

**MINUTES OF THE
43RD NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE LADIES PENNSYLVANIA
SLOVAK CATHOLIC UNION**



LPSCU Life

Security, Peace of Mind

**June 29, 2024
Hershey Lodge
Hershey, Pennsylvania**

Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union

Saturday, June 29, 2024

First Session

President Theresa Kluchinski called the 43rd National Convention of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union to order at 9:00 a.m. Spiritual Advisor Reverend Robert Seeman offered an inspirational opening prayer. Chairperson of Trustees James Yocum and Fraternal Activities Director Susan Ondrejco led the delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance and in the singing of the National Anthems.

President Kluchinski welcomed the delegates to the convention and noted that it had been eight years since the delegates met in person to conduct the business at hand. She extended prayers for successful deliberations that would formulate plans for future growth and stability of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union (LPSCU). She also noted that the charitable project conducted in conjunction with the convention is Wreaths Across America. The project included a live broadcast during the meal functions and the opportunity for delegates to tell veteran-related stories to be included in the broadcast. Delegates were encouraged to take information about the project back to their branches and districts to assist with organizing a local project. One additional item noted regarding the Wreaths Across America project is that Susan Ondrejco, fraternal activities director, organized a basket raffle during the convention to benefit Wreaths Across America. Delegates were encouraged to participate.

Secretary-Treasurer John Andrzejewski was called upon to conduct the roll call of delegates. After brief welcoming remarks the roll call was taken. The initial results of the roll call were that 56 delegates were present and 3 were absent.

The Secretary-Treasurer then read the names of the delegates assigned to taking District roll call and reporting the count during roll calls taken later in the convention. The procedure for reporting was explained and any questions answered.

It was announced by Secretary-Treasurer Andrzejewski that the convention rules were distributed prior to the opening of the convention. Delegates were given the option of having the rules read verbatim. The delegates declined to have them read. Secretary-Treasurer Andrzejewski then reminded the delegates about the cell phone use rule and to remember to state their name, delegate number, branch, and district when speaking on an issue during the session.

President Kluchinski informed the delegates that the committee assignments for the convention were printed in the booklet distributed with the delegate packets and asked the delegates if they want the committee composition read in full. The delegates voiced a consensus to forego the reading. President Kluchinski then reminded the committee members that necessary committee meetings would be held prior to breaking for lunch. The committee members were thanked for their work.

Dolores Evanko, chair of the Credentials Committee, was called upon to give a report. She thanked the committee members and announced that the final delegate count for the 43rd National Convention was fifty-nine (59). No motion was taken due to the report being placed on file with the Secretary-Treasurer.

President Kluchinski called upon Janice Mathews, chair of the Nominating Committee, to give a preliminary report of the nominations. She reported that all the incumbent officers and directors submitted their intent to seek office for another term by the deadline. There were no additional nominations submitted to the committee. President Kluchinski reminded the delegates that a final report would be given in the afternoon session and nominations from the floor would be taken at that time. She also noted the retirement of Reverend Robert Seeman as the LPSCU Spiritual Advisor.

The minutes of the 42nd National Convention were distributed to the delegates prior to the convening of the 43rd National Convention. President Kluchinski accepted a motion from Susan Ondrejco, Branch 64, Delegate 36, to accept the minutes. A second was made by Regina Kapral, Branch 19, Delegate 20, to accept the convention minutes from the 42nd National Convention. The floor was opened for discussion and the delegates were asked to voice any additions, corrections, or changes. There were none. The motion passed with one abstention.

President Kluchinski opened the floor for discussion of the reports submitted by the National Officers. She indicated that the reports were published in the program book distributed to the delegates prior to the convention. A motion was asked for regarding the reports. A motion was made by Mary Jo Savidge, Branch 213, Delegate 62, to accept the reports of the officers. A second was made by Carol Burgan, Branch 79, Delegate 46. The delegates were asked to voice any questions on the motion. There were none. The motion passed.

Additional reports were included in the delegate packets. President Kluchinski noted that a report from CPS Actuaries was included. She also noted that the executive officers opted to not bring in presenters for the 43rd National Convention. Any questions would be answered by the executive officers. The floor was opened for discussion on the report. There were no questions asked by the delegates during the discussion period. No motion or vote was taken regarding the report.

The next item on the agenda was the memorial service. Reverend Robert Seeman, LPSCU spiritual advisor, was called upon to conduct the service.

After the memorial service, President Kluchinski asked Secretary-Treasurer Andrzejewski to take a second delegate roll call which was mandated due to the late arrival of three delegates. They arrived after the first roll call was taken. Since the session did not recess, only the names of those who were not present for the first roll were called. The number of delegates present rose from 56 to 59.

President Kluchinski reviewed the schedule of events

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for the day giving times and locations. Several logistical items regarding the Mass and banquet were also covered.

At this point in the agenda time, was provided to allow for committee meetings. President Kluchinski asked the committee chairpersons if there was a need for any of the committees to meet. It was determined that none of the committees needed to meet to discuss issues arising in any specific committee assignment.

The Constitution Committee report was next for discussion. President Kluchinski called upon Margaret Jollimore, chair of the Constitution Committee, to present the report. The report was summarized. Chairperson Jollimore noted that the report was distributed to the delegates prior to the opening of the convention, changes to the Bylaws do not require approval by the convention, and that changes approved at the convention would have to be sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance for approval before becoming effective. The committee had no objections to the proposed changes contained in the report and recommended that the changes be adopted as presented.

President Kluchinski opened the floor for discussion of the changes proposed. She noted that time would be allowed to present the reasoning behind making the changes and for questions that the delegates may have. She also informed the delegates that since the changes were recommended by the committee, a motion and second were not necessary to open the floor for discussion about approval. Each suggested change was discussed. The changes and result of the discussion are included in the minutes to follow.

Article I: Add wording to the end of the paragraph:

For advertising purposes, we use LPSCU Life.

The addition to Article I was being proposed to allow use of a different company brand that was more recognizable to current generations. There was no discussion and no objection to the addition of the wording. The change was approved as suggested.

Article II: Necessary punctuation was added for grammatical reasons. President Kluchinski asked for discussion or objections to the change. None were noted. The changes were approved.

Article VI: Governing Bodies:

Change the Article to read

1. The supreme governing body of the LPSCU shall be the National Board of Directors.
2. If the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of the LPSCU are silent as to any procedural aspect of any action or meeting, the procedures of the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be the governing authority.

President Kluchinski explained the rationale behind the proposed change which included the concept of eliminating the convention and switching to direct election of the board members. The process to establish a direct election was reviewed. President Kluchinski stated that an independent Nominating Committee would be established to

receive and review nominees for required qualifications. Ballots would be sent directly to each adult member of the LPSCU. President Kluchinski also explained that an independent Compensation Committee would be established to make a recommendation regarding board salary.

During the review of the change to Article VI, President Kluchinski outlined additional changes which would be considered or would result from the adoption of the change to Article VI. They included:

- Making the position of President a hired position.
- Eliminating the position of Spiritual Advisor from the Board makeup.
- Shifting the cost of the convention to funding member events within the district areas would allow more members access to the activities of the LPSCU.

President Kluchinski then opened the floor for discussion of the proposed change for Article VI. Delegates spoke both in favor of the change and in opposition of the change. Comments and concerns during the discussion are as follows:

- Questions were asked about the size of ballot mailings and the associated cost.
- Concerns were expressed regarding the potential of governing power being concentrated solely in the Board of Directors.
- Discussion was entered into regarding distribution of information about candidates to make sure that the members who were not engaged in the happenings of the LPSCU would be able to make an informed decision.
- Concerns were expressed about making the determination of what the majority would be if ballots were mailed for the purpose of election. President Kluchinski explained that the majority would be based on the number of ballots received by the designated committee.
- The possibility of having another video convention was raised.
- An in-person convention provides an opportunity for the delegates to get to know candidates for the Board positions through questions that can be asked directly to the candidates.
- Concern was expressed regarding many mailed ballots or emailed ballots being ignored and not returned.
- Concern was expressed about the number of votes based on the number of certificates a person has as opposed to one vote per person regardless of the number of certificates issued to the person.
- The subject of length of term was raised based on an additional change associated with term limits which was not discussed at this point. President Kluchinski indicated that it is the intention of the Board to stagger the terms such that not all Board members were up for election at the same time.

At the conclusion of discussion regarding the change

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to Article VI, a motion was made by Brian Jollimore, Branch 7, Delegate 15, to reject the recommended changes to Article VI of the LPSCU Constitution and leave the Article as written. John Ferri, Branch 83, Delegate 49, seconded the motion. The floor was opened for discussion on the motion. Some additional discussion took place regarding connecting with the membership to engage them in the various aspects of the LPSCU. The concept of organizing local meet and greet or educational seminars was seen as one way to engage the membership. Delegates expressed concern over cost versus response. At the conclusion of discussion on the motion a vote was taken. The motion passed.

Article VII: National Convention

Change the Article to read:

Membership Meeting/ Function

1. LPSCU shall conduct membership meetings/functions, such meetings/functions shall be held at least every two years at a site determined by the National Board of Directors.
2. The purposes of such meetings may include, but are not limited to: providing education, networking, recognition and other support to districts/branches and their leaders, and engaging members and others to carry out the charitable and fraternal mission of the LPSCU.

President Kluchinski started discussion of the proposed change to Article VII by reviewing the elements of the article that would no longer be deleted from the Constitution based on the vote to not change article VI. The parts of Article VII that remain unchanged are as follows:

Article title which is National Convention

Article VII, Section 1: The National Convention is the highest governing body of the LPSCU.

Article VII, Section 2: The National Convention consists of the National Board of Directors, Honorary Officers, and the delegates sent by various branches.

Article VII, Section 3: The National Convention is held every four years at a site determined by the National Board of Directors after receiving suggestions from the previous National Convention delegates.

Article VII, Section 4: The purposes of the National Convention are:

Article VII, Section 4 (a): To receive reports concerning the condition of the LPSCU.

Article VII, Section 4 (b): To take expedient and proper action on the affairs and business of the LPSCU.

Article VII, Section 4 (c): To elect the officers.

Article VII, Section 4 (d): To determine the salary of all the officers, subject to annual increase based on cost-of-living index, except the Secretary-Treasurer.

Article VII, Section 5: The Credential Committee meets prior to the opening of the National Convention and submits a report to the National Convention regarding the number of registered delegates. The National Convention is the sole judge of the qualifications of its delegates and may refuse or grant any person the right to be a delegate.

Article VII, Section 6: A simple majority of registered delegates constitutes the quorum necessary for the proper conduct of business at the National Convention.

At this point the floor was opened for discussion regarding the constitutional changes that will stay in place as opposed to those that were proposed as replacements. The delegates engaged in a discussion with the following points being made:

- A recommendation was put forth to establish a Compensation Committee as mentioned in the rationale for changing the Article VII.
- The setting of salary is a function of the convention and the provision in the Constitution should be left as is.
- A question was posed regarding what salaries and salary increases are based on. President Kluchinski provided a summary of the Salary Committee's procedure and criteria for making the determination.

At the conclusion of discussion, a motion was made by Anna Mann, Branch 64, Delegate 38, to remove Article VII, Section 4 (d) which reads, "To determine the salary of all officers, subject to annual increase based on cost-of-living index, except the Secretary-Treasurer," and to establish a Compensation Committee. Angela Skiffen, Branch 52, Delegate 32, seconded the motion. President Kluchinski called for discussion on the motion. After hearing none a vote was taken. The motion passed.

Article VIII

Change the article to read:

1. The national Board of Directors consists of the following officers:
President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Chairperson of Trustees, and four Trustees.
2. Vice President, Chair of Trustees, and Trustees shall serve the Board for a term of four (4) years. These officers shall hold office for the term for which they were elected, unless a director's death, resignation, or removal occurs during the term. These National Officers shall hold office for a term not to exceed two consecutive four-year terms.
3. All LPSCU members seeking candidacy for an elected position must submit their application requests in the manner prescribed by the Board of Directors and published in LPSCU's official publication. A Nominating Committee shall be appointed for the purpose of reviewing candidate information as well as recommending a slate of candidates. All qualified applicants shall constitute the slate of candidates, and the office of the Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare a ballot and give notice of the election, specifying the time and procedure for elections.
4. A vote shall be taken on the candidates by direct written or electronic ballot to all adult LPSCU members in good standing, The ballot shall specify the deadline for return of the ballot and no ballots

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received after such time shall be counted. Each adult member shall have one vote for each National Officer position and each National Officer shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast by LPSCU members. Cumulative voting or voting by proxy is not permitted, Adult members are those members 18 years of age at the time ballot is prepared.

5. The National Board of Directors receives per diem, traveling expenses, lodging, and meals while traveling in the performance of services for the LPSCU. They receive the above-mentioned expenses while attending all meetings/functions of the National Board of Directors.
6. At a meeting of the National Board of Directors, a simple majority constitutes a quorum.

The floor was opened for discussion regarding the proposed changes to Article VIII. President Kluchinski provided time to discuss the individual changes by section. The first section discussed was Article VIII, Section 1. She indicated that the change would remove the position of Spiritual Advisor from the Board and add the Secretary-Treasurer as a voting member of the Board. There was no discussion on the part of the delegates.

Article VIII, Section 2 was discussed next. President Kluchinski reviewed the change which established term limits. There was no discussion regarding this change to the Constitution.

Article VIII, Section 3: President Kluchinski noted that the proposed change would not be considered due to the rejection of changes associated with the elimination of the convention. No discussion was held.

Article VIII, Section 4: President Kluchinski noted that the proposed change would not be considered due to the rejection of changes associated with the elimination of the convention. No discussion was held.

Article VIII, Section 5: It was noted that the proposed changes did not completely replace the section. The proposed changes were to the number of the section and to delete the words "during the National Convention and". President Kluchinski noted that the proposed deletion would remain in the Constitution due to the rejection of changes associated with the elimination of the convention. She also noted that the word, "functions" would be added as proposed. The floor was opened for discussion on proposed changes to Article VIII, Section 5. No discussion was held.

At this point in the meeting a question was posed regarding the President's position being changed from elected to hired. The question was relevant to the term limitation change made earlier during the convention and questioned if the President would be subject to the term limitation provided that the change from elected to hired was approved by the convention. A clarification was given by President Kluchinski which indicated that the designation of the President as elected versus hired is found in the LPSCU Bylaws and because it is in the Bylaws the LPSCU

Board would make the determination on the designation of the position. President Kluchinski asked the delegates for input regarding the President being hired instead of elected. The delegates engaged in discussion with the following points and questions:

- President Kluchinski was asked to present some pros and cons of hired versus elected.
- Concerns were voiced regarding the checks and balances with respect to hiring and compensation.
- A concern was raised over the possible scenario of having no candidates for the position of president to be elected at the convention.
- The LPSCU Board would be responsible for vetting and finding a suitable President should the position be changed to a hired position.
- A question was posed regarding the President being a voting member of the Board should the position be changed to a hired position. President Kluchinski indicated that the position could be either way.
- Concern was expressed about the possibility of a tie vote and who would break the tie if the President did not have a vote.
- Concern was expressed regarding term limits for the Board members and how that limitation would affect the position of President provided the President was hired instead of elected.
- An observation was made that with the increasing regulation in the insurance industry it is possible that something would change in the future requiring succession planning for the Executive Officers' positions which would result in the hiring qualified individuals. By instituting the hiring of the President, the LPSCU would be ahead of the potential regulation.

President Kluchinski concluded the discussion by asking for guidance for the Board in the form of a consensus from the convention delegation. An informal vote was taken by asking delegates present to stand in favor of hiring the President and then those opposed to stand. She noted that an overwhelming majority stood in favor of hiring the President in the future.

A question arose regarding when the hiring of the President would take effect. President Kluchinski answered that it would be effective after the 43rd National Convention which means that the President would be elected during the current convention.

The second item that President Kluchinski asked the delegates for guidance on is the issue of allowing the President to vote at meetings of the Board if the President is hired. The floor was open for discussion. Opinions were expressed in favor of allowing the President to vote and not in favor of allowing it. An informal vote was taken by asking delegates present to stand in favor of allowing the hired President to vote and then those opposed to stand. She noted that a majority of the delegates stood in opposition of allowing the President to vote if hired.

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One additional issue was raised during the discussion about the President voting. This issue concerned the number of members on the Board who would be able to vote. There was concern about a possible regulatory minimum of voting Board members. The issue posed to the convention delegates was whether the number of Board members should be increased. The floor was opened for discussion. During the discussion a suggestion was made to consider allowing the President to vote in the case of a tie vote of the directors. At the conclusion of discussion, it was noted that Article VIII, Section 1 should be changed to remove the President and Secretary-Treasurer from the list of voting members of the Board provided that the President becomes a hired officer.

Article IX

Change the article to read:

Committees

1. The National Board of Directors may appoint committees of the Board to have such authority as The National Board of Directors may appoint committees of the Board to have such authority as the National Board of Directors may delegate. A majority of the members of each committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all committee business.
2. The Executive Finance Committee (EFC) is a standing committee of the National Board of Directors and consists of the following: President, Vice President, Chairperson of Trustees, and the Secretary-Treasurer.

President Kluchinski reviewed the proposed change for Article IX. She pointed out that the section would be renamed Committees. The changes are intended to allow the Board to establish committees and allow the Secretary Treasurer to become a voting member of the Executive Finance Committee.

The floor was open for discussion on the proposed Article IX changes with the following suggestions and comments made during the discussion:

- Based on previous discussions regarding the ability of the President to vote, the wording of the new Section 2 would have to be changed to incorporate the President as a non-voting member of the Executive Finance Committee.
- The change with the President included would only allow for two (2) members of the Executive Finance Committee to vote.
- Since the President and Secretary-Treasurer are involved in day-to-day operations, they should be allowed to vote. This comment was in favor of the proposed change.
- A question was asked to clarify that the President and Secretary-Treasurer would not have a vote during a meeting of the full Board and would have a vote during a meeting of the Executive Finance Committee should the proposed changes be accepted for Article IX, Section 2. President Kluchin-

ski indicated that this would be the case.

At the end of discussion regarding proposed changes to Article IX, Section 2, President Kluchinski asked if there was any motion to reject the change. There was none made by the delegates. The change to Article IX, Section 2, remained as proposed.

Article X

Change the article to read:

1. Articles within the Constitution may be amended or suspended by two-thirds vote of the National Board of Directors.
2. Notice of the amendment to the Articles within the Constitution, upon approval by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, will be published in the official publication of the LPSCU.

President Kluchinski informed the delegates that Article X, Section 1 would remain unchanged based on the vote to not change article VI. Based on that vote, the Article will continue to read as follows:

1. Articles within this Constitution may be amended or suspended by a simple majority vote of the National Convention.

She then noted that Article X, Section 2, would remain in the Constitution based on the vote to not change Article VI.

Article X, Section 3, was brought to the floor for discussion. President Kluchinski indicated that the proposed changes would be able to be adopted if there was no objection from the delegates to do so. There were two changes proposed.

The first was to renumber the Section from 3 to 2. President Kluchinski informed the delegates that this change was not necessary because the original Section 2 was being retained. The second change was to remove the last part of the paragraph which reads "and from and after the date of publication of said amendment, it will be in full force and effect and will bind every member of the LPSCU."

The floor was open for discussion regarding the change to Article X, Section 3. There was no discussion on the part of the delegates. President Kluchinski noted that the proposed change would remain as stated.

Regarding the proposed change to Article X, Section 4, President Kluchinski informed the delegates that the deletion of the Section was recommended by the LPSCU legal counsel because the LPSCU is obligated to follow the laws and regulations of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. This change was not open for discussion due to the legal nature of the change.

President Kluchinski noted that the changes to Article X were the last proposed changes to be considered by the convention delegation. She called for any additional other discussion on the Constitution of the LPSCU. There was no further discussion on the part of the delegates.

The delegates were reminded that prior to discussion of the changes to the Constitution, a motion was made and seconded to adopt them. President Kluchinski informed

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the delegates that the original motion would include only the changes that were not removed by motion during the discussion. She then called upon the delegates to vote on the motion. Those in favor were asked to stand. After seeing the number of delegates standing, President Kluchinski declared that the motion to adopt remaining changes to the Constitution passed. She thanked the delegates for their attention and input during the discussion.

The next agenda item to be considered by the delegates was the report of the Salary Committee. Committee Chair James Yocum was called upon to give the report. He proceeded to give the report. The recommendations from the Salary Committee were given as follows:

1. A recommendation to increase base salaries by 2.54%. The resulting salaries were then reported to the convention delegates.
2. A recommendation to keep the cost-of-living adjustment in place for years after the convention. This provision also includes a 2% per year cap on the increase and the requirement to meet one of the four objectives established by the Board.
3. The per diem rate was recommended to remain at \$50 per day.

Chairman Yocum recognized the committee members and noted the work and research that went into the recommendations. He also thanked them for their work on the committee.

Chairman Yocum then asked the delegates if there were any questions on the report. There were some questions and comments summarized as follows:

- A question was posed regarding the inclusion of the Spiritual Advisor's salary. President Kluchinski explained that the Salary Committee approached the recommendations as if no changes were made to the Constitution, leaving the position of Spiritual Advisor as an elected position.
- The Constitution change will have the Spiritual Advisor retiring in 60 days after the conclusion of the convention. The Board will then decide if a Spiritual Advisor will be hired, establish a job description, and determine a salary.
- A question was posed regarding the Board Salary Committee being replaced by a Compensation Committee. The question was asked to clarify who would be setting the salary for the hired officers since the President's position would revert to a hired position as of the 2028 convention. President Kluchinski explained that the Board would establish a salary committee to make the determination.

At the conclusion of discussion, President Kluchinski informed the delegates that the report of the chairman of the committee was the first and second of a motion to accept the report. The delegates were asked for any additional discussion. There was no further discussion on the motion. President Kluchinski called for the vote. The motion was passed unanimously.

After the conclusion of the agenda item of the Salary

Committee Report the morning session was adjourned. President Kluchinski called upon Father Robert Seeman for a prayer before breaking for lunch.

Saturday, June 29, 2024 Second Session

President Kluchinski called the second session to order at 1:30 p.m. and called upon Reverend Robert Seeman for an opening prayer. Delegates were reminded to be seated in their designated district areas due to the additional business to be voted on during the session.

Secretary-Treasurer Andrzejewski was called upon to conduct the roll call. District representatives were called upon to give the count of delegates present. There were 57 delegates present and two absent.

Final Report of the Nominating Committee: Committee Chair Janice Mathews was called on to give the final report of the Nominating Committee. She reported that the Home Office staff had verified the information on the intent forms submitted to confirm that candidates submitting their intent forms met the requirements outlined in the LPSCU Constitution. All candidates were found to meet the requirements. The list of candidates was read, and it consisted of all incumbent officers and Board members. There were no additional nominations resulting from the submission of intent forms. At the conclusion of the report the committee moved for acceptance of the report.

President Kluchinski opened the floor for additional nominations, calling for nominations three times before declaring that the floor was closed for the purpose of making nominations. This procedure was followed for each position on the LPSCU Board of Directors. At the conclusion of the nomination's proceedings, President Kluchinski called the question and a vote on the acceptance of the Nominating Committee Report was taken. The motion passed.

Secretary-Treasurer Andrzejewski was called upon to cast a unanimous vote to elect the slate of officers and directors presented by the Nominating Committee.

President Kluchinski congratulated the elected members of the Board and announced that there were some letters of greeting received from public officials. One letter of greetings came from Senator Robert P. Casey. The letter was read aloud to the delegation.

Following the greetings letter, President Kluchinski recognized first time delegates and welcomed them to the convention business session.

President Kluchinski announced that all delegates were present and reminded those present that the LPSCU offers monetary incentives to the branches for filling all their available delegate seats. There were five branches which qualified for the incentive. She also reminded the delegates present that a special incentive was established for delegates under 40 years of age. There were five delegates who qualified for the incentive.

The next item on the agenda was the appointment of the Minutes Committee. President Kluchinski recom-

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mended that the Board be authorized to assign a committee. She explained that the motion would also direct the committee to summarize the minutes for publication. A motion was made by Mary Jo Savidge, Branch 213, Delegate 62, to accept the recommendation of President Kluchinski authorizing the Board to establish a Minutes Committee for the purpose of summarizing the proceedings for publication. Rudy Ondrejco, Branch 64, Delegate 39, seconded the motion. President Kluchinski opened the floor for discussion on the motion. There was none. The vote was taken. The motion passed without opposition.

President Kluchinski informed the convention delegates that the next order of business was to authorize the payment of bills associated with the convention. She asked for a motion to this effect. A motion was made by Anna Mann, Branch 54, Delegate 38, to authorize the payment of all bills associated with the 43rd National Convention. A second was made by Dayna Fiedorczyk, Branch 7, Delegate 17. President Kluchinski asked for any discussion on the motion. There was none. A vote was taken, and the motion passed without opposition.

Wreaths Across America: President Kluchinski called upon Susan M. Ondrejco for a report on the raffle organized to generate additional funds for donation to the convention charitable project. She reported that \$625 was raised for Wreaths Across America. President Kluchinski reminded the convention that the program was eligible for a matching fund distribution. The matching funds are capped at \$200; however, the convention can authorize additional matches. She suggested matching the \$625 for a total donation of \$1,250. A motion was made by Anna Mann, Branch 64, Delegate 38, to match the \$625 using convention funds. A second was made by Angela Skiffen, Branch 53, Delegate 52. The floor was open for discussion. There was none. A vote was taken, and the motion passed without opposition.

The last item on the agenda was that of New Business. President Kluchinski opened the floor for discussion of new business and asked the delegates for items to discuss. There was no new business proposed by the delegates.

President Kluchinski then discussed some of the initiatives undertaken by the Board to provide new and different benefits to the members. They included:

- A reminder about the Sweet Deal Annuity promotion which is available through September 1, 2024.
- Participation in the Wreaths Across America project due to the LPSCU becoming a sponsor of the project. Branches and districts were encouraged to organize a wreath laying event or participate in one already organized.
- Announcing the organization of group travel through Collette Travel. The first trip is scheduled for November of 2025 to Costa Rica.

Before closing the convention, President Kluchinski asked the delegates for suggestions regarding the location for the next convention. Suggestions included: Pittsburgh, Valley Forge, Chicago, the Poconos, Las Vegas, Lancaster, Cleveland, Alaska, Laurel Highlands, Erie, Western Pennsylvania, and a cruise convention.

It was noted that the Board of Directors would review the suggestions and narrow down the options for pricing and research.

President Kluchinski asked the delegates if there was any additional business to be brought to the floor of the convention. There was no response. Several announcements were made regarding the delegate photo, mass, and the banquet.

Reverend Robert Seeman, LPSCU spiritual advisor, was called upon for a closing prayer.

President Kluchinski noted that there were no further agenda items and adjourned the 43rd National Convention of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Union held at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania. The National Convention was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

This summary was prepared using the certified proceedings taken during the meeting sessions by James Gallagher III, Registered Diplomate Reporter.