



Districts' Matching Fund Projects

Benefit Local Charities

Lehigh Valley Okres

On Sunday, January 12, 2014, Lehigh Valley Okres officers and members presented a \$270 check to Milly Scrak, soup kitchen coordinator of the Allentown Diocesan Soup Kitchen. The presentation was made at the soup kitchen, located at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Hall, 179 Chew Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. The funds were derived from a themed gift basket raffle held by the Okres at its Holiday Luncheon at Best Western Conference Center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on December 1, 2013. The raffle was an LPSCU Matching Fund Project.

Pictured at the check presentation are, from left, Elaine Molchany, Okres vice president; Mary Ann Ackerman, honorary LPSCU vice president; Milly Scrak, coordinator of the soup kitchen; Bernadine Kurzeja, Okres secretary; Cecilia Gaughan, LPSCU fraternal activities director; and Margaret A. Ferri, Okres treasurer.



Rev. Dianiska District

The Dinner Committee of the Rev. Dianiska District recently donated \$350 to Candy's Place, The Center for Cancer Wellness, in Forty-Fort, Pennsylvania. The funds were the proceeds from a special gift raffle conducted at the District's annual Christmas Dinner held at the Ramada Inn in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The raffle was a Matching Fund Project of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union.

Pictured at the check presentation are, from left, Margaret Jollimore, LPSCU Branch 58/94; Christine Ostroski, director of Candy's Place; Janet Marley, LPSCU Branch 214; and Jean Kapral, LPSCU Branch 19.



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Calendar of Events

MARCH

- 11-12** — Slovak Catholic Federation Meeting, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
- 17** — Msgr. Beeda District Meeting at Perkins Restaurant, West Hazleton, Pennsylvania, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Any member planning to attend must contact Anita Gregory (570-788-3263) by March 13.
- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for May/June Zornicka.**
- 20** — LPSCU Internal Audit (Thursday)
- 21-22** — LPSCU Annual Meeting
- 30** — Rev. Dianiska District Meeting at the North End Slovak Club, North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Branch 122 will host.

APRIL

- 1** — Deadline to nominate a member as our 2014 Fraternalist of the Year.
- 5** — WPSCA Slovak Wine Tasting at Sonoma Grille, Pittsburgh. *See page 20 for more details.*
- 15** — Deadline for applications to reach the WPSCA for those applying for the Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program scholarship. *Details on page 23.*
- 26** — Rev. Dianiska District Indoor Picnic to celebrate the LPSCU's 115th Anniversary at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church Hall, Hughes Street, Swoyersville, Pennsylvania, from 11:00 to 2:00 p.m. District Officers will host. Deadline to make a reservation is April 18. *See page 22.*
- 26-29** — President/Secretary Section, American Fraternal Alliance, Savannah, Georgia
- 30** — Deadline to apply for a 2014 College Scholarship Award. *See page 17.*

MAY

- 3** — Join Hands Day. *See page 21 for details.*
- 18** — Lehigh Valley Okres celebrates the 115th Anniversary of the LPSCU at the Best Western Lehigh Valley Conference Center, Routes 22 and 512, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Punch reception at noon, buffet at 12:30 p.m. Reservations are required by May 1. *See page 19 for more details.*
- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for July/August Zornicka.**
- 20** — Deadline to submit correspondence on matters for the Board of Directors to discuss at the June 14th Phone Conference Meeting.

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(USPS 699-520)



ZORNICKA (Morning Star), a bi-monthly magazine, is the official publication of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, National Headquarters, 71 South Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

Send articles for publication to Margaret A. Ferri, Public Relations Director, 428 E. Frankford Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. Articles must be received by the 25th of the month, five weeks prior to the issue date.

Printed by Triangle Press, 6720 Allentown Blvd., Harrisburg, PA 17112.

Periodical Postage paid at Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701 and additional entries.

Subscription Rate: Members — free; non-members — \$15.00 per year.

Postmaster: Send address changes only to: Zornicka (Morning Star), Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, 71 South Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

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Our Lady, Undoer of Knots



Fr. Altavilla

Safe to say that many Catholics have their favorite devotion in honor of Mary, the Mother of God. With the election of Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J., as the newest Successor of Saint Peter, the world was introduced to his favorite image of the Mother of God: Our Lady, Undoer of Knots. I have to be honest, prior to learning that this is a favorite Marian image of Pope Francis, I never heard of the image nor the devotion connected to the image.

His biographers tell us that when Pope Francis was a graduate student in theology in Germany in the 1980s, he came across a unique 18th century painting by Johann Georg Schmidtner titled "Maria Notenloserin – Mary, Undoer of Knots." This painting hangs in the Church of Saint Peter in Augsburg, Germany. The young priest, Father Bergoglio, brought a postcard of the painting home with him to Argentina and, as a priest and bishop – and now as the pope – preached often about this image of Our Lady, the Undoer of Knots.

As we reflect on this unique image of Mary, we see her standing on a crescent moon with the dove (the Holy Spirit) hovering above her with her head surrounded by a circle of stars. What makes this painting truly unique is what Mary is depicted doing: untying a long, knotted ribbon. The ribbon symbolizes the many "knots" of human anxiety, illness, hopelessness, and despair that we all experience at times in our lives. The artist was inspired by words of Saint Irenaeus of Lyons (early 2nd century – 222 A.D.): "The knot of Eve's disobedience was loosed by the obedience of Mary. For what the virgin Eve had bound fast through unbelief, this the Virgin Mary set free through faith."

Surrounding Mary, the Undoer of Knots, we see a court of angels. Angels are messengers sent by God to encourage, support, and guide us in life. In the painting, however, there are two angels that seem to draw more attention than the others. One of them, on Mary's left, holds a ribbon which symbolizes our life, a life sometimes full of knots. Some knots are small and others are larger; some knots are loose while others are very tight. The Virgin Mary takes these knots into her hands and proceeds to lovingly undo them, one after another. The peaceful, yet determined, look on Mary's face reminds us that she will not give up on us and is ever-patient in helping us deal with our knots in life. As the ribbon moves through her gentle fingers, the ribbon becomes free from all the knots as then another angel receives the ribbon of our life into his hands, smooth and without knots. This angel reminds us to keep our gaze fixed on Mary and, like her, to trust in God and God's love for us for in doing so, we will prevent the knots from returning. Crushed under the feet of Mary is the head of the serpent, the ancient symbol for the devil and evil. This reminds us that, by her virtues, God has granted Mary power over demons, so

that when they attack one of her children, Mary is always ready to assist.

A final image, at the very bottom of the painting, in the darkness of the earth, depicts a man being guided by an angel to a tiny hovel at the top of a mountain called Ectabana. It is the Archangel Raphael who leads the young Tobias along the path to meet his future spouse, Sarah. Commentators believe that this scene from the Hebrew Scriptures reminds us that Our Lady, the Undoer of Knots, intercedes for us so that God may especially grant

innumerable graces to marriages, and to the reconciliation of families. Raphael's name, in Hebrew, means "Divine Healer" or "The Lord Heals," and it is said that his duty is to take care of pilgrims whose goal is to discover, approach, and love God. If one reads the story of Tobias and Sarah, as recorded in the Book of Tobit, we encounter two individuals whose lives are full of knots. Yet, because of divine intervention, their knots are undone and they are blessed with a fruitful and meaningful life together.

A few weeks after the season of Lent begins, the Church will celebrate the Annunciation of the Lord. On this day, March 25, we rejoice in Mary's "yes" to the question of another Archangel, Gabriel, inviting her to become the mother of the Savior. As Saint Irenaeus reminds us, Mary's "yes" to God is

the first knot she undoes in the long string of knots that have tied up humankind in the shackles of selfishness, doubt, and fear. Perhaps this year, as we seek to grow in holiness during the season of Lent, we may invoke Mary's intercession, helping us to name and deal with the knots that have crept into our lives. As the painting reminds us, some of our knots may be small ones while for some of us, the knots may be larger, tight ones. Through what are traditionally called the "marks" of Lent, God's grace is granted to help us smooth out the ribbon of our lives.

The first mark of Lent is **prayer**. Through our prayer, we express our concerns – our knots – to God **and** we strive to listen as God enlightens us to realize what knots may have developed in our lives. Engaging in prayer allows God space in our lives so that we may experience God's love and guidance. How will we deepen our prayer life during this Lent?

The second mark of Lent is **fasting**. During Lent, many will say that their fasting takes the form of "giving up" things like chocolate, cigarettes, alcohol, etc. Others will strive give up non-material things like bad language, gossip, impatience, being judgmental, unhealthy criticism, etc. Giving up the non-material things can be more of a challenge, as sometimes these knots can be very unhealthy, self-centered, and disruptive

continued on page 28

REVEREND DIANISKA DISTRICT

A meeting of the Rev. Dianiska District of the LPSCU was held on Sunday, October 13, 2013, at Our Lady of Fatima Parish at St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception Hall in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Theresa Kluchinski welcomed everyone on behalf of host Branches 6 and 213.

The meeting was called to order by District President Mary Ann Ewasko who then led the assembly in prayers for ill and deceased members of the District and for their family members. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Financial Secretary Marge Zinkavich read the roll call. Debbie Adamchak gave the Treasurer's report, which was approved.

Mary Ann Ewasko read correspondence, including thank you cards from Theresa Kluchinski on the death of her mother, for the donation to the retirement fund at Danville from the Makuch family, and from Susan Worth on the death of her husband, Delbert.

New members Betsy Craig and Lorraine Harmonas and guest Barbara Van Etten were introduced and welcomed.

Sister Catherine McGroaty, RSM, director of the Catherine McCauley House, spoke to the members on the women's shelter, which celebrates its 25th anniversary in January 2014. After a photo was taken, Sister thanked the members and left with the District's donation of cleaning supplies and a monetary gift.

A number of items were discussed:

The Annual Youth Bowling Party was a great success once again. Fifteen young members, four guests, and twenty-three adult members attended. Each child bowled two games and received a treat bag from Branch 6, an age-appropriate book from Jean Kapral, and a one dollar bill from both Branch 19 and Branch 213. Everyone enjoyed lunch and dessert.

Flyers were distributed about the District's annual Christmas party scheduled for December 8, 2013, at the Ramada Inn. Teresa Toomey, a member of Branch 6, was announced as the 2013 LPSCU College Award recipient from the District. Candy's Place, a cancer wellness center, was selected as the District's 2013 Matching Fund recipient.

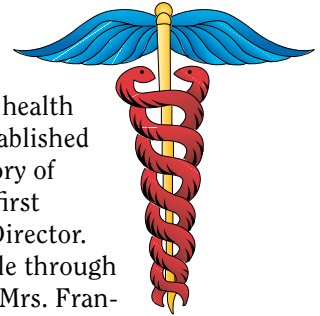
The District will be celebrating the 115th anniversary of the LPSCU on Saturday, April 26, 2014, with an indoor pic-

nic. Members were advised to watch for more information in upcoming issues of *Zornicka*.

Paul G. Jason, a freshman at Holy Redeemer High School and a member of Branch 6, volunteered at the meeting to earn five hours of volunteer service for his school. Paul was also a recipient of the 2013 LPSCU Catholic High School Award.

Susan Worth

**LPSCU EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT
THE ANNE (SHINAL) CICHY
MEMORIAL AWARD
\$500 Award**



The LPSCU is proud to again offer the Anne (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Award for students in the health care field. This award, established in 2006, is given in memory of Anne (Shinal) Cichy, the first LPSCU Public Relations Director. The award is made possible through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Francis A. Shinal.

Those applying for the Anne (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Award must meet the following criteria:

- ❖ Have a life insurance certificate with the LPSCU.
- ❖ Attend an accredited college/university in the **fall of 2014** on a full time basis, pursuing a degree in the health care field. Proof of acceptance/attendance must be provided.
- ❖ Provide a wallet-size photo to accompany the application.

The recipient of the Anne (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Award will receive \$500. The recipient of this award shall be selected by a random drawing from among all the qualified applicants. No individual shall be eligible to receive this award more than two times.

Applicants must meet all criteria outlined above and provide data indicated to be eligible. Applications with incomplete data or requirements will not be considered. All submitted materials become the property of the LPSCU and will not be returned.

Applications are available from the LPSCU Home Office or its website. **Application deadline has been extended to be postmarked by July 1, 2014.**

Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union
Educational Benefit Committee

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**LPSCU Board of Directors
Mid-Year Meeting
Announced**

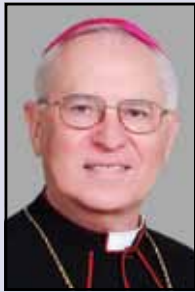
This announcement is made to all members of the LPSCU that the Mid-Year Phone Conference Meeting of the Board of Directors will convene on Saturday, June 14, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. and continue until all business has been completed.

Members wishing to submit matters for the Board of Directors to consider at this meeting are directed to send them to the attention of Theresa Kluchinski at the LPSCU National Headquarters, 71 South Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701 or P.O. Box 32, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703. All correspondence relative to this meeting should be received **no later than May 20, 2014.**

An Easter Message

from

Most Reverend Joseph V. Adamec
Bishop Emeritus of Altoona-Johnstown
Episcopal Protector, LPSCU



Most Rev. Adamec

“He has risen, He is not here!”

These are words that proclaim the Easter message. In other words, we should no longer expect to experience the ordinary in what the world considers ordinary.

As I write this, it's only been a few weeks since we immersed ourselves in the joy of Christmas. It was a time when we celebrated the love that prompted our God to come to be among his

people in the person of Jesus Christ. As you read this, we will have arrived at Easter and the celebration of what it truly means to have the Lord among us in a real sense.

The great thirteenth century teacher, Saint Thomas Aquinas, wrote about that presence of the Lord as having a two-fold effect. The first was that the Christ came to save us from damnation. Thomas called it a remedy. The second was to teach us about our lives. That he referred to as the Lord giving us an example. We easily recognize the first but frequently neglect the second.

God's presence in human activity, which we recall at Christmas, does not cease during the Good Fridays that come along during our earthly pilgrimage later on. What needs to be remembered is that there also is an Easter joy in our future and that our Good Fridays have meaning and are a means of getting to that joy. Job understood that even in his time. The so-called good thief, Saint Dismas, came to understand that at the very moment of his execution.

What they came to understand (and we are called to come to understand) is that the Lord is present to us at times when we least expect it. He is alive and about. Why should Job have expected God to have anything to do with his physical ailment? But, he did. And, why should one of the thieves even dare to think that his Savior might be hanging on the cross next to him, suffering the same fate as he? Yet, he did. There was an Easter joy waiting for both of them—an even better life than before for Job and paradise for Dismas.

This is the power of the Paschal Mystery that we celebrate at Easter. It is a time when we are reminded of God's invitation to rise with Jesus to a new life of freedom. Such a life, devoid of needless anxiety, is full of positive attitude toward self and of good will toward others. It is a life of “Alleluias.”

I pray that the blessings of this Easter Season give each one of you the strength to turn to a new chapter in your life. May every page of that chapter be filled with an abundance of Alleluias! Be encouraged by the fact that the Lord has risen and invites you to share his victory in rising with him.

*The National Officers
of the
Ladies Pennsylvania
Slovak Catholic Union
extend a most Blessed
and Happy Easter to all!*

*Veselá veľka noc
Radostné Aleluja*

*Šventu Velyku
Linkejimai*



**We just enrolled in the
LPSCU Guaranteed Issue Program.**

HAVE YOU?

We are providing our loved ones with added protection!



- Guaranteed Issue Program is for all members age 25 to 43.
- Guaranteed lifetime coverage of \$5,000 or \$10,000 through our 3-pay plan.
- No medical questions will be asked.
- Details will arrive in the mail near your certificate's anniversary date. No member will ever be refused.
- This is a limited time offer!

GUARANTEED ISSUE

for all members age 25-43

Minutes of the LPSCU Board Conference Call

December 14, 2013

Call to Order – Prayer

President Theresa Kluchinski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Spiritual Advisor Rev. Philip Altavilla was excused.

Welcome Remarks

President Kluchinski welcomed everyone to the meeting and mentioned that there is a lot to be discussed.

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

The agenda for this meeting was approved, along with the Minutes from the September 20-21, 2013, Board Meeting, with two changes.

Correspondence

Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge read all correspondence received. There were no requests.

Financial Report

Board members were provided and reviewed the following information:

- ❖ Quarterly Statement, September 2013
- ❖ Month End Balance Sheet/Revenue and Expenses Accounts
- ❖ Summary Market Value 2013
- ❖ Transaction Summary Report
- ❖ Budget 2013/2014

Home Office Update

Since the Home Office report is detailed in the Executive Finance Committee Minutes, Secretary-Treasurer Savidge gave a summary on the following:

- ❖ Security System
- ❖ Building
- ❖ Equipment/Software

Convention 2016

President Kluchinski asked the Board members to look for possible gifts ideas for the 2016 Convention.

Unfinished Business

The Board was provided information on and discussed the following:

- ❖ Riders
- ❖ Guaranteed Issue
- ❖ District Guidelines

New Business

The Board was provided information on and discussed the following:

- ❖ Annuity Rate
- ❖ Branch Deposit Program Rate
- ❖ Proposed By-Law Change Article VI, Section 13
- ❖ Liberty Mutual Proposal
- ❖ Strategic Plan

Compliance

ERM – The Board was provided information on and discussed the ERM (Enterprise Risk Management) document. Any recommendations or changes are to be submitted to President Kluchinski by February 21, 2014, for the March 2014 Board Meeting.

Audit Procedures

The Audit Committee will be working on updating the Audit Procedures during the 2014 Audit.

National/State Alliance and Other Meetings

- ❖ President Theresa Kluchinski provided a report from the following meetings: American Fraternal Alliance, New Jersey-New York Fraternal Alliance, Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance, and the Slovak Foundation and University of Pittsburgh.
- ❖ Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge provided a report from the following meetings: American Fraternal Alliance, New Jersey-New York Fraternal Alliance, and the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.
- ❖ Trustee Joan Hladek provided a report from the Indiana Fraternal Alliance meeting.

Officer Reports

Reports were received from the following officers:

- ❖ Spiritual Advisor Rev. Philip Altavilla
- ❖ Vice President Anita Gregory
- ❖ Chairperson of Trustees Mary Ann Ewasko
- ❖ Trustee Dolores Evanko
- ❖ Trustee Joan Hladek
- ❖ Trustee Margaret Jollimore
- ❖ Trustee Elizabeth Melko
- ❖ Fraternal Activities Director Cecilia Gaughan
- ❖ Public Relations Director Margaret Ferri

Committee Reports

Reports were received from the following committees:

- ❖ Fraternal Activities
- ❖ Campaign
- ❖ Fraternalist of the Year
- ❖ Youth Achievement
- ❖ Educational

Calendar of Events

The Board was provided the Calendar of Events for 2014. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Savidge
National Secretary-Treasurer

Branch 213 to Spend Flag Day at the Ballpark

Flag Day at the Ballpark will be held June 6, 2014, at the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railriders Stadium. Any member of LPSCU Branch 213 who would like to join us to attend the game is asked to contact Branch Secretary Theresa Kluchinski at 570-829-5410 or 570-817-4657. Don't delay! Tickets are limited and **reservations must be received by May 18.**

Slovak Catholic Federation Undertakes 36th Annual SS.C.M. Appeal

When our ancestors came to these shores more than a century ago, they brought with them few monetary assets. Their most precious possession, however, was their faith. The seeds were nurtured by the Slovak priests who came with the immigrant people and helped build our Slovak Catholic fraternals, religious communities of men and women, and nearly 300 Slovak parishes. In response to this legacy, the Slovak Catholic Federation is sponsoring the **36th Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal**. *The 2014 Annual Appeal begins during the month of February in churches of Slovak descent across the United States and Canada and will continue until the end of the year.*

The Church in Slovakia has enjoyed a great renaissance since the fall of Communism in 1989. We in America and Canada take pride in the fact that the Slovak Catholic fraternals, our parishes, and individuals of Slovak ancestry have responded generously to assist the Church in our ancestral homeland.

The 2013 Appeal collected \$39,678.41

Since its inception, this Appeal has raised \$2,348,944.66!

Funds raised from the Appeal will aid the priest-graduate students at the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius. These fine priests are being called upon to be the future leaders of the diocesan churches in Slovakia both as vicars and bishops, in addition to providing qualified instructors/professors for the seminaries that educate future priests. As well, funds benefit those religious communities of both men and women that share a counterpart which belongs to the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak Conference of Religious.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the SCF is to federate individuals of Slovak origin under one banner for cultural, religious, and educational purposes. Serving as National President is Rev. Philip Altavilla, pastor of Saint Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, Pennsylvania. The Episcopal Moderator is the Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, D.D., retired Bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The National First Vice President, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, is pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, Pennsylvania, and is the coordinator for this Annual Appeal.

In our Church today, more and more individuals of Slovak descent/background do not attend traditionally founded Slovak parishes, for a number of reasons. Because of this reality, the monies raised for this Appeal come not only from the collections taken in our remaining Slovak parishes, but also from individual donors.

Your tax deductible donation, made out to the Slovak Catholic Federation (please note that it's for the *Annual Appeal*) can be sent directly to the National Secretary-Treasurer of the SCF: Dolores Evanko, 173 Berner Avenue, Hazleton, PA 18201.

As always, thank you for your generous support.

Bishop Andrew G. Grutka 2014 Memorial Scholarship Award

\$1,000 AWARD

(Maximum of \$2,000 per member)

The LPSCU is proud to once again this year offer the Bishop Andrew G. Grutka Memorial Scholarship Award for lay persons between the ages of 18 to 35. This award, initiated at the 37th National Convention held in Merrillville, Indiana, in August 2000, is given in memory of Bishop Andrew G. Grutka, an outstanding Slovak leader who was the founding Bishop of the Diocese of Gary, Indiana.

Those applying for the Bishop Andrew G. Grutka Memorial Scholarship Award must meet the following criteria:

- Be a member of the LPSCU for two (2) years with \$5,000 permanent reserve life insurance certificate (excludes term insurance).
- Be a lay person between 18-35 years of age.
- Be of the Catholic religion (Latin Rite or Byzantine).
- Be initiated fully into the Church (Baptized, Eucharist, and Confirmed) and continuing to be eligible to receive the sacraments of the Church.
- Be a member of a Catholic parish.
- Be active in parish/diocesan/campus ministry as a lector, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, adult altar server, catechist/aide, member of parish RCIA/C Team, youth minister, member of the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and/or other parish committees or organizations.
- Be active in an organization or activity that promotes awareness of our Slovak heritage, culture, and traditions.
- Be endorsed by his or her pastor and LPSCU Branch Secretary, with additional endorsement provided by campus minister, youth minister, or pastoral associate.
- Attend (or will attend) an accredited college/university as a full time student.
- Provide a notice of acceptance or tuition receipt for the coming scholastic year.
- Provide a wallet-size color photo.

Applicants must meet all criteria and provide data indicated above to be eligible.

Incomplete applications or those missing data requirements will not be considered. All materials become the property of the LPSCU and will not be returned. **Applications must be postmarked by June 30, 2014.**

Applications are available from the LPSCU Home Office or its website.

Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union
Educational Benefit Committee

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Fax: 570-823-4464

E-mail: lpscu@lpscu.org • Website: www.lpscu.org

Slovak Fraternalists, SS.C.M. Sisters March for Life

❖ SLOVAK CATHOLIC FRATERNALISTS

The 41st Annual March for Life was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2014, in our nation's capitol, Washington, D.C. Members from the four Slovak Catholic fraternalists – Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Slovak Catholic Sokol, and First Catholic Slovak Union – were scheduled to meet in Washington, joining together to demonstrate our support of the Pro-life movement.

Despite winter storm Janus dropping snow the day before and bitter cold weather the day of the march, thousands of supporters were not discouraged and made their way peacefully through the streets of the capital city toward the Supreme Court building in a show of commitment and solidarity on behalf of the unborn.

LPSCU National President and Branch 213 Secretary-Treasurer Theresa Kluchinski, along with the Slovak Catholic Sokol's Supreme Chaplain, Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdivic, have been coordinating bus transportation to this event for many years. Reverend Hvozdivic and students from Epiphany School started the trip in Sayre, Pennsylvania, stopping in Wilkes-Barre to pick-up additional supporters. In total there were thirty-seven attending from this bus.

❖ SISTERS OF SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS

Members of the four Slovak Catholic fraternalists weren't the only ones marching in favor of life on January 22nd. The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius from Danville, Pennsylvania, joined hundreds of thousands of others who rallied in Washington, D.C., in frigid temperatures and snow at the 41st annual March for Life. The annual March is held every January on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 decision that declared a constitutional right to abortion.

The Sisters traveled with a group from Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Elysburg, Pennsylvania. Sister Jeanne Ambre, SS.C.M., is pastoral visitor at the Elysburg parish.

Social media played a large part in advertising this year's March. Pope Francis was among those tweeting his support for the marchers: "I join the March for Life in Washington with my prayers. May God help us respect all life, especially the most vulnerable."

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) was one of many political and religious leaders who addressed the crowd. In speaking to the marchers, Cantor said, "There is an unalienable right to life, and that right extends to the unborn."



A group from Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish gathered in Washington, D.C. at the March for Life.



National officers from the Slovak fraternalists who attended the March for Life in Washington are, from left, LPSCU President Theresa Kluchinski, SCS Chaplain Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdivic, and SCS Auditor Michael Horvath.



A group of students from Epiphany School in Sayre, Pennsylvania and Slovak fraternal members who braved the bitter cold to attend the March for Life on January 22, 2014.

~ ❖ ~



L-R: Sisters Jeanne Ambre, Jana Polakova, Edita Navratilova, and Barbara Sable at the March for Life.

Letters

Dear Mary Jo (Savidge),

On behalf of Candy's Place, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$200.00 as a matching fund contribution from the Reverend Dianiska District.

Your financial donation will assist Candy's Place in continuing to develop

and enhance an environment that provides social, emotional, and therapeutic services for cancer patients and their loved ones. We operate solely through donations and grants and would not be able to help those in greatest need without your support.

All of the funds raised by Candy's

Place stay right here in our local community. Candy's Place certifies that you have not received any consideration in exchange for your gift.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely yours,
Penny Cunningham
Founder
Chris Ostroski
Director

Dear Lehigh Valley Okres of the LPSCU,

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown, gratefully acknowledges your gift of \$270.00 for the Ecumenical Kitchen. Your donation was received on January 16, 2014. With your assistance, Catholic Charities can continue to serve over 800 meals every week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Allentown.

In these challenging economic times, your support helps children, adults, and seniors, the unemployed, the under-employed, disabled, and homeless to survive with a hot, nutritious meal served with compassion and caring by many dedicated volunteers.

"I assure you that whatever you did for the least of my brethren, you did it for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Thank you for caring and for helping to sustain our neighbors in need.

Sincerely,
Pamela J. Russo
Executive Director,
Catholic Charities
Diocese of Allentown


Dear LPSCU,

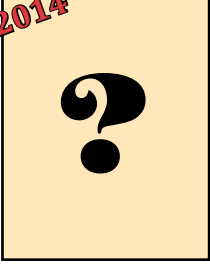
Thank you very much for publishing in *Zornicka* the announcement for the availability of Oplatky from Jankola Library. You pleased your readers by alerting them to the place where they could obtain Christmas wafers. I am very grateful to you for providing this service for our Slovak people.

God bless you.

Sister Catherine Laboure
SS.C.M. Sisters, Danville
More Letters on page 22

Fraternalist of the Year

2013

Mary Ann Ackerman

2014

Who will it be?

**We're Looking for a Shining Star
in the LPSCU for the
2014 FRATERNALIST
OF THE YEAR**

Do you know a member who, through example and accomplishment, provides outstanding volunteer service?
Do you know a member who should be recognized for outstanding fraternal and volunteer efforts?
If you can answer "yes" to the above, then you have a "Shining Star" member to be nominated as our 2014 LPSCU Fraternalist of the Year!

To receive a Nomination Form, contact the Home Office at 570/823-3513 or toll free 888/834-6614; e-mail: lpescu@lpescu.org or visit our website: www.lpescu.org.

Hurry — The Postmark Deadline for Nominations is April 1, 2014

**SIGN UP A
NEW MEMBER
TODAY!**

Minutes of the Executive Finance Committee

December 12, 2013 – Home Office, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

President Theresa Kluchinski called the meeting to order and offered a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendees: Theresa Kluchinski, president; Anita Gregory, vice president; Mary Jo Savidge, secretary-treasurer; and Mary Ann Ewasko, chairperson of trustees.

The committee reviewed and accepted the Minutes from the October 17, 2013, Executive Finance Committee meeting.

Correspondence/Requests

The committee acknowledged all the correspondence read and approved the following:

- Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh requesting a donation to the annual Children's Hospital Drive. *Approved \$100.00.*

Financial Statement

The committee reviewed the following checking accounts as of October and November 2013: M&T Bank – General Operating Account and the Morgan Stanley Smith Barney Checking Account. The committee reviewed the Profit & Loss/Balance Sheet for October 2013.

Bond/Stock/Pension Portfolio

The committee was provided and reviewed all activity from October and November 2013, including CDs, Common Stock, Preferred Stocks, and International. Bonds from October 2013 were also reviewed.

Home Office

Secretary-Treasurer Savidge reported on the following: security system, painting of the Home Office, server monitoring system upgrade, and Verizon back-up phone upgrade.

President Kluchinski reported that the examination with the Pennsylvania Insurance Department is still on-going. The department has until June 2014 to complete the examination and reports its findings. LPSCU Branch 33 in Hazleton was turned into Home Office. Members were transferred into Branch 124.

Budget

The committee was provided and reviewed the 2013 budget through October 2013.

Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2014.

There being no further business, the EFC adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Savidge

National Secretary-Treasurer

LPSCU 2014 CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AWARD

\$300 One-Time Award

The LPSCU is again offering a Catholic High School Award, which is a \$300 one-time award to our members who are attending a Catholic High School during the 2014-2015 academic year. Members may only receive this award one time.

To qualify for the Catholic High School Award, applicants must:

- Be a member of the LPSCU for two (2) years with a minimum \$2,000 permanent reserve life insurance certificate. (Term insurance is excluded.)
- Be a Catholic high school freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior in the fall of 2014.
- Provide a wallet-size color photo.



Applicants must meet all criteria and provide data indicated above to be eligible. Incomplete applications or those missing data requirements will not be considered. All materials become the property of the LPSCU and will not be returned. **Applications must be postmarked by June 30, 2014.**

Applications are available from the LPSCU Home Office or its website.

Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union
Educational Benefit Committee
P.O. Box 32

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703

Phone: 570-823-3513 ☎ Toll free: 888-834-6614

Fax: 570-823-4464

E-mail: lpscu@lpscu.org ☎ Website: www.lpscu.org

New Insurance Issued

Branch	Branch Representative	Nov/Dec 2013	Year-to-Date Total
19	Deborah Adamchak	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 17,000.00
37	Joan Evan	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
38 & 40	Cecilia Gaughan	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
52	James Tomasic	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
76	Celeste Palcsey	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
83	Mary Ann Ackerman	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
124	Dolores Evanko	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
130	Margaret Ferri	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
156	Joan Ellen Frendak	4 10,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
180	Mary Ann Strauss	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
213	Theresa Kluchinski	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 128,000.00
213	Mary Jo Savidge	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
197*	Home Office	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 130,000.00
		\$ 129,000.00	\$ 501,000.00

*Sold through Home Office, not included in the Campaign

LPSCU Poetry Contest Winners Announced

Our first LPSCU Poetry Contest closed on December 31, 2013, and we are very proud to announce the winners:

1st PRIZE goes to **Bryce Goodman** of Branch 38 for his poem, "Beach Time." Bryce is 9 years old and is in the 4th Grade.

2nd PRIZE is awarded to **Laney Schultz** of Branch 6 for her poem, "Seasons." She is also 9 years old and in the 4th Grade.

Honorable Mention goes to **Marissa Jason** of Branch 6. Marissa entered two poems in our contest, "Spring Time" and "Seasons." She is 12 years old and is in the 6th Grade.

The LPSCU congratulates all of you and all those who also submitted poems! All the entries were very well written and show that we have very talented future poets in our organization. We thank you all for your participation. Please watch for future activities and participate in them also.

Fraternal Activities Committee

Cecilia B. Gaughan, Chair

Margaret A. Ferri, Margaret Jollimore,

Joan Hladek, Elizabeth Melko

1st Prize Winner

BEACH TIME

Sitting in the sand
Enjoying the sun
Along the Oceanside
Feeling I want to run.
Starfish in my hand
Sand between my toes
Boogie boarding waves
As a salty breeze flows.
Having fun making sand castles
Under the giant light bulb sun
Searching for seashells and shark teeth
Is always so much fun.
Being on the beach makes me very, very happy!

Bryce Goodman
Branch 38
Age 9, Grade 4

2nd Prize Winner

SEASONS

God created seasons for so many reasons
When I think of Winter, I think of snow and how it glows
When I think of Summer, I think of sun and having fun
When I think of Spring, I think of birds and how they sing
When I think of Fall, I think of how God created it all.

Laney Schultz
Branch 6
Age 9, Grade 4

Honorable Mention

SEASONS

Summer, Spring, Winter, Fall
What's your favorite of them all?
Summer brings hot sun and flip flops
Spring comes with joyous flowers
Winter brings snow and sledding
Fall comes with shorter days

Marissa Jason
Branch 6
Age 12, Grade 6

SPRING TIME

The grass blows with wind
The birds sing with the spring breeze
The stream flows with joy

Marissa Jason
Branch 6
Age 12, Grade 6

This Honorable Mention poem by Marissa is a Haiku, a Japanese form of poetry which must follow certain guidelines concerning number of lines (three) and number of syllables in each line. Haikus are usually written about nature.



FRATERNAL SOCIETIES OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

FLAG DAY AT THE BALLPARK

— FRIDAY JUNE 6, 2014 —

Game Time 7 p.m. • Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders

PRICE: MEMBERS — \$15.00 PER PERSON / NON-MEMBERS — \$30.00 PER PERSON

INCLUDES: Dinner on covered deck/suite in left field • Entry through the Mohegan Sun Club entrance
Food served from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. • Watch as one member throws out the 1st pitch
All the camaraderie you can get!

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2014

Ask for Theresa or Mary Jo at 570-823-3513 or 888-834-6614

RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID FOR BY MAY 20, 2014

Seating is limited! • Make checks payable to LPSCU



Checks Presented to County Domestic Violence Service Center

The Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania and FCSLA Junior Branch 168 presented checks totaling \$800 to the Domestic Violence Service Center as part of their fundraising efforts at their annual Christmas events. FSNEPA raised \$400 from a raffle at their annual Christmas Social and FCSLA Junior Branch 168 matched the funds raised through a program sponsored by the Home Office.

The Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania, a not-for-profit trade association, unites local leaders of fraternal benefit societies domiciled or doing business in Northeastern Pennsylvania. FSNEPA membership consists of seven fraternal benefit societies — First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, National Slovak Society, Polish National Union of America, Polish Union of the U.S. of N.A., Polish Women's Alliance of America and Slovene National Benefit Society — and CPS Actuaries. FCSLA Junior Branch 168 is a local fraternal branch of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association headquartered in Beachwood, Ohio. The altruistic efforts of fraternal benefit societies are primarily funded by the sale of life insurance and other financial service products to their members.

The donation recipient, the Domestic Violence Service Center, has been providing quality services to battered and homeless women and their children since 1976. Celebrating 38 years of service to the community, DVSC currently serves Luzerne and Carbon counties. DVSC provides emergency shelter and direct services to battered women and their children and DVSC's Bridge Housing Program offers transitional housing for battered and homeless women and their children.

In addition to emergency shelter and transitional housing, DVSC offers a wide range of free and confidential services including 24-hour hotlines, supportive options counseling, individual and group counseling, advocacy, court advocacy and accompaniment, community outreach and education, life skills and parenting training, medical and mental health advocacy, and training for professionals.

For more information on the Domestic Violence Service Center, or to learn how you can become a supporter of DVSC and a partner in the fight against domestic violence, please visit www.domesticviolenceservice.org or call 1-800-424-5600.



L-R: Ann Dougher, secretary-treasurer, FCSLA Jr. Branch 168; Denise Driscoll, DVSC special events and marketing coordinator; and Theresa Kluchinski, LPSCU national president and chairperson of the event.

MARCH/APRIL 2014

Lehigh Valley Okres Elects New Officers

New officers were elected at a meeting of the Lehigh Valley Okres held on November 10, 2013. Newly elected officers were Elaine Mochany as vice president, Bernadine Kurzeja as secretary, and Mary Ann Ackerman as auditor. Their offices were effective immediately. Those retaining their office for the next year were Jean Kosalko, president, and Margaret A. Ferri, treasurer.



Lehigh Valley Okres officers and members with newly elected officers — Seated L-R: Jean Kosalko, president; Mary Ford, former LPSCU Branch 83 and 130 treasurer; and Margaret A. Ferri, treasurer. Standing L-R: newly elected officers, Elaine Molchany, vice president; Mary Ann Ackerman, auditor; and Bernadine Kurzeja, secretary; and members Anna Sopko, vice president of LPSCU Branch 83 and 130; Mari Anne Sopko; and Cecilia Gaughan, national fraternal activities director and secretary of LPSCU Branch 38/40.

In Memoriam

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. — Matthew v.5

Name	Branch	Location
*Rita M. Bogoshowsky	7	Exeter, PA
Marlene Pereira-Ciszek	9	Mahanoy City, PA
*Judith E. Magallanes	24	Windber, PA
Pauline Zvonik	24	Windber, PA
Anthony P. Bagnata, Jr.	39	Drums, PA
*Theresa Polaha	40	Allentown, PA
Patricia Zsak	42	Pittsburgh, PA
Anne L. Pappaterra	60	W. Hazleton, PA
Albert D. Geho	62	Northampton, PA
Elizabeth A. Cobaugh	64	Pittsburgh, PA
Kestutis J. Laskauskas	72	Stratford, CT
*Barbara Kraszewski	94	Larksville, PA
*Mary R. Kuric	109	Hammond, IN
Mary Ann Masar	132	Campbell, OH
Loretta P. Domin	156	Coaldale, PA
John A. Kerestes	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Joan R. Muehlbauer	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Walter Soliunas	L0045	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Donna A. Meskauskas	L0179	Wilkes-Barre, PA

*Multiple certificates

Districts and Branches Hold Holidays

Msgr. Beeda District

Members of the Msgr. Beeda District began celebrating the holidays at their Christmas Party held on Friday, November 29, 2013. The party was held at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish at the Church of St. Joseph in Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

District President Anita Gregory welcomed 30 members and 10 guests to relax and enjoy an evening of fun, games, and fraternalism. Deacon Cyril Kowalchick offered a short prayer and blessing before the meal. Jim Yocum shared a holiday toast with the group and explained the Slovak tradition of the sharing of *Oplatky*. A delicious buffet style dinner was enjoyed by everyone.

National President Theresa Kluchinski spoke to the group about the educational benefits that the LPSCU offers, the new riders, and plans for the 2016 LPSCU Convention. She then introduced Donna and Gina Yocum, two LPSCU scholarship recipients who joined the gathering for the evening. President Kluchinski next made the presentation of the 2013 Youth Achievement Award to Robert J. Kupsho III after highlighting his outstanding achievements. The three award winners were also given gifts from their respective Branches.

Lucky prize winners from the Msgr. Beeda District Christmas Raffle were drawn and several of our members won prizes. Each attendee at the party received a door prize and favor to take home.

District President Gregory would like to thank all the District officers and her helpers for making the party a huge success.



L-R: Robert J. Kupsho, Sr. , Diane Kupsho, Gabriella Kupsho, Theresa Kluchinski, 2013 Youth Achievement Award recipient Robert J. Kupsho III, Anita Gregory, Mary Jo Savidge, Janet Kupsho, and Robert J. Kupsho, Jr.



Members and guests of the Msgr. Beeda District who attended the District's Christmas party on November 29, 2013.

Reverend Dianiska District

The Reverend Dianiska District held its annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 8, 2013, at The Ramada Inn, Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Branches 58, 94, 122, and 214 hosted the event.

Janet Marley welcomed 54 members and guests and 11 young members. District President Mary Ann Ewasko thanked all the members present for their cooperation throughout the year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Margaret Jollimore read an Oplatky prayer before everyone exchanged Christmas wishes by sharing the Oplatky. Theresa Olshemski read a Christmas Blessing Prayer. National President Theresa Kluchinski wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of the LPSCU Board of Directors.



Members and guests at the Rev. Dianiska District Christmas party.



The canned goods attendees donated for St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen were displayed at the party.



Members and guests socialize at the party.

Meetings and Parties

A fruit and cheese tray was served followed by a family-style dinner, dessert, and beverages.

After the meal, President Ewasko introduced Josie and Paul Toomey, parents of Teresa Toomey, a 2013 LPSCU College Scholarship recipient from the District. Teresa was unable to attend the party, but her grandmother, Angie Passeri, was also present.

Members and guests joined in the Matching Fund special gift raffle for the benefit of Candy's Place — The Center for Cancer Wellness in Forty-Fort, Pennsylvania. Canned goods

donated by both members and guests were collected for the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre.

To conclude the event, the children were surprised by a visit from Santa Claus, who listened to their Christmas wishes and presented them with gifts.

Everyone enjoyed the gathering which served as a festive kick-off to the holiday season.

Susan Worth

Lehigh Valley Okres

The Lehigh Valley Okres held its annual Holiday Luncheon on Sunday, December 1, 2013, at the Lehigh Room of the Best Western Lehigh Valley Conference Center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. A punch reception commenced at noon, followed by the luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

Okres President Jean Kosalko extended a warm welcome to all present. Msgr. Robert F. Kozel, pastor emeritus of St. John the Baptist Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania, offered a prayer before the meal. Fifty Okres members and guests attended.

Members brought unwrapped toys to donate to the Toys for Tots program for distribution by the Marine Corps to underprivileged children. Members also generously donated 20 themed gift baskets as a raffle for the benefit of the Allentown Diocesan Soup Kitchen. This activity was an LPSCU Matching Fund Project.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, President Kosalko introduced the special guests present, National President Theresa Kluchinski and National Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge, as well as the Okres officers: Vice President Elaine Molchany, Secretary Bernadine Kurzeja, Treasurer Margaret A. Ferri (who also serves as National Public Relations Director), Auditor and LPSCU Honorary Vice President Mary Ann Ackerman, and National Fraternal Activities Director Cecilia B. Gaughan.

President Kosalko asked everyone to remember in their prayers our late Okres Secretary, Mary Shannon, and member Ann Vasko, both of whom passed away in 2013.

In recognition of Mary Ann Ackerman receiving the LPSCU

continued on page 16



Members and guests enjoying the party.



District President Mary Ann Ewasko (left) introduces Josie and Paul Toomey, parents of LPSCU Scholarship recipient Teresa Toomey.



The young people present enjoyed a visit from Santa.



National President Theresa Kluchinski (left) presents a plaque to 2013 LPSCU Fraternalist of the Year Mary Ann Ackerman as National Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge (right) offers congratulations.

Districts and Branches Hold Holiday Meetings and Parties

continued from page 15

2013 Fraternalist of the Year Award, President Kluchinski offered remarks about Mary Ann's outstanding volunteer service to her fraternal and her community. She then presented Mary Ann with a beautiful plaque. In her response, Mary Ann expressed her appreciation for the award and said she was honored to represent the LPSCU as Fraternalist of the Year.

President Kluchinski encouraged everyone to read the *Zornicka* for information relating to our various insurance products and annuities, as well as educational benefits that are now available for our member-students attending Catholic high school and college. She offered exciting news regarding three insurance riders that will be introduced shortly and was happy to announce plans that have been made to hold the 2016 Convention in historic Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

As a surprise to all present, Santa Claus (in the person of Clark Snitker) entered the dining hall ringing his jingle bells. Everyone was excited to see Santa, most especially the three children – two boys and a girl – that were present. Santa called the children by name and presented each boy with a motorized car and a necklace to the young lady. The children also received a box of chocolates from Santa. The National and Okres officers weren't omitted from Santa's list as he produced gifts for each of them as well. As a favor, each attendee received a bayberry candle from the Okres and a pocket-size lint remover from the Home Office.

The themed basket raffle was chanced off together with two beautiful afghans which were handmade by Erica Latch of the Pioneer Club in Allentown. The sum of \$270 was realized from this Matching Fund project.

Special prizes in the Okres' annual holiday raffle were won by Sylvia Goda, Rev. Philip A. Altavilla, Gayla Guempel, Eleanor



Santa (Clark Snitker) with brothers Chase Geiger (front) and Cole Geiger (right).

Papst, Mary Ann Ewasko, Liz Ackerman, Colleen Gaughan, Mary Ann Roach, Carey Ackerman, and Mary Ann Kaylor.

President Kosalko thanked everyone for attending the annual holiday luncheon and wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The festivities concluded with a prayer offered by Msgr. Kozel. A delightful time was had by all who attended.

☞ Branch 52, Braddock, Pennsylvania

Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow could keep the members of Branch 52 from celebrating at their annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 8, 2013, at the Grandview Golf Club of North Braddock in Western Pennsylvania. The event was again held in the club's spacious Kennywood Room.

A sudden snow squall arrived mid-morning, creating numerous travel problems, especially for those coming from a distance. Some did not attempt the drive at all and many who did get there were delayed, but all in all, the event was successful.

As always, a tasty buffet brunch was served, with sufficient variety to satisfy everyone's palate. All the children and adults present each received gifts from the Branch and numerous door prizes were awarded.

Another generous donation of groceries was collected from attendees and delivered to a local food pantry the following week.

Everyone enjoyed a memorable time and Branch members are looking forward with anticipation to another great LPSCU year.



Some of the members of Branch 52 who braved the wintery weather to attend.



Brigette Marrero Guempel receives a gift from Santa.



Santa even had a gift of President Kluchinski.



A group of Branch 52 members enjoying their annual Christmas party.

August 10-20, 2014

11th Consular Tour to Slovakia Set

Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph Senko has visited Slovakia 25 times since 1995, including ten tours which he has arranged and escorted. Together with his wife Albina, who was born and raised in Slovakia, Senko has created a customized tour for August 2014 which will take participants across the Slovak Republic from Bratislava in the west to Kosice in the east. The tour will visit numerous historic sites in the country each day and stay at four star hotels each night. Joe and Albina will serve as tour escorts throughout.

After landing in Vienna, participants will board a private bus and meet famous tour guide Jana Patoprsta, who will conduct a tour of this beautiful and historic city. Then it's on to Bratislava, the Slovak capital, to visit the Old Town and other historic buildings. The excursion includes a trip to the outskirts of Bratislava to have lunch and enjoy a wine tasting in an authentic wine cellar. Participants will also visit a ceramic workshop and tour Cerveny Kamen, a monumental castle with a collection of antique and historic furniture.

A unique experience offered only on this tour is a stay at the famous Trencianske Teplice Spa. There will be a stop at the historic city of Trencin on the way to the spa. Arriving at the spa complex, participants will tour all of the facilities and have an opportunity to receive any of the spa treatments. On the following day, a journey to the medieval castle of Bojnice is on tap.

Before traveling to the Tatra Mountains, the group will overnight at Banska Stiavnica, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The two-night Tatra stay will feature visits to many historic sites including the Tatra Museum, and dinner at a Koliba (shepherd's hut) complete with gypsy music. Traveling on to Pieniny National Park, participants will have an opportunity to go rafting on the Dunajec River which separates Poland and Slovakia. Afterwards, a Goral lunch will be served, with entertainment.

On the way to Presov, the Sister City of Pittsburgh, the group will stop at Levoca as well as Bardejov, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. The next day features a visit to Kosice, the second largest city in Slovakia. It's a great place to shop with its main street full of exclusive boutiques, restaurants, and historic buildings including the 12th century St. Elizabeth Cathedral. This eastern region of Slovakia is known for its famous Tokaj wine and participants will enjoy a unique wine tasting in a cave in the small town of Mala Trna.

As the tour passes through the various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made for participants to visit relatives or their ancestral towns and villages. (There is an extra charge for this optional activity.)

These are just some of the highlights of this 11th Consular Tour. Joe and Albina hope the 11 days tour participants will spend with them will be both enjoyable and educational. Speaking from experience, they can say, "You will be pleasantly surprised at what Slovakia has to offer to visitors."

For a detailed daily itinerary, list of hotels, flight schedules, payment schedule, and restrictions, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 or email jtsenko@aol.com. Of the four advertised tours to Slovakia from the U.S., this tour has the best dollar value at \$3,699 per person including airfare and all taxes.

MARCH/APRIL 2014

LPSCU EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT 2014 COLLEGE AWARD \$500 ONE TIME AWARD

The LPSCU is offering a \$500, one-time College Award to our members who will be attending college during the 2014-2015 academic year. A total of 25 College Awards will be granted.

These are the guidelines for those applying for this award:

- Applicants must be a member of the LP-SCU for two (2) years with at least a \$2,000 permanent reserve life insurance plan (excludes term insurance).
- Applicants must be a high school senior, college freshman, sophomore, or junior.
- High school seniors must provide a letter of recommendation from a school representative (ex: teacher, guidance counselor, or principal).
- High school applicants must submit an official transcript from high school that includes test scores; College students must submit documentation indicating latest overall GPA.
- Applicants must provide a detailed list of extracurricular activities, honors, and awards.
- Applicants must provide a detailed list of church, community, volunteer, and work activities, including honors and awards, with reference(s) included.
- Applicants must be attending an accredited college/university on a full time basis for the 2014-2015 academic year and submit proof of acceptance for the Fall 2014 semester.
- Applicants must submit a brief essay (no more than 200 words) on the topic "Why is life insurance important?"
- Applicants must provide a wallet-size color photo.

Applicants must meet all criteria outlined above and provide data indicated in order to be eligible. Applications with incomplete data or not meeting the outlined requirements will not be considered. All submitted materials become the property of the LPSCU and will not be returned. The LPSCU reserves the right to publish the entire essay or excerpts of the applicant's essay, at its own discretion, in its official publication, *Zornicka*.

Applications are available from the LPSCU Home Office or its website. **Applications must be postmarked by April 30, 2014.** Submit applications to:

Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union
Educational Benefit Committee
P.O. Box 32

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703

Phone: 570-823-3513 ❖ Toll free: 888-834-6614

Fax: 570-823-4464

E-mail: lpescu@lpescu.org ❖ Website: www.lpescu.org



LPSCU Whole Life Insurance Plan

If you are looking for a very economical insurance plan, check out the Whole Life Plan offered by the LPSCU. Premiums are considered to be low and affordable for any applicant's age. Why not take advantage of having substantial life insurance protection with low premium payments? This plan is offered from age 0 to 70 and premiums, which are paid during the life of the insured, can be paid on a monthly, quarterly, semiannual, or annual basis. Coverage remains in full force and effect for the entire life of the insured. Upon the insured's death, the face amount is payable to the insured's named beneficiary/ies.

In addition to its low premiums, the Whole Life Plan offers the added fraternal benefits of educational awards, youth and adult activities, newborn benefits, prescription discount plan, official publication, and discount car rental.

During these unstable economic times, the Whole Life Plan offered by the LPSCU is economical and beneficial for

estate planning and can especially help with the high cost of funeral expenses.

For those who qualify, the Whole Life Plan also offers the "Paid Up at 80 Plus" benefit. Any insured member with a Whole Life Certificate who turns 80 years of age and has 25 years of LPSCU membership while holding this plan will not have to pay any further premiums as the certificate becomes paid up. (This member benefit is reviewed on an annual basis and is subject to change.)

To apply for this specific plan, or any other insurance plan offered by the LPSCU, contact your Branch Secretary or the LPSCU Home Office.

Listed below are the Annual and Monthly Premium Schedules for the Whole Life Insurance Plan. The premiums listed are based on \$1,000 of life insurance coverage. Semiannual and quarterly premium rates are also available by contacting your Branch Secretary or the Home Office.

WHOLE LIFE ANNUAL AND MONTHLY PREMIUM RATES PER \$1,000 Based on 2001 CSO Male and Female Mortality Tables • Based on Age at Last Birthday

Issue Age	Annual		Monthly	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	6.17	6.07	0.56	0.55
1	6.21	6.11	0.56	0.55
2	6.26	6.15	0.56	0.55
3	6.30	6.20	0.57	0.56
4	6.34	6.24	0.57	0.56
5	6.39	6.28	0.58	0.57
6	6.43	6.32	0.58	0.57
7	6.47	6.36	0.58	0.57
8	6.51	6.41	0.59	0.58
9	6.56	6.45	0.59	0.58
10	6.60	6.49	0.59	0.58
11	6.64	6.54	0.60	0.59
12	6.68	6.58	0.60	0.59
13	6.73	6.62	0.61	0.60
14	6.77	6.67	0.61	0.60
15	6.81	6.71	0.61	0.60
16	6.84	6.75	0.62	0.61
17	7.07	6.80	0.64	0.61
18	7.33	6.84	0.66	0.62
19	7.58	6.89	0.68	0.62
20	7.63	6.93	0.69	0.62
21	7.68	6.98	0.69	0.63
22	7.91	7.02	0.71	0.63
23	8.20	7.07	0.74	0.64
24	8.48	7.28	0.76	0.66
25	8.79	7.55	0.79	0.68
26	9.11	7.83	0.82	0.70
27	9.46	8.14	0.85	0.73
28	9.80	8.46	0.88	0.76
29	10.18	8.79	0.92	0.79
30	10.58	9.13	0.95	0.82
31	10.98	9.49	0.99	0.85
32	11.43	9.87	1.03	0.89
33	11.88	10.27	1.07	0.92
34	12.36	10.68	1.11	0.96
35	12.88	11.12	1.16	1.00

Issue Age	Annual		Monthly	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
36	13.41	11.55	1.21	1.04
37	13.99	12.03	1.26	1.08
38	14.58	12.52	1.31	1.13
39	15.19	13.04	1.37	1.17
40	15.85	13.59	1.43	1.22
41	16.54	14.15	1.49	1.27
42	17.28	14.76	1.56	1.33
43	18.04	15.39	1.62	1.39
44	18.83	16.06	1.69	1.45
45	19.69	16.76	1.77	1.51
46	20.57	17.49	1.85	1.57
47	21.51	18.27	1.94	1.64
48	22.50	19.09	2.03	1.72
49	23.55	19.94	2.12	1.79
50	24.67	20.84	2.22	1.88
51	25.89	21.81	2.33	1.96
52	27.13	22.77	2.44	2.05
53	28.43	23.78	2.56	2.14
54	29.82	24.84	2.68	2.24
55	31.28	25.96	2.82	2.34
56	32.82	27.13	2.95	2.44
57	34.45	28.36	3.10	2.55
58	36.17	29.66	3.26	2.67
59	38.03	31.03	3.42	2.79
60	40.01	32.47	3.60	2.92
61	42.11	33.99	3.79	3.06
62	44.34	35.62	3.99	3.21
63	46.70	37.34	4.20	3.36
64	49.20	39.17	4.43	3.53
65	51.85	41.13	4.67	3.70
66	54.69	43.22	4.92	3.89
67	57.73	45.45	5.20	4.09
68	61.01	47.83	5.49	4.30
69	64.55	50.39	5.81	4.54
70	68.48	53.20	6.16	4.79

Lehigh Valley Okres Slates 115th LPSCU Anniversary Celebration

To mark the 115th Anniversary Celebration of the LPSCU, the Lehigh Valley Okres will hold a buffet dinner on Sunday, May 18, 2014, at the Best Western Lehigh Valley Conference Center, Routes 22 and 512, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. A punch reception will be held at noon followed by a buffet at 12:30 p.m.

LPSCU Branches of the Lehigh Valley Okres will host their respective members. Branch members must call their respective Branch Secretary to make a reservation. Okres Branch secretaries are: Allentown/Whitehall Branches 38 and 40: Cecilia Gaughan (610-433-4610); Northampton Branch 62: Bernadine Kurzeja (610-262-1260); Bethlehem Branch 83: Mary Ann Ackerman (610-866-3130); Bethlehem Branch 130: Margaret Ferri (610-866-8945); and Hellertown Branch 196: Jean Kosalko (610-838-8940). Members of any other LPSCU Branch in the Lehigh Valley Area that is not listed above may call Margaret Ferri for information. **Deadline for reservations is Thursday, May 1, 2014.**

A themed gift basket raffle will be held at the dinner for the benefit of the Allentown Diocesan Soup Kitchen. The soup kitchen serves four meals per week and is in dire need of support. Our members are asked to donate a themed gift basket for the raffle and to contact your Branch Secretary regarding your gift basket donation.

Slovak Heritage Tours Plans September Trip to Slovakia

Slovakia Heritage Tours has planned a trip to the Slovak Republic from September 4-14, 2014. The price is \$2,295 complete for the land-only package (air fare not included). **There is a \$100 Early Bird discount if the \$500 deposit is received by March 14, 2014.**

The tour includes: 11 day minibus tour across Slovakia and into Poland; 10 nights in 3 and 4 star hotels (double with bath); breakfast each day and 3 dinners; fulltime native Slovak guide/interpreter 24/7; admissions to historic sites, museums, cultural activities, and special programs.

Experience Slovak culture, history, and life in Slovakia today, up close and personal on this 11-day, small group tour. We'll explore important cities and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, beautiful countryside, and the mix of medieval towns to Soviet-era remnants that make Slovakia such an interesting small country to visit today.

Optional add-ons are available: Genealogical research and personal visits to ancestral villages; special guides and interpreters; extension tours to Prague, Vienna, and Poland.

If interested, please contact:

Slovakia Heritage Tours

Judith Northup Bennett
6 Cooleyville Road Ext.
New Salem, MA 01355
(978)-544-5144

Email: connectionswork4u@hotmail.com

Website: www.slovakiaheritage.com

Who Will Receive Our 2014 Youth Achievement Award

Let an outstanding youth know . . . YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

We all know someone between the ages of 13 and 18 who deserves recognition for his or her scholastic, athletic, fraternal, volunteer, and/or other achievements.

Help the LPSCU show an outstanding young member that they are appreciated by nominating him or her for the *Youth Achievement Award*.

To receive a Nomination Form, contact the Home Office at 570-823-3513 or toll free 888-834-6614; email: lpscu@lpscu.org or visit our website: www.lpscu.org.

The postmark deadline for nominations is June 1, 2014.



Robert J. Kupscho III - 2013 Winner



Protect Yourself from Identity Theft Scams

The IRS frequently reminds taxpayers to beware of identity theft scams. Two of the latest phishing scams include one offering inherited funds, lottery winnings, or cash consignment and another offering a bogus tax refund. Scammers use the IRS name, logo, or website in an attempt to convince taxpayers that the scam is a genuine communication from the IRS. Scammers may also use other federal agency names, such as the U.S. De-

partment of the Treasury. After obtaining personal information, identity thieves use the victim's personal data to steal his or her financial accounts, run up charges on the victim's existing credit cards, apply for new loans, credit cards, services, or benefits in the victim's name, and even file fraudulent tax returns.

Please note the IRS does not discuss tax account matters by email.

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St. Cyril Academy Holds Christmas Pageant



The Angel Gabriel (Ashley Xu) announces the Good News.

Saint Cyril Academy Pre-school and Kindergarten in Danville, Pennsylvania, presented their annual Christmas Pageant in the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Shepherds, kings, and a host of angels aged 3- to 5-years-old celebrated the birth of Christ. The pageant was followed by a reception in the cafeteria.

Saint Cyril Academy Pre-school and Kindergarten is sponsored by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius.



The shepherds, L-R: Andrew Li, Jacob Marks, Jefferson Morris, Quentin Bergey, and Johnny Rishel.



The kings and their camel boys sing "Gloria" with the host of angels. Front row, L-R: camel boy Ben Crane, king Jack Marks, camel boy Parth Tiwari, king Ben Friscia, and camel boy Jack Friedenberg.

WPSCA Schedules Slovak Wine Tasting Program

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association will hold its 4th Slovak Wine Tasting Program on Saturday, April 5, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at Sonoma Grille, 947 Penn Avenue in the Cultural District of Downtown Pittsburgh. The program will include appetizers and live music. The tasting will compare Slovak wines with American wines. The price is \$30 per member and \$35 for non-members, payable in advance.

Attendance is limited to 60 members and guests on a first-come, first-served basis. For reservations, call Joe Senko at 412-531-2990 during the day or Albina Senko at 412-343-5031 in the evening. Send your checks, payable to WPSCA, to Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

Our Scholarship Recipients Explain

The Importance of Life Insurance

Life insurance is like the backbone of a family's financial curriculum. It helps with income replacement, debt payoff, funeral expenses, estate taxes, and college tuition. This type of accommodating insurance is provided by a person paying regular payments to a life insurance company during their lifetime. In return, the company will pay a sum to the person's beneficiaries after their death. The importance of insurance programs is to maintain a family's financial status, protect them against future financial troubles, and provide a legacy for their future family.

A father or a mother's dream when they pass on is that their children and heirs will live a wonderful and financially trouble-free life. This can be possible if the family realizes how important it is to have life insurance. Lacking a life insurance policy, a death in the family can bring financial dilemmas to the heirs of that family and hurt their financial futures. As the number of people increase in the family's household, the importance of having and paying life insurance increases. Without life insurance, individual families would be in monetary problems.

Grace Taglang

Branch 38, Whitehall, Pennsylvania

EXCITING NEWS FOR MEMBERS AGES 3 TO 15!

ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS! The LPSCU is holding an Art Contest, the results of which will be featured in a very special 2017 Calendar. The calendar will be given to each delegate attending our 2016 National Convention and also be made available for distribution at LPSCU functions.

CONTEST RULES

1. Drawings must be created by LPSCU members who are between the ages of 3 and 15. (Age-related eligibility will be based on the date the drawing is received by the Fraternal Activities Director.)
2. Submit an **original picture** that you have drawn. You may choose any subject pertaining to any of the 12 months of the year. Artwork should be horizontal (or landscape) format (wider than it is tall), not vertical (or portrait) format (taller than it is wide).
3. Use unlined paper, poster board, or canvas. The ideal size is 11" x 8½". Drawings may not exceed 11" x 8½".
4. Use charcoal, ink, crayons, pastels, colored pencils, tempera, or watercolors. **Do not use magic markers.**
5. On a separate sheet of paper that accompanies your drawing, print your name, birthday (including year), full address, branch number, telephone number, and email address.
6. Place your drawing flat, protected between two sheets of heavy cardboard to keep it from being bent or folded, and mail it in a large envelope to the address below. (Don't forget to enclose your contact information!)
7. All entries must be **postmarked by November 25, 2015.**



Since there are 13 eligible ages, and 13 calendar pages available (each of 12 months plus the front cover), it is our intention to feature one drawing chosen from each age on those 13 pages. All submissions, however, will be featured somewhere in the calendar, so everyone's work will be recognized.

Mom and Dad, Grandma and Grandpa – Here's a chance to encourage your children or grandchildren to show off their artistic talents and have their artwork printed for all to see! If they're a member of the LPSCU between the ages of 3 and 15, they're eligible to participate in this creative and fun activity.

Please send entries to:

Fraternal Activities Director Cecilia B. Gaughan
325 Florida Avenue
Whitehall, PA 18052

Join Hands Day is Saturday, May 3

Join Hands Day is a national volunteer day that brings young people and adults together to begin a year-round process of relationship building and to make great contributions to their community. Youths and adults work together on an equal basis to plan, organize, and implement the day's activities.

The LPSCU encourages the youth and adult members of our Branches and Districts to partner with other volunteer groups in their community to organize Join Hands Day projects to be undertaken on Saturday, May 3, 2014. There are many reasons to participate, and lots of resources to help you plan your own project! These can include such varied activities as conducting a food drive for a homeless shelter, picking up litter in a community playground or park, visiting the residents in a nursing home, or cleaning up gardens and planting flowers for an elderly neighbor.

We look forward to hearing from you about your group's Join Hands Day activity. Write a short article and send it, along with a group photo or two, to the LPSCU Public Relations Director so it can be shared with our members in the *Zornicka*

After the big day, you are also invited to share your accomplishments and photos from the day on the American Fraternal Alliance's Facebook page.

Cooking Corner

PASKA (EASTER BREAD)

1 cup scalded milk	¼ cup sugar
1 Tbsp. salt	½ lb. melted butter
1 packet yeast (dry)	4 cups flour
2 eggs (beaten)	

Heat milk; stir in salt, sugar, and melted butter and let cool to lukewarm temperature. In a separate bowl dissolve yeast in ¼ cup warm water. Stir the yeast mixture and let rise until bubbly. Add the cool milk mixture to the yeast mixture. Save 1 Tbsp. beaten egg and add the rest of eggs and flour (two cups at a time) to the milk/yeast mixture. Knead the dough on a floured board for 15 minutes. If the dough is too sticky, add a little flour. Place dough in a greased bowl, cover the bowl with a cloth, and let rise in a warm place until double in size (about 1½ hours). Punch dough down in center and let rise a second time for 45 minutes. After second rising, shape dough into two balls and place into two greased round bread pans and let rise. Brush the tops of dough with 1 Tbsp. beaten egg and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Remove from pans onto a wire rack to cool.



Member Role-Plays for History Presentation



**Michael Defazio as
Orville Wright.**

For a recent History presentation at his school, Michael Patrick Defazio chose Orville Wright to write and talk about. Michael is pictured here as Orville as he prepares to give his presentation to his class. At the time of his assignment, Michael was in the fourth grade at St. Joseph the Worker School in Orefield, Pennsylvania.

Michael is a member of LPSCU Branch 38 in Whitehall, Pennsylvania. He is the son of Jerome and Patrice Defazio and the grandson of Tom and Ceil Gaughan, all of whom are members of LPSCU Branch 38/40.

Calendar of Events

continued from page 2

JUNE

- 1** — Deadline to nominate a young member for our 2014 Youth Achievement Award. *See page 19.*
- 6** — FSNEPA “Flag Day at the Ballpark.” Reservations due and paid by May 20 (by May 18 for LPSCU Branch 213 members). *See pages 7 and 12 for details.*
- 14** — LPSCU Telephone Conference Meeting
- 30** — Deadline for LPSCU members to apply for the Catholic High School Award and Bishop Grutka Award. *See pages 11 and 8, respectively.*

JULY

- 1** — Deadline to apply for the Anne (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Award (extended from March 1st). *See page 4 for details.*
- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for September/October Zornicka.**

SEPTEMBER

- 4-6** — American Fraternal Alliance Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas
- 16** — Slovak Catholic Federation Meeting, Youngstown, Ohio
- 19-20** — LPSCU Semiannual Meeting, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for November/December Zornicka.**

NOVEMBER

- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for January/February 2015 Zornicka.**

DECEMBER

- 13** — LPSCU Telephone Conference Meeting
- 31** — Deadline to submit a family recipe for our LPSCU Convention Cookbook.

Lehigh Valley Okres to Hold Matching Fund Event

In conjunction with the LPSCU Matching Fund Program, members of the Lehigh Valley Okres will hold a themed gift basket raffle for the benefit of the Allentown Diocesan Soup Kitchen located at 177 Chew Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania.

For the Matching Fund event, Okres members will prepare themed gift baskets and raffle them off at the 115th Anniversary celebration held by the Lehigh Valley Okres on Sunday, May 18, 2014, at noon at the Best Western Lehigh Valley Conference Center in Bethlehem. We ask our Lehigh Valley LPSCU members to support this worthwhile project by either donating a themed gift basket or by attending the anniversary celebration and purchasing raffle tickets towards a basket. For further information, call Marge Ferri at 610-866-8945 or Ceil Gaughan at 610-433-4610.

Rev. Dianiska District to Celebrate LPSCU's 115th Anniversary

The officers of the Rev. Dianiska District are hosting an Indoor Picnic to celebrate the 115th Anniversary of the LPSCU on Saturday, April 26, 2014, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church Hall, Hughes Street, Swoyersville, Pennsylvania. Everyone – young and young-at-heart – is invited to attend!

Everyone is welcome to attend this event honoring the hard work and dedication of everyone affiliated with the LPSCU. District members should make reservations with their respective Branch Secretary **before April 18, 2014**. If you're outside of our District and you'd like to attend, please contact District President Mary Ann Ewasko at 570-823-6432.

Letters

continued from page 10

To the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union,

Thank you so much for the \$500 Scholarship Award. I know this thank you is rather late, so please forgive my tardiness – life has a way of suspending things. Anyway, the LPSCU scholarship has definitely eased the financial burden on my family in regards to my University of Oregon tuition.

I am currently in Pittsburgh – I fly back to Oregon tonight. Yesterday I attended the LPSCU Christmas luncheon with my grandmother, my great aunt, my aunt, and my cousin. It was a blast! I met some lovely LPSCU members who are going to send me contact information for my trip to Slovakia next fall. I'm really excited for it!

Thank you again. I hope to be in touch and maybe even write an article or two for the *Zornicka*!

Sincerely yours,

Bethany Kaylor

Branch 64, Pittsburgh, PA

Slovak Catholic Federation Seeks Contributors for 2014 *The Good Shepherd* Annual

Dobry Pastier (*The Good Shepherd*), edited by Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., and published annually by the Slovak Catholic Federation, is compiled of articles focusing on topics which are of interest to Slovak-American Catholics. The Federation is once again accepting articles for inclusion in its 2014 edition. Potential contributors should note that while the scope of the publication is broad, articles solely political in nature will not be accepted.

The deadline for all articles is **June 1, 2014. Due to the publication schedule, articles received after the deadline will not be included in the annual.** The annual will be available for distribution in the latter part of 2014.

In order to facilitate the editing and printing of *The Good Shepherd*, the following guidelines are established for authors who would like their work to be considered for inclusion in the annual:

GENERAL INFORMATION

- All articles must be type-written, double-spaced, in Microsoft WORD format in 12 point, Times New Roman font. For the sake of the editor, please do not capitalize all words (or entire sentences), unnecessarily use exclamation points, etc. The article format should be similar to articles printed in daily newspapers and magazines.
- It is strongly preferred that **English** articles be e-mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M, Editor, at: bonduscm@gmail.com. In this age of modern technology, it is faster and more cost effective to work from a text that is provided digitally instead of having to retype the entire article.
- If it is not possible for an article to be e-mailed, an original "hard copy" may be mailed to Sister Bernadette at Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698. "Hard copy" means that articles are either typed or hand-written by the author. **Please do not send photo copies of articles or photos.**
- To be accepted for publication, articles must be between three and ten typewritten pages. Articles fewer than three pages or beyond ten pages will not be accepted.

USE OF PHOTOS

- If using photos within the article, **photos must be included at the same time the article is sent to the Editor.** (If sending photos digitally, save as separate JPGs to accompany the article.) Please indicate where photos are to be placed within the body of the article. Be sure to properly identify the persons, places and/or situations depicted in the photo(s). **If no indication is given as to where, within the article, the photos are to be inserted, the photos will not be used.**
- In the event that an article is e-mailed and photos are not included as attachments, the actual photographs, along with a hard copy of the article, must be mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie for inclusion in the article. (If more convenient, photos can also be saved to a CD which the printer can then link up with the article.) Once again, please be sure that the photos are properly identified and note where, within the article, the photos are to be inserted. Photos must always accompany the article for which they are intended.
- Captions must be included with the photos. This allows readers to better understand the relationship of the photo to the content of the article.

ARTICLES IN SLOVAK

- Slovak articles **can** be e-mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie, but a hard copy (including all accents) must **also** be mailed to her. (Please indicate that the article was both mailed and emailed.) Frequently, accent marks, diacritical characters, and other special characters do not come through properly when articles are e-mailed. Having a hard copy of the article, appropriately marked, will save valuable time and minimize errors.

As Editor, Sister Bernadette Marie retains the right to correct grammatical errors, delete repetitions, rearrange ideas to make them clearer, etc. Sister Bernadette Marie also retains the right to determine the appropriateness of articles for the publication. However, she will not substantially change the author's ideas without first consulting the author.

Our sincere thanks to all the faithful contributors to *The Good Shepherd*! Your contributions, year after year, ensure that the Slovak Catholic Federation is able to provide a quality annual which helps celebrate our Catholic faith, preserves our Slovak heritage, and allows our readers to stay in touch with what's happening in the Catholic Church, in Slovakia, and in the Slovak-American community.

We are looking forward to your contributions again this year.

Reverend Philip A. Altavilla
National President, Slovak Catholic Federation

Cardinal Tomko Chapter Participates in Food Drive

On Sunday, January 12, 2014, members of the Cardinal Tomko Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation delivered a supply of non-perishable food items to the Allentown Diocesan Soup Kitchen located at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Hall in Allentown, Pennsylvania. To collect the items, the Chapter held a food drive at its Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Saturday, December 28, 2013, at the Lafayette Room of the Best Western Lehigh Valley Hotel and Conference Center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The food drive is an annual charitable project undertaken by the Cardinal Tomko Chapter. Many members of the Chapter also belong to the LPSCU.



L-R: Mary Ann Ackerman, CTC President Margaret A. Ferri, Milly Scrak, Allentown Diocesan Soup Kitchen Coordinator Milly Scrak, Food Drive Captain Cecilia B. Gaughan, Elaine Molchany, and Bernadine Kurzeja.

WPSCA Offers Summer Scholarship

For the ninth consecutive year, Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association is offering a scholarship to attend the Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. WPSCA will award \$2,500 to cover transportation, tuition, room and board to the successful candidate. To meet the requirements, applicants must:

- ❖ Be a full-time college student
- ❖ Be of Slovak heritage
- ❖ Not have previously attended the program
- ❖ Apply to Comenius University for acceptance
- ❖ Be willing to attend WPSCA events when requested to discuss the program

The SAS Summer School is the oldest summer language school in Slovakia and is designed to enable students to improve and enhance their Slovak language competency as well as increase their knowledge of Slovak literature and culture.

For further information or for an application, contact Joe Senko at 412-531-2990. Completed applications must be received by WPSCA on or before **April 15, 2014** at Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

Member's Poems in National Publications

Wilkes-Barre Branch 6 member Marissa E. Jason, 12, is honored to have two of her poems included in two national poetry publications. They are *Discovered 2013 Poetry Collection* and *Young American Poetry Digest 2013*.



Marissa Jason shows the two poetry publications in which her poems are included.

One of Marissa's poems is a haiku. A haiku is a short Japanese poem following specific guidelines. Haikus are made up of only three lines. The first line can only have five syllables, the second only seven, and the third only five again. Most haikus are written about nature.

Marissa entered a haiku and another of her poems in our LPSCU Poetry Contest which ran through this past December. Both of her poems received honorary mention in that contest as well. They are featured on page 12 with the other winning entries.

Marissa is a sixth grade student at Wilkes-Barre Academy in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. She is the daughter of Paul J. and Diane Jason and the granddaughter of LPSCU Chairperson of Trustees Mary Ann Ewasko. Marissa also has a brother, Paul.

The LPSCU congratulates Marissa on her outstanding literary achievements.

Mass Honors Our Lady of Sorrows

A Mass in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia, was celebrated on September 13, 2013, at Holy Trinity Church, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.

Following the service, those in attendance were invited to the church hall to enjoy traditional Slovak food prepared by Holy Trinity parishioners. Attending the Liturgy were LPSCU Branch 42 members Sylvia Goda, Margaret Joschak, and Dolores Sakal.



Pictured L-R are Rev. Greg Madeya , Rev. Joseph R. Grosko, Rev. Steven Chervanak, and altar server Becky Wagner.

SCRIPTSAVE®

UTILIZATION REPORT

	For December 2013	Year-to-Date 2013
Prescriptions Filled:	18	240
Normal Retail Pricing:	\$ 1,551.60	\$ 15,090.73
Discount Program Pricing:	\$ 671.02	\$ 6,533.80
Total Dollars Saved		
by LPSCU Cardholders:	\$ 880.58	\$ 8,556.93
Average Saved per		
Discounted Prescription:	\$ 51.80	\$ 40.17
Overall LPSCU Discounted		
Prescription Savings:	57.12%	58.08%

December 2013 was a big savings month for our ScriptSave® card members. Our group's discounted prescription savings for the month amounted to 57.12%. With our group's year-to-date 2013 discounted prescription savings averaging 58.08%, or \$40.17 per discounted prescription, it's easy to see how our members benefit from the program every day. During these tough economic times, a ScriptSave® card will provide savings to you on your prescriptions.

The ScriptSave® Prescription Savings Program is available at **NO COST** to you. There are **no monthly or ongoing fees, no limits on usage, and no income or age restrictions.** Your entire household can use the card to receive instant savings on brand name and generic prescriptions at over 62,000 participating pharmacies nationwide.

If you do not have health insurance coverage, use the ScriptSave® card for any brand name or generic prescription you or a family member pays for out-of-pocket. If you have health insurance coverage, use the ScriptSave® card for everyone in your household who is not insured and for any prescriptions that are excluded by Medicare Part D law or drugs not covered by your health insurance. In addition to prescription savings, the ScriptSave® card also provides savings on vision and Lasik, hearing, diabetic supplies, lab testing, chiropractic, X-ray/imaging, fitness/safety/medical supplies, and gym memberships.

If you do not have a ScriptSave® card, you may enroll online by visiting www.scriptsave.com and logging in with Group #S1000. On that web site, you can also find a participating pharmacy near you, look up drug pricing, and view the Preferred Medications List, health information, and more. Any LPSCU member (including the membership of LCA) can receive a ScriptSave® card at no cost. If you do not have access to a computer to apply for a card, call the Home Office and the Home Office will apply for a ScriptSave® card for you.

Discounts are available exclusively through participating pharmacies. The range of the discounts will vary depending on the type of provider and services rendered. This program does not make payments directly to providers. Members are required to pay for all health care services. You may cancel your registration at any time or file a complaint by contacting Customer Care. This program is administered by Medical Security Card Company, LLC (MSC) of Tucson, Arizona.

Many Serve...In Many Ways

LPSCU Branch 52 Treasurer Diane E. Tomasic is entering her 25th year as Tax Collector of the Borough of North Braddock in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, after being re-elected for her 7th term last fall.



Diane E. Tomasic is shown in her office in the North Braddock Borough Municipal Building.

Diane is well known for her community involvement in many charitable organizations over the years as well as being an active member of the LPSCU. She recalls the many years she accompanied her mother-in-law, Elizabeth Harcarik Tomasic, to many events for the Branch as well as for the Pittsburgh District, including many conventions.

Ironically, Diane's husband, Bob Tomasic, a well-respected CPA, has served many years as a community activist, including 22 years on Council



Pictured L-R are the Tomasic brothers: Bill, Bernard, Jim, and Bob.

for the Borough of North Braddock, after which he was elected to the Woodland Hills School Board, on which he still serves.

It seems that the compulsion to serve and become involved runs in the Harcarik-Tomasic family. Bob's uncle, Joseph Harcarik, served on the North Braddock School Board and then on Council in the 1950s and 1960s. His brother Bill, a retired teacher and also a Branch 52 member, has just been re-elected to a second term as a member of Council of the Borough of Forest Hills. Bob's brothers, Bernard and Jim, also Branch 52 members, served as School Directors in General Braddock/Woodland Hills and North Hills, respectively. Both continue serving their communities through various charitable organizations.

And it doesn't stop there. Cousins Jerry Harcarik Fabyanic served on the Clearcreek County, Colorado, School Board and Dawn Cerra, daughter of Marie Fabyanic Polansky, served on the Williamsville, New York, School Board. Jerry, also a former teacher, remains a columnist for a local paper and has a weekly radio program. Dawn continues her involvement through the local PTA.



Jerry Harcarik Fabyanic



Dawn Cerra

All of these individuals have the core belief that community service is the proper thing to do – that the involvement of a few can benefit the many. Be active in your community and your organization!

James E. Harcarik Tomasic
Secretary, Branch 52
North Braddock, Pennsylvania

FSNEPA Acknowledges LPSCU's 115th Anniversary

At the November 2013 meeting of the Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania, FSNEPA President Bernard Kolodziej acknowledged the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union on celebrating 115 years of service to its members. The Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania is an umbrella group of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance and is made up of eight fraternal benefit societies.

Pictured below, standing L-R, are LPSCU Chairperson of Trustees Mary Ann Ewasko, FSNEPA President Kolodziej, and LPSCU Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge. Seated is LPSCU President Theresa Kluchinski with a congratulatory anniversary cake presented by FSNEPA at the November meeting.



Get involved in the LPSCU!
Meet new friends!
Attend Branch & Okres meetings!
Sign up a new member!

Dear Junior Members,

Just over 110 years ago, on a cold morning of December 17, 1903, two brothers from Dayton, Ohio, made the first controlled and powered heavier-than-air human flight. Wilbur and Orville Wright are credited with inventing and building the world's first successful airplane.

The site of that first flight was at Kill Devil Hills near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Back then, Kitty Hawk was a small fishing village located on the Outer Banks off the Carolina coast. Today, the Outer Banks are a popular and busy summer tourist destination, but in the Wright brothers' time they were a remote and quiet place.

To make their test flight, the Wrights needed a place with strong winds, sand for soft landings, and space to soar. And above all, they needed privacy from reporters and curious onlookers while they attempted to test and perfect their flying machine. They chose Kill Devil Hills based on a suggestion from the U.S. Weather Department.

Much preparation and many years of initial testing went into what culminated as man's first powered flight. The Wrights visited Kitty Hawk anywhere from a few weeks to a few months every year for four years, from 1900 to 1903. To get there, they and their experimental flyers had to travel by train, steamer, ferry, and finally by small boat.

In 1900, they flew their glider as a kite. In 1901, they built a larger glider – the largest to date – but it did not fly well, so it was back to the drawing board. In 1902, they made more than 1,000 glides and were finally ready to add an engine.

Finally, on December 17, 1903, the Wrights made four successful flights in their powered flyer. The first was made by Orville. He flew for 120 feet. The longest flight was the fourth, with Wilbur as the pilot. He flew 59 seconds for 852 feet. And the rest was aviation history.

The Wright brothers gave their parents credit for their success. Their father, Milton Wright, was an educated bishop in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. He had strong opinions of what was right and wrong, giving



the boys a strong moral compass. Susan, their mother, was raised around tools because her father was a carriage maker. She knew how to make small appliances and toys, and taught the boys what she knew. As they grew up, Wilbur and Orville also gained the mechanical skills essential for their success by working for years in their shop with printing presses,

bicycles, motors, and other machinery. The close knit family also included two older brothers and a younger sister, Katherine, as well as twin siblings who died in infancy. The Wright brothers never married and lived at home. Wilbur was said to be his father's favorite. He died of Typhoid fever at 45, years before his younger brother Orville. Before his death, Wilbur thrilled New Yorkers when he flew for 33 minutes along the Hudson River. That must have been quite a sight! Orville was very shy, only talking much around his family at home. The boys were very close,

probably accounting for how well they collaborated on their flying machine. Orville died in 1948, at the age of 76.

Today, the Wright Brothers National Memorial stands in tribute to Wilbur and Orville at the site of their historic flight in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. A visitor center and Centennial Pavilion there are run by the National Park Service. There is also an Aviation Historic Park in the brothers' home town of Dayton, which considers itself the "birthplace of aviation" because of its ties to the Wrights.

Cecilia B. Gaughan, Fraternal Activities Director

Arts and Crafts

BUTTON IN A CUP

Try this Button game and see how many times in a row you can fling the button into the cup. It may look easy, but it's a challenge.

Start with an 8 oz. paper cup. Poke a tiny hole in the bottom of the cup with a pencil. Thread a 12-inch-long piece of yarn through the hole and secure it inside the cup by tying one end of the yarn to a button inside the cup. The button will keep the yarn from pulling out of the hole in your cup. Knot another button to the other end of your yarn.

Now, holding the cup, see how many times you can fling the button into it. You can time yourself to see how many you can do in a minute, or compete against your friends to see who can put the button in the cup the most times in a row.

Civil War Trivia

1. How many capital cities were established in the Confederacy?
2. What former vice president of the United States became a fighting general for the Confederacy?
3. Who was the first woman to be awarded the Medal of Honor?
4. Who was the first black person to become a U.S. Senator?
5. What play was featured at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. the night President Lincoln was shot?
6. Which state was the birthplace of the opposing presidents during the Civil War?
7. How many casualties resulted from the 34-hour bombardment of Fort Sumter in April 1861?
8. Who suggested to Lincoln that the United States should pick a fight with a foreign nation to unify the country?
9. Who fired the first shot of the Civil War?
10. Who cast the deciding vote that saved Andrew Johnson at his impeachment trial?

Civil War Trivia Answers: 1. Three: Montgomery, Alabama and Richmond and Danville, both in Virginia; 2. John Cabell Breckinridge, a respected Kentuckian who served as James Buchanan's vice president; 3. Dr. Mary Walker, a commissioned assistant surgeon in the Union Army; 4. Hiram R. Revels of Mississippi, who was an ordained minister; 5. "Our American Cousin"; 6. Kentucky – Abraham Lincoln was from near Hodgenville and Jefferson Davis was from Christian County – Both were born in log cabins about 120 miles apart; 7. None; 8. William H. Seward, secretary of state; 9. According to his diary, Edmund Ruffin; 10. Edmund Gibson Ross

Highlights of Aviation History

The Wright Brothers started a transportation revolution with their first flight. They would be followed by thousands of daring men and women who helped to make amazing advancements in aviation in the century that followed.

- 1903** – The Wright Brother successfully make the first powered, sustained and controlled flight.
- 1911** – In the Wright EX *Vin Fiz*, Calbraith Perry Rodgers becomes the first person to cross the United States from coast to coast by airplane. The trip took 49 days.
- 1918** – The U.S. Post Office establishes Air Mail service with the U.S. government using army pilots to deliver the mail.
- 1919** – A Vickers Vimy aircraft makes the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic.
- 1924** – The first flight around the world.
- 1926** – Richard Byrd is the first to fly an airplane to the North Pole, and later to the South Pole.
- 1927** – Charles Lindbergh is the first pilot to complete a non-stop solo flight across the Atlantic in his *Spirit of St. Louis* airplane.
- 1932** – Amelia Earhart becomes the first female pilot to cross the Atlantic Ocean.
- 1933** – Wiley Post makes the first solo flight around the world, taking him 7 days, 19 hours, and 49 minutes to travel 15, 596 miles.
- 1947** – U.S. Air Force test pilot Chuck Yeager becomes the first human to fly faster than the speed of sound.
- 1961** – Alan Shepard becomes the first American in space.
- 1969** – On July 20, 1969, only 66 years after the Wright Brothers made their first flight, Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin E. “Buzz” Aldrin become the first persons to walk on the moon.

Rhyme Time

Fill in the blanks to form rhyming phrases based on the description given. Example: A unique female horse would be a *Rare Mare*.

1. Fish relatives
F ____ k ____
2. Pastel colored basin
P _____ s _____
3. Handled an animal skin
F _____ p _____
4. Antlers
D _____ g _____
5. A light-colored rabbit
F _____ h _____
6. Create trembling
M _____ q _____
7. Rummage sale
T _____ c _____
8. Passageway side
H _____ w _____

Answers — 1. Pin kin; 2. Pink sink; 3. Felt pelt; 4. Deer gear; 5. Fair hare; 6. Make quake; 7. Trash cash; 8. Hall wall



- 1971** – A Boeing 747 makes its first commercial flight from New York to London.
- 1976** – The Concorde, a supersonic transport, enters commercial passenger air service, making flights between New York and London in less than half the time of other airliners.
- 1981** – The first Space Shuttle flight, made by the shuttle *Columbia*, takes place on April 12.
- 1983** – Sally Ride, the first American female astronaut, becomes the first U.S. woman to go up in space on the Space Shuttle *Challenger*.
- 2003** – Aviation celebrates its first century. Just imagine what we'll see in the next hundred years!

Tooth Trivia

- ❖ Teeth are made of enamel, which is the hardest substance in the body.
- ❖ Cats have 30 teeth, dogs have 42 teeth, and pigs have 44 teeth. An adult human has 32 teeth.
- ❖ In some parts of the world, children leave teeth they lose for the Tooth Mouse. Just like the more familiar Tooth Fairy, the Tooth Mouse takes the tooth and leaves a treasure in its place.
- ❖ George Washington had false teeth and legend has it that he had four sets of dentures and they were made up of a variety of materials including some of his own teeth, cattle teeth, a hippopotamus bone, and ivory from an elephant tusk. The dentures were held together by metal and springs and they did not fit very well. This caused the president great discomfort.
- ❖ Before there were dentists, shoemakers and blacksmiths pulled teeth.

Kids in the Kitchen

VEGGIE SUSHI SANDWICH

Did you ever try eating sushi? If you don't think eating raw fish is for you, how about eating raw vegetables with a new twist – a veggie sushi sandwich.

Flatten two slices of white or wheat bread with a rolling pin. Mix together 3 tablespoons of cream cheese and 1½ tablespoons of sour cream. Spread over slices. Lay two 6" carrots and two 6" cucumber matchsticks on the bread, letting them hang over the edges. Roll up the bread, pressing gently to seal. Cut each roll into four equal pieces. Now you have a sushi imitation and a fun way eat your veggies!



✂ CLIP AND SAVE

PERIODICAL

Our Lady, Undoer of Knots

continued from page 3

to having healthy relationships with others. What knots are we willing to give up, to help us become better Christians?

The third mark of Lent is **almsgiving** or **performing works of charity**. This mark encourages us to go outside of ourselves and to seek out opportunities to volunteer our time and talents in the service others. Some will work at their parish or local social service agencies and programs that attempt to bring relief to people who suffer and are in need. In thanksgiving to God for all the blessings he daily gives to us, what are we willing to, as a way to give back to God, by helping to serve others?

Allow me to share with you the Novena Prayer in honor of Our Lady, the Undoer of Knots:

“Virgin Mary, Mother of fair love, Mother who never refuses to come to the aid of a child in need, Mother whose hands never cease to serve your beloved children because they are moved by the divine love and immense mercy that exists in your heart, cast your compassionate eyes upon me and see the snarl of knots that exist in my life. You know very well how desperate I am, my pain and how I am bound by these knots.

“Mary, Mother to whom God entrusted the undoing of the knots in the lives of his children, I entrust into your hands the ribbon of my life. No one, not even the evil one himself, can take it away from your precious care. In your hands there is no knot that cannot be undone. Powerful Mother, by your grace and intercessory power with Your Son and My Liberator, Jesus, take into your hands today this knot...(*specify it, if possible*), I beg you to undo it for the glory of God, once and for all, You are my hope. O my Lady, you are the only consolation God gives me, the fortification of my feeble strength, the enrichment of my destitution and with Christ the freedom from my chains.

“Hear my plea. Keep me, guide me, protect me, o safe refuge! Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me.”

May God grant us a grace-filled Lenten season that having been freed of the knots that hold us bound, we may experience the true joy and glory that is the new life of Easter!

Rev. Philip A. Altavilla

**Don't forget to share your
Favorite Family Recipe in our
LPSCU CONVENTION COOKBOOK!**

LPSCU Continues to Offer Educational Book Buy Program

The LPSCU introduced this fraternal benefit on January 1, 2007. The Book Buy Program assists our members attending college by reimbursing 10% of their college book expenses. This award is *in addition* to any Educational Award members may have received from the LPSCU.



How to qualify? You need only to purchase a **new 20 Payment Life** or **Whole Life Policy** during the student's freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior year of college. Premiums must be paid on an annual, semiannual, or quarterly basis and must be current in order for the student member to be eligible for this program. Student members can submit an LPSCU Educational Book Buy Program Application each school year and receive a 10% refund based on books purchased (limited to the amount paid for the annual premium on the 20 Payment Life or Whole Life Policy).

Example: A 21-year-old female student purchases a \$10,000 20 Payment Life policy having an annual premium of \$87.60. (This does not include administration fee.) The student submits receipts totaling \$815.00 for book purchases. The benefit will reimburse student \$81.50 (10% of the books purchased).

Student members may take advantage of this program for a maximum of four (4) years. Simply complete the LPSCU Educational Book Buy Program Application and attach your book receipt. It's as simple as that! And in addition to receiving this reimbursement, you are protected with valuable life insurance!

For an application, please contact the Home Office at 570-823-3513, toll free at 888-834-6614, fax 570-823-4464, e-mail us at lpescu@lpescu.org, or check our website at www.lpescu.org.