

Jednota

Catholic Fraternal

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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NUMBER 6036

President's Message

Here at the FCSU, we are excited to bring many new things to our Members this year! We are looking forward to more events, contests and new features for the future of the FCSU. Kicking off the new year, I want to encourage all Members to join in on what our fraternal has to offer.

First, we are starting to roll out our save the dates for our national events, starting off with the FCSU 2024 Golf Tournament. Members are also invited to sign up for the FCSU Bowling Tournament taking place this April.

There are several deadlines rapidly approaching too. This is the last month to sign up for the 2024 March Madness to win up to \$1,000. Also, the deadline for the FCSU Scholarship is coming soon. I encourage all students to take advantage of our scholarships to assist them financially in the future. Now, for those of you who entered the Christmas coloring contest, the results are posted in this issue!

Finally, as we enter February we are now in the heart of tax season and approaching Tax Day. The deadline to file your taxes is right around the corner - April 15th, 2024 to be exact. All of your tax required documents should have been sent to you by January 31st, making now the perfect time to schedule an appointment with your tax advisor to get a head start.

We understand this can be stressful, that's why this year the FCSU wants to make this tax season easier when it comes accessing your documents. We have implemented a new feature for our Members who have an Annuity or IRA product. As of January 31st, a 1099 form is available to view and print on FCSU's website www.fcsu.com in the Member Portal. This is only for those who have taken a withdrawal from an Annuity or IRA in 2023 of \$10 or more. A hard copy has been mailed to you also as required by IRS regulations. If you have not made a withdrawal in 2023, you will not receive a 1099 from the FCSU.

Please keep in mind the FCSU does not provide any tax or financial advice. Please consult your tax advisor regarding your personal circumstances. For more information regarding filing your taxes or answers to any questions you may have, please visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

As always, the Home Office staff is here to help with any questions you may have regarding our products or fraternal. Please feel free to give us a call at 1-800-533-6682 or go online at www.fcsu.com to keep up to date with what's happening in the FCSU. Let's continue growing our fraternal and join together in more events, meetings and fun! I am thrilled with the participation we've had in recent contest and events. I look forward to seeing many of you at our bowling and golf tournaments this year.

Kenneth A. Arendt
PresidentFraternally,
Kenneth A. Arendt

Up to \$162,000 available in the FCSU Scholarships.

Apply by 3/31/24
at www.fcsu.com!

Please see page 24 for more details regarding the FCSU Scholarship.

A Scholarship Testimonial

Dear Officers and Board of Directors,

Thank you so much for providing me with this great scholarship. I am extremely blessed and grateful that I was given this opportunity to qualify, apply, and receive this blessing. This scholarship will be put towards my next semester's tuition fee. I am currently attending Trinity Christian College in hopes of becoming a speech-language pathologist. So, this scholarship is helping me to become one step closer to achieving my dream career and fulfilling my passions. I am also extremely grateful for the life insurance policy that I will receive after graduating. Thank you so much for all that you have done, and all that you continue to do ;)

-sincerely
Sarah Peters.

See What's Inside!

Golf Tournament
Page 9



Bowling Tournament
Page 12



February Reflection

This year, 2024, Lent begins on an early date, February 14, so that Easter is celebrated on March 31st. The Church offers us these 40 days as a time for focused prayer and penance. We have the example of Jesus as He prepared for His mission of preaching and teaching by first spending 40 days of prayer and fasting in a desert (Matthew 4:1-11).

As the hymn for this month prayerfully addresses the sufferings Jesus endured in His life on earth among us, particularly in his last week on earth—Holy Week, we can appreciate the value of this time of Lent for focused prayer and penance. In our Catholic Church we have available to us the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a Source of Grace for our Lenten journey—and even person-to-person reconciliations.

How can we make each day of Lent an offering of more focused or mindful prayer, sacrificial acts, and reflection on the Supreme Gift of Jesus Christ's redemptive Act of Love—His earthly Life—for us on the Cross? God's help—His Grace—to do so is always available for us.

MOJ MILÝ JEŽIŠU

1. Môj milý Ježišu, rajská slasť pre dušu,
Skrz Svoje mučenie získalsi nám spasenie.
O dobrý Ježišu, mučený Ježišu, ó Ježišu!
2. Neľutoval Seba, zostúpil k nám z neba,
Trpkú smrť podstúpil, aby nás vykúpil.
Poslušný Ježišu, láskavý Ježišu, ó Ježišu!
3. Za mňa si krv potil, v zármutku sa topil,
Vidiac tú sveta zlosť, premnohú nepravosť.
Bolestivý Ježišu, predobry Ježišu, ó Ježišu!
4. Hľa, už zviazaného Ježiša milého
Po zemi váľajú, na posmech dávajú.
Zviazaný Ježišu, môj sladký Ježišu, ó Ježišu!
5. Tak hrozne mnoho rán dostal nebeský Pán.
Ukrutne strýznený už leží na zemi.
Strýznený Ježišu, môj milý Ježišu,



Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

BELOVED JESUS (Môj milý Ježišu)

1. Beloved Jesus, please, grant me your gift of peace;
By your redeeming pain – Salvation you obtain.
O good, kind Jesus, exhausted Jesus, O Jesus!
2. You did not think of self, but chose with us to dwell;
A bitter death endured – My soul's new life procured.
Obedient Jesus, beloved Jesus, O Jesus!
3. For me your blood was sweet, Your patient love was spent;
I see this world's great hate – Injustice was your fate.
O suffering Jesus, my gracious Jesus, O Jesus!
4. Lo! Bound with cruel ropes, My Jesus, what can I hope,
You're dragged across the ground - As laughter, scorn abound.
Downtrodden Jesus, dear gentle Jesus, O Jesus!
5. Such massive wounds, fierce blows, You bear these painful woes;
No mercy, justice shown – So helpless and alone.
My wounded Jesus, beloved Jesus, O Jesus!

Message from the National Chaplain

Last October 15, Pope Francis issued his apostolic exhortation *It Is Confidence* (C'est la confiance) to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. This is a summary of the pope's letter.

Its theme is taken from words written by Thérèse herself: "It is confidence and nothing but confidence that must lead us to love." This citation, and virtually all other quotes in the Letter, are taken from *Story of a Soul*, Thérèse's spiritual autobiography published after her death at the age of 24 in 1897.

1. Jesus for others

Thérèse Martin took the religious name Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. "Child," Francis explains, refers to the Incarnation and "Holy Face" to the Lord's self-surrendering Passion on the Cross.

Pope Pius XI declared her Patroness of the Missions and the model of evangelization because she had a continuous, burning desire to love Jesus and to have others love him, too. Francis points out that in *Story of a Soul*, Thérèse writes the work of evangelization is best carried out by making the faith attractive, not by coercion or persuasion.

2. The little way of trust and love

Thérèse's "little way," the way of spiritual childhood, the way of total trust and love, is for everyone, no matter one's age or state of life. This "little way" to heaven a way that is very straight and short and ever new. We are to have the same confidence and unending trust in God's mercy as Thérèse.

Thérèse offers us this insight regarding the Eucharist. Too often we think of receiving the Holy Communion in the terms of becoming one with Jesus. Thérèse makes us think of the opposite. Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist because of his desire to be one with us and dwell within us.

Thérèse underwent a period of spiritual darkness due to a philosophical atheism that was making inroads into society during the last decade of the 19th century. However, this spiritual darkness led her to offer a tremendous contribution to Catholic spirituality: "In an extraordinary way, she probed the depths of divine mercy, and drew from them the light of her limitless hope." God's endless mercy is that which helps us understand everything else about God.

3. I will be love.

Thérèse believed Jesus knew and loved her personally while he endured his passion. Francis goes on to say her prayerful reflection on this image was extended to all humanity. Our Lord, during his Passion, knew and loved each person "as if he or she were the only one in the world."

When Thérèse came to the realization one day God was calling her "to put fire into the heart of the church," the ardent desire she had for herself to experience eternal joy and love of Jesus in heaven then became a passion to make Jesus known and loved by everyone on earth.

4. At the heart of the gospel.

Charity, the centerpiece of Christian morality, is the response we are to make to God's unconditioned love for us.

The following are three of seven examples Francis offers showing where the world points us in one direction, Thérèse point us in the opposite direction.

- While the world emphasizes individualism and self-interest, Thérèse points the way to making ourselves as gift to others.
- While humans are obsessed with power, Thérèse offers the little way.
- In an era of indifference and selfishness, Thérèse draws us to become missionary disciples.

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Copy Date	Issue Date
Monday, March 4	Wednesday, March 13
Monday, April 1	Wednesday, April 10
Monday, April 29	Wednesday, May 8

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

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

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Home Office Holiday Hours



Closed: Monday, February 19, 2024, in observance of Presidents' Day.



Closed: Friday, March 29, 2024, in observance of Good Friday.

SS. Cyril and Methodius February Appeal

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 46th year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. Today, the Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors.

As of January 29, 12 donors have given \$2,225.00 for the 2024 Appeal. Among the 7 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 3, Branch 743, and Branch 746 of the FCSU have donated a combined total of \$250. A donation has been received from the clergy and religious and 4 individuals have also made a donation. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2024 Appeal but did not receive a letter asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2024 will be credited toward the 2025 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdovic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harvey's Lake, PA and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Parochial Vicar with Senior Priest status at Our Lady of Grace Church, Penndel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

46th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

Email _____

Please make check payable to Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to:

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President
Slovak Catholic Federation
Our Lady of Grace Church
225 Bellevue Avenue
Penndel, PA 19047-4052

If each member would sign up just one new member, we could double our Society immediately

THINK ABOUT IT!



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2024

- 1 Br. 746 – Mass in Linden, NJ
- 3 Br. 382 – Meeting in Dunmore, PA
Br. 746 – Meeting in Linden, NJ
Dist. 4 – Meeting in Linden, NJ
Dist. 9 – Meeting in Uniontown, PA
- 6 Slovak J Club & Br. 553 – Spaghetti Dinner in Akron, OH
- 7 Br. 7 – Meeting in Ramey, PA
Br. 200 – Meeting in Ford City, PA
- 10 Br. 19 – Zoom Meeting
Br. 162 – Meeting in Uniontown, PA
Br. 743 – Meeting in Sterling Heights, MI
Br. 746 – Egg Painting (RSVP 3/2/2024)
Dist. 11 – Meeting in Butler, PA
- 11 Br. 855 – Meeting in Cleveland, OH
- 13 Br. 290 – Meeting in Middlesex, NJ (RSVP 3/6/2024)
- 14 Br. 260 – Meeting in Struthers, OH
Br. 367 – Meeting in Smithfield, PA
- 17 Br. 716 – Meeting in New York, NY
- 18 Br. 228 – Meeting in Lorain, OH
- 19 Dist. 14 – Meeting in Poland, OH
- 20 Slovak J Club & Br. 553 – Soup & Salad Bar in Akron, OH
- 21 Br. 410 – Meeting in Uniontown, PA (RSVP 3/18/2024)
- 23 Br. 401 – Meeting in Vandergrift, PA (RSVP)
Dist. 10 – Monsters Hockey Game
- 29 **Good Friday** - Home Office Closed
- 30 **Holy Saturday**: Blessing of Easter Baskets
- 31 **HAPPY EASTER!**

For more info go to the Branch and District announcement pages.



The Blessing of Easter Baskets

FCSU National Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta will be blessing Easter baskets via livestream on Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024, at 12:00 PM (noon) Eastern Standard Time. The blessing will be livestreamed from Our Lady of Grace Church, Penndel, PA. You can watch the blessing online at www.olgparishpenndel.org.



March Madness 2024 at the FCSU

March Madness – one of the biggest, most exciting, fun events in all of sports – has once again come to the FCSU!

General March Madness Rules

The NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament is a single-elimination tournament comprised of 68 teams that compete in seven rounds for the national championship. The final round is known as the Final Four, when only four teams are left.

The NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Committee selects seeds and brackets the field for the NCAA Tournament. Then on Selection Sunday, a Selection Committee reveals the full NCAA tournament bracket, including all teams and all seeds. In 2024, Selection Sunday is March 17th.

Note: This is an online contest

FCSU March Madness Rules

1. Each entrant **must be 16 years old**, have an active policy and be a Member in good standing.
2. One (1) Entry per person **ONLY**
3. **Each Player must HAVE AND USE THEIR OWN EMAIL ADDRESS.**
4. Each Player **MUST FILL OUT AN ENTRY FORM.**
5. After the office reviews your entry and you are ruled in good standing, an email will be sent to you to enter the pool. (The email will be sent to the email address you provide. Print Clearly).
(One email address may only be used once for the contest)
6. Please **CHECK YOUR EMAIL OFTEN. ALSO CHECK YOUR JUNK EMAIL.**
7. **Once you receive the email, follow the instructions to sign up on the game site.**
8. You must have your account set up by 5:00PM Thursday March 14, 2024.
9. Once you sign up on the contest site, your account will automatically be **FROZEN.**
10. Your account will **RE-OPEN** on Monday, March 18th, 2024, at 5:00PM EST.
11. All pool rules will be listed on the Official Contest Site.
12. Mail your entry form to the address on the entry form. Missing information is an automatic disqualification
13. Entry must be postmarked by March 1st, 2024
14. Entry must be received by March 8th, 2024

FCSU March Madness Prizes

1ST PLACE:	\$1000.00
2ND PLACE:	\$ 750.00
3RD PLACE:	\$ 500.00
4TH PLACE:	\$ 250.00
5TH PLACE:	\$ 50.00

Entry Form (PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY -All information must be filled in)

NAME _____
 BRANCH: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 PHONE NUMBER _____
 EMAIL: _____

(EMAIL CAN ONLY BE USED ONCE. No exceptions).

MISSING INFORMATION WILL AUTOMATICALLY CAUSE DISQUALIFICATION

Mail entry form to:

Joanne Fibbi
 FCSU Fraternal Activities Director
 6611 Rockside Road, Suite #300
 Independence, OH 44131

(More than 1 entry form may be mailed in an envelope)

POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN Friday, March 1, 2024

And be RECEIVED by Friday, March 8, 2024. PLEASE PLAN AHEAD.

Executive Secretary's Message

As we are entering Lent, one of the most holy times of the year, I remember being taught at a young age the meaning behind Lent and the 40 days. It usually meant giving up something special for the 40 days. For me, this usually included ice cream or soda. Then, once the 40 days were up on Easter Sunday, I would celebrate with an ice cream cone coming home from my grandparents.

Now, as I am older, I learned the 40 days are much more than just giving something up, but also participating in something outside of your comfort zone. I like to think of things to get involved in that are helpful and would make an impact. For example, helping the homeless, volunteering at a food pantry or animal shelter or making a nice home-cooked meal for a family in need.

I encourage everyone during these 40 days to reflect on not only what you are giving up and why, but what you can also gain from helping others. Think about what your Branch can do for your community. Maybe it's starting a new monthly volunteer project with your Branch or collecting donations for your local shelters.

I wish everyone a great beginning to this Holy season and look forward to reflecting on Jesus' love for us in these 40 days.



Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary

Kevin J. Collins

Celebrated Events on February 14th, 2024



Valentine's Day



Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday



SS Cyril and Methodius' Feast Day

Get FCSU In Your Inbox!



Stay up-to-date with the FCSU. Receive the current issue of Jednota right in your inbox – along with all the latest member info. It's free, easy and safe. We'll never share your email address! To sign up: <https://www.fcsu.com/contact/>



FCSU SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

helps its young members succeed through education by awarding over \$142,000 in scholarships each year.

SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORIES

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOLS (5-8 gr)	\$500
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS	\$1,000
VOCATIONAL/TRADE SCHOOLS	\$1,000
COLLEGES	\$1,500
GRADUATE SCHOOLS	\$1,500

RULES & REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must have: a minimum of \$5,000 of reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life), or minimum of \$25,000 JEP policy (on new policy); or minimum of \$1,000 of Juvenile Life Savings; or minimum of \$500 in an annuity or Coverdell IRA with the FCSU for at least three years prior to April 1st of the year in which they are applying.

Applicants are eligible to win once in each of the 5 categories.

All scholarship winners must maintain an active policy during their school years.

Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application obtained from a branch officer, the Home Office or www.fcsu.com and mail it to: Scholarship Program, FCSU, 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131.

Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee and checks will be made payable to the winners.

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

Applications must be postmarked by **MARCH 31, 2024**
 For more info call us at 800-533-6682 ext.114

Christmas Coloring Contest Finalists!

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 Christmas Coloring Contest. Once again, our members showed their unique style and artistry, across all age categories. Many of the 4-6 year olds' entries were colored with great exuberance, unrestrained by convention and sometimes the lines. The color composition, pencil strokes and precision in the older age groupings was beyond expectation. Clearly many hours went into creating the pictures. For ages 4-13, members competed within their Regions, resulting in a maximum of 12 finalists per region. You will note that some regions did not have enough entrants to fill all of the top three spots in each age group -- while other regions had stiff competition. The adult categories were also highly contested, as the winners were chosen at large, and not by specific regions. Thanks to all who entered. And congratulations to this year's finalists, who will receive their cash/gift card prizes later this month.

REGION 1

Ages 4-6



1st
Kenneth Rodriguez
Branch 290



2nd
Claire Adamczyk
Branch 290



1st
Tobias Varga
Branch 45



2nd
Madison Shenloogian
Branch 716



3rd
Benjamin Ranahan
Branch 746



1st
Kaitlyn Shenloogian
Branch 716

REGION 2

Ages 4-6



1st
Connor Von Barga
Branch 924



2nd
Eva Sterling
Branch 112



3rd
Garrett Sterling
Branch 112

Ages 7-9



1st
Jonah Sterling
Branch 112



2nd
Rose Herman
Branch 857



3rd
Charleigh Gross
Branch 857

Ages 10-12

REGION 3

Ages 4-6



1st
Stella Herman
Branch 857



2nd
Ella Zelenak
Branch 3



1st
William Hammes
Branch 166



2nd
Matthew Koval
Branch 5



3rd
Helen Pechmann
Branch 166

Ages 7-9

Ages 10-12



1st
Jack Hammes
Branch 166



2nd
Nicholas Ehr
Branch 5



3rd
Phoenix Morrison
Branch 85



1st
Allison Ehr
Branch 5



2nd
Paige Keiser
Branch 166



3rd
Zachry Keiser
Branch 166

Christmas Coloring Contest Finalists!

REGION 4

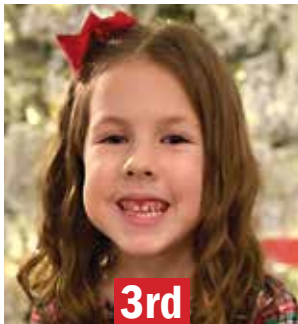
Ages 4-6



1st
Reid Patty
Branch 181



2nd
Joseph Stas
Branch 199



3rd
Evelyn Creak
Branch 484

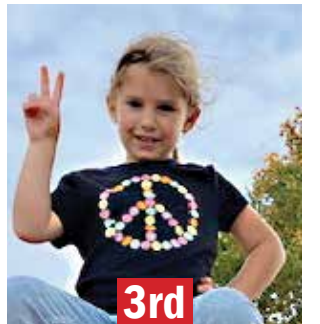
Ages 7-9



1st
Maria Meyer
Branch 393



2nd
Luke Petrus
Branch 670



3rd
Nora Hammes
Branch 166

REGION 5

Ages 10-12



1st
Symeon Kardohely
Branch 456



1st
Abigail Dlugos
Branch 199

Ages 13-16



2nd
Leo Divonzo
Branch 456

Ages 4-6



1st
Caroline Kanczes
Branch 60



2nd
Macy Skoloda
Branch 254



3rd
Grayson Bowser
Branch 200

Ages 7-9



1st
Isabella Nixon
Branch 213



2nd
Violette Lako
Branch 2



3rd
Braden Skoloda
Branch 254

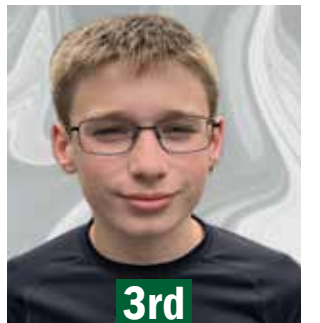
Ages 10-12



1st
Kayla Fibbi
Branch 587



2nd
Zachary Skoloda
Branch 254



3rd
Ethan Fibbi
Branch 587

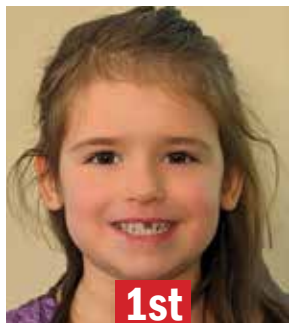
REGION 6

Ages 13-16



1st
Natalie Walsh
Branch 587

Ages 4-6



1st
Sophia Miller
Branch 900



2nd
Walter Instone
Branch 24

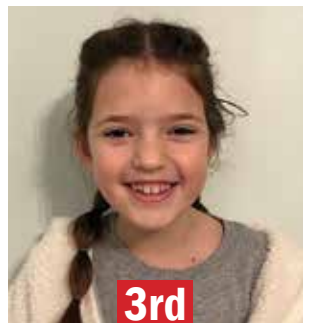
Ages 7-9



1st
Ava Scally
Branch 450



2nd
Gertrude Surovy
Branch 1



3rd
Megan Walko
Branch 731

Ages 10-12



1st
Anne Miller
Branch 900



2nd
Joseph Miller
Branch 900



3rd
Katherine Walko
Branch 731



1st
Abigail Gizewicz
Branch 855

Ages 13-16



2nd
Artem Fedoriouk
Branch 24

Christmas Coloring Contest Finalists!

REGION 7

Ages 4-6

Ages 7-9



1st
Atticus Whittington
Branch 40



2nd
Cole Krzan
Branch 40



3rd
Samson Muller
Branch 844



1st
Emma Harding
Branch 153



2nd
Emmett Whittington
Branch 40



3rd
Rylin Bobo
Branch 313

Ages 10-12

Ages 13-16



1st
Margot Mokosaik
Branch 153



2nd
Alexander Jurcenko
Branch 153



3rd
Brent Oost
Branch 313



1st
Juliana Oost
Branch 313



2nd
Maya Bobo
Branch 313

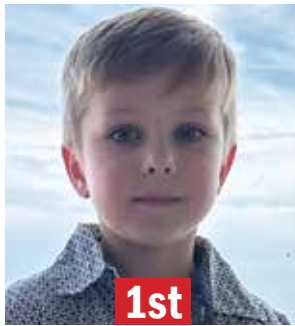


REGION 8

Ages 4-6

Ages 7-9

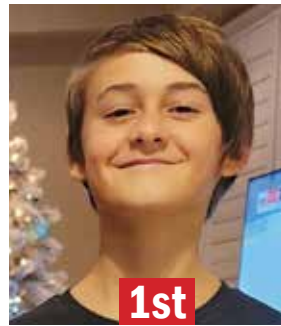
Ages 10-12



1st
Oscar Fazzolari
Branch 785



1st
Grace Oakes
Branch 785



1st
Landon Kapitan
Branch 785



2nd
Maxim Kapitan
Branch 785



Young Adult and Young at Heart Christmas Coloring Contest Winners

Ages 17-39

1st Place:

Shane Simpson
Branch 670

2nd Place:

Elizabeth Dlugos
Branch 199

3rd Place:

Patrick Sullivan
Branch 35

Ages 40+

1st Place:

Alexander Fedoriouk
Branch 24

2nd Place:

Stephanie Kardohely
Branch 456

3rd Place:

Frederick Kardohely
Branch 456

Images from a Rewarding 2023 District 14 Christmas Party

FCSU Joseph L. Kostik District 14 held its Annual Christmas party on the evening of Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at Rachel's Restaurant in Austintown, OH. The festivities were beautifully coordinated by Branch 731's Tom Krispinsky. The celebration allowed the opportunity for the attendees to share fellowship

and information among the branches. A raffle was conducted at the event and included many gifts for the attendees. Also, special thanks to Tom and Terri Ivanec and to Kevin Collins who all traveled from Cleveland to attend our event.

Submitted by Drew Hirt, Branch 682 President



2024 FCSU Golf Tournament

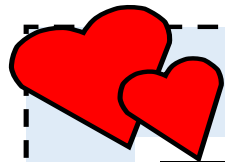
SAVE THE DATES

Oglebay Resort - Wheeling, WV

- Arnold Palmer and Robert Trent Jones Courses
- Friday & Saturday Social Events
- Shotgun Starts
- Contests and Prizes
- Wilson Lodge or Cottage Accommodations

Exclusively for FCSU members and their guests!

July 12-14, 2024



FCSU PUZZLE CONTEST ENTRY

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

“February” Word List

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| VALENTINE | RADOŠŤ (Joy) |
| SURPRISE | SRDCE (Heart) |
| BOUQUET | SLADKOSTI (Sweets) |
| KISSES | ČOKOLÁDA (Chocolate) |
| LOVABLE | PRSTEŇ (Ring) |
| CANDY | OBJATIE (Hug) |
- Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip code: _____
 Email: _____
 Branch #: _____ Phone: _____

Rules

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

FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131

Entries must be received by **March 28, 2024.**

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

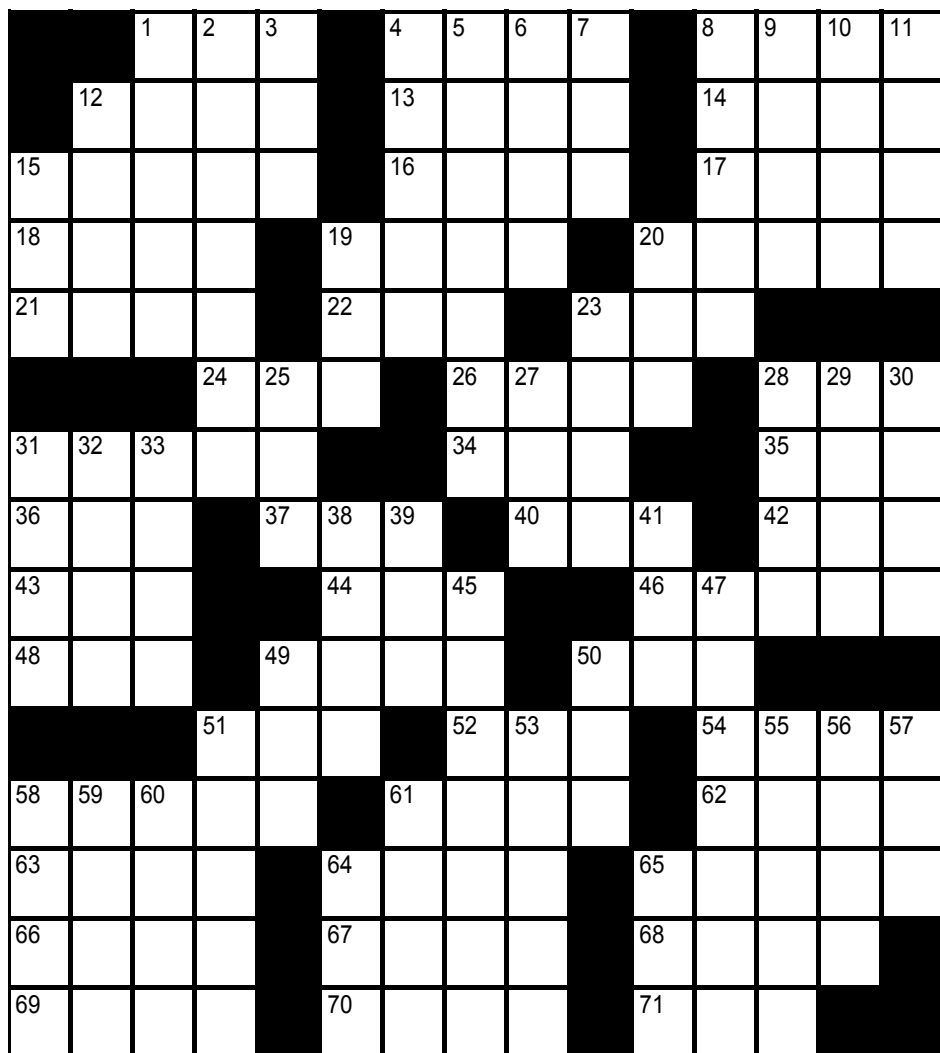
Each winner will receive \$50.

DECEMBER PUZZLE WINNERS

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Veronica Gulick 19K | Tom Lakatosh 157K |
| Rachel Katekovich 587K | Joshua Nixon 213K |
| Elaine Walters 290K | |

KEEP PUZZLING!

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Blah-blah-blah
- 4 Ready for business
- 8 Urban renewal target
- 12 He sang “I’ve Got You Under My Skin” with Frank Sinatra on “Duets”
- 13 Supergarb
- 14 Effortless
- 15 Placeholder
- 16 Kind of cut
- 17 Losing proposition?
- 18 Old 45 player
- 19 Purple shade
- 20 Like Siberian winters
- 21 Teaspoonful, maybe
- 22 Eur. land
- 23 He’s a doll
- 24 Asian holiday
- 26 Kind of cloth
- 28 Anomalous
- 31 OPEC land
- 34 Toothed tool
- 35 Go a-courting
- 36 High card
- 37 Sleazy paper
- 40 Taradiddle
- 42 Outback runner
- 43 Jailbird
- 44 Highball ingredient
- 46 Viper

- 49 Butts
- 50 Kind of deposit
- 51 Chest protector
- 52 Water source
- 54 Wither away
- 58 Intense hatred
- 61 Chums
- 62 Biblical plot
- 63 Young salmon
- 64 Slender fastener
- 65 Entrap
- 66 Spanish liqueur
- 67 Ambience
- 68 “Baseball Tonight” channel
- 69 For fear that
- 70 Charon’s river
- 71 Monsoonal

Down

- 1 Slips
- 2 Angst
- 3 “Whew!”
- 4 Come to pass
- 5 Packages
- 6 Fencing sword
- 7 Current
- 8 Alternative to a convertible
- 9 Animal shelter
- 10 Manipulates
- 11 Fable
- 12 Vivacity
- 15 University conferral
- 19 Plum’s center
- 20 Egg warmer
- 23 Fuzzy fruit
- 25 Musical aptitude
- 27 Bonehead
- 28 Was in the red
- 29 Volcano feature
- 30 Sullen
- 31 Shoestring
- 32 Screen symbol
- 33 Road turn
- 38 Burnoose wearer
- 39 High school class
- 41 Slot machine symbol
- 45 Little sound
- 47 Football squad
- 49 Glass component
- 50 Saturn’s wife
- 51 Explode
- 53 Large antelope
- 55 Show flexibility
- 56 “Jurassic Park” actress
- 57 Compass dir.
- 58 Iridescent gem
- 59 Fjord explorer?
- 60 Flower with a bulb
- 61 Champagne designation
- 64 ___-relief
- 65 Put in stitches

FCSU Untold Stories

Jim Bench – “Jim, you must always help a Slovak.”

James Bench, (Jim), Branch 181 and FCSU Supreme Court Member, has had his share of helping fellow Slovaks. Now recently resigned from his position as President of the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Program, he shared stories of some programs in which he and his wife Kay were involved. One in particular was securing and shipping donated formal dresses to Slovakia. Jim discussed the process of receiving the dresses and how young girls in Slovakia would come to get them.

Q: How did you get involved?

I have been associated with the Youngstown/Spišská Nova Ves Sister Cities Program for over 20 years despite being from Derry, Pennsylvania.

I became involved because of the insistence of the late Judge John Leskovyansky and the late Steve Bacon who started the program. It was and still is a very effective program designed to assist Spišská Nova Ves as well as surrounding areas of Slovakia. We have had numerous programs far too many to address at this time. The gown program has existed for the past eight years and is certainly worthwhile.

Q: Where do the gowns come from?

The gowns are generously donated by the owners Reed and Mia Pederson of MB Bride and Special Occasion in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Reed had been a speaker at Westmoreland Community College and in an informal conversation with Professor Michael Hricik, indicated a willingness to donate gowns to a worthy cause. Michael, a friend for many years and son of past President FCSU Thomas Hricik immediately contacted me.

Following a phone conversation with Reed, my wife and I visited the establishment. Thinking we were going to a traditional bridal shop, we were greatly surprised and impressed with the premises. It was large, occupying a two-story building with almost 50 employees busily engaged with business procedures. We were just amazed and delighted. The Pedersons were receptive as well as gracious, and about three hours were spent establishing a potential program. Within a few days Kay and I picked up 300 new, beautiful gowns.

As our friendship continued to grow, so did their interest in our tours. They accompanied us on tour and visited all the places where the gowns were sent. That experience added to their interest and then over the years the gowns have kept coming. Our latest shipment consisting of over 700 gowns went out in September 2023.

Yes, the Slovak women have really benefitted from the Pedersons generosity, but my wife and I have been fortunate and privileged to have acquired a lasting and meaningful friendship with Reed and Mia.



Jim and Kay Bench, Branch 181

"They accompanied us on tour and visited all the places where the gowns were sent. That experience added to their interest and then over the years the gowns have kept coming. Our latest shipment consisting of over 700 gowns went out in September 2023."

Q: What kind of dresses were sent?

Evening gowns. They have a lot of balls in Slovakia and the young girls couldn't afford evening gowns, but thanks to the generosity of Reed and Mia they were now able to attend.

Q: Do the gowns need any work done?

They are all brand new but would need altered to fit the individual. My wife is the one who is particular. She examines every single gown, puts them in individual plastic bags and puts tags marking the size. And she knows Slovakia that well that she will say these are going to Pezinok. Or we're going to send these to Trenčín because there are a lot of girls and dance

schools there, and they are smaller so we'll send the smaller gowns.

Q: How long did it take to prepare them to send over?

I used to go to Lowe's and buy the boxes. After the gowns were in the boxes, we completely wrapped them with transparent tape. Greg Maurer Chairman of Auditors for the FCSU was always readily available to assist. They were going by ship, so we didn't want any water to get in and used this as a double precaution. The procedure required many hours from start to finish.

Q: Did you have any contacts in Slovakia/Did you know where to send the dresses?

Oh, absolutely. My wife and daughter Sharon Bench Zacur, Branch 181, had previously acquired 20 wedding gowns which were worn once and had been commercially cleaned and preserved. That preceded the acquisition of the evening gowns.

Viera a very, very good friend of ours, in fact she's the guide on our tours, is one of the people in charge of distribution. When we sent the first shipment to Viera, she went to her Parish priest and told him about the gowns. Following the mass, the priest announced that Viera had the gowns and should be contacted directly to see the gowns.

Q: What is the reaction of the people receiving the dresses?

In the early beginnings, Viera called us to tell us one girl's mother was a seamstress and when they came in to look at the gowns, they became very suspicious because the mother kept saying these gowns are so expensive, why would anyone want to give them away and there has to be a trick. She did a good job of telling them, no, this is perfectly legitimate. I can give you the names of Jim and Kay Bench from Pennsylvania who shipped these gowns.

The city of Spišská Nová Ves has initiated various programs for the distribution of the gowns. The programs are generally warmly received and the response gratifying. There are many stories associated with the gown distribution, however the many stories would be better suited for an individual article.

Sometimes we get pictures of the girls when they came to look at the gowns. They said the girls were happy and delighted. The girls got to go to the ball and got a bargain gown so they were happy.

Q: What is your motivation for being involved?

My Grandmother's voice. We were poor but she used to tell me, "Jim you must always help a Slovak." I used to think in my mind, who can I help? I always remembered that, and I think that may have something to do with it. I don't know.

Although Jim has resigned, the program will continue each year with the donation of dresses. The Youngstown Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities is always looking for new ways to help and lend a hand to Slovakia. At the end of the conversation, Jim expressed he could not do what he's done without his wife and that she has been with him every step of the way.

"Everything I'm telling you; my wife has been right there and I could never have done it without her," Jim said. "We have been married 60 years, 61 in June. Everything I do, my wife does 50% and maybe even more."

This interview has been edited and condensed by the editor.

FCSU International Bowling Tournament

April 26-27, 2024

Exclusively for FCSU Members and their Guests*



*** One Guest per Member ***

Bowling Venue

AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes

1601 Washington Rd. (Route 19) - Pittsburgh (Mount Lebanon) PA 15228 - 412-854-0600

Team Bowling Event ★ Friday, April 26th @ 6:30 pm

Doubles & Singles Bowling Events ★ Saturday, April 27th @ 10:00 am

Casual Food Buffet ★ Friday, April 26th @ 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Plus Special Contests and Prizes

Headquarters Hotel

The Crowne Plaza Hotel - Pittsburgh South

164 Fort Couch Rd. - Pittsburgh, (Upper St. Clair) PA 15241 - 412-833-5300

(Minutes to AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes. Located across from South Hills Village Mall)

Group Code: FCSU Bowling **Group Rate:** \$179+ taxes, two breakfast buffets **Rate Expires:** March 20, 2024

For reservations call the hotel directly at 412-833-5300 Room Type: Double Queens, Kings (limited)

Saturday Events at The Crowne Plaza

Vigil Mass - 4:00 pm Cocktails - 5:00 pm Dinner - 6:30 pm

PLUS -- Opportunities to win fabulous raffle and door prizes including gift cards, basket of cheer, a Stay and Play Package for the 2024 FCSU Golf Tournament -- and MORE!

Additional Lodging at The Hampton Inn

150 Old Pond Rd. - Bridgeville, PA 15107 - 412-319-7706

(Approximately 15-20 minute drive (local roads) to AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes)

Group Code: FCSU Bowling **Group Rate:** \$129 + taxes, express breakfast **Rate Expires:** March 20, 2024

For reservations call the hotel directly at: 412-319-7706 Room Type: Double Queens

Enter your Team Today!

2024 FCSU International Bowling Tournament

Official Entry Form - Deadline March 18, 2024

Important Entrant Information

- Non-USBC Bowlers: Men are to enter **175** and women are to enter **150** as their highest average, if no previous FCSU average is available
- Non-Members must be invited by an FCSU member in good standing. Guest information must be submitted on member's entry.
- Each individual bowler and team captain on this entry agrees to relinquish their rights to prize money, should any information provided herein be found to be false. The tournament will be conducted under USBC Rules and Regulations.
- All tournament information, rules and regulations, etc. will be disseminated by email and available at fcsu.com. Please advise if you do not have email. **A fillable version of this entry form is available at fcsu.com/events which can be completed, printed and mailed.**

Please list team captain first and print legibly. Thank you.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____
 Email: _____
 Highest Avg. 2022-23 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____

Please check your events

Open Team Doubles
 Men Singles All Events
 Women Singles All Events
FCSU Member Yes No FCSU Branch # _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____
 Email: _____
 Highest Avg. 2022-23 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____

Please check your events

Open Team Doubles
 Men Singles All Events
 Women Singles All Events
FCSU Member Yes No FCSU Branch # _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____
 Email: _____
 Highest Avg. 2022-23 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____

Please check your events

Open Team Doubles
 Men Singles All Events
 Women Singles All Events
FCSU Member Yes No FCSU Branch # _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____
 Email: _____
 Highest Avg. 2022-23 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____

Please check your events

Open Team Doubles
 Men Singles All Events
 Women Singles All Events
FCSU Member Yes No FCSU Branch # _____

Your Local USBC: _____ Association Secretary: _____
 USBC Address/Best Contact Info: _____

TEAM EVENT

Friday, April 26, 2024 @ 6:30 pm
 (List bowlers in the order they will be bowling.)

1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____

DOUBLES and SINGLES EVENTS

Saturday, April 27, 2024 @ 10:00 am

1. _____
 2. _____
 1. _____
 2. _____

TOURNAMENT FEES - FCSU MEMBERS

Event	# of Bowlers	Cost per person	Total
Teams		\$25.00	\$
Doubles		\$25.00	\$
Singles		\$25.00	\$
All Events		\$5.00	\$
Bowler Friday Buffet		\$0	\$0
Bowler Saturday Dinner		\$0	\$0
Non-bowler Friday Buffet		\$15.00	\$
Non-bowler Saturday Dinner		\$35.00	\$
FCSU Member Total			\$

TOURNAMENT FEES - NON-MEMBERS

Event	# of Bowlers	Cost per person	Total
Teams		\$30.00	\$
Doubles		\$30.00	\$
Singles		\$30.00	\$
All Events		\$5.00	\$
Bowler Friday Buffet		\$15.00	\$
Bowler Saturday Dinner		\$35.00	\$
Non Member Total			\$

Grand Total Enclosed: \$ _____
Checks payable to: First Catholic Slovak Union

Mail entry and payment to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241.
Payment must accompany entry form. Entry must be received before March 18, 2024.

Important Information for All Tournament Entrants
RULES and REGULATIONS
FCSU International Bowling Tournament

1. The Tournament shall be conducted in compliance with the rules and regulations of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC).

2. This event is being sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union for the exclusive enjoyment of its members and their guests. The goal of the tournament is to promote fraternalism and good sportsmanship and generate interest in our Slovak fraternal organization. The National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union wish to extend a cordial invitation to all members and their guests.

3. ELIGIBILITY: This Tournament is open to all First Catholic Slovak Union Members (age 18+) in good standing at the time of entry. Those with lapsed memberships/policies may not participate in the tournament or its related social functions.

4. a. The total cost per **FCSU MEMBER** for each event shall be:

Prize Fee.	\$10.00
Bowling Fee.	\$13.00
Hospitality Fee.	\$ 2.00
TOTAL COST (per event)	\$25.00
Saturday Dinner	No Cost
*All Events Fee	\$ 5.00 (Optional)

**Only bowlers paying the \$5.00 All-Events fee are eligible for the cash awards.*

4.. b. The total cost per **NON-MEMBER** for each event shall be:

Prize Fee.	\$15.00
Bowling Fee.	\$13.00
Hospitality Fee.....	\$ 2.00
TOTAL COST (per event)	\$30.00
Saturday Dinner	\$35.00 (Optional)
*All Events Fee	\$ 5.00 (Optional)

**Only bowlers paying the \$5.00 All-Events fee will be eligible for the cash awards.*

The Prize Fees will be awarded 100% in each specific event. At least 1 in 10 participants in each event will win prizes.

Note: Contestant may win only one cash prize per event (scratch or handicap), whichever cash prize is higher. Excluding special prizes. Awards will be presented to the Contestants who roll the highest scratch and handicap scores in each event.

5. SUBSTITUTES. Bowlers may compete only once in each event. However, the Tournament Director may allow a bowler who has previously bowled to substitute on a four bowler team when one of its original entrants is absent. The score of such bowler in the team event rolled with his entering team must count for all events. No one may bowl in this tournament except those originally entered before the tournament opens or such substitutes who may be authorized by the captain of a team or his appointee, provided the individual whose name appears on the entry blank is unable for sufficient reason to attend the tournament at the time scheduled. The Tournament Director shall have power to approve the substitutes that are offered by the captain or his legalized representative, and if accepted, each substitute must bowl each event under his full name and only at scheduled time in each event. The substitute's score and handicap from the said event will be used.

6. As of March 15, 2024, if any contestant's current average, of *at least 21 games*, is ten pins or more above their highest average from the previous season, they must use their current average.

7. HANDICAP - Men's Division Handicap will be calculated at 90% of the difference between 240 and their last season's 2022-2023 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2024.

Male bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as having a **175** average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Bowling Tournament, the average of most recent 2 year history from Tournaments will be used.

Male bowlers with an average over 240 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch throughout the tournament.

8. HANDICAP: Women's Division handicap will be calculated at 90% of the difference between 200 and last season's 2022-2023 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2024.

Female bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as having a **150** average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in

the Joint Fraternal Bowling Tournament, the most recent 2 year history from the Joint Fraternal Tournaments will be used. Female bowlers with an average over 200 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch in the tournament.

Under no circumstances will handicaps be increased after participant has bowled.

9 FALSIFYING AVERAGES - PENALTY - The team captain is responsible for reporting all averages of the individual team members, and they are responsible to him. Should the Tournament Committee find at any time that the averages have been falsified, the team shall forfeit all claims for prize money as well as their entry fee and will be subject to disqualification and suspension from organized bowling. All prize winners are subject upon request to submit an affidavit of correct league averages.

10. RE-RATING OF BOWLERS - According to USBC Rule No. 319 A-E, bowlers maybe re-rated by the Tournament Committee.

11. All entry applications and bowling fees are to be mailed to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241; and must be received before March 18, 2024. Rule 310-A2 is in effect.

12. Bowlers who participate in tournament games must be dressed in a presentable manner to appear before public and when possible to use an emblem attached to shirt or dress so that participant can be identified.

13. Both USBC and eligible non-USBC members may participate in moral support tournaments with high score protection automatically extended to USBC members. Eligible non-USBC members can qualify for high score protection at their option by paying a \$21.00 fee for which the Congress will issue an unattached membership card.

14. FEE WILL NOT BE REFUNDED. All prize fees will be paid in prizes.

15. Bowlers may choose to bowl in their respective gender team and doubles event or on a mixed team or mixed doubles team, but cannot participate in both divisions. Singles and All Events are gender specific. Mixed team and mixed doubles scores will be used to calculate All Events specific to the gender of the bowler. Must have 6 teams and 10 doubles teams to hold the mixed events.

16. In the Doubles Event, the names of both bowlers must be listed on the entry. Incomplete forms will be returned for information. If both entrants in the Doubles event appear when scheduled, it is understood that they must bowl as entered and no change in position will be allowed at any time after entry has been filed.

17. LANE ASSIGNMENTS - The Tournament Committee will assign lanes. For all events. Bowlers in the Doubles and Singles Events must report 30 minutes prior to the time they are scheduled to bowl. Captains of teams must report their line-up at least 30 minutes before scheduled start time.

18. In the Doubles & Singles Events bowling entrants will bowl all six of their games on the same pair of lanes. Bowlers entered in only the Singles Event will be assigned to alleys by the Committee.

19. A team may use a name other than its league name for tournament entry without the payment of additional membership dues as formerly required.

20 Contestants in this tournament are not required to report any tournament prize winnings for the previous 12-month period.

21. Failure to use the correct average shall disqualify score, if the submitted average results in a lower classification or greater handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the correct average. However, corrections in averages may be permitted up to the completion of the first game of a series.

22. DISPUTES: Any dispute is to be brought promptly to the attention of the Tournament Committee, with final determination made by the Tournament Director.

23. GUESTS: We welcome guest bowlers. Each FCSU member in good standing, may register one non-member bowler.

President of Slovakia Visits Mississauga

During her recent visit to Canada and the United States, H.E. President Zuzana Caputova of the Slovak Republic paid a visit to the Slovak Roman Catholic Church of Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada on January 31, 2024.

The visit started with a Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Grzegorz Nowicki with the presence of Madam President. Afterwards, there was an informal reception held in the parish hall with remarks, a short performance by the children of the Vychodna Slovak Dancers, a speech from Madam President and a meet and greet. Several members of Jednota Branch 785 and District 19 were present and she was very gracious in greeting and speaking with many of them.

**Submitted by John Tokarsky,
National Treasurer**



Slovak President Zuzana Caputova with FCSU National Treasurer John Tokarsky

National President Kenneth Arendt and Executive Secretary Kevin Collins were scheduled to meet President Zuzana Caputova in Pittsburgh, PA on Sunday, February 4th, 2024. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, President Zuzana Caputova had to cancel her visit the morning of.



Slovak President Zuzana Caputova with FCSU Region 8 Director Milos Mitro



2024 FCSU BOWLING TOURNAMENT Sponsorship Opportunities for Members

As a lane sponsor, your sign will be on display at the bowling alley during the tournament.

Promote your branch or business. Support our bowlers.

- Individual Lane Sponsorships .. \$ 50.
- Branch Lane Sponsorships \$100.
- Business Lane Sponsorships.... \$150.

Sign dimensions: 24" x 18" (or vertical 18" x 24")
Email your pdf to jfibbi@fcsu.com Or Print Your Sign Copy Below:

Or Become a Bowling Tournament Patron

- Bronze Donor..... \$ 50.
- Silver Donor\$100.
- Gold Donor\$250.
- Platinum Donor...\$500.

As a patron of the Tournament, your donation will be used to purchase contest, raffle and door prizes. Your name will be on display at the headquarters hotel, and announced during the Celebration Dinner.

Lane Sponsorship and Patron Deadline: April 5, 2024

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make checks payable to: FCSU with Lane Sponsor or Bowling Patron on the memo line.

**Mail to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director
1741 Hempstead Ln., Pittsburgh, PA 15241.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Fulfill your Dreams of Exploring Slovakia

Jim and Kay Bench will be hosting their 21st tour of Slovakia in July of 2024. They previously hosted the Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Tours. If you would like to experience the hospitality of the Slovak people, the beauty of the Slovak countryside or perhaps learn more about your own family history start making plans to join Jim & Kay on this unforgettable adventure of a lifetime. Start now by talking with the oldest members of your family who perhaps have letters from relatives in Slovakia or have the names of the villages where your ancestors lived.

Visit the birthplace of Father Furdek, the founder of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Juraj Janosik, The Slovak Robin Hood. Tour Bratislava the capitol of Slovakia and visit the enchanted old town. There are numerous historic churches, and castles to explore across the countryside. Be treated to delightful folk performances, float down the Dunajec river taking in the beauty of Slovakia's smallest National Park Pieniny. Walk across the bridge over the Dunajec river which is the natural boundary between Slovakia and Poland to do a little shopping. Enjoy lunch in Hungary at one of their many open-air restaurants, and also experience the charm of Vienna via a walking tour as well as a bus tour. That's a total of 4 countries you will have visited! There are many other places too numerous to mention included in the tour.



You will stay in first class hotels and travel on a large roomy air- conditioned bus with a rest room on board. The tour price includes air fares, hotels, breakfasts, dinners and admissions. You are responsible for your own lunches and drinks unless advised otherwise.

Paul Hudak of Adventure International Travel will be making flight and hotel reservations. Space is limited so act quickly!

For further information call Jim at 724-858-5843---Kay at 724-771-7900 ---Paul Hudak at Adventure International---800-542-2487 or 216-214-1052

Put on your dancing shoes, get ready to go to Slovakia with Jim & Kay, you are going to have the time of your life!

Submitted by Jim and Kay Bench, Branch 181

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

DISTRICT 2 - REV JOHN J SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT – IL, IN, KY, WI

Reverend John Spitkovsky District District 2 will meet on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL. Fraternal social at 1:30 pm and meeting begins at 2:00 pm. Pizza and Salad will be served after the meeting. Raffle prizes are needed. Hope that we will have a great attendance. Looking forward to seeing you.

Submitted by John Jurcenko, President

DISTRICT 3 – GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT - PA

The George Onda District (3) of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold their Semi-Annual meeting on Saturday, April 6, 2024 following the 5:00PM Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church – 4263 Route 981 - United, Pa. The meeting will be held in the Church Social Hall. We will discuss Branch news and our successful Stedry Vecer. We look forward to a great attendance. Food and refreshments will be served, therefore we ask you to RSVP to Vice President Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712 prior to March 30, 2024.

Submitted by Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 4 - MSGR. RURA DISTRICT - NJ

Happy New Year! The next semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 2:00 PM in the downstairs meeting room of Holy Family Church (210 Monroe Street, Linden, NJ 07036). The agenda will include discussion of this year's activities. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry. Lunch will be served after the meeting. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 by February 24th if you plan on attending.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT - PA

The Spring Business Meeting will be held Sunday, April 7, 1 PM at Holy Trinity Church hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin. We will discuss business matters and plan events for this year. Branch 2 will host. RSVP to Linda Collins by Palm Sunday, March 24. 412-266-2119 or lindaco243@gmail.com

Other announcements of local interest:

- WPSCA: meets 7 PM first Mondays at the Mount Lebanon Public Library. February 5: Egg Decorating; March 4: Holiday Sausage
- WPSCA sponsors scholarships and hosts other events. Join the organization and get the newsletter.
- Slovak language classes: March 4 to April 22 - Greentree Public Library
- Slovak Day at Kennywood - Thursday, July 18, 2024
- Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt - Sunday, November 3, 2024
- Slovak Radio Program - WPIT 96.5 FM or 730 AM

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as social events and contests. Be sure your beneficiaries are up to date. Check the website FCSU.com for information and insurance forms.

For questions or additional information regarding the district please feel free to email me at manasta@verizon.net.

Submitted by Margaret A Nasta, Secretary

DISTRICT 8 - REV STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT - PA, NC

The Reverend Stephen Furdek District will hold its spring meeting Sunday April 14, 2024 in Egypt,

PA. Mass will be at 9:30am at Holy Trinity Catholic Church located at 4456 Main St., Whitehall, PA 18052. Meeting is immediately following Mass at Kornfeind's Market, 2228 Old Post Rd., Coplay, PA 18037. [Exit left out of the church parking lot onto Main Street. Main Street becomes Old Post Road. Kornfeind's Market is on the left hand side and parking is in the rear for us.] Price is \$20.00 per attendee. Please contact District Recording Secretary Jo Austin for meeting information at jeaustin89@gmail.com or call 315.391.0526.

Submitted by Joanne Engle Austin, Recording Secretary

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

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 1:00 PM at Shoney's at 285 McClellandtown Road, Uniontown, PA. The election of officers for will be held. Regional Director James Marmol will be informing the members of upcoming Jednota events.

Members who attend will be asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal. Reservations need to be made by Wednesday, February 26, 2024, by contacting District President James Marmol at 724-970-7642. All members are urged to attend.

Submitted by Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 11 – MSGR JOSEPH TISO – PA

Msgr. Joseph Tiso District 11 will hold the Semi-annual meeting on March 10, 2024 at 2:00 PM at the Monroe Hotel. The address is 400 E. Jefferson St., Butler, PA. 16001. Discussions on this year's activities will be the main focus of our meeting. Come enjoy a great meal and share your thoughts for the district. God Bless!

Submitted by Karen Greggs, Recording Secretary

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

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

1. Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace.
2. Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace. (Semi-annual meeting).
3. Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace.
4. Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. (Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2024); Fireplace.
5. Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. (Short Meeting and Christmas Dinner); Location TBD

An Additional meeting might be called/scheduled if needed for fraternal activities.

Meetings will be held at The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514; unless otherwise specified, indicated, or announced. For questions or additional information please contact John L. Leskovyansky Jr. at home (330) 549-3788 or by cell (330) 559-5981.

Submitted by John L Leskovyansky, Jr., President

DISTRICT 16 - MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA, – NY

Happy New Year! The semi-annual meeting District 16, of the Msgr. Stephen Krasula, in New York City will be held on Sunday April 7th, 2024, at 1 pm at the rectory of the St. John Nepomucene Church. The agenda will include discussion of upcoming activities for year 2024. After meeting, refreshments will be served. We are kindly asking all officers and members to attend.

Submitted by Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 16

and discussion of branch activities for the summer.

All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Refreshment will be served after the meeting. Please call George Carny (440) 885 - 5702 if you are planning to attend.

Submitted by George Carny, President

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 450 is providing special Branch 450 members-only pricing for the Saturday evening (7:00PM), March 23, 2024, Monsters hockey game at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in downtown Cleveland, OH. A non-branch member ticket is \$25.00. A Branch 450 member ticket is \$5.00. Reservations are required and available by calling George Carny at 440-885-5702. The deadline to order tickets is February 15, 2024. Order now and join other FCSU District 10 members in this family-friendly event of fun and fraternalism.

Submitted by George Carny, President

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

Wishing you a year filled with God's continued blessings, health and family fun.

Mark your calendar for the following events:

Feb. 16 Fri. First Fish Fry of the Lenten Season – Served 4:30 – 7:00 pm (served every Friday thru Good Friday). All you can eat buffet off fried fish, mac & cheese, fries, haluski, coleslaw, bread & butter \$15.00. For adults chicken tenders plus buffet is \$12.00. For children chicken tender plus buffet is \$8.00. Baked cod plus buffet is \$20.00 and available by reservation only. Reservation must be made by Wednesday. Call 330-786-

9972.

Feb. 21 Wed. Pork Chop Dinner – served 4:30 – 6:30 pm RESERVATIONS REQUIRED by Feb. 19. Limited to 70 dinners (330-786-9972)

Feb. 25 Sun. Breakfast buffet – served 9am – 11:45am.

March 6 Wed. All you can eat spaghetti dinner – served 4:30 – 7:00pm

March 20 Wed. Three soup and salad bar – includes bread and dessert. Served 4:30 – 6:30 pm Looking forward to sharing fellowship with you in 2024-bring your family and friends to enjoy our activities.

Submitted by Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

Branch 553 is providing special Branch 553 members-only pricing for the Saturday evening (7:00PM), March 23, 2024, Monsters hockey game at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in downtown Cleveland, OH. A non-branch member ticket is \$25.00. A Branch 553 member ticket is \$10.00. Reservations are required and available by calling Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151. The deadline to order tickets is February 15, 2024. Order now and join other FCSU District 10 members in this family-friendly event of fun and fraternalism.

Submitted by Linda Hanko, Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PA

Branch 670 will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 12 PM at Kings Restaurant, 580 McClelland Rd, Canonsburg, PA. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, the meeting will also be held via Zoom. Any branch member wanting to attend the meeting via Zoom, please contact

branch670secretary@gmail.com, a day in advance, for the Zoom link. All Branch 670 members are invited to attend the meeting.

Submitted by Maureen Massafra, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 716- NEW YORK, NY

Happy New Year to all branch members! The St. Stephen Society Branch 716 will hold its first semiannual meeting of the year 2024 on Sunday, March 17, 2024. The meeting will be held in person at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York, NY following the conclusion of the Slovak Mass at 12:30 pm. The agenda will include financial report updates and discussion of branch activities and any events for the new year. Refreshments will be provided at the meeting and all members of Branch 716 are highly encouraged to attend.

Submitted by Emily Lysáková, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 - STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, March 10, 2024, with a Slovak Mass at 11:30am for all living and deceased members at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day.

A Branch meeting will take place at 1:30 pm. in the Slovak Heritage Room.

Any member who has recently moved or requires a beneficiary update should contact the Branch Secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr, Commerce Twp., MI 48382 or phone 248-714-9620 or email: josephrimarcik@gmail.com

branch670secretary@gmail.com.

No obligation insurance quotes are free and simple, all that is required is date of birth and gender.

Submitted by Joseph C. Rimarcik, President/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

Members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7:00 PM (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Masses are offered for the intention of all Branch members living and deceased as follows: March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th, August 2nd, September 6th, October 4th, November 8th, and December 6th.

Branch 746 Scholarship application deadline is April 30th. If you are currently accepted and / or enrolled in full-time college, post-secondary educational institution, or vocational school, and are active in Branch 746, you may be eligible for a \$1,500.00 scholarship. For more information on the application criteria and requirements, go to <https://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

The first meeting of 2024 will be on Sunday, March 3rd at 12:30 PM in the downstairs meeting room of Holy Family Church (210 Monroe Street, Linden, NJ 07036). The agenda will include discussion and planning of this year's activities. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local pantry. Please note that Okres meeting will follow at 2:00 PM. Afterwards, lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach

continued on page 19

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 svieti. 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
002K	Edward M Stofko	157K	Gertrude Gossick	330K	Richard L Smith	746K	Alexander L Chylko
004K	Albin Gontkovic	157K	James E Jones	372K	Anna Meyers	746K	Florence Wawrzynski
006K	James Pshak	157K	Joseph Dinbokowitz	393K	Daniel J Blasko	746K	Irene A Americk
024K	John F Janosik Jr	162K	Dorothy A Chuey	553K	Joseph John Dobo	855K	Charlotte Wallington
024K	John F Manchak	166K	Helen Gaspar	553K	Mary Ampula	900K	Kathleen Ann Sullivan
024K	Vincent Thomas Phillips	173K	Frank M Kapalka	581K	Meghan Raye Buell	916K	Valarie Michael Kristapovich
035K	Ronald J Yurik	173K	Georgette A Zapusek	615K	John Bires	917K	Marijo L Williams
038K	Carrie A Smith	181K	George E Kelly	729K	Mary Bozenik	918K	Bozena Puchovsky
038K	Elizabeth C Krasman	181K	Karen Davis	731K	David M Hlebovy	926K	Jule Bardy
038K	Paul R Topolosky	181K	Lisa F. Lupyan	731K	John S Hodos Jr		
085K	Samuel A Graci	199K	Gerald Milyak	731K	Maxine Patrone		
089K	Anne Simone	228K	Susan M Matthews	743K	Joseph Laichalk		
157K	Charles E Kovacs	293K	Margaret Kostek	746K	Albert D Kovacs		

* Processed in the month of January 2024

Nekrológy – Obituaries

MARGARET KOSTEK, BRANCH 293- LANSFORD, PA

Margaret Ann (Kozak) Kostek, formerly of Lansford, passed away Monday, November 27, 2023, at the home of her daughter and son-in-law with whom she resided. Margaret, born January 5, 1930, was the wife of Edward J. Kostek who passed away in December of 2014. She was the daughter of the late John and Anna (Hazincak) Kozak of Lansford and graduated from the former Lansford High School, Class of 1947. Margaret was a lifelong member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Lansford until its closure and then became a member of St. Joseph's Parish of the Panther Valley, Summit Hill. She sang in the church choir for many years at St. Michael's and was a member of the Panther Valley Golden Age Club. Margaret also attended the Tamaqua Adult Day Care Center where she thrived. She loved being there and was happiest when they had a sing-along or were playing Bingo. Margaret is survived by her daughters, Diane Conahan, wife of Glenn Conahan of Hometown, with whom she resided and Jeanne Halde-man, wife of Charles Haldeman, also of Hometown. She has two granddaughters, Christine Haldeman of Pottsville and Amanda Conahan Ryan, wife of Sebastian Ryan, who lives in Ireland and gave her three great grandchildren, Charlotte, Theodore and Oliver. Last year Margaret got to meet her Irish grandbabies and was delighted. She is also survived by a beloved nephew, Michael Polinchock and his wife, Mary Lou of Bethlehem. Margaret was the last immediate member of the Kozak family being preceded in death by her sister, Anna Polinchock who had been a resident of Lansford and Mary Thomas who had been a resident of Wyomissing. She also had a brother, John Kozak, who died in infancy.

Submitted by Diane Conahan

PAUL R. TOPOLOSKY, BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PA

Paul R. Topolosky, passed away peacefully on November 14, 2023, at the age of 81, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Braddock, Pennsylvania to Margaret and Paul Topolosky, Paul was raised with a deep appreciation for his Slovak heritage and Catholic faith. Devoted husband of 55 years to Kathleen McCann, Paul was all about family, and especially the gatherings from "down the house" in his youth to those he hosted at their home in Monroeville.



When it came to his hometown of Pittsburgh, no one was more passionate than Paul. From his love of their sports teams to its rich history, Paul would take every opportunity to share his knowledge about the Steel City. His love of Pittsburgh was only overshadowed by his love of Kitty, his children and five grandchildren. Never did a time pass where he wasn't trying to provide guidance and wisdom which usually started with "you know what I think you should do" and was followed by big ideas full of possibilities.

Paul was very proud of his military service in the Pennsylvania National Guard at the Hunt Armory and the US Army Reserves. He was discharged as a Specialist 4th class. After obtaining his business degree from Duquesne University, he began his career in the accounting department at Alcoa and later became an appraiser at IAC. In 1968 he became a programmer trainee at J&L Steel and later joined the MIS organization at Carnegie Mellon University. While at CMU he was a team leader for the development of their undergraduate admissions

system. He went on to work in systems and finance at PPG Industries and Westinghouse Corporate EDP audit staff. While at Westinghouse, he tested new technology for electronic data transmission (the first emails) and was named Manager of Information Systems. Paul later founded and successfully operated Gateway Resources Inc. a consulting, computer and engineering staffing firm for over 30 years. In his retirement Paul enjoyed working with the Westinghouse archives and on the California University and Heinz computer systems at the Heinz History Center. Paul was also an avid fisherman and nature enthusiast and enjoyed sharing these passions with his

grandkids.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Margaret Topolosky (Murajda); his father, Paul Topolosky; and his daughter, Kristin Hetz (Topolosky). He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Topolosky (McCann); son, Mark Topolosky and his partner Joseph Hood of Austin, TX; daughter, Lynn Raus (Topolosky) and her husband, Barry Raus of Haddonfield, NJ; brother, Ronald Murajda of Rilton, PA; and son-in-law, Scott Hetz of Washington, DC. He was blessed with five grandchildren, Samuel Raus, Jacob Hetz, Meredith Raus, Max Hetz, and Benjamin Raus.

Submitted by Kathleen M. Topolosky

Leave On a Good Note...



FINAL EXPENSE INSURANCE

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

Median Funeral Cost

\$8,000 – \$10,000

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

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• FCSU Financial™ Founded in 1990
 • \$900M in Assets
 • Solvency Ratio 135%
 • Governed and Regulated by the DOI

Are your FCSU Beneficiaries up to date?
 Call us at 1-800-533-6682 or go to
www.fcsu.com/update-profile

St. Nicholas Party At The St. John Nepomucene Church In NYC

On December 3rd, 2023, after the children's Holy Mass, St. Nicholas visited children during the St. Nicholas party in the hall next to the Church of St. John of Nepomucene in New York. The children greeted St. Nicholas with a short program where they recited poems and sang songs. St. Nicholas gifted each child with a small present. More than 130 children and their parents attended the St. Nicholas party.

Posedenie So Sv. Mikulášom V Kostole Sv. Jána Nepomuckého V NYC

3. decembra po slovenskej sv. omši zameranej na deti sa sv. Mikuláš stretol s deťmi na posedení v hale pri Kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku. Deti pripravili pre Mikuláša krátky program, kde mu zarecitovali básničky a zaspievali. Všetky deti dostali od sv. Mikuláša mikulášsku nádielku. Na stretnutie s Mikulášom prišlo vyše 130 detí s rodičmi.

Submitted by Zelmira Beckova, Branch 45



Children during the program for St. Nicholas
Deti počas programu pre sv. Mikuláša



Fr. Kertýs and children during the homily
O. Kertýs a deti počas kázne



Children greeting St. Nicholas
Deti vítajú sv. Mikuláša

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Polt @732-762-3148 by February 24th if you plan on attending.

On Sunday, March 10th, there will be a traditional Easter egg painting demonstration/hands-on class at 1:00PM in the downstairs meeting room of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Join us in the tradition of creating pysanky. Supplies will be provided. Plan to spend the afternoon. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 by March 2nd.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary
BRANCH 796 – EQYPT, PA

Branch 796 will hold their semi-annual meeting February 25, 2024. Meeting will convene at 1:00pm, Holy Trinity Roman Catholic located at 4456 Main St. Whitehall, PA 18052.

We urge all members to attend. We would love to see some new faces and meet other members who regularly attend meetings.

Stay Safe! Stay Strong! God Bless!

Submitted by Monica Fabian,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 855 - CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 855 will be having our first meeting of 2024 on Monday March 11, 2024 after 5:30pm. We will gather at Forest City Shuffleboard Arena and Bar – 4506 Lorain Ave – Cleveland, OH. Food and drink will be provided along with a few games of shuffleboard at no cost to the mem-

bers of Branch 855. Members may bring one non-member guest at a cost of \$20.00 which will include food, beverage and shuffleboard. Reservations are required by March 6th by calling/texting Stephanie Sutula at 440-409-9405 or by email at fcsu855@gmail.com. Being a member is not just about meetings and fun activities. It's also about giving to those in need. We ask each attendee to bring a non-perishable food item(s) for the Hunger Center and put fraternalism in action!

Submitted by Stephanie Sutula,
Fraternal Activities Director

BRANCH 855 - CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 855 is providing special members-only pricing for all of our Branch 855 members who want to join us on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 7:00pm for a Monsters Hockey Game at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in downtown Cleveland, OH. A Branch 855 member will receive a FREE ticket. Your guest ticket, should you like to bring one, will be \$10.00. Only one guest per member. Any additional non-branch member ticket will be \$25.00. Reservations are required and available by calling Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Director Stephanie Sutula at 440-409-9405 or by email at fcsu855@gmail.com. The deadline to order tickets is February 15, 2024. Order now as there are a limited number of tickets available. Can't wait to see you there!

Submitted by Stephanie Sutula,
Fraternal Activities Director

Slovak Stations of the Cross and Lenten Hymn Sing 2024

The traditional Slovak Stations of the Cross and Lenten Hymn Sing sponsored by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania will be held on Sunday, March 17, 2024 at St. Ignatius Loyola Church, 339 North Maple Avenue, Kingston, PA. The church is handicapped accessible via elevator. The service will begin at 2:00 P.M. with congregational singing of Lenten Hymns. The Stations of the Cross in Slovak led by members of the Society will follow. The service will conclude with Benediction. Refreshments will be served after the service. A free will offering will be accepted. For further information, call Anna Hudock at 570 510-1655.

Submitted by Anna M. Hudock, Branch 173

Branch 764 Finds Blessed Mother Statue a New Home

Many years ago, Branch 764 purchased a statue of the Blessed Mother and donated it to SS. Cyril & Methodius Church in Warren, Ohio. The Statue graced a small shrine alongside the church building and was the site of many May crownings, rosary recitals (in good weather) and countless individual prayers and meditations.

The parish was combined with St. James Parish as St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, and, eventually, closed and the property recently sold. With the sale, all religious fixtures were removed, and the statue of the Blessed Mother had no home.

The parish priest, Father Cicero, contacted Branch 764 and offered us the statue, which we accepted with the plan of finding a home for her. Countless queries by all the Officers of the Branch to religious institutions in our area, especially those whose name honored the Blessed Mother, were made. However, all of the institutions already had statues.

At long last, All Souls Cemetery in Cortland, Ohio, accepted the statue and the Blessed Mother now graces the entrance to the Chapel on the grounds. She was the centerpiece at an outdoor mass on November 2nd in celebration of All Souls Day.

Branch 764 is pleased that a long tradition of honoring members of the Branch, living and departed, will continue with the statue in its new home.

Submitted by Bill Hrusovsky, Recording Secretary





Branch 670 Announces 2024 Scholarship

Branch 670 of Donora, PA is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2024 Scholarship Program. The committee will award, to the candidates who best satisfy the criteria up to three, onetime \$1000.00 scholarships. Any individual of Branch 670 that has had a policy for at least 4 years, is current in their premiums, is a high school senior and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible to apply.

For applications, you may email your request or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (matinko305@comcast.net)
ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 30, 2024

Submitted by Joe Matinko, President

Branch 844 Youth Achievement Award Nomination Form

Deadline For Nomination: April 1st
-Rules and Regulations-

Purpose:

Branch 844 Los Angeles, CA, voted to establish a "Youth Achievement Award" at their December 2023 meeting in an effort to set incentives for the contributions of youth and to enhance Slovak Heritage awareness. The contest is open to all Branch 844 Members 18 years of age and under.

Rationale:

The award is directed at youth who do outstanding fraternal work in these three areas:

1. School work and sports
2. In their community or Branch
3. In their church

Nomination:

Youth Members can be nominated by an adult Branch Member. A document detailing the qualifications of the youth Member being nominated must be attached to this form and submitted to the Branch 844 office along with a min. 500-word essay about "Why is your Slovak heritage important to you?" A youth Member may be nominated each year up to and including their eighteenth birthday. Nomination forms are available through the Branch 844 office: slovakamericancenter@gmail.com

Deadline:

Nominations must be sent to the Branch 844 office by April 1st of each year.

Judging:

An independent judge, appointed by Branch 844 President, will review all nominations and decide the winner. Branch 844 President, or an appointee, shall be the final authority on all matters involving this fraternal benefit.

Award:

The following awards will be given out to the top three nominees: \$500 First Place, \$300 Second Place, \$100 Third Place.

The following must be signed by the nominating Member:

I wish to nominate _____ to receive the Branch 844 "Youth Achievement Award" for outstanding service in their school work, community, church, local Branch, and min. 500-word essay about "Why is your Slovak heritage important to you?". I believe that this individual should be awarded the "Youth Achievement Award" due to their service in above categories.

FCSU Member or Branch Officer

Branch #

IMPORTANT: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS HIGHLIGHTING THE NOMINEE MUST BE ATTACHED AND SUBMITTED TO THE BRANCH 844 OFFICE INCLUDING A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH.

The winners of the "Youth Achievement Award" will be notified by the Branch 844 office.

BRANCH 181 YOUTH MEMBER SCHOLASTIC ASSISTANCE

For the Fall 2024 start of the academic year, the St. John the Baptist Society – Branch 181 of United, PA, will be offering \$500.00 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 application. The number of scholarships awarded is dependent on the number of eligible applicants.

Youth members may be eligible to qualify for a scholarship if the following requirements are met:

- 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 4 years prior to applying with a minimum \$5000 insurance policy.
- You are a high school senior preparing to graduate in 2024 and have applied for the 2024 Fall term at a qualifying Educational institution.



To obtain an application and more information, please contact Vicki Hricik by phone 724-547-0803 or email

vicki15@zoominternet.net

***Applications must be postmarked by May 31, 2024 to be eligible.**

These scholarships are solely funded by your local Branch 181 and are independent of the First Catholic Slovak Union National Office



ANNOUNCING

Jednota Branch 746 Scholarship

- ✓ Are you a member of Branch 746 with paid up life insurance premium of \$5,000 or more?
- ✓ Are you currently accepted and/or enrolled in full-time college, another post-secondary educational institution, or vocational institution?
- ✓ Are you active in Branch 746 or want to become active?

**If you answered YES to the above,
you may be eligible for a \$1,500 scholarship!**

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

Deadline to apply:

April 30, 2024

News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

Prezidentka sa rozlúčila s generálmajorom M. Kocianom, slúžil 42 rokov

Bratislava 23. januára (TASR) - Prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová sa v utorok rozlúčila s generálmajorom Miroslavom Kocianom, ktorý odchádza do výslužby po vyše 42 rokoch pôsobenia v Ozbrojených silách (OS) SR.

Hlava štátu, ktorá je zároveň hlavnou veliteľkou Ozbrojených síl SR, poďakovala Kocianovi za oddanú službu vlasti.

Kocian získal vzdelanie na vojenských akadémiách v Liptovskom Mikuláši, Brne, Hamburgu a Ríme. Pôsobil vo vzdušných silách i na Veliteľstve síl výcviku a podpory. Ako národný vojenský predstaviteľ pôsobil pri Vojenskom výbore NATO a EÚ. V minulosti bol zástupcom náčelníka Generálneho štábu OS SR.



Pictured on the right, Major General Miroslav Kocian and on the left, Deputy Chief of the Military Office of the President of the Slovak Republic, Colonel Richard Beniák, during the parade of the honorary internship of the President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová as part of the official farewell on January 23, 2024 in Bratislava. Photo: TASR

The president said goodbye to Major General M. Kocian, he served for 42 years

Bratislava, January 23 (TASR) - President Zuzana Čaputová on Tuesday bid farewell to Major General Miroslav Kocian, who is retiring after more than 42 years in the Slovak Armed Forces.

The head of state, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Slovak Armed Forces, thanked Kocian for his devoted service to the fatherland.

Kocian was educated at military academies in Liptovský Mikuláš, Brno, Hamburg and Rome. He served in both the Air Force and the Training and Support Forces Command. As a national military representative, he served on the NATO-EU Military Committee. In the past, he was Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic.

Slovenskí a českí výskumníci našli jedno z najstarších mayských miest

Praha 9. januára (TASR) - Česko-slovenská archeologická výprava objavila v Guatemale doteraz neznáme mesto mayskej civilizácie, ktoré vzniklo pred zhruba 3000 rokmi. Ich významný nález pomôže odkryť neobjasnené a rozhodujúce fázy mayských dejín. V utorok to uviedla Nadácia Neuron, ktorá výpravu finančne podporila, informuje spravodajkyňa TASR v Prahe.

Expedíciu viedol český výskumník Ladislav Šilhán a Milan Kováč z Univerzity Komenského. Archeológovia identifikovali dosiaľ neznáme mayské osídlenie a podľa vykopávok zistili, že ide zrejme o najstaršie mestské centrum v regióne. Nazvali ho Yax Balam (Prvý Jaguár).

Archeologické vykopávky odhalili paláce, sochy, pozostatky rituálov, astronomické observatóriá a ďalšie objekty. "Podľa vykopávok mesto patrí k najstarším mayským aglomeráciám vôbec. Postupom času dochádzalo k jeho úpadku aj opätovnému rozvoju - od samotného počiatku mayských dejín, vzniku kráľovstva a prvých mestských štátov až po takzvaný mayský kolaps, ktorý spôsobil zánik (mayskej) civilizácie," vysvetlil Kováč.

Zasadiť nálezy do príslušného časového a kultúrneho rámca pomohli expedícii technológie umelej inteligencie. Používali ju pri overovaní digitálnych dát z leteckého snímkovania LiDAR. Podľa vedcov dokáže vykresliť zemský povrch ukrytý v džungli a tak odhaliť stavby či mestské celky. Vykopávky na mieste potom nález potvrdia.

"Technológie síce vopred umožnili identifikovať mesto a vydať sa na presne zacielené miesto v guatemalskej džungli, na mieste sa ale doteraz žiaden prieskum nerobil," zdôraznil Šilhán. Podľa neho tak nebolo jasné, či rôzne zhluky budov hlboko v džungli reálne tvoria kompaktnú aglomeráciu a aký je ich historický význam. Vedci teraz novoobjavené mesto vizualizujú do 3D modelu.

"Sme radi, že stávka na moderné technológie sa vyplatila a že sa potvrdilo, že majú svoje miesto aj v tak tradičnom odbore, akým sú terénne výkopové práce," povedala spoluzakladateľka Nadácie Neuron Monika Vondráková. Podľa jej slov môže táto česko-slovenská stopa zanechať medzinárodný odkaz.

Okrem mesta Yax Balam, kde vedci zdokumentovali sedem štvrtí mestského celku, skúmali aj širší pralesný región. V ňom objavili a zmapovali ďalšie dve menšie mayské mestá.

Slovak and Czech researchers have found one of the oldest Mayan cities

Prague, Jan 9 (Reuters) - A Czechoslovak archaeological expedition has discovered a previously unknown city of the Mayan civilization in Guatemala that originated about 3,000 years ago. Their significant find will help uncover unexplained and decisive phases of Mayan history. This was stated on Tuesday by the Neuron Foundation, which financially supported the expedition, reports TASR



correspondent in Prague.

The expedition was led by Czech researchers Ladislav Šilhán and Milan Kováč from Comenius University. Archaeologists have identified a hitherto unknown Mayan settlement and, according to excavations, have determined that it may be the oldest urban center in the region. They called it Yax Balam (First Jaguar).

Archaeological excavations revealed palaces, statues, remains of rituals, astronomical observatories and other objects. "According to excavations, the city is one of the oldest Mayan agglomerations ever. Over time, its decline and redevelopment occurred - from the very beginning of Mayan history, the creation of the kingdom and the first city-states to the so-called Mayan collapse, which caused the demise of the (Mayan) civilization," explained Kováč.

To set the findings in the appropriate temporal and cultural framework, they helped the expedition of artificial intelligence technology. They used it to verify digital data from LiDAR aerial photography. According to scientists, it can depict the Earth's surface hidden in the jungle and thus reveal structures or urban units. Excavations at the site will then confirm the find.

"Although technology has made it possible to identify the city in advance and go to a precisely targeted location in the Guatemalan jungle, no survey has been carried out on the site so far," Shilhan said. According to him, it was not clear whether the various clusters of buildings deep in the jungle actually formed a compact agglomeration and what their historical significance was. Scientists are now visualizing the newly discovered city into a 3D model.

"We are glad that the bet on modern technologies has paid off and that it has been confirmed that they have their place in such a traditional field as field excavation," said Monika Vondráková, co-founder of the Neuron Foundation. According to her, this Czech-Slovak footprint can leave an international legacy.

In addition to Yax Balam, where the researchers documented seven neighborhoods of the city, they also examined the wider primeval forest region. In it, they discovered and mapped two other smaller Mayan cities.

Vznik SR si vojaci pripomenuli vypálením 21 delostreleckých sálv

Bratislava 1. januára (TASR) - Vojaci Ozbrojených síl (OS) SR vypálili v deň štátneho sviatku z nábrežia Dunaja 21 delostreleckých sálv. Pripomenuli si tak 31. výročie vzniku Slovenskej republiky.

O vykonanie aktu sa postarali delostrelci 54. raketometného oddielu z Rožňavy. Slávnostné salvy boli vypálené z ťahaných 122-milimetrových húfnic HD-30.

Vypálenie slávnostných sálv sa deje tradične pri príležitosti významných protokolárnych aktivít a štátnych sviatkov, akým je aj Deň vzniku SR.

(Ak chcete vidieť video strelby delostreleckých sál, navštívte: tinyurl.com/artilleryhalls)



Artillery of the 54th Rocket Launcher Detachment from Rožňava is pictured during the firing of 21 artillery halls in honor of the national holiday of the Day of the Establishment of the Slovak Republic on January 1, 2024 in Bratislava. Photo: TASR

The soldiers commemorated the establishment of the Slovak Republic by firing 21 artillery halls

Bratislava, January 1 (TASR) - Soldiers of the Slovak Armed Forces (OS) fired 21 artillery halls from the Danube embankment on the day of the national holiday. They commemorated the 31st anniversary of the establishment of the Slovak Republic.

Artillery of the 54th Rocket Launcher Detachment from Rožňava took care of the execution of the act. The ceremonial salvos were fired from towed 122-millimeter howitzers HD-30.

The burning of ceremonial halls takes place traditionally on the occasion of important protocol activities and public holidays, such as the Day of Establishment of the Slovak Republic.

(To see the video of the firing of the artillery halls visit: tinyurl.com/artilleryhalls)

Jankola Library and Museum to Merge with National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, and the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library have entered into an agreement to share the resources of the Father Matthew Jankola Library in Danville, PA, with the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, IA. The two groups share a commitment to honoring those who immigrated to America and contributed their hard work, skill and vision to the growth of our Nation. The mission of both groups is to engage the global community with unique Slovak, Czech, and American stories to inspire individuals with universal themes of culture, freedom, democracy, and immigration. Their shared vision is to be an innovative leader in lifelong learning, community building, and cultural connections. They encourage self-discovery for all ages so that the stories of freedom, identity, family, and community will live on for future generations.

The Father Matthew Jankola Library and Museum, in Danville, PA, has been, for its 55 years, one of the most important depositories of Slovak literature, culture and the arts in the United States. Reverend Matthew Jankola, after whom the Library is named, was the founder of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 1909, and he inspired the Sisters to value all that relates to scholarship and multiculturalism. The directors of the Library, including Sister Martina Tybor, SS.C.M., Sister Mercedes Voytko, SS.C.M., Sister John Vianney Vranak, SS.C.M., Sister Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SS.C.M. and Sister Loretta Marie Hrubec, SS.C.M. organized donated materials that related to Slovak and Slavic history, language, literature, fine arts, spirituality and learning. The Museum now houses over 20,000 books and offers additional educational resources including Slovak periodicals, newspapers and maps. The library contains rare books, Bibles and children's literature, as well as Slovak music and plays, and the private collections of some of the outstanding Americans of Slovak ancestry including those of the Slovak Museum from Jednota Estates in Middletown, PA, the late Bishop Andrew G. Grutka, Dr. Peter P. Hletko, and Dr. Stephanie Husek among others.

Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M., President of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius said, "The guiding principles of The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library are ideals very similar to those which led the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius to begin and maintain the Father Matthew Jankola Library and Museum. We believe that this collaboration will be of benefit to both our organizations, and will honor the intentions of our donors that the materials donated to us be respectfully kept, widely used and would honor the history of the Slovak peoples, their contributions, and their stories of immigration to the United States. These materials from the Father Jankola Library and Museum will not only enhance the current collection of The Czech and Slovak Museum and Library but be valued and prized additions."

The Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids IA, is led by President and CEO Dr. Cecilia Rokusek. Dr. Rokusek is fluent in the Czech and Slovak languages and has held top academic and administrative positions at several colleges and universities since 1976. For the past 15 years she has been the Slovak Honorary Consul for Florida, and during her career she has established many academic affiliations with institutions in the Czech and Slovak Republics, in several other European countries and in South Korea. The



(L_R) Current Director of the Jankola Library and Museum, Sister Loretta Marie Hrubec, SS.C.M., and previous Director, Sister Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SS.C.M.

National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Museum and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. From the beginning of its 50-year history, the Museum and Library has believed that engagement in history and culture informs and empowers a free democratic society and recognizes that ancestral heritage is important to people in defining their place in history and the world. The Czech and Slovak Museum and Library is committed to the ethical interpretation and presentation of factually correct and well-balanced views in exhibits and programming, and resolves to effectively use resources with integrity and accountability.

In reflecting on the acquisition of materials from the Jankola Library and Museum, Dr. Cecilia Rokusek said, "As the only National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (NCSML) in North America, the acquisition of the Reverend Matthew Jankola Library and Museum is truly significant. I am absolutely thrilled and honored to have this incredible Slovak addition at the NCSML. It is often said that our NCSML is the epicenter of our rich Czech and Slovak cultures. The Jankola addition enhances our mission and opens opportunities for scholars, students, and all interested in Slovak history, cultures, and immigration to the US to come and read the over 20,000 books, papers, journals, and artifacts. As a Slovak Honorary Consul for over 15 years. I am proud that this collection will become part of the National Library in Cedar Rapids, IA. I am grateful to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius for the care that they have provided for this collection related to more than a century of rich Slovak history in North America. Having this collection in The Czech and Slovak Museum and Library assures that it will be here for the next 100 years and beyond for all generations to learn from."

Materials from the Jankola Library will be transferred from Danville PA to Cedar Rapids IA during the course of 2024. A celebration, marking this collaboration and the 50th anniversary of The Czech and Slovak Museum and Library is scheduled for May 2024.

Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M.

The FCSU is proud to have donated many Slovak artifacts and historic pieces to the Jankola Library as well as support SS.C.M. We are happy to see pieces of FCSU history make its way to the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. We are sending best wishes for the new merger!

Jednota Publication Schedule for 2024

Copy Deadline Date:	Issue Date:
Monday, March 4	Wednesday, March 13
Monday, April 1	Wednesday, April 10
Monday, April 29	Wednesday, May 8
Monday, June 3	Wednesday, June 12
Monday, July 1	Wednesday, July 10
Monday, Aug. 5	Wednesday, Aug. 14
Tuesday, Sept. 3	Wednesday, Sept. 11
Monday, Sept. 30	Wednesday, Oct. 9
Monday, Nov. 4	Wednesday, Nov. 13
Monday, Dec. 2	Wednesday, Dec. 11

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When you sign up for an FCSU insurance or annuity product, you become our member. Among the many great benefits of FCSU membership: the opportunity to participate in fun events, enter contests, apply for scholarships, and so much more. Just what you can do with the FCSU? Visit: fcsu.com/membership-benefits/ – and

JOIN US TODAY!

Minutes Of The Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, December 16, 2023

VIDEOCONFERENCE

OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 12:30 PM and asked Rev. Thomas Nasta to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the November 17, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by John Tokarsky and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report to the Board of Directors at the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held prior to the Executive Committee Meeting. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

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

Financial Report

The President and the Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the third quarter of 2023 and answered the Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review

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

The President and the Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of November for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

Monthly Disbursements

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

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 231,158.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 71,934.00
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

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

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky presented his monthly written Treasurer's report to the Board of Directors at the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held prior to the Executive Committee Meeting. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions.

OFFICE REMODEL:

The President updated the Board on the Home Office renovations. He will update the committee at the next meeting.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The President stated that our in-house marketing team is working with Visia Marketing on rebranding the FCSU logo, creating new letterhead, business cards and updating our website and the Jednota newspaper.

The President stated that a new campaign to recruit independent agents to be developed. We are also in the process of getting licensed in 10 additional states.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated that the FCSU filed IRS Form 990 for 2022. A copy was sent to the Board of Directors 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 Damian Nasta and seconded by John Tokarsky to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Rev. Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

 Kenneth A. Arendt
 President

 Kevin J. Collins
 Executive Secretary

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

**FCSU HOME OFFICE
 6611 ROCKSIDE RD
 INDEPENDENCE, OHIO, 44131
 SATURDAY MARCH 16, 2024**

The ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on:

Saturday, March 16, 2024
8:30am Meeting
Mass will be after the meeting

All Officers are requested to consult Section 6.03(b) and Section 6.03(c) of our Bylaws for further information concerning officer participation and the conduct of this meeting.

Officers who are required to give reports at the Annual Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kevin J. Collins, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Friday, March 8, 2024.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kevin J. Collins and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to March 8, 2024.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, March 16, 2024.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt
National President
Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary

Answer to Crossword Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 10

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

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