

Minutes
of the
38th
National Convention



Ladies Pennsylvania
Slovak Catholic Union

June 27-29, 2004

The President called upon the chairperson of the Credential Committee, Dolores Evanko, to give a preliminary report. Trustee Evanko introduced the members of her committee and thanked them for doing a great job. Trustee Evanko reported 111 delegates have registered at this time. President Kosalko thanked Trustee Evanko for the preliminary Credential report.

The President called upon the chairperson of the Nominating Committee, Mary Ann Ewasko, to give a preliminary report. Chairperson of Trustees Ewasko introduced the members of her committee and reminded the delegates that due to proposed changes to the existing Bylaws, additional intent forms may be received. Chairperson of Trustees Ewasko reported the following:

- President – No letter of intent received.
- Vice President – No recommendation. One letter of intent was received but is on hold until the Bylaws are taken care of.
- Secretary/Treasurer – No recommendation. One was received but that is put on hold until the Bylaws are taken care of.
- Chairperson of Trustees – Mary Ann Ewasko. One intent form was received.
- Trustees – Barbara Janicko, Dolores Evanko, Joan Hladek, and Sylvia Goda.
- Court of Appeals – Deborah Adamchak, Joan Ellen Friendak, Anita Gregory, Patricia Stearney, and Mary Ann Kaylor.
- Spiritual Advisor — Very Reverend Philip A. Altavilla, V.F.
- Public Relations Director – No letter of intent received.
- Fraternal Activities Director – No letter of intent received.

President Kosalko thanked Chairperson of Trustees Ewasko for the preliminary Nominating Committee report.

At this time, President Kosalko asked for a motion to accept the Minutes of the 37th National Convention. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Delegate 16, Hope Napkora, Branch 6; seconded by Delegate 94, Patricia Stearney, Branch 109. There being no changes, Minutes of the 37th National Convention were approved as presented.

President Kosalko called upon the Chairperson of the Bylaws Committee, Rev. Philip Altavilla. Rev. Altavilla stated that there are certain Bylaws considerations that have to be addressed early in the convention in order to allow us to do convention business, most especially the election of a new president. The three major issues are:

Article 19 of the current Bylaws, currently reading: No member of the LPSCU shall be eligible for nomination, election or appointment to the Board of Directors or to the Court of Appeals if they shall have attained the age of 70 years by the first day of the term of office to which they would be nominated, elected or appointed. Rev. Altavilla stated this bylaw was enacted when the Federal law prohibiting age discrimination was not an issue. The delegates were asked to review the last item in our Bylaws which states, "nothing that is contained within our Bylaws may remain there if they are in violation of Federal or State laws." Rev. Altavilla asked Attorney Joseph Van Jura, LPSCU Counsel, to speak on this issue.

Attorney Van Jura stated we have to approach this from a viewpoint that protects the organization legally to the utmost and

the organization could under some circumstances in the future find itself subject to a lawsuit by someone who does not feel that the bylaw ought to be in effect because it violates Federal law. Attorney Van Jura offered an opinion that it would be in the best interests of the organization to repeal that bylaw in order to be completely legal.

Rev. Altavilla asked for a motion to delete Article 19 from our Bylaws. A motion was made by Delegate 89, Margaret A. Ferri, Branch 83 to delete Article 19; Delegate 11, Trude Check-Tuhy, Branch 6 seconded the motion.

Question from Delegate 73, Elva Silay, Branch 64: "When a person takes an office, and they're over 70, how do we know, how do we get rid of them if they're not able to do their job?" Rev. Altavilla stated that would be the responsibility of the delegates and also the responsibility of individuals to not run for particular offices. Attorney Van Jura added whether it's circumstances that are foreseen or unforeseen, there is a remedy in the Bylaws for the ones that can be foreseen, and "we rely on God for the remaining remedies."

Question from Delegate 73, Elva Silay, Branch 64: "Would the Board not have the authority . . . [to] vote them out, or does that have to come from the convention?" Rev. Altavilla pointed out several existing Bylaws, Articles 31 and 40, that provide recourses to the Board.

There being no further discussion, the question was called. *Suhlas*. Article 19 is repealed in its entirety.

Article 52 dealing with the position of Secretary/Treasurer. The proposed change would be that the office of Secretary/Treasurer would no longer be an elected position but rather a hired position. Rev. Altavilla reminded the delegates that at the convention in 1996 held in Las Vegas, the organization left the convention without a Secretary/Treasurer. This is a violation of the law. We cannot leave convention until the position is filled.

The recommended change is: A. Shall be a full-time position hired by the Board of Directors; B. Shall be a member of the Board of Directors, abiding by the Bylaws in that section; C. Shall perform duties outlined in job description on file with Home Office. Delegates were asked to also refer to Article 28 which ties into Article 52 stating: "The Board of Directors shall hire the Secretary/Treasurer. The annual salary of the Secretary/Treasurer shall be set by the Board of Directors. Applications for the position shall be made in writing, stating the applicant's qualifications, personal background and history, as well as past experience. The Board of Directors shall verify these qualifications by personal interviews, a professional investigating company, or any other means in order to verify the qualifications; a) the Board of Directors is responsible for the annual performance review evaluation of the Secretary/Treasurer."

The Chair asked for a motion to accept the proposed changes. Delegate 42, Joe Krajsa, Branch 38 moved to seek the amended phraseology for Article 52 and 28; Delegate 120, Ann Dobias, Branch 194 seconded the motion.

Question from Delegate 107, Mike Friendak, Branch 156 who stated his agreement except for Section B ("shall be a member of the Board of Directors and abide by the Bylaws set"). "If we're hiring that person, why should that person be in control of himself or herself? The Board of Directors should be in control of that person." Delegate 107, Mike Friendak, Branch 156 made a motion

that Section B be eliminated from the previous motion. Delegate 94, Patricia Stearney, Branch 109 seconded the motion.

Delegate 11, Trude Check-Tuhy, Branch 6 then questioned the capacity of the Secretary/Treasurer and his/her function at a Board meeting. It was explained the position would be an ex-officio position. The position would be an employee, not a member of the Board, would not have a vote on the Board, and would not be an officer on the Board.

Delegate 23, Agnes Janinek, Branch 8 asked for clarification on the hiring of the individual, if that individual would be a member or non-member of the LPSCU. The Chair stated that it could be either case; if a qualified individual could not be found within the organization we would need to look outside. Delegate Janinek expressed concern in bringing someone unfamiliar with the organization in as Secretary/Treasurer.

Delegate 18, Patricia Shinal, Branch 6 asked for a clarification that the Secretary/Treasurer would then be a hired employee, in which case the Chair responded affirmatively. Delegate Shinal then questioned Article 26 stating hired employees shall not be eligible to hold any national office. It was explained that this Bylaw addresses the issue of a hired employee not being able to hold a national office so it is not necessary to discuss it on the floor. Delegate Shinal continued to address other Bylaws, such as Article 13 that references the position of Secretary/Treasurer as an officer or Board member, stating the delegates must be made aware of the effects to all other Articles if this proposed change is accepted. Rev. Altavilla clarified to the delegation that if the Bylaw change were to go through where the position would be hired, based on the discussion, any of the articles that exist currently wherein the Secretary/Treasurer is listed as a national officer or member of the Board of Directors, all of that would be affected. The title would be removed and that individual would fall under the category of employee.

Delegate 1, Ceil Sarocky, Branch 42 expressed concern with eliminating the delegates' choice for Secretary/Treasurer and giving it to the Board of Directors. Rev. Altavilla reminded the delegates that at the last [1996] convention the Society did not have a Secretary/Treasurer. Delegate Sarocky advised the delegation to consider that this is something that's very different from what is out in the fraternal world.

Delegate 4, Theresa Kluchinski, Branch 48 addressed Part B of the proposed Article 52 reminding the delegates that the Secretary/Treasurer is one person on a board of eleven, and that a majority of the directors is needed to make any type of decision. Also the delegates can choose to have the position be a member of the Board with voice but without vote; the position would be a hired position, however, it would still be an officer's position with the Union. The Article can be amended so that the position has a voice but no vote. This way all other articles would remain unchanged.

Delegate 65, Janice Mathews agreed with Delegate Kluchinski and further questioned the position of the Secretary/Treasurer on the Finance Committee. The Chair clarified that as in the case just stated, the position would have a voice but no vote.

Delegate 8, Joan Hladek, Branch 109 stated that even if the position is hired, it would still have the same level of operating authority that the position currently holds. A concern to our fraternal is that continuity is needed in that position.

Delegate 107, Mike Friendak, Branch 156 stated that the job description of the Secretary/Treasurer should be very specific about what the expectations are for attendance and participation at meetings.

Delegate 79, Janice Mathews, Branch 65 questioned: "If we remove the Secretary/Treasurer as a voting member, that will give us 10 members. Who breaks the tie vote?" Rev. Altavilla stated that the President has the tie-breaking vote.

Delegate 19, Barbara Kalish, Branch 7 stated the position of Secretary/Treasurer is too important to be removed from the Board of Directors. However, it should be a hired position and retain voice and vote on the Board of Directors.

Delegate 63, Jim Tomasic, Branch 52 stated, "We should hire the expertise, but they would not have a vote."

Delegate 43, Justine Wesnak, Branch 38 stated she felt it would be a conflict of interest to allow the Secretary/Treasurer to serve on the Board of Directors.

Delegate 107, Mike Friendak, Branch 156 reminded the delegates that the President will be in the office full-time also.

Rev. Altavilla called for the question: To eliminate B from the proposed amendment which means that the person would be at Board meetings, would report when asked, give the appropriate information when necessary, but not vote. Would also be a hired employee of the organization. The amendment was approved.

Rev. Altavilla referred to the original proposal of the position of Secretary/Treasurer being a hired position: A vote of "Yes," the Secretary/Treasurer would be a hired position by the Board of Directors; A vote of "No," the position reverts back to as-is.

Attorney Van Jura spoke to this issue in that the Secretary/Treasurer would have to sign financial statements and other documents as an officer of the organization, so this position should remain as an officer.

Delegate 18, Patricia Shinal, Branch 6 questioned Article 26 which says no hired employee can be an officer.

After further discussion, Rev. Altavilla stated that, depending on how the vote goes in regard to the key question, the committee would revise Article 26 to be clear enough to say "no hired employee of the LPSCU, while so employed, with the exception of the office of Secretary/Treasurer as a hired position which is a national office but not a member of the Board."

Rev. Altavilla asked for a show of hands of those in favor of the proposed Bylaw amendment. Two members of the Balloting Committee were asked to count the votes. The Balloting Committee members reported 94 voted Yes. Rev. Altavilla stated "We need 74 Yes votes to change the Bylaw; we have 94. Therefore, the position of Secretary/Treasurer is now a hired position."

Rev. Altavilla stated that **Article 28** under Duties of the Board of Directors becomes automatic because of the change to Article 25. However a motion to accept the changes is needed. Delegate 17, Lori Ann Napkora, Branch 6 made a motion to accept the amendment, seconded by Delegate 107, Mike Friendak, Branch 156.

Question by Delegate 11, Trude Check-Tuhy, Branch 6 regarding the annual performance review. Rev. Altavilla stated that would be a part of the procedures the Board would establish.

Question by Delegate 43, Justine Wesnak, Branch 38 as to whether it would be prudent to have the delegation set a limit or to decide what that salary could be. Attorney Van Jura responded,

stating that while that certainly can be done by this convention, the Bylaws are really the fundamental document of the organization and a salary is something that is usually left to the operating committee.

After further discussion it was determined that something of this nature should be submitted as a recommendation to the Salary Committee.

Delegate 71, Helen Lorinc, Branch 64 expressed concern as to how aggressive the Board will be in surfacing applications. Rev. Altavilla, speaking on behalf of the Board, stated that "we would go after the right person."

Delegate 23, Agnes Janinek, Branch 8 questioned when this would take effect. Rev. Altavilla stated sixty days after convention.

Delegate 4, Theresa Kluchinski, Branch 48 stated while there is a concern with the salary for the Secretary/Treasurer being set by the Board of Directors, the delegates elect the Board. If the delegates don't have confidence that the people being elected can make the right decisions on behalf of the LPSCU, they shouldn't elect them.

Rev. Altavilla called the question regarding Article 28. Article 28 passed without opposition.

Article 27 reads: "Since the office of President is full-time, nominations for this office will not be made from the floor. Nominations for the office of President shall be by written application . . ." The question is: Do we suspend the Bylaw to allow a letter of intent and resumé to be presented to the Nominating Committee for the office of President?

Delegate 116, Theresa Smrecansky, Branch 163 made a motion to suspend Article 27 until noon, Monday, June 28, 2004; seconded by Delegate 18, Patricia Shinal, Branch 6.

Delegate 89, Margaret A. Ferri, Branch 83 made a motion for the presidency to be part-time due to these unforeseen circumstances. Rev. Altavilla stated that would have to be submitted to the Bylaws Committee for discussion. The question was called. Suspension of Article 27 passed with no opposition.

Rev. Altavilla informed the delegates that any additional changes to the Bylaws must be submitted in writing by noon Sunday, June 27.

Delegate 83, Dave Palcsey, Branch 76 questioned why we need 74 when we have 111 delegates; the Bylaws states a simple majority. Rev. Altavilla thanked Mr. Palcsey for bringing that fact to our attention.

President Kosalko thanked Rev. Altavilla for his report on the Bylaws and called upon Cecilia Gaughan for the introduction of guests.

Cecilia Gaughan introduced David Blazek, President of the National Slovak Society of the United States of America. Mr. Blazek addressed the delegation.

President Kosalko called upon Rev. Altavilla for the closing prayer. The First Session recessed at 11:36 a.m.

Monday, June 28, 2004 Second Session

President Jean Kosalko called the Second Session of the 38th National Convention of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union to order at 9:12 a.m. Spiritual Advisor Very Rev. Philip Altavilla offered an inspirational opening prayer. Delegates recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Kosalko called upon Cecilia Gaughan for the introduction of guests. Chairperson Gaughan introduced Mary Ann Johaneck, National President of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, who provided greetings. Also introduced and offering greetings was Irene Drotleff, Secretary of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

President Kosalko introduced Robert Kopec, CPA, for our accountant's report.

A handout was provided to all delegates. Mr. Kopec discussed what has transpired over the last four years regarding our financial position, changes in Home Office computerization, and the merger of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance into the LPSCU. Information regarding the statement of assets, liabilities, unassigned funds, investment income by category, and bond information by maturity and class was included in the report and discussed.

Mr. Kopec reviewed selected historical data: rate of return on our assets, assets, and investment income. He stated the biggest challenge over the next four years will be to maximize our portfolio income while still retaining investments that are of high quality as rated by the NAIC Class 1 through 6, with 1 being the highest rating and 6 the lowest. He also reported 99% of our bonds fall within the 1 through 3 class.

Mr. Kopec stated that in his research, societies in general have shown reductions in surplus. For the LPSCU, 2002 and 2003 were very busy with direct billing, installation of a new computer system, and the merger with the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance (LCA). A bonus of this merger was that the LCA had its own building which is currently being renovated so that it can be moved into in the near future. The building offers larger office space and will be less costly to maintain than the current rented facility.

Mr. Kopec reported that the LPSCU maintains an excellent financial condition with solvency at 157% and an increase in surplus over the last four years from \$5.9 million to \$6.1 million. Looking to the next four years, the society should be looking to maximize profits or minimize the losses. This can be done in three ways:

- Premium income can be increased through selling or mergers,
- Investment income, and
- Cutting expenses.

Mr. Kopec commended the delegates for their efforts and hoped that the society would be promoted into the future so that the LPSCU will prosper.

President Kosalko thanked Mr. Kopec for a terrific report and introduced Sam Urda, President of CPS Actuaries.

Mr. Urda commented on the excellent job the CPA had done in informing the delegates on what had transpired over the last four years, and stated he would concentrate on just two or three numbers. He said we think of ourselves as an aging society, however, that is a misconception. In a recent survey of our membership – 14,500 total members – the average age is 45 years old, which is impressive. Also, sixty percent (60%) of our membership is under the age of 50, which is surprising.

Another fact Mr. Urda mentioned is that the average-size premium-paying policy is only \$3,100. He stated that while we would want to bring in new people, if our average-size policy is

only \$3,100 on the premium-paying side, isn't this something we should also address by looking to increase our premium income by offering prospective members additional insurance? He pointed out that the average funeral cost is approximately \$5,000 (in some places, more), while the average paid-up policy is less than \$2,000.

Another area that can be improved: only 20 percent of our 14,500 members are currently paying premiums. He reminded the delegates that some of this is due to the Single Premium Plan, whereby the applicant pays the premium only one time and is then considered paid-up. We must continue to sell that plan; however, we have to avail ourselves of other areas of creating additional premium income.

Mr. Urda commented on the merger of the LCA with the LPSCU as far as bringing in 1,500 members without increasing the workload. He stated that mergers are going to continue in the fraternal industry, and it is important that we position ourselves to accommodate that. The new administrative system can handle the additional workload, so that the growth of the LPSCU must be looked at in terms of what will we be 3-to-5 years from now.

Mr. Urda asked for questions from the delegates.

Delegate 11, Trude Check-Tuhy, Branch 6 questioned: Since we passed a resolution concerning age discrimination, is there any bearing on the premiums or products?

Mr. Urda responded that there is a premium for every benefit; however, there are practicalities of using certain ages and minimizing the mortality expense that could occur.

President Kosalko thanked Mr. Urda for his extensive report and introduced Ellen Bush and Karen Natishan of Smith-Barney. A report was distributed to all delegates.

Ms. Bush stated that our asset allocation has less than 10 percent in equities and a significant portion in fixed-income. Fixed-income is the important issue when you look at all the comments from the morning presenters about interest rates, premium income, etc. The LPSCU is holding a fair amount of cash as part of a strategy of staying relatively short-term and looking for this upturn in interest rates. Ms. Bush reported the top holding in the portfolio is with the Federal Home Loan, Federal National Mortgage that are of high quality, for the safety of the funds. With 86 percent of the LPSCU's money in fixed-income in the lowest interest rate environment in 30 to 40 years, it is a challenge. Ms. Bush reported we are invested in high quality stocks, large-cap stocks. We don't own small capitalization, which have higher risk, and we don't own international stocks.

Ms. Bush stated that it has been the strategy to keep the portfolio in the shorter end of the intermediate, which is a better place to be when interest rates rise. The average maturity on the bond portfolio is about nine years, with an average coupon of about 5.5%. She reminded the delegates that 30-year Treasury barely pays 5.5%, so it's a very good portfolio; however, it's going to take a lot of work going forward.

Ms. Bush pointed out that the LPSCU has been involved with equities for 3½ years, with Smith Barney as manager since 2000. Year 2000 was not the best for equities, but the portfolio made a comeback last year with an approximate 18 percent year. A complete listing of all equities was provided in the handout. Ms. Bush remains fairly optimistic about the equity markets and challenged on the fixed market side.

President Kosalko thanked Ms. Bush and Ms. Natishan for their extensive report and called upon Dolores Evanko, Chairperson of the Credential Committee, for a final report.

Trustee Evanko introduced the Credential Committee members and reported that the final count of delegates is 114. President Kosalko thanked Trustee Evanko for her report.

The convention took a 10-minute recess.

The President called upon the Chairperson of the Greetings Committee, Cecilia Gaughan, to introduce our fraternal guests.

Guests introduced:

- ❖ Nina Holy, Secretary of the Slovak League of America, Passaic, New Jersey
- ❖ Tom Hricik, National President of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Independence, Ohio
- ❖ Ken Arendt, National Secretary of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Independence, Ohio
- ❖ Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Independence, Ohio
- ❖ Sue Ann Seich, Supreme President of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Passaic, New Jersey
- ❖ Steve Pogorelec, Supreme Secretary of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Passaic, New Jersey
- ❖ Reverend Andrew Hvozdovic, Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Passaic, New Jersey, and the National First Vice President of the Slovak Catholic Federation
- ❖ Sister Mercedes Voytko, Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Danville, Pennsylvania, and Director of the Jankola Library
- ❖ Most Reverend Joseph Adamec, Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown Diocese, the Episcopal Protector of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union

President Kosalko thanked Fraternal Activities Director Gaughan and moved on to the acceptance of the Officers' Reports. Delegate 42, Joe Krajsa, Branch 38 moved to accept the Officers' Reports in toto, seconded by Delegate 43, Justine Wesnak, Branch 38. There being no questions, the motion carried.

President Kosalko called upon Rev. Altavilla, Chairperson of the Bylaws Committee. Rev. Altavilla stated that, before beginning, Secretary/Treasurer Kluchinski has asked to have a roll call to determine the number of delegates present at this session.

Secretary/Treasurer Kluchinski stated that the roll call verifies there are 114 delegates present with 58 votes needed for a majority.

Rev. Altavilla continued with the introduction of Bylaws Committee members. He explained that the recommendations are generally the bolded print and the sections that have lines through them are the proposed deletions. Many of the changes were simply grammatical clarifications, cleaning up of language or abbreviations. Rev. Altavilla suggested a motion be made to approve the Bylaws as presented as a whole and then we can deal with individual articles, if necessary, during the discussion. Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69 made a motion to accept the Bylaws as amended; seconded by Delegate 16, Hope Napkora, Branch 6. Discussion followed.

Delegate 18, Patricia Shinal, Branch 6 made a motion to delete Article 11(b), explaining that since we are directly billing premiums from the Home Office, this article is no longer

necessary. Delegate 11, Trude Check-Tuhy, Branch 6 seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Delegate 18, Patricia Shinal, Branch 6 questioned Article 35: "Why does it state establishing a pension from time to time? It should be more defined." She made a motion to remove the words "from time to time"; seconded by Delegate 17, Lori Ann Napkora, Branch 6. Motion passed.

Delegate 35, Ceil Sarocky, Branch 42 referred to Article 49: The office of President is a full-time position. She made a proposal that the office of President should be part-time. Ms. Sarocky stated she spent 18 years as a part-time president. "A president is a leader and a planner and does not have to be in office to do bookkeeping."

Rev. Altavilla stated the Bylaws Committee received two recommendations to change the position of President to a part-time position; however, they were rejected by majority with one abstention, the rationale being that if the Secretary/Treasurer is going to be a hired position, there needs to be someone full-time in the office that is the overseer and is also the face of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union.

Delegate 55, Ceil Sarocky, Branch 42 made a motion that the office of President be part-time, seconded by Delegate 63, Jim Tomasic, Branch 52. The motion was opened for discussion.

Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69 differed with Ceil Sarocky in that her position was part-time. He stated that when she became President, the position was part-time; however, she made the office of President full-time, working out of her home, because that's how she justified the salary of the President. He stated the position should remain full-time, because if the Secretary is going to be hired, someone needs to oversee the day-to-day operations.

Delegate 83, Dave Palcsey, Branch 86 agreed with Monsignor Beeda and added that the Board has done a fine job and it takes a full-time position to watch over the rest of the assets.

Delegate 107, Mike Friendak, Branch 156 stated that, based on the reports of our CPA and actuary, we certainly need a full-time President for our growth.

Delegate 43, Justine Wesnak, Branch 38 expressed that it would be a step backwards to go to a part-time position for the presidency.

Delegate 48, Sylvia Goda, Branch 42 stated her objection is strictly the fact that the President has to live in the [vicinity of the] Home Office. She asked isn't there a way that the President could work full-time in his/her home?

Rev. Altavilla questioned who, then, would be watching the shop? The Secretary/Treasurer would still be considered an employee who would have to be overseen by someone. Knowing the duties outlined in the Bylaws, the expectations are such that the President would have to work out of the Home Office.

Delegate 48, Sylvia Goda, Branch 42 asked if the attorney could address the issue and whether this would be discriminatory. She pointed out that other fraternal have their president work out of their home.

The Chair recognized Attorney Van Jura, who stated, "While you think it's unfair or that it excludes some people, as a practical matter, from taking the job, having the job description of President include the President's physical presence at the office full-time will

make it hard, if not impossible, to have some people meet those requirements. Does it discriminate? The answer is no. Does it reduce the pool of people? The answer is yes. It's up to the delegates to decide."

Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69 stated that this question was totally discussed at the last convention and that the delegates agreed the President would have to relocate.

Delegate 114, Anna Morris, Branch 173 stated we need a full-time President for the personal contact with employees and membership.

Delegate 63, Jim Tomasic, Branch 52 questioned that since working out of the Home Office would eliminate people living in Western Pennsylvania [from seeking the office], isn't this considered a legal standpoint?

Rev. Altavilla reiterated that Attorney Van Jura, as well as Monsignor Beeda, had just addressed that issue.

Delegate 122, Leocadia Donorovich, Branch L30 stated that when the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance stopped having the President present in the office at all times, "the initiative, the backbone, all the action just stopped." She said they started going down from that point on.

Delegate 103, Chuck Simalchik, Branch 151 agreed with the position remaining full-time. "The Bylaw reads: The office of President is full-time and does work out of the Home Office. The salary is good and competitive; someone who has the qualifications and initiative should be willing to relocate."

Delegate 25, Linda Kohut, Branch 14 reinforced what Delegate 103 (Chuck Simalchik) said, adding "not only does the President watch the staff, the staff keeps an eye on the President's activities as well."

Delegate 11, Trude Check-Tuhy, Branch 6 reiterated what the Chair had stated: "[The President] is the face of the organization" and there are 21 duties under the job description of President.

The question was called. The Chair reviewed the motion: "Should the office of President become a part-time position? A 'Yes' vote will change the position to part-time; 'No' will keep it as full-time." The vote was called by standing. The motion failed.

Rev. Altavilla stated that, along with the President's duties in Article 49, a recommendation was received to add, "Shall represent the LPSCU on the Executive Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation." He explained that this would just be a point of clarification since the President already represents the Union.

Delegate 55, Ceil Sarocky, Branch 42, seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69 questioned whether that would be included in 'R.' of Article 49: "Shall represent the LPSCU at national and other meetings if necessary or appoint a representative." Rev. Altavilla answered it would mean that the Slovak Catholic Federation is a separate issue.

The question was called. *Suhlas.*

Bishop Joseph Adamec lead the delegates in a prayer of blessing.

The convention adjourned for lunch.

Monday, June 28, 2004 Third Session

President Kosalko called the third session of the 38th National Convention to order. Spiritual Advisor Rev. Philip Altavilla offered

an opening prayer. Secretary/Treasurer Theresa Kluchinski was asked to do a roll call. The Secretary/Treasurer reported all delegates were accounted for, with 58 required for a majority.

President Kosalko called upon the Chair of the Bylaws Committee, Rev. Philip Altavilla, to continue with his report. Rev. Altavilla stated that a motion that has been seconded still remained on the floor to accept the proposed changes in their entirety, other than changes that have been made already, or else the consistencies that would be worked into the document based on changes made. He asked if there were any other specific numbers within the Bylaws that the delegates would like to discuss or had questions about.

Delegate 97, Rev. Joseph Evanko, Branch 124 questioned Article 27 regarding the office of President. Since the office of President cannot accept nominations from the floor, it is implied that all other offices can be nominated from the floor. The Chair agreed with that interpretation. Father Evanko made a motion to create a new Bylaw which would be Article 28, thereby moving all others, that would state that while nominations from the floor are to be accepted for the national officers, excluding the office of National President and the hired position of Secretary/Treasurer, upon acceptance of the nomination, nominees must provide in writing, even in handwritten form due to time, a resumé containing personal background history and past experiences to prove their qualifications for the office to which they have been nominated. "The point being is that someone presently could be nominated from the floor and not have to go through the same prerequisites that anybody else who has already applied for the position has, and they should have an opportunity to present their qualifications in writing."

Delegate 94, Pat Stearney, Branch 109 seconded the motion.

Discussion on this new article ensued from Delegate 103, Chuck Simalchik, Branch 151 and Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69 regarding who would be the judge of nominations coming from the floor – the Nominating Committee or the convention delegates? This discussion resulted in the original motion being withdrawn in favor of a new motion from Delegate 97, Father Joe Evanko, Branch 124: "While nominations from the floor are to be accepted for all National Offices, excluding the office of National President and the hired position of Secretary/Treasurer, upon acceptance of the nomination, nominees will provide a resume to the delegates of the National Convention, containing personal background history and past experience to prove their qualifications for that office to which they have been nominated." The motion was seconded by Delegate 94, Patricia Stearney, Branch 109. The motion was approved without opposition.

Delegate 11, Trude Check-Tuhy, Branch 6 questioned Article 34 in regards to the phrase "from time to time." "Since this was removed from Article 35, we should be consistent with our phrasing." Delegation agreed with *Suhlas*.

Rev. Altavilla asked if there were any other Articles that should be brought up for discussion. There being none, Rev. Altavilla reported that the committee received the following: "Each branch shall have the opportunity to elect alternates to represent that branch at convention in the event of unforeseen circumstances preventing an elected delegate from attending convention." This new article would follow the existing Article 62.

Delegate 89, Margaret Ferri, Branch 83 made a motion to accept the recommendation; seconded by Delegate 16, Hope Napkora, Branch 6. Discussion was heard from Delegate 55, Ceil Sarocky, Branch 42; Delegate 4, Theresa Kluchinski, Branch 48; Attorney Van Jura; Delegate 23, Agnes Janinek, Branch 8; Delegate 63, Jim Tomasic, Branch 52; Delegate 18, Patricia Shinal, Branch 6; and Delegate 71, Helen Lorinc, Branch 64 on the process that would be followed and when the alternate would be allowed to take effect. Current procedures allow for alternates to be named; however, they must be on file with the Home Office by the delegate deadline and it is only in the event a delegate is unable to attend that the alternate would become the delegate. Delegates approved the new Bylaw with *Suhlas*.

Delegate 35, Mary Luzbetak, Branch 28 questioned Article 44 concerning the secretary of the Executive Finance Committee: Since the Secretary/Treasurer is secretary of the Executive Finance Committee and that position is now a hired position, would that change this Bylaw?

Rev. Altavilla stated, "We do need to address that issue, however, we will hold that question until after we address Article 20. Article 20 addresses the make-up of the Executive Finance Committee (EFC); the proposed change is: 'The EFC shall consist of the following five: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Chairperson of Trustees, and Fraternal Activities Director.' The two new additions to the committee would be Vice-President and Fraternal Activities Director. Since the position of Secretary/Treasurer has been approved as a hired position as a non-voting member, we need further discussion."

Delegate 18, Patricia Shinal, Branch 6 stated Article 44 is fine as long as the Secretary/Treasurer is a non-voting person; however, another officer should be assigned to the EFC to create an odd number of members.

Rev. Altavilla answered Delegate 35 Mary Luzbetak's concern by stating "Article 44 would be fine since the Secretary/Treasurer is a non-voting person; however, under the existing article and the proposed article, the number of members on the EFC would be even and it should be odd." He asked for discussion.

Delegate 43, Justine Wesnak, Branch 38 asked for the rationale in having five on the EFC.

Secretary/Treasurer Theresa Kluchinski addressed this question by stating, "With the loss of our President this past year, it was apparent there was a loss of continuity. That is why the Vice President was added. With the Vice President being added, the number on the committee would be even, so we need to add another board member. Since the Fraternal Activities Director recommends activities for the Union, usually involving money, that position was selected."

Delegate 43, Justine Wesnak, Branch 38 suggested the EFC have President, Vice President, and Chairperson of Trustees and then add an addendum that the Fraternal Activities Director would be an alternate in the event one of the members could not fulfill his/her position.

LPSCU Counsel Joseph Van Jura suggested making it either three or five and to stay away from alternates. Discussion transpired on whether to have three or five members on the EFC and what positions should be the members.

Delegate 43, Justine Wesnak, Branch 38 made a motion that

“The EFC shall consist of the following five officers: President, Vice President, Chairperson of Trustees, the highest vote-getting Trustee, and the Fraternal Activities Director. Motion was seconded by Delegate 89, Margaret A. Ferri, Branch 83.

Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69 moved that: “The EFC consist of the President, Vice President, Chairperson of Trustees, and also the Secretary/Treasurer as a non-voting member.” This motion was seconded by Delegate 16, Hope Napkora, Branch 6.

Rev. Altavilla called for additional discussion on the motions. No further discussion was necessary and the vote was called.

The Balloting Committee counted 84 delegates in favor of the motion made by Monsignor Beeda, seconded by Hope Napkora.

Rev. Altavilla called for a vote on the motion made by Justine Wesnak, seconded by Margaret A. Ferri. The Balloting Committee counted 13 in favor of the motion; motion failed.

Rev. Altavilla stated Article 20 will read, “The EFC shall consist of the following three officers: President, Vice President, Chairperson of Trustees, and the non-voting Secretary/Treasurer.”

Rev. Altavilla asked if there were any other articles that needed to be discussed.

Delegate 18, Patricia Shinal, Branch 6 questioned Article 15: how the set per diem applies to those receiving an annual salary. Secretary/Treasurer Kluchinski stated that all Board members, including those receiving a full time salary, receive the set per diem. The per diem set by the Board of Directors is currently \$35.00 per day. Delegate 18 Patricia Shinal withdrew the question.

Rev. Altavilla asked if there were any other articles needing to be discussed.

There being none, Rev. Altavilla asked for a vote on the motion accepting all changes not specifically addressed. *Suhlas*. Rev. Altavilla thanked the members of the Bylaws Committee and the delegates.

A 10-minute recess followed.

President Kosalko called the convention back in session and asked Cecilia Gaughan to introduce the next guest. Ms. Gaughan introduced Right Reverend Abbot Clement Zeleznik, Abbot of St. Andrew’s Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio, to present greetings.

President Kosalko thanked Abbot Zeleznik for his kind words and introduced Chuck Simalchik, who had requested an opportunity to address the delegates. Chuck thanked the LPSCU for everything during this difficult time [the unexpected death of his mother, the late President Rita M. Simalchik], stating the LPSCU is like an extended family.

Cecilia Gaughan introduced Trude Check-Tuhy to present greetings on behalf of the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

President Kosalko thanked Ceil for the introductions and called upon Barbara Janicko, Chairperson of the Donations Committee.

Ms. Janicko introduced the members of the Donations Committee and thanked them for their help. The committee recommended that all applications received after the deadline of April 15th not be considered and then made the following recommendations:

St. Joseph’s Parish, Wilkes-Barre, PA	\$ 1,000
Benedictine Sisters, Iowa, IL	\$ 1,000
St. Joseph’s Memorial School, Hazleton, PA . .	\$ 1,500
St. Joseph’s Church, Hazleton, PA	\$ 1,000
Slovak Catholic Federation	\$ 1,000
St. John’s Baptist Parish, Taylor, PA	\$ 1,000
Jankola Library, Danville, PA	\$ 1,000
Sister Cities Program	\$ 500
Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Lakewood, OH	\$ 500
Slovak Heritage Society, Wilkes-Barre, PA . . .	\$ 500
St. Luke’s Church, Jersey Shore, PA	\$ 1,000
Saint Andrew’s Abbey, Cleveland, OH	\$ 2,000
St. John the Baptist Church, Allentown, PA . . .	\$ 500

President Kosalko asked for a motion to accept the report. Delegate 43, Justine Wesnak, Branch 38 moved for the acceptance of the report; Delegate 63, Jim Tomasic, Branch 52 second the motion. Discussion ensued.

Delegate 11, Trude Check-Tuhy, Branch 6 spoke on behalf of the Mayor of Sirocke in Slovakia for the elementary music school. A question as to whether the request was received on time was addressed. Ms. Tuhy had a signed receipt dated April 13th; however, the request was date-stamped the 18th. Discussion lead to Delegate 97, Father Joe Evanko, Branch 124 stating that “there needs to be a study done as to the real purpose of the LPSCU providing donations or grants. The Trustees need to develop a better application and determination of the purpose for distributing donations/grants.” Father Evanko further stated that if a delegate made a motion [regarding the music school], we could address that as a separate issue.

Delegate 81, Msgr. Beeda, Branch 69 motioned that a donation of \$1,000 be made to the school in Sirocke; the motion was seconded by Delegate 43, Justine Wesnak, Branch 38, and passed unanimously.

Delegate 83, Dave Palcsey, Branch 76 motioned to accept the Donations Committee Report and to award the rest of the grants; the motion was seconded by Delegate 89, Margaret Ferri, Branch 83. Unanimous.

Delegate 97, Father Joe Evanko, Branch 124 motioned that the Board of Trustees study the present application for donations and propose a revised application; seconded by Delegate 81, Msgr. Beeda, Branch 69. Unanimous.

President Kosalko thanked Chairperson Janicko for the report of the Donations Committee and introduced Joan Hladek, Chairperson of the Salary Committee.

Chairperson Hladek introduced the members of the Salary Committee and thanked them. The report presented the position, current salary, proposed salary, dollar amount of change and percent of change.

Position	Current	Proposed	Dollar	Percentage
Spiritual Director	\$6,596	\$7,500	\$ 904	14.25%
Fraternal Activities	\$5,497	\$6,500	\$ 1,003	18.25%
Public Relations	\$5,384	\$6,500	\$ 1,116	20.70%
Vice President	\$2,309	\$3,000	\$ 691	29.92%
Chair of Trustees	\$5,312	\$6,000	\$ 688	12.95%
Trustees – 1st Term	\$2,309	\$2,500	\$ 191	8.30%
Trustees – 2nd Term	\$2,309	\$3,000	\$ 691	29.90%
Trustees – 3rd Term	\$2,309	\$3,500	\$ 1,191	51.20%

Washington, D.C., June 26 to June 30, 2004, for their 38th National Convention, take this opportunity to acknowledge . . .” to be followed by the specific resolution. The delegates approved with *Suhlas*.

The resolutions are as follows:

- To Pope John Paul II for his apostolic blessing upon our convention. And we offer him our pledges of prayer as he celebrates his 84th birthday continuing in his 26th year of his pontificate. *Suhlas*.
- To Jozef Cardinal Tomko, for his greetings to our convention and offering him our congratulations and pledges of prayer as he celebrates his 80th birthday this year, which was March 11th, and the 21st anniversary of his ordination as archbishop, which will be on September 15th. *Suhlas*.
- To the Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, for his greetings and blessings upon our convention. *Suhlas*.
- To the Most Reverend Joseph V. Adamec, our Episcopal moderator, for his greetings and blessings upon our convention and for his being the celebrant and homilist at our 38th National Convention mass, held in the Crypt Chapel of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, our National Shrine, and for his personal greeting and embraces to the officers at this convention. *Suhlas*.
- To the Most Reverend Roger W. Gries, OSB, auxiliary bishop of Cleveland, Ohio, for his blessings and greetings to our national convention. *Suhlas*.
- To Father Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB, for his greetings and blessings upon our convention. We also acknowledge his being a concelebrant at the convention mass, his remarks at the convention banquet, and his greetings to the convention delegates. *Suhlas*.
- To Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki, OSB, of St. Vincent’s Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, for his greetings and blessings upon our convention. *Suhlas*.
- To the Most Reverend James C. Timlin, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Scranton, where our Home Office is located, on the occasion of his retirement, acknowledging his work with the Slovak community of our dioceses and our country and, in particular, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union. *Suhlas*.
- To Bishop Joseph Martino, newly-appointed bishop of Scranton, Pennsylvania, where the Home Office is located, offering him our prayers for his ministry. *Suhlas*.
- To the Most Reverend David Zubik, newly appointed bishop of Green Bay, Wisconsin, offering our pledges of prayers and acknowledging his work among the people of Pittsburgh as their auxiliary bishop. *Suhlas*.
- To President George W. Bush in support of his action against terrorism in our world and for his support for the defense of life in all its forms. *Suhlas*.
- To President Ivan Gasparovic, president of Slovakia, acknowledging his recent election to the presidency and offering our congratulations to Slovakia on its admittance to NATO and the European Community. *Suhlas*.

- To the first Slovak general consul in New York City, Dr. Evan Surkos, on his recent appointment to the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic. *Suhlas*.
- To Sister Linda Marie Bolinski, newly-elected superior general of the Congregation of Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius and her conciliore, Sister Donna Marie Ivanko, Sister Pamela Smith, Sister Jean Ambre, and Sister Michael Ann Orlik. *Suhlas*.
- To Sister Pamela Smith, a past general superior of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius and her conciliors for their work among the Slovak community. *Suhlas*.
- To Sister Mercedes Voytko for her work in renewing the Jankola Library and designating it also as a museum. *Suhlas*.
- To Monsignor Walter Rossi, pilgrimage director of the National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., for his warm welcome to the Shrine, for organizing our convention mass, and for his being named a chaplain to our Holy Father. *Suhlas*.
- To the Very Reverend Philip Altavilla, national chaplain, on the occasion of his 12th anniversary of priesthood and to the Rev. Joseph Evanko, a delegate, on the occasion of his 13th anniversary of ordination. *Suhlas*.
- To our past president, Cecilia Sarocky, on being a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association, which was presented to her by our Honorary Consul in Pittsburgh, Joseph Senko, on the 14th of February of this year, the feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius. *Suhlas*.
- To the members of the Executive Board for their outstanding organizing of this 38th National Convention, especially in the absence of our President. *Suhlas*.
- To the following churches for their celebrating their 100th anniversary: St. John the Baptist, Taylor, Pennsylvania; and the Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Lakewood, Ohio. *Suhlas*.
- To State Senator of Pennsylvania, Michael A. O’Pake, for being honored by the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress for his support and work with the Slovak fraternal in Pennsylvania. This award was presented by Jacqueline Sobania-Robinson, president of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress, and Lt. Governor Catherine Baker Knoll. *Suhlas*.
- To the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance for choosing the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union to become allied with and also welcoming them as members of the LPSCU. *Suhlas*.
- To the National Fraternal Congress, for the support that it has given to the courts for the phrase “one nation, under God” to remain in the Pledge of Allegiance. *Suhlas*.
- To Join Hands Day for acknowledging the participation of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union in its program and especially acknowledging the branches in Bethlehem (83, 130 and 196) for their participation, for which they won two Awards of Excellence in the years 2002 and 2003. *Suhlas*.
- To Charles Simalchik and his son, Chuck, acknowledging

recommended an amendment that every delegate receive \$25.

Delegate 103, Chuck Simalchik, Branch 151 made a motion that the recommendation be amended to read: "Since no planned event was held, each delegate registered at this convention shall receive \$25." Seconded by Msgr. Beeda, Delegate 81, Branch 69. President Kosalko called for a hand count.

Rev. Altavilla, Delegate 1, Branch 122 stated a roll call will need to be done prior to any voting. President Kosalko called upon Secretary/Treasurer Kluchinski for roll call. Secretary/Treasurer Kluchinski reported 113 delegates present; therefore, 58 is needed for a majority.

President Kosalko called for those in favor of the recommendation to stand. The Balloting Committee reported 91 votes in favor of the recommendation, 17 against, and no abstentions.

- Next recommendation: Have provisions on delegate forms for special needs. *Suhlas.*
- Delegates to have more of an input to say where and when the next convention will be held. *Suhlas.*
- Some type of retirement benefit for past honorary officers who served more than 20 years of service; they should be compensated. Discussion ensued.

Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69 clarified that it would be an honorarium.

Delegate 1, Rev. Altavilla made a motion that the honorary officers receive an honorarium to be determined by the Board at Christmas and Easter, along with a box of chocolates. The motion was seconded by Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69. Discussion continued.

Delegate 11, Trude Check-Tuhy, Branch 6 questioned whether that was to be in perpetuity. Rev. Altavilla answered in the affirmative.

Delegate 18, Patricia Shinal, Branch 6 questioned whether the delegates should set the honorarium rather than the Board, stating, "We are not a profit-making organization."

Delegate 102, Catherine Haddock, Branch 151 stated a Christmas bonus is enough and made a motion the honorarium be distributed once a year. This motion was seconded by Delegate 28, Irene Ditchkus, Branch 19.

Delegate 8, Joan Hladek, Branch 109 informed the delegates that at times our honorary officers are asked to represent the Union at various functions.

President Kosalko called the vote, asking for those in favor of the motion to distribute an honorarium once a year, at Christmas. Eighty-nine were in favor, 12 opposed, and 2 abstained. The motion passed.

- Chairperson Ackerman withdrew the recommendation regarding the names and addresses for the other fraternal.
- That the amount given to districts should be increased since the cost of living has been increased.

Chairperson Ackerman explained that currently districts (Okres) are given \$300 annually. This amount

has not changed in ten years and with the cost of living increasing, a request to increase this amount is being made. Discussion ensued.

Delegate 4, Theresa Kluchinski, Branch 48 reminded the delegates of the discussions throughout the convention concerning the economic impact on our organization, and how we need to be cautious about the money we're giving out and how much our salaries are, and that accountability is important.

A motion was made that this recommendation be placed in the hands of the Board of Directors. Delegate 11, Trude Check-Tuhy, Branch 6 seconded the motion. President Kosalko called the vote, with all in favor.

Chairperson Ackerman thanked the delegates. President Kosalko called for a 10-minute break.

President Kosalko called upon Justine Wesnak, who read President Kosalko's withdrawal of candidacy for the office of President.

President Kosalko called upon the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, Mary Ann Ewasko, to join her during the nominations from the floor.

President Kosalko called for nominations for the office of Spiritual Advisor. Delegate 83, Dave Palcsey, Branch 76 moved that the nominations for Spiritual Advisor be closed and that the Secretary cast a lone ballot; seconded by Delegate 63, Jim Tomasic, Branch 52. Motion approved.

President Kosalko asked for nominations for Vice President. Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69 nominated Anita Gregory; seconded by Delegate 107, Mike Frendak, Branch 156. Delegate 45, Tom Gaughan, Branch 40 nominated Justine Wesnak; seconded by Delegate 42, Joe Krajsa, Branch 38. Delegate 93, Jim Tomasic, Branch 52 moved that the nominations for Vice President be closed; seconded by Delegate 11, Trude Check-Tuhy, Branch 6.

President Kosalko asked for nominations for Chairperson of Trustees. Delegate 83, Dave Palcsey, Branch 76 moved that the nominations be closed and that the Secretary cast the lone ballot for Mary Ann Ewasko for Chairperson of Trustees; seconded by Delegate 16, Hope Napkora, Branch 6. *Suhlas.*

President Kosalko asked for nominations for Trustees. Delegate 94, Patricia Stearney, Branch 109 nominated Margaret Jollimore; seconded by Delegate 29, Jean Kapral, Branch 19.

Delegate 55, Ceil Sarocky, Branch 42 asked that the names of those individuals who filed intent forms be read. Chairperson Ewasko stated they are: Dolores Evanko, Barbara Janicko, Joan Hladek, Sylvia Goda, Charles (Chuck) Simalchik.

Delegate 11, Trude Check-Tuhy, Branch 6 moved that the nominations be closed; seconded by Delegate 83, Dave Palcsey, Branch 76.

Chairperson Ewasko stated that one intent form was received for Public Relations Director from Margaret Ferri. President Kosalko asked for nominations from the floor. Delegate 83, Dave Palcsey, Branch 76 moved that the nominations be closed and that the Secretary cast the lone ballot; seconded by Delegate 109, Mary Ann Siska, Branch 158.

Chairperson Ewasko stated that one intent form was received

for Fraternal Activities Director from Cecilia Gaughan. President Kosalko asked for nominations from the floor. Delegate 87, Mary Ann Ackerman, Branch 83 moved that the nominations be closed; seconded by Delegate 102, Catherine Haddock, Branch 151. Delegate 83, Dave Palcsey, Branch 76 asked that the motion be amended to include that the Secretary cast the lone ballot.

Chairperson Ewasko stated that five intent forms were received for Court of Appeals: Deborah Adamchak, Joan Ellen Friendak, Patricia Stearney, Mary Ann Kaylor, and Janice Mathews. President Kosalko asked for nominations from the floor. Delegate 83, Dave Palcsey, Branch 76 moved that the nominations be closed; seconded by Ann Dobias, Branch 194.

Delegate 83, Dave Palcsey, Branch 76 moved that the Secretary cast the lone ballot for Theresa Kluchinski for President; seconded by Delegate 16, Hope Napkora, Branch 6.

President Kosalko asked those individuals nominated from the floor to address the delegates. Anita Gregory, Justine Wesnak, and Margaret Jollimore were introduced and addressed the delegates.

Attorney Van Jura spoke to the issue of there being individuals aspiring for office presently serving on the Balloting Committee. It was agreed the following delegates would be appointed to serve on the Balloting Committee: Hope Napkora (chair); David A. Palcsey, Sr. (co-chair); members: Ann Dobias, Kathy Cook, Gail Shinal, and Elva Silay. Mary Ann Ewasko stated elections would take place after lunch.

President Kosalko introduced Ceil Gaughan, Chairperson of the Greetings Committee, who introduced the District Presidents and asked them to address the delegates. They are Jean Kosalko, Lehigh Valley Okres; Anita Gregory, Monsignor Beeda District; Joan Hladek, Illiana Okres; Anna Morris, Youngstown Okres; Barbara Janicko, Pittsburgh District; and Mary Ann Ewasko, Reverend Dianiska District.

Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69 asked if vice presidential candidate Justine Wesnak would clarify her position with the National Slovak Society since Article 18 of our Bylaws states, "A member or delegate who is a national officer/director/board of director of another fraternal benefit society may not hold office of the LPSCU."

Ms. Wesnak stated that she is a member of the National Slovak Society (NSS) and was employed until last June and that she currently writes an article for their publication as a service for the members of the First Slovak Wreath of the Free Eagle (which society merged with the NSS). She agreed to discontinue writing the article, if elected. Delegate 4, Theresa Kluchinski, Branch 48 questioned Ms. Wesnak with reference to her affiliation with the New York Fraternal Congress. Ms. Wesnak stated that she represents the NSS on the NYFC and is currently serving as president of the Congress. Discussion ensued regarding what the New York Fraternal Congress represents and whether it would be appropriate for Ms. Wesnak, if elected, to serve in a state where the LPSCU is not licensed. Ms. Wesnak agreed that, if elected, she would resign her position with the New York Fraternal Congress.

President Kosalko asked for a motion to close the session. Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69 made the motion, seconded by Delegate 16, Hope Napkora, Branch 6. President Kosalko called upon Rev. Altavilla for prayer. The session concluded 12:09 p.m.

Tuesday, June 29, 2004 Fifth Session

President Kosalko called the Fifth Session of the 38th National Convention to order and asked Rev. Altavilla to lead the delegation in prayer. President Kosalko introduced the first-time delegates, the oldest delegate (88 years old), and the youngest delegate (18 years old). The President then called upon Theresa Kluchinski to conduct a roll call.

Prior to conducting the roll call, Secretary/Treasurer Kluchinski reviewed a convention rule stating, "A delegate must be seated in his/her proper seat in order to be counted in the event of a vote," and added a new rule: "Delegates leaving the room will remove their badge and leave it with the sergeant-at-arms." Upon returning, delegates will receive their badge back and may return to their seat. The Secretary added that in the event an issue has been called to a vote, absent delegates will not be able to get back into the room. She then stated there are 114 delegates present, with the majority being 58.

Delegate 83, Dave Palscey, Branch 76 raised the question: "Do we need a majority on all or just the top vote winner?" Delegate 103, Chuck Simalchik explained that would be a plurality, and the Bylaws clearly state a majority is needed. Mr. Palscey asked that the Attorney speak to this issue. After further discussion, it was agreed a majority is needed, except for the Court of Appeals.

President Kosalko called upon Hope Napkora and David Palscey, chair and co-chair, respectively, of the Balloting Committee. Mr. Palscey explained the ballot to the delegates. Members of the Balloting Committee then distributed the ballots to all delegates.

While the Balloting Committee was collecting and counting ballots, President Kosalko called upon the Chairperson of the Greetings Committee, Cecilia Gaughan, who read greetings from Helen Durica, Branch 65, Homestead, Pennsylvania; Frederick Ohlde, Chairman of the Board, National Fraternal Congress of America; Sister Pamela Smith, General Superior, Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius; Frederick Grubbe, President, National Fraternal Congress of America; Mary Ann Mahoney, President, Czech Catholic Union; and Stephen Bacon, President, Youngstown Sister Cities. President Kosalko thanked Ms. Gaughan for the greetings and called upon David Palscey.

Mr. Palscey reported that the Balloting Committee distributed 114 ballots and received back 114 ballots. The ballots were read aloud with the following results:

Vice President	Anita Gregory	96
	Justine Wesnak	18
Trustees	Dolores Evanko	85
	Joan Hladek	73
	Chuck Simalchik	67
	Barb Janicko	61
Court of Appeals	President	Debbie Adamchak
	Secretary	Joan Ellen Friendak

Votes for Court of Appeals were Debbie Adamchak with 48; Joan Ellen Friendak with 23; Patricia Stearney with 18; Janice Mathews with 16; and Mary Ann Kaylor with 2.

President Kosalko thanked Mr. Palscey for a wonderful job and called upon Secretary/Treasurer Kluchinski to cast the lone vote for those who were unopposed. Secretary/Treasurer Kluchinski cast the lone vote for those individuals who were unopposed on our ballot.

President Kosalko called for a ten-minute break. Upon resuming, President Kosalko called upon the Chairperson of the Sergeant-at-Arms Committee, Margaret Jollimore, who introduced her committee. President Kosalko thanked Chairperson Jollimore and the committee members.

President Kosalko called upon the Chairperson of the Campaign Committee, Dolores Evanko for her report. Ms. Evanko stated the new campaign kicks off at this convention, entitled "No-Name Campaign." She reported that 14 applications were presented, totaling \$124,000 worth of insurance.

President Kosalko asked for a motion to accept the report. Delegate 16, Hope Napkora, Branch 6 motioned to accept the report; seconded by Delegate 55, Cecilia Sarocky, Branch 42. Motion accepted.

President Kosalko called upon the Chairperson of the Greetings Committee, Cecilia Gaughan for her report. Ms. Gaughan introduced the members of the committee and reported that five letters, one telephone message, fourteen personal greetings, and six greetings from the LPSCU districts had been received.

The President asked for a motion to accept the report. Delegate 87, Mary Ann Ackerman, Branch 83 moved to accept; seconded by Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69. Motion accepted.

President Kosalko asked if there was any unfinished business to discuss. Delegate 103, Chuck Simalchik, Branch 151 made a motion that the convention set a salary range for the Board of Directors to follow in hiring the Secretary/Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Delegate 55, Cecilia Sarocky, Branch 42. After discussion, the motion and second were withdrawn.

Delegate 11, Trude Check-Tuhy, Branch 6 motioned that the Board or an appointed committee study and revise, if necessary, the donation application, making it more detailed so that the convention Donation Committee would be in a better position to assess and prioritize the needs of the applicants to determine whether requests are considered a donation or a grant. Delegate 17, Lori Ann Napkora, Branch 6 seconded the motion. Motion accepted.

Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69 raised the issue of individuals aspiring for office being members of the Nominating Committee. Secretary/Treasurer Kluchinski explained how the committees are selected and when that takes place, thereby making it difficult to determine the individuals aspiring for office. The Secretary/Treasurer suggested that the situation be handled similarly to that of the Balloting Committee for the election of officers this morning, making it a standing practice.

Delegate 79, Janice Mathews, Branch 65 expressed concern over Board members chairing the Nominating Committee.

Delegate 18, Patricia Shinal Branch 6 suggested having an honorary officer or that the person be ex-officio.

Delegate 42, Joe Krajsa, Branch 38 stated that this is broader than the Nominating Committee; it extends to other committees as well. Mr. Krajsa stated it makes sense that Board members

should chair the committees; however, it should be in a non-voting or ex-officio capacity.

Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69 stated that the Board of Directors now has a consensus of what the delegates are thinking and he motioned that the Board study the problem and for the next convention be conscious of this fact. The motion was seconded by Delegate 17, Lori Ann Napkora, Branch 6. *Suhlas.*

Delegate 4, Theresa Kluchinski, Branch 48 stated this convention must give the authority to the Board of Directors to set up a committee to work on the minutes summarizing the official minutes of each session. A motion to this effect was made by Delegate 43, Justine Wesnak, Branch 38; seconded by Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69, after clarifying that the committee is comprised of Board members. Motion accepted.

Delegate 81, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69 asked that the discussion on future convention sites be opened and suggested Savannah, Georgia, or Charleston, South Carolina.

Delegate 28, Irene Ditchkus, Branch 19 suggested San Antonio, Texas.

Delegate 25, Linda Kohut, Branch 14 suggested Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Delegate 89, Margaret Ferri, Branch 82 suggested Opryland, Tennessee.

President Kosalko asked if there was any other business. Delegate 89, Margaret Ferri, Branch 83 questioned whether branches are going to receive their reimbursement of administration fees and stated the branches are not receiving information on the amount of premium paid. Secretary/Treasurer Kluchinski explained that since direct billing was more difficult than originally anticipated, reimbursement of the administration fee with an accompanying report has fallen behind schedule; however, it will be completed.

Delegate 83, Dave Palscey, Branch 76 suggested to the Campaign Committee that in the event of a tie, the prize money be aggregated and divided equally between those individuals who tied.

President Kosalko recognized Delegate 42, Joe Krajsa, Branch 38. Mr. Krajsa motioned that the convention authorize the Executive Finance Committee to pay all bills associated with the convention and thanked them for a wonderful job in arranging this convention; seconded by Delegate 102, Catherine Haddock, Branch 151. Motion accepted.

Rev. Altavilla thanked President Kosalko for a job well done.

President Kosalko called for a motion to adjourn. Delegate 83, Monsignor Beeda, Branch 69 made a motion to adjourn this session; seconded by Delegate 17, Lori Ann Napkora, Branch 6.

Monsignor Beeda provided a closing prayer and led the delegation in singing "God Bless America" and "Hej, Slovaci." The convention concluded 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa A. Kluchinski
National Secretary/Treasurer

Committee Members:
Theresa A. Kluchinski
Mary Ann Ewasko
Dolores Evanko
Margaret Jollimore



Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union
71 South Washington Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701