

Don't miss out on Heritage Center Weekend June 5-7

by KATHY PAULENICH (776)
SNPJ Heritage Center Director

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — The month of May was chilly and rainy for a few weeks, but finally we had a taste of summer weather just in time for an early Memorial Day weekend.

The SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center opened its doors for the season on Saturday, May 23. Committee members have stocked the shelves with our favorite “Napolitanke” wafer cookies and čevapčiči mix. The noodles from Slovenia are scheduled to arrive in mid-June. Be prepared – our prices have increased due to tariffs and shipping costs.

We should have our new adult T-shirts, plus new onesies and toddler shirts, ready by Heritage Center Weekend. Visit our museum this summer and be sure to utilize the QR codes included in the displays.

The EU Open House at the Slovenian Embassy, held May 9, was well received by several thousand visitors. Heritage Center Committee members Ed Robich, Patty Candela, Joan Gaspercic and Kathy Paulenich explained the various items on our traveling museum table and promoted Slovenefest by distributing flyers. Kathy Hlad from Cleveland was the solo musician, playing beautiful Slovenian songs on

her button box. Thank you to the staff at the embassy for their hospitality.

This year, the SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the grand opening of the first Heritage Room, which opened to the public on Sept. 19, 1976, at the Recreation Center. After just one year, the Heritage Room moved from one room to the lower level of the Recreation Center, where it soon expanded.

In 1991, when Joseph C. Evanish became SNPJ National President, the committee for the

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briefly

Lodge 776 slates a June 7 meeting at the Rec Center

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — Lodge 776 will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 7, starting at 2 p.m. at the SNPJ Recreation Center. Lodge members who haven't yet followed our Facebook page, please do so. Search “SNPJ Lodge 776” on Facebook.

For now, we are hosting our meetings live on President Rich Dombrosky's personal Facebook page and we want to host the meetings on the Lodge Facebook page, but need 100 followers to do so. We are doing this for those unable to attend in person, and we encourage all Lodge 776 members to follow our page.

RICH DOMBROSKY
Lodge 776 President

Policy owners, register to access the SNPJ Portal

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The Home Office staff encourages all SNPJ members and agents to register for access to the online SNPJ Portal. The portal can be used by policy owners to review information about their SNPJ life insurance policies and annuities. Agents can use the portal to check on their existing business, pending policies and updates.

To register for the portal, you must access the SNPJ website, snpj.org, and click on any of the “SNPJ Portal” links. You must be a policy owner or an agent to register for the portal. Once enrolled for the SNPJ Portal, members can access policy information that Home Office staff cannot provide over the phone.

We hope you enjoy your SNPJ Portal experience!

THE DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are July 1 and Aug. 3. All material must be received by noon on Monday, June 15, for the July 1 issue, and by Monday, July 20, for the Aug. 3 issue. If you're concerned about making the deadline, send an e-mail to prosveta@snpj.com or submit your material via the publications area of our website, snpj.org.



Bentley Mateo Volpe

Born Nov. 9, 2022
Detroit Lodge 564

SNPJ Lodge 564 members welcome Bentley Mateo Volpe as the newest addition to the Lodge. Bentley is the son of Jacob Volpe (564) and Britney Hudson, the grandson of Shelly and John Volpe (564), and the great-grandson of Ermando Volpe (564) and the late Marion Volpe. We welcome Bentley to the Society and extend our best wishes to his entire family.

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SNPJ information
on the go.
Scan the code
to get started.



And the winner is...

The \$100 winner of the fourth quarter drawing in the 2025 SNPJ Recommender Program is:

Susan DeLost, Lodge 138, Strabane, Pa.

Congratulations, and thank you for participating!



SNPJ Region 1 Vice President **MAURY SINAN** and his wife **KATHLEEN** (at left) presented membership awards to St. Marys Lodge 581 70-year member **JOSEPH BIZZAK** and 50-year members **JOSEPH KALUZA** and **STEVEN BIZZAK**.

St. Marys Lodge 581 recognizes longtime members at April dinner

by MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI
Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

ST. MARYS, Pa. — Lodge 581 honored 15 members who have been active SNPJ members for 50, 60 or 70 years.

All honored members were invited to a dinner on April 25 at the Texas Hot Restaurant in Kane, Pa., to receive their awards in person; however, many were unable to attend because of the distance they would have to travel. Those who attended in person were 50-year members Joseph Kaluza and Steven Bizzak, and 70-year member Joseph Bizzak.

Lodge 581 provided a complimentary dinner for each of the honorees. Our 50-year members received an SNPJ pin, a certificate and an SNPJ Zippo lighter; our 70-year member received a

letter, a fleece blanket and a Zippo lighter.

SNPJ Region 1 Vice President Maury Sinan and his wife, Kathleen, traveled to Kane to personally present the awards and give a short talk. Steve and Joe Bizzak and Joe Kaluza shared great stories of growing up in families in which SNPJ was very important. Steve served as secretary/treasurer of the former Kane Lodge for 13 years until it merged with Lodge 581.

Other members and friends in attendance shared their stories as they enjoyed a special meal with terrific personal service from the Texas Hot staff. Lodge 581 and Texas Hot have both existed for more than a hundred years!

At the Lodge 581 meeting held April 26,

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Call for Candidates SNPJ Recreation Center Committee

This announcement serves as a call to all members interested in serving on the SNPJ Recreation Center Committee. Two positions for terms of three years each will be filled during the Aug. 16, 2026, SNPJ National Board meeting.

- Mileage reimbursement will only be paid up to a 100-mile radius of the SNPJ Recreation Center
- Compensation also includes a \$50 per diem

Resumes for these positions should be forwarded by Aug. 6, 2026, to:

Slovene National Benefit Society

Joseph C. Evanish, National President/CEO
247 West Allegheny Road
Imperial, PA 15126
e-mail: cvalencic@snpj.com

PERIODICAL MATERIAL

SNPJ Lodge 729 annual cleanup draws the Yukon community together

by ROSE MARIE GOVI
Lodge 729 Recording Secretary

YUKON, Pa. — SNPJ Silverstars Lodge 729 completed their 12th annual Community Spring Cleanup on April 11. This has proven to be a very worthwhile project, promoting our Lodge in our small community.

In addition to Lodge members, we welcomed participation from local organizations, including the Yukon Lions Club, Yukon Fire Department, Max Environmental, and the Yukon Minors baseball team. And we can't forget to mention Mama Pepino's of West Newton, Pa., for their delicious pizza. Charles Baker read an inspirational verse before the cleanup began.

This event has brought our local organizations closer together to improve the community. Our group of 34 volunteers collected 81 bags of garbage, 58 tires, two televisions and eight electronic devices. Everyone enjoyed breakfast pastries and coffee before the cleanup, as well as pizza, salad, desserts and heartwarming camaraderie following another positive Lodge-sponsored activity.



Hosted by the members of SNPJ Lodge 729, the 12th annual Yukon (Pa.) Community Cleanup included a group of 34 volunteers who completed a very worthwhile project.

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NATIONAL SECRETARY/COO
Karen A. Pintar

NATIONAL TREASURER/CFO
Robert J. Lawrence

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Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.
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website: www.snpjrec.com
e-mail: snpj@snpjrec.com

**Have something for
Up-and-Coming?**

Lodge/Organization _____

Type of Event _____

Site _____

If a concert or dance, who is
performing? _____

Date _____

Time _____

Who to contact _____

Phone () _____

E-mail _____

Complete and return to:
PROSVETA
247 W. Allegheny Road
Imperial, PA 15126-9774
e-mail: prosveta@snpj.com

Slavija Lodge 1 members provide a helping hand to assist Feed The Children

by MICHELLE HRIBAR-HERNANDEZ
Lodge 1 President

CHICAGO — At the March 8 Slavija Lodge 1 meeting, members reflected on their volunteer efforts with Feed The Children, which took place the previous day, March 7, in Arlington Heights, Ill.

Lodge members and friends worked together in an assembly line hand-packing nutritious meals made of rice, soy, dried vegetables and vitamins. The meals were then sealed, boxed and prepared

for shipment to children in need around the world.

Looking ahead, our Lodge plans to take part in several upcoming community events, including the annual picnic at the Slovene Cultural Center in Lemont, Ill., the Slovenian Grape Festival in Joliet, Ill., and holiday celebrations in December.

The next Lodge meeting will be held Sunday, June 7, starting at 11:30 a.m. at McCook Restaurant in McCook, Ill. For additional information, please contact Secretary Hribar at (708) 598-2570.



In March, Slavija Lodge 1 members volunteered with Feed The Children to prepare meals that were distributed to children in need around the world.

St. Marys Lodge 581 extends awards and appreciation to honored members

LODGE 581 HONORS
FROM PAGE 1

it was mentioned that the Slovenian language class has paused for the summer. Notably, four members are headed to Slovenia and plan to visit their teacher, Lea Udovc, while on a tour. It certainly will be an opportunity to practice their Slovenian language skills.

Additionally, John Troha and Marcia Klancer Bleggi were elected to attend the SNPJ Quadrennial Convention on Aug. 17. Pat Moore was elected as the alternate.

The North Central Pennsylvania Slo-

vene Polka Boosters has scheduled polka dances on June 7 with the Bobby Kravos Band from 2 to 5 p.m. at Wildwoods in St. Marys, and on June 28 with the Skovenski Band and July 19 with the Rex Taneri Band at the Kersey Firemen's. If it's your first time attending, your admission is free. Remember Slovenefest, July 10-12 at the SNPJ Recreation Center!

For more information about Lodge 581 events, contact Lodge Secretary/Treasurer Marcia Klancer Bleggi at (814) 335-4983 or President Pat Moore at (814) 598-2269.



SNPJ Region 1 Vice President **MAURY SINAN** congratulates **STEVEN BIZZAK** as he presents the SNPJ 50-year member award.

Lodge 34 delegates prepare for the Convention in August

by JERRY WATSON
Lodge 34 Secretary/Treasurer

INDIANAPOLIS — *Dober dan!* SNPJ Lodge 34 held its first quarterly meeting of 2026 on March 27 at the Slovenian National Home (SNH). Our Convention delegates, Mary Dragan, Jozef Watson and I, were elected. We will do our best to represent our Lodge at the Convention.

After the election, Mary, Jozef and I prepared the Friday night dinner served

at the SNH.

Our next meeting will be held Saturday, June 20, at the SNH starting at 1 p.m. Our Lodge, along with the SNH, will be celebrating Slovenian Independence Day. Our Lodge will provide the krofi.

A variety of Slovenian soups will be available for sampling; Lodge 34 will provide *jota* (Slovenian sauerkraut soup). Please attend and join in the celebration.



Indianapolis Lodge 34 officers [from left] **JERRY WATSON**, **MARY DRAGAN** and **JOZEF WATSON** were elected to serve as Lodge delegates to the 33rd SNPJ Quadrennial Convention scheduled Aug. 17 at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

Members can help SNPJ save by reading PROSVETA online

IMPERIAL, Pa. — In an effort to curb continually escalating postage rates, *PROSVETA* is asking all SNPJ members to evaluate the need of receiving the newspaper in its printed format. We're also asking all members to provide us with an active e-mail address, and to consider receiving an e-mail link to the online *PROSVETA* issues.

There are numerous benefits to receiving *PROSVETA* online. First of all, the issues are posted to the SNPJ website, *snpj.org*, a week or so prior to the publication date – no more waiting around for your mail carrier to deliver the current issue.

Secondly, archived issues are also available on the website. Click on the the *PROSVETA* archive link and

you'll have years worth of *PROSVETA* issues at your fingertips.

Third, and most importantly, by selecting to receive a *PROSVETA* e-mail reminder, you will help SNPJ save thousands of dollars in postage and printing expenses each year.

So what's your first step to helping *PROSVETA* whittle away at mounting expenses? Send us your

e-mail address. Simply send an e-mail to *snpj@snpj.com* and include your name and the e-mail address at which you would like to receive the online issue reminder.

Still not sure? Do yourself a favor: Pay a visit to *<https://snpj.org/membership/prosveta-publication/>* and see for yourself the conveniences offered by the online *PROSVETA* issues.

Up-and-Coming...

A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

• JUNE 5-7 SNPJ Heritage Center Weekend at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail *snpj@snpjrec.com*.

• JUNE 12-14.... SNPJ Young Adult Conference at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For registration and event details contact Fraternal Director Courtney Valencic at 1-800-843-7675 ext. 144, or e-mail *cvalencic@snpj.com*.

• JULY 10-12The 43rd Slovenefest and the 68th Miss SNPJ Pageant at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For additional information phone the Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail *snpj@snpjrec.com*.

• JULY 26-AUG. 1.....Family Week at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For more information phone the Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail *snpj@snpjrec.com*.

• AUG. 8SNPJ Lodge 643 picnic, noon-4 p.m. in the large pavilion at Tod Park, Girard, Ohio. Music by Anthony Culkar. Food and soft drinks, all inclusive, for \$5. Free admission for SNPJ Lodge 643 members. For more information contact Lodge Secretary Kathy Seifert at (330) 883-2513.

Slovene National Benefit Society National Board Minutes

Meetings held Nov. 10 and Dec. 15, 2025, and Jan. 19, 2026, via conference call; and March 27, 2026, at the SNPJ Home Office, Imperial, Pa.

Minutes of the Conference Call Meeting of the Slovene National Benefit Society National Board held Nov. 10, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by President EVANISH with all National Board members, attorney Todd Martin, and CIO Terry Champ.

This meeting is to review and discuss the recommended changes from attorney Todd Martin to eventually arrive at proposed bylaw changes to be submitted by the National Board to the Convention. Discussion on recommended changes and timeline for review.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KAREN A. PINTAR, FLMI, CCP, AIAA
National Secretary/COO

Minutes of the Conference Call Meeting of the Slovene National Benefit Society National Board held Dec. 15, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by President EVANISH with all National Board members, attorney Todd Martin, and CIO Terry Champ.

This meeting is to review and discuss the recommended changes from attorney Todd Martin to eventually arrive at proposed bylaw changes to be submitted by the National Board to the Convention. Discussion on recommended changes and timeline for review.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KAREN A. PINTAR, FLMI, CCP, AIAA
National Secretary/COO

Minutes of the Conference Call Meeting of the Slovene National Benefit Society National Board held Jan. 19, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by President EVANISH with all National Board members in attendance.

Discussion is held on the bylaws.

A motion is made by Joanna BAKER, second by Maury SINAN, to elect National Board members at large and not by region, and to develop a policy to assign Board members to cover the various Lodges, and that the policy considers desired Board qualifications and allows for regional consideration. Motion approved.

This Board policy is to be drafted before the Convention.

Motion by Roger CLIFFORD, second by Rick HERVOL, that nine members be elected to the Board. Motion approved.

Motion by Joanna BAKER, second by Ken ZAKRAYSEK, to remove the two Lodge meeting requirement in order to run for the National Board. The two-meeting requirement will remain in effect once a member is serving on the National Board. Section 12, Paragraph 2, of the bylaws.

Motion by Tracey ANDERSON, second by Jason CADEZ, to remove the proposed Paragraph 4(6). Motion approved.

Motion by Tina RIGLER, second by Maury SINAN, to change Section 12; Paragraph 4(5), to four years instead of five. Motion approved.

Motion by Joanna BAKER, second by Maury SINAN, to have *PROSVETA* as a digital publication only and derive a plan to implement this at the March National Board meeting. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KAREN A. PINTAR, FLMI, CCP, AIAA
National Secretary/COO

Minutes of the Semiannual Meeting of the Slovene National Benefit Society National Board

Friday, March 27, 2026: Morning Session

The meeting was called to order by President EVANISH with all National Board members and one Young Adult Representative in attendance. Joanna BAKER attended via Teams Meeting.

All rose to extend their fraternal greetings and in memory of all members deceased since the last Board meeting.

President EVANISH reminded everyone that they must be recognized by the Chair in order to speak, and that the Young Adult representative has a voice but no vote.

With no objection, President EVANISH appointed Fred MLAKAR as vice chair for the meeting.

A motion was made by Tina RIGLER, second by Rick HERVOL, to approve the time of session to be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with lunch from 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m., and to approve the Order of Business. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Rick HERVOL, second by Joanna BAKER, to ratify the minutes from the Sept. 26, 2025, meeting. Motion approved.

National President's Report March 2026

Fraternal greetings, Brothers and Sisters. Welcome to our semiannual National Board meeting as we report and discuss the operation of our fraternal organization. We look forward to a positive and informative meeting with a valuable exchange of ideas for the benefit of the Society.

The Board was provided with a Strategic and Succession Planning update at the September meeting. Since that meeting, the Board has worked with attorney Todd Martin on bylaws changes to propose to the Convention in August 2026. The objective is to provide key governance changes that respond to our strategic imperative of setting SNPJ up for future success.

Marketing

Life insurance sales have increased over the previous year. New member enrollment has increased as well. Annuity sales are down compared to the previous year. A new annuity product is being developed for 2026.

National Sales Director David Gombkoto has been successful at recruiting new agents and taking them through the on-boarding process. This has led to increased life insurance sales from newly-appointed agents. He continues to write a monthly column in *PROSVETA*. The Marketing Department continues to promote life insurance and annuities through social media, enhancing the Society's presence and image.

The new illustration program was in development during this period. The life insurance portion was completed at the end of the second quarter. The annuity portion should be completed in the first quarter of 2026.

Fraternal Department

Fraternal Director Courtney Valencic oversees the fraternal programs. She has done a very good job managing and promoting our programs, as well as representing the Society. Throughout this period she has written articles and posted event information on our social media sites. She also administers the scholarship program, member awards and donation programs.

The activity portion of the Lodge Bonus Program continued in 2025. Lodges that sponsor and report on at least four activities, one of which is a community service or charitable benefit project, are designated as a Gold Activity Lodge and receive a \$300 reward. Lodges that sponsor and report on at least two activities are designated as a Silver Activity Lodge and receive a \$200 reward.

Congratulations to the following Lodges for earning the Gold Level for Activity in 2025, thus earning a reward of \$300: Lodge 1, Chicago; Lodge 2, La Salle, Ill.; Lodge 6, Sygan, Pa.; Lodge 8, Chicago; Lodge 34, Indianapolis; Lodge 106, Imperial, Pa.; Lodge 138, Strabane, Pa.; Lodge 142, Cleveland; Lodge 158, Euclid, Ohio; Lodge 218, Denver; Lodge 223, Greensburg, Pa.; Lodge 225, Girard, Kan.; Lodge 358, West Point, Ohio; Lodge 518, Melvindale, Mich.; Lodge 559, Chicago; Lodge 576, Cleveland; Lodge 581, St. Marys, Pa.; Lodge 603, Samsula, Fla.; Lodge 643, Girard, Ohio; Lodge 677, Detroit; Lodge 723, Fontana, Calif.; Lodge 729, Yukon, Pa.; Lodge 745, Grass Valley, Calif.; Lodge 771, Hillsville, Pa.; Lodge 776, Borough of SNPJ, Pa.; Lodge 782, Glenshaw, Pa.; and Lodge 786, Orange County, Calif.

Congratulations to the following Lodges for earning the Silver Level for Activity in 2025, thus earning a reward of \$200: Lodge 304, San Francisco; Lodge 689, Helper, Utah; and Lodge 721, Aliquippa, Pa.

All Lodges will receive a Lodge Activity Reporting Form in the fall of 2026, to be completed and returned by Jan. 15, 2027.

National SNPJ Days held Labor Day weekend saw good participation in the National Balina Tournament and National Bags Tournament. The National Golf Tournament also took place. The Athletic Board members, tournament leaders and volunteers made these tournaments successful.

For the 2025 National Golf Tournament, played at Rolling Acres Golf Course, there were 12 men's teams, 57 individual men, and eight individual women competing, resulting in a Society remuneration of \$791. The National Balina Tournament hosted 18 men's teams and 12 women's teams, resulting in a remuneration of \$840. The National Bean Bag Toss Tournament had 21 men/co-ed teams and eight women's teams competing, resulting in a remuneration of \$406.

The 2025 SNPJ National Bowling Tournament was held Oct. 10-12, co-sponsored by SNPJ Lodge 6 and SNPJ Lodge 138. Bowling took place at the SNPJ Lodge 6 and SNPJ Lodge 138 lanes. For the men, there were 13 teams, 26 doubles, and 52 singles. For the women, there were six teams, 11 doubles, and 22 singles. This resulted in a Society remuneration of \$1,568.

The Fraternal Department is very grateful for the hard work of the Athletic Board and the dedication of the many members who volunteer and participate in our programs. It is through this commitment that our fraternal programs are so successful. We also thank the SNPJ Recreation Center management and staff for helping to make some of these programs so beneficial to our members.

Publications

The SNPJ news source, the *PROSVETA* publication, is designed and managed by Editor Jay Sedmak. *PROSVETA*, which remains a monthly publication, is also available online. At present, approximately 1,020 members receive e-mail notifications that the current *PROSVETA* issue is available online. We certainly appreciate the contributions from our scribes who promote and report on SNPJ activities and events in their respective areas.

Jay completed the 2026 Miss SNPJ calendar during this period. He also designed the Miss SNPJ Pageant brochures that will be mailed to all eligible female members (ages 18 to 28) in March/April 2026.

Throughout the period, Jay started the preliminary promotional work for Slovenefest, updating the gate flyers, the sponsor invitations and the online Slovenefest performance schedule, as well as the flyers and forms required for the "Make It, Bake It, Grow It" Crafters Bazaar. He also compiled the SNPJ National Board minutes requested by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department examiners for their review during the Society's five-year examination/audit.

Prior to year end 2025, he started designing the printed materials for the 33rd Quadrennial Convention, and completed a series of updates on the SNPJ Product & Sales Guide and the Society's Compliance Guide for sales agents.

The five SNPJ websites (*snpj.org*, *snpjrec.com*, *alpineroom.com*, *slovenefest.com* and *snpjheritage.org*) continue to be hosted and supported by 3Seed Marketing, Design & Interactive. Jay updates and revises the websites on a regular basis.

Industry

SNPJ keeps involved and updated with the fraternal industry through the network of local, state and national trade association affiliates. I maintain participation with the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (FSGP), the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance (PFA), and the American Fraternal Alliance (the Alliance).

I have attended the FSGP luncheon meetings which are held throughout the fall, winter and spring. These meetings include officers and representatives from several fraternal headquarters or

having a presence in Western Pennsylvania, as well as consultants serving them.

In October I attended the PFA Annual Meeting. Pennsylvania has the largest and most active state alliance because of it being the largest fraternal benefit society locale. Presentations included topics of economic outlook, tax law changes, fraternal foundations, an Alliance update, asset management risk plan, insurance industry trends with private equity, and insurance regulation updates from the Pennsylvania Insurance Department.

The American Fraternal Alliance Executive Summit meeting took place in person in September in Cleveland, which I attended with the Executive Committee. This meeting gives us the opportunity to network with our fraternal benefit society peers, receiving valuable industry information. We received an Alliance industry and advocacy update, along with CEO panel discussions, presentations on distribution, talent recruitment and economic trends.

SNPJ is a member of the Life Insurance Council (LIC), which is part of LOMA, serving the small to midsize sector. I attended the LIC CEO Forum in August. This forum provides valuable information and an opportunity to network with insurance industry peers. Some of the topics for this meeting were AI for mid-size insurers, LIMRA thought leader on technology, CEO succession strategies and experiences, and roundtable discussions. The Alliance supports the LIC with registration discounts. I currently serve on the LIC Advisory Board.

Slovenia

SNPJ maintains a good relationship with Slovenian dignitaries. This includes the Consul General's office in Cleveland (Consul General Suzana Češarek) and the Embassy in Washington, D.C. We also work closely with Petra Mitchell, the Pennsylvania Honorary Consul in Pittsburgh. Both attended Slovenefest in July. The Consul General extended greetings during the Miss SNPJ Pageant program.

A highlight of this period was the opportunity and honor to meet the President of Slovenia, Dr. Nataša Pirc Musar. This took place in Cleveland in September with a number of SNPJ Board members. We appreciate the Consul General and Embassy making this possible.

Conclusion

The Home Office management and staff are a dedicated group of people who work hard for the Society supporting our membership on both the business and fraternal side. We also appreciate the dedication of our Lodge officers for their contribution to the success of the Society.

The Society is fortunate to have an experienced COO and CFO. National Secretary/COO Karen Pintar and National Treasurer/CFO Robert Lawrence continue to do an excellent job for the SNPJ.

The dedication of our National Board to the Society is greatly appreciated. This has been important to the continued success of the SNPJ. A fraternal and professional approach helps to maintain the integrity and positive image of the Society while providing the best possible service to our members. May our decisions and actions be in the best interest and welfare of the SNPJ.

Fraternally,

JOSEPH C. EVANISH, FLMI
National President/CEO

National President's Report

President EVANISH highlighted his report and stated that attorney Todd Martin would be joining us later in the morning to review the proposed bylaw changes that the Board had been considering. He reviewed the succession plan for CEO and reported on the planning and training that has occurred with incoming CEO Maury SINAN.

Discussion on the report by Rick HERVOL, Maury SINAN, Tracey ANDERSON and Ken ZAKRAYSEK.

President EVANISH then reviewed the work that has occurred with actuary Chris Conklin, the Finance Committee, and the investment manager. He presented the new annuity that will be introduced on April 1, 2026.

Motion to approve the report by Fred MLAKAR, second by Maury SINAN. Motion approved.

National Secretary's Report for the period July 1 through Dec. 31, 2025

Fraternal greetings and welcome to the semiannual meeting of the SNPJ National Board.

The following report relates to the activities and business conducted through the office of the National Secretary for the period shown above. Additional information is included, where appropriate, for the entire year 2025.

PERSONNEL

At the end of December 2025, the Home Office employed 14 full-time employees, including the Executive Committee.

INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION

We continue to work on updating the job functions and processes since the implementation of the upgraded insurance administration system.

This department continues to handle all the functions of an insurance administration department, working with our members, agents and secretaries.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

We have continued to participate in biweekly calls between myself, CIO Terry Champ, Office Manager Ruth Wright, and a team with our insurance administration software provider. The purpose of these calls is to review and resolve any issues or problems we have encountered with the software.

During this period, our CIO and I have continued to work on the illustration system with our new provider. This project has taken considerably longer than we had anticipated. The life insurance illustration system went live in October, and we anticipate the annuity illustration to be available in the first quarter of 2026.

Monthly security and awareness training for all employees continues with our managed services providers, using the curricula by Huntress

NATIONAL SECRETARY’S REPORT

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

software. This is to educate our managers and staff on safeguarding the information on our system, as well as making them aware of what e-mails are potential security risks.

We worked with our co-managed services provider to complete a task of moving our primary server to Azure. We continue to work on upgrading the servers and determining which direction we want to proceed.

LODGES AND LODGE SECRETARIES

As of Dec. 31, 2025, there are 63 Lodges. During this last six-month period there was one merger that occurred. In August, SNPJ Lodge 449 agreed to accept SNPJ Lodge 8 in a merger and retain the Charter Lodge number 8. We thank the Lodge officers and members of both Lodges for their participation and cooperation in this merger. A special thanks to the longtime retiring officers of the original SNPJ Lodge 8 for your dedicated service over the years.

The top five Lodges in new members for the year 2025 are:

Lodge	City/State	New Members
6.....	Sygan, Pa.	28
106.....	Imperial, Pa.....	20
559.....	Chicago.....	17
31.....	Sharon, Pa.....	13
782.....	Glenshaw, Pa.....	13

The top five Lodges in members with insurance in force in 2025 are:

Lodge	City/State	Number of Members	Number of Policies	Insurance in Force
138	Strabane, Pa.	2,079	2,178	\$20,061,989
6	Sygan, Pa.	1,767	1,838	\$22,376,556
584	Milwaukee	1,247	1,384	\$19,954,299
158	Euclid, Ohio	1,247	1,283	\$12,232,520
106	Imperial, Pa.	1,166	1,056	\$13,999,837

MEMBERSHIP

On Dec. 31, 2025, the active membership of the Society is:

Adult	25,464
Youth	1,362
Total.....	26,826

This is a decline of 594 members for the year 2025.

Membership Statistics

Members as of Jan. 1, 2025.....	27,420
Increase by:	
New members	241
Total Increase	241
Decrease by:	
Deaths	435
Cash Surrenders	257
Expired	58
Canceled	34
Lapse	19
Matured	14
Suspended Pending Maturity	14
Suspended Pending Death	4
Total Decrease	835
Members on Dec. 31, 2025	26,826

INSURANCE IN FORCE

As of Dec. 31, 2025, the Society has 29,391 life insurance policies representing \$250,428,970 of insurance in force.

Policies on Jan. 1, 2025	30,066
Increase by:	
Issued	197
Reinstated	7
Total Increase	204
Decrease by:	
Deaths	501
Cash Surrenders	264
Canceled	0
Expired	60
Matured	35
Lapsed	19
Total Decrease	879
Policies as of Dec. 31, 2025	29,391

Annuities

Annuity contracts as of Jan. 1, 2025	3,434
Increase by:	
Issued	124
Total Increase	124
Decrease by:	
Deaths	142
Cash Surrender	145
Canceled	0
Matured	2
Total Decrease	289
Annuity contracts as of Dec. 31, 2025 ...	3,269

Accident & Health

As of Dec. 31, 2025, we have 1,632 policies remaining.

A&H Policies on Jan. 1, 2025	1,851
Increase by:	
Reinstated	3
Total Increase	3
Decrease by:	
Expired	107
Deaths	50
Canceled	65
Total Decrease	222
A&H Policies as of Dec. 31, 2025	1,632

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES

I continued to serve as president of Lodge 6 until the end of the year, at which time I decided to step down.

In July I once again handled the passes for volunteer workers for Slovenefest and assisted in various areas as needed.

In September our Executive Committee attended the American Fraternal Alliance Executive Summit held in Cleveland. There were several interesting workshops, and a variety of speakers and topics related to the industry.

I also attended the third annual Jim Curl Memorial No-Tap Tournament held at the Sygan Bowling Center. This event was once again put together by Bro. Greg Curl and family, and Bro. John Baselj and

family as a tribute to the late Bro. Jim Curl and to raise money for the Sygan Bowling Center.

In October I attended the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance meeting held in Meadowlands, Pa. Once again, there were several topics of interest relating to the insurance industry. I also attended the SNPJ National Bowling Tournament held in October and assisted with various duties throughout the day.

CONVENTION 2026

Plans are well underway for our upcoming Quadrennial Convention being held at the SNPJ Recreation Center Aug. 16-17, 2026.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn, Boardman, Ohio, and all reservations will be made directly by the delegate to me. Entertainment and meal planning will take place in the first quarter of the year. I will once again coordinate travel arrangements, and the arrangements to transport delegates from the airport to the hotel and the SNPJ Recreation Center.

A welcome party for delegates will be held on Sunday, Aug. 16, at the pool, weather permitting. All this information will be forthcoming in the individual delegate packets.

The deadline for Lodges to submit a Bylaw/Resolution change to the Executive Committee – which was approved at a Lodge meeting and signed by the president and secretary of the Lodge – is June 18, 2026, for submission to the Bylaws Committee. Any Bylaw/Resolution change not submitted by that date would require a two-thirds vote at the Convention to bring it to the delegation.

The deadline to submit a resume to run for a position on the National Board is July 3, 2026. No names will be considered after that date.

CONCLUSION

Our Executive Committee continues to work toward the goals identified in the strategic plan. I continue to work with CIO Terry Champ to facilitate the transition into my position. I will be working with Fraternal Director Courtney Valencic as she will be managing the fraternal segments of my position, such as Lodge/Secretary awards, correspondence with Lodges and secretaries, reporting to the American Fraternal Alliance, etc. We strive to ensure the continued success of our organization.

Thank you to all the Home Office staff and managers for the continued hard work and dedication that you show every day in your job functions.

I look forward to a productive National Board meeting. Best wishes.

Fraternally,

KAREN A. PINTAR, FLMI, CCP, AIAA
National Secretary/COO

National Secretary’s Report

Secretary PINTAR reported that the illustration system that she and the CIO had been working on has been completed to include the annuity products. Reported that the Pennsylvania State Insurance examination is scheduled for this year and we received notice that the risk assessment portion will be outsourced by the department to a third party. Secretary Pintar reported that this will result in additional costs to the Society.

Motion by Jason CADEZ, second by Tina RIGLER, to approve the report. Motion approved.

National Treasurer’s Report
March 2026

Fraternal greetings, Brothers and Sisters.

The Society’s assets decreased \$2.3 million, or 1.9 percent, from year end 2024 to total \$123,233,443 as of Dec. 31, 2025. Fixed income securities and cash, totaling \$115,974,118, represent 96 percent of the Society’s invested assets. Real estate holdings, which include the Home Office and the SNPJ Recreation Center, total \$3,178,355, representing 2.6 percent of invested assets. The Society made a capital investment in solar panels at the Recreation Center in 2024, and the project was completed in 2025. This investment was made with the goal of covering the rising cost of electricity for the facility. The remaining 1.3 percent of invested assets are comprised of common stock, certificate loans, mortgages, and other invested assets.

Gross income for 2025 totaled \$13,051,252. The Society experienced a 17 percent decrease in annuity premium from the prior year. While first-year life insurance premium increased 23 percent over 2024, overall life premiums decreased slightly, 1.0 percent, from 2024 to 2025 due to an increase in premium paid to our reinsurer. Gross investment income decreased \$91,021, or 2.0 percent, from the prior year. The decrease was due mainly to the absence of the MAHI fund holding which was liquidated in 2024, and also less interest earned from cash on hand due to lower short-term interest rates.

Insurance and annuity benefit claims increased 5.0 percent from \$9.4 million in 2024 to \$9.9 million in 2025. The increase was due to the significant increase in death benefit payments on life insurance policies. Death benefit payments on life insurance increased \$659,671, or 38 percent, from 2024 totaling \$2,403,412. The retained annuity member benefit claims for death and cash surrenders decreased from \$7.1 million in 2024 to \$6.7 million in 2025.

General and fraternal expenses increased \$151,182, or 5.0 percent, from 2024 to 2025. Costs associated with EDP related software and services, the SNPJ Recreation Center, and an increase in employee related expenses account for the general expense increase. Insurance taxes, license and fees increased \$4,762, or 3.0 percent, over 2024.

The Society experienced a \$1,733,711 loss from operations before refunds and capital gains and losses in 2025. Net income for the year after refunds and after realized capital gains and losses was a loss of \$1,779,220. The Society’s surplus position decreased \$1,615,655, or 14 percent, from year end 2024, totaling \$9,501,947 as of Dec. 31, 2025. As of Dec. 31, 2025, the Society’s asset-to-liability ratio is 108.4 percent.

Following are financial statements and a summary of the investment transactions for the period.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT J. LAWRENCE
National Treasurer/CFO

Summary of Investments Purchased:
July 1 – Dec. 31, 2025:

Name & Description	Cost	Par Value
Bond Purchases: US Special Revenue	\$505,000	\$505,000
Bond Purchases: Industrial	\$3,290,975	\$3,280,000
Mortgages	\$250,000	\$250,000
Total Purchases 7-1-25 through 12-31-25	\$4,045,975	\$4,035,000

Summary of Investments Disposed of:
July 1 – Dec. 31, 2025:

Name & Description	Consider-ation	Par Value	Book Value
Bond Disposals: US Governments	\$77,673	\$77,674	\$77,673
Bond Disposals: US Special Revenue	\$1,569,156	\$1,531,540	\$1,565,663
Bond Disposals: Industrial	\$5,156,262	\$5,140,219	\$5,097,492
Mortgage Payments	\$13,628	\$13,628	\$13,628
Total Disposals 7-1-25 through 12-31-25	\$6,816,719	\$6,763,061	\$6,754,455

SEE FINANCIAL SUMMARIES
ON PAGE 6

National Treasurer's Report

Treasurer LAWRENCE reported on the expected cost of the insurance examination by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. He reviewed the income and expenses, as well as the balance sheet, with the Board.

Motion to approve the report by Ken ZAKRAYSEK, second by Rick HERVOL. Motion approved.

Finance Committee Report
July 1 through Dec. 31, 2025

Fraternal greetings and welcome to the semiannual National Board meeting, Brothers and Sisters of the Slovene National Benefit Society.

The Finance Committee continues to follow the Rules of Procedure approved by this Board to promote efficient investment and monitoring of our Society’s funds. Our bond maturity distribution at Dec. 31, 2025, compared to Dec. 31, 2024, was as follows, along with a listing of the SNPJ portfolio by investment category:

As of Dec. 31, 2025

	Dec. 31, 2025		Dec. 31, 2024	
Less than 1 Year	\$6,263,466	5.5%	\$6,911,475	5.9%
1 to 10 years	41,723,760	36.7%	38,262,065	32.8%
10 to 20 years	48,979,288	43.1%	47,709,050	40.9%
Over 20 years	16,776,695	14.7%	23,714,696	20.3%
Total Bonds	\$113,743,209	100.0%	\$116,597,286	100.0%

	Market Value	Statement Value	Allocation	Yield
Corporate Bonds	\$79,534,141	\$85,657,955	70.94%	4.69%
Taxable Municipal	22,452,261	23,637,233	19.58%	4.69%
Asset Backed Securities	4,475,949	2,641,404	2.19%	4.60%
Agency CMOs	864,651	881,977	0.73%	4.56%
Agency CMBS	156,159	160,906	0.13%	4.06%
Agency Passthroughs	233,238	237,271	0.20%	3.84%
Commercial MBS	424,232	479,369	0.40%	4.54%
Non-Agency CMOs	47,094	47,094	0.04%	5.76%
Total Bonds	106,187,726	113,743,209	94.20%	4.68%
Common Stock	16,320	16,320	0.01%	2.40%
Other Assets	569,152	554,338	0.46%	6.06%
Mortgages	379,956	379,956	0.31%	5.81%
Real Estate	3,178,355	3,178,355	2.63%	2.92%
Cash & Certificate Loans	2,877,683	2,877,683	2.38%	4.90%
Total Invested Assets	\$113,209,192	\$120,749,861	100.00%	4.67%

**Any difference in totals is due to rounding.*

Portfolio Risk Analysis

Date	Duration	Avg. Rating	Book Yield	Market Yield	Years to Worst
Dec. 2019	8.66	A	4.51	3.11	12.6
Dec. 2020	9.44	A	4.74	2.19	13.3
Dec. 2021	9.37	A	4.52	2.56	13.3
Dec. 2022	8.14	A	4.58	5.58	12.9
Dec. 2023	8.25	A	4.64	5.23	12.7
Dec. 2024	7.84	A	4.67	5.49	11.7
Dec. 2025	7.97	A	4.66	5.04	11.8

Wellington Management Company, LLP, has monitored the portfolio and managed the assets within the guidelines set forth by the Finance Committee and approved by the National Board. The Finance Committee works with the asset manager to determine appropriate risk measures for the portfolio with the goal of optimizing the portfolio yield while maintaining a high-quality portfolio and matching the Society’s liability cash flow needs.

During 2025, Treasury yields decreased. The benchmark 10-year Treasury rate, which was at 4.58 percent at the end of 2024, decreased to 3.74 percent on Dec. 31, 2025, while the 1-year Treasury yield decreased from 4.16 percent at year end 2024 to 3.48 percent as of Dec. 31, 2025.

During the six-month period, the book yield on the portfolio decreased slightly, from 4.67 percent as of June 30 to 4.66 percent as of Dec. 31, 2025, while maintaining an S&P weighted average quality rating of A. The effective duration of the portfolio as of Dec. 31 is 8.0 years .

Investment yields on purchases made in the second half of 2025 averaged 5.34 percent. Investment purchases for the six months had a 13-year average life with an average S&P credit quality of A-.

In an effort to increase portfolio yield, the committee approved to begin investing in a commercial loan participation program. These short-duration bridge loans offer attractive yields. To help vet these mortgage loans, Parkway Advisors, LP, was engaged by the committee. Parkway Advisors has several fraternal insurance clients, many of which also participate in the commercial mortgage loan program. The first opportunity for this new investment was completed in December 2025.

Below is a summary of transactions for the period of July 1 to Dec. 31, 2025:

	Par	Cost	Rating
Purchases: 7/1-12/31	\$4,035,000	\$4,045,975	A-
	Par	Consideration	Gain/(Loss)
Disposals: 7/1-12/31	\$6,763,061	\$6,816,719	(\$3,661)

SNPJ FINANCE COMMITTEE

RICHARD HERVOL, Committee Chairman
ROGER C. CLIFFORD, Committee Member
TRACEY ANDERSON, Committee Member
JOSEPH C. EVANISH, Committee Member
ROBERT J. LAWRENCE, Committee Member

Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Chairman Rick HERVOL presented the report. A revision to the investment guidelines to include Direct Mortgage Loans was presented to the Board.

Discussion by Jason CADEZ and Tracey ANDERSON.

A motion was made to accept the revision as presented by Jason CADEZ, second by Maury SINAN. Motion approved.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

A motion was made by Joanna BAKER, second by Fred MLAKAR, to approve the report. Motion approved.

SNPJ Audit Committee Report
July–December 2025 (Date of Report: 03/27/2026)

Fraternal greetings, SNPJ Executive Committee, SNPJ National Board and SNPJ members.

The Audit Committee met March 25-26, 2026, for their regular semiannual meeting with all committee members present except Joanna Baker due to a new work schedule.

The semiannual review consisted of routine documentation review and interviews with the Executive Committee.

Routine Oversight Report Reviews

The following were reviewed for the period July 2025 through December 2025:

- Review of invoices
- Randomly selected checks over \$20,000 requiring three executive signatures
- Review of agent files: SNPJ National Sales Director David Gombkoto recruited 71 new independent agents in various states during 2025
- Review of the Audit Committee Charter
- Review of the National Board Lodge meeting attendance report

All was found to be in order.

SNPJ Financials

The auditor issued a clean opinion that the financial statements are properly stated and that there are no internal issues. The Society experienced a significant loss in 2025; however, RBC is still strong, but it has dropped in the past two years. The strategy is to bring sales up exponentially and cut larger expenses. There are strategies to increase annuity and life insurance sales, and to raise revenue at the Recreation Center. The goal is to achieve profitable organic growth while keeping RBC and surplus strong.

Lodges and Membership

Membership continues to be a challenge, as in previous years. However, with the new agents coming in and the new sales strategies, we are hopeful that we can increase our membership.

Fraternal Department

The Fraternal Department, headed by Courtney Valencic, continues to promote fraternal activities and oversee the athletic tournaments.

SNPJ Recreation Center

The Recreation Center is our largest fraternal expense by far. We do have new agents coming in, along with the new actuarial firm, and they are both pluses, but the Recreation Center is basically a \$300,000 loss every year. Again, there are several strategies in the works to raise revenue and reduce expenses.

Executive Committee Member Meetings

The Audit Committee again met with the executives as a group, and discussed their reports and other topics as raised.

Conclusion

The Audit Committee extends its heartfelt thanks to the executives and Home Office staff for their assistance during our meetings. Their cooperation is instrumental in providing needed information and documentation, and is much appreciated.

**All items discussed are fully explained in the individual executive reports.*

***All committee members approve this report.*

Fraternally,

SNPJ AUDIT COMMITTEE
JOANNA BAKER, Chairperson
VINCENT BASELJ
KEN ZAKRAYSEK

Audit Committee Report

Chairwoman Joanna BAKER presented the report. She reported on the discussions that the committee held with the independent auditor and the Executive Committee.

A motion was made to approve the report by Rick HERVOL, second by Jason CADEZ. Motion approved.

Unfinished Business:

Bylaws

President EVANISH began discussion with the Board and Society attorney Todd Martin about the bylaws changes the Board has been discussing for the past few months.

The Board reviewed the Board policies that will be drafted by attorney Martin, and the Board will meet again in an upcoming conference call.

Each proposed change to the bylaws was reviewed again by the Board. A motion to approve the proposed bylaw changes to present to the Convention Bylaws Committee was made by Fred MLAKAR and seconded by Maury SINAN. Motion approved.

Resolutions

For Resolutions 1, 2 and 3, changes to the wording to reflect responsible officer in place of Executive Committee.

For Resolutions 5, 6, 7 and 8, these will become Home Office policy.

A motion was made by Rick HERVOL, second by Roger CLIFFORD, to approve the change to Resolutions to be presented to the Convention Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. Motion approved.

Compensation Committee

President EVANISH presented the 2022 Convention salaries. He recommended no changes to these. Motion was made by Rick HERVOL, second by Ken ZAKRAYSEK, to retain the same salaries and present to the Convention Compensation Committee as such. Motion approved.

Discussion by the Board on the Convention per diem. Motion was made by Fred MLAKAR, second by Maury SINAN, to propose \$300 per delegate to the Convention Compensation Committee. Motion approved.

Independent Auditor

A presentation was given by Society independent auditor Leo

Hannah of H2R. He stated that they provided a clean opinion and that there were no internal control issues. He reviewed the assets, mortgages, income and investments. Reviewed the Recreation Center losses with the Board.

Asset Manager

A presentation was given by Parkway Advisors, the new investment management firm approved by the Board. They provided the Board with information on the services that they will be providing.

The Board recessed for lunch from 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Friday, March 27: Afternoon Session

The Board reconvenes at 1 p.m.

SNPJ Scholarship Committee Report
March 2026

The following report covers the period of July 1 through Dec. 31, 2025. Payment for the second installment of the 2025-2026 academic year included 36 awards. This group encompassed 36 Academic Scholarships.

Listed below are the names of the students who received awards during the last six months of 2025:

Name	Lodge	Name	Lodge
Julianna Conroy	1	Alyssa Massucci	643
Aidan Lussier	6	Lexus Solarz	643
Alenka Rus	8	Jack Anderson	677
Mackenzie Day	106	Cheyenne Slaughter	689
Ava Pustover	106	Racquel Davis	689
Jenni Zalnasky	106	Abby Atkinson	719
Erin Lawrence	138	Alexander Krance	729
Toby Tokarsky	174	Makenzie Krance	729
Claire Schmidt	225	Philip Mlakar	745
Michelle Von Merta-		Jack Ankeny	749
Sustarich	304	Xavier Yuhas	749
Caroline Norrito	518	Ava Kontak	776
Laura Norrito	518	Isabella Mancuso	776
Lillian Pettit	518	Michael Mancuso	776
Joseph Volpe	564	Anthony Varlotta	782
Lauren Hudson	564	Bailey Gall	782
Michael Lawrence	576	Morgan Sinan	782
Shawnee Troha	581	Nicolas Varlotta	782
Madalaine Brown	584		

Scholarship Fund Donation & Award History

Years	Donations	Awards
1960-1979	\$75,448.09.....	\$146,797.81
1980-1999	\$595,765.01.....	\$1,185,150.00
2000-2019	\$1,283,463.11.....	\$937,360.00
2020-Present.....	\$39,855.88.....	\$178,750.00
Totals	<u>\$1,994,532.09</u>	<u>\$2,448,057.81</u>

Scholarship Fund Financial Report

Beginning Balance (as of July 1, 2025)	\$484,331.14
Donations	\$405.38
Investment & Other Income	\$8,708.74
Total Income	<u>\$9,114.12</u>
Awards	\$17,300.00
Investment & Other Expense	\$9,912.66
Total Expenses	<u>\$27,212.66</u>
Ending Balance (as of Dec. 31, 2025)	<u>\$466,232.60</u>

We continue to receive donations from our members as honors and memorials to their loved ones. We are most appreciative for all contributions, and we extend our sincere thanks to all who contributed to this most worthy cause which benefits so many of our young adults.

SNPJ SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
JOSEPH C. EVANISH, Chairman
KAREN A. PINTAR
ROBERT J. LAWRENCE

Scholarship Committee Report

President EVANISH presented the report.

A motion was made by Tracey ANDERSON, second by Tina RIGLER, to approve the report. Motion approved.

SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center Report
March 2026

The 2025 SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center season started with a Zoom meeting on Saturday, Feb. 8, with the planning of our spring and summer events. We continued meeting via Zoom on March 8 and April 5 as I spend the winter months in Florida, returning up north in the beginning of May. The Zoom meetings have worked well with our committee members. The first in-person meeting for 2025 was held Saturday, May 3.

We are happy to report that the fire pit memorial to Kevin Richards is complete. A plaque was installed on a stone near the pit to remember our friend Kevin. We thank the SNPJ Recreation Center maintenance crew for helping to finalize this project.

Another project that was completed in 2025 was replacing the wand listening devices in our museum with QR codes. Sue Mals and Tracey Belle worked on this project in the late spring and early summer to have it ready for Slovenefest. This is a wonderful addition to our museum. We are also happy to report that we now accept credit cards for purchases in our gift shop. This was especially appreciated during Slovenefest by the many visitors to our museum and gift shop.

Continuing with our Zoom meetings and at the in-person meeting, we discussed who would attend the EU Open House at the Slovenian Embassy in Washington, D.C., held Saturday, May 10. Patty Candela and Ed Robich attended, representing our SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center. They set up our traveling museum. This is always a great event to showcase our Heritage Center, plus advertise SNPJ and Slovenefest. We received a thank you from the embassy staff and an invitation to return in 2026.

We discussed setting up a gift shop table for the Music Festival at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, held Saturday, May 17. Kathy Paulenich, Ed Robich, Patty Candela and Joan Gaspercic attended the event and took turns at the sales table.

We finished planning for our Heritage Center Weekend, held June 6-8. We kicked off the weekend with Patty C & The Guys performing in the Gostilna from 8 to 11 p.m. on Friday, June 6. Saturday was a fun-filled day with a balina tournament organized by Denny

Brand in the morning and afternoon; members of the winning team received a T-shirt from the gift shop. We held a paint-and-sip in the Wine Room, led by Sarah Loudon, in the late afternoon. This year's project was suncatchers with several designs to choose from to paint. Bingo in the Gostilna completed the evening.

The annual picnic was held on Sunday in the Heritage Pavilion featuring the Frank Stanger Band alternating with the Western Pa. Button Box Club from 1 to 6 p.m. Committee members were present and assigned to help at the welcome table, for the 50/50 drawing, and at the sales table. This was a free-admission dance, but we did ask for a monetary donation at the door which was well received.

The Simply Slavic Festival was held in Youngstown, Ohio, the following weekend, June 13-14. We took our traveling museum to display in the ethnic tent, and items from our gift shop to sell in the marketplace. This is always a great local festival to advertise our SNPJ Recreation Center and Slovenefest. Kathy Paulenich, Ed Robich, Sarah Loudon and Tracey Belle worked the event, representing our Heritage Center.

At our in-person meeting on May 3, committee members were scheduled to work our Saturday gift shop days, for Heritage Center Weekend, and during Slovenefest. Plans were finalized for the "Closer Look at Slovenia" presenters on the outside patio at Slovenefest. We used smaller tents for the presenters and the marketplace.

Several committee members put together a table display for the 60th anniversary of the SNPJ Recreation Center in the museum. We discussed supplies to be ordered before opening the gift shop for the season. Kathy Paulenich, Sarah Loudon and Sue Mals took care of this. After the meeting we stocked the shelves, priced items, and organized and cleaned the gift shop and museum.

We held an in-person meeting on Friday, June 27, to prepare for Slovenefest. All committee members were present at Slovenefest to work inside the gift shop or outside on the patio at the marketplace, or be a presenter for the "Closer Look at Slovenia" program. This is always a very busy time for us.

Our summer activities continued after Slovenefest with a wine and cheese reception during Family Week on Wednesday, July 30. Kathy Paulenich, Ed Robich and Sarah Loudon worked this event. We also opened the gift shop for sales.

We had a sales table at the Sunday dance in the Heritage Pavilion during National SNPJ Days held Labor Day weekend. Kathy Paulenich and Ed Robich traveled to Johnstown, Pa., for their Slavic Festival held Saturday, Sept. 20. We had the traveling museum on display and a sales table of items from our gift shop. Mary Jo Hartman and Kristina Hartman Lickert volunteered at the arts & crafts table for the children's Christmas party on Dec. 6. Crafts were prepared by Sarah Loudon.

Heritage Center Committee members met in person on Saturday, Oct. 4, to finalize our fall events and begin planning for the 2026 season. We continue to generate sales via mail order throughout the year and in the gift shop during the summer months. We thank Sue Zarella and Sue Krispinsky for helping us with the mail orders.

Facebook continues to be an important way of communicating to SNPJ members and fellow Slovenes. Patty Candela handles this account. Tracey Belle and Joan Gaspercic keep an eye on our gmail account. Kathy Paulenich continues writing articles for PROSVETA to keep members informed about Heritage Center activities.

SNPJ Heritage Center Committee members should be commended for all the work and effort in the success of our gift shop and museum. The committee also continues to develop ideas and events that encourage participation by both youth and adult membership.

In closing, we thank SNPJ Recreation Center Director Jerry Volpe for working with our committee members in planning and implementing the various activities. Here's to a great 2026 season!

Respectfully submitted,

SNPJ HERITAGE CENTER COMMITTEE
KATHY PAULENICH, Director
JOAN BARBISH GASPERCIC, Secretary
ED ROBICH, Treasurer
TRACEY BELLE • PATTY CANDELA
MARY JO GERMOVSEK HARTMAN
KRISTINA HARTMAN LICKERT • SARAH LOUDON
SUE MALS • LYNN TASOTA ROMEO

SNPJ Heritage Center Committee Report

President EVANISH presented the report.

The Heritage Center Committee has requested that their election be moved to the August Board meeting rather than the March 2027 meeting.

A motion was made by Rick HERVOL, second by Tina RIGLER, that the Board hold the election of Heritage Center Committee members at the August semiannual meeting. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Rick HERVOL, second by Jason CADEZ, to approve the report. Motion approved.

Region 1 Vice President's Report
July 1 – Dec. 31, 2025

Greetings, fellow SNPJ National Board members. This report covers the period of July 1 through Dec. 31, 2025.

As of Dec. 31, 2025, there are 16 Lodges with 6,277 active members in Region 1, comprised of 5,964 adults and 313 youth members. There were 42 new members added: 34 adult and eight juvenile. Ten Lodges produced at least one new member, with Lodge 782, Glenshaw, Pa., adding 14 members; Lodge 729, Yukon, Pa., adding seven; Lodge 715, Universal, Pa., adding six; and Lodge 749, Johnstown, Pa., and Lodge 581, St. Marys, Pa., each with three new members. Five other Lodges added at least one new member.

The last six months of 2025 have been busy with SNPJ fraternal events. From Slovenefest to Lodge Christmas parties, it was an enjoyable time.

My family and I attended Slovenefest. My wife Kathleen and I coordinated the admission gates for the third year, and our daughters volunteered alongside us. We ended the weekend hosting a post-Slovenefest party for the Miss SNPJ Court, friends and family. Congratulations to Miss SNPJ 2026 Ellen Koci and the entire court. It was a great weekend seeing family and friends come together. We are excited to attend and support Slovenefest 2026.

Once again, we attended the Annual Duck Race at Strabane Lodge 138. This year, for the first time, we won \$100. As always, it was a great event!

The Westmoreland County Federation of Lodges "Pretty in Pink" fundraiser hosted by the Yukon Slovenian Hall was held in August this year. My wife Kathleen made *kremšnita* (Lake Bled cake) and I smoked a pork butt for pulled pork sandwiches. We volunteered in the kitchen and supported as needed. They had a record year with over \$10,000 in donations.

FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Slovene National Benefit Society

Balance Sheet as of Dec. 31, 2025

Assets:	12/31/2025	12/31/2024	Change
Bonds	\$113,743,212	\$116,597,286	(\$2,854,074)
Common Stocks	16,320	15,601	719
Mortgage Loans	379,956	153,909	226,048
Real Estate	3,178,355	3,058,912	119,443
Cash and Short Term Investments	2,230,906	2,296,181	(65,275)
Certificate Loans	646,777	665,066	(18,289)
Other Invested Assets	554,338	560,308	(5,970)
Investment Income Due & Accrued	1,421,355	1,440,693	(19,338)
Premiums Due	28,993	31,988	(2,995)
Amounts Recoverable From Reinsurer	1,033,231	763,726	269,505
Total Admitted Assets	\$123,233,443	\$125,583,669	(\$2,350,226)
Liabilities:			
Reserve for Life & Annuity	\$110,118,763	\$108,621,607	\$1,497,156
Reserve for Sick & Operation	81,304	89,275	(7,971)
Liability for Deposit-type Contracts	239,803	256,890	(17,086)
Life Claims	287,054	426,807	(139,753)
Accident & Health Claims	13,430	14,231	(801)
Refund Payable	0	96,049	(96,049)
Premiums Received in Advance	42,918	43,346	(428)
Amounts Payable on Reinsurance	10,042	7,869	2,173
Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR)	6,157	67,171	(61,014)
Expenses Due & Accrued	563,164	468,671	94,492
Unearned Investment Income	12,984	13,628	(644)
Total Remittances & Items Not Allocated	1,168,911	3,133,809	(1,964,899)
Asset Valuation Reserve (AVR)	1,186,966	1,226,713	(39,747)
Total Liabilities	113,731,496	114,466,067	(734,571)
Surplus	9,501,947	11,117,603	(1,615,655)
Total Liabilities & Surplus	\$123,233,443	\$125,583,669	(\$2,350,226)
Cash Flow:			
Cash in Transit and in Banks 12/31/2024			\$2,296,166
Premiums Collected Net of Reinsurance		7,652,131	
Net Investment Income		5,456,533	
Proceeds from Investments Sold, Matured or Repaid		8,738,071	
Miscellaneous Income & Other Cash Provided		315,588	22,162,323
			24,458,489
Benefit Payments		10,286,836	
Commissions & Expenses Paid		3,324,379	
Cost of Investments Acquired		6,664,163	
Refunds Paid		93,322	
Net Other Cash Applied		1,858,881	22,227,583
Cash in Transit and in Banks 12/31/2025			\$2,230,906

Slovene National Benefit Society

Summary of Operations for the period ending Dec. 31, 2025

Description	2025	2024	Change
Life Premium	\$1,615,678	\$1,623,306	(\$7,629)
Annuity Considerations	6,020,169	7,306,413	(1,286,243)
Accident & Health Premiums	11,655	13,178	(1,523)
Total Premium & Annuity Considerations	7,647,502	8,942,897	(1,295,395)
Gross Investment Income	5,573,102	5,664,123	(91,021)
Investment Expense	(564,439)	(532,916)	(31,523)
Net Investment Income	5,008,664	5,131,207	(122,543)
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	79,499	111,164	(31,665)
Expense Allowances on Reinsurance Ceded	298,295	317,692	(19,397)
Miscellaneous Income	17,292	38,265	(20,972)
Total Income	13,051,252	14,541,224	(1,489,972)
Death Benefits	2,403,412	1,743,740	659,671
Matured Endowments	127,425	55,409	72,017
Annuity Benefits	6,745,083	7,149,950	(404,868)
Operation, Accident & Health Benefits	10,528	15,169	(4,641)
Surrender Benefits	584,826	437,473	147,353
Interest on Certificate Fund	5,882	6,651	(769)
Increase in Life Reserves	4,905	429,107	(424,202)
Increase in Annuity Reserves	1,492,251	2,258,504	(766,253)
Increase in Health Reserves	(7,971)	(12,549)	4,578
Commissions	183,596	191,105	(7,509)
General & Fraternal Expenses	3,062,074	2,910,892	151,182
Insurance Taxes, Licenses & Fees	173,201	168,439	4,762
Increase in Loading on Uncollected Premium	(250)	3,789	(4,038)
Total Expenses	14,784,963	15,357,680	(572,718)
Net Gain from Operations Before Refunds	(1,733,711)	(816,456)	(917,255)
Refunds to Members	(2,727)	93,392	(96,119)
Net Gain Before Realized Capital Gain/(Loss)	(1,730,984)	(909,848)	(821,136)
Net Realized Capital Gain/(Loss)	(48,236)	(56,066)	7,829
Net Income	(\$1,779,220)	(\$965,913)	(\$813,306)

Surplus Account:	12/32/2025	12/31/2024
Surplus, Dec. 31, previous year	\$11,117,603	\$11,934,195
Net Income From Operations	(1,779,220)	(965,913)
Change in Net Unrealized Gains/(Loss)	713	66,980
Change in Non-Admitted Assets	123,104	180,342
Change in Asset Valuation Reserve	39,747	(98,001)
Net Change in Surplus for the Year	(1,615,655)	(816,593)
Surplus as of Statement Date	\$9,501,947	\$11,117,603

Slovene National Benefit Society

Detailed Financial Report for the six months ending Dec. 31, 2025

Description	2025	2024	Increase/ (Decrease)
Life Premiums			
First Year Premium	\$112,640	\$91,634	\$21,006
Renewal Premium	1,638,320	1,659,039	(20,719)
Single Premium	47,047	38,087	8,959
Refunds Applied to Paid-Up Additions	89,684	83,961	5,723
Less: Reinsurance Premiums Paid	(272,012)	(249,415)	(22,597)
Net Life Premiums	1,615,678	1,623,306	(7,629)
A&H Premiums			
Sick Benefit Premium	4,739	5,497	(758)
Operation Premium	6,916	7,681	(765)
Total A&H Premiums	11,655	13,178	(1,523)
Annuity Considerations			
Annuity - First Year	5,274,030	6,655,550	(1,381,520)
Annuity - Renewal	781,453	677,167	104,286
Less: Reinsurance Premium - Annuity	(35,314)	(26,305)	(9,009)
Total Annuity Considerations	6,020,169	7,306,413	(1,286,243)
Total Premiums & Annuity Considerations	7,647,502	8,942,897	(1,295,395)
Gross Investment Income			
Interest on Bonds	5,378,610	5,410,462	(31,851)
Dividends on Stock	558	44,756	(44,197)
Interest on Mortgage Loans	3,709	4,270	(562)
Interest on Cash and Short Term Investments	64,391	86,263	(21,872)
Income on Real Estate	98,000	90,500	7,500
Interest on Certificate Loans	27,834	27,872	(38)
Total Gross Investment Income	5,573,102	5,664,123	(91,021)
Less Investment Expense			
Home Office: Deprec., Insur., Tax, Utility & Other	142,953	127,143	15,811
Rec Center Depreciation & Real Estate Expenses	140,621	131,388	9,233
Management, Custodial, Banking & Other Fees	128,221	131,126	(2,905)
Salaries, Benefits & Board Travel - Investment	152,643	143,259	9,384
Total Investment Expense	564,439	532,916	31,523
Net Investment Income	5,008,664	5,131,207	(122,543)
Amortization of IMR	79,499	111,164	(31,665)
Expense Allowance for Reinsurance Ceded	298,295	317,692	(19,397)
Total Aggregate Write-In for Misc. Income	17,292	38,265	(20,972)
Total Income	13,051,252	14,541,224	(1,489,972)
Death Benefits			
Death Claims	2,623,632	1,743,740	879,892
Reinsurance Recovered	(220,220)	0	(220,220)
Total Death Benefits	2,403,412	1,743,740	659,671
Total Matured Endowments	127,425	55,409	72,017
Annuity and Pension Benefits			
Pensions Paid	0	18,396	(18,396)
Annuity Benefits	15,907,209	16,503,982	(596,774)
Reinsurance Recovered on Annuity	(9,162,126)	(9,372,428)	210,303
Total Annuity and Pension Benefits	6,745,083	7,149,950	(404,868)
Operation, Accident & Health			
Sick Benefit Claims	4,154	4,382	(228)
Operation Claims	6,372	10,731	(4,359)
Waiver of Assessment	2	56	(54)
Total Operation, Accident & Health	10,528	15,169	(4,641)
Total Surrender Benefits	584,826	437,473	147,353
Interest on Certificate or Contract Fund	5,882	6,651	(769)

DETAILED FINANCIAL REPORT

CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

Description	2025	2024	Increase/ (Decrease)
Increase in Reserve for Life, A&H & Annuities			
Change in Reserves - Life	\$4,905	\$429,107	(\$424,202)
Change in Reserves - Annuities	1,492,251	2,258,504	(766,253)
Change in Reserves - Accident & Health	(7,971)	(12,549)	4,578
Total Increase/(Decrease) in Reserves	1,489,185	2,675,062	(1,185,877)
Commissions			
Life Commissions	129,087	99,009	30,078
Annuity Commissions	48,709	87,187	(38,477)
Campaign Awards	5,800	4,910	890
Total Commissions	183,596	191,105	(7,509)
General Insurance & Fraternal Expenses			
Rent	90,000	90,000	0
Salaries & Wages	1,008,641	950,304	58,336
Director/National Board Fees	33,600	33,600	0
Employee Benefits	201,372	177,274	24,098
Employee Education Expenses	977	2,355	(1,378)
Legal Fees and Expenses	31,785	47,224	(15,439)
Medical Examinations/Underwriting	17,465	8,614	8,851
Actuarial and Auditing Fees	176,996	211,730	(34,734)
Travel Expenses	46,086	67,712	(21,626)
Advertising/Promotional Items	12,694	13,605	(911)
Postage and Telephone	58,416	57,495	921
Office Supplies, Printing & Stationery	39,087	30,433	8,654
Computer Supplies, Equipment & Depreciation	612,080	528,222	83,858
Machine Service, Repairs & Rentals	13,339	11,509	1,830
Books and Periodicals	2,081	1,876	205
Bureau and Association Dues	8,334	8,012	322
Insurance and Surety Bonds	37,394	37,092	303
Sundry General	11,810	22,664	(10,854)
Donations - Charitable	1,555	3,778	(2,223)
Sales Department	27,373	13,067	14,307
Publication: PROSVETA	171,232	166,685	4,546
Quadrennial Convention	42,480	40,000	2,480
Athletics	14,968	15,976	(1,008)
Miss SNPJ Pageant and Travel	14,476	10,588	3,889
Youth/Young Adult Programming	13,571	13,786	(216)
Lodge and Secretary Awards	43,986	45,094	(1,108)
Fraternal Expense - Other	330,276	302,196	28,079
Total General & Fraternal Expenses	3,062,074	2,910,892	151,182
Insurance Taxes, Licenses & Fees			
State Insurance Department Licenses & Fees	75,407	75,724	(316)
Employment Taxes	97,794	92,715	5,079
Total Insurance Taxes, Licenses & Fees	173,201	168,439	4,762
Aggregate Write-Ins for Deductions	(250)	3,789	(4,038)
Total Expenses	14,784,963	15,357,680	(572,718)
Net Gain from Operations Before Refunds	(1,733,711)	(816,456)	(917,255)
Refunds to Members			
Refunds Paid in Cash	(82)	7,310	(7,392)
Refunds Left to Accumulate at Interest	(87)	2,119	(2,206)
Refunds Applied to Paid-Up Additions	(2,558)	83,962	(86,521)
Total Refund to Members	(2,727)	93,392	(96,119)
Net Gain Before Realized Capital Gain/(Loss)	(1,730,984)	(909,848)	(821,136)
Net Realized Capital Gains/(Losses)			
Gain on Disposal of Investment	74,057	66,737	7,321
Loss on Disposal of Investment	(103,809)	(220,601)	116,793
Amortization of IMR (Transfer to IMR)	(18,485)	97,799	(116,284)
Total Net Realized Capital Gain/(Loss)	(48,236)	(56,066)	7,829
Net Income	(\$1,779,220)	(\$965,913)	(\$813,306)

NATIONAL BOARD REPORTS

CONTINUE NEXT PAGE

REGION 1 VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

I attended National SNPJ Days. Our Lodge 782, Glenshaw, served breakfast sandwiches, coffee and juice at the National Balina Tournament. Region 1 had several winners in the men's and women's balina, bean bag toss and golf tournaments. Congrats to all who participated in the wonderful fraternal events organized by the SNPJ Athletic Board – you rock!

I attended the September National Board meeting. As always, the preparation was impeccable, and the order of business was smooth and well presented by the executive officers.

In early September, Kathleen and I attended the 2025 Johnstown Slavic Festival, where members of Johnstown Lodge 749 are active in the coordination. It was good to see the SNPJ represented by Heritage Center Committee members Kathy Paulenich and Ed Robich. The festival was enjoyable, and I took note of many innovative ideas for Slovenefest.

In September, National Board members Tina Rigler, Tracey Anderson, National President/CEO Joseph Evanish and I, along with Kathy Paulenich, Ed Robich and Kathleen Sinan, were honored to attend a special reception for the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr. Nataša Pirc Musar. Her comments were thought-provoking, and I will hold this as a highlight of the year.

In late September and early October I attended LOMA Insurance Immersion and completed the FLMI Level 1 Digital Badge from LOMA. I will be working on completion of the remaining six of 10 courses over the coming months. Joe Evanish and I have put together a schedule where I am attending Finance Committee calls, Recreation Center Committee meetings/calls, and various other key meetings and events. It has been very informative and helpful with understanding the operations of the SNPJ. We continue to meet and talk at least once a week.

I attended the National Bowling Tournament; once again, a well-organized event co-hosted by Sygan Lodge 6 and Strabane Lodge 138.

I attended the Herminie, Pa., Lodge 87 meeting, at which lunch was provided for members in attendance. It's great to see how well the Lodge is doing. My thanks to President Pamela Iannito and Secretary/Treasurer Florence Gradisek.

We attended the Westmoreland Federation of SNPJ Lodges November dance. Once again, the Westmoreland County Federation of Lodges and the Yukon Slovenian Hall/Lodge 729 hosted a wonderful, well-attended event. The food, music and company were wonderful as always.

It was an honor to attend the annual SNPJ Rec Center/Heritage Center Christmas party as a special guest (Santa). This was my 12th year participating, and as always the Rec Center staff and the Heritage Center Committee did another wonderful job, with over 60 kids in attendance and at least 120 parents and grandparents. Santa received all kinds of wishes from the children. The kids received a wonderful meal, crafts to complete and keep, wonderful presents, and a chance to win bikes and riding toys raffled off to the children attending. This fraternal event for SNPJ youth members is hard to beat.

Kathleen and I were honored to receive an invitation to the Yukon Lodge 729 annual Christmas party/dinner again this year. What a wonderful time we had. Our sincere appreciation for the invitation, dinner and great conversation. The annual Christmas bingo is always fun. I didn't win the cover-all this year, but Kathleen and I did win the first three games. Merry Christmas to a fantastic Lodge and all its members – you are what the SNPJ is all about.

We attended the Glenshaw Lodge 782 Christmas party held at Mineo's in Gibsonia, Pa. The food and fraternalism were great, with 16 members attending. It was nice to see everyone, and as always we enjoyed their company.

- My focus over the next six months:
- Continue supporting the Lodges with ideas and suggestions to add members
 - Work with the marketing team to increase awareness of the SNPJ brand through social media and other avenues
 - Communicate with Lodges on the importance of planning and executing at least four activities and holding regular meetings
 - Continue shadowing Joe Evanish and others to increase my knowledge of operations for a smooth transition.

Over the last six months I have attended National Board conference calls, communicated with Lodge officers and members, and attended a number of SNPJ activities.

It is a privilege to serve as SNPJ Region 1 Vice President. My best fraternal wishes to all.

Fraternally,
MAURICE M. SINAN
Region 1 Vice President

Region 1 Vice President’s Report: Maury Sinan

Motion was made by Fred Mlakar, second by Rick Hervol, to approve the report. Motion approved.

Region 2 Vice President’s Report
July 1 – Dec. 31, 2025

Fraternal greetings. Region 2 Lodges enjoyed a busy and productive second half of 2025, with strong participation across community events, youth programming, charitable initiatives, and social activities. Lodge 6 remained active throughout the period, participating in local Community Days and conducting a food drive benefiting the local food bank. Members also contributed to the Jacobs Heart Toy Drive, demonstrating continued commitment to community outreach. The Lodge maintained its bowling and dart leagues, regular bingo events, and live entertainment in the club room. In October, Lodge 6 partnered with Lodge 138 to co-host the National Bowling Tournament, which brought strong participation and highlighted the cooperation between our Lodges.

Lodge 138 proudly represented SNPJ in the Canonsburg, Pa., annual 4th of July parade, helping maintain our visibility within the community. In July, Lodge 138 hosted the Region 2 dance featuring Polka Classics, which was well attended and enjoyed by members and guests. The Lodge also held its annual Duck Race, continuing a fun tradition that engages both members and the local community. In October, Lodge 138 co-hosted the National Bowling Tournament with Lodge 6, and welcomed back Billy Price for a successful and well-supported event. Youth bowling remains an important focus at Lodge 138, with continued efforts to encourage participation and development among younger members. Circle 19 and youth activities continue to play a key role in strengthening family engagement within the region.

Lodge 106 hosted various community events at their hall, including

live bands in the club room, regular bingo nights, card tournaments and car shows. These events continue to support member engagement while attracting participation from the broader community.

In November, Lodge 31 honored members celebrating 50, 60, 70 and 80 years of membership with a special dinner and dance. This meaningful event recognized the dedication and long-standing commitment of these members, and celebrated the strong foundation of the Lodge.

Lodge 771 focused on charitable outreach by organizing a non-perishable food collection and conducting a drive benefiting a local school to provide new, unwrapped toys and school supplies for children in need.

Lodge 776 held its annual picnic and kids fishing tournament at the SNPJ Recreation Center in August, and organized a group outing to the Mahoning Valley Scrappers baseball game. These events provided opportunities for fellowship and family participation.

On the national level, I continue to remain active on the SNPJ Athletic Board. During National Days over Labor Day weekend at the SNPJ Recreation Center, I served as tournament secretary for the National Bean Bag Toss Tournament. I also assisted with tournament duties in October during the National Bowling Tournament. It continues to be an honor to support our national events and work alongside dedicated volunteers to ensure their success.

Membership continues to be an important focus. As of Dec. 31, 2025, Region 2 welcomed 96 new members (83 adults and 13 juveniles) during this reporting period and currently maintains 8,002 active members (7,575 adults and 427 juveniles). While membership trends remain a challenge across all regions, the continued emphasis on youth engagement, family-friendly programming, community visibility and special events provides positive momentum moving forward.

Overall, the second half of 2025 demonstrated the Region 2 continued commitment to meaningful programming, community service and preserving our fraternal traditions. I look forward to continuing to work with our Lodge officers and members as we build on this progress in the months ahead.

Fraternally,
JASON CADEZ
Region 2 Vice President

Region 2 Vice President’s Report: Jason Cadez

Motion was made by Tina Rigler, second by Roger Clifford, to approve the report. Motion approved.

Region 3 Vice President’s Report
July 1 – Dec. 31, 2025

Fraternal greetings, Brothers and Sisters of the SNPJ National Board.

As of Dec. 31, 2025, there are 15 Lodges in Region 3 with a total membership of 6,306 (5,967 adults and 3,339 juveniles). We had 46 new members, 34 adults and 12 juveniles. Region 3 is currently the second largest region in SNPJ.

I attend all Lodge 158 meetings as president. Our meetings are now held on the fourth Sunday of the month, every month, at 1 p.m. I also attend all SNPJ Farm Board meetings as vice president. Our meetings are the fourth Tuesday of the month, every month, at 6 p.m., except when there is a Federation meeting, then it would be 6:30 p.m. I attend all Cleveland Federation meetings as a representative. Federation meetings are now held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, as scheduled, at 5:30 p.m. right before the Farm Board meeting.

It has been a very hard past six months as Sue's mother, Marilyn Hulin (a Lodge 158 member), had a very serious fall on July 31 and hit her head. She has been in hospitals and nursing homes ever since. Between visiting her and taking care of Sue's father, Marty Hulin (who is also a Lodge 158 member), who was now home alone at age 91, we didn't attend a lot of events or come to camp very much.

Marty passed away on Nov. 25, which broke my heart. He was a great guy; I miss him every day. If you are reading this, please say a prayer for Marty and Marilyn.

Thanks to Don Affright, our season continued at the SNPJ Farm with the annual 4th of July holiday dance hosted by radio personality Val Pawlowski. We had no picnic/dance the weekend of July 11-13 since we honor Slovenefest at the Campsite. I have never scheduled an event on the same day as any other SNPJ-hosted event. Because of Marilyn's situation, Sue and I had to miss Slovenefest for the second year in a row, and we also had to cancel our annual canoe trip with fellow Loyalites and relatives Dan, Diane and Anna Horabik.

The Cleveland Federation of Lodges and SNPJ Farm Board combined picnic was held July 20. Music was provided by Pittsburgh's own Polka Classics.

July 27 was the date of the Miss SNPJ Commission Family Fun Day at the SNPJ Farm, which was very well attended. SNPJ Lodges 5 and 604 held a combined picnic at the SNPJ Farm on Aug. 3.

Lodge 576 held their annual picnic and the Lou Novak Balina Tournament on Aug. 10. Farm Board President Greg Volpe and his team took first place in the tournament.

Bill Bevec hosted a Sunday polka dance at the SNPJ Farm on Aug. 24. Thanks, Bill, for hosting dances at the Farm.

The annual Labor Day holiday dance was held Sept. 1 at the SNPJ Farm. This was also Labor Day weekend/National SNPJ Days at the Campsite, with the national tournaments and bands on Friday night and Sunday. This was one of the few times Sue and I went to camp this year. We brought Sue's dad, Marty, with us and he stayed in our camper. We enjoyed a nice weekend with him. I'm so glad we did because we didn't know it would be our last weekend outing with him.

The Polka Hall of Fame in Euclid, Ohio, held its annual Sausage Festival on Sept. 13 at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland.

On Sept. 26 I attended the National Board meeting in Imperial, Pa.

One of the few events Sue and I took part in this year was a nice break for us. On Oct. 25 we went on a Halloween bus trip/bar crawl around our hometown, eight different bars and a costume contest. We took 11th place in the contest. We met a lot of new people and had a great time. It was nice to take our minds off all the necessary obligations in life and enjoy a good time.

Sue's dad, Marty Hulin, passed away on Nov. 25. It was a very sad holiday this year.

Lodge 158 held its annual Christmas party on Dec. 7. The party was very well attended once again. All SNPJ members were welcome.

Fraternally submitted,
DON (Srnick) SRNOVRSNIK
Region 3 Vice President

Region 3 Vice President’s Report: Don Srnick

Motion was made by Maury Sinan, second by Rick Hervol, to approve the report. Motion approved.

Region 4 Vice President’s Report

Brothers and Sisters of the Executive Committee and National Board: Fraternal greetings! The following is my report for the period of July 1 through Dec. 31, 2025.

I have attended Chicago District Federation meetings and all scheduled Lodge meetings.

On July 11-13, 2025, I attended the 67th Miss SNPJ Pageant and the 42nd annual Slovenefest with family from Lodge 8. On July 12, Vince Rigler and his Polka Pals, including son Justin, entertained in the Gostilna. During Slovenefest, the Heritage Center hosted several presentations centered around the theme “A Closer Look at Slovenia.” On Sunday I attended the baking demonstration that was led by Miss SNPJ 2011 Selina Progar.

The highlight on Sunday was the crowning of the new Miss SNPJ. Congratulations to Miss SNPJ 2026 Ellen Koci from Orange County, Calif., Lodge 786; Miss Activity Alexis Trout from Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6; and Miss Talent and Miss Fraternalism Jami Meglich from Cleveland Lodge 604. During the program I had the honor of announcing the runner-up to Miss SNPJ. It was a beautiful weekend, and the weather was great!

On Aug. 1, Lodge 449 accepted the merger with Lodge 8 and agreed to accept the Charter Lodge number. Thanks to the Lodge officers and members of both Lodges who came to this agreement to become a stronger and larger Lodge.

I attended the annual Slovenian Catholic Center picnic on Aug. 10, along with many other SNPJ members. On Aug. 24 I attended the Blessing of the Rosary Valley and the annual Honey Picnic in Lemont, Ill.

On Aug. 31 I attended the Slovenski Festival at the Slovenian National Home in Indianapolis along with other Lodge 8 members. The festival was well attended by many Lodge 34 members and friends. Music was provided by Vince Rigler (8) and the Polka Pals. I had the pleasure of meeting Lodge 34 President Mary Dragan, Vice President Jozef Watson and Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Watson. It was an enjoyable afternoon with great food and music.

The Slovenian Grape Festival was held on Sept. 6 in Joliet, Ill. I was able to attend, along with other members of the local SNPJ Lodges.

I attended the National Board meeting on Sept. 26. All officers and committee reports were given and approved. Young Adult Representative Liz Smrdel (158) was present and reported for the young adults. She will inform the Board at the next meeting of an idea for her service project. A telephone conference was scheduled to further discuss bylaw changes.

On Sept. 26 I also had the honor of attending a reception on the occasion of the visit of the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr. Nataša Pirc Musar. The reception was held at the parish hall of St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Cleveland. Suzana Češarek, the Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland, was also present.

On Oct. 19, a celebration was held for the 30th anniversary of the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont. The anniversary included the celebration of the builders who volunteered their time and talent to building the center. I attended this event with many other SNPJ members.

On Nov. 10 I attended a conference call regarding governance. Discussion was held regarding the upcoming Convention and changes needed to update the SNPJ Bylaws.

My husband and I attended the 61st Thanksgiving Polka Weekend and Polka Music Awards held Nov. 28-29 at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South. There were several outstanding bands that performed both days. We were also able to attend the Polka Mass on Saturday afternoon, as well as the Polka Hall of Fame Music Awards. Congratulations to all the performers who received awards and recognitions.

The Chicago District Federation held a Christmas luncheon at Honey Jam Cafe with members from Lodges 8 and 559 in attendance. I organized the luncheon, and as Regional Vice President I distributed gift bags to everyone present.

On Dec. 15 I attended the conference call regarding review, changes and updates of the SNPJ Bylaws.

Region 4 had a total of 53 new members at the end of 2025. Almost every Lodge in Region 4 obtained new members! Congratulations to Lodges 1, 2, 8, 34, 225, 559, 584 and 603 for attaining new members. This has been one of the best years of gaining new members in a very long time. I'm hoping we build on this increase in membership and see if we can get even more members in 2026.

Congratulations to Lodges 1, 2, 8, 34, 225, 559 and 603 who reached the Gold Level for Activity in the 2025 Lodge Bonus Program. Some of the activities conducted included food drives, toy drives, donations to Ronald McDonald House, a swim party, a Friendsgiving luncheon, and a Christmas Tractor Parade. It's nice to see all the pictures in PROSVETA of activities held by the Lodges.

This concludes my report for the past six months. I'm looking forward to 2026 in anticipation of growth in new members.

Fraternally,
TINA M. RIGLER
Region 4 Vice President

Region 4 Vice President’s Report: Tina Rigler

Motion was made by Roger Clifford, second by Jason Cadez, to approve the report. Motion approved.

Region 5 Vice President’s Report
July through December 2025

Fraternal greetings from the Far West.

Region 5 has been bursting with pride since July, when our own Ellen Koci returned from Slovenefest with the Miss SNPJ tiara. While deserving in her own right because of her accomplishments and active SNPJ involvement, Ellie is descended from staunch SNPJ fraternalists who include her mother, Teresa (Mlakar) Koci who earned the Miss SNPJ sash in 1988, and grandparents Arnold and Jean Koci, who founded and led Lodge 786 as president and secretary, respectively, for over 20 years.

Utah SNPJ Lodges 113, 689 and 757 held their annual Utah Slovenian Day Picnic in August to raise funds for local charities. In November they gathered for the 43rd year to prepare more than 50 pans of apple strudel to be frozen until the picnic next summer.

Fontana, Calif., Lodge 723 continues to donate generously to local charities, including the Ronald McDonald House in Loma Linda, Toys for Tots, and to City Link food bank.

The Gold Country Lodge 745 annual picnic took place in early September, and members continue to donate volunteer labor in support of worthy community causes. I dropped in on their December ice skating and pizza party, but I avoided the rink. I never learned to

REGION 5 VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

skate, and it’s too late to try.

Orange Coast Lodge 786, for which I continue to serve as president, held a summer meeting and nature outing at the San Joaquin Marsh in Irvine, Calif. In late November, our well-attended holiday potluck party featured live music and a visit from Santa Claus.

On Oct. 25 I represented SNPJ at “A Taste of Slovenia,” a multi-course dinner prepared by award-winning chef Alma Rekić at the Metro Cafe in the coastal town of El Segundo, Calif. The event was organized by former Slovenian Consul General Jurček Žmauc who now leads the Slovenian American Business Association. Mr. Žmauc invited me to sit at his table where I enjoyed conversation with Ms. Rekić’s entourage. I was also honored to be introduced to Ines Kopitar, wife of hockey great Anže Kopitar. I contributed to the festivities with a few melodies on my button accordion.

I look forward to a productive National Board meeting on March 27.

Fraternally,

FREDRICK MLAKAR
Region 5 Vice President

Region 5 Vice President’s Report: Fred Mlakar

Motion was made by Joanna BAKER, second by Tracey ANDERSON. Motion approved.

Motion was made by Tracey ANDERSON, second by Rick HERVOL, to recess as the SNPJ National Board and reconvene as the Recreation Center Committee. Motion approved.

SNPJ Recreation Center Committee Report
March 2026

This report covers the second six months of 2025. Our key full-time staff members include Director Jerry Volpe, Operations Manager Sue Krispinsky, Maintenance Manager Lawrence DeAugustine and secretary Susan Zarella. After this period, a change in the position of director took place with Megan Spieler becoming the new SNPJ Recreation Center director on Jan. 30, 2026.

The loss at the Recreation Center increased 20 percent from the previous year. A significant difference was a 38 percent increase in electric expense. A decrease in overall revenue contributed to this as well.

The Strategic Business Plan for the Recreation Center was reviewed, discussed and updated with the committee during this period. President Evanish also met with management to review and implement strategies.

Slovenefest was successful in July; however, attendance was lower than the previous year, as was the profit. The committee has spent time addressing this with the objective of getting the numbers up. The numerous volunteers, staff and management do a great job making Slovenefest enjoyable each year. The Labor Day weekend National SNPJ Days were successful with busy tournaments and activities.

Wedding bookings continued to be challenging for the second half of the year. Digital advertising strategies were monitored and adjusted for year end and into 2026 with the goal of gaining more of the market.

Weekend food service for the Gostilna during the season was handled by Jones Catering. They also provided the food service in the dining room for Slovenefest.

In August the Recreation Center purchased a used van to replace the previous truck at a cost of just under \$10,000. It was determined that a van would be more useful than a truck. The HVAC unit serving the Gostilna was replaced in the fall at a cost of \$40,200, replacing an original unit installed in 2001.

The committee conducted a review of the internal control procedures at the SNPJ Recreation Center. This continues to be a normal business practice by the committee to ensure that proper procedures are being followed.

The following is a summary of the year-end financial report for the year 2025:

Total Revenue.....	\$937,155
Total Expense.....	(\$1,233,659)
Net Loss	(\$296,505)

A detailed financial report is attached. The 2026 budget is also included as an attachment.

We are very proud of our facility and property. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of our beautiful SNPJ Recreation Center as we continue promoting our fraternal activities and programs.

SNPJ RECREATION CENTER COMMITTEE
JOSEPH C. EVANISH, Committee Chairman
RONALD CADEZ
JOHN BASELJ
DAVID SKRAJNER
MEGAN SPIELER
JAMES PROGAR
BERNIE SENICK
VINCENT BASELJ, Honorary Member
CATHY KALENITS, Honorary Member

RECREATION CENTER COMMITTEE REPORT
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

SNPJ Recreation Center Financial Report
as of Dec. 31, 2025

	Revenue	Expense	Profit/(Loss)
Cabins	\$103,332	\$51,024	\$52,308
Events	\$66,549	\$40,533	\$26,016
Gostilna Dining	\$3,523	\$2,631	\$892
Gostilna	\$57,665	\$42,628	\$15,037
Tiki Bar	\$56,247	\$23,238	\$33,009
Pool	\$27,886	\$60,565	(\$32,679)
Slovenefest	\$81,042	\$54,298	\$26,744
Trailer Court	\$163,625	\$8,546	\$155,079
Wedding/Banquet	\$338,617	\$167,624	\$170,993
Misc. Revenue	\$38,669	\$16,498	\$22,171
Overhead Expenses			
Salary & Wages		\$320,712	
Utilities		\$115,732	
Real Estate Taxes		\$84,868	
Insurance		\$131,166	
Maintenance		\$63,968	
Office & Administration		\$49,628	
Major Maintenance Projects		–	
Total Overhead Expenses			(\$766,074)
Totals	\$937,155	\$1,233,659	(\$296,505)

SNPJ Recreation Center 2026 Budget

	Revenue	Expense	Profit/(Loss)
Cabins	\$145,000	(\$50,000)	\$95,000
Events	\$70,000	(\$40,000)	\$30,000
Gostilna Dining	\$45,000	(\$40,000)	\$5,000
Gostilna	\$60,000	(\$40,000)	\$20,000
Tiki Bar	\$60,000	(\$25,000)	\$35,000
Pool	\$28,000	(\$53,000)	(\$25,000)
Slovenefest	\$96,000	(\$54,000)	\$42,000
Trailer Court	\$186,000	(\$1,000)	\$185,000
Wedding/Banquet	\$330,000	(\$170,000)	\$160,000
Misc. Revenue	\$38,000	(\$1,000)	\$37,000
Overhead Expenses			
Salary & Wages		(\$320,000)	
Utilities		(\$45,000)	
Real Estate Taxes		(\$85,000)	
Insurance		(\$130,000)	
Depreciation		(\$1,000)	
Maintenance		(\$50,000)	
Office & Administration		(\$50,000)	
Major Maintenance Projects		–	
Total Overhead Expenses			(\$681,000)
Totals	\$1,058,000	(\$1,155,000)	(\$97,000)

SNPJ Recreation Center Committee Report

President EVANISH presented the report. Reviewed the wedding and cabin income, and all expenses with the Board. Reported on changes for Slovenefest, advertising for weddings, groups that have secured weeks for their events, the budget for 2027, and the new Recreation Center director and maintenance manager.

Young Adult Representative Liz Smrdel spoke on the Young Adult Conference social media involvement for Slovenefest and what the committee has been working on.

Motion to recess as the SNPJ Recreation Center Committee and reconvene as the SNPJ National Board by Tracey ANDERSON, second by Jason CADEZ. Motion approved.

Discussion on the expansion of the trailer court at the Recreation Center. Motion to table the discussion by Ken ZAKRAYSEK, second by Jason CADEZ. Motion approved.

Motion was made by Rick HERVOL, second by Roger CLIFFORD, to approve the report and the 2027 budget. Motion approved.

Recreation Center Committee Election

President EVANISH appointed Tina Rigler and Tracey Anderson as the tally committee.

The Board voted on the candidates and the tally committee returned with the following results:

Joni Curl.....	12 votes
Janice Rockwell	1 vote
Dustin Ager	0 votes
Kathryn Banks.....	0 votes

Joni Curl was elected to fill the remainder of the three-year term vacated by Megan Spieler when she became Recreation Center director.

Young Adult Representative Report

Young Adult Representative Liz Smrdel reported on the upcoming conference. She stated that they would like a list of maintenance projects in advance so that they can bring the appropriate equip-

ment, etc. Reported that the charity this year is Wags for Kids that trains service dogs to work with children.

She also reported on the committee that will be using social media to help boost attendance at Slovenefest this year.

A motion was made by Tracey ANDERSON, second by Jason CADEZ, to go into Executive Session to discuss executive compensation. Motion approved.

A motion was made and approved to come out of Executive Session by Tracey ANDERSON, second by Rick HERVOL.

401(k) Discretionary Contribution

A motion was made by Rick HERVOL, second by Jason CADEZ, to approve a 3.0 percent discretionary contribution for the employees. Motion approved.

Independent Auditor/Society Actuary

A motion was made to retain the independent audit firm of H2R and the Society actuary, Miller Neuberg. Motion approved.

CGAD

A motion was made by Jason CADEZ, second by Tracy ANDERSON, to approve the document. Motion approved.

PROSVETA Digital Strategy

The Board discussed the two approaches to digital strategy. A motion was made by Rick HERVOL, second by Fred MLAKAR, to adopt “Plan A” as follows:

In order to continue receiving PROSVETA by mail, members would need to opt-in. If they do not opt-in, they would automatically stop receiving the publication by mail.

1. The opt-in requirement would be published on the PROSVETA front page for the September, October and November issues with a Nov. 30, 2026, deadline. The January PROSVETA issue would only be printed and mailed to those who have opted-in. Although opt-ins will be accepted after November, PROSVETA mail delivery will cease until an opt-in is received.
2. The three choices: a) Opt-in to continue receiving by mail; b) Opt-out of receiving by mail, but provide an e-mail address and request notification when each issue is posted on the website; c) Make no reply and opt-out automatically from receiving PROSVETA by mail.
3. The opt-in can be done by phoning the Home Office or sending an e-mail.
4. New members will automatically be coded to receive PROSVETA e-mail notification.

This creates a large potential savings in postage and mailing services. Motion approved.

Strategic Plan

President EVANISH reported on the progress of the strategic plan. He explained the process of bringing Maury Sinan on board and notified the Board that Karen Pintar will continue to do the life insurance underwriting after her retirement date as an independent consultant.

Athletic Board Election

The following members were nominated for a position on the SNPJ National Athletic Board:

- District 1: Jason Cadez, Lodge 138
- District 2: Den Brand, Lodge 6
- District 3: David Sankovich, Lodge 770
- District 4: Brad Stroth, Lodge 576
Gary Smrdel, Lodge 158
- District 5: Carol Roberts, Lodge 677
- District 6: Mary Donovan, Lodge 584

A tally committee of Tina Rigler and Tracey Anderson was appointed for the one election.

The result of the election was:

- Gary Smrdel 9 votes
- Brad Stroth 4 votes

Gary Smrdel was elected to the National Athletic Board.

A motion to destroy all ballots was made by Ken ZAKRAYSEK, second by Rick HERVOL. Motion approved.

Miscellaneous

Secretary PINTAR reported on Lodges that had not turned in all their forms so that the Regional Vice Presidents could contact them.

A motion was made by Joanna BAKER, second by Jason CADEZ, to hold the next Board meeting on Aug. 16, 2026, at the SNPJ Recreation Center at 10 a.m. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Tracey ANDERSON, second by Rick HERVOL, to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

KAREN A. PINTAR, FLMI, CCP, AIAA
National Secretary/COO

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by DAVID GOMBKOTO
SNPJ Sales Director

Slovenefest 2026: Tradition, celebration and family memories

Summer is almost here, and that means one of the most anticipated weekends of the year is right around the corner – Slovenefest 2026! From July 10-12, the SNPJ Recreation Center in Enon Valley, Pa., will once again come alive with music, laughter, delicious food, and the unforgettable spirit of Slovenian heritage.

Whether you've attended for decades or are planning your very first visit, Slovenefest is more than just a festival, it's an experience that brings generations together. It's a weekend where old friends reconnect, new friendships begin, and families create memories that last a lifetime.

From the moment you arrive, you'll feel the energy all around you. The sounds of lively polka bands will once again fill the air, but this year's entertainment lineup will feature even more variety with additional genres of live music other than just polka. From traditional Slovenian favorites to classic hits and contemporary crowd-pleasers, there will truly be something for everyone to enjoy.

Of course, Slovenefest wouldn't be complete without incredible food. Guests can enjoy authentic Slovenian dishes and regional favorites fresh off the grill, along with sweet treats, cold beverages, and plenty of summertime favorites from a variety of food vendors. One exciting addition this year will be a special wine tasting experience, giving attendees the opportunity to relax, socialize and sample a variety of wines while enjoying the beautiful festival atmosphere.

Families with children will have even more to look forward to this year with the expanded "KidFest" activities area. KidFest will offer games, crafts, inflatables, entertainment, and activities designed especially for children of all ages. Watching kids laugh, play and experience Slovenefest traditions alongside parents and grandparents is one of the things that make this event so meaningful year after year.

But while Slovenefest is certainly packed with fun and entertainment, it also represents something much deeper. At its heart, Slovenefest is about community, heritage and taking care of one another. It's about preserving traditions while also planning for the future.

That's why the SNPJ booth remains such an important part of the weekend.

Throughout the festival, friendly SNPJ representatives and licensed agents will be available to answer questions and help members and guests learn more about the benefits SNPJ offers. Whether someone is interested in life insurance, annuities, member benefits, scholarships, or simply learning more about becoming part of the SNPJ family, we'll be there to help.

Many people first discover SNPJ through an event like Slovenefest. They come for the music and food, but they leave understanding that SNPJ is much more than a social organization. For over 120 years, SNPJ has helped individuals and families protect what matters most while building lifelong connections through fraternalism and community involvement.

Membership with SNPJ can open the door to valuable opportunities, including scholarship programs, youth activities, community events, and nationwide friendships that extend far beyond one summer weekend. It's a chance to belong to an organization that values family, tradition and financial security.

- At the SNPJ booth this year, visitors will be able to:
- Speak with licensed agents about life insurance and annuity options.
 - Learn more about SNPJ member benefits and community programs.
 - Discover opportunities for scholarships, youth involvement and fraternal activities.
 - Ask questions about becoming a member or helping family and friends join SNPJ.
 - Pick up free literature, giveaways, and information about upcoming events.

Slovenefest is also the perfect opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, coworkers and extended family to experience what makes SNPJ so special. You don't need to be Slovenian to attend – everyone is welcome. In fact, many longtime members first attended because someone simply invited them to come enjoy a weekend of music, food and fun.

So come hungry. Bring your dancing shoes. Enjoy the music, the food, and all the excitement of KidFest. Most importantly, bring the people you care about and make memories together.

And while you're there, stop by the SNPJ booth and say hello. We'll help you celebrate today while planning confidently for tomorrow. *We've got you covered...* today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

For Slovenefest information, visit slovenefest.com.



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Ptuj marking the 650th year of its city statute

PTUJ (STA) — An exhibition prepared by the Ptuj Historical Archive opened in late April as part of the celebrations marking the 650th year since Ptuj received its first city statute in 1376, which makes it the oldest such legal document in Slovenian lands.

The statute, one of the most important texts of Slovenian legal history, offers an insight into life in the late Middle Ages, revealing the legal order, social relations and economic activities of the time. The manuscript, comprising 195 articles, is written in Gothic script on 52 leaves of parchment in Middle High German. The original is in housed at the Herzog August Library in Wolfenbüttel, Germany, where it is believed to have been kept since the mid-17th century.

Ptuj city authorities became aware of the statute around 1907 and made an effort to buy it, or at least take photos of it, but failed. "The situation changed when the Nazis occupied part of Slovenia, including Ptuj," local historian Marija Hernja Masten told the press.

"In 1941, when the Germans seized Ptuj, a facsimile was made as part of broad efforts of Germanization and the promotion of German identity," Masten said. The Ptuj Historical Archive keeps this facsimile in its collection, and they are convinced the original is unlikely to visit its hometown.

The statute has been the subject of research for more than a century and remains an invaluable source for understanding the urban development and legal order of Slovenia's oldest town.

Apart from boasting the oldest city statute, Ptuj also prides itself on being the oldest Slovenian town as attested in written sources. It was first mentioned in Roman times, A.D. 69, as Poetovio, when the local legions proclaimed Vespasian emperor of Rome. Although its first known statute dates from 1376, available sources show that legal norms in Ptuj existed earlier, but apparently they were never codified.

Historical place name signs can remain in Piran

PIRAN (STA) — The Slovenian Culture Ministry has approved an appeal by the Piran municipality, which was ordered by the Culture Inspectorate to redesign information signs stating historical names of sections of the town in Italian. The inspectorate's decision was overturned and the proceedings stopped.

In November, the inspectorate ordered that Piran change signs located across 16 sites in the city within three months. The new signs would have to be uniform in design and provide information so that Slovenian comes first, followed by Italian, and then by any other foreign language.

In the appeal, the Piran municipality noted that the signs featured historic names in the Istrian-Venetian dialect, which differs significantly from contemporary Italian. "While it might be a foreign language for the inspector, it is not for the residents of the Slovenian Istria." The municipality added that the historic names represent a significant aspect of the locals' cultural identity. The signs are placed right next to signs with the official bilingual names, making it clear that they bear historical names.

The municipality also noted that the inspectorate's decision violated the Administrative Procedure Act since the law on public use of Slovenian does not require that text in Slovenian and Italian be written in a specific order. The Culture Ministry found the decision by the inspectorate was incorrect due to erroneous and incomplete findings of fact, as well as an incorrect application of regulations. The ministry overturned the decision and stopped the proceedings.

The inspectorate issued a similar decision for Koper in 2024. The Koper municipality also resisted at first, but ultimately redesigned the signs to a format acceptable to all parties.

Julian Alps area designs its own booking platform

BLED (STA) — The Julian Alps, Slovenia's premier alpine destination, officially launched a custom-built booking platform across its 11 municipalities. Designed to strengthen the local economy, the initiative directly addresses the financial drain caused by international booking giants.



As Bled Tourism Managing Director Blaž Veber explained during the Julian Alps Community annual meeting held in mid-April, "We want to achieve independence from other platforms and strengthen the local economy. In the Julian Alps alone, various platforms extract EUR 25 million (\$29.4 million) every year; money that doesn't stay in the destination."

Rather than attempting to banish international booking giants, the new system serves as a community-driven alternative. Accommodations providers must meet specific regional quality standards to be listed, and the ultimate goal is local reinvestment in the region, which is located in northwestern Slovenia and encompasses renowned natural landmarks that include Lake Bled, Lake Bohinj and Triglav National Park.

Klemen Langus, coordinator of the Julian Alps Community, emphasized the collaborative approach. "It is simply another system in the mix, but one that allows us to keep commission fees within the local community and reinvest them in activities jointly agreed upon by our partners."

The local tourism industry quickly embraced the new platform. Some 80 providers began accepting bookings immediately, with a total of 160 already signed on to the system. Support spans the entire industry, from major regional hotel chains to large campsites.

While professional operators quickly recognized the long-term benefits [of independent bookings], organizers acknowledged the ongoing challenge of educating and welcoming smaller, casual hosts who are currently satisfied using just one or two global apps.

For international visitors, the platform is designed to evolve beyond simple reservations into a comprehensive digital travel companion. Future updates will integrate essential regional information, including mountain safety alerts, sustainable transportation options, and real-time crowd information to steer visitors away from over-congested hotspots and toward quieter alternative locations.

The initiative has received backing at the national level. Dubravka Kalin, Director-General of the Tourism Directorate at the Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport, welcomed the project's focus on retaining local wealth and its alignment with modern travel trends. "Our world is becoming more digital by the hour, and younger generations in particular increasingly trust these tools. Thus, I see great potential in such an approach," she said.

WWI Isonzo Front burials website launched

KOBARID (STA) — An online database with information on the burial sites of soldiers who died on the Isonzo Front during WWI has been launched in Slovenia, enabling the soldiers' relatives from across the former Austro-Hungarian Empire to finally discover where their ancestors are buried.

Launched at the end of 2025, the Find a Grave website brings together data from 15 military cemeteries in the Kras and Goriška areas in western Slovenia. The database, currently only in English, is available at ww1db.thewalkofpeace.com and can also be accessed via <https://www.thewalkofpeace.com>.

The website is a collaboration between the 2025 Nova Gorica-Gorizia European Capital of Culture project and the Walk of Peace Foundation. The foundation's main mission is to promote the value of peace and preserve WWI history along the Isonzo Front, where Austro-Hungarian and Italian forces battled from 1915-1917.

Even more than 100 years after the end of WWI, many relatives still don't know where their ancestors who died on the Isonzo Front are buried. This was one of the reasons the partners wanted to launch the database, which was compiled from years of earlier research into military cemeteries.

Historian Mihael Uršič explained that the foundation receives 50 to 60 requests a year from people seeking help finding where their ancestors are buried. As for the number of casualties on the Isonzo Front, Uršič said, "We still don't have exact figures, but the symbolic estimate is 300,000 fatalities."

He added that Italy had documented their burial sites quite well, amounting to around 165,000 fatalities in total. "On both sides of the border, we estimate

that in the central part of the Isonzo Front there are around 80,000 Austro-Hungarian graves, while there are also several large military cemeteries behind the front line."

Uršič said the plan is to gradually expand the database with information from other military cemeteries. At present it contains only data from the Slovenian side of the border, but more Slovenian and Italian cemeteries should be added.

Beekeepers receiving bear protection kits

LUKOVICA (STA) — The Slovenian Beekeeping Association has begun distributing free kits designed to protect apiaries from brown bear attacks. The first of a total of 89 sets, which include an electric fence and a battery, were distributed to beekeepers in early April; the remainder will be distributed in the coming months. Association president Boštjan Noč said that 15 apiaries that serve as training facilities will also be equipped with electric fencing.

The campaign is part of a project the association and its partners is implementing to improve the protection of apiaries and reduce damage caused by large carnivores. Government data shows that 20 to 100 damage incidents involving brown bears are reported by apiaries annually, which represents 10 to 25 percent of all damage caused by brown bears. Compensation paid out solely for damage to apiaries ranges from EUR 8,000 to 70,000 (\$9,400 to \$82,400) annually.

Noč, who also heads the European Beekeeping Association, urged beekeepers to check whether their apiaries are located in brown bear territory. If so, they should protect the apiaries with electric fencing, a condition to be eligible for damage compensation. Electrical fencing is the most effective means of protection, and almost all beekeepers who have it and use it correctly no longer suffer any damage to their apiaries.

New museum dedicated to the Slovenian anthem

VIPAVA (STA) — The Slovenian national anthem will now be celebrated not only when sung or played at events, but also in its own museum as the birth house of the music composer for "A Toast" opened in mid-April in the village of Podnanos, southwest Slovenia.

The renovation of the birth house of Stanko Premrl (1880-1965), a composer, priest, and the author of the music for the Slovenian anthem, started in mid-2024, part of a project led by the Vipava municipality. As part of the renovation, the house was turned into a museum called "House Toast," which will host educational, tourist and promotional activities, along with ceremonial events.

The museum will present the lives of both Premrl and 19th century priest and astronomer Matija Vertovec (1784-1851), who was also born in Podnanos, and of the author of the anthem's lyrics, poet France Prešeren (1800-1849).

The renovation of the abandoned and dilapidated house was initiated by locals and completed according to the rules on cultural heritage protection, so the historical and architectural features of the house were preserved. According to Vipava Mayor Anton Lavrenčič, the project, which included the purchase of the house, cost some half million euros (\$590,000).

Slovenian Teja Oblak now playing in the WNBA

LJUBLJANA (STA) — In April, Teja Oblak, the captain of the Slovenian women's basketball team, signed with the Portland Fire, a WNBA expansion team that opened its inaugural season in May.

Oblak, who recently played for a team in Turkey, joins the WNBA team for which fellow Slovenian Vanja Černivec was appointed general manager last August. She also joins two fellow national basketball team members – naturalized American Jessica Shepard of the Dallas Wings, and Ajša Sivka, who was drafted by the Chicago Sky – in the WNBA.

Hailing from Škofja Loka, Oblak, a 5'8" point guard who is now 35 years old, has played professionally in Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

The articles comprising this feature have been reprinted with permission from the Slovenian Press Agency (STA).

best wishes to our
Honorary Members
Lodge 138
member
fondly
recalls life
on the farm



Sis. SOPHIA BRADDOCK (138)

STRABANE, Pa. — Sis. Sophia Braddock, a member of Lodge 138, outlived her SNPJ life insurance policy in April 2026 and has since joined the ranks of the Society’s Honorary (outlived) Members.

Sophia was born Aug. 9, 1925, in Imperial, Pa., the 11th of 13 children born to the late John and Eva Kapustynski. She was employed with Federal Enamel in McKees Rocks, Pa.; Canonsburg Pottery; RCA in Meadowlands, Pa.; and McDonald’s in Canonsburg, Pa.; where she worked until the age of 93.

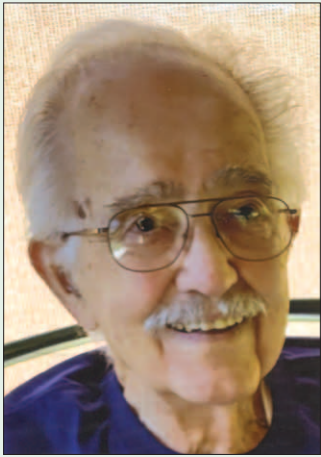
She married Vincent Braddock on Nov. 27, 1948, in Canonsburg. She has two children: a son, Vincent Braddock of Lexington, Ky., and a daughter, Darlene Bunevich of Strabane. She also has a granddaughter, Sarah Maleski of Dayton, Ohio.

Sophia became a member of Strabane Lodge 138 when she married Vince. She formerly bowled with the Lodge 138 Sunday Women’s League, and she loved to dance when polka bands performed at the Lodge 138 Hall.

Nowadays, Sophia enjoys working in her vegetable and flower garden, spending time with her family, and watching television. She often reminisces about growing up on a farm with her large family, and the fun she’s had with all of her friends and former co-workers.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 138 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend best wishes to Sis. Braddock for continued health and happiness.

Lodge A01
member
served in
the Army



Bro. CARL S. TROY (A01)

SEWICKLEY, Pa. — Bro. Carl S. Troy, a member of SNPJ Lodge A01, outlived his SNPJ life insurance policy in April 2026 and has since joined the ranks of the Society’s Honorary (outlived) Members.

Born in Monaca, Pa., in 1927, Carl started his career as a barber while still in high school. From there he served in the U.S. Army 1st Guided Missile Battalion in White Sands, N.M.

Following his service in the Army, he went on to work for Westinghouse Electric, and met and married the love of his life, Patricia. Together, they happily raised seven children, 16 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. He and Pat recently celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary.

Carl writes, “I retired in January 1983 and have enjoyed every single minute of it!”

On behalf of the members of Lodge A01 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend best wishes to Bro. Troy for continued health and happiness.

82nd SNPJ National Golf Tournament
at Black Hawk Golf Course
644 Blackhawk Rd., Beaver Falls, PA 15010
Phone: (724) 843-5512 • www.blackhawkgolfcourse.com
Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026
Morning tee times or shotgun start time TBD

Individual Event	
Name	Lodge No.
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
Team Event	
Name	Lodge No.
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Entry fee for team and individual events is \$60 per member.
For individual event only, entry fee is \$55 per member.
Optional skins entry: \$5 per person.
Entry fee includes greens fees, golf cart, prize fund.

Return this form, along with entry fees, to:
David Sankovich, SNPJ District 3 Athletic Director
P.O. Box 485, Bessemer, PA 16112

Make checks payable to SNPJ

ENTRY DEADLINE IS AUG. 22, 2026
The Home Office will verify all memberships.
Complete tournament rules are available by contacting the SNPJ Home Office, 247 W. Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126

A full schedule of events for Heritage Center Weekend

HERITAGE WEEKEND
FROM PAGE 1

next four years included Agnes Elish, Roger and Ann Evanish, Mary Friedl, Jennie Gorjanc, Sylvia Provenza, Al and Mary Roginski, Lou Serjak, Jennie Zaman and Ed Zitko. Jeanette Elish joined the committee in 1997, Ed Chrnart and Kathy Paulenich joined in 1998, Patricia Buchner joined in 2000, and Blanche Asherman joined in 2001.

The grand opening of the renovated and expanded SNPJ Recreation Center was held May 12, 2001, while construction at the Recreation Center, including the area for the new Heritage Center museum and gift shop, continued through the end of May. The grand opening of the new SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center was held in March 2003, almost two years after the Recreation Center renovation/addition was completed. We are now in the current museum and gift shop.

Come and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center the weekend of June 5-7 at the Recreation Center. We’ll kick off the weekend Friday, June 5, in the Gostilna with Patty Candela & The Guys performing from 8 to 11 p.m.

Activities on Saturday, June 6, start at 9 a.m. with a balina tournament in the Balinarena organized by Denny Brand. Contact Den by e-mail to dhbrand3517@gmail.com if you’re interested in playing.

Sarah Loudon will be leading a paint-and-sip in the Wine Room starting at 6 p.m. on Saturday. The craft this year is a wind chime; a fee of \$20 will cover the supplies, snacks and wine. The paint-and-sip is limited to 30 participants. Saturday activities conclude with bingo in the Gostilna starting at 8 p.m.

Our Sunday activity includes a dance in the Heritage Pavilion from 1 to 6 p.m. featuring the Frank Stanger Band alternating with the Western Pa. Button Box Club. Although this is a free-admission dance, donations at the door will be welcomed.

Come to the dance early for a baking demonstration starting at noon in the Heritage Pavilion conducted by Julie Wagner from the Johnstown, Pa., Slavic Festival. Julie visits her cousins in Slovenia every summer, and while there she learns a new recipe. She will share one of her favorite recipes with us and provide samples.

We’ll also welcome Joe Valencic from Cleveland, who many call “Mr. Slovenia” because of his knowledge about Slovenia. Joe will have brochures about the various Slovenian organizations he belongs to and the events they have planned this year.

In addition, we’re celebrating the 50th anniversary of the SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center on Sunday afternoon with a cake for everyone to enjoy.

Please support our Slovenian Heritage Center Weekend. As an added incentive to attend the entire weekend of events, the Recreation Center is offering a 50 percent reduction on the price of cabin rentals. Phone the SNPJ Recreation Center office at (724) 336-5180 for rental information.

Don’t forget the Simply Slavic Festival at the amphitheater in downtown Youngstown, Ohio, June 26-28. This three-day festival, which is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year, is a great event that presents many different nationalities through its marketplace, ethnic tent, food, drink and music.

And now to Slovenefest, the biggest and best festival of the year, scheduled July 10-12 at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

The Heritage Center museum and gift shop will be open on Friday, July 10, from 5 to 8 p.m.; and on Saturday, July 11, and Sunday, July 12, from noon until 6 p.m. We will also be set up outside the entertainment tent in the midway on Friday from 5 to 8 p.m., on Saturday from 2 to 8 p.m., and on Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.

Our “Closer Look at Slovenia” presentations will be located in various areas of the

Recreation Center grounds this year. Sarah and Kathy Loudon will host a make it/take it craft next to the outdoor sales trailer from 2 to 5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday, Joe Valencic will be in the Heritage Pavilion from 2 to 5 p.m. displaying posters of Slovenians from different areas of the U.S. He will also be available to answer your questions about Slovenia.

Lucija Lindav from the Slovenian Consulate in Cleveland will be in the Heritage Center museum on Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. to discuss Slovenian citizenship, language and travel.

Vida Kosir will conduct a baking demonstration of *kremšnita* (Bled cream cake) on Sunday starting at 2 p.m. in The Alpine Room; and Lorri Kaup, President of the Slovenian Genealogy Society, Inc., will be available in the Heritage Center gift shop from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday to answer your genealogy questions.

There are some new additions to Slovenefest that I’m sure everyone will enjoy, so make your hotel reservations now and plan to attend. Enjoy Slovenefest!



In May, SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center Committee members **ED ROBICH**, **JOAN GASPERCIC** and **KATHY PAULENICH** presented the Heritage Center traveling display at the Slovenian Embassy in Washington, D.C., during the annual EU Open House event.



A very engaging – yet somehow still menacing – kurent enjoys the strains of a button box accordion played by SNPJ Heritage Center Committee member **PATTY CANDELA** during the EU Open House.



KATHY HLAD (158), who accompanied SNPJ Heritage Center Committee members on their visit to the Slovenian Embassy for the EU Open House, performed for event visitors.



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Photo submitted by Rich Dombrosky

Lodge 776 Welcomes a New Member

Borough of SNPJ, Pa., Lodge 776 welcomes **MACY TROSKY** as one of their newest members. Search SNPJ Lodge 776 on Facebook for more member announcements and information about Lodge activities.

The annual SNPJ Family Week unites generations

by SEPH KUMER
Lodge 715

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — Somehow in the last six decades I went from being a “grandkid” to a “grandparent” attending Family Week at the SNPJ Recreation Center. Kumers have been gathering for a week at the end of July or early August for as long as the camp has been open. Five generations have enjoyed the experience of gathering from across the U.S. annually; from Seattle, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Erie, and a few places in between.

My sister and cousins used to affectionately call the generations above us (parents, grandparents and aunts/uncles) “geezers.” Now the term de-

scribes us! How can this be? We’re all hovering around 60 now, as old – or almost as old – as the SNPJ Recreation Center that opened in 1965.

We annually remember our parents and grandparents no longer with us, and now we’re beginning to enjoy a week of camp with grandchildren. I had two 11-year-old grandsons with me this past year, one from Raleigh, N.C., and one from Erie, Pa.

What was once a common American family camp experience (a week of cabin accommodations, swimming, organized crafts and games, fishing, hayrides, campfires, bingo – and prepared meals!) is now nearly an anomaly... unless one visits a swanky, ritzy,

exclusive kind of camp.

But SNPJ Family Week still offers six nights and five days of lodging – with meals – for a very affordable price. I call it my “rural, rustic, all-inclusive vacation.” Ha, ha, ha... you still have to pack a car full of bedding, box fans, and family gear: indoor/outdoor games, fishing rods, etc.

The biggest draw for me, besides being with family and friends made over the years, is being “unplugged;” cell service isn’t great, often “one bar,” at best. And Wi-Fi is only available in the main building. This allows for lots of intergenerational “hanging out.” Conversations. Adults and kids (mostly) without screens. Most of us attending

are from urban/suburban areas, so being in Pennsylvania farm country offers us a real escape from our hectic lives. We love visiting a local orchard and Amish bakery for delicious snacks during our week.

I also look forward to checking in with other families (besides Kumers) from Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. Over the years, they have become good friends and “SNPJ family” members. We number around 100. And yet, there are often a dozen or more cabins still available!

So give it some thought. Call the Recreation Center at 1-877-767-5732 for more information. I would love to meet you at Family Week 2026!

Support the Rec Center Cabin Renovation Project



by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
SNPJ National President/CEO

IMPERIAL, Pa. — SNPJ members have enjoyed the unique and remarkable place that is the SNPJ Recreation Center. Countless memories that have been made there are treasured by thousands. The Recreation Center is now going on 60 years old and thus, wear and tear has taken its toll.

The large upper cabins, situated opposite the lake, are some of the first structures built on the property. The renovations of cabins #1 and #2 were completed a few years ago. The 12 motel units were also completed. Cabin #15 was renovated during the offseason of 2023-2024, with plans to complete cabins #3-#7 before the 2024 season.

The cabins will be wrapped in a vapor barrier and vinyl sided. New windows and doors will be installed. On the interior, new flooring will be installed throughout. The bathrooms will have larger showers with new toilets and sinks. The kitchen sink area will be re-designed. A power vent will be installed at the roofline to draw out the heat, and wall air conditioners will be installed for those 90-degree, hot summer days.

There are 24 cabins, which

leaves 16 more to do. The budgeted cost to complete one cabin exceeds \$30,000; thus, much more in the way of donations is needed. Since this is not a cultural or educational (scholarship) cause, but rather, recreational in nature, contributions are not considered tax deductible.

We encourage Lodges, Federations, members, friends and other organizations to contribute. Several have already contributed. While we do offer “Club Level” recognition, all donations will be listed in *PROSVETA*.

Donors at the following Club Levels will receive their name on a plaque: Bronze Level, \$1,000; Silver Level, \$5,000; Gold Level, \$10,000; and Platinum Level, \$25,000.

Donation checks can be made payable to “SNPJ.” Please indicate “Cabin Renovation” in the memo area. Provide your name and address, and the acknowledgment name and address if the donation is made in memory of someone.

Send your donation to Slovene National Benefit Society, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support!

Rec Center Cabin Renovation Donations for the months of January-April 2026

Club Level Donations			
Bronze Level			
SNPJ Lodge 126, Cleveland	\$2,500	SNPJ Lodge 782, Glenshaw, Pa.	\$100
Henry & Patricia Drnach (719), Bethel Park, Pa.	\$1,000	Slovene Federation of SNPJ Lodges of Western Pennsylvania	\$100
		Judy Vasilko-Edsall (749), Johnstown, Pa.	\$50
		<i>In memory of Craig Kumer</i>	
		Amy Mavrich (138), Canonsburg, Pa.	\$25
		<i>In memory of Craig Kumer</i>	
		Amy Mavrich (138), Canonsburg, Pa.	\$25
		<i>In memory of Frank Valencic Sr.</i>	

SNPJ Membership Anniversaries June 2026

80-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
6	Margaret J. Brobeck	158	Margaret Moore
31	Louise Vett	576	Vida Zak

70-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
8	Emil Kritzer	643	Patricia A. Harper
87	John M. Indof	721	Shirley A. Moore

60-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
5	Thomas A. Aldrich	257	Barbara A. Dacar
41	Joan Kratofil	518	Diana L. Devereaux
41	Joseph A. Shuster	584	Donna M. Haapala
87	Linda R. Harvey	584	Carol A. Bender
106	Daniel S. Morgan	584	Frank M. Gole
106	Joseph F. Vidmar	689	Barbara L. Jewkes
142	Constance M. Lewis	721	Barry J. Struble
174	John J. Rozum	723	Stephan A. Kasprzyk
218	Dennis M. Sayotovich	771	Glenn L. Penwell
223	Beverly A. Pegg	771	David V. Perrone
225	Cheryl M. Lindy		

50-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
3	Laura L. Danko	371	Mary R. O'Donnell
5	Janet M. Urbanowicz	559	Mark S. Ferlin
6	Maya A. Patnesky	564	Michael P. Burke
6	Elizabeth A. Hilty	576	Mark R. Pryatel
6	George Joseph	581	Judy M. Tucker
87	Markus M. Kohan	584	Joseph F. Starzer
89	David A. Femovich	584	William L. Schuette
106	Victoria A. Papiak	643	Paulette T. Kren
120	Thomas E. Marinsek	665	Valerie A. Brown
138	Nancy J. Antol-Sartori	715	Joyce L. Keller
142	Betty Rendlesham	723	LaCindy I. Gentry
153	Mark R. Hull	723	Carl A. Ferency
158	Lynn E. McAllister	729	Christine M. Magayna-Brown
158	John R. Barbish	745	Teresa A. Mlakar
174	Robert P. Mclnlay	749	Kimberly A. Kopler
174	Timothy A. Harvan	776	Paul D. Snyder
174	Lorraine F. Banda	776	Fred C. Puchlopek
216	Pauline G. Wimmer	776	Harold R. Feezle
257	Douglas J. Dieckman	776	Kristine D. Wood
277	Donald A. Rock	782	John H. Youk
304	Christine C. Andre	782	
304	Carrie A. Gault		



A CENTURY in the making

Proud of your SNPJ membership? Then you owe it to yourself to delve deeper into SNPJ history through the pages of *An Inspired Journey – The SNPJ Story: The First One Hundred Years of the Slovene National Benefit Society*. This richly-illustrated chronicle of SNPJ history compiled and written by SNPJ Publications Editor Jay Sedmak is available for purchase.

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PROSVETA Crossword

Father's Day (#0626) by StatePoint Media

ACROSS

- Home to Taj Mahal
- Centum weight, acr.
- Psychedelic drug, acr.
- Elephant trainer's poker
- *Ned Stark's youngest daughter
- Draw out a conclusion
- Parks of Civil Rights fame
- Toothy wheel
- Birth-related
- *Pinocchio's father
- Fortune-telling coffee remnant
- Religious doctrine
- D.C. mover and shaker, abbr.
- Assembled
- Raidable hotel room amenity
- Evergreen creeper
- *"Fasten" a shoe (2 words)
- Nay, to a baby
- Dryer accumulation, pl.
- Expose to moisture
- White heron
- Sodium hydroxide
- Same as battle-ax
- UN labor grp.
- Like localized disease
- Crab's grabber
- Catcher in the what?
- Food-borne bacteria
- Begone!

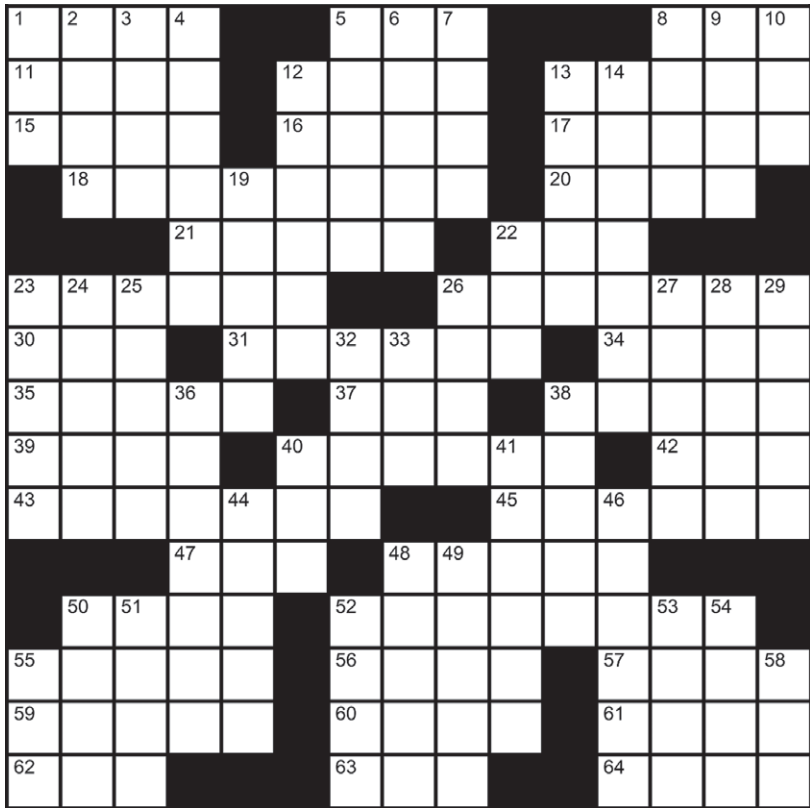
- *"Fathers and Sons" author
- Not expensive
- Medicinal plant
- Joie de vivre
- Batu Khan's posse
- *Fils' father
- Chicken of the sea
- *Tarzan's adoptive dad
- Before, poetically
- Big Bang's original matter

DOWN

- Financing acronym
- Hot rum drink
- *Official flower of Father's Day
- Adjusts
- Minotaur's island
- *Kurt Russell's son of "Thunderbolts" fame
- Tropical tuber
- Stringed instrument
- Slang for heroin
- Marina ____ Rey, CA
- "To do" list
- "____ a high note"
- *Fictional Mr. ____ who banished children's nanny to a doghouse
- Banana refuse, pl.

- Gladys Knight's band member
- *Christopher Robin's father A.A. ____
- Like certain flu
- Church assembly
- Speechless
- Gabriel of Chile
- Administer ceremonial oil
- Chopper blade
- Nile dweller, for short
- Snake-like reef dweller
- *Cormac McCarthy's post-apocalyptic father/son novel (2 words)
- Expatriate
- Dream in the sky
- Climactic stage
- Nearsited one
- Degrees in right angle
- Prolific Swiss mathematician
- Ten million, in India
- Mercantile establishment
- This location
- Cassette contents
- Twelfth month of Jewish calendar
- Rooftop contraption
- Cuban dance step
- "Platoon" setting, for short

The solution to puzzle #0626 will run in the July 1 issue.



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