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Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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JULY 2015



Saint *Anne*

Holy mother
of the
Immaculate
Virgin Mary
Pray for us.

Feast Day
July 26

M
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Patroness
of the
First Catholic Slovak
Ladies Association

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Fraternally Yours™

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Fraternally Yours,
ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

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The Alphabet of Happiness:

A – ACCEPT	Accept others for who they are and for the choices they've made even if you have difficulty understanding their beliefs, motives, or actions.
B – BREAK AWAY	Break away from everything that stands in the way of what you hope to accomplish with your life.
C – CREATE	Create a family of friends whom you can share your hopes, dreams, sorrows, and happiness with.
D – DECIDE	Decide that you'll be successful and happy come what may, and good things will find you. The roadblocks are only minor obstacles along the way.
E – EXPLORE	Explore and experiment. The world has much to offer, and you have much to give. And every time you try something new, you'll learn more about yourself.
F – FORGIVE	Forgive and forget. Grudges only weigh you down and inspire unhappiness and grief. Soar above it, and remember that everyone makes mistakes.
G – GROW	Leave the childhood monsters behind. They can no longer hurt you or stand in your way.
H – HOPE	Hope for the best and never forget that anything is possible as long as you remain dedicated to the task.
I – IGNORE	Ignore the negative voice inside your head. Focus instead on your goals and re-member your accomplishments. Your past success is only a small inkling of what the future holds.
J – JOURNEY	Journey to new worlds, new possibilities, by remaining open-minded. Try to learn something new every day, and you'll grow.
K – KNOW	Know that no matter how bad things seem, they'll always get better. The warmth of spring always follows the harshest winter.
L – LOVE	Let love fill your heart instead of hate. When hate is in your heart, there's room for nothing else, but when love is in your heart, there's room for endless happiness.
M – MANAGE	Manage your time and your expenses wisely, and you'll suffer less stress and worry. Then you'll be able to focus on the important things in life.
N – NOTICE	Never ignore the poor, infirm, helpless, weak, or suffering. Offer your assistance when possible, and always your kindness and understanding.
O – OPEN	Open your eyes and take in all the beauty around you. Even during the worst of times, there's still much to be thankful for.
P – PLAY	Never forget to have fun along the way. Success means nothing without happiness.
Q – QUESTION	Ask many questions, because you're here to learn.
R – RELAX	Refuse to let worry and stress rule your life, and remember that things always have a way of working out in the end.
S – SHARE	Share your talent, skills, knowledge, and time with others. Everything that you invest in others will return to you many times over.
T – TRY	Even when your dreams seem impossible to reach, try anyway. You'll be amazed by what you can accomplish.
U – USE	Use your gifts to your best ability. Talent that's wasted has no value. Talent that's used will bring unexpected rewards.
V – VALUE	Value the friends and family members who've supported and encouraged you, and be there for them as well.
W – WORK	Work hard every day to be the best person you can be, but never feel guilty if you fall short of your goals. Every sunrise offers a new opportunity.
X – X-RAY	Look deep inside the hearts of those around you and you'll see the goodness and beauty within.
Y – YIELD	Yield to commitment. If you stay on track and remain dedicated, you'll find success at the end of the road.
Z – ZOOM	Zoom to a happy place when bad memories or sorrow rears its ugly head. Let nothing interfere with your goals. Instead, focus on your abilities, your dreams, and a brighter tomorrow.

Dear Friends,

This month remember to practice your ABC's....

Until next Month
Warmly, Carolyn

SHARING IN THE PRIESTLY, PROPHETIC, AND ROYAL LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

Very Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, D. Min., J.C.L., National Chaplain

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

In order to become a member of the Christian community, each person must be baptized after the profession of faith which then incorporates the person accepting baptism as a member of the Church. For Catholics, the Rite of Baptism is accomplished by either infusion (the pouring of the water over the head of the person) or immersion (the entire body of the person into the water) three times, with the words invoked by the baptizer, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Immediately following the baptism of the person, and if the Sacrament of Confirmation is not celebrated, the celebrant says to following prayer over the newly baptized, "The God of power and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin and brought you to new life through water and the Holy Spirit. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation, so that, united with his people, you may remain forever a member of Christ who is Priest, Prophet, and King" [*Christian Initiation of Adults*, in *The Rites: Volume One*, Number 319]. And once the prayer is completed, each of the newly baptized is anointed on the crown of the head with Sacred Chrism.

Sacred Chrism (used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders) is consecrated at the Chrism Mass celebrated by the Diocesan Bishop during Holy Week, for many dioceses, on Holy Thursday morning. Two other oils (Oil of the Sick for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and Oil of the Catechumenate used also in the celebration of Baptism) are also blessed at this Mass and are distributed for use in all the parishes of the diocese. All of the sacred oils are from plants, usually olive oil, but Sacred Chrism has a perfume that is added to it because each member that is anointed with it is reminded of being that special member of the Body of Christ in His Priestly, Prophetic and Royal roles.

The emphasis here today is that all of

us are called to share in the Priesthood of Christ. In the Hebrew Scriptures, there were priests of the Levitical line that offered sacrifices to Yahweh, especially for the expiation of sins. In the Christian Scriptures, we acknowledge that Christ is forever our high priest. The *Letter to the Hebrews*, explains that, "Under the old covenant there were many priests because they were prevented by death from remaining in office; but Jesus, because he remains forever, has a priesthood which does not pass away. Therefore he is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he forever lives to make intercession for them. It was fitting that we should have such a high priest: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, higher than the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifice day after day, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did that once for all when he offered himself" (7:23-26).

Saint Augustine, in one of his commentaries on the Psalms, taught about Christ's relationship to us and ours to His, "God could give no greater gift to men than to make his Word, through whom he created all things, their head and to join them to him as his members, so that the Word might be both Son of God and son of man, one God with the Father, and one man with all men. The result is that when we speak with God in prayer we do not separate the Son from him, and when the body of the Son prays it does not separate its head from itself: it is the one Savior of his body, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who prays for us and in us and is himself the object of our prayers. He prays for us as our priest, he prays in us as our head, he is the object of our prayers as our God. Let us then recognize both our voice in his and his voice in ours" (*Commentary on Psalm 85*, CCL 39, paragraph 1176).

These are profound words that should give us spiritual direction everyday of our lives. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became one like us in all things but sin. But recognizing that sin existed in this

world, He became the Priest through the sacrifice of Himself on the Cross which gave way to perfect humanity as it was meant to be from the moment of human existence. His resurrected life gives us the hope of immortality. Our baptismal commitment to Him is that we are to be a reflection of His life, His preachings, His sufferings, His resurrected glory – in other words, to be priestly as He is Priest.

In the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church [*Lumen Gentium*], the bishops of the Second Vatican Council paralleled the roles of the ministerial priesthood and that of the laity as both share in the common priesthood bestowed on the individual at Baptism. They acclaimed, "Though they differ essentially and not only in degree, the common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial or hierarchical priesthood are none the less ordered one to another; each in its own proper way shares in the one priesthood of Christ. The ministerial priest, by the sacred power he has, forms and rules the priestly people; in the person of Christ he effects the Eucharistic sacrifice and offers it to God in the name of all the people. The faithful indeed, by virtue of their royal priesthood, participate in the offering of the Eucharist. They exercise that priesthood, too, by the reception of the sacraments, prayer and thanksgiving, the witness of a holy life, abnegation and active charity" (Paragraph 10).

My dear sisters and brothers, the common priesthood that we share demands that we live, breathe, speak, and think as Christ Jesus. At times, it may be embarrassing, not appropriate, or easy to suspend our priestly duties that have been imposed on us through the Baptism that we have received. To do this not only gives disrespect and dishonor to the High Priest, Jesus, it also dishonors and disrespects His Body, the Church. We have all taken on the responsibility to preach Jesus Christ crucified, Jesus Christ risen from the dead. Let us all be holy priests and preachers of the Gospel in order to share in the Priestly Life of Jesus Christ!

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Our delegates to the 41st Quadrennial Convention will soon receive an Official Call to the convention from me. We are looking forward to a productive and fulfilled convention where we gather to set the vision for our Society for the next four years, select our leadership, gather for Mass and prayer and enjoy each other's company as we continue to work toward our

common goal of providing financial security for our members and finding new ways to embrace our Catholic values and Slavic traditions.

Our significant efforts to develop and present materials regarding our business strategies, investments, marketing plans and fraternal structure were recently recognized again when The A.M. Best Company affirmed our A- (Excellent) rating for another year. Congratulations to all home office staff and members of the board who played a role with the managing officers!

In July, many of our branches, districts and members lead, volunteer or participate in many longstanding fraternal activities which greatly enhance the quality of life in the communities where we live.

THE A.M. Best Company Confirms A- Rating

On June 4, 2015, FCSLA National President proudly acknowledged a message from A.M. Best Company, which had just awarded FCSLA an A- (Excellent) rating for another year.

Each year the A.M. Best Company evaluates those insurance companies and fraternal benefit societies that seek its rating, and rates these organizations based on its financial condition, the company's growth and its ability to pay future claims.

After compiling relevant information and data for the Best Review, an interview was held on May 4, 2015, with representatives from A.M. Best and a committee from FCSLA, made up of Cynthia Maleski, Sue Ann Seich, Steve Hudak Patrick Braun and Al Heiles. Many questions were posed by the A.M. Best interviewers about the Association's investments, marketing plans, fraternal structure and overall business strategies.

The interview session with A.M. Best representatives concluded that FCSLA is well managed and is in excellent financial condition. **They responded quickly by reaffirming the Association's A- rating.**

Our St. Ann's Feast Day celebrations always add a beautiful spiritual dimension to our lives. Our Slovak and Czech Day festivities in our local communities are always a chance for us to see friends, old and new. The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius will sponsor their 42nd annual Summer Festival on Saturday, July 11 on their grounds in Danville, Pennsylvania. What a great opportunity to enjoy the festivities, support the Sisters and pilgrimage to the Basilica for Mass and prayer!

In this issue, we introduce our Friends and Family Membership Rewards Program. We encourage you to complete the form by providing a name of family member or friend so that one of our licensed producers can contact him or her with information about becoming a member.

Have a great summer and please take some time to smell the roses!

God Bless You and Yours,
Cynthia Maleski
National President

2015 Slovakia Heritage Tour

September 11-20, 2015

Experience Slovak culture, history, and life in Slovakia today, up close and personal on the 2015 Slovakia Heritage ten-day, small group tour. For more information visit www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 or connectionswork4u@hotmail.com

FCSLA Annuity Rates

Rates for our Elite Annuities:

SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)

3.00% APY*

GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)

3.25% APY*

PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)

3.50% APY*

*This rate is in effect 1/1/2015 thru 12/31/2015.

Additionally the guaranteed minimum rate for Elite Silver and Gold contracts issued in 2015 will be increased to 2%.

FCSLA Accepting Applications for Interim National Secretary and Interim National Treasurer Positions

As mandated by the changes to the bylaws and the effective dates adopted at the Special Convention held in October 2014, First Catholic Ladies Association is accepting applications from qualified individuals for interim positions for National Secretary and National Treasurer in accordance with the process as approved by the Special Convention.

The National Secretary directs the operating activities of the Association on a full time basis and reports to the National President. The minimum qualifications for such position include a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university and possess ten years experience, demonstrating communication, organization and managerial skills.

Insurance and/or fraternal benefit society experience a plus.

The National Treasurer monitors the financial conditions of the Association oversees the Association's finances and investments on a full time basis and reports to the National President. All candidates must have either a CPA or MBA in finance or related fields from an accredited college or university and shall have ten years or more experience in the fields of business, finance or related fields.

If selected for the interim position, the candidate for each position has the potential of being considered for the permanent position and reports to the National President. Interested parties meeting the above qualifications should submit a detailed resume and cover letter to National President Cynthia Maleski, FCSLA National Headquarters, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, Ohio 44122 on or before September 15, 2015.

41st NATIONAL CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL OFFICE: Anyone wishing to aspire to National Office must return an intent form, available from Sue Ann Seich, National Secretary, along with resume and non-refundable registration fee to the Home Office. All materials must be postmarked, delivery service or electronic media dated by August 2, 2015. Please review the requirements for National Office, including Court of Appeals, contained in the newly revised bylaws, Section III, Leadership & Governance Structure, starting on page 9 of the new Bylaw book.

GUESTS: Please note that guests are allowed to attend the convention, but are responsible for all their expenses (travel, room, and food). More information will be forthcoming.

From the Desk of the National Secretary

Sue Ann M. Seich

How many of you welcome change? If you are like me change doesn't come easy. It usually means there is work involved learning something new, which isn't easy the older we get or we may not like the change being made. Our new Bylaws brought many changes for our Association. The changes were all approved at our Special Convention in October of 2014. All of our National Officers' positions have qualifications which need to be met in order to run or be hired for a position. The qualifications are listed in our new Bylaws. The Special Convention Bylaws Committee met for many months and had open discussions at several meetings to generate these qualifications. The individuals on the committee all worked extremely hard, keeping in mind what needed to be accomplished to secure a positive future for our Association. The National Secretary, National Treasurer and National Editor will be hired positions.



The elected positions which will comprise our Association's Board of Directors are: National Chaplain, National President, four National Directors, two National Trustees and three National Auditors. The convention delegates will also elect five members to serve on the Court of Appeals. If you are seeking a national office please make sure you check the qualifications for the office you seek and offer the information required. If you did not receive a new Bylaws' book and need a copy before they are mailed out with your convention information, please contact Jayne Neelon, Executive Secretary by phone at 1-800-464-4642, Ext 1034 or email her at jneelon@fcsla.org.

If you have any questions concerning our convention please call Jayne or myself and we will try to assist you. For those of you who have asked about the hotel layout, it is very handicap friendly. The area assigned for our meeting and meals are right next door to each other which eliminate a lot of walking. If you request a handicap room or a room near an elevator please let us know ASAP. We want to help make your convention experience is a positive one.

Until next issue, may God keep you happy, healthy and loved.

Sue Ann

11th Consular Tour to Slovakia August 23-September 2, 2015

A customized tour visiting towns in Slovakia, famous historic sites in neighboring Vienna, Austria and Budapest, Hungary. For a detailed itinerary and payment schedule, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 or jtsenko@aol.com. Also contact Joe for a list of hotels, flight schedules, payment schedule, and restrictions.



I recently attended the AFA Fraternal and Communications Mid-Year Meeting in San Antonio, TX. Every time I go to a meeting or conference I learn something new each time, not only about topics that pertain to my job, but I love history and learning about the place I get to visit. First I never knew that San Antonio, TX was named after St. Anthony. Did you? They have this beautiful statue of St.

Anthony along the River Walk. I know why people kept telling me that I had to go see the River Walk. It is really very pretty and unique. My hotel was 3 blocks from the Alamo. What a place to see! It was amazing! And when it is lit up at night it is really a beautiful building. Our country, its history and beauty, continues to amaze me.



I continue to be amazed by all the passionate people all across the country, and their passion for and about volunteering. One of the first sessions at this conference was about that very topic — Volunteering. Specifically Episodic Volunteering vs Traditional Volunteering. We generally say I am a volunteer. But, do you know the difference between Episodic and Traditional? Which type of volunteer you are?

Episodic Volunteering is defined as volunteering 100 hours or less annually for a given organization or cause. A 2005 study found that 31% of all volunteers were episodic volunteers.

St. Anne's Day Celebration

St. Anne's Day Celebration on Monday, July 27, 2015 at St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish, 10621 S. Kedvale, Oak Lawn, IL. Coffee and rolls will be served at 10:00 a.m. in the parish hall with Mass at 11:00 a.m. and the luncheon at Garden Chalet at 12:30 p.m. at 11000 S. Ridgeland, Chicago Ridge, IL. The cost is \$25 per person. Contact your respective Branch Officer for more details. RSVPs due no later than Monday, July 17, 2015 to Branch Officers.

EPISODIC

- ♥ Minimal training
- ♥ "Done in a Day" projects with commitment to the organization
- ♥ Passionate about helping or feeling like they have given back to the community in general
- ♥ More interested in meeting other volunteers and working in social groups

vs

TRADITIONAL

- ♥ Extensive training required
- ♥ Commits to a long period of time
- ♥ Helps on day to day projects
- ♥ Passionate about the mission of an organization
- ♥ More interested in becoming oriented — with the staff or other longtime supporters — more likely to reach out to people they don't know

There are types of episodic volunteers:

- ♥ Temporary Episodic Volunteers — One time service
- ♥ Occasional Episodic Volunteer who give for one activity, event or project
- ♥ Interim Volunteers who serve on a regular basis for only a short period of time (less than six months)

There is one more type of volunteer — Skill Based Volunteering: which allows professionals to develop their skills through volunteer opportunities. This type of volunteering can be extremely beneficial for a nonprofit — it can make up for under resourced areas of the nonprofit business. A few examples would be Graphic Design, IT, Accounting and Finance or any other professional skill.

So what kind of volunteer are you? I would bet for most of us, we are Episodic — Participating in a Join Hands Day, or Matching Funds Project. With everyone's busy schedules it is hard to find time to volunteer with a project that requires commitment to long periods. That is the GREAT thing about FCSLA projects — they can be done in a day or two. We are lucky to have some traditional volunteers who can commit and help plan big events for a fund raiser, or other types of volunteer projects.

And the BEST part about volunteering — is the feeling at the end of the day ... knowing you helped someone, a cause or a charity and that you made a difference. IT IS THE BEST FEELING! So please when you get a notice from your branch officers that there is a Matching Funds project coming up or a Join Hands Day project — participate. Schedule a few hours out of your busy schedule to help others. You might even find that you really like it. You may meet some new friends.

I know I have made a lot of friends by getting involved with projects in the Cleveland District. Try it ... you might LOVE IT!

Youngstown to Hold Tenth Annual Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest

Wow, it is hard to believe, but what started out as a small festival at St. Matthias in Youngstown is about to hold its tenth annual festival which now is a valley event with participation from many Slovak churches, fraternal organizations (including FCSLA Branch 161 of course!) and individuals! This year's festival will be held on Sunday, August 9, 2015 on the grounds of St. Matthias Church, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish at 2800 Shady Run Rd, Youngstown, OH 44502 is better than ever!

The day starts off with a Slovak/English Mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Matthias Church and continues after Mass in the parking lot and school hall until 9:00 p.m. Outside there will be Slovak food of all sorts available (and we are making much more to make sure we don't run out before everyone has a chance to sample their favorites!) There will be *halušky* (with real dumplings), *holubky* (stuffed cabbage), *pirohy*, *klobasa* and *kraut*, roast pork sandwiches, BBQ chicken and even hot dogs, fries and ice cream and, of course, Slovak beer, all served outside — all day. Inside from noon until 3:00 p.m. we will be serving a "Taste of Slovakia" platters with breaded pork cutlet, *klobasa*, *kysla kapusta* (aka sauerkraut!), *holubky* and *halušky*.



There will be a great selection of Slovak baked goods including *kolače* and *kiffles* (first come, first served!), and *palacinky* (crepes) along with Slovak crystal and other Slovak items for sale.

There is also a great Slovak Heritage corner showing many beautiful items on display such as authentic Slovak *kroj* (folk costumes), maps, corn husk dolls, photos, books, embroidery and informational items. There is also a basket auction and a gas card raffle, good for food or gas at Giant Eagle stores.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the Eddie Vallus II Band, the Del Sinchak Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Slovaks! The music starts after Mass outside and continues until about 8:30 p.m. and includes room to dance!

So if you want to help celebrate the Slovak culture, just put the address in your GPS and come join us! And if you need more information just give me a call at 330.549.3760 or email me at loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com!

Loretta Ekoniak



ANNUAL SUMMER FESTIVAL

Festival sponsored by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA will be held on Saturday, July 11. Activities will begin at 10:30 a.m. The festival will feature a flea market, silent auction, baked goods, handcrafted items, book store, and Religious and Slovak articles. There will be ethnic foods such as *Holubky* and *Halusky*, as well as hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage, ice cream and much more. There will be a variety of games for children and adults. Bus parking is available. The Festival will take place rain or shine, and will close with a Mass at 5:00 p.m. For more information, please call Sister Barbara Sable at 570-275-3581, Ext. 302.

92nd Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood Park

The 92nd Annual Slovak Day will take place Thursday, July 16, 2015 at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA. It will be an exciting day for Americans of Slovak descent to celebrate their heritage with each other while enjoying colorful displays, authentic costumes, a Slovak liturgy, spectacular Slovak Dance performances, scrumptious Slovak food, special children's activities, as well as foot-tapping music for dancing. These combine to build a treasure chest of memories — many to be remembered and still more waiting to be created.

Slovak Day at Kennywood Park is sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Association under the leadership of Dolores Sakal, Reverend Joseph Grosko and assisted by Rev. Greg Madja. It is comprised of Slovak organizations from Western Pennsylvania who come together to recognize all people of Slovak heritage in a day of fun and entertainment. Slovak Day was established in 1923 to recognize and preserve the Slovak heritage in Western Pennsylvania.

Kennywood Park became synonymous with this annual gathering due to easy access via the streetcar line from all regions of Western Pennsylvania. Slovak Day helped give many Slovak families a chance to speak in their own native language, socialize with friends, dance and sing the traditional favorites while enjoying the rich heritage they brought to this area. This event supports non-profit Slovak organizations of Western Pennsylvania such as the Western

Pennsylvania Cultural Association, The Vincentian Home, the School Sisters of St. Francis, the Slovak Radio Hour, The Pittsburgh Slovaks and The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble. Last year the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Association contributed approximately \$4,000 to these organizations.

A highlight of Slovak Day is the Eucharistic Celebration. This year's principal celebrant will be the newly ordained Bishop Edward C. Malesic from the Greensburg Diocese. Priests from Pittsburgh, Greensburg and Johnstown-Altoona Diocese will also concelebrate the liturgy. The Liturgical Music will be provided by Rev. Greg Madja. Immediately following will be the vibrant repertoire of Slovak music, songs and dances presented by the "Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble" (PAS) and the "Pittsburgh Slovaks".

Slovak Day activities at Kennywood Park will overflow with music, food, dancing, displays, and children's activities beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Tantalize your taste buds at the Slovak Kitchen where you will be able to enjoy holubky (stuffed cabbage), haluski (sweet cabbage and noodles), and kolbasy. Your sweet tooth can be satisfied with the homemade favorite — ceregi. Enjoy this delicious dinner or a la carte foods and relax amid the echoes of Slovakia, as strolling musicians play all of the "Slovak favorites". Food will be served in Pavilion #4 behind the ride "Garfield's Revenge" from 1:00 p.m. until the food is sold out.

In the Main Pavilion #5 there will be Slovak Cultural Displays provided by the Slovak Fraternals as well as the popular "Kroj" Slovak National Costumes Exhibit.

In Pavilion #3, you will be able to see an exhibit Slovak Game Room, prepared by the "PAS" Jr. and Maly Ensembles. The exhibit is a Slovak heirloom of folk treasures that show the incredible skill and artistry of the Slovak villagers.

A special youth area will feature activities just for children. The children's program will include games and treats beginning at 12:30 p.m. by the Main Pavilion. Every child participating in these activities will receive a free treat. Also at 2:00 p.m. children entertainment will be provided on the Main Stage by the "PAS" Jr. and Maly Ensembles and the "Pittsburgh Jr. Slovaks".

From 2 to 4 p.m., one can sit back and enjoy the music or kick up your heels dancing, grab a partner and twirl to traditional Slovak music of the George Batyi Ensemble at the Kitchen Pavilion.

For a day to remember, join all Slovaks on Thursday, July 16, 2015, Kennywood Park. The cost of tickets are \$25 for Fun Day General Admission, \$15 for those 55 years of age and over, plus a coupon will be available for those 70 years and over to be paid at the gate. Tickets and coupons are available by contacting Sue Ondrejco at (412) 421-1204 or Rev. Joseph Grosko at (412) 466-6545.

For general information about the 92nd Slovak Day contact Chairwoman Dolores Sakal at (412) 243-0438.

Angela M. Lipchick

Attends Annual Legislative Luncheon



Pennsylvania board members recently represented the FCSLA at the Annual Legislative Luncheon in Harrisburg, PA. Pictured are L-R: Lawrence Golofski, National Vice President; Virginia Holmes, National Trustee; Dorothy Urbanowicz, National Auditor; and Representative R. Ted Harhai, Branch 88.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Sr. Branch 452

Halupky Dinner

November 9, 2014 will go down in history as the largest turnout for a FCSLA sponsored halupky dinner. This year members of Sr. Branch 452 were asked by the Knights of Columbus in Whiting, IN if they could partner in hosting this annual event. The combined membership cooked dinners and served 635 attendees. This year the fundraiser was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall with (25) FCSLA members and (18) Knights and friends participating. The FCSLA funds generated from this event were \$4,050 not including the matching funds. The IC Grotto continues to be rehabbed with these funds, along with the matching funds from the Home Office. Thanks to the FCSLA matching funds program.



★ ◆ ★

Sr. Branch 55

Seafood Dinner

A matching funds project was completed by Sr. Branch 55 in Mahanoy City, PA in conjunction with a seafood dinner held at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Mahanoy City. Pictured at right is president of Sr. Branch 55, Marylou Henninger (left) presenting the FCSLA matching funds check to committee member Donna DiCasimirro (right).



★ ◆ ★

Branch W033

Breakfast and Raffle



Branch W033 Treasurer Rita Fjelstul presents Father Donald Hawes, pastor of St. Wenceslaus Parish, checks from the Matching Funds Breakfast and Raffle that was held on Sunday March 1, 2015. The \$1,000 raised by the branch was matched by \$600 from the Home

Office and will be used to repair the sidewalks and parking lot on the west side of the school.

Additional Activity on Page 13

Michelina Ann Bacisin Graduates

Michelina Ann Bacisin of S408, Lakewood, OH, graduated on May 9, 2015 Magna Cum Laude from The University of Akron, Akron, OH, College of Health Professions, with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Child Life Specialist and minors in Family and Consumer Sciences - Child Development and Family and Consumers Sciences - Family Development. Mickey accepted a position as Out Patient Surgery Child Life Specialist at Akron Children's Hospital, Akron, OH. Mickey was a recipient of the FCSLA 2008 High School Sophomore Scholarship for Magnificat High School, Rocky River, OH and 2013 College Junior for The University of Akron, OH.



Mickey is the daughter of John and Cynthia Bacisin of Westlake, OH, and sister of Jacqueline, who are all members of S408.

Texas District 14 Makes Scholarship Donation



Texas District 14, St. Vaclava, made a donation to the Scholarship Fund for St. Mary's Catholic School, in West, TX. L-R: President Donald Cernosek, Vice President Theresa Cernosek, Fr. Paul Hudson, Pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church, and Secretary/Treasury Johnny Cernosek.



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Facebook

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

ART CONTEST



CONTEST ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be an FCSLA Member **ages 15 and younger**
- If you submit an entry and you are not a member your entry will not be considered
- Member must be the one that created the artwork

DEADLINE:

- **Friday August 28, 2015**
- Please mail entries to: FCSLA, Fraternal & Youth Director, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122-5634

CONTEST RULES:

- Only one entry per member
- Submission must be in color on paper or art board, minimum 8½ x 11 in size OR maximum 8½ x 14 in size

On a separate sheet of paper **PRINT or TYPE:**

- For the younger members that cannot print or spell yet – please have the parents complete this part
- Your Name, Age, Branch #, Email Address, and Complete Address
- A short description of your art work.

THEME:

***“Favorite Thing I Did
On My Summer Vacation”***

AGE GROUPS:

6 & Under • 7-10 • 11-13 • 14-15

PRIZE LIST FOR EACH AGE GROUP:

1st Place - \$ 50.00 Gift Card to Toys R Us OR Best Buy
2nd Place - \$25.00 Gift Card to Toys R Us OR Best Buy
3rd Place - \$15.00 Gift Card to Toys R Us OR Best Buy

Bonus: Winners drawing will be published in a future *Fraternally Yours* Magazine issue.

Good Luck!



Magdalen I. Iskra District

On Sunday, May 17, 2015, the Magdalen I. Iskra District of the FCSLA joined hands with the Brookside American Legion, Post 837, to adorn the gravesites of the deceased Military Veterans with the flag of the United States. The cemeteries of Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Mary's Byzantine, both located in Dallas, PA, were visited. A program was held at Sacred Heart of Jesus cemetery, beginning with a prayer by Ann Dougher, Sr. Branch 65 secretary/treasurer and District auditor. Remarks were made by Stephen Prevuznak, Adjutant of Post 837, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Words and thanks were given by Magdalen I. Iskra, Sr. Branch 172 president and District president. A poem was read by Antoinette Kravits, Sr. Branch 86 president. The program was closed with the singing of "God Bless America", led by Barbara Ceklosky, Jr. Branch 362 treasurer.

Join Hands Day is a national day of service created and sponsored by America's Fraternal Benefit Societies in partnership with the Points of Light Foundation. The day is to bring youth and adults together in a project which will make a difference in a community or someone's life. The FCSLA's branches and district have wholeheartedly supported this venture since its initiation. Those present were thanked for their volunteerism and service. Donations were made by

Sr. Branches 65, 86, 172, and 360, of which Rita Kcenich is president, to Post 837 who supports the Veterans at the local Veterans Medical Center in Plains, PA.

This project prepared the cemeteries for Memorial Day which was celebrated on May 25 across our country, paying tribute to the men and women who served our country in times of war and peace.

Other volunteers that participated in this event were JoAnn Klinesmith, Sr. Branch 65, Jeff Klinesmith, Frank Ceklosky, Fred Graham, and Denise Davies.



L-R: Magdalen I. Iskra, Antoinette Kravits, Barbara Ceklosky, Lauren Shemansky, Theresa Ceklosky (Grandmother of Lauren); and Martha Iskra in front of St. Mary's Byzantine Chapel.



L-R: Arthur Stofey, Barbara Ceklosky, Ann Dougher (Branch 65), Stephen Prevuznak, Magdalen I. Iskra, and James McNulty, Commander, Post 837; and Lauren Shemansky, holding the American flag.



Front row, L-R: Ann Dougher, Celeste Hess, Lauren Shemansky, Barbara Ceklosky, Stephen Prevuznak, Magdalen Iskra, Antoinette Kravits, James McNulty, Martha Iskra, Audrey Graham. Middle row: Arthur Stofey, Joy Fuller, Theresa Ceklosky, Susan Kennedy, Linda Shemansky, Norman Saraka, George Ference, Debbie Doyle, Stanley Zenda. Back row: Donald Fuller, Brandon Fuller, Bill Kennedy, David Ceklosky, Andrew Korlarchick.



Military veterans with branch officers: Arthur Stofey, Ann Dougher, Andrew Korlarchick, Stephen Prevuznak, Norman Saraka, Antoinette Kravits, Bill Kennedy, Stanley Zenda, Magdalen Iskra, and James McNulty.



Stephen Prevuznak and Antoinette Kravits (S086).



Stephen Prevuznak and Magdalen I. Iskra (S172).

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITY

Branches 58 and 81 Racing for Education

On May 15, 2015 St. John the Baptist School held its annual Race for Education. Officers and members of **Branch J58 and S81** volunteered to distribute water bottles and help with first aid as students walked or ran laps around the course. Other volunteers punched the students race cards as they completed laps. Preschoolers started the day off in the main parking lot and the classes continued to race throughout the day. Older students walked with their classes to the



football field to race around the track. Everyone was treated to lunch and dessert followed by an assembly in

the gym to announce winners. Reagan Klapak collected the most pledges in our organization. Michael Markovich won a medal for completing the most laps out of the eighth graders. As of May 20th the school has raised over \$16,000, with more pledges still coming in. Our junior members raised over \$1,500. St. John School will also receive an additional \$600 from the home office because this was a matching funds event. The race is an annual fundraiser for the school and results in helping to keep tuition costs low.



An Afternoon of Fun and Food

Sr. Branch 23 and Jr. Branch 130 sponsored a luncheon and water park afternoon at Country Springs Hotel and Water Park, Waukesha, WI on Sunday, April 12. The event was attended by approximately 60 members and guests.





IN MEMORIAM

CLARA C. DVORAK, W008



Clara C. Dvorak, 80, of Dodge, NE, died February 6, 2015. Clara Caroline Reisdorff was born April 8, 1934 to Earl and Agnes (Kozisek) Reisdorff at David City and graduated from David City High School in 1952. On July 30, 1966, Clara married Herman E. Dvorak at St. Mary's Catholic Church in David City. The couple resided on the farm 5½ miles northwest of Dodge in Cuming County. She had been employed at

the Egg Plant in David City, Schweser's, Howells Poultry Processing, and Park View Nursing Home. Clara was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Altar Society, Christian Mothers, and Neighborhood Card Club. Survivors include her husband, Herman E. Dvorak of Dodge; daughter Teresa (Tom) Arens of Hartington; sons Paul (Nancy) of Dodge, and Roger (Kim) of Norfolk; eight grandchildren; sisters-in-law Sharon Reisdorff of David City, Sr. Irene Dvorak of Omaha, and Martha (Jerry) Minchow of Davey; brother-in-law Fr. Frank Dvorak of Omaha; nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents; and brothers Bernard and Joseph Reisdorff.

WILLIAM "BILL" MUSICK, S623



William, "Bill" Musick, 67, of Ogallala, NE, passed away February 3, 2015. He was born November 5, 1947 in Grant, NE, the son of Earnest and Hazel (Fisher) Musick. He graduated from Perkins County High School in 1967. He was drafted into the Marines in 1968 and served in Vietnam. Upon being honorably discharged from the service, he went to work for Archer Transfer in Ogallala, NE. He was married to

Laura (Stinnette) Burns on July 20, 1978 in Grant, NE. The family continued to live in Ogallala, NE where Bill always enjoyed spending time with family, especially his grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father and mother; father-in-law Les Stinnette. He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Laura of Ogallala; two sons Robert of Stapleton and Lonnie of Ogallala; three grandsons; one brother Randy Musick and his wife Angela of Grant, NE; one sister Rhonda Kogl and her husband John of Holdrege, NE; mother-in-law Eithel Stinnette of Ogallala, NE; two brothers-in-law Jack Stinnette and his wife Christy of Imperial, NE; Andy Stinnette of Lincoln, NE and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

MARGARET M. VUKOVCAN, S77



Margaret M. Vukovcan, 95, of Port Vue, PA, passed away on April 4, 2015 in Mt. Vernon of Elizabeth. Born August 13, 1919 in Port Vue, she was a daughter of the late Andrew and Mary (Mular) Gdovic. A member of St. Mark's Parish of Port Vue, the former Holy Trinity Parish in McKeesport and its Christian Mothers, Margaret was a member of both the Port Vue and St. Martin de Porres Seniors, a member and

former auditor for the Jednota Lodge Sr. Branch 77. She loved to sew, crochet, quilt, cook, and her ladylock cookies will be sorely missed, but not as much as her will of kindness. She joins her

husband, the late George M. "Yutie" Vukovcan, who passed away July 17, 1998, her son George B. Vukovcan, her four sisters, and four brothers. Margaret is survived by her daughters Gladys (Ray) Bacco of Duluth, GA and Patricia L. (Larry) Day of Waldorf, MD (former Br. 77 Financial Secretary); four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; her stepbrother John Gdovic of Greenock, PA, and also nieces and nephews.

ANNAROSE M. TOPOLOSKY, S344



Annarose M. (Brayer) Topolosky, 92, was born December 29, 1922 and died on January 28, 2015. She graduated from Campbell Memorial High School in 1940. She attended Bliss College in Columbus, and Kent State University, where she earned certification as a lab technician. She was employed by several physicians, medical labs and finally Sealtest Dairy for six

years. Annarose married Joseph P. Topolosky on July 8, 1950. Annarose loved her family and her church, St. James the Apostle, and was an avid gardener, known for her incredible roses. She leaves two sons, CDR John Topolosky (Susan Landmark) USN (Ret.) of Neptune Beach, FL, and Raymond Topolosky of New Bedford, PA; and three daughters, Joan Head of Bethel Park, PA, Dr. Betty Ann Topolosky of New Castle, and Clair Carpenter of Scottsdale, AZ. In addition, she leaves her beloved seven grandchildren; one step-grandson, and seven great-grandchildren. Annarose was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph; her daughter, Veronica; and her parents, Michael and Anna Hudak Brayer. In lieu of flowers, please send memorial contributions to St. James the Apostle Parish, 4019 US 422, Pulaski, PA 16143.

CHARLES F. SIS, W074



Charles "Chuck" Frank Sis, 78, passed away February 11, 2015. Chuck, the third child of seven children born to Charles and Eleanora (Sramek) Sis was born February 28, 1936, at the family farm near Stratton, NE. He attended high school in Atwood, KS, where he lived with his grandmother. After high school, he was

drafted into the Navy. After his release from the Navy, he worked in a grocery store and was soon transferred to Plainville, KS to manage the produce department. It was there that he met his future wife Patricia. They were married in Damar, KS on June 6, 1959. Survivors include his wife Patricia; four daughters, Monica Jastrabin, Greeley, CO; Lisa (Bob Jones), Payson, AZ; Gail (Brad Petch), Grand Junction, CO; Kimberly (Bruce Johnson), Grand Junction, CO; 6 grandchildren; 2 brothers Leo (Margaret), Omaha, NE; and Michael (Diane), Atwood, KS; a sister Freda (Don Menze), Hutchinson, KS and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Memorial contributions to Sacred Heart Church Building Fund, 433 East Aspen Avenue, Fruita, CO 81521.

JAMES J. VRABEL, S081

James J. Vrabel, 83, of Whiting, IN, passed away February 8, 2015. He was born on September 25, 1931 in Whiting, IN to George and Ann (Poracky) Vrabel and was a lifelong resident. He was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. Jim was a U.S.

Army Veteran of the Korean Conflict and member of the American Legion, Allied Post 369. He was a graduate of George Rogers Clark High School, Class of 1949 and received his Bachelor and Masters Degrees in Education from the Indiana State Teachers College. Jim was a retiree of the Lake Ridge School System of Calumet Township (Grissom and Black Oak Elementary Schools). Memorials to the St. John School Endowment Fund or the Hospice of the Calumet Area would be appreciated. He was the beloved husband for 56 years of the late Carole J. (Winrotte) Vrabel; loving father of Andrea (Mike) Peterson, Jim (Cathy) Vrabel and Laura (Jim) Golembieski; cherished grandpa of four; dearest brother of Ron (Marti) Vrabel, George "Jeep" (Kathy) Vrabel and late twin brother Donald Vrabel; fond brother-in-law of Dorothy Vrabel; dear nephew of Dorothy Hoover; proud uncle of many nieces and nephews; devoted caregiver, Frank Stefaniuk.

HELEN M. HUZICKA, S566



Helen M. Huzicka, 93, died February 11, 2015. She was born August 2, 1921, in Campbell, the daughter of Gabriel and Mary Bugos Makatura. Helen was a 1940 graduate of Campbell Memorial High School and was a lifelong Campbell resident. She enjoyed being a homemaker and taking care of her family. She was a lifelong active parishioner of Christ the Good Shepherd Parish at St. John Catholic Church, where she was a member of the choir for more than 60 years. Helen loved music, especially listening to polkas on Sunday mornings, singing and dancing. She was famous for her stuffed cabbage and kolachi, and her clothespin cookies were the best! Her husband, George R. Huzicka, whom she married September 23, 1950, passed away October 23, 1996. Helen leaves to cherish her memories, her daughters, Mary Barbara (Bob) Fleet of Youngstown, Anna Marie (Ken) Zins of Gahanna and Jeannie Henderson of Groveport; her son, William (Maryann) Huzicka of Youngstown; seven grandchildren; two step granddaughters; 15 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and two sisters-in-law. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, George; a brother, Joe Makatura; and three sisters Mary Makatura, Irene Makatura and Mildred Morgan.

JOSEPHINE R. "JODY" HINNENKAMP, W133



Josephine R. "Jody" Hinnenkamp, 95, of Salina, died February 26, 2015. She was born November 9, 1919, on a farm south of Dorance. She graduated from Wilson High School in 1938. She graduated from St. John's Hospital School of Nursing in 1941. Following graduation, she was employed at St. John's Hospital until joining the Army Nurse Corps. She served from 1942 to 1945 with the 77th Evacuation Hospital. During her service, she was in North Africa, Sicily, England, France and the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. She married Robert Hinnenkamp on June 4, 1946. They were inseparable for 68 years. Jody was employed at St. John's Hospital until retiring in 1981. Jody was a member of 4th degree Ladies Knights of Columbus, life member of VFW Post 1432, and life member of American Legion Post 62. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert; parents, Frank and Barbara (Vopat) Zeman; two brothers and six sisters.

Survivors include children, Bob (JoNell) Hinnenkamp, of Harwood, ND, and Leo (Melody) Hinnenkamp and Mary Jo (Steve) Thorp, both of Salina; six grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and a sister-in-law.

DAVID JOSEPH CIVIELLO, JR. S478



David Joseph Civiello, Jr., 47, of New Philadelphia passed away February 22, 2015. Born November 20, 1967 he is a son of David (Laurel) Civiello, Sr. of New Philadelphia and Marie (Larry) Adam of Bowerston. David graduated from Tuscarawas Central Catholic Schools in 1986. He was currently attending Kent State University where he was nearing completion of his business degree. David was co-owner and manager of the former Perfect Pets Shop in Dover. He was an excellent cook and bartender and enjoyed antiquing, fishing, as well as volunteering his time at local food banks and soup kitchens. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his siblings, Dana (Coney) DiGenova, Mellissa (David) Doran, Paul (Amy) Adam, Larry S. (Amy) Adam, Karen (Matt) Kershner, Kathy (Richard) Sanchez, and Laurie Adam; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins. He is preceded in death by paternal grandparents, Carmen and Nellie Civiello and his maternal grandparents, Arthur and Helen Galli. Those wishing to honor his memory by a charitable contribution are encouraged to do so to the Tuscarawas County Humane Society or your local Food Bank.

ROBERTA JOANN LUALLEN, SZJO



Roberta Joann Luallen (Simon) was received into the loving arms of our Lord on January 6, 2015, at the age of 80. Born on May 19, 1934 she was the daughter of the late John and Irene Simon. Roberta, known to friends as Bobbie, will be missed by many. Her loving husband William and her eldest daughter, Louann Fark, precede her in death. She is mourned by her children Laura and husband Robert Slaney, Linda and husband James Heth, Lisa and husband Donald Ziemke Jr., and Brian Luallen and wife Cheri; son-in-law Alan Fark; sister Dianne and husband George Noss; 15 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Roberta, born in Fremont, CA, loved her summer home on Mullet Lake in Michigan and the warmth of the Florida sunshine at her home in Ocala. She traveled the world and enjoyed cruises. Roberta lovingly raised her five children, played organ for her parishes and passed along her talents of baking, crocheting, sewing and knitting to her daughters. The family requests in lieu of flowers that memorial contributions be given to The National Shrine of Cross in the Woods, Indian River, MI (www.crossinthewoods.com)



District Anna Hurban of Chicago Hosts 11th Annual Holiday Party

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, District Anna Hurban of Chicago, hosted its eleventh annual combined Senior Branch Christmas Party at the Orland Chateau in Orland Park, IL on Saturday, December 6, 2014 with a total of 360 senior branch members and guests in attendance. District members and their guests enjoyed many great conversations while catching up on the years' events before and during the luncheon. Fr. Emil Hoffman, CM, a visiting priest from Slovakia and helping out at St. Simon Slovak Parish in Chicago during the holidays, gave the blessing before the meal. This year the new Chairperson for the event, Barb Schultz, added some new twists to the menu and everyone feasted on a flavorful family style meal, which included the traditional Slovak roasted pork, smoked Polish sausage with sauerkraut, oven baked chicken with dressing, buttered parsley potatoes, vegetable medley and beef barley soup. Everything was deliciously prepared and scrumptious!

Both our National President, Cynthia Maleski, and National Secretary, Sue Ann Seich, were in attendance, along with Fr. Emil Hoffman, CM, a Vincentian priest from the Congregation of the Mission of St. Vincent DePaul, Slovakia Province.

Later in the program, the District sponsored its annual raffle of many, many prizes and gift cards to various entities in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20 and \$25. With a surprise visit from Santa, District Junior Members who were in attendance acted as prize runners to help distribute the gifts to the raffle winners who

shouted "Kapusta, Koláčiky, Bingo" or another favorite Slovak word upon hearing their winning number. The wonderful event, started by Marge Krugley has been a favorite now for the entire District and surrounding areas. District President, Mary Therese Tylus stated, "Once again, everyone had a wonderful time renewing old friendships, making new ones and reminding everyone of the wonderful FCSLA products and upcoming District events! Truly the room was electrified with folks meeting and greeting one another, renewing old friendships and acquaintances and forging new ones."

A special thank you goes out to Barb Schultz, chairperson of the event, the raffle prize shoppers Lorraine Gibas, Carol Rosenthal and Helen Bendik-Grygus, gift card purchaser Barbara Mugavero, Fay Hlubocky - "Santa", gift runner coordinator Jarmila Hlubocky, raffle ticket sales coordinator Marge Krugley, and photographer Jeanette Palanca. A huge thank you to the co-chairs for the beautiful centerpieces, Sherry Ebenau and Jori Knizner-Gillen and their crew: Emily, Emma and Patti Minelli, Mary Fish, Judy Tybor-Knizner and Joyce Kelly who worked hard throughout the year creating them. And last, but not least, thank you to the entire District Board and Branch Officers for working so hard in making it such another memorable event for our members and their guests.

So mark your calendar for next year's party on Saturday, December 5, 2015 – same time, same place! (To see all of the photos from this event, please go to <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)





FSNEPA Installs New Officers

The Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania's new president for the year 2015 is Magdalen I. Iskra, president of the Magdalen I. Iskra District of the FCSLA. Ann Dougher, secretary/treasurer of FCSLA's Sr. Branch 65 and District Auditor, has assumed the position of FSNEPA's first vice president.

The new officers were installed at the Christmas luncheon held at the Radisson Hotel in Scranton, PA, on December 16, 2014. The FCSLA is one of the fraternal societies of the FSNEPA and is represented by Magdalen I. Iskra, Ann Dougher, and Martha Iskra.

The FSNEPA was founded in 1982 by Bernard Golubiewski and Charlotte Androckitis who have promoted the society's activities and charitable works of mercy throughout the years. At the December Christmas luncheon/meeting, a raffle was held and the proceeds of \$600 were donated to St. Joseph's Center in Scranton, PA.

The 2015 Christmas luncheon/meeting will include an FCSLA matching fund raffle. The proceeds will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Msgr. Joseph P. Kelly, Executive Director of the Kitchen, who will retire at the end of 2015, is expected to be present to accept the donation on behalf of the kitchen.



New officers, L-R: John Andrzejewski, secretary/treasurer, who is National Secretary/Treasurer of the Polish National Union of America; Ann Dougher, Magdalen I. Iskra, and Charlotte Androckitis, CEO/National Secretary of the Polish Union of U.S.A., board member who administered the oath of office.

St. Ann's Sr. Branch 114 Annual Luncheon and Meeting

St. Ann's Sr. Branch 114 will hold their annual luncheon and meeting to honor our scholarship winners on Sunday, July 19. It will start at 1:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway in Lorain, OH. Please make your reservations no later than Tuesday, July 14 by calling Bernie Danevich at 440-960-2605 or Marge Thomas at 440-288-1492. All members are invited to attend.

BRANCH 137 BRANCH EVENTS HELD RECENTLY

Branch 137 (Cedar Rapids, IA) recently held two activities for their members:

- **Sunday February 8, 2015** — an adult only wine tasting was held at St. Ludmila parish hall. Snacks were paired with wines. Gift bags were given to all participants.

- **Sunday, April 12, 2015** — a family swim party was held at Bender pool. Swimmers were able to play on the Wibits, play basketball or just splash around. Sloppy Joes were served for dinner.



TerryAnn Defenser, (S289, Gary, IN) recently was awarded the Outstanding Staff Customer Service Employee of the Year Award for Indiana University Northwest. Chancellor William Lowe presented the award at a recognition luncheon.

Blízko lesa žil chudobný drevorubač so svojou ženou a dvoma deťmi. Chlapec sa volal Hansel a dievča Gretel. Mali veľmi málo čo jesť drevorubač nad tým rozmýšľal raz v posteli a pýtal sa ženy: “Čo sa s nami stane? Ako mám kŕmiť naše ubohé deti, keď nič nemáme ani pre nás”.

“Niečo ti poviem manžel” odpovedala žena, “skoro ráno zajtra zoberieme deti do najhustejšieho lesa, urobíme oheň a dáme im jeden kus chleba a potom deti necháme samotné. Nenájdu cestu domov a zbabúrujú sa ich!”

“Nie žena” povedal muž, “ja to nespravím, nemôžem nechať moje deti v lese samé.”

“Ty si blázon, tak my potom máme zomrieť od hladu.” A nedala mu pokoj dokiaľ nesúhlasil.

Deti tiež nespali od hladu a počuli čo povedala macocha ich otcovi. Gretel zaplakala a povedala Hansel “už je s nami koniec.”

“Buď ticho Gretel” povedal Hansel, “neboj sa ničो vymyslím.” A keď rodičia zaspali, vstal, obliekol si kabát, otvoril dvere a vyšiel von. Mesiac svietil a malé kamene ktoré boli pred domom sa trblietali ako strieborné peniaze. Hansel sa zohol a dal si do vrecka toľko kameňov koľko sa zmestilo. Potom sa vrátil do domu a povedal Gretel. “Už sa neboj, sestra, spi, Boh nás ochráni od zlého” a tiež išiel spať. Keď svietlo, ale slnko ešte nevstalo, macocha prišla deti zobudiť.

“Vstávajte lenivci”! Ideme do lesa nazbierať drevo.” Dala im malý kus chleba a povedala: “Tu je vaša večera ale nejzte to teraz lebo už nič iné nedostanete. Gretel zobrala chlieb lebo Hansel mal vo vreckách kamene. Potom sa všetci vybrali do lesa. Ešte neboli ďaleko a Hansel sa obrátil, pozrel na dom a začal hádzať kamene na cestu. Keď už boli hlboko v lese otec povedal:

“Teraz nazberajte drevo, deti, ja urobím oheň, aby vám nebolo zima. A žena povedala:

“Deti ľahnite si a odpočinite si, my ešte nazbierame viac dreva, a potom pre vás prídeme.”

Deti sedeli pri ohni, oči sa im zatvorili a zaspali. Keď sa zobudili, bola noc. Gretel začala plakať a povedala:

“Ako nájdeme cestu domov?” Hansel povedal: “Len počkaj chvíľu, keď mesiac vyjde, a potom nájdeme cestu von z lesa. Keď mesiac vyšiel, Hansel chytil sestru za ruku, videl kamene ktoré im ukázali cestu domov. Išli celú noc ale ráno sa dostali domov. Zabúchali na dvere, žena ich otvorila, videla že sú to Gretel a Hansel a povedala: “Vy zlé deti prečo ste tak dlho spali v lese?” My sme si nemysleli, že sa vrátite.” Ale otec bol rád, že sa deti vrátili. Zanedlho bol zase hlad a žena povedala mužovi: “Všetko sme zjedli už máme len polovicu chleba a to je všetko. Deti musia ísť preč, zoberieme ich ďalej do lesa, aby nenašli cestu von z lesa lebo ináč sa my nezachránime. Deti všetko počuli. Keď rodičia zaspali Hansel chcel ísť von nazbierať kamene ale macocha zamkla dvere a Hansel sa nedostal von. Skoro ráno ich macocha zobudila a dala im kus chleba. Na cestu do lesa Hansel chlieb pomelil na kúsky a hadzal ich aby mohli, nájsť cestu domov.

Macocha zaviedla deti do hlbokého lesa zase sa nakládol oheň, deti zaspali a keď prišla noc, nikto pre deti neprišiel. Keď sa deti zobudili Hansel povedal Gretel: “Len počkaj keď zasvieti mesiac, potom nájdeme cestu domov. Keď vyšiel mesiac nevideli kúsky chleba lebo ich vtáci zjedli. Hansel a Gretel nevedeli nájsť cestu domov. Chodili celú noc aj celý deň ale nenašli cestu von z lesa, boli veľmi hladní, lebo nič nejedli len nejaké maliny. Keď už boli veľmi unavení ľahli si a zaspali. Tri dni blúdili po lese keď uvideli bieleho vtáka.

Keď odletel, deti išli za ním a dostali sa k malému domu. Dom bol spravený z chleba a torty a okná boli z cukru. Hansel povedal sestre: “Ja zjem trochu zo strechy a ty jedz okná.” Keď začali jesť, dvere sa otvorili a veľmi stará žena prišla von. Deti sa zľakli ale žena povedala: “Deti, kto vás sem pri viedol? Podte dovnútra, nič sa vám nestane.”

Priviedla ich do domu a ponúkla im jesť a piť – mlieko, palacinky s cukrom, jablká a orechy. Daj malé posteľe boli pre nich pripravené.

Ale stará žena sa len pretvarovala že je dobrá, bola vlastne striga, ktorá čakala na deti, ktoré potom chcela zjesť. Striga zatvorila Hansel do maštale a Gretel musela variť a upratovať a kŕmiť Hansel. Najlepšie jedlá sa varili pre Hansel ale Gretel mala len čo ostalo. Každé ráno prišla striga do maštale a povedala: “Hansel, daj mi tvoj prst aby som videla či si už dosť vykrmený. Hansel však vystrčil kosť a striga dobre nevidela a nechápala ako je to možné, že Hansel netlstne. Po štyroch týždňoch už nechcela dlhšie čakať. “No Gretel,” povedala dievčaťu “choď pre vodu. Nech je Hansel chudý alebo tlstý, zajtra ho zabijem a uvarím.”

“Ale najprv niečo upečieme” povedala stará žena. “Pozri sa do pece” rozkázala striga, “pozri či je dobre zohriata aby sme mohli upiecť chlieb.” Striga chcela upiecť aj Gretel ale ona vedela čo má striga na mysli a povedala: “Ja neviem ako to mám urobiť ako to mám vidieť. Stará žena povedala: “Dvere sú veľké, pozri aj ja to môžem vidieť.” Dala hlavu do pece, Gretel ju sotila do pece a zavrela dvere, striga zhorela.

Gretel utekala do maštale a kričala: “Hansel sme zachránení! Stará striga je mŕtva!”

Deti sa tešili, objali sa, tancovali a aj sa bozkali. Nemuseli sa strigi báť išli do domu a v každom kúte našli pokladnice s perlami a šperkami.

“Sú lepšie ako kamienky”! Povedal Hansel a dal si ich do vreckách. Gretel povedala: “Ja tiež zoberiem niečo z nich domov” a dala ich do zástery.

“Ale teraz ideme preč” povedal Hansel, “Ideme preč z tohoto lesa.”

Prešli cez les a zrazu sa im zdalo že vedia kde sú. Išli ďalej a uvideli dom ich otca. Utekali do domu a hodili sa do nárvčia otca. Otec sa veľmi trápil, že nechal deti v lese. Jeho zlá žena náhle zomrela. Gretel vyprázdnila zásteru až všetky perle a drahé kamene boli po celej izbe. Hansel vyprázdnil svoje vrecká. Odvtedy žili v úplnom šťastí.

Hansel and Gretel

(Please enjoy the English translation of the tale on Page 19)

Hard by a great forest dwelt a poor wood-cutter and his wife and his two children. The boy was called Hansel and the girl Gretel. He had little to bite and to break, and once when great dearth fell on the land, he could no longer procure even daily bread. Now when he thought over this by night in his bed, and tossed about in his anxiety, he groaned and said to his wife: "What is to become of us? How are we to feed our poor children, when we no longer have anything even for ourselves?" "I'll tell you what, husband," answered the woman, "early tomorrow morning we will take the children out into the forest where it is the thickest; there we will light a fire for them, and give each of them one more piece of bread, and then we will go to our work and leave them alone. They will not find the way home again, and we shall be rid of them." No, wife," said the man, "I will not do that; how can I bear to leave my children alone in the forest? "O, you fool!" said she, "then we must all four die of hunger," and she left him no peace until he consented."

The two children had also not been able to sleep for hunger, and had heard what their step-mother had said to their father. Gretel wept bitter tears, and said to Hansel: "Now all is over with us." "Be quiet, Gretel," said Hansel, "do not distress yourself, I will soon find a way to help us." And when the old folks had fallen asleep, he got up, put on his little coat, opened the door below, and crept outside. The moon shone brightly, and the white pebbles which lay in front of the house glittered like real silver pennies. Hansel stooped and stuffed the little pocket of his coat with as many as he could get in. Then he went back and said to Gretel: "Be comforted, dear little sister, and sleep in peace, God will not forsake us," and he lay down again in his bed. When day dawned, but before the sun had risen, the woman came and awoke the two children, saying: "get up, you sluggards! we are going into the forest to fetch wood." She gave each a little piece of bread, and said: "There is something for your dinner, but do not eat it up before then, for you will get nothing else." Gretel took the bread under her apron, as Hansel had the pebbles in his pocket. Then they all set out together on the way to the forest. When they had walked a short time, Hansel stood still and peeped back at the house, and started to throw one of the white pebble-stones out of his pocket on the road.

When they had reached the middle of the forest, the father said: "Now children, pile up some wood, and I will light a fire that you may not be cold." Hansel and Gretel gathered brushwood together, as high as a little hill. The brushwood was lighted, and when the flames were burning very high, the woman said: "Now, children, lay yourselves down by the fire and rest, we will go into the forest and cut some wood. When we have done, we will come back and fetch you away."

Hansel and Gretel sat by the fire, and when noon came, each ate a little piece of bread. And as they had been sitting such a long time, their eyes closed with fatigue, and they fell fast asleep. When at last they awoke, it was already a dark night. Gretel began to cry and said: "How are we to get out of the forest now?" But Hansel comforted her and said: "Just wait a little, until the moon has risen, and then we will soon find the way." And when the full moon had risen, Hansel took his little sister by the hand, and followed the pebbles which shone like newly-coined silver pieces, and showed them the way.

They walked the whole night long, and by break of day came

once more to their father's house. They knocked at the door, and when the woman opened it and saw that it was Hansel and Gretel, she said: "You naughty children, why have you slept so long in the forest? — we thought you were never coming back at all!" The father, however, rejoiced, for it had cut him to the heart to leave them behind alone.

Not long afterwards, there was once more great dearth throughout the land, and the children heard their mother saying at night to their father: "Everything is eaten again, we have one half loaf left, and that is the end. The children must go, we will take them farther into the wood, so that they will not find their way out again; there is no other means of saving ourselves!"

The children, however, were still awake and had heard the conversation. When the old folks were asleep, Hansel again got up, and wanted to go out and pick up pebbles as he had done before, but the woman had locked the door, and Hansel could not get out. Nevertheless he comforted his little sister, and said: "Do not cry, Gretel, go to sleep quietly, the good God will help us."

Early in the morning came the woman, and took the children out of their beds. Their piece of bread was given to them, but it was still smaller than the time before. On the way into the forest Hansel crumbled his in his pocket, and often stood still and threw a morsel on the ground.

The woman led the children still deeper into the forest, where they had never in their lives been before. Then a great fire was again made, and the mother said: "Just sit there, you children, and when you are tired you may sleep a little; we are going to the forest to cut wood, and in the evening when we are done, we will come and fetch you away." When it was noon, Gretel shared her piece of bread with Hansel, who had scattered his by the way. Then they fell asleep and evening passed, but no one came to the poor children. They did not awake until it was a dark night, and Hansel comforted his little sister and said: "Just wait, Gretel, until the moon rises, and then we shall see the crumbs of bread which I have strewn about, they will show us our way home again." When the moon came they set out, but they found no crumbs, for the many thousands of birds which fly about in the woods and fields had picked them all up. Hansel said to Gretel: "We shall soon find the way," but they did not find it. They walked the whole night and all the next day too from morning till evening, but they did not get out of the forest, and were very hungry, for they had nothing to eat but two or three berries, which grew on the ground. And as they were so weary that their legs would carry them no longer, they lay down beneath a tree and fell asleep.

It was now three mornings since they had left their father's house. They began to walk again, but they always came deeper into the forest, and if help did not come soon, they must die of hunger and weariness. When it was mid-day, they saw a beautiful snow-white bird, and they followed it until they reached a little house, on the roof of which it alighted; and when they approached the little house they saw it was built of bread and covered with cakes, but that the windows were of clear sugar. "We will set to work on that," said Hansel, "and have a good meal. I will eat a bit of the roof, and you Gretel, can eat some of the window, it will taste sweet." Hansel reached up above, and broke

(Continued on Page 21)

Hansel and Gretel

(Continued from Page 20)

off a little of the roof to try how it tasted, and Gretel leaned against the window and nibbled at the panes. Suddenly the door opened, and a woman as old as the hills, who supported herself on crutches, came creeping out. Hansel and Gretel were so terribly frightened. The old woman, however, nodded her head, and said: "Oh, you dear children, who has brought you here? Do come in, and stay with me. No harm shall happen to you." She took them both by the hand, and led them into her little house. Then good food was set before them, milk and pancakes, with sugar, apples, and nuts. Afterwards two pretty little beds were covered with clean white linen, and Hansel and Gretel lay down in them.

The old woman had only pretended to be so kind; she was in reality a wicked witch, who lay in wait for children, and had only built the little house of bread in order to entice them there. When a child fell into her power, she killed it, cooked and ate it, and that was a feast day with her. Then she seized Hansel with her shriveled hand, carried him into a little stable, and locked him in behind a grated door. Scream as he might, it would not help him. Then she went to Gretel, shook her till she awoke, and cried: "Get up, lazy thing, fetch some water, and cook something good for your brother, he is in the stable outside, and is to be made fat. When he is fat, I will eat him."

And now the best food was cooked for poor Hansel, but Gretel got nothing but crab-shells. Every morning the woman crept to the little stable, and cried: "Hansel, stretch out your finger that I may feel if you will soon be fat." Hansel, however, stretched out a little bone to her, and the old woman, who had dim eyes, could not see it, and thought it was Hansel's finger, and was astonished that there was no way of fattening him. When four weeks had gone by, and Hansel still remained thin, she was seized with impatience and would not wait any longer. "Now, then, Gretel," she cried to the girl, "stir yourself, and bring some water. Let Hansel be fat or lean, tomorrow I will kill him, and cook him." Ah, how the poor little sister did lament when

she had to fetch the water, and how her tears did flow down her cheeks!

"We will bake first," said the old woman, "I have already heated the oven, and kneaded the dough." She pushed poor Gretel out to the oven, from which flames of fire were already darting. "Creep in," said the witch, "and see if it is properly heated, so that we can put in bread in." And once Gretel was inside, she intended to shut the oven and let her bake in it, and then she would eat her, too. But Gretel saw what she had in mind, and said: "I do not know how I am to do it; how do I get in?" "Silly goose," said the old woman. "The door is big enough; just look, I can get in myself!" and she crept up and thrust her head into the oven. Then Gretel gave her a push that drove her far into it, and shut the oven door, and fastened the bolt. The witch was miserably burnt to death.

Gretel, however, ran like lightning to Hansel, opened his little stable, and cried: "Hansel, we are saved! The old witch is dead!" How they did rejoice and embrace each other, and dance about to kiss each other! And as they had no longer any need to fear her, they went into the witch's house, and in every corner there stood chests full of pearls and jewels. "These are far better than pebbles!" said Hansel, and thrust into his pockets whatever could be got in, and Gretel said: "I, too, will take something home with me," and filled her pinafore full. "But now we must be off," said Hansel, "that we may get out of the witch's forest."

They had walked for a short time, the forest seemed to be more and more familiar to them, and at length they saw from afar their father's house. Then they began to run, rushed into the parlor, and threw themselves round their father's neck. The man had not known one happy hour since he had left the children in the forest; the woman however was dead. Gretel emptied her pinafore until pearls and precious stones ran about the room and Hansel threw one handful after another out of his pocket to add to them. They lived together in perfect happiness.

Slovak Heritage Group Meetings Schedule for 2015

The WPSCA will present the Slovak Heritage Programs on the first Monday evening of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Mount Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228; phone (412) 531-1912. It's free for both members and non-members. The agenda is as follows:

➤ **October 5 — SUMMER SCHOOL IN SLOVAKIA:** Bethany Kaylor, the 2014 WPSCA Scholarship winner, will tell us about her experiences attending the summer language and culture classes at Comenius University in Bratislava. Since Bethany is still a student at the University of Oregon, she has prepared a video of her experiences.

➤ **November 2 — SLOVAK MUSIC AND SONGS:** Jerry Jumba, the famous Slovak musician, will be back to present his translation of Slovak songs. His previous presentation in February 2013, was cut short by a snow storm.

42nd Annual Slovak Day Celebration in Merrillville, IN

Come and celebrate the 42nd Annual Slovak Day on Sunday, July 19, 2015. The celebration starts with a 10:30 a.m. Catholic mass at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine, Merrillville, IN. The mass will be followed by ethnic food, drink, a cash raffle and dancing. This year traditional Slovak dances are showcased. Cash raffle tickets will be available.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine is located at 5755 Pennsylvania St. (Broadway), Merrillville, IN. For more information visit www.facebook.com/SlovakDayCelebration or contact Betty Yurechko at 219-795-1518.



Helen Kocan Okres District Members Attend Tamburitzans Performance

On Sunday, March 15, 2015, The Duquesne University Tamburitzans performed at Munster High School in Munster, IN. This year, Liz Dedinsky, Betty Skvarek, Betty Ortiz, Agnes Chervenak, Joann Skvarek Banvich and Susan Pardek Ajdinovich of the Helen Kocan District from Lake County, IN attended this event.

The Duquesne University Tamburitzans, headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA are the longest running multicultural song and dance company in the United States. The group performs music and dance from Eastern Europe and its neighboring folk cultures. At the reception following the performance Joann Skvarek Banvich, Vice President of the Helen Kocan Okres District requested two of the dancers to join the Indiana ladies in photos only to find that a fellow FCSLA member from the Pittsburgh District was one of the performers. Sonja Ann Capuzzi from Sr. Branch 200 was a FCSLA Scholarship recipient in 2014-2015. The fraternalist from Indiana enjoyed meeting and speaking with one of their own talented younger members from out East. The event was enjoyed by all.



REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2015

ASSETS	
Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 25,264,460
Bonds	734,650,073
Preferred Stock	2,105,553
Common Stock	5,673,126
Investment Income Due & Accrued	11,180,714
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,794,219
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	3,141,896
Other Assets	165,510
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 787,975,552
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 251,603,395
Annuity Reserves	421,785,836
Death Claims Payable	2,284,605
Unearned Premiums	520,450
Matured Endowments	338,848
Provision for Dividends Payable	2,591,730
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,207,502
Accrued Convention Donations	765,289
Provision for Future Conventions	525,568
Asset Valuation Reserve	7,636,790
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,001,969
Other Liabilities	987,846
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 694,249,828
Surplus	\$ 93,725,724
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 787,975,552

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Two Months Ending February 28, 2015

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 1,096,565
Annuity Premiums	6,453,481
Investment Income	6,607,485
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	15,017
Rental Income	59,689
Other Revenue	2,489
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 14,234,727
EXPENSE	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 728,395
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	5,535,400
Insurance Benefits	996,029
Annuity Benefits	3,547,133
Commission Expense	162,388
Surrender Benefits	522,141
Post Mortem Benefits	243,138
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	4,453
Matured Endowments	4,039
Donation Expenses	1,230
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	40,744
Convention Expenses	26,000
Bank Service Charges	210
Data Processing Service Fees	24,632
Accounting Fees	0
Actuarial Fees	22,443
Consulting Fees	22,528
Bonus to Branches	141,666
Fraternal Activities	9,700
Official Publications	46,695
Scholarship Awards	43,090
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	69,944
Fees — Directors	22,316
Salaries — Employees	226,721
Salaries — Officers	77,424
Interest Expense	44,197
Tax Expense	46,115
Depreciation Expense	42,822
Utility Expense	13,236
Postage and Printing	35,091
Advertising	3,899
Travel Expense	9,313
Insurance Department Fees	35,227
Sales Promotion	44,599
Rental Expense	59,689
Other Expense	65,418
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 12,918,064
Income (Loss) from Operations	\$ 1,316,663
Dividends to Members	432,500
NET INCOME (Loss)	\$ 884,163



Backyard Favorites

TASTY BBQ CORN ON THE COB

- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/8 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 pinch onion powder
- cayenne pepper to taste
- garlic powder to taste
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 6 ears corn, husked and cleaned

Preheat grill for medium-high heat. In a medium bowl, mix together the chili powder, oregano, onion powder, cayenne pepper, garlic powder, salt, and pepper. Blend in the softened butter. Apply this mixture to each ear of corn, and place each ear onto a piece of aluminum foil big enough to wrap the corn. Wrap like a burrito, and twist the ends to close.

Place wrapped corn on the preheated grill, and cook 20 to 30 minutes, until tender when poked with a fork. Turn corn occasionally during cooking.

ITALIAN HERB POTATO SALAD

- 6-8 cooked, diced potatoes
- 5 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
- 1/2 small onion, chopped
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 2 tablespoons Italian herb seasoning
- 1 3/4 cups mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons mustard
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- Paprika to taste

Combine first 4 ingredients in large bowl. In separate bowl, blend next 7 ingredients until creamy. Fold together contents from bowls into a serving bowl; sprinkle with paprika. Cover; chill 2-3 hours, or overnight before serving. Makes 6-8 servings.

BERRY GOOD BARBEQUE CHICKEN DIP

- 1 can whole-berry cranberry sauce
- 1 bottle chili sauce
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon coarse brown mustard
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 tablespoon cider vinegar
- 4 cups cooked chicken, shredded
- 2 pkg. Neufchatel cheese, softened
- 1 lb. Monterey Jack cheese, shredded
- Small bunch of green onions cut up for garnish

Lightly coat 9x13 glass casserole dish with olive oil. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Spread Neufchatel cheese in dish and press out evenly on the bottom (put some oil on your fingers to make this easy.) Cover with a light layer of shredded Monterey jack. Set aside.

Put cranberry sauce, chili sauce, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, red pepper, and vinegar in a food processor. Pulse to combine. You want the cranberries to still have some texture, so don't puree.

Put chicken in a large bowl. Spoon about 1/2 cup of barbeque sauce over it and stir well. Keep adding a few spoonfuls until all of the chicken is coated and the mixture holds together. Add a bit more sauce along with about 1/2 cup shredded Monterey jack and mix just until combined.

Spoon an even layer of chicken mixture into the casserole dishes. Level with the back of a spoon.

Coat with the remaining shredded Monterey jack cheese. Bake, uncovered for 30 minutes. Remove and top with green onions. Serve immediately with snack crackers.

RED PEPPER HUMMUS

- 2 red bell peppers (roasted, skinned and diced)
- 1 1/2 cups (one 15 oz. can) cooked chickpeas, rinsed and drained if canned (equals 1/2 c dry beans soaked overnight and cooked for 45-90 minutes)
- 2-3 medium cloves garlic, peeled
- 1/4 cup raw tahini (sesame paste)
- 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon sea salt (or less if you prefer)
- 1/4 cup vegetable broth
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons toasted pine nuts

Roast red peppers directly over burner on stove until blackened on all sides. Put in a paper bag for 10 minutes. Peel off skin, dice into 1/8" pieces.

In a food processor, blend the garbanzo beans and garlic cloves very well. Add the tahini, lemon juice, salt, broth and oil and process until fully emulsified and creamy. Add 1/2 of the peppers to the mixture in the

food processor and blend (peppers should still be visible.)

Place hummus in a serving bowl and garnish on top with the other 1/2 of the diced peppers. Top with pine nuts. Refrigerate in an airtight container for up to ten days. For best results, allow to warm to room temperature before serving.

BLEU CHEESE & PEAR PUFF PASTRY BITES

- 1 large red onion, sliced into quarters then thin sliced thin
- 2 large red d'Anjou pears, peeled, cored and diced into 1/4" cubes
- 1 package puff pastry
- 1 1/2 tablespoons fresh thyme leaves
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 oz. bleu cheese, crumbled
- 1/2 cup apple wine plus another 1/2 cup apple wine

Heat skillet and add olive oil. Saute onions until browned. Add thyme and saute until fragrant. Deglaze with 1/2 cup apple wine making sure to scrape browned onion layer from pan.

Add diced pears and blend, heating.

Add the other 1/2 cup apple wine and gently heat the entire mixture for a few minutes. Remove from heat and allow to cool before using.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Prepare two baking sheets adding a layer of parchment paper.

Gently roll out puff pastry per the package instructions. Cut with a 1 1/2" diameter circle cutter or suitable cup or glass. This should yield about 48 circles. Place circles onto baking sheets.

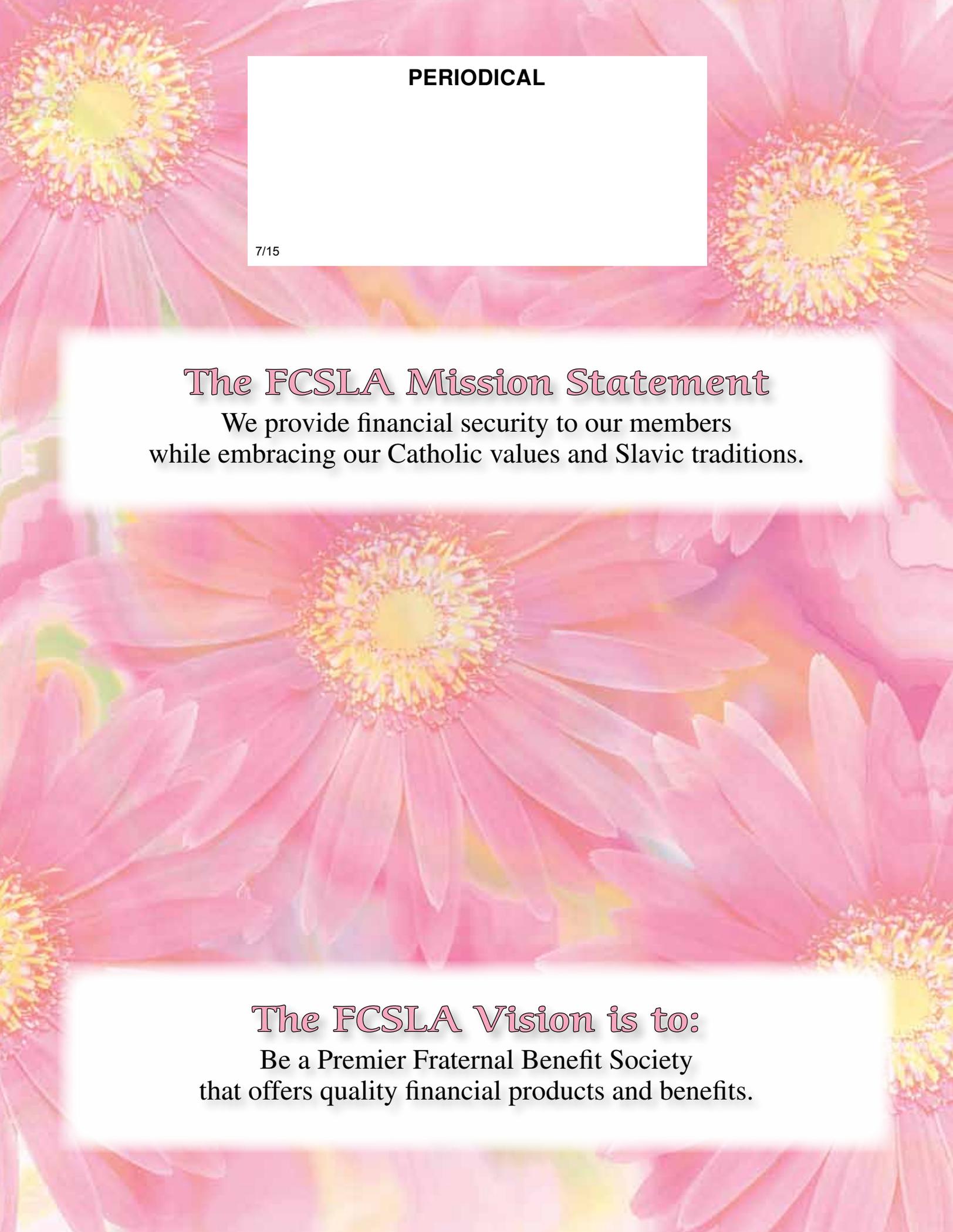
Put about 1 teaspoon of pear/onion mixture on each circle. Follow by a bit of the crumbled bleu cheese.

Bake for 15-20 minutes until puff pastry is cooked through. Serve immediately.

GARLIC PEPPER KALE CHIPS

- 1 bunch curly leaf kale, washed and thoroughly dried
- 3/4 tsp. garlic pepper seasoning
- 1 tablespoon balsamic-basil flavored oil

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cut out the tough middle stem from kale; tear or cut leaves into 2-inch pieces. Toss kale with balsamic-basil flavored oil in a large bowl. Use your fingers to coat each leaf with the oil. Lay the kale on a rimmed baking sheet in a single layer. Sprinkle with garlic pepper seasoning. Bake for about 20 minutes turning them halfway through the cooking time. Check the chips before the bake time is over as some will be ready before others. Serve fresh from the oven. Makes 4-6 servings.

The background of the entire page is a close-up, soft-focus image of several pink daisy flowers with bright yellow centers. The flowers are arranged in a repeating pattern, creating a vibrant and warm aesthetic.

PERIODICAL

7/15

The FCSLA Mission Statement

We provide financial security to our members
while embracing our Catholic values and Slavic traditions.

The FCSLA Vision is to:

Be a Premier Fraternal Benefit Society
that offers quality financial products and benefits.