

APRIL 2017

GCU



MAGAZINE

Annual Report Issue

**Fraternalist
of the Year**

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A Moment of Magic**

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George N. Juba
President
CEO

Embracing the Present



current growth and financial stability we enjoy today, yet never becoming complacent as there are current challenges being addressed with many more challenges that lay on the horizon yet to surface.

Remembering Our Past

As we “Remember Our Past,” I would like to share with you an excerpt from my report to the delegates of the 42nd National Convention as your President and Chief Executive Officer. The success that our Society enjoys today stems from a most historic decision made in 1977 by the Board of Directors in approving to add an annuity product to the GCU’s product portfolio. The excerpt from my presentation is as follows:

“Our fixed income annuity was first introduced in 1977. In researching past minutes of the Board of Directors meetings, President George Batyko first presented the annuity product to the Board for consideration at the October 1975 Board meeting. The annuity product was met with both favorable and unfavorable opinions, mostly unfavorable at the time. After a great deal of discussion, no positive action was taken at that meeting to approve the annuity plan as a product offered by the GCU.

Mr. Batyko, maybe being a little relentless, once again requested the Board to reconsider the annuity plan at the April 1976 meeting. In his report to the Board at this meeting he stated and I quote—“We were disappointed at the last meeting that this Board did not give us the authority to implement an annuity plan. This is the hottest plan in the insurance business today, and we should have it in our sales basket.”

It is important for us to “Embrace the Present” and celebrate our current financial success and our total recovery from the onslaught of the financial markets from seven short years ago.

We welcome you to the 2017 Annual Report issue of the *GCU Magazine*! This year’s February magazine publication highlighted the celebration of the GCU’s 125th Anniversary. Throughout the course of 2017 we will continue to tout this amazing milestone achieved by our Society.

In June of 2016, the GCU held its 42nd National Convention. In anticipation of the celebration of our Society’s founding on February 14, 1892 and our 125 years of existence, the theme of our Convention was “Remembering Our Past, Embracing the Present, Preparing for Our Future.” This theme selected was most apropos as we remember our deep history and its heritage, the many challenges overcome and successes accomplished, cherishing the

Our Greatest Core Value is to Glorify God in All That We Do

—end of quote. After discussion at this meeting, the Board agreed to implement the plan on a trial basis for one year at which time a report be made to the Board on the progress of this program, and the rest is history. The fixed annuity product officially became a product of the GCU in August 1977 that complemented the various life products offered. In the minutes of the April 1978 meeting Mr. Batyko's report to the Board was as follows and I quote again from the minutes. "We are pleased with our annuity program—Approximately \$66,000 has been deposited on 47 plans since the inception of our program in August of 1977. We feel confident that annuities will be a strong contributing factor to our financial stability."—end of quote!

This "Wish" this "Vision," this "Plan" and this "Goal" by Mr. Batyko and members of the Board of Directors in bringing on the annuity in the 1970's is no doubt the primary contributing factor to our asset growth and financial stability and success we experience today!"

We enjoy the success of our expanded portfolio of annuity products offered over the years because of this decision made back in 1977. So, we must "Remember the Past," that allows us to celebrate the "Present"!

I would now like to share some interesting facts about the GCU over the course of its history.

- The GCU's first Convention was held in 1893 in Scranton, Pennsylvania that included a parade through the downtown streets.
- Today, there are currently over 50,000 GCU members. There were 732 members in 1892.
- In 1923 an orphanage was opened and

dedicated to the care for children of deceased GCU members. Located in Elmhurst, Pennsylvania (Northeastern, PA), the orphanage operated for 28 years.

- The GCU currently has active lodges in 11 states.
- The first GCU National Golf Tournament was held at the Duquesne Golf Club located in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania in 1948. Seven Oaks began hosting the National Golf Tournament in 1978.
- The total immigration from Austria-Hungary to the United States between 1880 and 1908 amounted to 2,780,000 people. It is estimated that 50% of the Rusin population left Subcarpathian Rus by the end of the nineteenth century.
- The death benefit of a GCU member's policy in 1892 was \$400.⁰⁰.
- A Gymnastic Branch of the GCU was formed in 1910 for youth ages 14 to 21. The slogan "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body" was adopted. The Gymnastic Branch had their own news publication and convention.
- Six GCU gymnasts participated in a Gymnastics Exhibition in Prague, Czechoslovakia in the summer of 1920.
- GCU purchased its first computer in 1972, an IBM System 3.
- The 1960 Convention delegates first authorized annual education grants of \$25,000 to the Byzantine Catholic Seminary located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This grant continues to date and has been increased to \$110,000 per year with the total amount contributed now exceeding \$3 million.
- The first GCU publication the *Amerikansky Rusky Viestnik* or *American Rusin Messenger*, was first printed and distributed on March 17, 1892 in both the Cyrillic and Latin alphabets. Today

this publication is the *GCU Magazine* which you are currently reading.

- A Juvenile Branch was established in 1906 for youth ages 6 to 16 with the goal of "Insuring the Future of the GCU."
- The first Home Office of the GCU was located in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania. Other cities the Home Office was located in included Scranton, PA; New York City, NY; Oakland-Pittsburgh, PA and Munhall, PA. On August 15, 1987 the GCU's operations moved to its current location in Beaver, PA.
- Groundbreaking for the Saint Nicholas of Myra Chapel, located next to the GCU's Home Office, occurred on April 25, 1991, as a memorial to the founders and generations of members before us.
- and finally... the GCU total assets in 1892 amounted to \$600.⁰⁰. Through March 31, 2017, the GCU's total assets are now approaching \$1.6 billion.

Embrace the Present

It is important for us to "Embrace the Present" and celebrate our current financial success and our total recovery from the onslaught of the challenging economic and financial markets from seven short years ago. The financial position of the GCU has never been stronger. We are extremely pleased and proud to report to you our 2016 GCU year-end financial results. As of year-end, total assets stand at \$1 billion \$549 million representing a 14.4% increase over 2015. Surplus is now at an all-time high totaling \$108 million with profits in 2016 of \$20.6 million being the major contributing factor to our increased surplus. Our Chief Financial Officer, Tim Demetres, has presented detailed reports and commentary for your review on the GCU's financial position for

year end 2016 located on page 7.

In the 2017 Independent Comparative Report of the GCU prepared by Standard Analytical Services, Inc., GCU's 2016 results compared very favorably with 25 of the leading life insurers in the United States. GCU is above the average of these companies in solvency, liquid investment assets and investment yield. The complete report can be viewed on the GCU website at: <http://www.gcuusa.com/PDF/StandardAnalytical16.pdf>.

Addressing Our Concerns

As I have reported in the past, we continue to address our concerns in the sale of life insurance. A strategy has been developed in addressing this concern that will enable us to reach our goals in 2017 and beyond. A very productive meeting was recently held with our Life Insurance Council, our top five life insurance producers that provided invaluable information to strengthen the sales and marketing of our life products.

The GCU Holding Company and its subsidiaries realized a net loss of \$852,500 in 2016 compared to a net loss of \$710,297 in 2015.

GCU Real Estate Company, Inc. recorded a net loss of \$38,800 which represents a \$19,800 increase due to decreased lot sales experienced in 2016. Berkshire Hathaway Home Services continues to market the remaining 13 single family lots and two spec homes that are currently for sale at Congressional Place. The Board of Directors is in the process of securing a developer to complete the carriage home development at Pinehurst Village that will have a most positive effect upon the financials of the Real Estate Company in 2017.

Seven Oaks Country Club, Inc. performed slightly below the 2016's budget expectations as a net loss before depreciation of \$482,000 or \$50,000 higher than budgeted. The shortfall within the 2016's operation centered around decreased revenues. The Club attracted 90 new members in 2016. Decreased revenues were substantially offset by decreased operating expenses as costs are continually monitored and reduced without sacrificing the quality of service expected by members in a private club environment.

Shell Cracker Plant

We remain confident that the commitment by Shell Chemical to construct an ethane cracker plant within four miles of Seven Oaks and the GCU Real Estate development will have a positive financial impact upon both entities. In addition, we anticipate as the natural gas market prices increase, placing our over 740 acres owned by Seven Oaks and the GCU Real Estate Company under a land lease contract will generate a substantial amount of revenues to both corporations. Beaver County's vast amount of Utica Shale and Marcellus Shale subsurface has been touted as having one of the largest reserves in the United States as a source of natural gas.

Preparing for Our Future

As we "Prepare for Our Future" we are most excited to launch the GCU's new branding initiative. We are in the final stages of preparing the transition to the GCU's new look that will differentiate us from other commercial and fraternal carriers, building a more emotional connection to our members while preserving our proud history, that we will continually honor! We do hope you are enjoying the new format of this issue of the *GCU Magazine* which is a part of our new branding initiative. We most certainly welcome your feedback on the "New Look."

Our new tag line, "**Investing in the Goodness of Community,**" takes on so many meanings of what the GCU stands

for that will be shared at each and every touch point our members, prospective members and agents have with the GCU, both financially and fraternally. New fraternal programming will be geared towards our members that support various causes through their own individual volunteering and fundraising efforts in an attempt to have more of our members involved in the fraternal aspects of the GCU. The new branding program will be giving the GCU a new look and feel but be assured our "Core Values" will remain the same: "Our Greatest Core Value Is To Glorify God In All That We Do." From This Foundation We Embrace the Following:

- Our Strength Begins With Our Members
- We Practice Fiscal Responsibility
- Our Product Lines Are Of The Highest Quality
- We Value Our Teamwork Concept
- We Are Committed To Quality Service Preparing for Our Future

A Continued Commitment

Please be assured also that the GCU Board of Directors and the Fraternal Communications Department are committed in continuing to support our current lodges and districts that do a tremendous job in supporting the fraternal mission of the GCU. The efforts of our lodge and district officers and members are evident through the enclosed articles of the many fine programs sponsored to benefit our churches, our communities and the many organiza-

We remain confident that the commitment by Shell Chemical to construct an ethane cracker plant within four miles of Seven Oaks and the GCU Real Estate development will have a positive financial impact upon both entities.

tions and individuals in need of volunteer and financial support. We thank all of you for your charity that is most appreciated.

We congratulate Barbara Rebovich, Lodge 28-Pittsburgh, PA, who has been selected the GCU's 2016 Fraternalist of the Year. Barbara is very much involved in giving back to her church and to her community. A separate article detailing her fraternal contributions appears on the next page. Congratulations Barbara!

In closing, my sincere thank you to the Board of Directors, our executive officers, general counsel, department managers and Home Office staff for their diligent efforts that have once again allowed us to present a most positive annual report. Our appreciation to our members and agents for the life and annuity business

that you have placed with the GCU. I can personally assure you that our members' interest remain at the forefront each and every day!

My personal best wishes to you and your family for a most Blessed and Happy Easter!

*Christos Voskrese, Christ Is Risen
Voistinu Voskrese, Indeed He Is Risen*

George N. Juba
CEO

Are You Enjoying the GCU Magazine?

The GCU Magazine is published on a bi-monthly basis in February, April, June, August, October and December.

All members receive the April—Annual Report issue. If you would like to receive every issue of the magazine please email bwahal@GCUusa.com or contact the GCU Fraternal-Communications Department at 1-800-722-4428 ext. 3810



Privacy Policy

GCU Privacy Policy

We appreciate your Membership with the GCU. The GCU is a Fraternal Benefit Society that has always been and will be committed to protecting the privacy of your personal financial and medical information. This will continue to be a matter of top priority for us.

The GCU Privacy Policy is as follows:

We will not:

- disclose personal, non-public information about you to anyone other than our affinity partners and always, only as permitted or required by law.
- disclose personal medical information about you except as permitted by law or as you may authorize.
- sell lists of our members to any vendor of goods or services.

We will:

- restrict access to non-public personal information about you to those employees who need to know that information to provide products to you.
- maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with the federal standards to guard your non-public personal information.
- Remove your name and contact information from all affinity mailings at your request. You should make your request in writing to the GCU or call us at 855-306-0607.

We collect non-public personal information about you from the following sources:

- Information we receive from you on applications or other forms.
- Information from medical tests requested by us or from your medical services providers (medical information collection applicable to some life and health insurance policies, not annuities).

- Information about your transactions with us (such as premium payments, loans, claims, etc.).
- Information we receive from consumer reporting agencies.

Our continued goal is to maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date records. You may contact us in writing at 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009 or call 855-306-0607 to access, as provided by law, information included in your file. We will promptly correct any error in our information. To protect your privacy, you will need to identify yourself by providing your name, date of birth and Social Security Number.

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George N. Juba". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

George N. Juba
President/CEO

BARBARA REBOVICH

GCU 2016 Fraternalist of the Year

The GCU Fraternalist of the Year

award recognizes an individual within the organization who is the embodiment of fraternalism. Someone who lives a life of service through their local lodge, church, and community.

Barbara Rebovich of Lodge 28 in Southside-Pittsburgh, PA has been named the 2016 GCU Fraternalist of the Year. She is a devoted and active member of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church. She plays an integral part in bi-weekly coffee socials after Liturgy, Night at the Races, holupki sales, and other fundraising efforts for the church. She oversees the St. John the Baptist Church hall from taking inventory and shopping for supplies to coordinating repairs and flood restoration.

In addition to her church involvement, Barbara is very active with Lodge 28. She is a huge help with assisting in their activities and events, including Founders' Day, Helping Hands Day, 9/11 Remembrance, community dinners at Hot Metal Faith Community, bake sales and other fundraisers.

Barbara's impressive resume includes many other volunteer efforts in her community. She was the secretary and now president and treasurer of the Pittsburgh Deaf Blind Lions Club. Community service

efforts include collections of eyeglasses, food, clothing, and Christmas presents. Barbara received an award in 2015 from the Lion's Club, acknowledging her willingness to help and give service to others in need.

She has organized collections for Cans for Cancer at the Cancer Caring Center in Bloomfield-Pittsburgh, PA, tutored grade school children in reading at Phillips Elementary School, collected and recycled cans to benefit local animal shelters, and has volunteered with OASIS, a non-profit that promotes healthy aging through life-long learning.

Barbara's efforts and ambitions are infectious as her actions serve as a role model for peers and younger generations. She is selfless with her time and is a true ambassador for being a servant with a big heart. Congratulations Barbara!

Barb is a wonderful person, inside and out. She volunteers for so many things and does so without wanting recognition. She has been an important part of keeping Lodge 28 active and viable. We are very happy that she received this award as she is most deserving of it.

—Karen Pavlick & Kim Kolesar | Lodge 28 Officers



Barbara Rebovich



Deborah Tatro
Executive Vice President
COO

Quasquicentennial

Pronunciation: (kwos"kwī-sen-ten'ē-ul),—adj.
pertaining to or marking a period of 125 years.

—n.

1. a 125th anniversary.
2. a celebration marking such an anniversary.

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I am very proud to be part of GCU at a time when we can celebrate 125 years of service to our members, our churches, clergy and our communities. We have rolled out a new logo that honors our past, but looks toward our future.

As for my operations report, I am proud to tell you, we at the Home Office continue to work very hard for you, our members. We strive to always improve upon those high service standards that our members deserve.

The transaction numbers for 2016 were up over 2015 in all departments. We have continued to expand the automation of our processes giving us the ability to do more work with existing staff.

Our Fraternal Department has done a tremendous job on our fraternal outreach. We went paperless in the fraternal department in 2016 and made our scholarship application process entirely electronic. Fraternal is making good use of the CRM (customer relations management software) for tracking activities and lodge reports. We are also sending subsidies and grants via ACH (direct deposit) to reduce cost and increase efficiency and provide better service to our lodges and districts.

As our Society was formed to protect the financial future of our members and their families, life insurance is a corner stone of that foundation. We continue to refine and implement our life insurance strategy, developing products to attract new younger members and to provide additional benefits for our existing members.

We created a life insurance Advisory Council, which is a life insurance work

group of existing agents. Our initial meeting was held in March 2017.

We finished 2016 strong. Our membership has grown to over 50,000. We have secured admission to the new states of Missouri, Texas and Nevada, with plans to seek admission into Iowa, Kentucky and continue to pursue Kansas.

Our new sales exceeded expectations at over \$260 million. For the first time, GCU had 55 agents that exceeded \$1 million in sales.

We pride ourselves on personal service, I am very proud in our ability to offer that personal service to all our agents, lodges and members. Our Call Center handled over 25,000 calls.

2017 looks to be another great year, and I and your Home Office staff are here to serve you, our members.

125 years is our quasquicentennial anniversary. With God's blessing, GCU will thrive and grow to meet our bicentennial

5800+ POLICIES

Our Medicare Supplement product line continues to grow. We issued over 5,800 policies in 2016. Adding 5,000 new members to our growing ranks.

NEW BUSINESS

New Business produced 93 more policies in 2016 versus 2015. Policy count is still up slightly, but the applications we receive are now a higher dollar value.



Tim Demetres
Chief Financial Officer
CFO

2016 A Milestone Financial Year

GCU's 2016 year-end results mark another milestone, setting the stage for our 125th anniversary year. Both net income and surplus reached new highs thanks to our membership growth.

Highlights of 2016

Net Income before net capital gains (losses) totaled \$23.7 million in 2016 compared to \$22.0 million in 2015, resulting in an increase of \$1.7 million. Largely due to lower energy prices and reduced demand, we impaired certain bond holdings resulting in realized capital losses of \$1.4 million. We also recognized capital losses on several common stocks that were devalued following the 2008 financial crisis. After net gains/(losses), net income for 2016 was \$20.6 million compared to \$22.1 million in 2015. Since the inception of our Society, the past four years have been the most profitable ever reported!

Assets totaled \$1.55 billion, an increase of \$195.0 million or 14.4% from the prior year which totaled \$1.355 billion. This too, is history in the making! The increase in assets can be attributed to continued positive cash flow due to outstanding premium income and strong earnings from investments.

Liabilities totaled \$1.441 billion for 2016 compared to \$1.264 billion as of December 31, 2015. This increase of \$177 million is due primarily to increased annuity reserves of \$167.6 million reflecting in-

creased sales of annuities as well as increases in the Asset Valuation Reserve (AVR) of \$4.34 million and Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR) of \$1.32 million.

Total Income for 2016 totaled \$346.1 million compared to \$318.2 million in 2015. This \$27.5 million increase is primarily attributable to an increase in annuity premiums of \$30.2 million, an increase in net investment income of \$5.8 million, and a reduction in annuity conversions of \$8.5 million.

Operating expenses for 2016 before reserves totaled \$154.1 million. Operating expenses for the same period in 2015 totaled \$164.9 million representing a decrease of \$10.8 million. This decrease in operating expenses is due primarily to a decrease in death and annuity benefits of \$14.2 million reduced by increased commissions paid on higher annuity sales of \$2.6 million.

The increase in Reserves for Life and Annuities for 2016 totaled \$168.1 million compared to \$131.0 million in 2015. Reserves are established as a function of premium and claims. Annuity premiums exceeded \$237 million increasing by \$30.2 million

over 2015 and total claims were relatively consistent with the prior year.

Surplus stands at \$108.53 million compared to 2015 year-end surplus of \$90.74 million. This increase in our surplus of \$17.79 million is primarily attributable to net income of \$20.6 million for the year, the change in net unrealized gains of \$1.5 million reduced by a \$4.3 million increase in the Asset Valuation Reserve.

Safety Funds that includes Surplus of \$108.5 million, Interest Maintenance Reserves of \$18.1 million, and Asset Valuation Reserves of \$17.6 million totaled \$144.2 million as of December 31, 2016. This is an increase of \$18.7 million for 2016. In addition, the solvency ratios for the year 2016 are 107.5 and 110.3 that includes Special Reserves, Asset Valuation Reserves (AVR) and Interest Maintenance Reserves (IMR). These ratios are consistent with those of 2015 and reflect a strong and stable balance sheet.

Spring is in the air. I'd like to wish everyone a happy Easter season!

Since the inception of our Society, the past four years have been the most profitable ever reported!

GCU Balance Sheet Comparison

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31		
Assets (000's omitted)	2016	2015	Difference
Bonds	\$ 1,442,352	\$ 1,268,001	\$ 174,351
Preferred Stocks	44,259	21,413	22,846
Common Stocks	11,797	12,314	(517)
Cash/Short Term Investments	26,262	30,815	(4,553)
Mortgages	1,552	1,120	432
Certificate Loans	626	659	(33)
Real Estate			
Beaver Home Office	591	401	190
Investment Income Due & Accrued	21,432	19,501	1,931
Other	1,090	703	387
Total Assets	\$ 1,549,961	\$ 1,354,927	\$ 195,034
Percentage Total Change Year to Year	14.4	13.2	
Liabilities			
Life Reserve Fund	\$ 65,678	\$ 64,806	\$ 872
Annuity Reserve Fund	1,327,009	1,159,428	167,581
Accident & Health Reserve Fund	134	9	125
Employee Pension Fund	7,068	6,548	520
Convention Reserve	179	406	(227)
Advance Premium & Future Refund Reserves	345	341	4
Pending Investment Trades	1,799	0	1,799
Accounts Payable	650	375	275
Refund Accumulations	1,803	1,378	425
Overfunded Pension	1,148	893	255
Asset Valuation Reserve-AVR	17,557	13,217	4,340
Interest Maintenance Reserve-IMR	18,059	16,736	1,323
Other	0	50	(50)
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,441,429	\$ 1,264,187	\$ 177,242
Surplus Fund	108,532	90,740	17,792
Total Liabilities & Surplus	\$ 1,549,961	\$ 1,354,927	\$ 195,034
Normal Solvency Ratio	107.5	107.2	
New Solvency Ratio*	110.3	109.8	

*Adds IMR & AVR to surplus.

Financial information is unaudited and is presented on the statutory basis of accounting.

GCU Income Statement Comparison

Income <i>(000's omitted)</i>	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31		
	2016	2015	Difference
Life Premium	\$ 2,132,421	\$ 3,185,204	\$ (1,052,783)
Annuity Premium	237,624,471	207,465,883	30,158,588
Annuity Exchanges	23,650,231	32,134,235	(8,484,004)
Accident & Health	293,997	20,211	273,786
Sub Total	263,701,120	242,805,533	20,895,587
Net Investment Income	77,563,952	71,778,773	5,785,179
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	2,725,275	2,726,856	(1,581)
Commission allowance for reinsurance	1,324,077	112,478	1,211,599
Other	809,563	784,109	25,454
Total Income	\$346,123,987	\$318,207,749	\$27,916,238
Expenses			
Death Benefits	\$ 2,457,341	\$ 2,336,035	\$ 121,306
Annuity Benefits Paid	109,652,193	115,345,220	(5,693,027)
Annuity Exchanges	23,650,231	32,134,235	(8,484,004)
Surrender Benefits	823,475	1,242,015	(418,540)
Accident & Health Benefits Paid	226,384	12,034	214,350
Commissions	9,256,484	6,689,711	2,566,773
General Insurance Expense	7,198,319	6,397,100	801,219
Insurance, Taxes, Licenses and Fees	502,808	438,903	63,905
Pension Benefits Paid	274,678	272,721	1,957
Interest on contract and deposit type accounts	68,642	66,623	2,019
Sub-Total	\$ 154,110,555	\$ 164,934,597	(\$ 10,824,042)
Increase in Reserves	168,050,223	130,976,957	37,073,266
Total Expenses	\$322,160,778	\$295,911,554	\$26,249,224
Net Gain from Operations before Refunds	23,963,209	22,296,195	1,667,014
Refunds to Members	257,398	256,199	1,199
Net Gain from Operations after Refunds	23,705,811	22,039,996	1,665,815
Net Capital Gains (Losses)	(3,069,730)	21,926	(3,091,656)
Net Income	\$ 20,636,081	\$ 22,061,922	\$ (1,425,841)

Financial Report Four Year Comparative Summary

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31			
	2016	2015	2014	2013
Assets	1.550 Bil	1.355 Bil	1.197 Bil	1.080 Bil
Total Income	346.0 Mil	318.0 Mil	235.0 Mil	215.2 Mil
Total Operating Expense	322.1 Mil	295.8 Mil	215.4 Mil	196.7 Mil
Reserve Change - Life and Annuities	168.0 Mil	131.0 Mil	97.0 Mil	84.2 Mil
Income from Operations	23.9 Mil	22.3 Mil	19.6 Mil	18.5 Mil
Refunds to Members	(257,398)	(256,199)	(341,293)	(220,268)
Capital Gains (Losses)	(3,069,730)	21,926	(1,076,551)	230,595
Net Income	20,636,081	22,063,543	18,166,287	18,521,243
Reserve - Interest Maintenance	18,058,704	16,735,318	16,113,913	14,129,373
Reserve - Asset Valuation	17,556,902	13,217,553	11,663,823	9,942,522
Surplus (Net Worth)	108,531,974	90,739,736	71,825,430	50,492,229

GCU Surplus Comparison

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31		
	2016	2015	Difference
Beginning Surplus	\$ 90,739,736	\$ 71,825,430	\$ 18,914,306
Net Income/(Loss)	20,636,081	22,063,543	(1,427,462)
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	2,715,950	(393,429)	3,109,379
GCU Holding Company & Other	(878,563)	(849,210)	(29,353)
Changes in Non-Admitted Assets	(341,881)	(352,869)	10,988
Changes in Asset Valuation Reserve	(4,339,349)	(1,553,729)	(2,785,620)
Net Change in Surplus	17,792,238	18,914,306	(1,122,068)
Ending Surplus	\$ 108,531,974	\$ 90,739,736	\$ 17,792,238

General Insurance Expenses

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31		
	2016	2015	Difference
Rent	\$ 94,000	\$ 94,000	\$ 0
Salaries & Wages	2,882,898	2,517,013	365,885
Employee Benefits	411,499	386,666	24,833
Employee Pension Expense	400,000	400,000	0
Legal Fees & Expenses	5,448	2,100	3,348
Settlement/Medical Examination Fees	69,176	32,624	36,552
Fees-CPS, Actuarial and banking	528,051	449,759	78,292
Board Meeting Expenses/Travel	179,829	105,117	74,712
Advertising	4,391	15,875	(11,484)
Postage & Phone	223,903	203,553	20,350
Printing & Stationary	144,027	114,108	29,919
Depreciation of Furniture/Equipment	89,686	93,220	(3,534)
Rental of Equipment	168,448	145,827	22,621
Books and Periodicals	2,893	1,885	1,008
Bureau and Association Dues	107,723	72,997	34,726
Insurance Fees	68,942	106,606	(37,664)
Sundry General Expenses	160,570	149,243	11,327
Official Publication	54,541	51,438	3,103
Future Convention Reserves	113,350	101,751	11,599
Field Expense Allowance	88,015	54,710	33,305
Fraternal Activities	710,053	792,220	(82,167)
Data Processing Supplies/Expenses	350,823	396,454	(45,631)
Marketing Consultant Fees and Expenses	340,053	109,934	230,119
Total	\$ 7,198,319	\$ 6,397,100	\$ 801,219

GCU Subsidiary Operations - Year 2016*

	GCU Holding & Subsidiaries	GCU Holding Co.	GCU Real Estate Co.	Seven Oaks Country Club	GCU Agency Inc.
Beginning Net Worth	\$ 7,726,530	\$ 348,415	\$ 2,385,088	\$ 4,938,130	\$ 54,897
Prior Period Adjustment	(26,080)			(\$26,080)	
Profit or (Loss) for Year	(852,483)	(44,069)	(38,847)	(770,200)	633
Capital Paid In	655,000	0	0	655,000	0
Year-end Net Worth	\$ 7,502,967	\$ 304,346	\$ 2,346,241	\$ 4,796,850	\$ 55,530

*Financial information is unaudited and is presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Attention Residents of California, Connecticut, Florida & New Jersey

A third party, to receive a copy of any notice of insurance lapse that we send, may be designated by a person who:

- is located in or a resident of the state of California, Connecticut, Florida or New Jersey;
- is insured by a life or annuity certificate, contract or policy that we have issued; and
- is age 62 or older (California & Connecticut-all ages).

A third party may be designated by: completion of the information requested in the Third Party Designation below; and, return of the Third party Designation to us by certified mail, return receipt requested. The designation will be effective upon our receipt of the information.

Designation of a third party does not constitute the acceptance of any liability for the services provided to the person by the third party or by us.

The third party designation may be terminated by: the third party by written notice to both the person and to us; or, the person by written notice to us.

THIRD PARTY DESIGNATION

Certificate/Contract/Policy Number: _____ Date: _____

Third Party Notice, Designee: _____
(Print Name)

Address: _____

I accept designation as a third party.

Signature: _____

Signature, Insured/Owner: _____

GCU 5400 Tuscarawas Road Beaver, PA 15009

GCU Executive & National Officers

Executive Officers



George N. Juba
President
CEO



Deborah Tatro
Executive Vice
President/COO



Tim Demetres
Chief Financial Officer



**Atty. Theodore
Trbovich**
General Counsel

General Counsel

Board of Directors



**Very Rev. Richard I.
Lambert**
National Spiritual
Advisor



Gregory N. Vladika
National Director
Chairman of the Board



George Kofel
National Director
Vice Chair &
Secretary of the Board



Melanie Basl
National Director



Dorothy Ann Foran
National Director



Lisa Gulibon
National Director



Michael W. Karaffa
National Director



Barbara Kushner
National Director



David A. Oleksa
National Director



John W. Oslick
National Director



Atty. John J. Urban
National Director

National Officers



**Right Rev. Mitred
Archbishop John
Kachuba**
Supreme
Tribunal-Chairman



Gregory Barkowski
Supreme Tribunal



**Very Rev. Archpriest
Dennis M. Bogda**
Supreme Tribunal



Rev. Frank A. Firko
Supreme Tribunal



John J. Gula
Supreme Tribunal



**Marge Pajer
Russell**
Supreme Tribunal



Judy Weitzel
Supreme Tribunal

Honorary Officers



**Catherine "Kitty"
Cherevka**
Honorary Officer



Patricia Dietz
Honorary Officer



Michael I. Roman
Honorary Officer



Nicholas Yackanicz
Honorary Officer



Helen Yurko
Honorary Officer



Martha Seech
Honorary Officer

GCU Home Office Management



David Ennis, LUTCF
Director of Agent
Services



Tom Hartos
Information
Technology
Director



John P. Harbist
Membership
Services Director



**George E. Lopata,
FIC, CLU, ChFC**
Director of New
Business &
Underwriting



Brian J. Sprinker
Controller



Basil M. Wahal
Fraternal
Communications
Director

Executive Officers

George N. Juba
President/CEO
5400 Tuscarawas Road
Beaver, PA 15009

Deborah Tatro
Executive Vice President/COO
5400 Tuscarawas Road
Beaver, PA 15009

Tim Demetres
Chief Financial Officer
5400 Tuscarawas Road
Beaver, PA 15009

Elected National Officers

Very Rev. Richard I. Lambert
National Spiritual Advisor & Director
356 S. Belle Vista Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44509

Gregory N. Vladika
National Director—Chairman of the Board
833 Laurel Rd.
Mayfield, PA 18433

George A. Kofel
National Director—Vice Chairman
& Secretary of the Board
411 Reeves Street
Dunmore, PA 18512

Melanie Basl
National Director
3601 Watchill Road
Munhall, PA 15120

Dorothy Ann Foran
National Director
993 Peace Street
Hazleton, PA 18201

Lisa Gulibon
National Director
208 Harleysville Pike
Souderton, PA 18964

Michael W. Karaffa
National Director
17934 Lyon Lane
Strongsville, OH 44149

Barbara Kushner
National Director
1127 Centennial Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

David A. Oleksa
National Director
2002 Brodhead Road
Aliquippa, PA 15001

General Counsel

Attorney Theodore M. Trbovich
General Counsel
511 Greenfield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

John W. Oslick
National Director
18046 E. Mansfield Avenue
Aurora, CO 80013

Atty. John J. Urban
National Director
21750 Hilliard Blvd.
Rocky River, OH 44116

**Right Rev. Mitred Archpriest
John S. Kachuba**
Chairman of Supreme Tribunal
5390 West 220th Street
Fairview Park, OH 44126

Gregory Barkowski Sr.
Supreme Tribunal
3 Wilson Street
Jessup, PA 18434

**Very Rev. Archpriest
Dennis M. Bogda**
Supreme Tribunal
210 Greentree Road
Munhall, PA 15120

Rev. Frank Firko
Supreme Tribunal
225 Olivia Street
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

John J. Gula
Supreme Tribunal
428 Dunlap Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15214

Marge Pajer-Russell
Supreme Tribunal
326 Spring Drive
East Meadow, NY 11554

Judy Weitzel
Supreme Tribunal
3498 Elmbrook Drive
Broadview Hts., OH 44147

District Officers

District 4

John Katana, President
Scott A. Wajdic, Vice President
Patricia M. Yamrick, Secretary
Mary Susick, Treasurer
Paul Yackulich Jr., Athletic Director
Connie Strittmatter, Fraternal Director
Monica Kowalski, Auditor
Michael Kuzmiak, Sergeant-at-Arms

District 5

Gina Keil, President
Colleen Ann Evans, Secretary-Treasurer
Edward J. Keil, Athletic Director
Robert J. Suflika, Assitant Athletic Director
Ilona Dolinish, Fraternal-Publicity Director
Laure Marcin, Auditor
Bernard S. Shinko, Sergeant-at-Arms
Rev. Eduard Shestak, Chaplain

District 7

Mary K. Bannworth, President
Patricia Ann Dietz, Vice President
Linda Cwiekalo, Secretary
Kathleen M. Meddaugh, Treasurer
Michael Geles Jr., Athletic Director
Thomas J. Petty, Auditor

District 11

Gary S. Mozuras, President
George S. Nagrant, Vice President
Anita M. Cipa, Secretary
Nicholas C. Kovalcik, Treasurer
John P. Minarish, Athletic Director
Kim Kaufman, Assitant Athletic Director
Nicholas P. Kovalcik, Asst. Ath. Director
Val Marszalec, Fraternal-Publicity Director
Karen M. Kaufman, Auditor
Nancy Czarny, Auditor
Fr. Joe Repko, Chaplain

District 15

Elizabeth J. Harbist, President
Janet D. Uram, Vice President
Kathryn A. Kapaldo, Secretary
Laura J. Seech, Treasurer
W. William Uram Jr., Athletic Director
Paul Lebanik, Assitant Athletic Director
Diane Ketterer, Fraternal Director
John Schweich, Publicity Director
Irene Miller, Auditor
Michael Spanik, Auditor

GCU Lodges

District 4

Lodge 62—Punxsutawney, PA
Elaine Koromaus, Secretary

Lodge 93—Northern Cambria, PA
John J. Katana, Secretary

Lodge 321—Bradenville, PA
Scott A. Wajdic, Secretary

Lodge 351—Indiana, PA
Monica Kowalski, Secretary

Lodge 401—Nanty Glo, PA
Stephen Bender, Secretary

Lodge 625—Johnstown, PA
Georgia Lehman, Secretary

Lodge 816—Dubois, PA
Helen M. Boboige, Secretary

District 5

Lodge 17—Old Forge, PA
Edward J. Keil, Secretary

Lodge 47—Binghamton, NY
Daria Shierly, Secretary

Lodge 53—Wilkes Barre, PA
Margaret Dorzinsky, Secretary

Lodge 92—Jessup, PA
Michaela Ann Mancak, Secretary

Lodge 182—Kingston, PA
Mary Ann Evans, Secretary

Lodge 211—Eynon, PA
Barbara A. Krupovich, Secretary

Lodge 945—Dunmore, PA
Sharon M. Kofel, Secretary

District 7

Lodge 7—Yonkers, NY
Deborah McDonnell, Secretary

Lodge 15—Trenton, NJ
Stephanie Hennessey, Secretary

Lodge 20—Philadelphia, PA
John Morenko, Secretary

Lodge 151—New York, NY
Marie Panchuk-Catanzaro, Secretary

Lodge 225—Bethlehem, PA
Edward L. Berezny, Secretary

Lodge 254—Hillsborough, NJ
Bonnie M. Lucash-Russo, Secretary

Lodge 316—Phillipsburg, NJ
Kathleen M. Meddaugh, Secretary

Lodge 340—Rahway, NJ
Linda Cwiekalo, Secretary

Lodge 665—Linden, NJ
Michael A. Geles Sr., Secretary

District 11

Lodge 250—Sterling Heights, MI
Nicholas P. Kovalcik, Secretary

Lodge 319—Flushing, MI
Irene Jedlowski, Secretary

Lodge 860—Detroit, MI
Robert A. Kulasa, Secretary

District 15

Lodge 10—Aliquippa, PA
Jack L. Mendenhall, Secretary

Lodge 109—Lyndora, PA
Janet D. Uram, Secretary

Lodge 268—Mingo Junction, OH
Margaret E. Kendrach, Secretary

Lodge 697—Weirton, WV
Rachel Lahita-Shank, Secretary

Lodge 994—Beaver, PA
Susanne Juba, Secretary

Lodges Not Assigned to a District

Lodge 2—Munhall, PA
Kristine Janocsko, Secretary

Lodge 18—Leisenring, PA
Sylvia Sitko, Secretary

Lodge 28—Southside-Pittsburgh, PA
Kimberly Kolesar, Secretary

Lodge 52—Bethel Park, PA
Michael Pillar, Secretary

Lodge 57—Brownsville, PA
Melody Yeardie, Secretary

Lodge 66—Whiting, IN
Elizabeth Baranko, Secretary

Lodge 69—Pottstown, PA
Nancy K. Harding, Secretary

Lodge 77—Lorain, OH
LaVerne Marie Mackin, Secretary

Lodge 81—Uniontown, PA
Stephen Petruska Jr., Secretary

Lodge 144—Aurora, CO
Viera Semanova-Tessmer, Secretary

Lodge 164—Youngstown, OH
Diana Danko, Secretary

Lodge 252—Youngstown, OH
Marilyn Davis, Secretary

Lodge 255—Greenfield-Pittsburgh, PA
Catherine T. Cherevka, Secretary

Lodge 258—Hermitage, PA
Joan B. Walker, Secretary

Lodge 271—Orland Park, IL
Sharon Ann Dorencz, Secretary

Lodge 288—Clairton, PA
Mary Lou Salago, Secretary

Lodge 302—Brecksville, OH
Julia A. Weitzel, Secretary

Lodge 336—Euclid, OH
Joseph A. Comai, Secretary

Lodge 360—Campbell, OH
Marcia Durkot, Secretary

Lodge 386—Pittsburgh, PA
Beth Ann Gulyasy, Secretary

Lodge 390—McKees Rocks, PA
Steve Puluka, Secretary

Lodge 442—Boardman, OH
Mary Ellen Hritz, Secretary

Lodge 644—Akron, OH
Mary Ann Pinto, Secretary

Lodge 999—Phoenix, AZ
Joanie M. Mahar, Secretary

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge
Agnes Rohrbach, Secretary



Very Rev.
Richard I. Lambert

Two Fraternal

I presently am a member of two fraternal organizations. One is a large organization of Catholic men that has members here and in a number of countries around the world. It was founded 135 years ago at a church in Baltimore, Maryland. The pastor, Fr. Michael McGivney, along with 60 young men from St. Mary's Church gathered to found an organization that would be of assistance to the families of the parish when any need arose. The organization is now known as the Knights of Columbus (KofC). I was asked about 30 years ago to join this organization by a few men from the parish I then served. It was for the purpose of ultimately founding a lodge in our Byzantine Church of St. Nicholas in Greensburg, PA. I did attain the Fourth Degree, but do not regularly attend meetings. I carry an insurance policy and receive their magazine and read it regularly.

The second is the GCU. It was founded 125 years ago on February 14, 1892 at a meeting of a number of our clergy and laymen at St. Mary's Church in Wilkes-Barre, PA for assistance to families and to our newly established parishes. Just as the councils for the Knights grew over the

years, the lodges and districts grew as new parishes were founded. Some parishes housed more than one lodge. Many of the parishes having lodges grew because of the activity and support of those lodges. I have been a member of our fraternal organization for almost 70 years. For many years, I was an inactive member until I became the pastor of St. John Chrysostom Church in Pittsburgh and transferred my membership from my home parish, and became the chaplain of the largest GCU lodge, Lodge 255 and later chaplain of District 1. Through this affiliation, I began to attend conventions and in San Antonio, Texas was elected as Chairman of the Supreme Tribunal. I have held a national office continuously since then, later being elected as National Spiritual Advisor and member of the Board of Directors.

It is my belief that the Byzantine Catholic parishes that housed GCU lodges grew also because of the activity and support of those lodges. The same is true for the KofC councils connected with the Roman Catholic parishes.

We have seen recently that lodges have become inactive in our parishes where they once existed. There are less

It is my belief that the Byzantine Catholic parishes that housed GCU lodges grew also because of the activity and support of those lodges.

people to become officers of those lodges because there are less people in some of the churches in areas where people have moved elsewhere. We are now looking for individual members of the GCU, especially those who belong to parishes without a lodge, to contact headquarters with plans to assist others in need, whatever that need may be.

In the March 2017 issue of Columbia the official magazine for the KofC, I just read an article entitled "A Call to Spiritual Arms" which gave indication that Knights throughout the world are rediscovering the source of masculine strength and the initiative of building the domestic church while strengthening their parish. As Spiritual Advisor, I also call upon every individual member of the GCU to do whatever they can to build up our churches which are suffering from the lack of growth.

We will celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the GCU in May at our St. Nicholas Chapel and Seven Oaks Country Club in Beaver, PA. Similar celebrations will occur elsewhere throughout the GCU world. I hope we will all take the opportunity on this anniversary to renew our commitment to fraternalism and to our parishes to see them flourish and grow.





Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

What's Your Succession Plan?

There's an important part of estate planning that most people who own businesses tend to overlook. What's going to happen to your business if you die?

A lot of people who own businesses never think about succession planning. They get a will, a living will, and the powers of attorney, but they don't make sure their business documents are in order.

To illustrate, here is a story about a woman whose husband unexpectedly passed away. He owned a business, but there was nothing in writing stating who would control the company after he passed. She just assumed that since she was his wife, the company would pass to her. But that is not how it works. What happened in this case is that the children stepped forward, the step-children stepped forward and the wife stepped forward - all claiming ownership. Because there was not paperwork in place, thousands of dollars were spent sorting it out. The husband didn't have a will or good record keeping for the business. We had to piece everything together to figure out what was happening with the business, in addition to who should own it.

Putting the proper succession documentation in place

is critical for the future of your business, and to make sure your heirs receive what's coming to them.

Proper documentation including making sure your corporate minutes are up to date, or that your operating agreement for the LLC is up to date, and that the share or unit certificates are set up to avoid probate. An attorney can help you put the right business documents in place to ensure that your wishes are carried out.

Putting the proper succession documentation in place is critical for the future of your business, and to make sure your heirs receive what's coming to them.

GCU Home Office

Extended Hours of Operation

The GCU Home Office (800.722.4428) is open Monday thru Friday 8:30 AM to 5 PM EST.

The Call Center (855.306.0607) operates Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7 PM EST and Fridays 8:30 AM to 5 PM EST.



District 5



The Group who attended the Founders' Day Celebration.

Founders' Day | The celebration for the founding of the GCU, 125 years ago in Wilkes-Barre, PA took place at St. Nicholas Social Center, Old Forge, on Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 11 AM. The morning began with a snowstorm, preventing our Binghamton area members from attending, along with some of our other members. Only 30 people were in attendance. The catered event was held in conjunction with our first quarter meeting.

President Gina Keil spoke on the founding of the GCU, which took place within 15 miles of this event and the different events that happened in the year of GCU's founding, 1892. Thanks to the GCU Home Office for all of their help with this event; the postcards, the newly branded GCU pens and pill containers, and especially for the grant.

Iлона Dolinich | Fraternal Director

News | Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! The District 5 National Junior Bowling was held in Binghamton on March 19. Junior Bowling for the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area will be held on April 23 at Stanton Lanes, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Please contact Ed Keil for information.

For those wishing to warm up for the National Bowling Tournament, the district is holding a No-Tap Doubles Tournament on Saturday, May 6 at 3 PM at Chacko's Family Bowling Center, Wilkes-Barre, PA-the same lanes that are being used for the National Bowling Tournament. Applications are on the District 5 webpage or contact Ed Keil if interested.

Please come out and join us at Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA on Saturday, June 3 for Helping Hands Day. The Sisters really appreciate all we do. The following day, Sunday, June 4 is Byzantine Catholic Day at Knoebels' Park, which is always a lot of fun.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Joseph Ehnnot who passed away recently. Joe was an avid bowler. He could be seen at all of our district and National Bowling Tournaments over the years. He will be sadly missed. Eternal memory and blessed repose.

Iлона Dolinich | Fraternal Director



Macrina Dolinich, TUX (Penguins Mascot) and Morgan Fuller.

Hockey Game Outing | The District 5 annual hockey outing was Saturday, March 18 at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre Township, PA with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins facing off against the Lehigh Valley Phantoms. Being the day after St. Patrick's Day, music was provided by a group of bagpipers and the Penguins and many fans, sported green jerseys. Behind by three goals, the Penguins fought valiantly, but ran out of time, losing 3-2. District 5 sold 69 tickets for this game, our most ever. Everyone received a Penguin's Hat, a value meal voucher from McDonald's, a hot dog, chips, and drink. Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the special events subsidy, promotional items and Amazon gift cards. Greg Barkowski, Bernie Shinko, and Greg Vladika won the gift cards.

Ed Keil | Athletic Director

District 7

District Meeting | Lodge 254 at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, NJ hosted the first Quarterly Meeting of District 7 on Sunday, March 26, 2017 in the St. Mary Church Fellowship Hall.

District members were invited to attend the Divine Liturgy and Moleben celebrated by Fr. Jim Badeaux. Following the services was a Slavic luncheon served to the over 40 people in attendance.

The meeting included plans for a social outing to the Hunterdon Hill Playhouse in May—President Mary K. Bannworth is the chairperson and the Annual Golf Outing in August— Athletic Director Michael Geles is the chairperson. We also are planning a GCU 125th Anniversary Celebration in November.



District 7 members enjoying luncheon.

The District 7 Matching Funds Bakeless Bake Sale to benefit the Sisters of Saint Basil was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who supported this event especially Kathleen Meddaugh who was the chairperson.

A huge thank you to Fr. Jim Badeaux, Lodge 254 President Elias Zavera and all the Lodge 254 members who hosted this meeting. A special thank you to all the District 7 members who work so hard and donate so much of their time for the good of the GCU.

Mary K. Bannworth | President

District 15

Junior Bowling Tournament | The District 15 Junior Bowling Tournament was held at Center Lanes in Aliquippa, PA on Sunday, March 12.

Eighteen youngsters ranging in age from 3 to 17 participated in the event which began with a pizza lunch. After the children began to bowl, parents, grandparents and friends were served refreshments.

All bowlers received a gift card to Target. A special first place boy's trophy was awarded to Ethan Alleman, age 12, for his three-game score of 484. The girl's first place trophy went to Julie Seech, who rolled a three-game total of 310.

Many thanks to the district officers and parents for their help with scoring and refreshments. Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the fraternal grant and subsidy which made this event free to the participants and guests.

W. William Uram, Jr. | Athletic Director



The group of kids who participated.



Winners of the Age 16–18 group, Tim Seech and Julie Seech shown with grandmother Martha Seech.

District 15

(continued)



Senior Awardee Tim Seech

Senior Awardee Tim Seech | District 15 is pleased to announce the selection of Tim Seech as this year's Senior Awardee. Tim will graduate from Madonna High School, located in Weirton, WV. He will attend WVU in the fall and major in pharmacy.

The son of Tim & Laura Seech of Burgettstown, PA, Tim is the grandson of George and retired GCU National Director Martha Seech, and Rosemary and the late John Shaw.

A member of Lodge 10 in Aliquippa, PA, Tim is an active member of the GCU participating in many lodge, district and national events for youth. He is also a Boy Scout and will be awarded Eagle Scout designation this year. Tim was a member of the Madonna High School boy's basketball team, which qualified for the West Virginia state championship games this year.

Congratulations to Tim and his family. We wish you continued success as you embark on your college career next fall.

Elizabeth Harbist



Retired Sisters of St. Joseph | District 15 members spent the afternoon on February 25 with the retired Sisters of St. Joseph in Baden, PA playing bingo and enjoying refreshments. This has become an annual fraternal event for the district.



No-Tap Bowling | District 15 held their Handicap and Singles No-Tap Bowling Classic on Saturday, March 25 at Center Lanes in Aliquippa, PA. A dinner followed at Seven Oaks Country Club in Beaver, PA. Shown are the woman handicap winners: From left: Laura Seech (4th), Olivia Thomas (1st), Diana Simpson (2nd) and Sandy Stengel (3rd).

UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENTS

Bunco and Luncheon

**Saturday, May 13, 2017
11 AM-3 PM**

Seven Oaks Country Club
Beaver, PA
\$25 ticket

Contact Kathy Kapaldo:
kkapaldo@comcast.net
or Elizabeth Harbist
(412-264-4349) for tickets.
District officers also have
tickets for sale. Proceeds
benefit the Senior Awards.

District 15 Golf Tournament

Sunday, September 17

Seven Oaks Country Club
Contact Bill Uram
(724-287-0689) for details.

Lodge News



Youth bowling participants.

Lodge 2 MUNHALL, PA

Holiday Happenings

On Sunday, December 4, 2016 after the 9:30 AM Liturgy, the parishioners of St. Elias Church gathered together to help the community.

The ECF students, along with their parents and teachers assembled baskets to be distributed by Father Andrew Deskevich to their parish shut-ins. In addition, the parishioners also prepared packages for the local needy families in the Steel Valley Area while St. Nicholas made his appearance.

At St. John's Cathedral the St. Nicholas ECF Party began with Liturgy on Sunday, December 18 then a brunch at the Cathedral Center. After brunch the ECF children, led by cantor George Janoscko sang the Hymn to St. Nicholas who brought gifts for all the children. A free will donation was collected and the proceeds were donated to the SS. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Seminary.

Lodge 2 Annual Food Drive

During the first two weekends of November St. John Cathedral and St. Elias Church parishioners donated for the lodge's annual food drive for a local food bank.

The Community Food Bank of Greater Pittsburgh sent the lodge a letter confirming the donation of 666 pounds of food and grocery items. With the food bank in need of 2 million pounds of donated food each month to support our neighbors, this effort certainly made a significant contribution.

Veterans Honored

On Sunday, November 13 Lodge 2 honored parish veterans at a special intention Liturgy. Ten veterans attend the Liturgy and received a special blessing from Father Dennis Bogda. Lodge 2 provided coffee and cake for a social afterwards.

Youth Bowling

On Friday, November 18, St. John's and St. Elias' youth met at Playmor Bowling Lanes in Lincoln Place, PA for a night of fun. The lodge provided food & drinks for those attending. Everyone enjoyed the evening of fun and fraternalism.

Patty Bovee | Treasurer



Ed Keil and Mike Mokay presenting check to Old Forge Police Chief Jason Dubernas.

Lodge 10

ALIQUIPPA, PA

Haluski Fundraiser

Lodge 10 held a Bandurkova Halushki sale on Friday, March 17 as a Matching Funds event for their parish, St. George Byzantine Church in Aliquippa. GCU Matching Funds enabled the lodge to donate \$1,600.00 to the church.

Pictured are volunteers from left: Jack Mendenhall, Sandy Stengel, Veronica Mendenhall, Dorothy Peterson and Mary Elizabeth Olack.

Kathy Kapaldo



Lodge 17

OLD FORGE, PA

Donations Presented

Checks from Lodge 17 Community Matching Funds were distributed to the Old Forge Police Department in Old Forge to be used for purchase of bicycles, the Outreach Ministries program at St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston, PA for their Health Clinics, and the Taylor Senior Center, Taylor, PA.

A report of St. Nicholas' Ham Bingo from April, 2, 2017 will be in the next issue. Hope everyone has a very Blessed and Happy Easter!

Ed Keil | Secretary Treasurer

Lodge 15

TRENTON, NJ

Sunshine Foundation Fundraiser

We're looking forward to April Showers and May Flowers!

Speaking of May, Lodge 15 is sponsoring a trip to the Sands Casino in Bethlehem, PA on Thursday, May 18 from 10 AM to around 7 PM. as a Matching Funds project to benefit the Sunshine Foundation of Mercer County, NJ. The Sunshine Foundation's sole purpose is to answer the DREAMS of chronically ill, seriously ill, physically challenged and abused children 3 to 18 years of age, whose families cannot fulfill their requests due to financial strain that the child's illness may cause. Sunshine began DREAMLIFTS, which charters a plane to take children to an Orlando theme park for the day. Everyone is welcome to attend the bus trip! For more information contact Marcy Embley at 609-585-3758. Help make a child's wish come true.

Please join Lodge 15 for the second quarter meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017 following the 10 AM Divine Liturgy at the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Catholic Church at 198 Grand St. Trenton, N.J. 08611. Refreshments to be served.

*Christos Voskres, Christ Is Risen
Voistinu Voskres, Indeed He Is Risen*

Marcy Embley | Fraternal Director



Kitchen workers.

Lodge 28

SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

Read Across America Week

On Monday and Tuesday, February 27 and 28, lodge members attended West Mifflin Middle School to read to the fifth grade classes. Although this was a celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2, any book could be chosen to read.

While the children enjoyed a snack, biographies, short stories and fables were read to them. After each book or passage, questions were asked giving students the opportunity to win pencils, erasers and books. Before leaving each day, more snacks and treat bags that included GCU post-it notes, ear buds and a magnetic ruler were distributed. The children loved and enjoyed everything.

Community Matching Funds Events

This year, Lodge 28 decided to help the youth of the local community. The Baldwin High School Band TIA Show and the West Mifflin Middle School PTSA hoagie and pizza sale were the chosen recipients. The \$1,500.00 matching funds was distributed evenly between the two (\$750.00 each).

Baldwin High School was the site of the Tournament Indoor Association (TIA) Region 8 Preview Show on Saturday, January 14. This event is a major fundraiser for the Baldwin Highlander Marching Band. Between concessions and a fundraiser the profit gained was over \$1,100.00 and with GCU matching funds the amount was well over

\$1,800.00. The proceeds will be used for much needed equipment and supplies.

The second event took place during the month of February. West Mifflin Middle School parents, students, staff and teachers sold and/or purchased hoagies or pizza to support the PTSA. A total of 338 hoagies (different varieties) and 98 pizzas were sold with a profit of over \$1,300.00 and with GCU matching funds exceeded \$2,000.00. The PTSA supports grades 4 through 8 activities.

Hot Metal Community Dinner

On Tuesday, March 7, 2017, GCU Lodge 28 hosted a free community dinner held at The Table at the Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community on the Southside-Pittsburgh. Lodge 28 officers and members, with the help of Tom, Eugene and Mary from SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, worked diligently to prepare, serve and clean up at the dinner. A local minister from Hot Metal offered a prayer and a thank you to GCU Lodge 28 for their efforts. Homemade cookies and brownies were served for dessert. All leftovers were divided into containers to be taken home by those attending.

Kim Kolesar | Secretary Treasurer

Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA.

Looking Forward to Spring

Lodge 81 quarterly meeting was held on February 12 with members looking forward to a busy spring filled with activities. Ideas were shared and final plans made for the 12th Annual Egg Eggstravaganza to be held on Sunday, April 2. This year's profits, along with GCU Matching Funds, will be used to help pay for a new roof at St. John Church.

Other plans discussed included the lodge hopes to have a celebration for the 125th anniversary on a local level with other lodges. Lodge 81 will be donating to Nicholas Morgan's Eagle Scout project to renovate the St. John Social Ministry room. Janet Gaydos suggested a weekly bake sale at the Friday pirohi sales to help generate funds for the project.

Lodge 81 will once again pay for the end of year ECF party, and continue the Flag Day Program.

Lodge 81 officers and catechists (Marcia Harrer, Gerry Dorobish, James



Icon project.

Mihalko, and Bonnie Balas) helped their classes prepare icons to be blessed on the first Sunday of Lent.

Bonnie Balas was part of the annual Egg Event held at the University of Pittsburgh in Pozvar Hall. She demonstrated Rusyn embroidery on Easter basket covers and explained the tradition of blessing baskets using the GCU sponsored brochure "How to Put Together a Traditional Easter Basket." Bonnie Balas also did an Easter traditions presentation for the St. John Evangelist Roman Catholic Church Ladies' Organization—the Jefferson Club.

The lodge's next quarterly meeting is Sunday, May 21, following the Divine Liturgy.

Bonnie Balas | Vice President & Publicity



The Catechetical students of St. Nicholas Church with their "soup pots."

Lodge 57

BROWNSVILLE, PA.

Turnover Sale

Lodge 57 members and parishioners of St. Nicholas Church held a fundraiser featuring baked turnovers. The profit from this event was \$1,111.⁴⁶ and with GCU Matching Funds the church received \$2,222.⁹² for needed repairs.

Super Bowl Fundraiser

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, 2017 the catechetical students of St. Nicholas Church had their own "Souper Bowl."

Following Divine Liturgy, the students stood at the exits with their "soup pots" to collect donations from the parishioners leaving the church. This charitable activity raised \$210.⁰⁰ for the local food bank in Brownsville.

Organizing this event was Lodge Secretary Melody Yeardie, with the help of the catechetical teachers, Lodge President Ken Haftman, his wife, Michelle Haftman, Jennifer Dirda, and Bobbi Jean Dirda.

Bernie Karoffa | Publicity Director

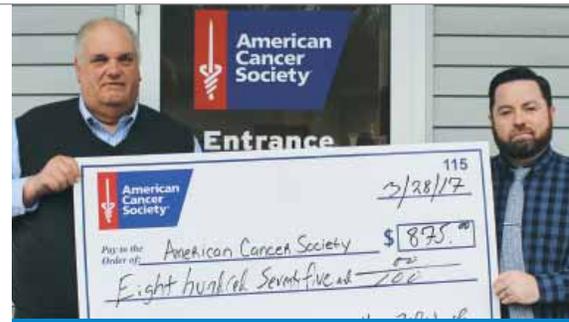
Lodge 92

JESSUP, PA

Ethnic Dinner Benefit

Lodge 92 started out this Lenten season with its 14th annual Ethnic Dinner on Sunday, February 26. The kitchen crew, consisting of members of the lodge and volunteers from the local Valley View School District, spent the weekend before the start of Lent cooking and assembling the take-out dinners at Holy Ghost Parish hall in Jessup. Over 200 dinners were purchased by advance ticket sales and sales at the door.

Proceeds from the dinner, along with Matching Funds from the Home Office, will benefit Jessup Hose Co #1; Jessup Hose Co #2; Jessup Ambulance; Jessup Breadbasket; Jessup Youth Association; Operation Noel; the St. Cecelia's Children's Choir; PA for Human Life and



Supreme Tribunal Member Gregory Barkowski Sr. presents a check to Ryan Schoefeld of the American Cancer Society.

NCMF (cancer society).

On March 28, Lodge 92 presented a check to the local American Cancer Society. The donation came from the proceeds of the basket fundraiser during the lodge's annual St. Nicholas children's party.

Mark Barkowski | Publicity Director

Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

Forty Days of Lent Program

St. John's Byzantine Church & Lodge 93 sponsored a multi activity event after Liturgy that included, "the Forty Days of Lent," presented by Fr. Vasil. He discussed the history of Lent—Eastern and Western customs, a short history on St. Patrick and finally recognition of birthdays and anniversaries during the month of March. Coffee and cake was served as refreshments.



Lenten Soup Party

After the Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts all were invited to the social hall for a soup party social. The soups included Lentil Soup and Lenten Chile. Special thank you to the soup chefs. The soup party is every other week during Lent with a change of soup menu.

Valentine Social and Health Check

Lodge 93 recently sponsored a Valentine Social and a Health Check Activity. Everyone was invited after Liturgy at St. John's to the social hall for cake and coffee along with Valentine chocolates. Helen Kost, retired nurse and lodge member, discussed diet and exercise and offered to take blood pressure of all those in attendance. Many accepted Helen's offer to have their blood pressure read. This is part of a series of educational and cultural activities planned for each month. March 11 and April 8 the 40 days of Lent. May 13: "History of the GCU," June 17: "Saints of the Byzantine Rite." Other topics will be announced in the future. Fr. Vasil Polyak is pastor of St. John's Byzantine Church.

John J. Katana | Secretary

Lodge 144

AURORA, CO

Pussy Willow Project

GCU Lodge 144 cut and shipped pussy willows to four churches in California and Arizona.

Audrey Peek, Viera Semanova Tessmer and Russ Haas helped to supply the pussy willows. National Director John Oslick harvested the pussy willows from Holy Protection Church.

Mary Ellen Oslick | President



Pussy Willow Packers, Genevieve Oslick, Alexander Oslick and National Director John Oslick.

Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA.

Fasengy Event

Fasengy, a pre-Lenten celebration resembling Mardi Gras, was held on Sunday, February 26, 2017 in St. John the Baptist B.C. church hall with pizza, salad, doughnuts, and beverages served to all in attendance.

Some of the little children dressed up in costume and danced to the ethnic music being played throughout the celebration. Strings of beads and noise makers were handed out to aid in the merry-making. Helen Meaders, the originator of the Lodge 109 Fasengy celebrations, recapped the origin and history of the event for those who were new comers.

One of the first-timers was Father William Rupp who has been serving St. John's as an interim priest during the illness of Father Leo Schloesser. The event was a great opportunity for him to meet and get acquainted with the parishioners of the church. Also in attendance for the first time was baby Eva (with mother Stephanie Musko). Eva was the youngest attendee at the event.

Janet Uram | Secretary Treasurer



Addison Koch, Ben Stavish, Henry Koch, Joey Stavish, and Kevin Fizer getting ready to party at the Fasengy.

Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

News from the Big Apple

February 14 was the 125th Anniversary of the GCU. It would be very easy to find 125 reasons to appreciate our GCU. I was most startled when I learned about the history of the GCU at my first convention in Baltimore, MD in 2008. I pictured their gnarled blackened hands, cracked nails from coal mining and breathing in dust and soot. Their fear of getting sick, injured or killed and searching for a place to turn for help. There was no medical insurance for such a hard life. So, as brothers in arms, the GCU was formed.

Lodge 151 celebrated the anniversary at St. Andrew's Church in Westbury, NY on February 26, 2017. After Liturgy and the first quarter meeting, Chris Hulak and Marge Russell presented a PowerPoint presentation on the GCU. The pair explained some of the details of the

presentation and answered questions. A great big thank you to Basil Wahal and the GCU office for providing the PowerPoint and script. Prizes were given out to people answering questions about the GCU. We were happy to welcome Agnes Walsh to the festivities. A glorious and gold thank you to Ann Kandrato for the magnificent basket she donated in honor of the GCU and 125 years! A luncheon was held and then a beautiful anniversary cake was served. Vespers for the beginning of lent was led by Deacon Dadonna, who reminded those in attendance to fast and forgive during this Lenten season. "Jesus is here for us."

A special thank you to the nimble and creative hands of Emily Panchuk who knitted exquisite wool hats for our friends at St. Raphael for this year's and next year's cold winter. They are works of the heart.

A Matching Funds luncheon is on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary B.C. Church on Underhill Avenue in Fresh Meadows, NY. Liturgy is at 9 AM and at 10:30 AM. The luncheon will be at 12 NOON, the cost is \$20. There will also be a speaker and more. For information call Chris Hulak at 646-465-3141.

In Memory

The lodge was saddened by the death of Peter Dietz on March 4, 2017 after a long illness. He is survived by his wife Eleanor, and children, Patricia, Rick (Carol), Paul (Marge), six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He was a very active member of Lodge 151, and the GCU. He will be greatly missed. Blessed repose and eternal memory.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jack Lalley and his St. Joe's team, for winning the New York State Catholic Schools ice hockey championship. Jack also won the New York State Championship with his Clarence Mustangs Tier 2 Ice Hockey Team. He was named MVP for St. Joe's who were

ranked #1 and was named player of the year in Western NY. He went to the National Finals in Michigan on April 6. What a way to end his high school hockey career!

Congratulations to GCU member Charlotte Knapp, granddaughter of Michael Knapp, who competed at Kentucky State for the gymnastic championships. She placed 3rd on the balance beam, 2nd on the uneven bars and 1st on the floor exercise with a score of 9.500. She also won a special award from the judges for the best split jumps in the floor routine. We are very proud of your accomplishments!

GCU member Samantha Knapp, Charlotte's sister, competed in the statewide Governor's Cup Competition where she won in Mathematica and placed in Composition. In the Math Counts program she led her school to the best ever 2nd place finish further qualifying her for the states. Statewide, Samantha placed in the top quarter of competitors. Great going!

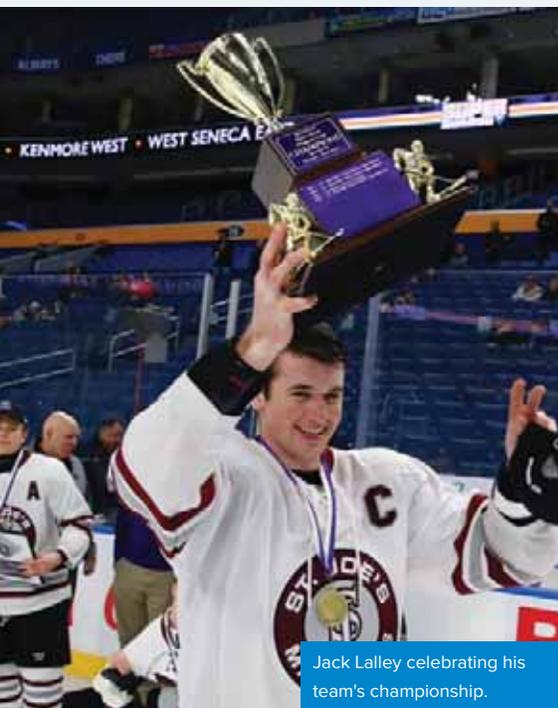
Upcoming Events

A trip to Newport is planned for June 6-8 with a stop over in Mystic and Foxwoods in Connecticut. Anyone interest in going please contact Marge Russell at 516-307-1016.

Lodge 151 second quarterly meeting will be in conjunction with Athletic Day. It will be held on Monday, June 12, 2017. Miniature golf at the Flushing Meadows Pitch and Putt course at 11 AM will be followed by lunch and a meeting at the Blue Bay Diner. For more information or to reserve a spot please call Laura Muhlfeld at 718-353-2956.

*Christos Voskrese, Christ Is Risen
Voistinu Voskrese, Indeed He Is Risen*

Marge Pajer Russell | President
Chris Hulak | Treasurer



Jack Lalley celebrating his team's championship.



Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge

HAZLETON PA

Just when we thought mother nature was coming in with the Spring season, a Nor'easter hit the local area with close to 30 inches of snow—most of the area was paralyzed for about three days—Hello Spring!

First Quarter Meeting

The first quarter meeting was held on Sunday, January 29 at St. John's BC Church hall. On the agenda was lodge Matching Fund recipients for 2017. The following organizations will benefit: Holy Annunciation Monastery, Holy Dormition Friary, Meals on Wheels, Catholic Social Services, Helping Hands Association and the Disabled Veterans (Van transportation for Vets.) Our monthly fundraising calendar for June will support these donations. Plans for a celebratory dinner at Capriotti's for the GCU 125th Anniversary on Sunday, July 16 were discussed. Additional details will be given out at the second quarterly meeting.

Two teams bowled in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters tournament on Saturday, March 25 to help this very worthwhile cause.

Bus Trip Planned

A trip to go see "Jonah" at Sight-n-Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA on Saturday, September 23 is being planned. If anyone is interested, please call 570-454-4869 for all the particulars.

Notes

Remember, Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14, whether they are living or deceased, please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. They are always there in your time of need.

Take a moment on Memorial Day to remember all our fallen heroes and take the time out to say a prayer for them—they have helped to keep our country safe.

Byzantine Day will be held at Knoebels Park on Sunday, June 4. A bus will be provided by the lodge, if you are interested in going, please call Dorothy Ann Foran at 570-459-0880 or Agnes at 570-454-4869. Come join us for a fun filled day.

A heartfelt thanks to all who have sent or offered sympathy condolences to me, They are greatly appreciated—you have made the sad time with the passing of my husband very bearable.

If you are ever in doubt about a meeting or an event, you can always call 570-454-4869 or if you are computer savvy, check out the GCU website—updates are always posted.

Here is wishing all GCU members a very Blessed and Happy Easter. Christ is Risen, Indeed He is Risen.

Till next time, take care and may God bless.

Agnes Rohrbach | Secretary

UPCOMING GHRL EVENTS

GCU National Bowling Tournament

May 19–20

Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Second Quarter Meeting—SS

May 21 at 2 PM

Peter & Paul, Minersville, PA

Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

June 3

Byzantine Day at Knoebels Park

June 4

40th Annual Holupki Open

July 15

White Birch Golf Course

GCU 125th Anniversary Dinner

July 16 at Capriotti's



Lodge 164

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Lodge 164 held their Founders' Day brunch on Sunday, March 12. Twenty-seven members and guests enjoyed a hot breakfast buffet, followed by a short business meeting. Thanks to Fraternal Director Jackie Leson and her team for preparing the buffet. Shown is the GCU's 125th Anniversary display.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President

Lodge 182

KINGSTON, PA.

Christmas Eve Dinner Recreation

The ECF students and teachers of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Kingston, PA recreated a traditional Christmas Eve Supper in an original educational play, written by Ivanna Prodanets, Jason Marcin, and Laure Marcin of Lodge 182. The play included customs handed down from our ancestors who resided in Russia, Ukraine, Slovakia and Ruthenia as well as incorporating the meaning behind each of these traditions. The play was held on Orthodox Christmas, January 7, 2017 at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church Hall.

Instructors Laura Seasock, Marlene Williams, Barbara Zelnick, Laure Marcin, and Ivanna Prodanets prepared foods traditionally served at the Christmas Eve Supper. The children wore authentic Ukraine clothing. Jason Marcin served as narrator, with John & Paul Seasock, Andrew Kurilla, Macrina Pochatko, Julianna & Irena Potachko, Amelia & Sophia Nesgoda, Maria Terza and Stepan & Ivan acting in the play.

Ivanna Prodanets provided musical accompaniment on the Bayan, a traditional Ukranian musical instrument similar to an accordion. Jenn Terza and Maddie Pochatko led the singing of the Troparion and the Kontakion.

The play concluded with the singing of Christmas carols and the audience was invited to sample the foods served at the supper as well as sandwiches and desserts. Thanks to the GCU Home Office for supplying giveaways for all guests in attendance. It truly was a Christmas Eve Supper to remember.

Laure Marcin | Publicity Director



Lodge 254

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ

New Pastor Welcomed

Members of GCU Lodge 254 recently gathered to welcome our new pastor, Fr. James Badeaux, and posed for a photo for the upcoming parish centennial celebration.

Service Awardee

Francis "Bill" Becker received the Lodge 254 Service Award for his many years of service to St. Mary Church in Hillsborough NJ.

Lodge 255

PITTSBURGH, PA

Junior Bowling Tournament

On Sunday, March 26, Lodge 255, along with Kim Kolesar and Karen Pavlik of Lodge 28, hosted the annual Junior National Bowling Tournament for the Pittsburgh region.

Congrats to the winners for the 16-18 age group, Connor Wilson and Leeann Harris. Conner bowled a 624 scratch series and Leeann bowled a 371. Their handicap scores will be sent to the Home Office to be entered in the National Junior Bowling Scholarship competition. There were 17 children that participated in the event, pictured above.

Melanie Basl | Communications Director



Toys for Tots Drive

GCU Lodge 254 members Savanna and Zachary Bezick (pictured above) initiated and successfully conducted St. Mary's first "Toys for Tots" drive this past December.

Lodge 288

CLAIRTON, PA.

Valentine Social

Sunday, February 12 brought families out for a Valentines social at Ascension Hall sponsored by Lodge 288. Karen Kerr and volunteers from the Holy Name Society and Ladies Guild prepared a delicious lunch for everyone who attended. The children created old-fashioned Victorian cards and enjoyed games. Winners enjoyed a variety of prizes and candy hearts. During the games, the adults played bingo.

Greeting cards were collected during January and February for St. Jude's Ranch. Members got together to sort and prepare the five huge boxes of donated cards. Father Ivan Mina joined in and contributed two boxes overflowing with cards.



Making cards.

Cards with copyrights were shared with local Girl Scout troops and a program for disabled individuals that use them for craft projects.

The lodge is sponsoring a matching funds Sarris Candy sale for Easter to help fund a fall parish bus trip. Other planned spring activities include an Easter Social on Palm Sunday, Saturday clean-up day in the church hall coat room, a spring Garden Party for the ladies in May and a Helping Hands outdoor cleanup day in early June.

Trish Roberts | President

Lodge 302

BRECKSVILLE, OH.

Annual Game Night

The quarterly meeting was held on February 5, 2017. The lodge celebrated GCU's 125th Anniversary with lodge members and parishioners prior to the meeting.

Game Night was held on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at St. Joseph's Activity Center. Lodge 302 provided pulled pork sandwiches, macaroni salad and refreshments. GCU members and friends were asked to bring their favorite game along with an appetizer or a dessert to share. Approximately 40 people were in attendance—a great way to spend a winter evening with friends! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this an enjoyable evening.

GCU Lodge 302 is on Facebook! Be sure to "like" us at www.facebook.com/GCULodge302.

Diane Richey | Publicity Director



Game night participants.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, April 30

St. Joseph's Church Hall

Immediately following 10:30 AM

Liturgy.

Memorial Day Service

Sunday, May 28

St. Joseph's Church, Brecksville

Immediately following

10:30 AM Liturgy.

Addams Family Do or Die

Saturday November 4

Gomez, Morticia, Uncle Fester and Cousin It are just a few characters you may see in this fall's Murder Mystery Mayhem, "Addams Family Do or Die." Coming November 4—Save the Date. "Cara Mia, where are you?!" "... I am here Gomez!"



Slavonic Festival volunteers.

Lodge 340

RAHWAY, NJ

2nd Annual Founders' Day Brunch

Lodge 340 celebrated their second annual Founders' Day Brunch and the 125 Anniversary of the GCU, on Sunday, February 5, 2017 at Snuffy's Pantagis Restaurant in Scotch Plains, NJ. The Right Rev. Archpriest James G. Hayer, pastor of St. Thomas Church and chaplain of Lodge 340, lead the group of 30 people in an opening prayer.

Attendance included members from Lodges 254 & 665 and several folks from as far away as Delaware. The meal began with a toast, "To the GCU, may God grant us another prosperous

125 years!" President Mary Bannworth quizzed the group on some GCU trivia. There were door prizes for the taking. Thanks to the event chairman Mark Bannworth.

30th Slavonic Festival

This year St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church celebrated their 30th Annual Slavonic Festival on Saturday, February 4, 2017. GCU Lodge 340 helped support this event. Lodge members were involved in all aspects of the event, together with the church community. There was entertainment by The Adlers Band, with international music, fundraising games, a religious article gift shop, church tours and ethnic food specialties for sale. The Most Reverend Bishop Kurt Burnette celebrated the Divine Liturgy that day with Rev. John Zeyack concelebrating.

Mary Bannworth | President

Lodge 442

BOARDMAN, OH.

Donation to Parish

Lodge 442 presented their 2016 Matching Funds check on March 1, 2017 to Father Michael Farynets for the lodge's home parish of Infant Jesus of Prague Byzantine Catholic Church Building and Grounds Maintenance Fund. The total donation was \$3,686.⁰⁰. Presenting the check is Lodge 442 Treasurer Elaine Chachko.



Lodge 860

DETROIT, MI

Lunches for Homeless

Lodge 860 members and parishioners of St. Nicholas Church in Clinton Township, MI., gathered on Sunday, February 12, to prepare 100 bagged lunches for local area homeless.

This 12th annual lunch packing project followed Divine Liturgy at the church. Volunteers gathered in the social hall to pack white paper sacks with sandwiches, beverages and snacks. The bags were decorated in advance with inspiring designs by parishioners and lodge members to cheer the recipients while they enjoy the contents.

After the lunches were packed, the bags were delivered to a local shelter. All volunteers and lodge members had pizza and pop for lunch. Following the lunch, the lodge held its quarterly meeting in the church hall.

Val Marszalec | Fraternal Activities & Publicity Director

Lodge 644

BARBERTON/AKRON, OH

More from Lodge 644

With GCU proudly celebrating their 125th Anniversary, we feel honored to be an active participant through our lodge. When St. Michael Church in Akron was established it was one of many supported by the GCU. Originally four lodges existed at the church. Eventually all consolidated into Lodge 644 and for nearly 60 years we have enjoyed great membership and activities. We've grown in membership, as other lodges from as far away as Columbus, were consolidated into our lodge. I changed the title of "Akron News" to "More From Lodge 644" for this reason.

In 1982 we established our annual Unity Day Dinner for all members. We recently changed the name to Member Recognition Dinner and continue to have excellent participation. Some of our other activities over the years have been Children's Halloween and Christmas parties, bus trips to interesting places, bowling and golf tournaments, Easter baskets for parish shut-ins, scholarship entries, and of course, supporting special community organizations such as Salvation Army, Children's Home, etc.



Volunteers prepare food at Good Samaritan Hunger Center.

Supporting Local Hunger Center

Speaking of such groups, our lodge officers recently visited the Good Samaritan Hunger Center and presented them with a sizable check. This organization was established in 1982 by the late Sister Jordan, a Dominican nun from Our Lady of the Elms. At that time St. Michael's was unable to accommodate her needs for a location, but Lodge 644 has supported this worthy cause, since the beginning. The hunger center set up operations at St. Sebastian Church in west Akron where they are still located. Ironically, Sister Jordan's cousin, Michele Smith, is now the executive director. They provide meals for the hungry two days the first week of each month and five days the remaining weeks at various locations. They prepared and served 8700 meals in 2016.

We wish all GCU members a happy and holy Easter season!

John Keblesh

LODGE 945 Upcoming Events

Clean-up at Dunmore, PA

Saturday, April 22

Nature Walking Trail, Reservoir #1 at 9 AM. (Rain date—Saturday, April 29, 2017.)

Helping Hands

Saturday, June 3

"Helping Hands" at Carmelite Sisters, Sugarloaf, PA. Lodge members and friends are invited to give a helping hand in assisting the Sisters with their spring clean-up.

Flag Day Ceremony & Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, June 11

Following 9 AM Liturgy at St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church, Dunmore.

Lodge 665

LINDEN, NJ

Food Drive

The Lodge 665 food drive for the Linden Food Bank was held in November and was a success. A Kolache Day was held in December with GCU product information provided to those in attendance.

Mike Geles | Secretary Treasurer



Pictured are Linden Food Bank workers, with Mickey & Margita Geles along with Santa.

Giving



GoGive

DARLINGTON, PA

Steel City Dog Rescue is a local rescue owned and primarily operated by one woman, Jacque Buchheimer. Her mission statement is to provide a safe shelter for dogs who have been left behind, forgotten, abandoned, neglected or abused; providing and caring for those who do not have a voice. She put a plea out for donations of cleaning supplies—a perfect opportunity to use the GCU GoGive! program and assist in the community. Using Facebook and the GoGive! donation as advertising sources, the project received incredible support from folks near and far. An employee at Heritage Valley Heart & Vascular Institute got her fellow co-workers involved and contributed donations that required three trips to collect. It's amazing what can be done when people come together to help one another. A perfect example of “Investing in the Goodness of Community.”

Susan Chaffee



Holy Trinity Parish Expansion

WALL, PA

Las Vegas night was held at Holy Trinity Byzantine Church on Saturday, January 28. GCU members of Lodges 255, 390 and the Home Office joined together to help make it a great evening. The evening's activities included bingo, fundraising activities and a bake sale. Many people went home with a big smile on their face and money in their pockets.

Thomas Oslick Sr.



GCU Employees Giving Back

Comfort & Care Drive

Living in a personal care home is a big adjustment from 'normal' life. To help spread some cheer, GCU Home Office staff collected comfort and care items for Lakeview Personal Care Home. Employees donated soft blankets, non-skid socks, and slippers. The items were distributed to residents and were very appreciated. Check out some of their reactions in our video on YouTube “For Goodness Sake: GCU does Good in their Community.”

Beaver, PA Rocks its Socks

World Down Syndrome Day is March 21 every year—the 21st day of the 3rd month because of the triplication of the 21st chromosome that causes Down syndrome. The day is meant to spread awareness and encourage inclusion. GCU Home Office staff participated in a local campaign created by Judy Pamer in celebration of her son Karl, who not only has Down syndrome, but is a leukemia survivor. GCU donated \$250 and employees collected \$350 for a total donation of \$600! The funds will benefit the Down Syndrome Center at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Watch our video on YouTube “GCU Supports Beaver PA Rocks its Socks!”

Moment of Magic

“College students that come together bringing hope and joy to children strengthens my faith and joy.”

—Jenna McDonnell

Jenna McDonnell is a freshman at the College of Mount Saint Vincent. Jenna, along with her family, are longtime GCU members and attend St. Nicholas of Myra in White Plains, NY. Jenna’s church and church family were a major part of her upbringing and she believes in serving the Lord through helping and loving one another. She has found a way to serve at college through A Moment of Magic, a nonprofit organization whose mission is “restoring the magic of believing at a time when a child needs to ‘just be a kid’ and reminding them to be brave, strong, and fearless.”

Jenna completed training that included HIPPA laws, working with special needs children, character training, learning phrases in Spanish and sign language, and shadowing experienced character volunteers known as “Magic Makers.” While shadowing, Jenna saw first-hand the struggles of the children and their parents. These harsh realities were brightened once the children saw the princesses.

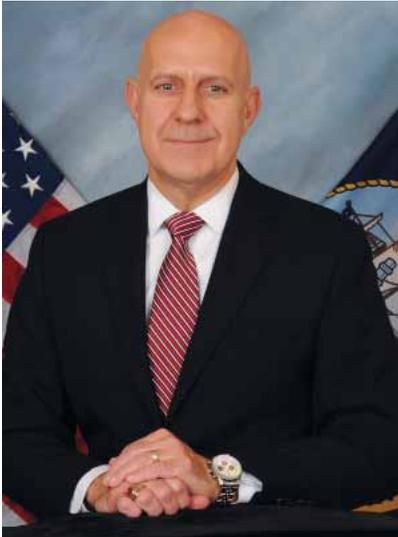
After shadowing, money had to be raised to purchase Jenna’s own costume; a costly item since they are high quality, realistic outfits. Jenna got her fundraising efforts started with GCU GoGive! seed money. After the fundraising was complete, she received the honor of being the first super hero character, Supergirl! Supergirl has since visited children in hospitals and fundraising events, including a dance marathon!

“Overall, my experience of joining A Moment of Magic has been nothing short of magical” said Jenna. “College students that come together bringing hope and joy to children strengthens my faith and joy. I have loved meeting some of the greatest and strongest children, as well as branching out to other organizations and fundraisers all with the common goal of fighting against Childhood Cancer.”



Jenna and other Magic Makers, during one of Supergirl's initial visits.

People



Captain Francis Tisak Receives Appointment

Captain Francis X. Tisak, U.S. Navy (retired) was recently appointed as the Department of the Navy Director for Services Acquisition. This position has oversight of a \$36 billion portfolio covering services ranging from ship repair to aircraft maintenance. Prior to this assignment, he served as a Senior Program Analyst for the Deputy Assistant of the Secretary.

Captain Tisak has also completed over 30 years on active duty in assignments at sea and around the world.

He is a member of GCU Lodge 83 and former parishioner of both St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Ambridge, PA and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Levittown, PA.

Sports

Youngstown Area Jr. Bowling Tournament

BOARDMAN, OH

The Youngstown area GCU lodges hosted a Junior Bowling Tournament on Sunday, March 26 at Camelot Lanes in Boardman, OH. There were 34 boys and girls who enjoyed the competition, prizes and food. The largest group since the Youngstown area bowling tournament was started.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich and Elaine Chachko collected gift cards from eight Boardman area vendors totaling over

\$320 in value. With the Youngstown lodges donating another \$80 in gift cards, a total of over \$400 in prizes was awarded. Every bowler received a prize and giveaways from the GCU.

High series of 456 and single game 171 for the boys was Austin Malutic. High series of 384 and single game 161 for the girls was Kalin Kovach.

Tom Sopkovich | Lodge 164 President





Byzantine Family Days

SAVE THE DATES

June 4, 2017 - 7th Annual Byzantine Catholic Family Day
at Knoebels Park - Elysburg, PA

July 27, 2017 - 97th Annual Byzantine Catholic Family Day
at Kennywood Park - West Mifflin, PA

To order tickets for either of these events, please visit



or call 800-722-4428 ext. 3809



Please Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity with the Byzantine Catholic Seminary

The annuity provides a secure income which is guaranteed for life and future support for the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

The Seminary works directly with the GCU and by acting now, you can begin to receive:

- A rate of return much higher than CD's, bonds or other guaranteed investments;
- Income that is tax free;
- An income tax deduction for a portion of your gift;
- No up-front capital gains tax due when funding this with appreciated securities;
- The knowledge that your gift will help you now and provide valuable resources to the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

For more information on the Byzantine Catholic Seminary's Charitable Gift Annuity Program and to receive a no obligation illustration of the benefits, please email the Development Office at development@bcs.edu or complete this form and return to the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

Please send me language for my will that will be helpful in leaving a legacy gift to the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Dates of birth:

1st Annuitant _____

2nd Annuitant _____

I am considering a Gift Annuity of \$ _____

Phone _____

Byzantine Catholic Seminary
3605 Perrysville. Avenue,
Pittsburgh, PA 15214

GCU Golf Classic
Friday, June 16 at
Seven Oaks Country Club



2017 GCU Golf Events



GCU member Matthew Hoenninger wearing the shirt he received for winning Flight B at the 2016 SCS/GCU Golf Event. Matt is looking forward to this year's event.

SCS/GCU Golf Event
Friday-Sunday,
August 18-20
Treasure Lake
in DuBois, PA
Hotels—Fairfield Inn and
Hampton Inn

Cost will be \$285 which
includes: practice round,
36 hole tournament,
prizes, Friday Hospitality,
Saturday Banquet and hotel
(based on double occupancy).



3rd Annual
GCU Charity
Golf Scramble
Saturday,
September 23

Seven Oaks Country Club
Beaver, PA

This year we will be raising money for
Variety-The Children's Charity

For information call 800-722-4428 Ext. 3924

Applications for all of these events will be mailed to members who have participated in a GCU golf event in the past five years. If you would like to be included on the mailing list, please email bwahal@gcuusa.com or call 800-722-4428 ext. 3810.



Recreational Facility Usage Rules & Important Information

A GCU Benefit member will be entitled to 6 facilities (golf) and 3 each (swimming and tennis) uses in which 3 are complimentary uses (golfers must pay cart fee) and the other uses will pay the current guest fee for each facility. To receive a temporary GCU/Seven Oaks membership card, please contact Chris at 724-495-3400 ext. 3810. After you have received your temporary card, you can have a permanent photo card issued when you visit Seven Oaks. Photo cards are available Monday-Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM and Saturday-Sunday from 10 AM to 4 PM in the Seven Oaks office.

Benefit Member's complimentary pass cannot be used for a guest.

- ❖ Unlimited dining in the Clubhouse—reservations are preferred.
- ❖ Golf tee times available 3 days in advance.
- ❖ Weekend or holiday tee times available starting at noon.

Membership card must be presented to Club personnel for every usage at the facility.

Restrictions do apply, please be sure to check with the Club before each visit for recreational and dining availability.

Benefit members are required to pay for services at time of visit. Cash and credit card payments are accepted.



Contact Information

Temporary GCU/Seven Oaks Card—724-495-3400 ext. 3810

Dining Reservations—724-495-3300

Golf Pro Shop—724-495-2770

Tennis Courts—724-495-3300 ext. 257

Website—www.sevenoakscc.com

For Your Information

Events

Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer: Women's Discernment Retreat

April 21–23, 2017

Friday 7 PM–Sunday 11 AM

Presented by Sr. Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM. Offering is \$130—Commuters \$105. Registration is due April 17.

Candlelight Dinner for Married Couples

April 27, 2017

Thursday 6:30 PM–8:30 PM

Includes dinner, music and presentation. Presented by Pastor Ken and Thelma Walls. Offering \$60 per couple. Registration due April 21.

Iconography Workshop

May 5–7, 2017

Friday 6 PM–Sunday 4 PM

Presented by Marylyn Barone. Offering \$230—Commuters \$205 cost includes supplies. Registration due April 28. The participants will write an icon of the Guardian Angel on an 8x10 gesso-covered board.

House Tours

May 21, 2017

Sunday 1 PM–3 PM

Come tour the former mansion of J. V. Thompson by period costumed guides. Learn the history of one of the leading and wealthiest coal barons of his day. Offering is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children.

Available

Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

Having sold over 16,000 copies, the cookbook has entered its 18th printing and was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.⁰⁰ plus \$4.⁰⁰ postage and handling (\$18.⁰⁰). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$27.⁰⁰ U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, call (724) 208-6771 (M–F 6–8 PM) or email carpathiancookery@gmail.com.



 **GCU 125**
You're invited.

**Home Office & St. Nicholas Chapel
Open House**

Saturday, May 6, 2017
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Tour the St. Nicholas Chapel and enjoy light refreshments at the Home Office.

All are welcome.

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

994	Mary Abraham, Beaver, PA	8304	Domenick Damore, Mission Viejo, CA	8344	Margaret Hames, Apollo, PA
8344	James A. Achey, Schuylkill, PA	8344	Audrey R. Davis, Oakmont, PA	8344	Helen Hamilton, Vandergrift, PA
8358	Dolores Adamczyk, Oak Creek, WI	8315	Bernice D. Delor, Terre Haute, IN	8341	Annie Harman, Columbus, OH
8344	Robert Allen, Belle Vernon, PA	401	Mary A. Demchak, Reno, NV	10	Alice Harvatin, Ambridge, PA
8344	Julia Alston, Blairsville, PA	8344	Roberta Diehl, Hollidaysburg, PA	8344	Mary Ann Henry, Renfrew, PA
8344	Celia Amatangelo, Donora, PA	8344	Irene L. Dotter, Albrightsville, PA	8344	Norma Heselbarth, Pittsburgh, PA
8344	Jeannette Anderson, Warren, PA	92	Lyona Drutarovsky, Peckville, PA	8344	Charles W. Hinchberger, Butler, PA
8344	Jeannette Andre, Pittsburgh, PA	945	Joseph Ehnott, Dunmore, PA	66	Michael Horvat, Whiting, IN
8344	Allen Andrews, Charleroi, PA	8344	Anna Errante, Scotrun, PA	254	Nicholas Hovanec, Toms River, NJ
8358	Donald Arne, Oshkosh, WI	8358	Rita Esser, Arpin, WI	8344	Frances Hrebнар, Monessen, PA
321	Clarence Badar, Greensburg, PA	182	Joseph Thomas Evans, Swoyersville, PA	109	Doris Hrip, Lyndora, PA
8344	Gloria Baker, East Norriton, PA	390	Julia Evans, Coraopolis, PA	8341	Anna Hronek, Parma, OH
600	Marie J. Balon, Freeland, PA	860	Barbara J. Feighner, Glenrock, WY	94	Patricia A. Janosko, Glenshaw, PA
8344	Gerald E. Barnes, Lawrence, PA	386	John Ference, Pittsburgh, PA	8357	Beatrice Jeffries, Morgantown, WV
8358	Mary Bernau, Milwaukee, WI	8344	Helen Marie Ferrara, Charleroi, PA	8358	Marilyn Johnson, Evansville, WI
8344	Olivia M. Berzonsky, Ebensburg, PA	8344	William J. Finney, Allentown, PA	384	Mildred Kalanik, Redford, MI
8360	Margaret Bickleman, Goose Creek, SC	8344	Roberta B. Fiorito, King of Prussia, PA	2	Marilyn Karpinski, Pittsburgh, PA
8344	Richard A. Boch, Pittsburgh, PA	386	Michael Fitzpatrick, Los Angeles, CA	8344	Edward L. Kasyan, West Mifflin, PA
386	Joseph Bonadio, Pittsburgh, PA	8344	William T. Fitzroy I, Verona, PA	8344	Melvin E. Keith, Duncansville, PA
8358	Carleton A. Bork, Greenville, WI	8344	Louis J. Fleckenstein, Johnstown, PA	8360	Raymond F. Kelly, Mauldin, SC
8304	Madeleine Box, Los Angeles, CA	8359	Betty Jo Floyd, Raleigh, NC	8344	Elizabeth Kern, Glenside, PA
8344	William H. Brand, Belle Vernon, PA	8344	George Forsys, Pittsburgh, PA	8358	Edith Kimber, Fox Point, WI
8344	Edna H. Brannigan, Philadelphia, PA	8358	Phyllis A. Fuchs, LaCrosse, WI	8344	Doris E. Knechtel, Norvelt, PA
8327	Florence L. Braun, Waseca, MN	8344	Chauncy A. Fusco, Butler, PA	8344	Carl J. Kochik, Glenn Oaks, PA
8344	Elva J. Brown, Fombell, PA	945	Judy Lois Gabriel, Dunmore, PA	697	Edward S. Kopec, Weirton, WV
8344	Donald Buczkowski, Pittsburgh, PA	8341	Margaret K. Gaydos, Lakewood, OH	151	Seman Kovalcik, Brooklyn, NY
235	Elizabeth Burns, Seymour, CT	250	John Geletka, Warren, MI	109	Helen Krajnikovich, West Sunbury, PA
8344	Rosemary Campbell, Butler, PA	8359	George Godish, Pinehurst, NC	8344	Gladys M. Kratofil, Pittsburgh, PA
8344	Jennie Capes, Pittsburgh, PA	8344	Stephen Gorshak, North Huntingdon, PA	8358	Ronald Kreuger, Cottage Grove, WI
999	William Carder, Oro Valley, AZ	8327	Shirley Graham, Woodbury, MN	8354	Verne Kristoff, Newport News, VA
8344	Clara C. Chilko, Vandergrift, PA	8344	Mary P. Gray, Cochranton, PA	8344	Patrice J. Kroll, Ellwood City, PA
8344	Anna Cincotto, Derry, PA	8344	James W. Graziano, Warren, PA	8344	Judith D. Kuncas, Export, PA
8341	Theresa Collette, Blacklick, OH	252	Eleanore Gresko, New Middletown, OH	8304	Marcus Laney, Vista, CA
8344	Charles Colteryahn, Harmony, PA	8333	Maria M. Griego, Las Vegas, NV	697	Matilda M. Larch, New Cumberland, WV
8358	Katherine Copeland, Lake Geneva, WI	8344	Edward Griffin, Pittsburgh, PA	66	Wasil Lengyel, Tempe, AZ
321	Jason M. Craig, Indian Head, PA	8344	Beulah C. Grove, Williamsburg, PA	8344	Gladys M. Lindvay, Warren, PA
8304	Katherine E. Crall, Newport Beach, CA	8358	Leonard D. Gumz, Colby, WI	390	Mike Lorinc, Pittsburgh, PA
8344	George Cybulko, Pittsburgh, PA	999	Jane Haber, Peoria, AZ	994	Cecilia Lyons, Beaver, PA
316	Anna Czura, Fairfax, VA	8344	Ann H. Haldeman, Pittsburgh, PA	211	Aloysious J. Mackrell, Eynon, PA

994	Michael G. Malekovic, Reading, PA	994	John Petula, Beaver, PA	225	Arlene Sterner, Bath, PA
10	Thomas Malinich, Buffalo, NY	8344	Alberta T. Pietrus, Edwardsville, PA	8344	Jack Stile, Indiana, PA
8344	Helen U. Malysko, Johnstown, PA	600	Dorothy Pindar, White Haven, PA	8344	Anna Jane Strong, Home, PA
252	Walter A. Martinko, Poland, OH	8344	Janet A. Plattenberg, East Stroudsburg, PA	8344	Robert Swoger, Monongahela, PA
625	Darlene J. Mathieson, Summerhill, PA	994	Joan M. Poehlmann, Richmond, VA	8344	Margaret Talarico, Leeper, PA
8344	Leona Wanda Maurer Kunz, Monrovia, MD	8344	Betty J. Poletto, Homer City, PA	235	Helen Tarasovich, Shelton, CT
8344	Verna McClain, New Kensington, PA	8306	Peter Potak, Milford, CT	860	Elona Taylor, Roseville, MI
8344	Mary Lou McConnell, Clinton, PA	12	Peter Prebish, Clifton, NJ	8344	Dorothy Thompson, Beaver, PA
18	Harold McCulley, West Alexander, PA	8358	George Prestash, Oconomowoc, WI	8324	Veronica Tokash, Chesapeake City, MD
255	James McCullough, Pittsburgh, PA	8344	Valerie Prysock, North Versailles, PA	8344	Louis P. Tomanio, Oakmont, PA
8344	Andrew P. McLaughlin, Snow Shoe, PA	8344	Joyce Pudliner, Johnstown, PA	164	Dorothy Tranovich, Youngstown, OH
442	Dominic J. Medina, Campbell, OH	8337	William Puhala, Tonawanda, NY	8344	George Trocki, Russellton, PA
8344	Agnes Meeter, Harleysville, PA	8354	Joseph Rabel, Virginia Beach, VA	302	Steve Trudick, Newbury, OH
999	Dorothy Meinen, Sun City, AZ	302	John Rash, Wickliffe, OH	8344	Dorothy A. Tumas, Apollo, PA
600	Mary Metrick, Beaver Meadows, PA	8358	Peter J. Ready, Arlington Heights, IL	15	Margaret Tyrrell, Iselin, NJ
8344	George Mihalaki, Johnstown, PA	442	Monica M. Repasky, Poland, OH	235	Eliz Uchalik, Bristol, CT
994	Edward Mihalyi, Beaver, PA	8327	Eleanor P. Reynolds, Redmond, WA	665	David G. Uglow, Livingston, NJ
8348	Helen Miller, Knoxville, TN	994	Elizabeth Rittelmann, Beaver Falls, PA	8344	Goline D. Vanderhoof, New Hope, PA
57	Juliana Miller, Savannah, GA	8344	Esperanza Sanchez, Midland, PA	8341	John Varhola, Bedford, OH
945	Margaret Miller, Fort Myers, FL	8344	Rita Sanders, Monongahela, PA	994	Anthony Viscuso, Freedom, PA
8344	Mary Mirisciotta, Canonsburg, PA	8344	Helen Scalise, Warren, PA	442	Michael Alan Vrable, Canfield, OH
8344	Alfred Mitchell, East Stroudsburg, PA	8304	Georgine Schmidt, Plano, TX	8341	Betty L. Walton, Salem, OH
8344	Charles R. Morrell, Meadville, PA	8341	Eli David Schultz, Stratton, OH	57	Nellie Warholic, Bentleyville, PA
8348	Helen Moskala, Hendersonville, TN	8337	Paul Sciandra, Clarence, NY	8344	John Warkala, Lehighton, PA
8344	Julia Moskola, Monessen, PA	8344	Joan Sepega, Phoenixville, PA	8358	Lydia Weideman, Colby, WI
600	Robert Mulhall, Pottsville, PA	8344	Dorothy B. Severns, Warminster, PA	8335	Dora Williamson, Cherry Hill, NJ
17	Mary Naida, Old Forge, PA	66	Nancy Shendrick, Portage, IN	600	Janet Witta, York, PA
8344	Marlin D. Neel, Warren, PA	8344	Robert F. Shoенfelt, Indiana, PA	288	Joseph Wohar, Nashville, TN
8344	Rose Novacich, Point Marion, PA	8344	Arthur D. Shotts, Birmingham, PA	66	Matthew Woszczyński, Munster, IN
625	Catherine Mae Oleksa, Johnstown, PA	8344	Joseph R. Simcisko, Bellefonte, PA	8344	Carl Wright, East Brady, PA
258	Stephen A. Pajak, Brookfield, OH	77	Joseph Skrepich, Lorain, OH	8358	Robert H. Wright, Green Bay, WI
8307	Mary Palamar, Wilmington, DE	8335	Julia Smerko, Ship Bottom, NJ	8344	Donald Yackulich, Johnstown, PA
255	Francis Panchura, Pittsburgh, PA	258	Norma Smith, New Castle, PA	625	Paul Yackulich, Johnstown, PA
8344	Robert J. Paulick, Allison Park, PA	8341	Mildred Sosnoski, Elida, OH	999	Raymond Zajic, Peoria, AZ
999	Michael Pawlik, Oro Valley, AZ	8344	Alfred P. Spinicci, Wilkes-Barre, PA	994	Josephine Zaluska, Post Falls, ID
10	Margaret Pazich, Beaver Falls, PA	8344	Emma Stanoszek, New Stanton, PA	8344	John V. Zapotosky, Masoutown, PA
8335	Harriett B. Pellegrini, Ocean View, NJ	8304	Eleanor Stanske, Pleasanton, CA		
360	Dorothy Petrony, Youngstown, OH	8341	Mary L. Sterling, Warren, OH		

Remembrances



Peter Dietz

Peter Dietz, 89, of Staten Island, NY and a member of Lodge 151, passed away on March 4, 2017 following an illness. He was a past national officer, having served as national athletic director from 1969-1972, a dedicated District 7 member and a local lodge supporter. A lifelong Byzantine Catholic, he attended St. Mary Church in New York City and more recently St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Rahway, New Jersey.

Born in New York, New York, he was the son of Michael and Mary (Knapp) Dietz. After attending New York City schools he served in the U.S. Army. While serving at Fort Sill, OK, he and Eleanor Himich were married on January 6, 1951. They became the parents of three children. He was employed in the cruise travel industry, becoming district sales manager for Holland America, Homes Lines and Dolphin Cruise lines, serving continuously until his retirement.

As a dedicated GCU member, he was vice-president of New York Lodge 151 for many years, athletic director of District 7 from 1958-1968, and assistant athletic director for over 25 years. He was the recipient of the both the District 7 Fr. Dano Award (twice) and the GCU John Vasil Award for his outstanding leadership and achievement in sports. Within District 7 he was instrumental in the starting of the New York GCU Mixed Bowling League (lasted 50 seasons) and also a children's bowling league. He bowled in 49 of 52 seasons with the District 7 Mixed Traveling League and served as its treasurer for many years.

Throughout his lifetime he was involved as a planner and participant in bowling and golf events on the local, district and national levels. He was a national champion in both bowling and golf tournaments and was among a select group of honorees to be recognized during the 50th Anniversary Bowling Tournament for his

achievements on the national level.

Peter Dietz took great pride in being part of the George Batyko-George Juba team of delegates who in 1968 were first elected as national officers. He represented his lodge or District 7 at 12 National Conventions.

He enjoyed bowling, golf, swimming, traveling and gardening, but most of all he valued time with his family. In 2011 when the couple celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, the entire family enjoyed their time together on a cruise to Bermuda.

Surviving in addition to his wife are children, Richard (Carol) of Denver, CO, Patricia of Staten Island, NY and Paul (Marguerite) of Glenmoore, PA; 6 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and other relatives.

The Rite of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Thomas the Apostle Church by Right Rev. Archbishop, James Hayer, Rev. Edward Higgins, Rev. Joseph Loya, Rev. John Zeyack with Deacon Thomas Shubeck. Also in attendance was Rev. John Custer. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA.

Eternal memory and blessed repose.



Joseph Olack
GCU Honorary Officer

Joseph Olack, 89, of Aliquippa, PA, a past national officer, died on March 6, 2017, in Heritage Valley Hospital, Beaver, PA. A longtime GCU member, he was first elected as national auditor in 1988 and re-elected at the next three National Conventions. He became chairperson of auditors by virtue of having the highest vote count in 1992, 1996 and 2000. In 2004 the auditor position was retired and at that time he was designated a GCU honorary officer. He served as District 15 athletic director from the time of its organization in 1982 until 2000. Throughout his adult lifetime he participated and supported bowling and golf events and tournaments, District

15 and Lodge 10 activities, and GCU lodge, district and national events in various locations throughout the country.

Born April 9, 1927, in West Aliquippa, PA, he was the son of the late Joseph and Anna (Bobanic) Olack and the stepson of the late John Timcisko. He retired from the seamless tube department of LTV Steel with 40 years of service, and was a U.S. Navy veteran, having served in World War II.

A member of St. George Byzantine Catholic Church in Aliquippa, he was a 1949 graduate of Aliquippa High School and a graduate of Pittsburgh Technical School. He was a member of the Aliquippa Volunteer Fire Department for 65 years, where he served as past president and secretary.

Joe loved polka dancing, sailing his boat "Cigany" on Lake Arthur in Western Pennsylvania, and spending time with his family. He and his wife/dancing partner Mary Elizabeth have been inseparable for all of their nearly 66 married years and are known to all for their deep relationship and dedication to each other.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Elizabeth (Seech) Olack, whom he married May 8, 1951; children, Timothy (Carol) Olack, Kathy (Danny) Kapaldo, David (Lisa) Olack and Michael (Kathy) Olack; grandchildren, Blake (Sarah) Olack, Lauren Olack, Michael Kapaldo, Pamela Kapaldo, Ashton (Jeremy) Aimi, Kristina Olack, Abigail Olack and Emily Olack; great-grandchildren, Sloane Olack, Emma Aimi and Landon Aimi; sister, Dorothy Peterson; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, George and Martha Seech, and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents and stepfather, he was preceded in death by a brother, John Timcisko, and a sister, Mary Davis.

The Divine Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. George Byzantine Catholic Church, by Father Mykhaylo Shkyndya. Entombment was in Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery Mausoleum.

Eternal memory and blessed repose.



We are
GCU

The GCU has a new look, new tagline
and a renewed commitment to doing
what we've always done, only better.

**Investing in the Goodness
of Community**



We invest ...

our time, effort and talent into creating strong, stable products that make **your family's future more secure**. We make sure they bring **high returns and peace of mind**. We strengthen the places where neighbors come together to feel **a sense of belonging**. We lift up young scholars, the elderly and people in need.



Not big bankers, **just people of faith**. Not motivated by profit, but by **protecting the assets of families**. Not tied to Wall Street, only Main Street. In every moment, we invest our highest selves in **doing the right thing** for your family, your neighbors and the place we call home. **At GCU we invest...**



... **in the goodness of community.**



GCU

