

APRIL 2018



# GCU

MAGAZINE



## Annual Report Issue

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## Board of Directors

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Spiritual Advisor

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George N. Juba  
President  
CEO

# Staying Vigilant to Our Members' Interests

I welcome you to the 2018 Annual Report issue of the GCU Magazine! As we celebrated throughout 2017 the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the GCU, we are most proud of our Society, its history and our continued commitment in serving our churches, our communities and the multitude of individuals and organizations in need of our financial and volunteer support. We can only continue our "Mission" through sound financial strength. As GCU recently completed and filed our 2017 Annual Financial Reports to each of the states the GCU is licensed in, we can also celebrate 2017 as one of the most successful financial years in our history as well! The GCU continues to produce strong asset growth. Year end 2017 assets totaled \$ 1.712 billion representing a 10.5% growth, while surplus now stands at \$133 million. Year-end profits, after refunds to members and capital losses, were recorded at \$25.7 million, the main factor contributing to our surplus growth. A full detailed

report of the GCU's year end 2017 financial statement is presented by our Chief Financial Officer Tim Demetres on page 4.

In analyzing the GCU's 2017 Business Plan goals to actual accomplishments, we are very satisfied with our overall results. Our Business Plan focused on the following areas - **Risk, Service, Financial, Growth and Fraternal.** **Risk** – Your Board of Directors, Executive Officers, General Counsel, Department Directors and Support Staff are continually aware of and identifying potential risks inherent in today's business environment. The GCU is committed to protecting our members' interests, establishing Risk Committees on a Board and a Staff level. **Service** – There is plenty of competition in today's life insurance and annuity marketplace, in many cases offering similar products and rates. "Service" can make the difference in choosing GCU over our competition. We are very proud of our entire staff in servicing the needs of our

## Scott Schuetz Named GCU Executive Vice President/COO



The GCU Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Scott W. Schuetz, as Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer of the GCU. Mr. Schuetz joined the GCU staff on Tuesday, February 20, 2018.

Prior to his employment with GCU, Scott spent the past 25 years working within the insurance and financial services industry. He most recently served as Vice President - Life & Annuity Growth & Product Delivery Leader with the Phoenix Life & Annuity Company in Hartford, CT. Prior to that he was employed by Aviva USA in Des Moines, IA as SVP, Operations & Customer Advocate Leader. He has also held positions within the financial services industries with Wells Fargo Mortgage, CitiBank Credit Cards, & Procter & Gamble International. Scott began his career with Procter & Gamble.

A native of the Kansas City, KS area, Scott

is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management & Accounting with an emphasis in Finance. He attended the University of Manchester, England with a study abroad program for International Business and Marketing.

Mr. Schuetz will lead the GCU Life, Annuity & Medicare Supplement business. He will be partnering closely with the Executive Office and Board of Directors overseeing the GCU business strategy, growth and customer advocacy. He will lead the GCU core business units to grow and increase profitability within a well-controlled business environment.

We congratulate Scott Schuetz on his appointment and wish him continued success as the GCU Executive Vice President/COO.

members and agents. We continually focus on building relationships with each and every member through excellent and timely customer service that will meet and exceed your expectations. **Financial** – “Today’s Sales are Tomorrow’s Profits!” The GCU attained 90% of total annuity premium and 168% of life premium goals, while attaining record profitability through sound fiscal management throughout our entire operations. **Growth** – We have and will continue to focus on our distribution channels by fostering existing agency relationships along with securing additional agencies especially in the states we were recently approved to conduct business in. We thank all of our agents for the continued trust you have placed in GCU in servicing your clients’ life insurance and investment needs! We value our relationship with each of our agents! **Fraternal** – We realize we have many challenges in attempting to attract more of our members to be involved fraternally with the GCU. We will continue to support our active lodges and districts that conduct many charitable events throughout the year in support of their churches and communities. We congratulate all of our lodge and district officers and our entire membership for your time and efforts in support of the GCU’s Fraternal Mission!

My sincere thank you and appreciation to District 7 President Mary Bannworth and the District Officers for the gracious hospitality extended to me during my recent visit. I once again presented the Regional Lodge Concept to the officers and members of the lodges for their consideration.

We will continue to focus on each area of the GCU’s operation, constantly striving to improve upon each segment to better serve our members and agents and provide greater efficiency to our processes. With that said, we welcome our newly appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer Scott Schuetz. Over the course of his career, Scott has held numerous positions within the insurance and financial services industry. We look forward to his expertise and contributions towards the GCU’s continued success. I invite you to review the Board of Directors’ announcement of Mr. Schuetz’s hiring and his bio presented on page 1.

In actuality, the GCU completed its 126<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this past February 14<sup>th</sup> and is now into its 127<sup>th</sup> year! We must never become complacent over our past success but continually focus on the future by:

- Continually identifying potential risks as previously addressed.
- Assuring that our products are relevant and competitive within the marketplace.
- Focusing on improving our services and processes to members and agents.
- Expanding our distribution by analyzing potential sales opportunities in the life and annuity markets.
- Improving our technology and expanding our online presence.
- Developing a stronger social media presence that will as-

sist in marketing our products and Fraternal Mission.

- Revitalize GCU Fraternal Programming to attract more of our members to participate in volunteer and charitable fundraising.
- Continue to strengthen our governance practices.

In the Board’s continued efforts to strengthen governance, a recent referendum was conducted among all adult GCU benefit members, eighteen years of age and older, to amend the Bylaws. This referendum was overwhelmingly approved with 90 percent of the ballots cast voting in favor of amending the Bylaws as presented in the referendum. The result of the balloting as tabulated by the independent certified public accounting firm of H2R CPA were as follows: Yes Votes – 10,658, No Votes – 1,235. By virtue of the passage of this referendum, the Quadrennial Conventions will no longer be held. The Board will be addressing alternate regional meetings with a primary focus on fraternal programming and education. Also, a greater pool of qualified members can be sought out to serve as a National Officer and all adult benefit members of the GCU will now have a vote in the election of National Officers.

As we focus on the future, we are continuing to address our need to increase life premium. We have completed a total analysis of our life products as we will be updating each of our life products to the 2017 mortality tables and adding additional riders that will allow for our premium and products to be more competitive in the marketplace. We anticipate this update to be completed during the second quarter of 2018.

The GCU Holding Company and its subsidiaries realized a net loss of \$1.3 million in 2017 compared to a net loss of \$879,000 in 2016. This increase is primarily due to a \$362,000 one-time adjustment to GCU Real Estate Company Inc. financial statements as a write down of initial capitalized costs primarily consisting of loan interest paid to the GCU, which was recorded in 2017.

GCU Real Estate Company, Inc. recorded a net loss of \$47,284 which represents an \$8,437 increase due to increased general and administrative costs in 2017. Berkshire Hathaway Home Services continues to market the remaining 13 single family lots. The sale of a spec home recently occurred at Congressional Place and we are optimistic that additional sales will take place in 2018. An additional spec home is in the planning stages. The Board of Directors has recently secured 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 2018.

In 2017 Seven Oaks Country Club, Inc. performed slightly ahead of 2016 actuals by \$37,800 recording a net loss before depreciation of \$489,500. The shortfall within 2017’s operations centered around decreased revenues. 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. The Club attracted 84

new members in 2017. In August of this year, the Club will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Several capital improvements have been made to the Clubhouse and golf course facilities that will enhance our current members' experience while attracting additional members to the Club.

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. We are starting to experience the initial effects of the construction of this plant upon the Club and the real estate development through membership and real estate inquiries from prospective buyers associated with Shell Chemical.

In closing, once again 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 once again allowed us to present a most positive 2018 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' interests remain at the forefront each and every day!

My personal best wishes that you and your family had a most Blessed and Happy Easter!

As always, please contact me if you should have any questions or concerns!

Christos Voskresse! Voistinu Voskresse!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

*George*

## 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 have not been receiving the magazine and would like to, please email [bwahal@GCUusa.com](mailto: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,

*George N. Juba*

**George N. Juba**  
President/CEO



**Tim Demetres**  
Chief Financial Officer  
CFO

# Another Annual Financial Record

GCU's year-end results mark yet another milestone. In terms of net income and member surplus, GCU reached new highs thanks to our increasing membership and controlled expense growth.

## Highlights of 2017

Net Income before net capital gains (losses) totaled \$28.7 million in 2017 compared to \$24.0 million in 2016, resulting in an increase of \$4.8 million. Largely due to lower energy prices and reduced demand, we impaired certain bond holdings earlier in the year resulting in a net realized capital loss of \$2.8 million. After net realized gains(losses), net income in 2017 was \$25.7 million compared to \$20.6 million in 2016, a 24.6% increase. Since the inception of our Society, the past five years have been the most profitable ever reported. Our goal is to continue to increase GCU's financial strength and security for our members!

Total Assets of \$1.712 billion, increased \$162.3 million or 10.5% from the prior year which totaled \$1.550 billion. The increase in assets is attributed to investing positive net operating cash flows mostly in investment grade fixed income securities.

Liabilities totaled \$1.579 billion for 2017 compared to \$1.441 billion as of December 31, 2016. The \$137.8 million increase is due primarily to: \$134.6

million increase in life and annuity reserves; \$4.8 million increase in the interest maintenance reserve (IMR) from deferring net gains on bond sales; \$1.1 million increase in the asset valuation reserve (AVR) to provide a cushion against future credit losses; reduced by \$1.3 million lower pension liability and \$1.8 million settlement of prior year pending investment trades.

Total Income for 2017 was \$341.9 million compared to \$346.1 million in 2016. The \$4.2 million decrease is primarily attributable to \$15.3 million lower annuity sales, net of exchanges, \$2.9 million increase in life premiums, \$6.7 million increase in net investment income, and \$1.3 million increase in commission allowances from reinsurance.

Operating expenses before increase in reserves totaled \$178.4 million in 2017. Operating expenses for the same period in 2016 totaled \$154.1 million representing a year over year increase of \$24.3 million. The increase is due primarily to increased annuity benefits and exchanges of \$23.1 million, \$2.1

million increase in agent commissions reduced by \$1.1 million in lower general insurance expenses.

Reserves for Life and Annuities in 2017 totaled \$134.8 million compared to \$168.1 million in 2016. Reserves are established as a function of premium deposits, death and annuity benefits, and interest accumulation.

Surplus grew to \$133.0 million in 2017 compared to \$108.5 million in 2016. The \$24.5 million increase in our surplus is attributable to net income of \$25.7 million, a \$0.5 million increase from net unrealized gains, a \$0.6 million positive change in reducing non-admitted assets, reduced by a \$1.1 million increase in the Asset Valuation Reserve and \$1.3 million reduction from lower net equity in subsidiaries.

Total Adjusted Capital includes Surplus of \$133.0 million and adds back the Asset Valuation Reserve of \$18.7 and one-half the dividend liability of \$150,000 totaled \$151.9 million as of December 31, 2017. This is an increase of \$25.6 million over 2016. The solvency ratio based on total adjusted capital for years 2017 and 2016 are 109.7% and 108.9%, respectively. These ratios reflect a strong and stable balance sheet.

Spring is here and I hope everyone had a Happy Easter!

**The solvency ratio based on total adjusted capital for years 2017 and 2016 are 109.7% and 108.9%, respectively. These ratios reflect a strong and stable balance sheet.**

## GCU Balance Sheet Comparison

AS OF DECEMBER 31,

<b>Assets (000's omitted)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Bonds	\$ 1,595,058	\$ 1,430,407	\$ 164,651
Preferred Stocks	50,146	44,259	5,887
Common Stocks	12,375	11,797	578
Cash/Short Term Investments	11,318	26,262	(14,944)
Mortgages	2,489	1,552	937
Certificate Loans	642	626	16
Real Estate			
Beaver Home Office	527	591	(64)
Investment Income Due & Accrued	22,787	21,432	1,355
Alternative Investments	15,985	11,945	4,040
Other	959	1,090	(131)
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,712,286</b>	<b>\$ 1,549,961</b>	<b>\$ 162,325</b>
<b>Percentage Total Change Year to Year</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>14.4%</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Life Reserves	\$ 69,360	\$ 65,678	\$ 3,682
Annuity Reserves	1,457,906	1,327,009	130,897
Accident & Health Reserves	141	134	7
Employee Pension Liability	6,956	8,216	(1,260)
Convention Reserve	279	179	100
Advance Premium & Future Refund Reserves	372	345	27
Pending Investment Trades	0	1,799	(1,799)
Accounts Payable	762	650	112
Refund Accumulations	1,935	1,803	132
Asset Valuation Reserve-AVR	18,662	17,557	1,105
Interest Maintenance Reserve-IMR	22,870	18,059	4,811
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,579,244</b>	<b>\$1,441,429</b>	<b>\$ 137,815</b>
<b>Surplus Fund</b>	<b>133,042</b>	<b>108,532</b>	<b>24,510</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Surplus</b>	<b>\$1,712,286</b>	<b>\$1,549,961</b>	<b>\$162,325</b>
<b>Normal Solvency</b>	<b>108.4%</b>	<b>107.5%</b>	
<b>Solvency Ratio*</b>	<b>109.7%</b>	<b>108.9%</b>	

\*Adds AVR and one half dividend liability to surplus  
Financial information is unaudited and is presented on the statutory basis of accounting.

## GCU Income Statement Comparison

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

Income (000's omitted)	2017	2016	Difference
Life Premium	\$ 5,035,377	\$ 2,132,421	\$ 2,902,956
Annuity Premium	215,189,406	237,624,471	(22,435,065)
Annuity Exchanges	30,791,991	23,650,231	7,141,760
Accident & Health	596,998	293,997	303,001
Sub-Total	251,613,772	263,701,120	(12,087,348)
Net Investment Income	84,242,334	77,563,952	6,678,382
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	2,914,364	2,725,275	189,089
Commission Allowance for Reinsurance	2,578,324	1,324,077	1,254,247
Other	548,347	809,563	(261,216)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$341,897,141</b>	<b>\$346,123,987</b>	<b>(\$4,226,846)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Death Benefits	\$ 2,493,491	\$ 2,457,341	\$ 36,150
Annuity Benefits Paid	125,643,693	109,652,193	15,991,500
Annuity Exchanges	30,791,991	23,650,231	7,141,760
Surrender Benefits	844,574	823,475	21,099
Accident & Health Benefits Paid	472,991	226,384	246,607
Commissions	11,402,457	9,256,484	2,145,973
General Insurance Exp	6,128,598	7,198,319	(1,069,721)
Insurance, Taxes, Licenses and Fees	14,984	502,808	(487,824)
Pension Expense	500,261	274,678	225,583
Interest on Contract and Deposit Type Accounts	69,876	68,642	1,234
Sub-Total	\$ 178,362,916	\$ 154,110,555	\$ 24,252,361
Increase in Reserves	134,816,868	168,050,223	(33,233,355)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 313,179,784</b>	<b>\$322,160,778</b>	<b>(\$8,980,994)</b>
<b>Net Gain from Operations before Refunds</b>	<b>28,717,357</b>	<b>23,963,209</b>	<b>4,754,148</b>
<b>Refunds to Members</b>	<b>261,841</b>	<b>257,398</b>	<b>4,443</b>
<b>Net Gain from Operations after Refunds</b>	<b>28,455,516</b>	<b>23,705,811</b>	<b>4,749,705</b>
<b>Net Capital Gains (Losses)</b>	<b>(2,747,753)</b>	<b>(3,069,730)</b>	<b>321,977</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 25,707,763</b>	<b>\$ 20,636,081</b>	<b>\$ 5,071,682</b>

# Financial Report

## Four Year Comparative Summary

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

	2017	2016	2015	2014
Assets	\$ 1.71 Bil	\$ 1.550 Bil	\$ 1.355 Bil	\$ 1.197 Bil
Total Income	342 Mil	346.0 Mil	318.0 Mil	235.0 Mil
Total Operating Expense	313.2 Mil	322.1 Mil	295.8 Mil	215.4 Mil
Reserve Change - Life and Annuities	134.8 Mil	168.0 Mil	131.0 Mil	97.0 Mil
Income from Operations	28.7 Mil	23.9 Mil	22.3 Mil	19.6 Mil
Refunds to Members	(261,841)	(257,398)	(256,199)	(341,293)
Capital Gains (Losses)	(2,747,753)	(3,069,730)	21,926	(1,076,551)
Net Income	25,707,763	20,636,081	22,063,543	18,166,287
Reserve - Interest Maintenance	22,869,833	18,058,704	16,735,318	16,113,913
Reserve - Asset Valuation	18,662,238	17,556,902	13,217,553	11,663,823
<b>Surplus (Net Worth)</b>	<b>\$133,042,421</b>	<b>\$108,531,974</b>	<b>\$90,739,736</b>	<b>\$71,825,430</b>

## GCU Surplus Comparison

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

	2017	2016	Difference
Beginning Surplus	\$ 108,531,974	\$ 90,739,736	\$ 17,792,238
Net Income	25,707,763	20,636,081	5,071,682
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	570,958	2,715,950	(2,144,992)
GCU Holding Company & Other	(1,299,846)	(878,563)	(421,283)
Changes in Non-Admitted Assets	636,909	(341,881)	978,790
Changes in Asset Valuation Reserve	(1,105,337)	(4,339,349)	3,234,012
Net Change in Surplus	24,510,447	17,792,238	6,718,209
<b>Ending Surplus</b>	<b>\$133,042,421</b>	<b>\$108,531,974</b>	<b>\$24,510,447</b>

## General Insurance Expenses

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

	2017	2016	Difference
Rent	\$ 94,000	\$ 94,000	\$ —
Salaries & Wages	2,466,354	2,882,898	(416,544)
Employee Benefits	521,728	411,499	110,229
Employee Pension Expense	-	400,000	(400,000)
Legal Fees & Expenses	73,041	5,448	67,593
Medical Examination Fees	6,377	69,176	(62,799)
Fees-CPA, Actuarial and Banking	564,733	528,051	36,682
Board Meeting Expenses/Travel	208,842	179,829	29,013
Advertising	3,035	4,391	(1,356)
Postage & Phone	189,335	223,903	(34,568)
Printing & Stationary	108,831	144,027	(35,196)
Depreciation of Furniture/Equipment	64,357	89,686	(25,329)
Rental of Equipment	104,074	168,448	(64,374)
Books and Periodicals	1,999	2,893	(894)
Bureau and Association Dues	62,644	107,723	(45,079)
Insurance Fees	52,979	68,942	(15,963)
Sundry General Expenses	168,277	160,570	7,707
Official Publication	46,540	54,541	(8,001)
Future Convention Reserves	102,118	113,350	(11,232)
Field Expense Allowance	92,457	88,015	4,442
Fraternal Activities	826,238	710,053	116,185
Data Processing Supplies/Expenses	118,748	350,823	(232,075)
Marketing + Consultants Fees and Expenses	251,891	340,053	(88,162)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,128,598</b>	<b>\$7,198,319</b>	<b>\$(1,069,721)</b>

# GCU Subsidiary Operations - Year 2017\*

	GCU Holding & Subsidiaries	GCU Holding Co.	GCU Real Estate Co.	Seven Oaks Country Club	GCU Agency Inc.
Equity, Beginning of Year	\$7,502,967	\$304,346	\$ 2,346,241	\$4,796,850	\$55,530
Profit or (Loss) for Year	(891,880)	(45,305)	(47,284)	(800,000)	709
Capital Contribution	1,865,000	—	—	1,865,000	—
Other	(407,966)	—	(362,417)	(45,549)	—
<b>Equity, End of Year</b>	<b>\$8,068,121</b>	<b>\$259,041</b>	<b>\$1,936,540</b>	<b>\$5,816,301</b>	<b>\$56,239</b>

\*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



**Scott Schuetz**  
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  
Archpriest 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



**Martha Seech**  
Honorary Officer



**Helen Yurko**  
Honorary Officer

## GCU Home Office Management



**David Ennis, LUTCF**  
Director of Agent  
Services



**Tom Hartos**  
Information  
Technology  
Director



**John P. Harbist**  
Membership  
Services Director



**Basil M. Wahal**  
Fraternal  
Communications  
Director



**Marilyn Dyrwal**  
Supervisor of  
New Business &  
Underwriting



**Pam Prodonovich**  
Member/Agent Service  
Support Manager

## Executive Officers

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

**Scott Schuetz**  
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**  
Board of Directors  
3601 Watchill Road  
Munhall, PA 15120

**Dorothy Ann Foran**  
Board of Directors  
993 Peace Street  
Hazleton, PA 18201

**Lisa Gulibon**  
Board of Directors  
208 Harleysville Pike  
Souderton, PA 18964

**Michael W. Karaffa**  
Board of Directors  
17934 Lyon Lane  
Strongsville, OH 44149

**Barbara Kushner**  
Board of Directors  
1127 Centennial Drive  
Canonsburg, PA 15317

**David A. Oleksa**  
Board of Directors  
2002 Brodhead Road  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

## General Counsel

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

**John W. Oslick**  
Board of Directors  
18046 E. Mansfield Avenue  
Aurora, CO 80013

**Atty. John J. Urban**  
Board of Directors,  
21750 Hilliard Blvd.  
Rocky River, OH 44116

**Right Rev. Mitred Archbishop  
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. Archbishop  
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  
**Daria Shierly**, Vice President  
**Krissy Williams**, Secretary  
**Colleen Ann Evans**, Treasurer  
**Edward J. Keil**, Athletic Director  
**Robert J. Suffita**, Assitant Athletic Director  
**Iлона Dolinish**, Fraternal-Publicity Director  
**Jason Marciniak**, Auditor  
**Bernard S. Shinko**, Sergeant-at-Arms  
**Rev. Mykhaylo Prodanets**, 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  
**John Morenko**, Auditor  
**Joan Gautreau**, Sergeant-at-Arms  
**Fr. James Badeaux**, Chaplain

### 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  
**Valerie Vancil**, Auditor  
**Fr. Joseph 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  
**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  
**John P. Marko**, Secretary

Lodge 92—Jessup, PA  
**Michaela Ann Mancak**, Secretary

Lodge 182—Kingston, PA  
**Laure Marcin**, 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 254—Hillsborough, NJ  
**Alex Kubik**, 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  
**Lisa Kinnick-Romito**, 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  
**Susan Irving**, Acting Secretary

Lodge 999—Phoenix, AZ  
**Diane Papke**, Secretary

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge  
**Agnes M. Rohrbach**, Secretary



Very Rev.  
Richard I. Lambert

# Confusing Signs and Celebrations?

**A**s the Season of Great Lent wound down this year, spring approached with the promise of new life and warm breezes. In past years, I saw the first robin alone looking for a companion, but this year around the yard where our Sisters of Saint Basil live, I saw at least 20 robins in the neighboring lawns. It seems that they were here waiting until they could move on to another area that was still cold and frozen and not yet welcoming. I hope that they found what they were looking for because today we awoke to a fresh snowfall on this the first full day of spring and hopefully the last snow for the season! Today's snow must go to make way for Palm Sunday, only a few days away.

Our palms were received and our pussy willows have been cut and prepared for this coming Sunday. Great Lent in our Byzantine Church ended on Friday, March 23 this year and Lazarus

Saturday ushered in Great and Holy Week with our full schedule of Liturgical services. On Sunday, March 25 we celebrated the feast of the Annunciation—the visit of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary nine months prior to the birth of Our Lord and Palm Sunday—the commemoration of the visit of Jesus to Jerusalem as he entered the city riding on a colt. Palm Sunday's celebration led to our commemoration of the Crucifixion and burial of Jesus leading us to the celebration of Pascha, the Resurrection of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, our confused Liturgical schedule and the celebration of Easter, happened to coincide with April Fools' Day. At least none of us should have been fooled by the celebration of Pascha, which we had been anticipating for over two months!

It is my hope and prayer that by the time you read this article, the confused days recently celebrated in church,

have settled down! However, you may be reading this article sometime in May. If so, watch out! On the fortieth day after Easter, the Byzantine Church celebrates Ascension Thursday, this year on May 10. If you belong to a Roman Catholic Church, depending on your particular diocese, your church will be celebrating the feast of the Ascension of Jesus on Thursday, May 10 or your diocese may have transferred this feast to the following Sunday, May 13. If you belong to an Orthodox Church, you will be celebrating the Ascension on Thursday, May 17.

Oh, and by the way, Pentecost Sunday follows Ascension Thursday by 10 days. It always falls on Sunday, but to be safe count 50 days from the day of the Resurrection and you will have the right day! Good luck and God bless!

## 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.





Atty. John J. Urban

# Lessons in the Law

## Where is Their Will?

**H**ere's a scenario that happens all too often, a person dies and nobody can find his or her will. I have sons, daughters, and executors bring me copies of the person's will, but that doesn't do anything except cause a delay. It costs more money because I have to file paperwork with the courts, in the absence of the original will. Lawyers don't keep the originals.

Many people don't know where their own wills are, let alone the people who will be handling their estates. It's important to make sure that someone has access to your important paperwork—originals, not copies. Keep your papers in a fireproof box in the closet or basement. You can even leave the keys in the box if necessary. Nobody can do anything with the paperwork.

The worse place to keep a will or other paperwork is in a safety deposit box. If you die, nobody will be able to get into your accounts or the safety deposit box until your estate

goes through probate.

You should also make sure that if you do most of your banking online, someone has the passwords to your accounts.

As you prepare to file your tax returns I suggest that you also make this the time you schedule a review with your attorney of your important documents. This should include your will, your powers of attorney, and your living will, making sure the provisions are still relevant and that the executor you've named is still in your life.

**The worse place to keep a will or other paperwork is in a safety deposit box.**

## GCU Student Debt Program Introduced

The GCU Board of Directors, at its March 2018 meeting, approved a budget for a new Student Debt Relief program that will begin on July 1 of this year. The Board realizes that many of our young members complete college with significant Student Debt. In an effort to address this issue, they have developed a program to assist GCU members with a portion of their Student Debt.

Members that qualify will be eligible for four annual awards of \$500 each. The awards will be paid over the course of four years. Members will be required to apply annually to receive the award. Requirements will include GCU membership of at least 5 years with a permanent life insurance certificate or annuity with a current balance of at least \$2,000. Proof of two years of payments on the student loan(s) and volunteer involvement will also be required. Complete details and requirements will appear in the June 2018 GCU Magazine, as well as on the GCU Website.

Applications will be taken online only. Emails will be sent to all GCU members with an email on file at GCU in late June with instructions on how to complete the online application. Please contact the GCU Call Center at 1-855-306-0607 to ensure that we have your current email address. A budget will be approved by the GCU Board and awards will be presented on a first come, first served basis, annually.



## The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Program “Be the Change”

The Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization held its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Program “Be the Change” on Sunday, November 19, 2017 at MMI Preparatory School in Freeland, PA. Over \$3,000.00 in scholarships were awarded, many in kind prizes, and a free Program Book to ALL attendees, thanks to the generosity of the GCU GoGive! program. The Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization is a 501c3 non-profit group and an official preliminary for Miss America and Miss America’s Outstanding Teen. It is open to all Ladies (Teen-Ages 12-17 and Miss-Ages 17-25) who reside, work or attend school full time in Pennsylvania. Contestants will be accepted for the program on Sunday, November 18, 2018 at MMI Preparatory School in Freeland, PA. Visit [MissGreater-Hazleton.weebly.com](http://MissGreater-Hazleton.weebly.com) for more information on how to com-

pete in this program.

The Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization held a Christmas Character Breakfast benefiting their scholarship program and the Children’s Miracle Network. It was held on Sunday, December 3 at Edgewood by Sandsprings in Drums, PA. There was a large buffet with pancakes, eggs, sausage and much more! Special guests included Disney Princesses Elsa, Anna, Cinderella, Jasmine, Belle, Aurora, Ariel along with Olaf, Chase from Paw Patrol and Santa Claus! Children wrote letters to Santa enjoyed pictures with Santa and all of the special guests! Over \$1,000 was raised thanks to the generosity of GCU GoGive!

**Sherri A. Homanko**



## Family Bingo Night



The annual Greenfield K-8 PTO Bingo Night fundraiser was a smashing success! The generous GCU GoGive! of \$250.00 was used to provide prizes for the bingo games. A member of the Pittsburgh, PA city council was on hand to support the cause and was a guest caller for a game. GCU was recognized as the sole sponsor of a game as well.

This bingo is the primary fundraising for the PTO. The funds raised through the bingo assist to pay for school supplies, assemblies, the end of the year festival and to assist families suffering through a tragedy.

**Barbara Bugosh**



# Giving

## Holy Trinity Byzantine Church Parish Expansion

Las Vegas night at Holy Trinity Byzantine Church in Wall, PA on Saturday, January 27, 2018 was a big success. The fun evening was enjoyed by over 70 people. GCU members of Lodges 2, 83, 255 & 390, assisted to make the event successful.

Multiple games of chance, a Chinese Auction, bingo and bake sale provided the evening's activities. With big smiles



on their faces and money and gifts in hand the night ended with participants looking forward to next year's Vegas night at Holy Trinity.

**Thomas Oslick Sr.** | Lodge 255 Auditor

## FRATERNAL

# District 5

## UPCOMING DISTRICT 5 EVENTS

### Junior Bowling Tournament

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, PA Area

**Sunday, April 22**

**1 PM Registration**

**1:30 PM Bowling**

Deadline for Registration is Wednesday, April 18

Stanton Lanes

470 Stanton Street

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

Contact Ed Keil at 570-824-1264

Applications can be found on

GCUusa.com under Events.

### National Bowling Tournament

**Monday, May 21 & Tuesday, May 22**

The Orleans Resort, Las Vegas, NV

Applications on GCUusa.com (Members, Events, May)

### Spring Helping Hands Day

**Saturday, June 2**

**9 AM**

Holy Annunciation Monastery

Sugarloaf, PA

Contact Gina Keil at 570-824-1264.

### Byzantine Family Day

**Sunday, June 3**

Knoebels Park

391 Knoebels Blvd.

Elysburg, PA 17824

# District 7

## UPCOMING DISTRICT 7 EVENT

### Somerset Patriots Baseball Game

Sunday, June 3

1:05 PM

Ballpark BBQ & Ticket \$28

Kids under age 18 are FREE

Patriots vs. Road Warriors

1 Patriots Park, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Ballpark BBQ includes: hot dogs, hamburgers, pulled pork, veggie burgers, mac & cheese, cole slaw, chips, cookies & fountain drinks.

Contact Mike Geles at mikegeles@comcast.net

Deadline is May 1

# District 11

## UPCOMING DISTRICT 11 EVENT

### Afternoon at Comerica Park

Saturday, May 26

12 NOON Tailgate

4:10 PM Game

Detroit Tigers vs. Chicago White Sox

St. Nicholas Church Hall & Grounds

23300 King Drive, Clinton Township, MI 48035

Comerica Park

2100 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI

Contact George Nagrant at 248-542-5278

Deadline is April 23



Junior Bowling Tournament participants.

# District 15

**No-Tap Bowling Tournament** | Another successful District 15 No-Tap Bowling Tournament took place on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17. Men's actual winners were Brian Miller (806), Bud Miller and Whitey Harbist. Women's actual winners were Katie Kuzma Frederick (684), Jean Karaffa and Judy Kotula. Handicap winners were Steve Savka, Chuck Butchko, Dan Butchko, Christine Bero, Irene Miller and Martha Seech. Congratulations, and thanks to everyone who supports D15 events!

**Jr. Bowling Tournament** | District 15 held its annual Junior Bowling Tournament on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at Center Lanes in Aliquippa, PA. This year 19 youngsters participated in the event. Before bowling began, the children and their parents were treated to pizza, pop, cookies, veggies and fruit. After bowling, each child was given a Wal-Mart gift card and a medal for participation. Easter coloring books, crayons and candy from the Home Office were also distributed.

The boy with highest event score was Ryan Alleman and the girl with the highest event score was Alexandria Sertik. Each was presented a special trophy for their achievements.

Thanks to the District 15 officers and the bowlers' parents for assisting to make this event successful.

Bill Uram Jr. | Athletic Director



Men's and women's actual winners at the No-Tap Bowling Tournament.

**District Scholar Awardees** | The 2018 District 15 Scholar Awardees are Julie Seech and Dimitrios Niaros both of Lodge 10. Julie is the daughter of Tom Seech and Aimee Swope, and the grand-daughter of George & Martha Seech.

CONTINUED

## District 15 CONTINUED

Dimitrios is the son of John & Susie Niaros, and the grandson of Theresa Shuster. Julie plans to study engineering at the University of Pittsburgh in Johnstown, PA. Dimitrios, who plans to study chemical engineering, is undecided on

a college, at this time. Both are scholar athletes. Julie, who attends Cambria Heights High School in Patton, PA is a member of the National Honor Society and was MVP for her school's volleyball team. Dimitrios, is a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Ambridge High School soccer, baseball and bowling teams. Congratulations!

Elizabeth Harbist | President



District 15 President Elizabeth Harbist, scholar awardees Dimitrios Niaros and Julie Seech with GCU President/CEO George Juba.

## UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENTS

### Rock & Roll Doo Wop XV

Saturday, April 28

7 PM

Capitol Theater

1015 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

\$35 per ticket for GCU Member

\$50 per ticket for Non-Member

Contact Elizabeth Harbist at 412-913-1446.

### Bunco and Luncheon

Saturday, May 12

11:30 Doors Open

12 NOON Lunch is served

Seven Oaks Country Club

132 Lisbon Road, Beaver, PA 15009

\$25 ticket

Contact Kathy Kapaldo at 412-951-8331 or

Elizabeth Harbist at 412-913-1446.

### An Afternoon at Narcisi Winery & Luncheon

Sunday, August 26

12 NOON

Narcisi Winery

4578 Gibsonia Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044

\$15 GCU Members

\$25 Non-Members

Contact Elizabeth Harbist at 412-913-1446

### District 15 Golf Tournament

Sunday, September 16

Seven Oaks Country Club

132 Lisbon Road, Beaver, PA 15009

Contact Bill Uram 724-287-0689 for details.

*Like and Share us on Facebook where you can find additional details for all District 15 events.*

## Lodge News



Marine Corps veterans preparing for Pearl Harbor Day rifle salute.

### Lodge 15

TRENTON, NJ

#### Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Services

On Sunday, December 3, 2017 Lodge 15 members gathered at Holy Cross Post 417 for a Pearl Harbor Remembrance. A traditional wreath laying at the base of the American flag and the laying of a second wreath by Sons & Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors Association took place. A 21 gun salute, rendered by the Marine Corps, and the playing of taps also took place.

Attendees were invited inside for a hot buffet. County executive Brian Hughes introduced guest speaker Capt. Stanley Winowicz, USNR. In addition to the military organizations in attendance the annual event is open to the public as well.

Thomas Petty | Treasurer



Ed Keil and Ed Dolinish, Jr. presenting a check from Community Matching Funds to Gabriel House Program Director Eileen Rosentel.

**Ham Bingo**

On Sunday, March 18, 2018, St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, with the assistance of GCU Lodge 17, held its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Ham Bingo. This was a Matching Funds project. Money raised from the bake sale, kitchen sales and basket raffle combined with GCU Matching Funds will be used for repairs to the bell tower roof. Twenty hams were given away as BINGO prizes. Rings of kielbasa were awarded for the 4 special games. Participants also had a chance to win 55 baskets and door prizes. Thanks to all the workers, contributors, and participants, for assisting to make this project a success.

**Ed Keil** | Secretary-Treasurer

**Lodge 17**

OLD FORGE, PA

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!  
Hopefully everyone had a blessed Easter.

**Community Matching Funds**

Community Matching Funds checks were presented to Sr. Susan Hadzima, IHM, the director of programs at the Catherine McAuley Center in Scranton, PA. The Center is a safe haven for homeless women and children. A check was also presented to Eileen Rosentel, program manager at Gabriel House, a transitional house for homeless women and young children in Pittston, PA. Both were very appreciative of the generous donations.



Volunteers at the Ham Bingo From left: Ed Keil, Ed Dolinish, Jr. Macrina Dolinish, Gina Keil, Mike Mokay and Russell Helbing.



Lodge 28 members with volunteers from the Hot Metal Faith Community.

**Lodge 28**

SOUTH SIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

**Feeding the Community**

On Thursday, March 1, GCU Lodge 28 hosted a free community dinner at “The Table” at Hot Metal Faith Community, South Side-Pittsburgh. There is now a new community leader (Pastor Maggie) to oversee this event, and she is doing a fantastic job.

Even though it was an extremely rainy day, approximately 40 people attended. In addition to the lodge volunteers, several people came on their own to lend assistance.

The guests were treated to a plate full of proteins and healthy foods in addition to dessert. Furthermore, everyone received a treat bag of candies and cookies to take home for later. The guests were also able to come back for seconds and for take-home containers that were offered.

This event was made possible with a GCU Fraternal Community Grant.

**Kim Kolesar** | Secretary Treasurer



Daria Shierly, Salvation Army Case Manager Heather Main and Dottie Bakalar.

## Lodge 47

THE BUZZ FROM BINGHAMTON, NY

### Angel Tree Donation

It was just before Christmas when Lodge 47 presented their Angel Tree Project collection of toys to the Salvation Army. It was not long afterward, that lodge members Dottie Bakalar and Daria Shierly met with Salvation Army Case Manager Heather Main on February 13, 2018 to give her a Matching Funds check for \$625.00. The check was an extra surprise for the Salvation Army and came at a perfect time. Unfortunately, after the 2017 holiday season and despite the hard work of the bell ringers, they did not meet the goal which had been set to fund all of their Greater Binghamton, NY community projects. It was great to learn that the additional funds would help support their soup kitchen, food pantry, bread distribution program and breakfast/dinner services.

### Junior Bowling Tournament

On Sunday, March 11 seven (7) ECF religious education students and Lodge 47 members, ranging in age from 4 to 16, participated in the local National Junior Bowling Tournament. The event was co-chaired by Fraternal Activities Director Pam Suflita and Secretary-Treasurer Daria Shierly. The kids had so much fun bowling 3 games, along with enjoying pizza, soda, apples, and snacks. At the end of the afternoon, everyone received a McDonald's gift-card. Our star bowlers (and future GCU league bowlers) were supported by a loud cheering section of parents, family and friends.

### Food Pantry Donations

As a Lenten Reflection and a way for members of Lodge 47 and parishioners of Holy Spirit Church to help the area community, food pantry donations were collected in the vestibule of the church. These items were donated to the Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse (CHOW), which supports over 30 food pantries, 35 soup kitchens and community meal programs in the Broome County, NY area.

Lodge 47 hopes everyone had a Happy and Blessed Easter!

Robert Suflita | President



Junior bowling participants with Daria Shierly (in back).



President Georgeann Frey and Secretary-Treasurer John Marko present donation of \$550.00 from recent Pizza Sale to pastor of St. Mary Fr. Michael Kerestes.

## Lodge 53

WILKES BARRE, PA

### Pizza Sale

A Pizza Sale was held the weekend of February 3 & 4 for the Big Game. The pizza was from Sanitary Bakery in Nanticoke, PA. The sale was a success, with the lodge donating \$550.00 to help with St. Mary Church heating expenses. The lodge would like to say a huge "thank you" to the Home Office for the grant and the nice giveaways.

John Marko | Secretary Treasurer



Students who helped with the "Souper Bowl Sunday" collection.

## Lodge 57

BROWNSVILLE, PA

### Souper Bowl Sunday

The catechetical students of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church learned a lesson about helping a neighbor in need. These students usually collect money on "Souper Bowl Sunday" to help fund the local food bank. This year they helped a neighbor located directly behind their church.

The pastor of the Calvin Presbyterian Church, Rev. Aleda Menchak, was traveling out of the country to help flood and hurricane victims, when, tragically, her own home burned to the ground. This collection and church donations were given to her to help with rebuilding after her great loss.

Several of the students are young Lodge 57 members. Their teachers, Lodge 57 President Ken Haftman, Michelle Haftman, Bobbi & Jennifer Dirda and Melody Yeardie, coordinator, helped with the collection.



Matching Funds presentation. Treasurer Rebecca Thomas, President Ken Haftman, Father Chris Burke and Secretary Melody Yeardie.

### Check Presentation

Lodge 57 President Ken Haftman, presented the pastor of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Fr. Christopher Burke, with a check for \$3,000.00 from Matching Funds activities. This money will go toward much needed church repairs. Thank you to everyone who supported these activities and to the GCU for the generosity!

### Lenten Pirohi Sale

The annual Lenten Pirohi sale at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church was held from February 18 to March 12, 2018.

Lodge Treasurer Becky Thomas, coordinated the event, with the help of parishioner Jean Mangini. Many devoted and hard-working lodge members and parishioners helped to make this a success.

Lodge Secretary Melodie Yeardie and member Genevieve Marzsal, along with helpers Jackie Ducar, Betty Hudnizak, Mary Rizak, Marge Garstecki, Marge Cramer, Barb Matola, Helen Giselman, Mary Boyza, Darlene Hickle, Lesley Matsko, Tina Libertini and Sue Lepo helped to assemble 820 dozen potato/cheese, 122 dozen sweet cabbage and 61 dozen prune-filled pirohi.

Pam Gresh was in charge of making the homemade dried noodles. Thirty-five pounds of thin noodles and 45 pounds of wide noodles were made and bagged. All this was completed with the help of the kitchen crew, Jim Ducar, Bill Matsko and the official dough-maker Father Chris Burke.

The pirohi sale is known far beyond the Brownsville area. Customers from miles away come to buy these ethnic delights and look forward to future sales.

Many thanks to all the parishioners, workers and patrons who supported the church with this Lenten activity.



Lodge members and parishioners volunteering to make pirohi.

Bernie Karaffa | Publicity Director



Volunteers making nut rolls.

## Lodge 62

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

### Nut Roll Sale

Lodge 62 presented a check for \$360.00 to the Punxsutawney Fire Department in their campaign to “Fill the Boot,” a local drive to help feed the hungry. Proceeds were raised by making and selling nut rolls.

Elaine Koromaus | Secretary Treasurer

## Lodge 69

POTTSTOWN, PA

### Breakfast

Lodge members purchased & prepared the food and set up & decorated for the annual parish breakfast. Parishioners from St. John the Baptist Church enjoyed the event and fellowship on Sunday, January 14, 2018.



Lodge members serving breakfast.

### Easter Activities

Members of the GCU, Guild and other volunteers helped bake nut, poppy, apricot and raspberry rolls for the annual Easter bake sale. Paska were baked on Monday of Holy Week.

Lodge 69 also held its annual Easter Egg hunt for the children of the parish. About 21 children were in attendance from babies and pre-K through high school. They all had a great time.

Nancy Harding | Secretary



Preparing for the annual Easter bake sale.



Children enjoying the Easter egg hunt.

## Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

### Making Lent Meaningful

Lodge 81 officers and members have been especially active during Lent with parish and community activities. Gerry Dorobish volunteered weekly at the Uniontown Public Library and at the Mt. Macrina Religious Gift Shop. Stephen Petruska cantored weekly Presanctified Gifts Liturgies. Ann Kormanik, Theresa Petruska, Helen Ponzurick and Norbert Duritsa helped weekly at the St. John Church pirohi project. Bonnie Balas taught weekly pysanky classes. Marcia Harrer, ECF coordinator and catechists – James Mihalko, Gerry Dorobish and Bonnie Balas helped the students prepare crosses for Cross Veneration Sunday (March 4). Bonnie was also a part of “The Festival of the Egg,” held at the University of Pittsburgh. She demonstrated making wood burned eggs and displayed traditional embroidered Easter basket covers.



Marcia Harrer and Gerry Dorobish making crosses with the ECF students.



Sr. Salome, Sr. Euphemia, Sr. Theresa and Bonnie Balas at National Catholic Sisters Event.

### National Catholic Sisters Week

Sunday, March 11 marked the beginning of National Catholic Sisters Week. An open house was held at Mt. St. Macrina Monastery. There were displays of the history of the Sisters of St. Basil, artifacts and many of the Sisters present to spend time with those who attended. Marcia Harrer and Gerry Dorobish, both Basilian Associates, assisted as greeters and with door prize presentations.



Elaine & Christine Luschas at the Egg Eggstravaganza.

### 13<sup>th</sup> Egg Eggstravaganza

The culminating event for Lodge 81 was the 13<sup>th</sup> Egg Eggstravaganza held on Sunday, March 18. This event draws a large crowd from far and wide. Lodge 81 members Marcia Harrer, Gerry Dorobish, Stephen Petruska, James Mihalko, Theresa Petruska, Ann Kormanik, Helen Ponzurick, Norbert Duritsa, Janet Gaydos, Bonnie Balas Julie Pillar, and Richard Harrer all volunteered for the event. A special memorial tribute was displayed for Sister Rita Keshock, a local egg artist who attended for many years. Another successful event for which Lodge 81 will receive GCU Matching Funds to be used for parish improvements.

At the Lodge 81 quarterly meeting held on Sunday, February 4, plans were made to sponsors the ECF end of year party.

Bonnie Balas | VP & Publicity Director

## Lodge 92

JESSUP, PA

### Annual Ethnic Dinner

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Ethnic dinner was held on Sunday, February 11, 2018. A takeout dinner of kielbasy, holubki, pirohi and haluski was enjoyed by many. A profit of \$1,119.<sup>36</sup>, along with the addition of Matching Funds from the Home Office, will be given to Jessup Hose Co.'s 1 & 2, Jessup Ambulance Association, Operation Noel, Jessup Breadbasket, St. Cecelia's Children's Choir, PA for Human Life and Nadine Cenci Cancer Fund.

Michaela Mancak | Secretary



Ethnic Dinner volunteers. From left: Michael Mancak, Steve Andirchak, Mark Pegula, Michaela Mancak, Ronald Mancak and Gregory & Ellie Barkowski.

## Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

### St. Valentine's Party

Lodge 93 sponsored a St. Valentine's party at St. John Byzantine Church. Liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Vasil Polyak. After Liturgy everyone was invited to the church social hall for the party. Attendees enjoyed food and refreshments. The ladies in attendance received a box of chocolate hearts. John Katana presented a short presentation on the history of St. Valentine. Door prizes were also drawn.

### Annual Lenten Soup Party

Lodge 93 helps support the annual Lenten Soup Party. After Presanctified Liturgy everyone was invited to the social hall for a Lenten soup party. There were two varieties of soups to choose from along with crackers, bread, dessert and refreshments. Fr. Vasil Polyak briefly discussed the forty days of Lent. A thank you to the cooks for preparing their delicious soups, a job well done.



St. Valentine's Party.



Souper chefs Nancy Rogal and Fr. Vasil Polyak.

### St. Patrick's Day Party

Lodge 93 sponsored a St. Patrick's Day celebration at St. John's Byzantine Church. Fr. Vasil Polyak celebrated Liturgy. Following Liturgy everyone was invited to the church social hall for the festivities. The Irish influenced menu included: corn beef & cabbage, potatoes, soda bread, hot dogs, halushki, salad, green Jello & cupcakes, fruit and refreshments. Fr. Vasil presented a short history of St. Patrick. A donation was presented to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry as part of the community outreach program. Door prizes were drawn after the presentation. Thank you to everyone that helped make this celebration a success.

John J. Katana | Secretary



Walter Rogal and John Katana presenting a donation to Good Samaritan Food Pantry.

## Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA

### Fasengy Celebration

On Sunday, February 11, 2018 Lodge 109 held its annual pre-Lenten Fasengy celebration at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.

The event featured a social after Sunday Liturgy complete with pizza, salad and a variety of sweet treats before the Great Fast began the following day. Many of the parish children participated in wearing masks and costumes while they paraded about the church hall ringing bells and tooting horns.

The children tried to learn some ethnic dance steps with Terry Molzan. The dances were once performed by their ancestors in Europe prior to the beginning of Lent. All seemed to have a good time which was the purpose of the event.

Janet Uram | Secretary Treasurer



Parish children dressed for fun holding poles with bells attached.



Bishop Kurt with a few of the children from the lodge and parish.

## Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

Lodge 151 held its 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly meeting and luncheon at St. Andrew Church following Liturgy which was celebrated in memory of Peter Dietz. Peter was a very active member of the lodge and is truly missed. It was great seeing the Dietz GCU clan and all the GCU members.

### Bishop Visits

The parishioners of St. Andrew's Church were happily surprised when Bishop Kurt recently visited and celebrated the Liturgy. Bishop joined the parishioners at a social after Liturgy and mingled with the people.

### Congratulations

All public schools in Nassau County celebrate Founder's Day, sponsored by the PTA. On this day certain teachers are recognized for their achievements in school and in the community. In East Rockaway High School, GCU member Russell Pajer was the recipient of this award. In the past 20 years he has taught business, been the varsity head coach of the football team, and the junior high school basketball coach. He also started the Senior Seminar program which gives the students a chance to do internships. He is very active in the community by helping people in need during tough times. Two examples include aiding a family that had a house fire and assisting victims of Hurricane Sandy in East Rockaway. In recognition of this award he received a certificate, pin and a lifetime membership in the New York State PTA. Russell's family was very happy to attend the celebration. Congratulations!



Russell Pajer (center) with PTA presidents and other high school teachers.

CONTINUED

## Lodge 151 CONTINUED



Charlotte Knapp.

Congratulations to GCU member Charlotte Knapp who participated in her state gymnastic competition. She competed in the 11-year-old, level 5, balance beam. Charlotte won first place at the State Championship in Kentucky. She also did very well in the uneven bars, floor exercise, and all-around in her age group. Her grandfather Michael Knapp and family are very proud of Charlotte's accomplishment.



Christine Hulak with donated items for Saint Francis House.

### "Building Hope for the Future"

That is the mission statement of The Saint Francis House in Greenpoint-Brooklyn, NY, a safe haven for those in need. It is a highly structured home environment designed to meet the needs of young men that have run out of alternatives and are looking for a new start in life. The St. Francis House also teaches the young men by both discussion and example about the place of a loving God in their lives.

Christine Hulak and Ann Kandrato recently delivered shirts, shorts and tees to Executive Director Joseph Campo. He enthusiastically thanked them for the support of the GCU. A fundraising effort is being planned for the sister house of St. Clare.

Christine Hulak | Treasurer  
Marge Russell | President

## UPCOMING LODGE 151 EVENTS

### Helping Hands Day

Friday, May 4

St. Andrew Church, 275 Ellison Avenue, Westbury, NY 11590

Clean up the grounds and plant flowers for the summer.

Contact Marge Russell at 516-307-1016

### 2nd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, June 10

1 PM

Francesco's Pizzeria located in the Electchester Shopping Center  
70-29 Parsons Blvd., Fresh Meadows, NY 11365

Contact Marge Russell at 516-307-1016

### Flag Day Celebration

Wednesday, June 13

CP Center, Roosevelt, Long Island

Contact Marge Russell at 516-307-1016

### Visit to Belmont Racetrack

Sunday, September 16

Includes program and a full buffet & dessert for three hours in a private room.

Contact Marge Russell at 516-307-1016

***"It's always great to see members that haven't been around in a while, back at one of the lodge's events. It is important to preserve the fraternity and friendship that are an integral part of the GCU. Please join Lodge 151 at one or all of the upcoming functions listed here."***

***Marge Russell***



Donna Cramer, Cathy & George Lutza and John Trella.

## Lodge 164

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

### Founders' Day

Lodge 164 held a Founders' Day Brunch on Sunday, February 11, 2018. Members and guests enjoyed a hot breakfast buffet. The GCU giveaways provided by the Home Office were appreciated by all. A discussion of the GCU Referendum took place to assist with members' understanding of the Bylaw change.

### Lenten Soup & Sandwich Fundraiser

Each Wednesday during Lent, after Presanctified Gifts, lodge members prepared a meatless soup and sandwich luncheon for the attendees. Donations from this event and Matching Funds from the Home Office will benefit the Sisters of St. Basil the Great.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President



Fraternal Director Jackie Leson filling soup bowl for server Secretary Diana Danko.

## Lodge 182

KINGSTON, PA

### Annual Holiday Party

Lodge 182 held their Annual Holiday Party on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at Theo's Metro in Kingston, PA. Bernard Shinko was honored as the 2017 Fraternalist of the Year. He was honored at the dinner with a plaque and a monetary award. Bernie is a longtime member of the GCU. He was president of Lodge 182 for many years and now serves as vice president. He was also a delegate at GCU National Conventions as well as participating in and organizing local & national bowling tournaments. He also volunteers many hours at the American Legion and VFW posts. Bernie is a true fraternalist. The members of Lodge 182 are grateful for his continued dedication to the GCU.

### Election of Officers

Lodge 182 would like to welcome Bernard R. Shinko, as the new sergeant-at-arms and Dorianna Williams as the new publicity director. The following is a list of the remainder of the officers elected. President Colleen Evans, Vice President Bernie Shinko, Secretary Laure Marcin, Treasurer Mary Ann Evans, Athletic Director John G. Evans, Fraternal Director Kristina Williams, Standard Bearer Jason Marcin, Auditor Marlene Williams and Chaplain Father Mykhaylo Prodanets.

Dorianna Williams | Publicity Director



President Colleen Evans presenting Fraternalist of the Year Award to Bernie Shinko. Row 1-Dorianna Williams, Bernie Shinko, Bernie R. Shinko, Mary Ann Evans and Mary Ann Savage. Row 2-John G. Evans, Kristina Williams, Laure Marcin, Colleen Evans, Jason Marcin and Marlene Williams.

## Lodge 255

GREENFIELD-PITTSBURGH, PA

### Lodge 255 Bowling Tournament

The Lodge 255 Bowling Tournament took place on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at Club Lanes in Homestead, PA. Congrats to first place individual winners Pat Kutzfara and Chuck Robinson. Pat Kutzfara and John Niskach finished first in the doubles event.



A few of the bowlers at the tournament.



Junior bowling tournament winners.

### Junior Bowling Tournament

The Pittsburgh Area Lodges National Junior Bowling Tournament was Sunday, March 18 at Playmor Lanes in Lincoln Place-Pittsburgh, PA. The event was under the direction of John Miller and Kim Kolesar. Pizza and prizes followed at St. Elias Church hall in Munhall, PA. There were 12 children participating and 17 adults cheering them on. First place boys age 2/3 was Parker Niskach; first place girls age 4/5 was Alanna Little; first place boys age 6/7 was James Howell; first place girls age 6/7 was Kendall Niskach; first place boys age 10/12 was Preston Smith; first place girls age 13/15 was Emma Bost and first place girls age 16/18 was Danielle Deprosio.

Melanie Basl | Publicity

## Lodge 288

CLAIRTON, PA

### Fundraiser

Lodge 288 sponsored a Matching Funds Sarris Easter Candy sale. The funds will be used towards the next parish bus trip tentatively scheduled for the fall.

### First Quarter Meeting

The first quarter meeting was held in early March. Members discussed holding a ladies spring covered dish event, again this year. Ideas for a guest speaker and activities were discussed and the committee is working on finalizing the plans. Much wished for spring weather motivated Helping Hands Day planning. Spring cleaning of the church and grounds will be in June. Other activities planned included a bake sale for Father's Day, donating refreshments for First Holy Communion social, and ideas for a patriotic activity in July.

Trish Roberts | President



Volunteers filling eggs for the hunt.

### Easter Egg Hunt

Volunteers helped fill 300 plastic Easter eggs for the egg hunt on Palm Sunday. Everyone had a good time sorting candy and eggs getting everything ready for the big day.

## Lodge 302

BRECKSVILLE, OH

### Annual Game Night

The annual lodge Game Night was held on Saturday, March 10 at St. Joseph’s Activity Center. Lodge 302 provided a dinner and refreshments. Members and friends brought yummy appetizers and desserts for everyone to share. Approximately 35 people were in attendance—a great way to spend a fun winter evening with friends. Thank you to Bea & Chrissy Chrusic and Barb Zaborowski for preparing the food!



Left-Right-Center at game night.



Ronnie with his mom Julie.

### Ronald Milam Earns Eagle Scout

A big shout out goes to Ronnie Milam and the Milam & Ciresi family members!

Ronald Milam age 18 became the 60<sup>th</sup> scout from Troop 45, sponsored by the Hartville Lions Club, to be awarded the honor of Eagle Scout, the highest rank that the Boy Scouts of America offers. He is the 8<sup>th</sup> of his patrol to earn this top honor. Ronnie earned the 21 required badges and received a bronze Eagle Palm for earning an additional 5 badges. He also earned 5 pipestones and 5 Polar Bears. The Arrow of Light was presented to him when he crossed over from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. Ronnie also attended the Boy Scout’s Sea Base Camp in the Florida Keys.

His Court of Honor took place on February 18. Members of his family, friends, guests and fellow scouts were present. His mother, Julie, placed his Eagle pin on his shirt during the ceremony. He is the grandson of Lodge 302 officer Bonnie & Tom Ciresi. He addressed the audience following his ceremony thanking all those who supported him during his 10 years of scouting. He then addressed the younger scouts telling them never to give up. At times it can be overwhelming and you will want to give up, but the reward at the end is worth it. His community service project was building a shed for New Life Church.

Ronnie attends Lake High School (Hartville, OH) where he maintains a 4.1 grade point average. He is also a member of the swimming and dive team. He will attend the University of Mount Union next year, majoring in criminal justice.

### Memorial Day Service

Join Lodge 302 for a special Memorial Day service following the 10:30 AM Liturgy at St. Joseph Byzantine Church on Sunday, May 27 to honor current military personnel and those who have gone before us. If you are or know of a retired or active

military person(s) that would like to participate, please assemble in the church vestibule 10 minutes prior to Liturgy. A light luncheon will be served after the outdoor Memorial service, which will take place in front of the church.

Diane Richey | Publicity Director

## UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENTS

### Second Quarter Meeting

Sunday, April 29

Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph’s Church, Brecksville, OH

### Memorial Day Service

Sunday, May 27

Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph’s Church, Brecksville, OH

## Lodge 321

BRADENVILLE, PA

### St. Nicholas Day Celebration

On Sunday, December 3, 2017 St. Nicholas visited the children at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Latrobe, PA and St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Bradenville. The visits occurred at the conclusion of religious education classes.

Officers from Lodge 321 helped to fill the treat bags and provided the drinks and the donuts for the parties. The Home Office provided drawstring backpacks, chocolate candy and coloring books for the children. Lodge 321 provided additional candy and gum for the bags.

John Theis, a member at St. Mary, was St. Nicholas this year. Fr. Joseph Borodach is pastor of St. Mary in Bradenville and Rev. Paul Alexander Schutt, O.S.B., is pastor of St. Mary in Latrobe.

Laurene Kristof | Publicity Director



John Theis as St. Nick with Fr. Joseph Borodach.

## Lodge 340

REHWAY, NJ

### 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Slovanic Festival

St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church celebrated its 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Slovanic Festival on Saturday, February 3, 2018. This year twelve Lodge 340 members teamed up with the entire church community to prepare for the special day. Several weeks before the festival the volunteers participated in holupki and nut roll making. Pierogies, kielbasi, chicken paprikash, dumplings, goulash, potato pancakes, Slovak hot dogs and hamburgers were also available to the participants. The bake sale items are always a hit. There were wheel games and music for everyone to enjoy. Lodge 340 members could be found working at just about every station. The great food, entertainment and fellowship make this a very successful Matching Funds event. Right Rev. Archpriest Jim Hayer is the pastor at St. Thomas Church and Chaplain of Lodge 340.

Mary K. Bannworth | President



# GCU

Investing in the Goodness  
of Community

## Lodge 351

INDIANA, PA

### Run Ranger Run Fundraiser

During the month of February, members of Lodge 351 joined the USMC Leadfoot Team to participate in the Run Ranger Run program to raise funds for the GallantFew, a non-profit organization that promotes awareness of the many issues veterans face as they transition from the military to civilian life. It provides resources for legal and psychological issues, housing, and employment. The GallantFew also works with the RadarProject that provides programs and retreats for veterans.

This year, Staff Sergeant Chris Little organized a team to help him complete the required 565 miles for the fundraiser. Not only did USMC Leadfoot meet the required 565 miles, but they exceeded it. Together this dedicated group of participants logged a total of 919.8 miles. And to make this achievement even more impressive the walking took place in three different states - Temecula/Camp Pendleton, CA by Christopher Little, Stryker Little (Chris's son) and Jayden Perez (who went above and beyond in his participation level in both logging miles and raising the most money); Baltimore, MD by Theresa Frederick; Indiana, PA by Monica Kowalski, John Kowalski, Agnes Klyap and Patty Yamrick and in Eagles Mere, PA by Delores Little.

In addition, to the money they raised of \$1,085.<sup>00</sup> they will receive Matching Funds from the GCU Home Office.

Although, the walking is over for USMC Leadfoot, the struggle continues for those veterans transitioning back into civilian life. Lodge 351 encourages other GCU members to consider donating to organizations that assist in making the transition from soldier to civilian life easier. Donations can be made to GallantFew at <https://gallantfew.org/>. The lodge is also encouraging other GCU members to get a team together and join us in February 2019 to again walk, run or bike to raise funds for the GallantFew. Please keep Staff Sergeant Chris Little in your prayers, as he undergoes additional surgery for a previous injury.

Patty Yamrick | Publicity Director



Stryker Little, Chris Little and Jayden Perez.

# TO DO LIST

*Call the GCU Call Center  
1-855-306-0607 to update  
address, email address  
and bank accounts!*



## Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge

HAZLETON, PA

Looks like Puxatawney Phil was right in predicting the weather for this year. As I write this article, the local area is once again experiencing a Nor'easter storm-the fourth one in two weeks. This was the same scenario last year, hopefully it's the last of the season and Spring is upon us.

### First Quarter Meeting

The Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge (GHRL) first quarterly meeting was held on Sunday, January 21 in St. Michael BC hall in McAdoo, PA. On the agenda was the planning of events for the upcoming months and the community Matching Funds project. This year's recipient is "Avenues" - a non-profit work force for the disabled. Funds raised from the sale of lottery calendars for the month of June will be used to help this worthwhile cause.

### GHRL Bowling News

The GHRL National Junior Bowling tournament was held on Sunday, March 18 at Bowl-Arena with 30 participants. The winners are listed on page 36. GHRL had a team participate in the Big Brothers-Big Sisters tournament on Saturday, March 24. The lodge sponsored the team to help this very worthwhile organization.

### Easter Egg Hunts

There were Easter Egg Hunts at St. John in Lansford, PA and SS. Peter & Paul in Minersville, PA on Sunday, March 25 another on Sunday, April 8 at St. John BC Church in Hazleton. Thanks to the Home Office for the grants and the giveaways.

### Notes

Remember all mothers on Mother's Day (both living and deceased)—keep them in your prayers and thoughts. Please take a moment out of your time on Memorial Day to remember our fallen heroes—say a prayer for them. Their sacrifice helped to keep our country safe and free.

The lodge will be providing a bus to Knoebels Park for Byzantine Day. If you are interested, kindly let Dorothy (570) 459-0880 or Agnes (570) 454-4869 know. Hopefully, Mother Nature will co-operate this year and give us some good weather.

GHRL is going to have a trip to see the play "Jesus" at Sight and Sound on August 18, 2018. Reservations are complete for the show, transportation and dinner. For further details, please call Agnes at (570) 454-4869. There are still a few seats available.

Sometimes, due to circumstances beyond our control, dates and activities are subject to change. If you are ever in doubt about an event or meeting, please give me a call at (570) 454-4869 or if you are computer savvy, check out the GCU website for updates.

Hope all GCU members had a very Blessed and Happy Easter. Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Till next time, take care and may God Bless.

Agnes Rohrbach | GHRL Secretary & Fraternal Activities Director

## UPCOMING GHRL EVENTS

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### No-Tap Blind Doubles Tournament

Saturday, April 21

2:30 PM Check in

\*3 PM Bowling

Bowl-Arena, 190 Susquehanna Blvd., W. Hazleton, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

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### Second Quarter Meeting

Sunday, May 6

\*2 PM

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church  
5 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Hazleton, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

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### Spring Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

Saturday, June 2

9 AM

Sugarloaf, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

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### Byzantine Day at Knoebels Park

Sunday, June 3

10 AM

Elysburg, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

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### 41st Annual Holupki Open

\*Saturday, July 14

10 AM Shot Gun Start

White Birch Golf Course

660 Tuscarora Park Road, Barnesville, PA 18214

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

Application will be available soon.

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### 3rd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, August 5

2 PM

SS. Peter & Paul Church

107 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Minersville, PA 17954

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

*\*Denotes either new time or new date!!*



Members enjoying the spaghetti dinner.

## Lodge 625 Happenings

CONEMAUGH, PA

### First Quarter Events

On February 11, 2018 the lodge hosted its GCU Founders' Day coffee social following Divine Liturgy. On Sunday, February 18, the lodge held its first fundraiser of the year with a spaghetti dinner. The weather was not very cooperative but the dinner still raised \$646.<sup>00</sup>. Sunday, March 18 was the lodge's first quarter meeting.

### Family Events

The lodge's annual Easter Party for children 12 and under was held on Sunday, March 25. Pictures will be included in the June issue.

Lodge 625 children participated in the District 4 National Junior Bowling Tournament on Saturday, April 14 at Richland Lanes. Sunday, April 29 is the annual Lodge 625 Bowling Party at Richland Lanes for members and families.

Members of Lodge 625 who would like to be added to the email list are asked to send an email to: [gculodge625@yahoo.com](mailto:gculodge625@yahoo.com).

Georgia Lehman | Secretary-Treasurer

## UPCOMING LODGE 625 EVENTS

### Lodge Bowling Party

Sunday, April 29

2 PM-4 PM

Richland Lanes, 1140 Frances Street, Johnstown, PA

### Mother's Day Social

Sunday, May 13

Following Divine Liturgy (approx. 10:15 AM)

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

### 110th Anniversary

Sunday, May 20

Divine Liturgy followed by Dinner

Parish Family of Holy Trinity Church, Conemaugh, PA

### Helping Hands Day

May Date to be Announced

Holy Trinity Church Grounds and Cemetery.

### Father's Day Social

Sunday, June 17

Following Divine Liturgy (approx. 10:15 AM)

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

### 2nd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, June 24

Following Divine Liturgy (approx. 10:15 AM)

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

### Jackson Heritage Festival

July 19 Set Up

July 20-21-22 Festival

In the month of June, lodge members will be gearing up for this annual event which will be a Parish Matching funds event. We will be selling gobs, pirohi and haluski.

## Lodge 697

WEIRTON, WV

### Joint Efforts Help Parish

Lodge 697 joined together with the Altar & Rosary Society of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church to offer a pirohi sale. Workers arrived bright and early on Friday morning to start the process of peeling & cooking potatoes and rolling the potato/cheese filling into balls. Friday afternoon and Saturday was time to pinch the pirohi. Even Fr. Vasyi couldn't wait to help out! Everyone worked hard and enjoyed the fellowship.



Lodge members and Altar & Rosary Society members making pirohi.

### Delivering Gifts

It was a cold and blustery December day when Lodge 697 took on the role of Santa Claus for the 137 residents of Weirton Geriatric Center. The lodge spent the month of November collecting donations from members, the parish community and the GCU Home Office. With all the money collected, the lodge provided a nice package for each resident. Most of the residents received a gift bag filled with candy, fuzzy socks, Chapstick and an adult Christmas coloring book. Residents that could not benefit from the gift bag were given warm fuzzy blankets.

The staff at Weirton Geriatric Center was very pleased with lodge's effort. They said they were going to pass the gifts out on Christmas Day so that all the residents would have something to open and to celebrate the season with. It sure was a challenge getting all the packages to the facility, but it was accomplished with great joy! Not sure how Jolly Old St. Nick does it.

Rachel Lahita | Secretary Treasurer



Michelle & Rachel Lahita unpacking the van to deliver gifts to Weirton Geriatric Center residents.



# Byzantine Family Days

## SAVE THE DATES

**June 3, 2018 - 8th Annual Byzantine Catholic Family Day**  
at Knoebels Park - Elysburg, PA

**July 26, 2018 - 98th Annual Byzantine Catholic Family Day**  
at Kennywood Park - West Mifflin, PA

To order tickets for either of these events, please visit



**GCUusa.com**

or call 800-722-4428 ext. 3809



## Junior Bowling Tournament

YOUNGSTOWN AREA LODGES

The Youngstown, OH Lodges 164, 252, 360 and 442 sponsored a National Junior Bowling Tournament on Sunday, March 18. The event was held at Camelot Lanes in Boardman, OH. Elaine Chachko of Lodge 442 and Dr. Tom Sopkovich of Lodge 164 planned and organized the event for the 32 children, ages 4-18, that participated. Several children also participated from Lodge 258 in Hermitage, PA.

The children enjoyed the afternoon of competition. Each of them took home gift cards to local area restaurants, that were donated or purchased by the Youngstown GCU Lodges, and other goodies provided by the GCU Home Office. A complete list of vendors who donated can be found on the GCU website GCUusa.com under Lodge 164.

**Dr. Tom Sopkovich** | Lodge 164 President



## Junior Bowling Tournament

GREATER HAZLETON REGIONAL LODGE

GHRL held their Junior Bowling Tournament on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at Bowl-Arena in West Hazleton, PA. There was a total of 30 participants.

Winners of each age group were: Ages 4-5—Connor McAlarney (181) & Molly Balay (74); Ages 6-7—Thomas Lazar (146) & Lauren Shemansky (144); Ages 8-9—Zachary Fetchko (327) & Aubrey Cammisa (273); Ages 10-12—Toby Price (187) & Sarah Greco (292); Ages 13-15—Gavin Vercusky (459) & Emily Sharrer (312) and Ages 16-18—Christopher Nahay (558) & Veronica Martonik (294).

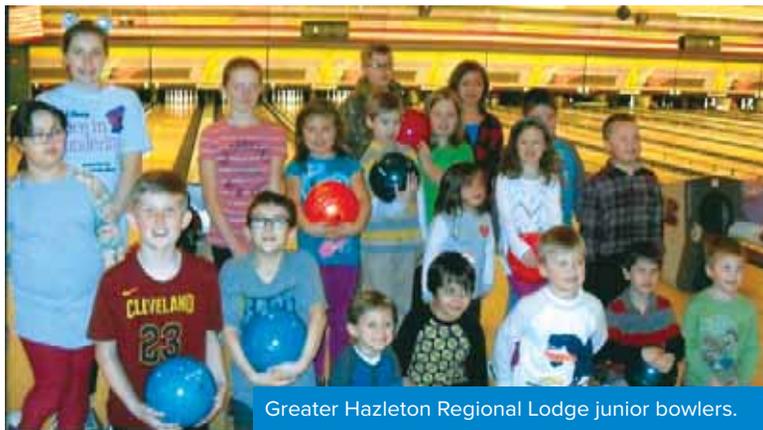
The following are the high single games scored: Ages 4-5—Douglas Lazar (100) & Molly Balay (74); Ages 6-7—Collin Remenar (82) & Laure Shemansky (78); Ages 8-9—Zachary Fetchko (125) & Aubrey Cammisa (100); Ages 10-12—Toby Price (112) & Riley Nahay (108); Ages 13-15—Gavin Vercusky (167) & Emily Sharrer (130) and Ages 16-18—Christopher Nahay (195) & Veronica Martonik (142).

We did not have any participants in the age 2-3 bracket.

All of the bowlers were treated to a snack (pizza or hot dog, chips and a drink). All received a trophy from the lodge and a wooden bowling pin with their high game on it.

Thanks to the Home Office for the gifts for the participants and thanks to everyone who helped with the tournament.

**Agnes Rohrbach** | GHRL Athletic Director



# For Your Information

## Slavjane Folk Ensemble in Concert May 12

Mark your calendars for the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Slavjane Folk Ensemble concert on Saturday, May 12, 2018. This year's concert will be held at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart H.S. Auditorium, 1504 Woodcrest Avenue, Coraopolis, PA 15108. Concert begins at 2 PM.

Slavjane consists of 29 students ranging in age from 4 to 18 representing the Greater Pittsburgh area. Featured on this year's concert are songs, dances, and musical selections from Croatia, Dalmatia, and Carpatho-Rus'. Roma selections from Eastern Slovakia will be featured. Special guest performers are the Rankin Junior Tamburitzans and the Pittsburgh Area Slovak (PAS) Ensemble.



Immediately after the concert, join us for a reception at Holy Trinity Social Hall, 5720 Steubenville Pike, McKees Rocks, PA 15136, where the dancing and singing continues. Delicious homemade ethnic food and pastries will be available for purchase along with a sprawling Rusyn (Chinese) Auction. Entertainment will be provided by the popular Orkestar Zabava. Tickets can be bought in advance and will also be available at the door. Concert tickets are \$10, student tickets are \$5. Reception only tickets are \$5. Please contact Dean Poloka at 412-877-9351 to order your tickets or for further information. Slavjane looks forward to seeing you at their concert.

Slavjane's very accommodating "home" is Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in McKees Rocks, where Fr. Frank Firko is pastor. Slavjane is a cultural program which receives financial consideration from the GCU, and is acknowledged by the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh as an important organization of the Archeparchy. Slavjane also has the continued endorsement of the Archeparchy as official representatives of Carpatho-Rusyn cultural and ethnic heritage in the U.S.

## Events

### Helping Hands Day at Mt. Saint Macrina

Saturday, June 2  
9 AM

Uniontown, PA

Contact Basil Wahal at the GCU Home Office  
724-495-3400

### Spring Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

Saturday, June 2  
9 AM

Sugarloaf, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach  
570-454-4869

### Spring Golf Classic

Monday, June 4  
9:30 AM Shotgun Start

Seven Oaks Country Club  
Beaver, PA

Applications will be mailed to previous participants and are available in the Events Section of the GCU Website

Contact GCU Frat.-Comm.  
1-800-722-4428 ext. 3810

## Inaugural Art Exhibit at Carpatho-Rusyn Cultural Center “Four Artists Walk Into a Church”

Area artists will utilize this unique venue to explore culture and humanity.

On April 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm the CRC is pleased to present, in an inaugural art exhibition, the work of four local artists who have diverse styles and use of artistic media. Their subjects are varied but draw upon the vitality of life and exhibit the beauty of rendering the visible and the imaginative in drawn and painted forms. Opening night festivities include appetizers, wine and refreshments.

**Michael Walter's** drawings are inspired by geology, time, and current events. An emphasis on masks and totem poles has been a more recent development in his images that constitute a personal natural history museum. Texture and varied media are important aesthetic concerns of his, the chemistry of art being alchemical in the image making processes, and parallel to his idea of transformation of the individual.

He studied at The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, in Italy and throughout Pittsburgh. His work is in private collections in Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, and California.



**Janet Carlisle's** collage work is a transformative process from which she cuts, tears, pastes, and sews painted images and textures, often extracted from her own drawings, paintings and photographs into a unified whole. As she composes and builds these fragments into a new beginning, she is reminded that what is broken in life is often where people find a place to start again.

**Jana Houskova** creates realistic art, specializing in drawing and painting portraits of people and animals and old historical landmarks and romantic old towns and streets. She does it with a delicate sense of expressing the magical moment of the scene. Her media are: colored pencils, graphite, oil and watercolors. Choosing themes that evoke positive emotions and bring smiles and peace to people's minds is the goal of her imagery.

**Jon Coulter** trained at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Mr. Coulter has illustrated over thirty books of surgery and hundreds of journal articles. He belongs to the American Realist School and is truly excited when he may depict the outsides of his subjects.

The hours for the Carpatho-Rusyn National Cultural Center are 11 am-7 pm daily. The exhibit is on view to the public April 20-May 19, 2018, admission is free. For further information and a schedule of appearances by the above artist, please call 412-567-3077 or visit the website [c-rs.org](http://c-rs.org).



# Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

- |      |  |      |   |      |   |
|------|--|------|---|------|---|
| 8344 | Ruth F. Abplanalp, Warren, PA                  | 8304 | Marilyn Conley Swanson,<br>Pasadena, CA         | 83   | Gwendolyn Glasser,<br>Richmond, VA          |
| 83   | Virginia S. Adamson, Delmont, PA               | 390  | Olga Connolly, McKees Rocks, PA                 | 8344 | Mary Gnall, New Oxford, PA                  |
| 83   | Elsie Altobello, Wampum, PA                    | 8358 | Marion C. Cottrell, Oshkosh, WI                 | 151  | Peter Gnall, Blakeslee, PA                  |
| 83   | Twila Alwine, Rural Valley, PA                 | 83   | Alfred Davis, Dacula, GA                        | 83   | William F. Godshall,<br>King of Prussia, PA |
| 8344 | Margaret Andrus, Monaca, PA                    | 83   | James I. Deets, Utica, PA                       | 83   | Irene Gower, Drums, PA                      |
| 250  | Ronald P. Aneiros, Westland, MI                | 8344 | Steve Deliman, Belle Vernon, PA                 | 83   | Loretta Grote, New Salem, PA                |
| 319  | Kathryn E. Babieracki,<br>Sterling Heights, MI | 8344 | Anna Dikun, Pottsville, PA                      | 8358 | Edward Grzeszczak,<br>Greendale, WI         |
| 255  | Gina M. Bacasa, Pittsburgh, PA                 | 83   | Joan M. Ditty, Warrington, PA                   | 994  | Josephine Gutowski,<br>Beaver Falls, PA     |
| 8344 | Sally A. Bagdon, Sarver, PA                    | 62   | Peter Dubensky,<br>Punxsutawney, PA             | 8344 | Carol Haberman, Verona, PA                  |
| 2    | Maria E. Bajus, Homestead, PA                  | 66   | Norma M. Dudash,<br>Apache Junction, AZ         | 8344 | John J. Hargreaves,<br>East Stroudsburg, PA |
| 53   | Margaret Baker, Mountain Top, PA               | 83   | Rita Duphily, Middleboro, MA                    | 10   | Howard Herman, Marietta, OH                 |
| 8344 | George Bakos, California, PA                   | 8341 | Wilma H. Durisin, Montville, OH                 | 8358 | Carol J. Herr, West Allis, WI               |
| 235  | Raymond Bargelski,<br>Newington, CT            | 999  | Wayne Dye, Sun City West, AZ                    | 2    | William E. Hilla, Munhall, PA               |
| 8344 | Gerald Barker, Martinsburg, PA                 | 15   | Richard Dzurinko, Trenton, NJ                   | 8302 | Marilyn Hitchens, Tucson, AZ                |
| 8344 | Paul E. Barton, Delmont, PA                    | 8344 | Eugene B. Easterbrooks,<br>East Stroudsburg, PA | 2    | Mary J. Hoblack, Charlotte, NC              |
| 390  | Harry Bechman, Pittsburgh, PA                  | 66   | Frank F. Essig, Portage, IN                     | 390  | Anne Judith Hopey, Charlotte, NC            |
| 8313 | Doris Behrstock,<br>Highland Park, IL          | 254  | Irene Estocin, Hillsborough, NJ                 | 8358 | Leo Hoppa, Rosholt, WI                      |
| 252  | Joseph Biros, Sebring, FL                      | 8344 | Minnie Ferringer, Home, PA                      | 83   | Frederick P. Horos, Oil City, PA            |
| 8344 | Robert Elmer Bolinger,<br>Indiana, PA          | 66   | Robert L. Fischer, Crown Point, IN              | 69   | Mildred Horosky, Pottstown, PA              |
| 20   | Margaret Boran, Seattle, WA                    | 8344 | Edward E. Fishell, Altoona, PA                  | 83   | Helen Hospodar, Syracuse, NY                |
| 8358 | Alfred Bores, Marshfield, WI                   | 8309 | John R. Foster, Tampa, FL                       | 81   | Margaret Howdershelt,<br>Connellsville, PA  |
| 83   | Betty J. Boring, New Florence, PA              | 994  | Charles Frank, Rochester, PA                    | 8344 | Richard L. Hubler, Middleburg, PA           |
| 2    | Dorothy Boross, Pleasant Hills, PA             | 2    | Helen Frena, Homestead, PA                      | 999  | Charles V. Hundemer, Peoria, AZ             |
| 57   | Michael John Boyza,<br>Brownsville, PA         | 994  | Stephen J. Gahn, Las Vegas, NV                  | 8344 | Marie Hyde, Johnstown, PA                   |
| 83   | Grace Bozar,<br>Beaver Meadows, PA             | 8304 | Mario Gallo, Corona, CA                         | 83   | Anna Janosik, Smithfield, PA                |
| 255  | Stephen Brady, Pittsburgh, PA                  | 8344 | Mary Gebroski, Murrysville, PA                  | 83   | Walter Janosky, Butler, PA                  |
| 8344 | Betsy Brinkley, Warren, PA                     | 15   | Mary Gelak, Cherry Hill, NJ                     | 8358 | Donald A. Jensen, Franklin, WI              |
| 83   | William J. Buonato,<br>New Hope, PA            | 255  | Alice J. Gerstel, Tarentum, PA                  | 8358 | Thomascene Jiles, Milwaukee, WI             |
| 8344 | Louis Burket, Hollidaysburg, PA                | 8344 | Mary Gigliotti,<br>Rostraver Township, PA       | 182  | Ronald Kachinko, Larksville, PA             |
| 271  | Myrtle Buttell, Pecatonica, IL                 | 8344 | Thomas E. Gilbert,<br>Mahanoy City, PA          | 83   | Josephin Karczewski,<br>Wilkes Barre, PA    |
| 52   | Georgianna Chekan,<br>Bridgeville, PA          | 8344 | Mary C. Glass, Souderton, PA                    | 258  | Helen Kessell, Canton, OH                   |

8344 Joetta A. Kiley, Pittsburgh, PA  
15 Francis Kish, Middletown, NJ  
8357 Dorothy Kisner, Morgantown, WV  
8344 Joan M. Kooker, Doylestown, PA  
52 Ronald Kosey, Canonsburg, PA  
401 Ann Kozer, Johnstown, PA  
211 Geraldine Kozlevcar, Forest City, PA  
336 Elizabeth Krafcik, Parma, OH  
254 Peter P. Krochta, Easton, PA  
8344 Ingebord Kromer, Lehighton, PA  
17 Verna Kuchera, Old Forge, PA  
288 Dolores Kugler, McKeesport, PA  
945 Susan LaCapra, Dunmore, PA  
860 Carole B. Lakotish, Warren, MI  
83 James Leckemby, Webster, PA  
47 Mary Ann Lesso, Vestal, NY  
8344 Donald Lloyd, Clearfield, PA  
18 Stephen Logoyda, Perryopolis, PA  
8344 Donna Lorenzo, Greenville, PA  
271 Robert P. Lowe, Lombard, IL  
81 Stephen Loya, Dawson, PA  
252 Edward Lucas, White Oak, PA  
8344 Leona W. Maczka, Norvelt, PA  
994 Joseph J. Mangie, Beaver, PA  
860 Harriet Mannella, Warren, MI  
697 Manolo P. Mapa, Chester, WV  
665 Nick Marko, Westlake Village, CA  
360 Michael Masajlo, Boardman, OH  
8344 William S. McClain, McDonald, PA  
697 Donald R. McElfresh, Farmville, VA  
8344 James McLaren, Indiana, PA  
8337 Dorothy Meholic, Getzville, NY  
83 Mary Mendinsky, Pottsville, PA  
8344 Dolores M. Migliozi, Wexford, PA  
8344 Freda Mikita, Rural Valley, PA  
8358 Donald C. Mills, Two Rivers, WI  
83 Suzanne Minarich, Joliet, IL  
8344 Ruth E. Mock, Clymer, PA  
8358 Jerome Moore, Wausau, WI  
255 Anna Marie Mostyn, Pittsburgh, PA  
860 Alvin H. Nickel, Beverly Hills, FL  
83 Patricia Norman, East Stroudsburg, PA  
8344 Homer L. Otterman, Freeport, PA  
644 Michael C. Palko, Coraopolis, PA  
8358 James A. Paltzer, Appleton, WI  
8304 Carolmarie Pascua, Redondo Beach, CA  
999 Anne Peterson, Mukwonago, WI  
8344 Mary Petruso, Philadelphia, PA  
999 Patricia Phelps, Gold Canyon, AZ  
8344 Chris N. Pihou, Canonsburg, PA  
8344 Dale Pilsitz, Middletown, PA  
999 Stephanie Pincus, Tucson, AZ  
83 Mary Pollock, Donora, PA  
83 John Puhak, Hazleton, PA  
15 Anna Purcell, Cherry Hill, NJ  
994 Eugene R. Quinn, Beaver, PA  
8344 Josephine M. Rabel, Allentown, PA  
390 George Ann Reed, Mentor, OH  
83 Margaret Rendish, Hope Mills, NC  
8344 Sharon Y. Richards, Leechburg, PA  
8358 Margery Riege, Deerfield, WI  
92 Ellen M. Rogari, Jessup, PA  
83 Marjorie A. Roland, Home, PA  
8344 Josephine E. Roscoe, Pottsville, PA  
8304 Mait-Inger Roseen, Capistrano Beach, CA  
8344 Shirley A. Rosenberger, Sellersville, PA  
390 Agnes H. Rosko, Coraopolis, PA  
83 Dorothy Roths, McDonald, PA  
271 Waverly Rotz, Sterling, IL  
8344 Margaret P. Russell, N. Charleroi, PA  
401 Anna J. Sacco, Homer City, PA  
351 Mary Sasala, Indiana, PA  
83 David Semick, Ambridge, PA  
250 Mike Serafin, Macomb Township, MI  
360 James J. Sferra, Campbell, OH  
8344 Lois Shimer, Altoona, PA  
8304 Ullen D. Short, Anza, CA  
254 Mary Skirkanish, Manville, NJ  
8344 Richard Skoff, Ernest, PA  
66 Theresa M. Skubish, Hobart, IN  
8344 Janice M. Smith, Pittsburgh, PA  
390 Barry W. Smyda, Mc Kees Rocks, PA  
83 Rose M. Snyder, Fenelton, PA  
8344 Janis E. Sommers, Portersville, PA  
8344 Gladys F. Spangler, Orwigsburg, PA  
8326 William Spindura, Livonia, MI  
316 Anne Stefancin, Robbinsville, NJ  
83 Lucille Stopp, Cochran, PA  
83 Walter J. Szolis, Tarentum, PA  
697 Nancy A. Tarr, Weirton, WV  
8344 Diet A. Tigchelaar, Aliquippa, PA  
2 Mary Tomchik, Allison Park, PA  
8344 Leota M. Tremblay, Warren, PA  
8344 Margaret Turino, McDonald, PA  
8344 Joseph Turturica, Johnstown, PA  
8354 Josephine G. Tyson, Newport News, VA  
83 Emma Varner, Pittsburgh, PA  
83 Edward Verbonitz, Hazle Township, PA  
10 Lena Vespaziani, Aliquippa, PA  
8344 Conrad Vitali, Wilkes-Barre, PA  
8358 Beverly Wenzel, Milwaukee, WI  
8344 Eleanore R. White, Wallingford, PA  
999 Deleen D. Wientjes, Denver, CO  
8344 Evelyn J. Williams, Bellefonte, PA  
8344 Rose B. Wolfe, Russell, PA  
8344 Sharon L. Wylie, Ligonier, PA  
999 Robert Yeschek, Tucson, AZ  
340 Bertha Zamorski, Linden, NJ  
860 Richard S. Zaremba, Sterling Heights, MI  
211 Joseph Zavacky, Somers Pointe, NJ  
390 Margaret Zimmerman, Passaic, NJ  
235 Robert Zuraw, Ansonia, CT

# Rememberances

## MaryAnn Pinto

Lodge 644 Secretary

MaryAnn Pinto, 70, passed away peacefully on March 16, 2018. She was born in Akron, OH on November 24, 1947 to the late Howard A. Jr., and Mary Snyder. MaryAnn was a lifetime Firestone Park resident and a 1965 graduate of Garfield High School.

She retired in 2010 from Miller Transfer after 31 years of service. She was an active member of St. Nicholas Byzantine Church in Barberton, OH. MaryAnn was an active member of the Firestone Park Prime Timers. She was a former Girl Scout

leader at St. Paul Grade School and was a member and secretary of GCU Lodge 644. She enjoyed traveling, cooking at her church & with her family and played the violin for many years in her youth.

MaryAnn is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Anna Marie (Pinto) and Richard Wilson of Westerville, OH; grandchildren, Vivian Marie and Benjamin Glenn.

A funeral Liturgy took place on Saturday, March 24 at 10 AM at St. Nicholas Church with interment at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Blessed repose and eternal memory.

Life changes  
in a heartbeat.



Life is a Journey. You meet your soul mate... start a family... plan your legacy...  
GCU Life Insurance protects your family every heartbeat of their lives.