together Slovaks from NJ, NY, PA, CT and around the United States. Our beloved deceased members of Branch 746 namely Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Mary Karch and Mr. and Mrs. John and Maria Budis were very active members of the Slovak Festival Committee many years ago. It is wonderful to see that the tradition of the festival continues and Jednota members continue to be involved in organizing this event.

On October 22nd members held a meeting and celebrated the 99th anniversary of the branch with pizza and prayer at Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey. Branch 746 commemorated the special occasion with a scrumptious nut cake. The FCSU Challenge Cup finally arrived to Region 1 and was presented to the winner of the Gingerbread House contest (Christmas 2019), Mrs. Mary Tkach. After the meeting the group attended holy mass which was celebrated by Fr. Mariusz Luksza in Slovak.

On November 14th members attended a "Science of Alcohol" presentation hosted by the Slovak-American Cultural Center as part of SACC's Science Lecture Series. In addition to a lecture, the event featured tastings of Slovak spirits, including Slovak vodka, the first-ever Slovak whiskey, samplings of artisanal klobasy, home-made "slane tycinky" (salt sticks) and other appetizers, as well as old-fashioned, in-person socializing. The event was hosted by Wesmont Liquors G4 in Wood-Ridge, NJ, a Slovak family-owned state-of-the-art liquor store selling a variety of Slovak products such as Goral Vodka Master, Familia Vodka Premium, and the first Slovak Whiskey called Nestville.

On December 5th Branch 746 had the year-end meeting in conjunction with the Christmas party at Luciano's Ristorante & Lounge in Rahway, NJ. Sister Mary Ann Brezina, OP, a Caldwell Dominican Sister joined the group and reminisced about coming to meetings as a child and sang, "Ja parobek z Kapušan". Her father was President of Branch 381 in Jersey City. Patrik Feco, one of our young members, was "Svatý Mikuláš" for the day and brought joy to all those attending by giving out Christmas gifts and goodies!

On December 12th members attended the 100th Anniversary celebration of St. Michael's Church in Trenton. Followed by the mass was a reception. Branch 746 also contributed to the commemoration of the event by submitting an advertisement in the booklet.

On December 19th members attended the Children's Christmas Show and luncheon at Msgr. Komar Hall in Linden. The beautiful program was fully in Slovak featuring skits, songs and poems by children of all ages. The event was organized by the Director of Lipka Academy and Branch 746 member, Marianna Fecova. Even Santa stopped by to express his satisfaction with the Slovak language program!

In addition to the above activities, Branch 746 offered several masses for members, living and deceased, at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Members attended these masses which were held on July 30th September 3rd, October 1st, October 22nd, November 5th, and December 3rd. In addition, members of Branch 746 attend Holy Mass held in Slovak on the 1st Friday of the month with a special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Branch 746 gave donations to Holy Family Church including two state-of-the-art fireproof candle stands, to Lipka Academy, LUX New York, and the Slovak Catholic Federation. Members also donated to the local food pantry. Two scholarships were awarded for deserving

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News From Slovakia

OSN: Z Ukrajiny už utiekli 4 milióny ľudí, z nich 281.172 na Slovensko



Na snímke z 29. marca 2022 dobrovoľníci pomáhajú zorientovať sa utečencom z Ukrajiny po príchode vlakom z Humenného na železničnej stanici v Košiciach. Foto: TASR – František Iván (In this March 29, 2022 photo, volunteers help orient refugees from Ukraine after arriving by train from Humenne at the railway station in Košice. Photo: TASR - František Iván)

Ženeva 30. marca 2022 (TASR) - Ukrajinu od začiatku ruskej invázie 24. februára opustili už viac ako štyri milióny obyvateľov. V stredu to v najnovšej správe uviedla Organizácia Spojených národov (OSN), podľa ktorej na Slovensko zatiaľ prišlo 281.172 utečencov z Ukrajiny. TASR prevzala správu od agentúry AFP.

Úrad vysokého komisára OSN pre utečencov (UNHCR) informoval, že z Ukrajiny utieklo celkovo 4.019.287 ľudí, z nich viac ako 2,3 milióna prešlo cez ukrajinsko-poľské hranice. Zhruba 600.000 ľudí utieklo pred vojnou do Rumunska, viac ako 387.000 do Moldavska a 364.804 ľudí prekročilo ukrajinsko-maďarské hranice.

OSN uviedla, že svoje domovy od začiatku ruskej vojenskej invázie opustilo viac ako desať miliónov Ukrajinčianov a takmer 6,5 milióna z nich sú vnútorne vysídlené osoby.

UN: 4 million people have already fled Ukraine, 281,172 of them to Slovakia

Geneva, March 30, 2022 (TASR) - More than four million people have fled Ukraine since the start of the Russian invasion on February 24. The United Nations (UN) said this in its latest report on Wednesday, according to which 281,172 refugees from Ukraine have arrived so far. TASR picked up the report from the AFP agency.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that a total of 4,019,287 people have fled Ukraine, of whom more than 2.3 million have crossed the Ukrainian-Polish border. Roughly 600,000 people fled the war to Romania, more than 387,000 to Moldova, and 364,804 people crossed the Ukrainian-Hungarian border.

The UN has said that more than ten million Ukrainians have fled their homes since the start of the Russian military invasion, and nearly 6.5 million of them are internally displaced persons.

Ukrajinský prezident V. Zelenskyj dostane štátnu cenu A. Dubčeka

Vplýva to z uznesenia, ktoré vláda v stredu schválila.



Na archívnej snímke prezident Ukrajiny Volodymyr Zelenskyj počas oficiálneho privítacieho ceremonálu v Prezidentskom paláci 24. septembra 2020 v Bratislave. Foto: TASR - Pavel Neubauer (This archive photo shows President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy during an official welcoming ceremony at the Presidential Palace on 24 September 2020 in Bratislava, Slovakia. Photo: TASR - Pavel Neubauer)

Bratislava 9. marca 2022 (TASR) - Štátnu cenu Alexandra Dubčeka pri príležitosti 100. výročia jeho narodenia udelí vláda SR aj ukrajinskému prezidentovi Volodymyrovi Zelenskému. Vplýva to z uznesenia, ktoré vláda v stredu schválila.

S udelením štátnej ceny Alexandra Dubčeka je spojená finančná odmena vo výške 25-násobku priemernej mesačnej nominálnej mzdy zamestnanca v hospodárstve SR zverejnenej Štatistickým úradom SR za predchádzajúci kalendárny rok, v ktorom sa predloží podnet, zaokrúhlenej nahor na celé euro.

Ukrainian President V. Zelenskyj receives the State Prize A. Dubček Award

This follows from the resolution approved by the government on Wednesday.

Bratislava, March 9, 2022 (TASR) - The government of the Slovak Republic will award Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with the Alexander Dubček State Prize on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth. This follows a resolution approved by the government on Wednesday, March 9.

The awarding of the Alexander Dubček State Prize involves a financial reward of 25 times the average monthly nominal wage of an employee in the economy of the Slovak Republic published by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic for the previous calendar year in which the submission is made, rounded up to the nearest euro.

Minulý rok na Slovensku zomrelo viac ako 73.000 ľudí, čo je najvyšší počet od roku 1919



Illustration (photo by TASR)

Bratislava 31. marca (TASR) - Minulý rok na Slovensku zomrelo viac ako 73.000 ľudí, čo je najvyšší absolútny počet od roku 1919. Celková nadúmrtnosť bola vlni na úrovni 37 percent. Najčastejšou príčinou smrti boli choroby obehovej sústavy, druhou bol COVID-19. Najviac ľudí zomrelo v januári. TASR o tom informoval Štatistický úrad (ŠÚ) SR.

"Pandémia ochorenia COVID-19 spôsobila výrazné zvýšenie mier úmrtnosti na Slovensku, už v roku 2020 prekročil

počet zomretých hodnotu 1000 úmrtí na 100.000 obyvateľov a v roku 2021 sa zvýšil až na 1350. Ide naozaj o najvyššiu hrubú mieru úmrtnosti v povojnovej histórii Slovenska," spresnila riaditeľka odboru štatistiky obyvateľstva ŠÚ SR Zuzana Podmanická.

Najviac ľudí zomieralo v prvom a poslednom štvrtroku minulého roka, keď Slovensko zasiahli druhá a tretia vlna pandémie. Počet zomretých v týchto mesiacoch dosiahol takmer dvojtretinový podiel na celoročnom počte zomretých.

Oproti obdobiu pred pandemiou počet zomretých najvýraznejšie narástol v Košickom kraji (o 43 percent) a Prešovskom kraji (o 42 percent). Naopak, najmenšia nadúmrtnosť bola v Bratislavskom kraji (o 32 percent) a Žilinskom kraji (o 34 percent).

"Spomedzi ôsmich regiónov Slovenska v roku 2021 nadpriemernú hodnotu hrubej miery úmrtnosti vykázali štyri kraje. Rekordné úrovne dosiahol Nitriansky kraj a Banskobystrický kraj s viac ako 1500 zomretými na 100.000 obyvateľov. Horšia situácia ako v SR bola aj v Trenčianskom a Trnavskom kraji," doplnil úrad.

Piatimi najčastejšími príčinami úmrtí boli choroby obehového systému (38,6 percenta), COVID-19 (20 percent), nádory (18 percent), choroby dýchacej sústavy (deväť percent) a choroby tráviacej sústavy (štyri percentá).

Nadúmrtnosť sa vlni prejavila v dvoch vekových skupinách obyvateľstva, a to v produktívnom a poproduktívnom veku. U osôb v produktívnom veku (15 - 64 rokov) presiahla 23 percent, u osôb v poproduktívnom veku (65+) dosiahla 42 percent.

Over 73,000 People Died in Slovakia Last Year, Highest Figure Since 1919

Bratislava, March 31 (TASR) - Over 73,000 people died in Slovakia last year, which is the highest absolute figure to be reported since 1919, the Statistics Office reported on Thursday. Excess mortality, i.e. the number of extra deaths when compared to the five-year average before the pandemic, amounted to 37 percent last year. The highest number of people died in January 2021.

"The coronavirus pandemic of Covid-19 caused a significant increase in the mortality rate in Slovakia. The number of deaths exceeded 1,000 deaths per 100,000 people in 2020, and it even increased to 1,350 in 2021. This is the highest gross mortality rate in the post-war history of Slovakia," said Zuzana Podmanická, head of the office's population statistics department.

The highest number of people died in the first and final quarters of last year, when Slovakia was hit by the second and third waves of the coronavirus pandemic. The number of deaths in these months accounted for almost two thirds of the deaths reported for the whole of last year.

Košice region reported the highest excess mortality among all regions of Slovakia, at 43 percent, followed by Prešov region (42 percent). Conversely, Bratislava region recorded the lowest excess mortality (32 percent) and Žilina region the second lowest (34 percent).

The five most common causes of death last year were diseases of the circulatory system (38.6 percent), COVID-19 (20 percent), cancer (18 percent), respiratory diseases (9 percent), and gastro-intestinal diseases (4 percent).

Last year, excess mortality appeared in two age groups of the population, namely in productive and post-productive age. For people of working age (15-64 years), it exceeded 23 percent, and for people in their post-productive age (65+) it reached 42 percent.

[Editor's note: My cousin in Slovakia lost her husband this year due to Covid-19.]

Student Conference in the Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh

The Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh held a two-day Student Conference on April 20-April 21, 2022. The Slovak Studies Program at Pitt is the only program in the United States that allows students to gain an undergraduate minor in Slovak Studies. The curriculum consists of many courses, including some on Slovak film, communism, and of course Slovak language study. The student conference was a moment for these accomplished students to demonstrate to the Pitt community and the Slovak-American community at large how much they have accomplished under the adroit tutelage of Dr. Renáta Kamenárová, the current Director of Slovak Studies. Also, the students took advantage of weekly tutoring sessions and a weekly conversation table hosted by Ben Sorensen to hone their work. Their hard work paid off, and this conference also had an audience that reached all the way to Slovakia thanks to this being hosted online over Zoom.

There were ten presenters in this student conference:

Alexandra Glova, a sophomore studying on the Pre-Physician Assistant Track, focused on the development of Covid-19 in Slovakia and in the USA, comparing each nation's rules, regulations, hospital crises, and vaccination rates and hesitancy. Her presentation gave both the American and the Slovak audience insights about the differences of the responses between the two countries and was completely done in Slovak.

Emily Molitoris is a graduating senior at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Bioengineering. She has been studying Slovak at Pitt for two years and has found the experience very rewarding. She has been honored to have received the Thomas Kukucka Memorial Fund grant twice from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Because of her interest in biotechnology, Emily wanted to explore Slovakia's response to the Covid-19 pandemic as well as individual experiences of several contacts she has in Slovakia. She first discusses accomplished Slovak scientists before going into Covid-19 statistics on vaccination and infection rates of Slovakia and their latest policies and restrictions, and then lastly, individual attitudes toward the pandemic.

Andrea Janak, a junior psychology major at the University of Pittsburgh, is pursuing a minor in Slovak Studies and is in Pitt's Occupational Therapy Guarantee Program. She took us on a trip through modern Slovak music in "Popular Slovak Music." Focusing on Slovakia's culture new and old, Andrea's presentation introduces a handful of Slovak musical artists under a variety of genres. For each artist introduced, she plays a sample of his/her work and included translations of the lyrics side by side. Learning a language through the art of music is a great way to familiarize oneself with speech patterns and common phrases.

Alexis Waksmunski, a very energetic student and employee at the University of Pittsburgh, gave us a deep dive in her talk "Famous Fairy Tales and Their Slovak Counterparts." She explained the meanings, similarities, and differences of Slovak fairytales and their American counterparts (such as Cinderella/Popoluška).

Dave Drager, a Chief Technology Officer from Philadelphia, presented "A Short Tour of Slovak Castles." He took the audience on a virtual tour of the most iconic castles and ruins in Slovakia. This was an amazing virtual experience; for those in the audience who had not been able to travel for the last two years, and his presentation allowed them to

vicariously visit many places that are now on Slovak and American bucket-lists alike.

Jeffrey Micher, an OSHER student at Pitt, a linguist, and a computer scientist, presented "Slovenská tlač v USA." This presentation introduced the Slovak audience to the immense reach of Slovak newspapers published and read in the United States. His presentation was completely in Slovak.

Karen Melis, an OSHER student at Pitt, presented "Kto som a odkiaľ som," a presentation on genealogy and how to find materials to research one's own family history. Her presentation was also completely in Slovak, and the Slovak participants found her insights extraordinarily interesting.

Timotej Kožuško, an OSHER student at Pitt and a former social studies teacher and guidance counselor, spent an entire school year teaching in Bratislava in 2001-02. He documented his studies in "Moji slovenskí starí rodičia a ich cesta za oceán," his own family's journey from Slovakia to America in great detail. Everyone learned about the hardships of travel at the turn of the Twentieth Century, and also the process of assimilation into American society. Again, this presentation was also completely in Slovak!

Tom Uhring is an OSHER student at Pitt and a former equipment operator, who is dedicated to learning Slovak so that he can return to Slovakia to communicate better with his family; he offered his talk in English, "My Family's Journey Before and After World War II." It was a very interesting look at immigration during a very tumultuous time the world over. He also told us about his first trip back to Slovakia, along with many hilarious moments he experienced there.

Also, Jim Švagerko, an OSHER student at Pitt and a professor and business owner, told us about "The Emigration of Slovaks to the Mahoning Valley." Here the entire audience learned wonderful information about how Slovak communities were set up in the greater Youngstown area, known as the Mahoning Valley of Ohio and Pennsylvania: he discussed the reasons for migration, his own family's struggles, and how Slovaks coped with their integration into the new culture.

While this short article cannot do their presentations justice, each of them did an excellent job. There are certainly no words to adequately express how proud both Dr. Kamenárová and Mr. Sorensen are of them. These students are proof that anyone can learn about Slovak culture and pick up some Slovak language. In fact, if any of Jednota's readers are interested, they should too look into the Slovak Studies Program at Pitt!

Submitted by Ben Sorensen, ABD
History Instructor, Cape Fear Community College
Doctoral Candidate in Ethnology and History,
The University of Constantine the Philosopher, Nitra, Slovakia
Slovak Tutor, University of Pittsburgh



ANNOUNCING

Jednota Branch 746 Scholarship

- ✓ Are you a member of Branch 746?
- ✓ Are you currently accepted **and/or** enrolled in full-time college, post-secondary educational institution, or vocational school?
- ✓ Are you active in Branch 746 or want to become active?

If you answered YES to the above, you may be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship!

For more information on the application criteria and requirements go to:
<https://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>

SLOVAK STUDIES PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

STUDY SLOVAK IN FALL '22

IN-PERSON OR ONLINE



ELEMENTARY, INTERMEDIATE, AND ADVANCED SLOVAK LANGUAGE CLASSES

- Hybrid classes on Mo/We
- Fulfill the Second Language Gen Ed requirements
- The only program in USA
- Minor in Slovak

JOIN OUR SLOVAK CLUB



University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Slovak at Pitt
on Facebook and Instagram



Branch 24's Artem Fedoriouk Wins Top Prize in Young Entrepreneur Competition

Artem Fedoriouk, a 7th grader at Hillside Middle School in Seven Hills, OH, won 1st place at the 3rd Annual Young Entrepreneur's Day. The event was open to all students grades 5 – 7 throughout three middle schools in the Parma City School District.

Artem was among those who entered the competition with a business idea and worked online to learn about developing a business plan, budgeting, logos, slogans, and marketing. Details of all the student business plans were then mounted on tri-fold boards for a panel of judges to review on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at Normandy High School, in Parma. Artem took top prize for his business, ArtTemo Design. His designs and drawings have a variety of applications, and can be printed on clothing, cups, phone cases, etc. All ArtTemo Design proceeds will go to help refugees from Ukraine.

Artem is a member of Branch 24, as is his sister Sofia and parents Alex and Beata. Congratulations, Artem!

- Submitted by Beata Begeniova-Fedoriouk

BRANCH 181 YOUTH MEMBER SCHOLASTIC ASSISTANCE

For the Fall 2022 school year, St. John the Baptist Society - Branch 181 of United, PA, will be offering scholarships to eligible high school senior members planning to attend college or career/technical school. These will be one-time scholarships selected by an independent panel that will evaluate each applicant. The number of scholarships awarded is dependent on the number of eligible applicants.

Scholarships of \$500.00 will be available on a one-time basis to be used for a college or trade school.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SOCIETY - BRANCH 181 YOUTH MEMBERS

You may be eligible to qualify for a scholarship if you meet the following requirements:

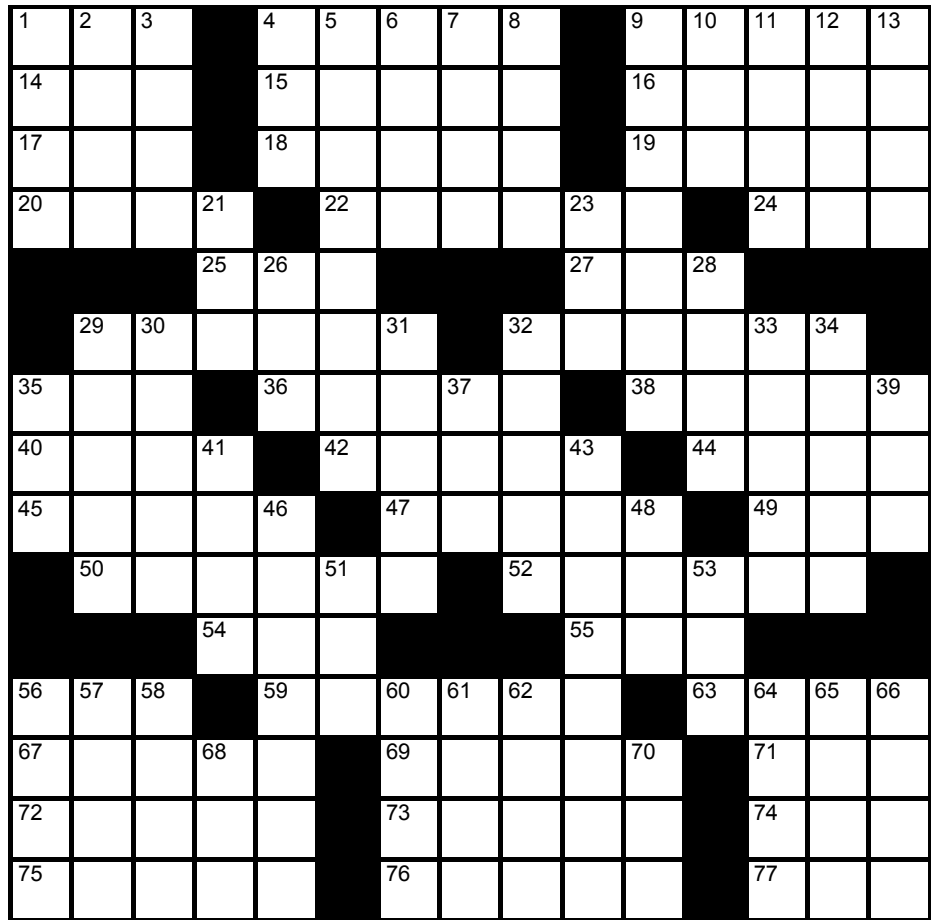
- You are a member in good standing of The First Catholic Slovak Union, St. John the Baptist Society - Branch 181.
- You have been a member of Branch 181 for four years prior to applying with a minimum \$5,000 insurance policy.
- You are a high school senior preparing to graduate in 2022 and have applied for the 2022/23 fall term at a qualifying educational institution.

THESE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE SOLELY FUNDED BY YOUR LOCAL BRANCH 181 AND ARE INDEPENDENT OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION NATIONAL OFFICE.

To obtain an application and more information, please contact Vicki Hricik phone 724-547-0803 or email vickihricik@gmail.com.

***Applications must be postmarked by May 31, 2022 to be eligible.**

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Pkg. deliverer
- 4 Beef on the hoof
- 9 Greenland sight
- 14 Newcomer, briefly
- 15 Home with a view
- 16 Dashboard feature
- 17 Any doctrine
- 18 Category
- 19 Waste away
- 20 Natterjack
- 22 Tease
- 24 ___ judicata
- 25 Red-white-and-blue inits.
- 27 Dutch commune
- 29 Butt of jokes
- 32 Ties up at the dock
- 35 "Mârrouf" baritone
- 36 Filibuster
- 38 One of the Osmonds
- 40 Barbecue entree
- 42 Checks
- 44 Delhi wrap
- 45 "Farewell, mon ami"
- 47 Santa follower
- 49 Ref's decision
- 50 Young raptor
- 52 African beasts
- 54 Passé
- 55 Chi preceder
- 56 Add-on
- 59 1962 James Mason, Sue Lyon flick
- 63 Knight fight
- 67 Princess topper
- 69 Building material
- 71 Galley need

Down

- 72 Zagreb resident
- 73 Water sources
- 74 Cause for a shootout
- 75 Undue speed
- 76 Corporate department
- 77 Biblical boat
- 1 Condo division
- 2 Mexican moolah
- 3 "Brave New World" drug
- 4 Give in to gravity
- 5 Adolescent
- 6 River to Donegal Bay
- 7 Hibernia
- 8 Kind of organ
- 9 Liberty
- 10 Glass container
- 11 Polecat's defense
- 12 Fair attraction
- 13 Bucks' mates
- 21 Twosome
- 23 Denebola's constellation
- 26 Outfield surface
- 28 Great times
- 29 Item with a ladder
- 30 Part of the leg
- 31 Vote into office
- 32 Tropical Asian starling
- 33 Daughter of Mnemosyne
- 34 Long daggers
- 35 Coach Parseghian
- 37 Do poorly
- 39 Farmer's song letters
- 41 Utah state flower
- 43 Worthy
- 46 Howl
- 48 Mudbath locale
- 51 W.W. II command
- 53 Plum part
- 56 Use acid
- 57 Maltese cash
- 58 Neighbor of Cambodia
- 60 Statutes
- 61 Inspiration
- 62 Cost to cross
- 64 Shred
- 65 Hideaway
- 66 Taxing trip
- 68 Dirty dog
- 70 Slalom curve

See Solution on Page 23

SAVE THE DATE for NATIONAL PICNIC and Golf Outing

Saturday June 25th, 2022 – Knoebel’s Amusement Resort and Three Ponds Golf Course



Knoebel's Amusement Resort and Three Ponds Golf Course
 391 Knoebels Blvd
 Elysburg, PA. 17824
 www.knoebels.com
 FREE Park Admission for All. Each member will have the option to receive 1 free book of tickets (\$20.00 value) OR \$20 off the price of golf.

– Mass at 4:30pm celebrated by Fr. Tom Nasta (Pavilion E)

GOLF OUTING

- Saturday June 25, 2022, at 8:00am -1:30 pm (golf course is 1/2 mile from amusement park)
- \$40.00 per golfer (open to all ages and golf levels)
- MUST register to the Home Office by 6/03/2022: email events@fcsu.com or call 800-533-6682 ext. 110

AMUSEMENT PARK

- Meet us at Pavilion E at 10:30am for coffee and baked goods
- Park hours: 12:00pm-8:00pm
- Pool hours 11:00am-6:00pm (pool day pass adult \$8.00, kids 2-11 \$6.00)
- Complimentary lunch served from 2:30pm-3:30pm (Pavilion E)
- MUST register to the Home Office by 06/03/2022: email events@fcsu.com or call 800-533-6682 ext. 110

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

- Hampton Inn, 137 Old Valley School Rd, Danville, PA 17013, (570)-271-2500
- Room rate: 2 queen beds \$149.00 per night. Use Group Code: FCSU (limited blocks of rooms, book before 5/25/2022))
- Members must make their own hotel reservations. Make your reservation at tinyurl.com/knoebelspic

Family members will be able to attend the park while golfing family members participate in the one-day scramble. After the scramble is finished, golfers will be able to drive to the amusement park.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

- Bald Eagle Habitat, Carousel Museum, Knoebel's History Museum, Mining Museum, Time Machine Theater (interactive theater), Davison Family Circus performances at 12:30pm and 5:00pm, Mini Golf 18 holes for \$5.00.

DRIVE TIME

- From Cleveland Hopkins International Airport 4h 45m
 - From Pittsburgh International Airport 4h
 - From Philadelphia International Airport 2h 30m
 - From Linden NJ 2h 40m
 - From Newark Liberty International Airport 2h 35m
 - From Chicago International Airport 11h 10m
- To register for the golf outing or picnic, please call the Home Office at 800 533 6682 ext. 110 or email events@fcsu.com by 6/03/2022.

Register early! Your name will be placed in a drawing every Friday before the picnic to win a prize.

The earlier you register, the more chances you have to WIN!
 HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! Website: www.fcsu.com/events

August 12-14, 2022

SAVE THE DATE: August 12-14, 2022



Hello, FCSU Golfers.

Thanks again for participating in the 2021 International Golf Tournament. I hope you had a good time. I certainly enjoyed getting to spend time with all of you. I appreciate your interest and feedback for making this year's event even better.

SAVE THE DATE:

International Golf Tournament
 Friday, August 12 – Sunday, August 14, 2022
 More details to follow.

FCSU golfers had a great time at the 2021

FCSU/SOKOL/GCU International golf Tournament on a beautiful August weekend.

Hope you'll join us this year!

If you have any questions pertaining to the event, please call me at 813-493-1515 or via email at kevinfcsu@outlook.com

Kevin Collins
 628 Heather Brite Cr.
 Apopka, FL. 32712



District 12 Lenten Charity

The Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District of the Mon Valley showed its altruism by collecting for the St Andrew the Apostle Parish Food Bank at its semiannual meeting on March 27, 2022. Members attending in person donated canned goods, boxed dried foods and paper products. Cash was generously donated by an out-of-town district member with all members wanting to help the less fortunate during the season of Lent.

Submitted by Monica Rodacy-Boone.



Fill out your Forms Online! Save your Time!

Now you can fill out the FCSU forms online at <https://www.fcsu.com/forms>

Fill them out, print, sign and mail them to the Home Office.

Take advantage of our Faster, More Readable and Time Saving Feature.

NATIONAL PICNIC IN, NOVELTY, OH *JUNE 12, 2022*

SAVE THE DATE for NATIONAL PICNIC in NOVELTY, OHIO
Sunday, June 12, 2022 – Wiegand Lake Park, Novelty, OH



Wiegand Lake Park
9346 Kinsman Rd
Novelty, OH 44072

FREE Admission and FREE parking for all FCSU Members, Family and Guests from **10:00am to 7:00pm**

With clean, beautiful grounds, there is plenty to do for everyone. You can enjoy paddle boats, playgrounds, softball, horseshoes, swimming, as well as lots of great food served all day long. Shuttle service available from parking lot to picnic grounds and to restrooms.

WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

- Mass at 11:00am celebrated by Fr. Tom Nasta.
- Free all you can eat food from 12:00pm – 6:00pm
- Unlimited ice cream treats, hot and cold drinks, popcorn all day.

FREE ACTIVITIES

Corn hole, Sand Volleyball, Basketball, Horseshoes, Soccer field, Softball field, Playgrounds, Spring-fed Lake with paddleboats and swimming, Face Painting, Magic Show, Bingo.

- No alcohol permitted on premises



DRIVE TIME

- From Cleveland Hopkins International Airport 35m
- From Pittsburgh International Airport 1h 45m
- From Philadelphia International Airport 6h 50m
- From Linden, NJ 7h 15m
- From Newark Liberty International Airport 7h
- From Chicago International Airport 6h 40m

To register for the picnic, please call the Home Office at 800 533 6682 ext.110 or email events@fcsu.com by 6/03/2022.

Register early! Your name will be placed in a drawing every Friday before the picnic to win a prize.

The earlier you register, the more chances you have to WIN!
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! Website: www.fcsu.com/events



Branch 199 Activity

On Saturday, April 23, 2022 Members and Guests of Branch #199 spent an afternoon in the beautiful Laurel Highlands 'sipping cider'! The event was held at the Tattiebogle Cider Works on Ankney Hill Rd., Acme, PA. Acoustic guitar entertainment was provided by the President of Branch #199, Tom Pipak. Members and Guests enjoyed indoor and outdoor entertainment along with refreshments made available by Ron and Laura Reich, owner and operator of The Daily Bread Food Truck. An enjoyable time was had by all in attendance!

Submitted by Barb Patula



Row 1: (from the left): Roger Soltis (son of Mr. Thomas Soltis), Cherise Soltis (Roger's wife), Aaron Soltis (grandson of Thomas Soltis), Mr. Thomas Soltis (grandfather).
 Row 2: (from the left): Ryan Soltis & Ethan Soltis (both grandsons).

Soltis and Bosak Acknowledgement to Jillian Wascho, Scholarship Winner

Thomas E. Soltis, residing in Parma, OH, and a lifelong member of the FCSU in the Frank T. Holly, Jr. District 9, wishes to congratulate Jillian Washco on proudly earning the Soltis and Bosak Family Nursing Scholarship, as highlighted in the wonderful article in the Jednota publication.

Being the family sponsor of the scholarship and a veteran of the US Army Medical Corps with service at Valley Forge Hospital in PA and Camp Henry Dispensary in S. Korea with some of the most professional medical personnel, nurses included, in the entire world, motivated the desire to pay it forward for other students, like Jillian, to enroll into this noble profession that benefits in entirety all of humanity.

Good luck, God bless and stay safe during and after this pandemic.

From the Soltis and Bosak family to the grateful Washco family.

March Madness Winners in 2022



Congratulations to the following winners for March Madness:

1st Place:	\$1000.00	Tom MacMath	Region 1
2nd Place:	\$750.00	Beth Tanzosh	Region 2
3rd Place:	\$500.00	Lindsey Gourash	Region 5
4th Place:	\$250.00	Patricia Wojnar	Region 5
5th Place:	\$50.00	Gerald Popovich	Region 6

Region Winners:

1st Place:	2349 Points	Region 6
2nd Place:	1628 Points	Region 4
3rd Place:	1457 Points	Region 5
4th Place:	1293 Points	Region 2
5th Place:	761 Points	Region 1

There were:

- 207 Entries
- 160 Active Entries
- 144 Completed Brackets

Congratulations to **Tom MacMath (Region 1)**. His name will be placed on The FCSU Traveling Cup.

This is the 2nd time the MacMath Family (Tree Decorating Contest 2020) will have their name placed on The FCSU Traveling Cup.

This will tie the Sterling Family (Region 2) with Hank (Loser Pool 2019) and Karen (Loser Pool 2020) family name on the Cup.



Pen Pal Program

Thank you for everyone that has responded and shown an interest in the FCSU Pen Pal Program. We have your information and are still in the early stages of putting the program together for the future. Please stay tuned for future updates.

David Rafaidus Elected as a Board of Trustee Member with the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

David Rafaidus, President of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) – Branch 888 (Palm Beach, Florida), was recently elected to serve on the Board of Trustees of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML). His Board membership will be from 2022 through 2030.

The Mission of the NCSML is to preserve, present, and transcend unique stories of Czech and Slovak history and culture through innovative experiences and active engagement to reach cross-cultural audiences locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Vision of the NCSML is to be an innovative leader in lifelong learning, community building, and cultural connections. We encourage self-discovery for all ages so that the stories of freedom, identity, family, and community will live on for future generations.

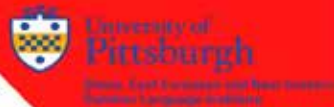
The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) is a Smithsonian Affiliate and is located at 1400 Inspiration Place SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 52404. Cecilia Rokusek, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ed.D., RDN is the President & CEO of the NCSML. For up-to-date information about various programs and events, check the NCSML website www.NCSML.org or call (319) 362-8500.

David Rafaidus can be reached at Jednota888@yahoo.com



**If each member would sign up just one new member, we could
 double our Society immediately
 THINK ABOUT IT!**

LEARN SLOVAK THIS SUMMER



APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR SUMMER 2022!

The University of Pittsburgh's Summer Language Institute provides an intensive language learning experience: two semesters' worth of beginning, intermediate, advanced, or 4th-year Slovak in just one summer session of six weeks.

Students of Slovak at SLI engage in a robust program of cultural enrichment centering around food, music, art, history, and film.

On campus in Pittsburgh or synchronously ONLINE!

Scholarships available

Program dates: June 6-July 15

Non-degree-seeking learners welcome

WWW.SLI.PITT.EDU



SLI 2021



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH

The next branch meeting of the Saint Joseph Society will be held on July 24, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Those interested in attending, please contact Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 by July 12, 2022. Social distancing will be observed, so we need to know in advance if you will be attending. All members are welcome to attend. Wishing everyone a very happy summer filled with health and happiness.

Submitted by Richard J Golias Jr, President, Acting Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, IL

The semi-annual meeting of Branch 006, St. Stephen's Society, will be held on June 18, 2022, at 11 a.m. at 1406 Baker St., Streator, Illinois.

The regular meeting will be conducted, and the branch encourages all members to attend. New ideas on a fraternal gathering will be discussed. Please contact Paul Chismar at 815-822-8851, if you plan on attending.

Submitted by Paul Chismar, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold a virtual Zoom meeting on Sunday, June 12, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. At this meeting, we will recognize the recipients of the Margaret Evancho Award. Gift cards will be sent by mail to the following:

Emma Hackett
Brendan P. McMullan
Juliette R. Nichols

This award was established in recognition of the many years Margaret Evancho dedicated to the youth of Branch 19.

We cordially invite interested members to contact me at csteacher3@gmail.com to obtain a link for the meeting. We look forward to reconnecting with our members.

Submitted by Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PA

"Lunch with the Arts" - Branch 23, Johnstown, PA, will hold a Fraternal Function on Friday May 13th, from 1PM-3PM at VOMA, (Venue of Merging Arts), at 307 Chestnut Street, Johnstown PA, (across from Ace's).

Come, have lunch and view and enjoy the Paintings on display. Marian Hockycko is the Artist. She is also Branch 23's President. Lunch will be served. Members of Branch 23 will be our Guests. Everyone is welcome. There will be a \$10 charge for those who are not Branch members. The food will be catered from Ace's. Please RSVP if you have any questions and would like to attend: 814-254-2532 ask for Theresa.

Submitted by Theresa Cassat

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Mark your calendars for two June National Picnics in OH & PA. Come enjoy these fun fraternal events with things to do for the whole family!

The Ohio picnic is on Sunday, June 12, 2022, at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty, OH. The Pennsylvania picnic is on Saturday, June 25, 2022, at Knoebel's Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA. You need to register with the FCSU Home Office by June 3, 2022, to attend either or both. Visit www.fcsu.com/events for picnic and registration details.

We hope to see as many Branch 24 members as possible at the picnics. To help offset the costs of attending the picnic in PA, Branch 24 is offering a reimbursement of a \$25 VISA gift card per attending member. To receive your special reimbursement from Branch 24 for the PA picnic, you must also register with Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec by Friday, June 10th at 440-668-7797.

Submitted by Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 encourages our branch members to attend the June 18, 2022, Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Picnic at the Slovak Sokol Campground, 2069 Royalwood Road, Broadview Hts., OH, 44147. The picnic is scheduled for 3PM – 11PM. Admission is free.

Members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club will be serving Slovak food, beer, and pastries for purchase; there also will be music for dancing and your listening pleasure. Adult members of Branch 24 will receive \$10 in food/beverage tickets. Children (10 and under) who are members of Branch 24 will receive \$5 in food/beverage tickets. If you need more information, please contact me at 440-668-7797.

Attention all Branch 24 members: the branch is starting a New Member Referral Program. Branch 24 is offering \$25 for each new member you refer who purchases an insurance policy or annuity through a licensed agent or the Home Office.

A new member is someone who does not already own an FCSU product. To learn how to participate in this program, please call Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797.

Submitted by Tom Ivanec, Fraternal Activities Director

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

As an incentive to grow Branch 89, members who refer new branch members or add a new contract of their own are now eligible to receive a Branch award. Specifically, Branch 89 members who successfully refer new members can receive an award of up to \$100. Members that add a new contract of their own can receive an award of up to \$50. To be eligible for an award, new policies must be issued during the calendar year in which Branch 89 otherwise qualifies for an FCSU stipend under bylaw section 4.05. Award amounts will depend on the amount of the FCSU stipend for the year and the number of members qualifying for an award. Awards cannot be combined or multiplied and members are limited to one award per calendar year.

Contact Financial Secretary Nancy Carol Novak at 262-305-4041 or email novakncp@charter.net for more information or to request an award application.

Paul Novak, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 112 – MAHANOEY CITY, PA

Members are invited to a National Picnic to be held at Knoebel's Grove on June 25. Details are posted below. Karen Sterling noted that anyone from member attending from Branch 112 will be offered an extra \$20 in tickets. You may call here at 570-640-1796.

Submitted by Henry Sterling, President, Karen Sterling, Recording and Financial Secretary

BRANCH 132 – WHIPPANY, BOONTON, NJ

Branch 132 will have its remaining meetings are as follows: May 15, August 21, October 23, and December 29. After all of the meetings we will have an activity. Our May meeting will follow with a trip to a local college.

Please continue to read the Jednota for all the exciting things that are happening in contests and the updates on annuities and insurance. Contact Sue if you are planning on attending the District meeting. Looking forward to our next meeting.

Submitted by Josie Copp Salko, Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its branch meeting on Sunday, June 5, 2022, at 9 a.m., at Dairy Queen Restaurant, 575 W. Main St., Uniontown, PA.

Officers' Reports will be given and upcoming branch activities will be discussed. The Donations Committee will make its recommenda-

tions, procedures for the Convention will be discussed, and Regional Director, James Marmol, will advise us of developments from the home office. Call Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 before June 1st for reservations for you and your guest to attend the meeting.

Submitted by Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Greetings Members of the St. Joseph the Guardian Branch 166K! A meeting will be held Sunday, April 24, 2022, from 2PM-4PM for the election of Delegates to the FCSU Quadrennial Convention being held in Independence, OH, July 30-August 2, 2022. More information about the location of the meeting along with details will be announced in the March Jednota.

If you have any Questions contact Morgan Dendler, Branch 166 President, by phone (607) 206-7243 or by email at catholicfcsu@gmail.com.

Judie Dendler, Secretary

BRANCH 173 – WILKES BARRE, PA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch Number 173, located in Northeast Pennsylvania, will hold its semi-annual meeting on June 12, 2022 at Norm's, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. starting at 12:30 pm.

General business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, as will the insurance, annuities and fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy Ungvarsky at (570) 403-2067 so arrangements can be made.

Submitted by John A. Ungvarsky, President FCSU Branch 173

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA

Happy Easter Branch 181 members!

The Branch 181 Family Picnic is planned to be held at Mammoth Park, Mammoth, PA at Pavilion #13 on Sunday, June 26, 2022. Registration begins at noon with the picnic beginning at 1 p.m. Members are asked to bring their favorite covered dish to share. Beverages and main entrées will be provided by branch. If you plan to attend the picnic including guests, please RSVP by phone or email to Vicki Hricik at 724-547-0803 or vickihricik@gmail.com. This will help greatly to determine the appropriate quantities of food. Contact Vicki for more information or directions if needed. Also see the Branch 181 scholarship announcement.

Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 213 PITTSBURGH, PA

St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 213, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 12, 2022. It will be held at 1:00 pm at 306 Barclay Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. Still with Covid, you may access the meeting via phone. Contact information: weaz1958@aol.com.

The agenda will include all old, current, and new Branch business, officer's reports, and discussion of upcoming Branch and District events and activities. All Covid safety guidelines will continue to be followed. Respectfully, Joe Belchak, Secretary

Submitted by Anita Nixon

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The meeting scheduled for March is cancelled. The next meeting will be held Sunday, May 15 at 1 PM at Eat & Park Restaurant on Route 30, North Versailles PA, near Walmart and the Great Valley Shopping Center. We will hear reports from the treasurer and financial secretary. We will also discuss district events and the upcoming convention.

Fraternally,

Margaret Nasta, President

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PA

Saint Joseph Lodge #367 of Fairchance, Pa 15436 will hold a meeting on Friday July 8th, 2022, at Mountain View Café, 1618 Georges Fairchance Road, Smithfield, PA 15478 at 12:30 PM. A discussion of plans for attending the FCSU convention, and future projects. All members are invited to attend.

Please call Kathryn Baranek, Secretary at 724-569-1006 or Audrey Balazik, President at 724-438-3887. Have a safe and happy summer.

Submitted by Kathryn Baranek

BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PA

Branch #372 in Beaverdale, PA, will have its semi-annual meeting on May 30, 2022, at 11:00 am- 1pm, in St. Joe's Cemetery Chapel, Beaverdale, PA.

Please join us in person or by phone. If unable to attend please leave a message on my phone: (814) 533-1826.

Submitted by Ruth Ann (Kramer) Gerko, District 7 Secretary

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PA

The SS. Peter and Paul, Branch 410 will hold a meeting on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 1:30 PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

On the agenda will be information regarding the FCSU's 52nd Quadrennial Convention which will be held in the Holiday Inn at Independence, Ohio from July 30 to August 2, 2022. Call for reservations by Monday, July 11, 2022 at 724-425-2576. All members are invited to attend.

Submitted by Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484KJ, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 12, 2022, at 2 pm in the Eat 'n Park Restaurant, Rt. 286 So., Indiana, PA. The agenda will include the situation in the Ukraine, our branch's financial assistance to organizations, scholarship applications, the April district meeting, as well as the fall district meeting, and the 52nd Quadrennial Convention. Happy Spring and Summer to all!

Submitted by Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

Thank you to all members that supported our Lenten Fish Fry and all the member volunteers that donated time and energy to the event. We had another successful year because of all of you.

Please mark your calendars for upcoming events:

5/18 Wednesday - Monthly Mystery Dinner served 4:30-6:30 pm. Call the club to make your reservation. 330-786-9972 after 3 pm

5/19 Sunday - NO BREAKFAST SERVED TODAY - Enjoy your Memorial Day weekend.

6/1 Wednesday - All You Can Eat Spaghetti - Served 4:30-7:00pm

6/15 Wednesday - Monthly Mystery Dinner served 4:30-6:30 pm. Call the club to make your reservation. 330-786-9972 after 3pm

7/23 Saturday - Kielbasa Open - call the club to reserve your foursome. To be held at the Mayfair Country Club.

Respectfully submitted by Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 581 – PORTER, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, will meet on Sunday, June 12, 2022, at noon at the Paragon Restaurant, 1701 E. 37th Ave. in Hobart, IN. The agenda will include donations to organizations, the upcoming convention and

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 9 - THE FRANK T. HOLLY, JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, July 10, 2022, at 1P.M. at the Dairy Queen Grill and Chill at 575 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

On the agenda will be information regarding the FCSU's Quadrennial Convention which will be held in the Holiday Inn at Independence, OHIO from July 30 to August 2, 2022. All members are invited to attend.

Submitted by Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 11 – PA, MSGR. JOZEF TISO DISTRICT

Meetings will be held at 2 p.m. on the following dates for the year 2022:

August 7, 2022 - Meeting will be held at the CU Club, Ford City

November, 6, 2022 - Meeting will be held at Villa Blanca, 2740 Leechburg Rd, Lower Burrell, PA 15068. The November 6, 2022 meeting will include election of officers for the year 2023.

At the last meeting, it was also decided to have an annual picnic. The picnic for 2022 will be held on September 25, 2022 at Pony Farm and Gun Club at 592 Pony Farm Rd, Kittanning, PA 16201.

More information will be shared as plans are made. We welcome all members to attend the meetings and join in the fraternal activities. We welcome new ideas.

Submitted by Karen Greggs, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 14 YOUNGSTOWN OHIO - THE REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Following are the currently Scheduled District Meetings for Calendar Year 2022:

2. Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. (Semi-Annual Meeting); Fireplace
3. Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace. (Convention Related Update)
4. Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace
5. Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. (Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2022); Fireplace
6. Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. (Short Meeting and Christmas Dinner); Location TBD

Appropriate social distancing and masking protocols will be followed as long as the Covid-19 issue remains. Dates and locations may change for the same reason. An Additional meeting might be scheduled if needed for convention or fraternal activities.

Meetings will be held at The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514; unless otherwise specified, indicated, or announced. Alternate location will be The Falcon Grille; 39 N. Canfield-Niles Rd., Austintown, OH 44515.

Sincerely,

John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President
Home: (330) 549.3788
Cell: (330) 559.5981

DISTRICT 12 - MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT MON VALLEY, PA

Attention Andrew Hlinka District members:

The annual district picnic will be held at the Chamber Plaza in Charleroi on May 15, 2022, from 1pm to 4pm. If you plan to attend, we are happy you will be there.

Any questions, please email the district secretary at hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com or leave a message at 412-341-1577. Include your name, phone number, and the names and branch numbers of the members attending.

All district members are encouraged to attend. It will be an afternoon of fun, food, and fraternalism.

Submitted by Monica RodacyBoone, District Secretary

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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any new business. Please RSVP Ann Buczek, 219-947-2793. Thank You!

Submitted by ERNEST & ANN BUCZEK

BRANCH 628 – W. HOMESTEAD, PA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel, will be held on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at 2:00 pm, at 141 Bellevue Drive, Penn Hills, PA 15235.

The agenda will include upcoming events including delegates to the convention later this year.

**Submitted by Sylvia J. Vehec,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Branch 731 will meet on June 12, 2022, at 5:00 pm. The meeting will be at Café 422, 8586 South Ave, Boardman, Ohio. The purpose of this meeting is to review ideas and plans affecting the impending FCSU National Convention. The next meeting will be on August 14, 2022, at 5:00 pm also at Café 422.

**Submitted by Bridget Bobby,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

Additional branch news:

Branch 746 members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7:00pm (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ offered for the intention of all Branch 746 members living and deceased. Masses will be offered in 2022 as follows: April 1st, May 6th, June 10th, July 1st, August 5th, September 2nd, October 7th, November 4th, and December 2, 2022.

Jednota Branch 746 Scholarship deadline is April 30th. If you are currently accepted and/or enrolled in full-time college, post-secondary educational institution, or vocational school and active in Branch 746 or want to become active, you may be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship. For more information on the application criteria and requirements go to: <https://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>.

Activities: Branch 746 will also be organizing a trip to the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA to see King David on Saturday, September 10, 2022, at 11am. If you wish to obtain additional information, please reach out to Mary Ann.

Members are reminded that mass will be offered for the intention of Branch 746 members living and deceased on the following dates: June 10, July 1, August 5, Sept 2, Oct 7, Nov 4 and Dec 2. We encourage you to attend.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OH

Please join us this June as we support the following activities:

June 12 - FCSU National Picnic at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty Ohio. FREE ADMISSION...FREE FUN...FREE FOOD for all members and guests.

You MUST register at the Home Office to attend this picnic.

June 18 - Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Picnic at the Slovak Sokol Campground in Broadview Hts OH. FREE admission. Members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club will be serving Slovak food, beer, and pastries for purchase. EXCLUSIVE to BRANCH 855 MEMBERS: Adult members will receive \$10 in food/beverage tickets and children (10 and under) who are members will receive \$5 in food/beverage tickets. Check in at the FCSU table at the picnic for your Branch 855 food/beverage tickets.

June 25 - FCSU National Picnic at Knoebels Park in Elysburg, PA. FREE ADMISSION... FREE FOOD for all members and guests. FCSU members can choose to receive a \$20.00 book of ride tickets or \$20.00 off the price of golf. And, as a special treat EXCLUSIVE TO BRANCH 855 MEMBERS each of our members attending will receive a \$25.00 VISA gift card to offset driving expenses.

You MUST register at the Home Office to attend this picnic.

Please check this issue or the FCSU website at www.fcsu.com/events for more details and information about all of the picnics. To register for the National Picnics, you must call 1-800-533-6682 ext. 110 or email events@fcsu.com

Mark your calendars and join the fun! If you have any questions you want to ask me about our branch participation, please contact me at the Branch 855 email at fcsu855@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!


**Submitted by Stephanie Sutila
Fraternal Activities Branch 855**

BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OH

Please join us at the National Picnics in June!! Check for the notices in this issue of the Jednota and on the FCSU website. Come participate in fraternal fun. The Ohio picnic is in Novelty Ohio. The Pennsylvania picnic is in Elysburg PA. As a special treat, each member of Branch 855 will receive a \$25.00 VISA gift card to offset driving expenses for travelling to Knoebel's Amusement Park in Pennsylvania. As noted in the announcements you MUST register at the Home Office to attend either or both picnics.


Branch 855 members, mark your calendars and come join the fun! if you have any questions, please contact Barbara Sutila at 440-864-4744 or at fcsu855@gmail.com.

Hope to see you there!
Submitted by Barbara Sutila, President




FCSU Matching Funds Guidelines for Branches and Districts

1. The **Eligibility Form** should be completely filled out and submitted at least 30 days prior to the event.
2. The activity must be sponsored and planned by the branch/district (Br/D) submitting the activity. If more than one Br/D is involved only one Br/D may submit for the matching funds. Every Br/D is permitted to apply twice in a calendar year.
3. The Br/D officers/members are responsible for recruiting as many Br/D members to be involved in the activity. The Br/D officers may also invite other branches or districts, church members, a community or other organizations to participate in the activity.
4. After your Br/D has received approval for your activity, it should be publicized on our website, in our newspaper/magazine, direct mail to Br/D members, church bulletin, diocesan newspaper or local newspaper. The FCSU name should be prominently displayed at the site of the activity. Posters are available upon request from the Home Office.
5. The maximum amount matched by the FCSU is **\$600.00 per event**. The cause must be charitable or benevolent in nature. Phone or email the Home Office if you are not sure your charitable or benevolent cause qualifies.
6. Br/D that consider helping an established project at their church or in their community may submit the activity as a matching funds project, providing the Br/D sponsors the entire activity or in conjunction with the event a Br/D sponsors a raffle, bake sale, etc. and has a separate table or booth.
7. The Br/D officers are responsible for taking pictures and keeping receipts that should be submitted with the "Matching Funds Request for Payment Form".
8. **Matching Funds Request for Payment Form** must be submitted for payment no later than 30 days after the completion of the activity to the Home Office. Forms are available on www.fcsu.com/forms.



**For any questions, contact the Home Office
at 800-533-6682 ext. 114 or fcsu@fcsu.com**



Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Odpočinutie večné daj im, Pane, a svetlo večné, nech im sviati. Duše všetkých verných zomrelých, pre milosrdenstvo Božie, nech odpočívajú v pokoji. Amen
Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
00IP	Bernard John Gombeda	075K	Theresa G Fensterbush	254K	Marla Pendeville	731K	Edward J Skokan Jr
002K	Anthony M Tarullo	085K	Romaine Naro	260K	Eleanor I Evinsky	746K	John Chowanec
003K	Albert A Kordiak	089K	Michael Huljak	260K	Kathleen Inamdar	746K	Martha J Hornak
004K	Mary Ann Gross	128K	Robert G Kertis	266K	Leonard F Velky	796K	Marie D Pavlick
005P	George R Schaumann	149K	Battista Cimino	290K	Julianna Zagari	831K	Ronald Danik
005P	Eleanor M Wlock	153K	John Suez	313K	Richard Strezo	831K	John G Gibson
006K	Daniel T Masley	157K	William Joseph Vojtasek	382K	Natalie H Lafko	855K	Thomas Paul Frolo
007K	Thomas Trella	157K	Agnes A Yokai	382K	Joseph V Vojick	856K	Helena F Blischok
019K	Rosemarie Abric	166K	Evan H Friedlander	410K	Donald A Handley Jr	900K	Helen V Domolewicz
019K	Gloria M Yencho	166K	Ario H Meeker	410K	Joseph E Kopacko	901K	Sara Mae Swartzentruber
024K	Joseph M Mandula	173K	Mary C Ilnat	429K	Margaret T Berger	904K	Mary L Collins
024K	Dorothy Stefanov	173K	Mary A Jancuska	484K	Helen Sowers	916K	Elizabeth Conners
024K	William R Yako Sr	181K	Marcia Bryant	553K	Margaret A Hreha	916K	Kenneth Knafelc
038K	Gary G Klappowski	181K	Nancy Sue Ream	580K	Michael Robert Broskovich	916K	Stanley Timmermann
038K	Nyra Potemra	181K	George M Tarasovic	587K	John F Onderick	921K	Joann M Heinz
040K	George R Elko	199K	Paul J Pavlocak	587K	Stephen Ragula Jr	926K	Wayne L Frank
045K	Helen Havran	199K	Marie E Uhrinek	670K	Andrew J Gamcik		
055K	Thomas M Sklencar Jr	199K	Roberta J Yandrick	731K	Mary Bachani		

* Processed in the month of April 2022

OBITUARIES

BRANCH 173, WILKES BARRE, PA

Michael James Journak ("Uncle Mike"), 94, was peacefully greeted by the Lord on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, at Linwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Born in Taylor, PA, he was the son of the late James and Eva Ruscin Journak. After his graduation from Taylor High School in 1945, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy during the time of World War II. After his discharge from the Navy, he earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology and a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Scranton and Millersville University.

Michael was a devout Catholic. As a young boy, he was an altar server at daily mass and was in the choir at St. John's Church in Taylor; as an adult, he was president of the choir, organized church dances weekly, was active in fundraising at the church, and proclaimed God's Word, serving as a lector.

Michael enjoyed an extensive career in public administration. He was the Director of the Public Assistance Program of the United States Agency, encompassing Luzerne and Wyoming counties, supervising public assistance programs such as the Bureau of Children Services and the Offices of Aging, Mental Health, and Transportation. For the next 15 years, he was the Executive Director for the Department of Public Welfare, responsible for the overall operation of the Luzerne County Assistance Office. Michael was also President of the Pennsylvania Association of Executive Directors and President for the Northeastern Pennsylvania International Personnel Management Association.

Michael loved travel, both professionally and personally. Michael worked as a Volunteer Executive in Poland, where he provided recommendations to the social welfare department for a region with the highest unemployment rates. He attended conferences in Warsaw, Poland, which allowed him to visit the Auschwitz concentration camps and the Warsaw ghetto, and he resided in a twelfth century castle. He also attended conferences in Russia in the Moscow Kremlin. He traveled on the Trans-Siberian Railroad to St. Petersburg. He went fishing on the Volga River, and he hunted bear in the mountains of Eastern Russia.

Upon retirement, Michael was a consultant to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and was responsible for the operation of



service centers when there was a natural disaster declared, including varied locations across the US as well as in Puerto Rico and Samoa.

Michael was fluent in Slovak. He loved to talk about history, politics, and religion. He took diligent care of his health, and he valued family, who will immensely miss him.

Surviving are his sister, Dorothy Nestor, 90, as well as nine nieces and nephews: Nancy Meredick and husband, John, Taylor; John Gary Nestor, Dushore; James Sopko, Ponte Vedra, FL; Christine Kochan and husband, Ron, Ponte Vedra, FL; Richard Sopko and wife, Sue, Clarks Summit; Diane Franklin, and husband, Terry, Gouldsboro; George Journak, Old Forge; Mary Louise and husband, Joe, Old Forge; Jack Solanik and wife, Linda, Denver, CO; and the late Marie Thorne, Baltimore, MD; as well as 26 great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by siblings Mary Solanik, Joseph, John, and George Journak, and Katherine Sopko. He was also preceded in death by his long-time, beloved friend, "Rocco" James Juliano.

Special thanks to his sister, Dorothy, who cared for Michael for the past six years, and special thanks to Glenmaura Senior Living, which he loved and to which he wanted to return. Special thanks also to Sacred Heart Hospice for your loving care in Michael's final days. Most special thanks to Linwood Rehab staff, nursing staff, and especially the exceptional social worker, Sharon Cullen, for showing Uncle Mike comfort, respect, and love.

Mike's funeral Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by the Rev. Francis L. Pauselli at Divine Mercy Parish in Scranton. Interment with military honors followed at St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Taylor. Please visit www.semiancaries.com to share memories or extend condolences.

Submitted by Tamara Semian and John A. Souter

ARLO H. MEEKER – BRANCH 166K, BINGHAMTON, NY

Arlo H. Meeker, 84, passed away on March 1, 2022. After an extended illness, he is now free from pain and rejoicing in heavenly reunions. Arlo was born near Harveys Lake, PA, on June 15, 1937. He graduated from Windsor High School and



attended Cornell University and UCLA, where he met Carol O'Connell. They were married for 54 years, traveling together to all 50 states and investigating heritage in Europe.

Arlo owned and operated Typewriter City in Los Angeles before moving his family to NY, where he worked as a Sales Manager for Prudential. His children were his pride and joy. He was their greatest fan in any event where they participated, whether athletic, artistic, or academic.

As a long-time member of FCSU, Arlo was elected to various offices in Branch 166K, as well as serving as Vice President of District 17. He enjoyed many conventions, accepting assignments to the Elections Committee and making new friends.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife: Carol; children: Kevin (Patty) in AL, Kyle (Rebekah) in IL, and Kimberly in NY; grandchildren: Sarah (Dexter) Parks, Aaron, Caleb, Rachel, Seth, Kaden, and Karis Meeker; and many other treasured relatives and friends. Those who knew him will remember his legacy of love, caring, generosity, faith, and hope.

Submitted by Morgan Dendler

CARROLL I. NECKO BRANCH 731K

Carroll Isabel Necko, 89, passed away on Feb. 16, 2022, at Briarfield Manor, with her loving family by her side. Mrs. Necko was born Tuesday, April 12, 1932, in Youngstown, Ohio, a daughter of Edward and Edna Carroll Dixon, and was a lifelong member of the community.

Mrs. Necko held a variety of jobs as she worked for Republic Rubber in the office, Strouss Department Store in the billing department and Ohio Bell as a long-distance operator.

She was a member of St. Edward Parish, a 1951 graduate of Ursuline High School, loved her dogs, and collected lighthouses and blue dishes.

Mrs. Necko leaves to cherish her memory, her husband of more than 66 years, John S. Necko, whom she married Oct. 1, 1955; sons, John M. (Raquel) Necko of Long Beach, Calif., Jeffrey Necko of Youngstown; daughter, Carroll (John) Muska of South Amherst; grandchildren, Jenna (Nate) Portik, Grace Muska and Bekah Muska, Jackson Cruz Necko, Benjamin Cruz Necko, Kaleb Cruz Necko and Kenji Cruz Necko; and



great-grandchildren, Lucas and Hazel.

Besides her parents, Mrs. Necko was preceded in death by her sister and brother-in-law, Mary and David McKnight.

The family received relatives and friends at St. Edward Church, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m., celebrated by the Rev. Msgr. Robert Siffirin.

The family has requested that contributions please be made to St. Edward Church, 240 Tod Lane, Youngstown, OH 44504.

The Necko family would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Mary Beth McKnight Potts, Don and Barb McKnight Vargo, and Dave and Nannette McKnight for their continuous support, love and involvement with the family. Also, it is important to the family to thank their wife and mother's caretakers, Mary Ann and Kathy — it is so appreciated.

Arrangements by The McCauley Funeral Home, privileged to serve the valley for more than 120 years. Thoughts and condolences may be sent to the funeral home website, www.mccauleyfuneral.com.

RONALD S. (RED) DANIK BRANCH 831K

Ronald S. (Red) Danik, Born in Glassmere, PA on May 18, 1940, to the late Stephen and Margaret (Tatrn) Danik, died on January 21, 2022.

Husband of Patricia A. (Pat) Banovatz Danik for 53 years. Father of Stephen R. (Lori) Danik of Maryland and Tracy L. (Thomas) Fitzpatrick of Allison Park. Proud grandfather of Rebecca and Erin Danik and Colleen Fitzpatrick. Brother of Raymond Danik of Natrona, PA. Brother-in-law of Beverly J. Banovatz and Nancy Danik. Also survived by nephews, a niece, and cousins. Ron was retired from National City Bank.

Ron was a member of the Slovak Club of Creighton, PA and enjoyed playing euchre, poker and watching, as well as attending for many years as a season ticket holder of Steeler football games. A Blessing Service took place on January 27, 2022 at the funeral home, with interment at Holy Savior Cemetery, Pine Township. A memorial mass was scheduled for a later date.

Submitted by Patricia A. Danik



OBITUARIES

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ANDREW "ANDY" GAMCIK BRANCH 670K



Andrew J. Gamcik, 92, of Midway, OH died Friday, January 14, 2022, at Good Shepherd Nursing Home, Wheeling, WV. He was born November 12, 1929, in Midway, a son of the late John and Mary Ligda Gamcik.

Andy had many jobs in his life, a trackman for the railroad, Hanna Coal Company, a steel mill in Cleveland and was retired from Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation Yorkville Plant as a foreman of Quality Control and proudly served in the U.S. Army as a Corporal during the Korean War. He was a member of the former St. Joseph Catholic Church, and currently a member of St. Mary Catholic Church, St. Clairsville, the Fairpoint Polish Club and Korean War Vets.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, woodworking and gardening.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, John Gamcik.

Surviving are his wife, Margaret Pavlic Gamcik of Midway; his children, Andrea (Jim) Witzgall of Wheeling, Suzanne Hynes of St. Clairsville, Tom (Lynn) Gamcik of Kennedy Township, PA., Margie (Jim) Patrizi of St. Clairsville; a sister, Helen Kapusta of Cleveland; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

Family and friends were received at Toothman Funeral Home, St. Clairsville with full military honors conducted by the Belmont County Veterans Association at 12 pm. Funeral Liturgy with Mass will be celebrated on Thursday at 1 pm at St. Mary Catholic Church with Father Thomas Chillig as celebrant. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery, St. Clairsville.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Clairsville Food Pantry.

Submitted by Margaret Gamcik

NYRA ANN DORKO POTE MRA BRANCH 38



Nyra Ann Dorko Potemra, age 68, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Friday, December 3, 2021, after a nearly two year battle with brain cancer in Plano, Texas.

Nyra is survived by her husband of 45+ years, David Potemra of Plano, Texas, her son, Brandon, (Jacynnda Griego) Potemra of Allen, Texas, her daughter, Kacy Young of Plano, Texas, her sister, Collette (Walt) Dukewich of Kennedy Township, Pennsylvania, and sister, Pamela (Allen) Faires of Rowlett, Texas, as well as nieces Christina Dukewich and Megan (Travis) Bawcum and nephews, Matthew (Allison) Dukewich and John Dukewich. Nyra is also survived by her three precious grandchildren who knew her as Gram: Bentley and Brody Young and Gwendolyn Potemra. Nyra was preceded in death by her parents, John and Florence Bidula Dorko of Munhall, PA.

Nyra's family was very devoted to her, and she felt very loved. This included a very large extended family and many friends whom she worked to stay in touch with as much as possible. Nyra would like to be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, mother-in-law, daughter, sister, and aunt. She would also like to be known as a good friend and a kind, helpful person. She also wanted to be sure to mention her most precious best friend of 30+ years, Peggy Hansen, whom she could always count on in times of need and fun.

As a strong supporter of Montessori and early childhood education, Nyra served as an ed-

ucator to hundreds of young children and as a mentor/teacher to a large number of Montessori interns for over 30 years. She also aided in the opening/relocation of four Montessori schools.

Family and friends were welcomed on Friday, December 10, 2021, at the JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME, INC., 301 Curry Hollow Road, Pleasant Hills. A Blessing Service was held at the Graveside of Jefferson Memorial Park on Saturday, December 11, 2021, at 230 pm.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Nyra's name to the American Cancer Society, at www.cancer.org. Online condolences may be shared at www.jeffersonmemorial.com.

Submitted by David Potemra

EDWARD J. SKOKAN, JR. BRANCH 731 --- YOUNGSTOWN, OH



BOARDMAN - Edward J. Skokan, Jr., 58, passed away peacefully on January 11, 2022 at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio.

Edward was born May 5, 1963, in Youngstown, a son of the late Edward J. and Carol J. Mikula Skokan. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1981 and went on to receive a bachelor's degree in Geographic Information Systems from Hawking University.

He was a member of St. Matthias Church. He was a big Ohio sports fan, whether it be the Indians, Browns, or the Buckeyes. He loved to golf and fish, and especially loved haluski night with his cousins John (Denise) and Mike (Barb) Felt.

He leaves to cherish his memory his sister, Donna J. (David) Danko, his aunt and godmother, Jean Ferkula, and several cousins, including Marygrace Olbrych and her son Obie. Other than his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved canine companions, Dinky and Brandy.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at St. Columba Cathedral, celebrated by Monsignor Peter Polando. He was entombed at Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that material contributions be made to St. Columba Cathedral in his memory.

Submitted by Donna Skokan Danko

CHARLES "PETER" PLUTO - BRANCH 173K, WILKES BARRE, PA



Charles "Peter" Pluto, September 5, 1946 - January 9, 2022

CHARLES "PETER" PLUTO, age 75, beloved husband of 50 years to Robin (nee Mraz); loving father of Kathryn Crestani (Joe), Charles (Stacy), Amy, and Nathan (Cassie); beloved grandfather of Jacob, Carina, Ava, Charlie (Charles Peter Pluto IV), and Simon; devoted son of the late Helen (nee Kozak) and Charles Pluto; dear brother to Mary Seibel (Rick), Joseph, John (Anne), and Luke (Kerry).

Peter was born in Wilkes-Barre, PA into a large Polish-Slovak family. He was a grandson of Andrew Victor Kozak, past president and accountant of FCSU. Peter grew up in McKeesport, PA, and was a lifelong Steelers fan. He moved to Cleveland to get his bachelor's degree at John Carroll University, then earned a master of regional planning at Penn State University. He worked as an environmental consultant, and independently studied for and earned his professional engineer's license at age 53.

Peter and Robin raised their four children in the West Park neighborhood. After retirement, Peter loved substitute teaching at Saint Joseph Academy. He was interested in every single person he met, and he found something good

in everyone.

Peter was devoted to his Catholic faith and active in Our Lady of Angels Parish, where he was member of the Holy Name Society. He relished being outdoors, fixing things, and spending time with family, especially his cherished, exceptionally smart, and talented grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.

The family expresses their deepest appreciation to the Cleveland Clinic doctors and staff in the Intensive Care Unit at Fairview Hospital for their compassionate care.

Funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday, January 22, Our Lady of Angels Church. Memorial contributions can be sent to Edmundite Mission, 1428 Broad St., Selma, AL 36701 or Monastery of the Poor Clares, 3501 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, OH 44111.

JOSEPH MICHAEL MANDULA JR. - BRANCH 24



Joseph Michael Mandula Jr. age 87, of Seven Hills, OH, passed away on February 7, 2022 surrounded by his family. Beloved husband of 62 years

to Charmaine Joy (nee Toth). Dear father of Joseph Michael III and Donna Marie Westfall (Bryan). Loving grandfather of Charlene Joy and Bryan Alex Westfall.

Joe was born on June 12, 1934 in Cleveland, OH to Joseph Sr. and Celia (nee Onda). He and Charmaine wed on February 13, 1960 at St. Benedict's church in Cleveland. He was the

proud grandson of FCSU First President George Onda. Charmaine and he had the opportunity to tour Slovakia in 2002 where they visited the birthplace of George in Celovec in Zemplin, which is 20 miles east of Košice. They also had a chance to visit some relatives there.

He was a retired mechanical engineer at Republic Steel, having graduated from Benedictine High School, John Carroll University and the University of Detroit. He also worked at the Cuyahoga County Probate Court in downtown Cleveland. He was a Past Grand Commander of Alhambra Carmona Caravan No. 75 as well as a Deputy Regional Director of the Ohio Council of Caravans. As Past Exalted Ruler of Parma Elks Lodge #1938, he and Char enjoyed visiting with many members at the lodge, as well as attending numerous state and national conventions. He was also a member of the Holy Name Society and Parma Moose Lodge.

He participated in Boy Scouts activities with his son, and high school Band Boosters for his daughter. He never missed a chance to attend his grandchildren's events, including his granddaughter's pageants and his grandson's band performances. He enjoyed being with people and liked to have fun, was always tinkering with repair projects, and also was a well-traveled and learned man who always had his camera in hand and ready.

Family and friends were received at Hopko Funeral Home in Parma on February 9, where memorial services were held by the Elks and Alhambra members. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on February 10 at St. Columbkille Church in Parma, where he was a long-time parishioner.

Submitted by Joseph M. Mandula III

The 57th anniversary of our Slovak Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception



Our Mother of Sorrows Branch 856 would like to invite all Jednota members and all Slovaks to come to Washington D.C. to join in celebrating the 57th anniversary of our Slovak Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on September 17, 2022. The mass will be in the Crypt Church. We will start with the rosary at 1:00 pm followed by mass at 1:30. For more information call Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363 or

Marion Mistrik at 301-654-3856. In 1965, the First Catholic Slovak Union (JEDNOTA) donated funds for constructing The Slovak Chapel.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 16

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Annual Report of Region 1 Director

Continued from page 13

branch members.

As you can see by the recap – Branch 746 continues to be very busy supporting our Slovak American community and organizing many activities! We are grateful to all of the members who participated and remained active, with many driving long distances to join!

With all of the wonderful activities in 2021, we must also take a moment to honor the sadness of the passing of members in our branch. We especially remember our most dedicated and active members that served the branch throughout the years especially Mr. Bart Rada, Mrs. Maria Budis, Ms. Martha Hornak, and Mrs. Susan Vrabely.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados

District 16: Msgr. Stephen Krasula

Year 2021 started with COVID restrictions still in place, our semi-annual district meeting in March was held virtually, but with the pandemic situation easing we were able to have our annual meeting in

October in-person. At both meetings the members agreed to request a holy Mass to be celebrated for the health of Fr. Stefan Chanas and Jan Zeman, at the October meeting members also requested a Mass to be celebrated for Magdaline Joob, a long-time parishioner at St. John Nepomucene Church and a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union, who passed away in October. Our District also supported Slovak Catholic organizations with financial donations to the Slovak League, Sisters of St. Cyril and Methodius, Slovak Catholic Federation, LUX NY and the Church of St. John Nepomucene.

- Submitted by Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, District President

Branch 45

In 2021, Branch 45 held three meetings, one meeting was virtual and two meetings were held in person. With the easing of pandemic restrictions, we were able to participate in more events and activities. Members of Branch 45 participated in Easter Basket Blessing in St. Cyril and Methodius Church in Clifton, NJ. In June Officers of Branch 45 attended a board meeting and lunch in Slovak restaurant KOLIBA. In August members of Branch 45 attended the Region 1 Jednota annual picnic at the Al Kalla Park in NJ. In September our members attended the Slovak Mass to celebrate the 56th anniversary of the dedication of Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel at National Shrine in Washington DC. Branch members attended the Wine Fest - Vinobrani at the Beer Garden at Bohemian Hall in Astoria, NY held in September. Members of Branch 45 participated in the preparation and organization of the 43rd Slovak Heritage Festival in East Brunswick, NJ and were instrumental in preparation of the liturgical services. In November members of Branch 45 attended the "Science of Alcohol" seminar hosted by the Slovak-American Cultural Center. Members of Branch 45 also attended the Mikulas afternoon party held in the hall of St. John Nepomucene Church and the St. John Nepomucene Vigilia Christmas dinner.

- Submitted by Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Branch 45 Vice President

Branch 716

In 2021 members of Branch 716 held two meetings, the March semi-annual meeting was held outdoors in a park and the annual meeting was held in the St. John Nepomucene church hall. Members celebrated birthdays of Branch 716 members – Serafina Sulak, Jan Skrkon, Joan Skrkon, Anna Bilik, Henrieta Dait and Maria Bozekova. Every week after the Slovak Mass

members of Branch 716 prepare and serve refreshments during the coffee hour in the St. John Nepomucene church hall. Members of Branch 716 also prepared refreshments after the memorial service for Magdaline Joob. Members attended the Vigilia Christmas dinner in the St. John Nepomucene church hall.

- Submitted by Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, District 4 President on behalf of Joan Mary Skrkon, Branch 716 Recording/Financial Secretary

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