



Morning Star

ZORNIČKA

LPSCU Life

Security, Peace of Mind

Vol. 83, No. 898
September/October 2024



LPSCU Holds Successful Convention in Hershey

See page 12 for story and photos

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Calendar of Events

At the time **Morning Star** went to press, the events listed on this calendar and in this issue were correct to the best of our knowledge. We recommend that members check the LPSCU's website (www.LPSCU.org) or Facebook page (*LPSCU Life*) or contact their Branch representative closer to each event in case any changes or cancellations had to be made.

SEPTEMBER

- 1** – Deadline to nominate an LPSCU member who resides in New Jersey or New York as the NJ/NY Fraternal Alliance's Fraternalist of the Year.
- 6-15** – 2024 Slovakia Heritage Tour being run by Best Slovakia Tours.
- 11** – Msgr. Beeda District's Fall meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Vesuvio's Restaurant, Drums, Pennsylvania. Contact District President Anita Gregory (570-788-3263) if you plan to attend.
- 15-16** – Slovak Catholic Federation Fall Meeting, Youngstown, Ohio
- 16-18** – American Fraternal Alliance Executive Summit, Washington, D.C.
- 20** – **Deadline to submit articles for November/December 2024 Morning Star.**
- 28** – LPSCU Semi-Annual Board Meeting via Zoom conference call beginning at 7:00 p.m. EDT.
- 30** – Deadline to apply for a 2024 Post Graduate Award. *See page 7 for details.*

OCTOBER

- 3** – New Jersey/New York Fraternal Alliance Meeting, Atlantic City, New Jersey
- 12** – Ohio Fraternal Alliance Meeting, Independence, Ohio
- 20** – Rev. Dianiska District's Fall Meeting at the North End Slovak Club, 635 North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. "Make a Difference Day" will be observed. Branch 7 will host.
- 20-22** – Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Meeting, Washington, Pennsylvania
- 26** – Make a Difference Day. *See page 6 for how you can participate.*
- 27** – Pittsburgh District Bingo Luncheon at 1:00 p.m., Gaetano's Banquet Center, 1617 Banksville Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. *See page 9 for more details.*
- 29** – Informational Zoom session at 6:00 p.m. EDT about LPSCU's 2025 trip to Costa Rica in collaboration with Collette Travel & Tours. *See page 9 for more information.*

NOVEMBER

- 9** – Branch 52 is hosting a Matching Fund fundraiser at the Elks Lodge, 718 Beulah Road, Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania. Proceeds benefit the Southwestern Veterans Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Chinese auction, 50/50 raffle, bingo, and homemade Slovak food. Cost is \$15.00 per person. RSVP by November 1st. *More details on page 5.*
- 20** – **Deadline to submit articles for January/February 2025 Morning Star.**

continued on page 9

LADIES PENNSYLVANIA
SLOVAK CATHOLIC UNION

Morning Star ZORNICKA



(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 Deborah McKinley, Public Relations Director, 34 Oxford Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252; 610/704-7288; zornicka@lpescu.org

Articles must be received by the 20th of the month, 5½ 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 — \$25.00 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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A Message from Our Spiritual Advisor

LABOR DAY

The Catholic Church has always taught the dignity, meaning and redemptive value of all human work. It further expressed the calling of everyone to work in some way to contribute to the common good of all.

“Human work proceeds directly from persons created in the image of God and called to prolong the work of creation by subduing the earth, both with and for one another. Hence work is a duty: ‘If anyone will not work, let him not eat.’ Work honors the Creator’s gifts and the talents received from him. It can also be redemptive.” (*Catholic Catechism of the Church*, paragraph 2427)

Pope Francis said, “We collaborate with the creative work of God when, through our work, we cultivate and preserve creation; we participate, in the Spirit of Jesus, in his redemptive mission, when by our activity we give sustenance to our families and respond to the needs of our neighbor.”

Also, in his Letter on the Gospel of Work, Pope St. John Paul II wrote, “The evangelization of the working world entails fidelity and honesty in carrying out one’s professional service, moral consistency in lesser and greater decisions, and fraternal solidarity towards those in need. It also requires the witness, wherever possible and appropriate, to one’s Christian identity, so that the message of Jesus Christ, the one Savior, may be offered in every workplace as a gift and grace of inner renewal and a force for social change. Indeed, the Son of God ‘worked with human hands, he thought with a human mind. He acted with a human will, and with a human heart he loved.’ Whoever believes in him and follows him finds the light and strength to be salt and leaven in every situation and circumstance.”

This Labor Day, take some time to personally reflect on the importance of work, the value of work, and the recognition and respect of all workers.

*God, in your goodness, you have made a home
for the worker. Make a place in our hearts
for compassion to all the men and women
who labor tirelessly for basic necessities.*

*Be with us, Christ Jesus, as we go about the busyness
of our work. May we continue to work together
to bring about your reign.*

*We ask this in your holy name, through the power
of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

~ USCCB

St. Joseph the Worker, pray for us.

Happy Labor Day!

Blessings,
Father Bob



Rev. Robert L. Seeman

Msgr. Beeda District Reschedules Christmas Party

It was announced in the May/June issue of *Morning Star* that the Msgr. Beeda District’s Christmas party would be held at Rocco’s Restaurant. But because the restaurant owners welcomed a new baby and wanted to take some time off to spend with her, we needed to change the location, date, and time of the party.

We’d like to congratulate and wish God’s blessings on Mayor Jeff Cusat, his wife Trinity, and their new little girl. The Msgr. Beeda District wishes you the best. Thank you for the many years of allowing us to celebrate our annual Christmas party at your restaurant and serving us such delicious food. We are so grateful for your kindness.

This year’s Msgr. Beeda District’s Christmas party will now be held at Sand Springs Country Club on Sunday, December 1, 2024, starting at 1:00 p.m. Sand Springs is located at 10 Clubhouse Drive in Drums, Pennsylvania. The event will take place in the Magnolia Room which is located to the left of the bar area. The cost per person will remain at \$15.00 for members and non-members alike. Anyone who is planning to attend must contact District President Anita Gregory at 570-788-3263 by November 20, 2024.

The Holiday Raffle Matching Fund project will also be taking place at the Christmas party. Anyone wishing to donate a prize for the raffle may contact Anita Gregory or just bring their prize to the party. Proceeds from this year’s raffle will benefit the Valley Food Pantry in the Conyngham/Sugarloaf area. The local food pantry serves around sixty families every week and is completely run by volunteers. They provide nutritious food, as well as fresh produce from local farms.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in December at the party!

2024-2028 Officers Elected



National Officers elected at the recent LPSCU Convention held in Hershey, Pennsylvania, are introduced to the delegates and guests. In the foreground, from left, are Trustee Joan T. Hladek, Trustee Margaret Jollimore, President Theresa Kluchinski, Vice President Anita Gregory, Chairperson of Trustees James Yocum, Trustee Dolores Evanko, and Trustee Janice M. Mathews. In the background are, L-R: Secretary-Treasurer John C. Andrzejewski, III, Spiritual Protector Abbot Gary Hoover, and Spiritual Advisor Rev. Robert Seeman.

2024 LPSCU Convention Committees

CREDENTIAL/REGISTRATION

Dolores M. Evanko – Chair – Br. 124
Patricia Weiksner – Br. 6
Judy Brzostek – Br. 7
Cynthia Schlebusch – Br. 42

NOMINATING

Janice Mathews – Chair – Br. 65
Helen Bobeck – Br. 83
Carol M. Burgan – Br. 79
Elizabeth Melko – Br. 42
Deborah McKinley – Br. 197

BALLOTING

Anita Gregory – Chair – Br. 60
Mary Jo Savidge – Co-Chair – Br. 213
Mary Landmesser – Br. 213
Jonathan Gregory – Br. 60
Celeste Palcsey – Br. 76
Anna Mann – Br. 64
Tanya Korpics – Br. 83

CONSTITUTION

Margaret Jollimore – Chair – Br. 58
Susan M. Ondrejco – Br. 64
Angela M. Skiffen – Br. 52
John C. Andrzejewski, III – Br. 213
Theresa Kluchinski – Br. 213

SALARY

James Yocum – Chair – Br. 39
Charles Simalchik – Br. 7
David Palcsey – Br. 76
Milissa Bolcar – Br. 83

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Joan Hladek – Chair – Br. 109
Saturday A.M.
 Joanne Stahura – Br. 124
 Margaret Stahura – Br. 124
Saturday P.M.
 Christopher McGowan – Br. 65
 Patricia McGowan – Br. 65

PLANNING

Theresa Kluchinski – Chair – Br. 213
John C. Andrzejewski, III – Br. 213
Anita Gregory – Br. 60
James Yocum – Br. 39

2024 LPSCU CONVENTION DELEGATES

The following sixty-three members served as delegates to the 43rd National Convention of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union held June 29-2024, in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

BRANCH 6

Wilkes-Barre, PA
Patricia Weiksner

BRANCH 7

Exeter, PA
Andrea Crook
Judy Brzostek
Brian P. Jollimore
Thomas J. Pesta
Charles Simalchik
Shane Dever (N)
Dayna Fiedorczyk

BRANCH 19

Swoyersville, PA
Deborah Adamchak
Stephen Adamchak
Regina Kapral
Andrew Kapral

BRANCH 42

Pittsburgh, PA
Cynthia Schlebusch
Victoria Powell (N)
Florence Wackowski
Mary Heckel
Donna Powell
Christina Ricupero
Elizebeth Melko
George Melko (N)

BRANCH 52

North Braddock, PA
Ramona Shaffer
Nicole Reininger
Angela M. Skiffen
Michele Tomasic (N)

BRANCH 60

W. Hazleton, PA
Jonathan Gregory

BRANCH 64

Pittsburgh, PA
Susan M. Ondrejco
Susan Ondrejco
Anna Mann
Rudy Ondrejco
Regina Montalbano (N)

BRANCH 65

Munhall, PA
David Mathews
Christopher McGowan
Patricia McGowan

BRANCH 76

White Oak, PA
Celeste A. Palcsey
David A. Palcsey, Sr.

BRANCH 79

Whiting, IN
Carol M. Burgan

BRANCH 83

Bethlehem, PA
Helen Bobeck
Daniel A. Bobeck
John Ferri
Christie Ferri
Milissa Bolcar (N)
Tanya Korpics (N)

BRANCH 94

Larksville, PA
Helen Pirillo

BRANCH 109

Hammond, IN
David Nay
Jean Thornton (N)
Steven Thornton (N)

BRANCH 124

Hazleton, PA
Rev. Joseph J. Evanko
Joanne Stahura
Margaret Stahura

BRANCH 132

Campbell, OH
Theresa Lyden (N)

BRANCH 197

Wilkes-Barre, PA
Deborah McKinley

BRANCH 213

Dallas, PA
Mary Landmesser
Mary Jo Savidge
Mark Maros (N)

LPSCU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Theresa Kluchinski
Anita Gregory
John C. Andrzejewski
James Yocum
Dolores M. Evanko
Margaret Jollimore
Joan T. Hladek
Janice Mathews

(N) denotes
New Delegate



LPSCU Life

Security, Peace of Mind

Branch 213 Supports Bear Creek Little League

LPSCU Branch 213 supported the Bear Creek Little League in Bear Creek, Pennsylvania, by purchasing a banner that is displayed at the Bear Creek ballfield. Pictured below is the LPSCU Life banner which hangs behind home plate. Branch 213 officers are Theresa Kluchinski, Leonard Kluchinski, and Mary Landmesser. Branch 213 is proud to support its local communities!



Branch 52 to Hold Matching Fund Event

Branch 52 will be hosting a Matching Fund fundraiser on November 9, 2024, at the Elks Lodge, 718 Beulah Road, Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The proceeds will be going to the Southwestern Veterans Center, located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The cost is \$15 per person for both members and non-members. Bring your friends and family. Everyone is welcome to come and show your support and gratitude to our veterans. Children two years of age and younger are admitted free.

Bring your appetite too! Some of the planned menu items include stuffed cabbage, halushki, pierogies, kolbassi with sauerkraut, nut rolls, and cupcakes.

A 50/50 raffle, Chinese auctions, and bingo will take place as well. A separate auction will be held exclusively for Wreaths Across America.

If you attended the event last year, you know firsthand how delicious the food was and how much fun it was. Come again this year and bring someone (or two) with you!

An RSVP by November 1st to reserve your spot is much appreciated so enough food can be prepared for everyone to enjoy. Walk ins will be welcome at the door as well though. Kindly advise Branch 52 Secretary Angela Fabyanic-Skiffen, 7467 Pennsylvania Avenue, Irwin, PA 15642 or phone or text 724-864-7405 or 412-554-7283 if you plan to attend.

Hazel Schafer Graduates from Boston Preschool

Hazel Schafer graduated from Children's Hospital Child Care Center Preschool in Boston, Massachusetts, on June 7, 2024. The graduates entertained their families with a cute program of songs and poems. There was also a video slide show of pictures of each student during the years they attended the school.

In attendance were Hazel parents, Dr. Jesse Schafer and Dr. Maya Ilowite, and Hazel's new brother, Simon. Grandparents Helen Schafer and John Avazier came from Tucson, Arizona, and grandmother Cheryl Finkelstein traveled from Long Island, New York, to attend as well.

Hazel will be attending kindergarten in the fall at Mary E. Curley School in the Boston neighborhood of Jamaica Plain. Hazel's interests include doing art projects, baking with her mother, learning to swim, riding her bike, doing puzzles, watching Paw Patrol, and interacting with her little brother. When asked what she wants to be when she grows up, Hazel answered, "A construction worker, a doctor, and a mom." Asked what Hazel will miss most about preschool, she replied, "The teachers and the toys."

Hazel's father Jesse was named National Fraternal Congress of America Fraternal MVP for the week of September 22, 2008, and was the recipient of the 2008 Anne (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Scholarship. Hazel, her father, and her grandmother Helen are all members of Branch 172 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The LPSCU congratulates Hazel on her preschool graduation and wishes her much fun and success as she begins kindergarten in the fall.



Preschool graduate Hazel Schafer.

FSNEPA Celebrates Flag Day with Local Veterans

The Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania coordinated a Flag Day event at the local Veterans Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on June 11, 2024. FSNEPA Vice President Mary Jo Savidge, who is LPSCU Honorary Secretary-Treasurer, chaired the event which gathered a group of fraternal guests from the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, First Catholic Slovak Union, and LPSCU Life.

In addition to Mary Jo, LPSCU National Trustee Margaret Jollimore, along with her grandchildren, Gavin and Margaret Jollimore, were there to represent LPSCU Life. Veterans were treated to gift bags containing crackers, chips, cookies, Hershey Kisses, and bottled water. Canteen books were given as bingo prizes, allowing the veterans to purchase items at the hospital's gift shop. Donations were received from Price Chopper and Wegman's supermarket.

Thank you to all who donated and came out to help make our celebration of Flag Day a huge success. Pictured below are some of the attendees and volunteers who participated.



2024 Catholic Grade School Award Recipients



Zellie L. Jedlovec
Kindergarten
St. Joseph the Worker
Orefield, PA
Branch 60
West Hazleton, PA

Josephine Mike
Kindergarten
Blessed Francis Seelos
Academy
Wexford, PA
Branch 64
Pittsburgh, PA



Make a Difference Day 2024

Deborah A. McKinley

LPSCU Public Relations Director

Make a Difference Day was created in 1992 and was sponsored for more than two decades by USA Weekend magazine and the Points of Light foundation. Although these two organizations no longer promote the community service weekend, the event carries on and has become the largest national day of community service. It is celebrated on the fourth Saturday in October, this year on October 26. The premise behind day is that by people taking action to help their communities, they will make a difference.

There are many different ways that a group or even an individual can make a difference. They include:

- **Volunteering** – You can volunteer your time at a local library, school, senior center, pet shelter, or countless other locations.
- **Holding an Event** – You could spearhead an after-school program; organize a drive to collect school supplies or coats for children in the winter.
- **Donating** – If you're like most people – myself included – you have a large number of "things" you don't need, or use, laying around your house. You could donate them to a worthwhile cause.

What you choose to do to make a difference doesn't have to be done on a grandiose scale. Truly, *any* little bit helps. And I'd be willing to bet that by helping others, that feeling of positivity will come back to you tenfold.

And since I am the Public Relations Director for the LPSCU, I'd love to hear what you or your group did to make a difference. Send me an e-mail at dmckinley@lpscu.org or text me at 610-704-7288. Be sure to take pictures and send those too! I look forward to hearing from you.

Cooking Corner

FESTIVE COFFEE PUMPKIN PUNCH

- 3 c. milk
- 8 oz. canned sweetened pumpkin puree (not the cooked mashed sweet pumpkin)
- ½ tsp. ground cinnamon
- 2 c. fresh brewed coffee
- Whipped cream or Cool Whip
- Cinnamon sugar



In a saucepan, heat the milk, pumpkin, and cinnamon on low heat, whisking constantly. The mixture should just reach a boil. Transfer to a bowl or individual cups and stir in the coffee. When serving in cups, top with a spoonful of whipped cream or Cool Whip and a dusting of cinnamon sugar. Makes approximately six servings.



LPSCU 2024 POST GRADUATE AWARD

The LPSCU is offering a Post Graduate Award Benefit to our members who are awarded a Master's or Doctorate degree during the period running from July 1, 2023, to August 30, 2024. Applicants must have a minimum of \$5,000 of insurance through the LPSCU in order to apply for the \$500 award. Applicants can increase their current face amount to meet the \$5,000 requirement.

Members who qualify may receive this award one time upon receiving their Master's degree and one time upon receiving their Doctorate. (Members must apply separately and provide all the required criteria if they wish to apply for both the Master's and Doctorate Post Graduate Awards.)

Following are the guidelines for applying for the Post Graduate Award. All applicants must:

- Be a member of the LPSCU for at least five years with a \$5,000 permanent reserve life insurance certificate. (Term insurance is excluded.)
- Provide a photocopy of the Master's and/or Doctorate degree received.
- Provide documentation that the degree was awarded between July 1, 2023 and August 30, 2024.
- Provide a wallet-size or digital color photo.

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

Applications are available from the LPSCU Home Office or its website. **Applications must be postmarked by September 30, 2024.** Submit applications to:

Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union
ATTN: Post Graduate Award
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

LPSCU Attends Legislative Luncheon

The Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance held its annual Legislative Luncheon at the Capitol Building in Harrisburg on June 11, 2024. Fraternal leaders and legislators attended the affair. The atmosphere was informal with lunch set up outside the Lt. Governor's Office on the second floor of the Capitol. This function allows fraternal representatives an opportunity to meet with legislators as they exit from their morning session.

The PFA honored State Representative Robert E. Merski with the Pennsylvania Keystone Legislative Award. Representative Merski represents the 2nd Legislative District in Erie, Pennsylvania.

President Theresa Kluchinski and Secretary-Treasurer John C. Andrzejewski, III represented the LPSCU at the luncheon and took the opportunity to speak with members of the House of Representatives and Senate.



L-R: LPSCU President Theresa Kluchinski, State Representative Robert Merski, and LPSCU Secretary-Treasurer John C. Andrzejewski, III.

Rev. Dianiska District Plans Make a Difference Day and Matching Fund Event

Members of the Rev. Dianiska District will celebrate "Make a Difference Day" at their fall meeting on October 20, 2024. The meeting will be held at the North End Slovak Club, 635 N. Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

A Matching Fund event benefiting "Sleep in Heavenly Peace," a non-profit that provides children in need with a bed and bedding, will be held at this meeting.

All members of the LPSCU are welcome to attend our District meetings, which are held twice a year at the North End Slovak Club. Reservations can be made with District President Margaret Jollimore, either by phone at 570-760-9790 or by e-mail at jollimore.lpscu@ymail.com.

Minutes of the Annual Board Meeting

Zoom Video Conference ❖ June 17, 2024

Monday June 17, 2024

Call to Order – Prayer – Pledge

President Theresa Kluchinski called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Spiritual Advisor Rev. Robert Seeman offered a prayer.

Roll Call

Present were: Spiritual Advisor Rev. Robert Seeman, President Theresa Kluchinski, Secretary-Treasurer John Andrzejewski, Vice President Anita Gregory, Chairperson of Trustees James Yocum, Trustees Dolores Evanko, Joan Hladek, Margaret Jollimore, and Janice Mathews.

Welcome/Remarks

President Kluchinski welcomed the Board to the meeting. She noted that the meeting will be brief due to the approaching convention.

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

The meeting agenda for the June Board Meeting and Minutes for the Annual Meeting held on April 5, 2024, were approved. There were no additions or corrections. Discussion of the Minutes allowed for discussion of the possibility of making a minor change to the Vision Statement approved at the Annual Meeting. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Vision Statement was not changed.

Correspondence/Requests

Correspondence received included two thank you letters associated with donations made by the LPSCU. No requests were received for the Board to consider.

Financial Report

Board members were provided with the following information:

- ❖ *Quarterly Statement – March 31, 2024*
- ❖ *Balance Sheet/Revenue and Expenses* – The Balance Sheet/Revenue and Expenses for April 30, 2024, were reviewed. Comparison changes with the same period for 2023 were noted.
- ❖ *Budget* – The Board was provided with and reviewed the budget comparison as of April 2024.
- ❖ *Market Value 2023/2024* – The Market Value spreadsheet showing market value balances monthly for 2024 was distributed to the Board. It was noted that the market values for the various funds have increased since the close of 2023.
- ❖ *Transaction Summary through May 2024* – Membership statistics through May 30, 2024, were reviewed with the Board.

Additional Financial Reports:

The Board received the following additional financial reports.

- ❖ *Annual CPA Audit Report*
- ❖ *SAS 114* – Letter to Management
- ❖ *SAS 115* – Letter regarding Internal Controls.

Officer/District Reports

Reports were not required due to the upcoming convention.

Home Office Report

Colonial Insurance Resolution – The Board was provided with a copy of the annual resolution associated with the LPSCU offering a cafeteria plan of supplemental insurance to the LPSCU employees. The resolution was approved by the Board.

State Exam Report – President Kluchinski reported that the report resulting from the 5-year state exam was received on May 9, 2024. It was sent to all Board members for review. Receipt certifications were completed by the Board members and returned to the Pennsylvania Insurance Department.

Convention 2024

The Board was provided and reviewed the following items for the 2024 Convention:

- ❖ A task sheet summarizing the various tasks associated with the convention. All tasks have been completed.
- ❖ Delegate Packets – Mailed to the delegates on June 17, 2024.
- ❖ Wreaths Across America activities including Board member interviews, the organization of a basket raffle, and the possibility of matching funds raised through the basket raffle.
- ❖ Minutes – It was decided that the Executive Finance Committee members would serve as the committee responsible for summarizing the Minutes.
- ❖ Budget – A copy of the budget for the 2024 convention was distributed and discussed.

Unfinished Business

- ❖ *Advertising and Marketing* – President Kluchinski reported that a meeting was held with the LPSCU's advertising consulting firm. The meeting resulted in a recommendation for the Board to consider. After some discussion the Board reached a consensus to follow the recommendation made to change the advertising and continue it for three months.

New Business

- The Board discussed the following under New Business:
- ❖ *Annuity Rate* – The discussion of the annuity rate resulted in the Board setting the rate at 4% for the second quarter of 2024.
 - ❖ *Branch Deposit Program* – The discussion of the branch deposit rate resulted in the Board setting the rate at 1.5% for the second quarter of 2024.

Compliance Update

No report.

Good of the Order

Nothing to report.

Calendar of Events

The Board was provided and reviewed an updated Calendar of Events for 2024. Consideration was given to holding Board meetings on weekday evenings if being held by means of video conference. Dates for the next meeting will be distributed to the Board for approval.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
John C. Andrzejewski, III, FIC
National Secretary-Treasurer

LPSCU Announces New Travel Program



The LPSCU is pleased to announce our new travel program with Collette Travel & Tours. Our first trip will be to tropical Costa Rica in November 2025!

An informational session will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. ET to provide details about the trip. The link to the session can be found below. (Attending the informational session does not commit you to the trip.)

Registration information for the trip will be available at a later date.

Enjoy your vacation and let Collette Travel handle the details.

<https://collette.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrd-CrrDoiHNBnFhMeAkEpUVq5Yndz87P>

Branches 1 and 60 Donate to Local Parish

LPSCU Branch 1 in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, and Branch 60 in West Hazleton, Pennsylvania, stepped up to aid a local parish in their community. The passage of sixteen years has taken a toll on the interior of Saints Cyril and Methodius Church in Hazleton. The pastor, Father Michael Piccola, reached out to the LPSCU branches to see if they could help.

Father Piccola has undertaken the project of repainting the church, which is very costly and will take several months to complete. Branches 1 and 60 were happy to help by donating two hundred dollars from each branch towards Father Piccola's goal.

Father expressed his most sincere gratitude for the branches' consideration and support of this project. They were happy to help him out and members can't wait to see the finished project in the months ahead.

Calendar of Events

continued from page 2

DECEMBER

- 1** – Msgr. Beeda District's Christmas party. (*Note new date, time, and venue from original announcement.*) Party begins at 1:00 p.m. in the Magnolia Room of Sand Springs Country Club, 10 Clubhouse Drive, Drums, Pennsylvania. Cost is \$15.00 per person. A Matching Fund Holiday Raffle benefitting Valley Food Pantry will be held at the event. Contact Anita Gregory at 570-788-3263 to make a reservation.
- 7** – LPSCU Board Meeting via Zoom conference call beginning at 7:00 p.m. EST.
- 8** – Rev. Dianiska District's annual Christmas party at the Holiday Inn East Mountain (formerly Best Western), 600 Wildflower Drive, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Branch 6 will host. A Special Gifts Raffle Matching Fund event will take place. Please call Mary Ann Ewasko at 570-823-6432 by November 22 if you plan to attend.
- 14** – Wreaths Across America wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery (and elsewhere) beginning at 8:00 a.m. The LPSCU has partnered with WAA as a sponsor of this tribute to our veterans.

❖ 2025 ❖

JANUARY

- 20** – **Deadline to submit articles for March/April 2025 Morning Star.**
- 24** – March for Life, Washington, D.C.

MARCH

- 3** – Slovak Catholic Federation Convention, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania area
- 20** – **Deadline to submit articles for May/June 2025 Morning Star.**

LPSCU Pittsburgh District PRESENTS

Bingo Luncheon

Games • Fun • Prizes
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 1 PM
 AT GAETANO'S BANQUET CENTER
 1617 BANKSVILLE RD.
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15216

50/50 ~ CHINESE AUCTION

TICKETS \$35

Doors open 1 PM
 Lunch 1:30 PM
 Bingo 2:30 - 4 PM

AWESOME PRIZES AWAIT YOU!

7 BINGO GAMES, HOT BUFFET, BEVERAGES, AND DESSERT INCLUDED.

6 CARDS/GAME ~ RSVP BY OCTOBER 11
 susan@lpacu.org or 412-953-5373

Western Pennsylvania Holds 101st Slovak Day

Western Pennsylvania's 101st Slovak Day was held on July 18, 2024, at Kennywood Park, located in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. Mary Ann Bowman, Mary Ann and Tom Kaylor, and Helen Lorinc, all members of Pittsburgh Branch 64, were just a few of the LPSCU members in attendance.

Mary Ann Bowman and her mom, Mary Ann Kaylor, were daring and rode the Pittsburgh Plunge water ride, where staying dry is not an option! They also were lucky enough to get the back seat in the Jackrabbit roller coaster. Everyone climbed aboard the merry-go-round for a more laid back amusement ride.

The weather, food, and entertainment were all outstanding. The traditional Slovak music and dancers brought back many memories and were enjoyed by all who attended.



Pittsburgh Slovaks Keep Traditions Alive

If you ever have the opportunity to see the Pittsburgh Slovaks perform, you are in for a real treat. The group – approximately twenty-five strong – takes command of the floor the minute the first musical note is heard. From the singing to the intricate dance routines and authentic costumes, the show is truly top-notch.

The group was founded in 1956 by Roman Niznik. Susan and Rudy Ondrejco took over direction after Roman's untimely passing in 1977. In winter of 1991, Susan and Rudy formed a younger ensemble with the official organization of the Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks. The Slovaks take great pride in performing traditional Slovak songs and spreading their Slovak heritage throughout the Pittsburgh area and beyond.

The Pittsburgh Slovaks perform annually at Slovak Day at Kennywood Park and at the Slovak Heritage Festival at the University of Pittsburgh. They also provide entertainment at numerous festivals, conventions, and social events in and around the Pittsburgh area. They even enjoyed opportunities to perform on tours of Slovakia in 1989 and 1997. The group is unique in that there are no age restrictions, so there are three generations of performers ranging from age 4 to 60+.

The Slovaks recently provided entertainment at the 43rd National Convention of the LPSCU. Among the performers were nine LPSCU members, all members of Pitts-

burgh Branch 64. There were also three alumni performers, all LPSCU members, in the audience, from Branch 64 and Branch 42, both based out of Pittsburgh.

There are no "tryouts" and no experience is necessary to join the ensemble. Some members have a dance background, while others never danced. Everyone is welcome! Practice is usually held once a week; younger members for an hour, adults for two hours. Most of the women's costumes, and all of the younger boys' outfits worn by the ensemble were made by LPSCU member Susan Ondrejco. Susan's parents are the current directors of the group.

If you're ever at a Slovak festival or event where the Pittsburgh Slovaks are performing, be sure to take the time to watch this group. It will be time well spent!



LPSCU Fraternal Activities Director Susan Ondrejco is a performing member of the Pittsburgh Slovaks.

In Memoriam

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."

~ Matthew v.5

NAME	BRANCH	LOCATION
Frank Kohut, Jr.*	7	Exeter, PA
Mary Delgross	24	Windber, PA
Monica Anthony	40	Allentown, PA
Michelle L. Gero	42	Pittsburgh, PA
Judith Zachoski	42	Pittsburgh, PA
Joan Yurkov	52	North Braddock, PA
Elizabeth A. Rush	60	W. Hazleton, PA
Mark W. Kuehnle	64	Pittsburgh, PA
William R. Warner	64	Pittsburgh, PA
Helen Kastan	65	Munhall, PA
Mary C. Tutko	77	Lorain, OH
Marie L. Bolcar	83	Bethlehem, PA
Antoinette Majoris*	90	Johnstown, PA
Robert W. Malysko	90	Johnstown, PA
Bernadine Shaughnessy	90	Johnstown, PA
Marilyn Katrinak	130	Bethlehem, PA
Robert Sopko*	132	Campbell, OH
Joan Sotak	132	Campbell, OH
Carol Stultz*	172	Pittsburgh, PA
Helen Carroll*	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Raymond Liogys	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Loretta McCahill	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Gerald Pallis	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Teresa Kuchinkas	214	Duryea, PA

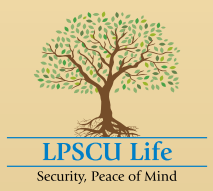
*Multiple certificates

Rev. Dianiska District Sets Date for Christmas Party

The Rev. Dianiska District's annual Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2024, beginning at 1:00 p.m. It will take place at the Holiday Inn East Mountain located at 600 Wildflower Drive, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Branch 6 will be hosting the event. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Mary Ann Ewasko at 570-823-6432. The deadline for reservations is November 22, 2024.

43rd National Convention



Join Us in Our Mission

Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach



★ **December 14, 2024** ★

National Wreaths Across America Day



Help LPSCU honor local heroes!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December at Arlington National Cemetery =.

Scan the QR code to make a donation online or visit
<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/lpsc>



#LiveWithPurpose

SS.C.M. Appeal in Final Months

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

As of July 15, the 2024 SS.C.M. Appeal had received \$25,403 from 174 donors. Among the 46 donations received from the Slovak Catholic fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 65, Branch 90, Branch 213, the Rev. Dianiska District, and the Home Office of the LPSCU have donated a total of \$595. Donations to date have also been received from 7 churches, 26 clergy and religious, and 95 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

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

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak fraternal organizations for cultural, religious, and educational purposes. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, Ohio. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdic, V.F., supreme chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harvey's Lake, Pennsylvania, and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, Pennsylvania. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, national chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and parochial vicar with senior priest status at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Pennel, Pennsylvania, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

46th Annual SS.C.M. Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Amount \$ _____

Please make check payable to

Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to:

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

First Vice President, Slovak Catholic Federation

Our Lady of Grace Church

225 Bellevue Avenue, Pennel, PA 19047-4052

Member Graduates from Colorado High School

LPSCU member Jude Schafer graduated from Boulder High School in Boulder, Colorado, on May 18, 2024. He graduated magna cum laude and with High Achievement. He was decorated with cords representing magna cum laude, Advanced Placement Achievement, the Seal of Biliteracy, and National Honor Society. He also wore a medal signifying he had taken courses for college credit.

The ceremony was held at the University of Colorado Event Center. In attendance were his parents, David and Jackie Schafer, plus his grandmother, Helen Schafer, and step-grandfather, John Avazier. A party was held afterwards at the Meadows Swim Club for Jude and eight other graduates who are best friends.

During his high school years, Jude was involved in scouting, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, and cycling as captain of the Boulder High Mountain Bike team. In addition, he raced for Boulder Junior Cycling and Team Colorado. Jude also enjoys skiing, hiking, and camping. In late June, he competed in the Half Iron Man Triathlon in Boulder. He is looking forward to joining the surfing club in college.

Jude is also an excellent guitarist. During high school he played in the band "Lag," playing cover songs by popular bands Red Hot Chili Peppers and Sublime. Additionally, he worked part-time for Boulder University Bicycles.

This fall Jude will be attending San Diego State University, where he will major in kinesiology. He has been accepted into the Honors College and his ultimate goal is to become a physical therapist.

Jude and his family are members of Branch 172, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His great-grandmother was the late Rose Tunney, long-time secretary of the branch.

The LPSCU congratulates Jude on all of his accomplishments and graduation and wishes him well as he continues his studies.



May high school grad Jude Schafer.

LPSCU 20 YEAR ENDOWMENT PLAN

A unique way to generate significant funds for the purpose of future college education costs for young family members is to purchase a 20 Year Endowment Life Insurance Plan. Premium payments are made for a period of 20 years and will help defray higher education tuition and costs. Planning for college education tuition and costs should be started as soon as a child is born in order that the necessary resources be available for the child to pursue a college degree. An endowment life insurance certificate can serve many other purposes as well, such as assisting with wedding expenses or towards the purchase of a home, furniture, car, or a vacation.

After 20 years of premium payments, the insured will have the choice of any one of the following three options: (1) Immediate payment of the face value; (2) Immediate payment of a portion of the face value and a paid-up certificate for the face amount of the existing certificate (Option A); or (3) Paid-up certificate for a larger face value (Option B). In the event of death prior to 20 years, the face amount of the endowment certificate is payable

to the named beneficiary/ies.

The 20 Year Endowment Life Insurance Plan is offered from age 0 to 70 and premium payments can be made either monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. This plan offers the added fraternal benefits of educational awards, youth and adult activities, newborn benefit, prescription discount card, official publication, and discount car rental, to name a few.

A 20 Year Endowment Life Insurance Plan should be considered as a way to build up savings for the future, while at the same time protecting the insured with life insurance. 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 20 Year Endowment Life Insurance Plan. The premiums listed are based on \$1,000 of life insurance coverage. Semi-annual and Quarterly premium rates are also available by contacting your Branch Secretary or the Home Office.

ANNUAL PREMIUM RATES PER \$1,000

Based on 2017 CSO Male and Female Mortality Tables / Based on Age at Last Birthday

Issue Age	Annual		Monthly	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	\$40.81	\$39.68	\$3.67	\$3.57
1	40.81	39.79	3.67	3.58
2	40.82	39.98	3.67	3.60
3	40.83	40.17	3.67	3.62
4	40.85	40.36	3.68	3.63
5	40.94	40.55	3.68	3.65
6	41.13	40.74	3.70	3.67
7	41.32	40.93	3.72	3.68
8	41.51	41.13	3.74	3.70
9	41.72	41.33	3.75	3.72
10	41.92	41.53	3.77	3.74
11	42.12	41.72	3.79	3.75
12	42.32	41.92	3.81	3.77
13	42.52	42.12	3.83	3.79
14	42.73	42.32	3.85	3.81
15	42.93	42.52	3.86	3.83
16	43.13	42.72	3.88	3.84
17	43.33	42.92	3.90	3.86
18	43.54	43.13	3.92	3.88
19	43.76	43.34	3.94	3.90
20	43.97	43.55	3.96	3.92
21	44.18	43.76	3.98	3.94
22	44.39	43.97	4.00	3.96
23	44.60	44.18	4.01	3.98
24	44.81	44.39	4.03	4.00
25	45.02	44.60	4.05	4.01
26	45.23	44.81	4.07	4.03
27	45.44	45.02	4.09	4.05
28	45.66	45.24	4.11	4.07
29	45.89	45.46	4.13	4.09
30	46.11	45.68	4.15	4.11
31	46.33	45.90	4.17	4.13
32	46.55	46.12	4.19	4.15
33	46.78	46.34	4.21	4.17
34	47.00	46.56	4.23	4.19
35	47.22	46.77	4.25	4.21

Issue Age	Annual		Monthly	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
36	\$47.44	\$46.99	\$4.27	\$4.23
37	47.67	47.22	4.29	4.25
38	47.91	47.45	4.31	4.27
39	48.13	47.68	4.33	4.29
40	48.36	47.91	4.35	4.31
41	48.59	48.14	4.37	4.33
42	48.83	48.37	4.39	4.35
43	49.06	48.59	4.42	4.37
44	49.28	48.82	4.44	4.39
45	49.52	49.06	4.46	4.42
46	49.77	49.30	4.48	4.44
47	50.00	49.53	4.50	4.46
48	50.24	49.77	4.52	4.48
49	50.48	50.00	4.54	4.50
50	50.71	50.24	4.56	4.52
51	50.96	50.47	4.59	4.54
52	51.19	50.71	4.61	4.56
53	51.42	50.94	4.63	4.58
54	51.66	51.19	4.65	4.61
55	51.92	51.43	4.67	4.63
56	52.16	51.67	4.69	4.65
57	52.40	51.92	4.72	4.67
58	52.64	52.16	4.74	4.69
59	52.89	52.40	4.76	4.72
60	53.12	52.64	4.78	4.74
61	53.36	52.89	4.80	4.76
62	53.61	53.14	4.82	4.78
63	54.19	53.39	4.88	4.81
64	56.03	53.64	5.04	4.83
65	58.08	53.89	5.23	4.85
66	60.34	54.14	5.43	4.87
67	62.84	54.59	5.66	4.91
68	65.63	56.34	5.91	5.07
69	68.76	58.30	6.19	5.25
70	72.26	60.52	6.50	5.45

Branch 213 Celebrates Flag Day at the Ballpark

On Friday, June 8, 2024, LPSCU Branch 213 hosted a group of 17 members and 3 guests at a Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railriders baseball game in Moosic, Pennsylvania. The Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railriders, an affiliate of the New York Yankees, played the Norfolk Tides, an affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles. It was a beautiful evening for baseball! The Railriders came back to win the game in the bottom of the ninth inning with a final score of 10 to 7.

Pictured below is LPSCU Branch 213 member Franklin Shinal throwing out the first pitch, along with pictures of most of those in attendance.



New Insurance Issued

Branch	Branch Representative	May/June 2024	Year-to-Date Total
213	Maureen Grohowski	\$5,000.00	\$45,000.00
213	Theresa Kluchinski	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
		\$10,000.00	\$60,000.00

Have you signed up a new member lately? Do your part to help your LPSCU!

CAN YOU HELP US LOCATE THESE MEMBERS?

We are looking for the following members. Their last known place of residence is listed below.

Amreihn, Kenneth – Essexville, MI
Artim, Jr., Charles – W. Wyoming, PA
Beeda, Michaela – Port Lucie, FL
Begosh, Phillip – Ft. Myers, FL
Berry, Zachary – Pottstown, PA
Bichsel, II, Christopher W. – Largo, FL
Blair, Stacy – Hickory, NC
Blum, John E. – Mahanoy City, PA
Bonanny, Harrison W. – Wilkes-Barre, PA
Bott, Elizabeth – Weatherly, PA
Boyle, Kathleen – Exton, PA
Bridzius, Andrius R. – El Paso, TX or
San Antonio, TX
Brittingham, Lori A. – Orlando, FL
Bryner, Monica – Uniontown, PA
Bucha, Kristy – Danielsville, PA
Calderone, Austin and Camden – Point Marion, PA
Caldwell, Lindsey – Lewes, DE
Capp, Mary C. – Auburndale, FL
Cassese, Patricia – Youngstown, OH
Cavenas, Keri L. – Mahanoy City, PA
Chesek, Richard – Etters, PA
Cibulish, Thomas – Saint Johns, FL
Clifford, Stephanie – Scranton, PA
Clifford, Brian – Scranton, PA
Costello, Thomas – Allentown, PA
Costello, Jennifer L. – Schnecksville, PA
Cusick, Thomas – Edwardsville, PA
Daku, Kristie L. – North Catasauqua, PA
Darte-Harris, Danaea – Philadelphia, PA
Davis, Christopher – Nescopeck, PA
Doran, James – Hesperia, CA
Emerson, Sarah A. – Reisterstown, MD
Fink, Carly – Reading, PA
Fink, Thomas – Coopersburg, PA
Flegel, Mirella – Daufuskie Island, SC
Ford, Renee – Crest Hill, IL
Fox, Georgiann – Tampa, FL
Frye, Emily R. – Melbourne, FL
Garas, Alana – Annapolis, MD
Gaska, Julija – Ypsilanti, MI
Golby, Raeleen – Johnstown, PA
Halko, Vincent J. – Manassas, VA
Hicks, Laura – Fort Mill, SC
Hoobler, Mary – Sewickley, PA
Horvath, Michael – Jacksonville, FL
Hutnick, David – Schnecksville, PA
Jones, Jeffrey – Youngstown, OH or Struthers, OH
Kametz, Daniell – Allentown, PA
Kametz, Denise – Allentown, PA
Kaminski, Timothy – unknown
Kanocz, Michael – Grand Junction, CO
Kimak, Kyle – Lehighton, PA
Kinsey, Ann Marie – Taylor, PA
Klueber, Mary T. – West Chester, PA
Kuntz, Margaret – Ocean Pines, MD

Kushnir, Vanessa – Plymouth, PA
Latshaw, Thomas A. – Tampa, FL
Lawrence, Brianna – Bethlehem, PA
Levertavish, Regina – Mahanoy City, PA
Lowrie, Deborah – Dalton, PA
Lunday, Terry – Apollo Beach, FL
Magallanes, Jemma – St. Petersburg, FL
Malarich, Matthew – Surfside, PA
Martincich, Luke – Lakewood, CO
Mason, Stephen – Los Angeles, CA
Matuza, William R. – West Keansburg, NJ
Maxwell, Lynn – Osprey, FL
McKenzie, Gary – Hazleton, PA
Mershimer, Gregory – Poland, OH
Mershimer, Richard – Poland, OH
Mershimer, Lisa – Poland, OH
Mershimer, Suzanne – Poland, OH
Mighton, Samantha – Burton, OH
Mighton, Sydney – Burton, OH
Mikulaj, Brian M. – Lafayette, IN
Miller, Richard – Luta, FL
Mitrakos, Deborah – Naperville, IL
Montanari, Paul – Hellertown, PA
Moskal, Justin – St. Charles, IL
Novitski, Anna – Plymouth, PA
Olson, Gregory – Truro, MA
Ondrey, Heather – Deltona, FL
Parisi, Allison – Seminole, FL
Pavalko, Steven – Boardman, OH
Pavlovich, Courtney – Goose Creek, SC
Pocius, Kara – Lake Ariel, PA
Rager, Paula – Port Orange, FL
Repsher, Heather – Nazareth, PA
Renna, Laura – Baldwin, NY
Renna, Tara – Baldwin, NY
Rider, Donald – Otis, MA
Rich, Austin – Burton, OH
Rider, Matthew – Otis, MA
Riker, Molly A. – Glen Allen, VA
Rogers, Michele – Luzerne, PA
Rossi, Mary – Pittsburgh, PA
Roth, Scott E. – Panama, NY

Rowley, John – Mahanoy City, PA
Rusnak, Susan – Churchville, PA
Sakalik, Regis – Lawrenceville, GA
Samson-Frazer, Margaret – Jupiter, FL
Schmalzer, Michael – West Easton, PA
Schwalm, Zachary – Frackville, PA
Shank, Angela – Davidsville, PA
Sharrow, Roxanne – Youngstown, OH
Shipton, Aaron – Pottsville, PA
Shook, Alexandra – Hoboken, NJ
Sketch, Amy E. – Memphis, TN
Stahura, John – Hazleton, PA
Stinavage, Judy – Binghamton, NY
Stinsky, Susan – Mahanoy, PA
Stults, Regina – Windber, PA
Stumpf, Kelly – Blandon, PA
Suchy, Mary – Chicago, IL
Susoreny, James – Richardson, TX
Szanyi, Carolyn – Whiting, IN
Tatko, Jr., Robert – N. Versailles, PA
Thomsen, Mary Anne – Aurora, CO
Tokar, Rachel – Baltimore, MD
Tomano, Terri – Port Charlotte, FL
Tomasic, Brendan J. – Dameron, MD
Tomasic, George C. – Durham, NC
Uffer, Timothy – Hanover Twp., PA
Vanischak, David – Pittsburgh, PA
Yatsko, Stephen – Allentown, PA
Vidman, Race – Apple Valley, MN
Vizza, Daniel – Chicago, IL
Wahl, Kristen – Gansevoort, NY
Wateski, Jessica – Exeter, PA
Watson, Michael – Hubbard, OH
Weldner, Paul – Falmouth, ME
Weldner, Robert – Orefield, PA
Whitaker, Kimberly – Emmaus, PA
Wisniewski, Edward – Waymart, PA or
Rockaway, NJ
Wolfe, Stephanie – Slatington, PA
Wolken Family – Nebraska
Workosky, Dorothy – Johnstown, PA
Ziomkowski, Stanley – Wilkes-Barre, PA



If you have any information regarding any of these members or their relatives, please contact the Home Office as soon as possible at 570-823-3513, toll free at 888-834-6614, or via email at lpescu@lpescu.org. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Member Tom Kaylor Celebrates Milestone Birthday

On June 29, 2024, Thomas Kaylor marked his 85th birthday with family and friends coming from places as far away as Utah, Washington State, California, Ohio, and even Knutsford, England, for the celebration! The festive occasion took place at the Revival Restaurant in Bellevue, Pennsylvania.

Instead of accepting the love and accolades from those present for his birthday, Tom chose to direct attention to his wife, Mary Ann, as the couple planned to celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary on August 28th. The timing was excellent because they were all together for the occasion. Tom and Mary Ann are members of LPSCU Branch 64, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Tom changed the lyrics of Frank Sinatra's song, "It Was a Very Good Year," to reflect their years together, their laughter and tears, and his deep gratitude for what they as a couple shared and created. In part, he sang, "Those were the days, those were the happiest days of my life."

Continuing with family tradition, the couple's eldest son, Michael Kaylor, together with the entire family serenaded Tom with a birthday song, "Istanbul," a Four Lads hit. The revised lyrics reflected and honored Tom as a father. Finally, everyone joined in the traditional tune of "Happy Birthday."

Following this, Tom was presented with a well-traveled item that has been "gifted" to many family members over the years. The item keeps alive the wonderful connection with the family's deceased Baba, Mary Lorinc. One never knows where or when it will turn up, and it's always a surprise when it does. As to what the "gift" is, well, that's another story!



Family members gather to celebrate Tom Kaylor's 85th birthday.



Mary Ann and Tom Kaylor, who celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary in August.

2024 Catholic High School Award Recipient



Jennifer Grace Passeri
Junior

Holy Redeemer High School
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
Branch 6
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Rev. Dianiska District Plans Make a Difference Day and Matching Fund Event

Members of the Rev. Dianiska District will celebrate "Make a Difference Day" at their fall meeting on October 20, 2024. The meeting will be held at the North End Slovak Club, 635 N. Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

A Matching Fund event benefiting "Sleep in Heavenly Peace," a non-profit that provides children in need with a bed and bedding, will be held at this meeting.

All members of the LPSCU are welcome to attend our District meetings, which are held twice a year at the North End Slovak Club. Reservations can be made with District President Margaret Jollimore, either by phone at 570-760-9790 or by e-mail at jollimore.lpscuy@gmail.com.

LADIES PENNSYLVANIA SLOVAK CATHOLIC UNION

FLEXIBLE ANNUITY

ANNUAL INTEREST RATE IS 4%*

*EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

- The LPSCU Flexible Annuity is a flexible-premium, deferred annuity that accepts ongoing deposits of as little as \$100 per month.
- An annuity is a long-term investment where the interest earned is accumulated and compounded.
- Annuities are used to supplement retirement income, whereby at some point you stop paying into the annuity and start taking out.
- Upon maturity, LPSCU offers a number of distribution options, giving our members the convenience of selecting the one that is best suited for them.
- LPSCU's competitive interest rate is reviewed quarterly by the Board of Directors; however, your rate will never go below the guaranteed minimum rate established by the annuity contract.
- You can become a member of the LPSCU by purchasing an annuity and you can own an annuity regardless of your health status.
- Deposits can be made at your convenience!
- Minimum deposit is \$100
- After the sixth year, there is no LPSCU penalty on annuity withdrawals.
- If the annuitant dies prior to settlement, funds on deposit are payable directly to the named beneficiary(ies).
- Settlement Options:
 - Payment of a specified amount
 - Payments for a specified period
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- Payment options can be monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually, depending upon your needs.
- Prior to settlement, annuitant may withdraw the Cash Surrender Value at any time; however, the minimum withdrawal amount is \$250

NOTE: *Withdrawals taken prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10% Early Withdrawal Penalty by the Internal Revenue Service.*



For more information about the

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Focusing on National Awareness Month

Deborah McKinley, LPSCU Public Relations Director

SEPTEMBER

Life Insurance Awareness Month

September is Life Insurance Awareness Month. Since the LPSCU is a life insurance company, it would make sense that they are proponents of people having life insurance. But it's more than that, much more. The LPSCU wants people to have peace of mind. You might ask how one can attain "peace of mind" when they are purchasing something that will be utilized upon their death. It's in knowing that the people *you choose* will have some sort of financial stability after you are gone. How great that stability is will depend on the amount of life insurance purchased.

Life insurance can have multiple purposes. It can be designated to be used to cover one's final expenses. Having experienced the loss of my mom recently and being actively involved in carrying out her final wishes, I can attest first-hand that funerals are not cheap. Using life insurance funds to pay for funeral costs can ease the burden on family members so they are not responsible for, or guilted into, paying for those expenses.

If you're a pro-active person who has not only pre-planned but also pre-paid for your funeral, you might decide to name individuals as beneficiaries so they can continue to live the lifestyle they've been accustomed to prior to your passing. This is always an important factor to consider, especially if you are the only, or main, source of income in a household.

Another school of thought is, "I'm young. I have good genes. Everyone in my family lives to a ripe old age. I don't need life insurance." That may very well be true. But accidents or unforeseen circumstances can quickly change your good fortune. And do you realize the longer you wait to purchase life insurance, the more expensive it becomes? If you don't believe me, just look at any insurance rate table and see the difference in cost as you gain years in age. Thirty percent of Americans say they need life insurance but don't have any. Even if you decide not to purchase life insurance now, at least look into it, and be aware of your options. Make informed decisions.

Statistics show that only 52% of Americans have some sort of a life insurance policy. That means that 48% of Americans do not have life insurance. The death of a loved one in and of itself can be crippling emotionally to those left behind. By having life insurance, you can ensure that it won't be financially crippling as well.

OCTOBER

Fire Prevention Month

October is officially designated as Fire Prevention Month. In light of the horrific wildfires that have taken place all over the world, most recently in Jasper, Alberta, and in the American West, I felt fire prevention was an important topic to highlight for October, focusing particularly on wildfires.

Obviously, the massive number of acres destroyed has forever changed the landscape in these locations. The absolute scorching of the earth is awful in itself, but it's the loss of life – both human and animal – as a result of these fires that is even more heart wrenching.

Last year, there were over 43,899 forest fires that burned more than 2,332,108 acres! There were 97 confirmed deaths from a devastating fire in Lahaina on Maui, Hawaii. Wildfires in Canada caused six deaths and destroyed precious ecosystems. I think all of us experienced the smoke and haze that blanketed much of the United States last year. If we could see the haze and smell the smoke from thousands of miles away, imagine the intensity to those living near the actual fires. Though some are caused by lightning strikes, the truly sad statistic is that 85-90% of wildfires occur because of human involvement, either intentionally or unintentionally.

So, how do you prevent fires, and in particular wildfires? Humans cause nearly 90% of wildfires in the United States via carelessly discarded cigarettes, unattended campfires, burning debris, or through equipment malfunctions. Someone starts out burning trash in their back yard, a spark flies to dry, dead grass and before you know it, a full-blown wildfire has started and is engulfing acres in its wake.

Pay attention to the information given through your local media on whether it's okay to burn refuse and branches in your yard or whether there's a burn ban in effect in your area. Some fire companies near me even have outdoor signs that visually alert people what the danger index is for fires. It can range from green (It's okay to burn trash) all the way to red (Don't burn anything). This provides a quick visual to people traveling on the road. Note, too, that some municipalities don't allow open burning no matter what the conditions. Don't be someone who contributes to this problem by ignoring the rules and warnings.

Be smart. Be aware. As Smokey Bear says: *Only YOU Can Prevent Wildfires!*

The purpose of these monthly awareness articles is to bring to the forefront issues that people deal with every day but probably don't think about on a daily basis. The better informed we are, the better we can react to situations when needed.

Our Scholarship Recipients Explain

The Importance of Life Insurance

Life is so unpredictable. We are often told to live like it could be our last day, because you never know what tomorrow might bring. The last thing any of us wants to do is put an undue burden on our family if we were to pass away unexpectedly. That is why having a life insurance policy is so important. That policy can help to provide financial security during an incredibly stressful and painful time. It can help to pay for funeral expenses and help the family with everyday living expenses. It will provide financial stability to ensure that your family will be able to continue living as they were. Losing a loved one is hard enough, without having to worry about any financial issues.

Tyler Wolfe

Branch 60, West Hazleton, PA



Junior Branch Journal

Dožinky

Dožinky is a Slovak harvest festival. In pre-Christian times, the feast was usually celebrated on the autumn equinox. In modern times it is usually celebrated on one of the Sundays following the end of the harvest season.

While there are many regional varieties and traditions, most have some aspects in common. Often the peasants or farmers celebrating *dožinky* gather in the fields outside their village, form a procession and bring back a sheaf or the last batch of cereal reaped from nearby fields. The women would then turn it into a wreath and offer it to the guest of honor (usually the organizer of the celebration: a local noble, the richest farmer in the village or - in modern times - the representative of the authorities).



The wreath is a central feature of most celebrations associated with *dožinky*, as it symbolizes a rich harvest, the prospect of wealth and the power of new life vested in the grain gathered during the summer.



International Sudoku Day

Every year on September 9, puzzle enthusiasts around the world celebrate International Sudoku Day. This special day encourages people to enjoy the mental challenge and cognitive benefits of solving Sudoku puzzles.

International Sudoku Day was established in 2013 by the World Puzzle Federation to commemorate the birthday of Howard Garns, the American architect who is credited with creating the modern Sudoku puzzle.

There are many ways to celebrate International Sudoku Day and enjoy the mental challenge of this popular puzzle. Here are a few ideas:

- Organize a Sudoku competition among friends or family to see who can solve puzzles the fastest or most accurately.
- Host a Sudoku-themed party, complete with puzzle-inspired decorations, snacks, and prizes for the best solvers.
- Donate Sudoku books or puzzle collections to local libraries, schools, or senior centers to share the joy of puzzling with others.

September 8 National Grandparents Day

A special day that is set aside for grandchildren and grandparents. Founder Marian McQuade wanted to set aside a special day, first, for the lonely elderly, and, second, to encourage grandchildren to spend time with their grandparents.





Junior Branch Journal

St. John Paul II Feast Day ~ October 22



The Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship has approved of the optional memorial of St. John Paul II in the United States for October 22.

Pope John Paul II was head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State from 1978 until his death in 2005.

In his youth, Wojtyła dabbled in stage acting. He graduated with excellent grades from an all-boys high school in Wadowice, Poland, in 1938, soon after which World War II broke out. During the war, to avoid being kidnapped and sent off to a German forced labor camp, he signed up for work in harsh conditions in a quarry. Wojtyła eventually took up acting and developed a love for the profession and performed at a local theatre.

He decided to study theology and become a priest. Eventually, Wojtyła rose to the position of Archbishop of Kraków and then a cardinal. Wojtyła was elected pope on the third day of the second papal conclave of 1978, and became one of the youngest popes in history. The conclave was called after the death of John Paul I, who served only 33 days as pope. Karol Wojtyła adopted the name of his predecessor in tribute to him. John Paul II was the first non-Italian pope since Adrian VI in the 16th century, as well as the third-longest-serving pope in history after Pius IX and St. Peter.

The announcement of Pope John Paul II's canonization came after the Vatican revealed that two miracles were attributed to the late pope. After a dying French nun, Sister Marie Simon-Pierre Normand, prayed to Pope John Paul II during her battle with Parkinson's disease—the same illness that killed the pope—she was cured. The second miracle involved a 50-year-old woman, who claimed that she was cured of a brain aneurysm after a photograph of Pope John Paul II spoke to her. Pope John Paul II was canonized on April 27, 2014.



Radioactive Punch

Ingredients

Orange juice
Mountain Dew
Blue Kool-Aid
Latex gloves
Food coloring (optional)

Directions

1. Fill gloves with water or juice tinted with food coloring. Secure openings with sturdy rubber bands. Freeze overnight.
2. Mix liquid ingredients to create a radioactive shade of green.
3. Remove gloves from freezer and quickly run them under warm water. Carefully peel off the gloves. Float the frozen hands in the punch bowl.



PERIODICAL

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