

**Minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention**  
**June 24 – 26, 2012 – Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania**

**Sunday, June 24, 2012**

*First Session*

President Theresa Kluchinski called the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union to order at 9:00 a.m. Spiritual Advisor, Reverend Philip Altavilla, V.G., offered an inspirational opening prayer. Chairperson of Trustees, Mary Ann Ewasko, led the delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the National Anthems of the United States of America, the Slovak Republic and Lithuania.

President Kluchinski called upon the Secretary-Treasurer, Mary Jo Savidge, for roll call followed by the Convention Procedures. Secretary-Treasurer Savidge welcomed the delegates and guests to the Convention. She asked the delegates to present applications when their name was called and explained that delegates are seated by district. Those branches not affiliated with a district were assigned to a district based on geographical location.

An individual has been designated from each district to respond to the Secretary's call when roll call is needed. Those individuals are: Rev. Dianiska District, Deborah Adamchak; Lehigh Valley District, Mary Ann Ackerman; Msgr. Beeda District, Mary Ann Litchock; Pittsburgh District, Elva Silay and the Illiana District, Ann Dobias. It is the responsibility of these individuals to inform the Secretary-Treasurer as to the number present and provide the name(s) of those absent. Secretary-Treasurer reported 75 delegates present at this session.

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the following Convention Procedures:

- Only delegates approved by the Convention Credential Committee and bearing proper identification will be allowed to attend the business sessions. The only exception is guests who are to be seated in the guest section.
- Sessions and meals are outlined in the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention booklet in the Daily Program section. You should have received the booklet in your registration packet.
- Mass will be celebrated each day at 7 A.M. refer to your Daily Program for the proper room.
- A prayer will be offered to open and end each session.

- Delegates must attend all sessions unless excused by the Convention or Credential Chairperson; such excuses will be recorded in the official minutes of each business session.
- Any delegate absent from any session without just cause and without permission of the Convention or the Credential Chairperson may result in payment of one-half of their expenses back to the organization.
- Guests wishing to address the convention will be escorted to the podium by a Greetings Committee member. Names and official titles of visitors wishing to address the Convention should be given to the Greetings Committee, who in turn will advise the Greetings Chairperson. A table is set up in the rear of the room.
- Delegates addressing the Convention must state their delegate number, name, and branch number, in that order.
- All delegates are requested to limit comments and remarks to two minutes on each subject discussed and one additional minute for a rebuttal.
- All voting shall be by show of hands or voice unless a secret ballot is requested or required.
- All cell phones and pagers are to be turned off during sessions.
- Badges must be worn at all times during sessions and meal functions.

President Kluchinski introduced the Board of Directors seated at the head table. The committees were introduced as published on a list provided to the delegates.

President Kluchinski called upon the Chairperson of the Credential Committee, Dolores Evanko, to give a preliminary report. Chairperson Evanko introduced the members of her committee and thanked them for doing a great job. Chairperson Evanko reported 76 delegates had registered at this time. President Kluchinski thanked Chairperson Evanko for the preliminary credential report stating the final report will be given tomorrow.

President Kluchinski called upon the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, Mary Ann Ewasko, to give a preliminary report. Chairperson Ewasko reported the following intent forms were received:

- Spiritual Advisor – Rev. Philip Altavilla, V.G.
- President – Theresa A. Kluchinski
- Vice President – Anita Gregory
- Chairperson of Trustees – Mary Ann Ewasko
- Trustees – Dolores Evanko, Joan Hladek, Margaret Jollimore, Elizabeth Melko

- Fraternal Activities Director – Cecilia Gaughan
- Public Relations Director – Margaret Ferri
- Court of Appeals – Deborah Adamchak, Mary Ann Kaylor, Janice Mathews, Patricia Stearney, Bernadette Walchek

President Kluchinski thanked Chairperson Ewasko for the preliminary Nominating Committee report and stated the final report will be given tomorrow, at which time nominations from the floor will be accepted, except for National President. President Kluchinski reminded delegates that nominees from the floor must provide resumes to the delegates of the National Convention.

President Kluchinski asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the 39<sup>th</sup> National Convention. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Delegate 24, Regina Kapral, Branch 19; seconded by Delegate 12, Mary Ann Ackerman, Branch 83. There being no corrections/changes the motion was accepted.

President Kluchinski asked for a motion to accept the Officers' Reports that were published in the program book. A motion to accept the Officers' Reports was made by Delegate 17, Hope Napkora, Branch 19; seconded by Delegate 70, Patricia Stearney, Branch 109. Reports accepted.

President Kluchinski called upon Rev. Philip Altavilla for the closing prayer. The first session recessed at 9:45a.m.

## **Monday, June 25, 2012**

### ***Second Session***

President Kluchinski called the second session of the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union to order at 9:00 a.m. Spiritual Advisor Rev. Philip Altavilla offered an inspirational opening prayer followed by a memorial service for those National, Honorary, Branch and/or District officers that have passed since our last convention.

President Kluchinski introduced LPSCU Legal Counsel, Jeffrey Malak; members of the Home Office staff, Maureen Grohowski and Beverly Kulesza; and retired Home Office staff, Patricia Weiksner.

President Kluchinski introduced Robert Kopec, CPA for the accountant's report.

Mr. Kopec referred to the handout that was provided in the delegate packet discussing what has transpired over the last several years regarding our financial position. Information regarding the statement of assets, liabilities, assigned funds, statement of operations, investment income by category, and bond information by maturity and class was included in the report and discussed. Mr. Kopec stated the biggest challenge over the next four years will be to maximize portfolio income while still maintaining investments that are high quality. Currently 97% percent of the bond portfolio falls in Class 1 through 3.

Mr. Kopec stressed the importance that the Society tries to increase insurance product sales and new products even in this difficult economy when people may not be willing to buy insurance. Today the Society maintains in excellent condition as noted on the balance sheet with 134% solvency ratio.

In closing, Mr. Kopec had three recommendations: consider offering other products, cut costs as much as possible and look for merger opportunities.

President Kluchinski thanked Mr. Kopec for his report and introduced Sam Urda, President of CPS Actuaries.

Mr. Urda referred to the handout provided to the delegates. This handout, reporting on the last five years, is the same information provided to the Board of Directors and filed in the Management, Discussion and Analysis Letter with the State Insurance Departments. Mr. Urda reminded the delegates of his report given at the 2008 National Convention which reflected a 150% solvency ratio and assets of approximately sixteen million dollars. The Society, by the end of 2008, lost almost two million dollars of assets and two million dollars of surplus due to the market decline. Investment reserves that were established (by regulation) were used to offset the loss. In 2009 and for the next few years the Society remained flat – not increasing but not decreasing while cutting expenses where possible.

Mr. Urda explained money coming into the society is from basically two sources: premium income and investment income. With premium income, the more you sell, the better off the union is. The average face amount of a life insurance certificate is \$2,600 and with the cost of funerals ranging \$4,500 to \$10,000, individuals selling for the LPSCU have some opportunities. With the increase in unemployment, many of those individuals lost their employer paid life insurance coverage and will be looking to purchase life insurance. Investment income is the main source for earning money for the Society. The forward thinking of the society leaders with investments and the operational set-up at the home office has

placed the society in a good position. The home office systems can handle double the amount of activity that is currently generated with the current staffing.

Mr. Urda addressed the “new measuring rule” used by the insurance departments – RBC or Risked Based Capital. LPSCU has a RBC of 13.6. Mr. Urda stated the insurance department starts to look closely at a society when their RBC is about 3.

In closing, Mr. Urda encouraged greater participation by delegates over the next few years, especially in selling and if there was a negative aspect of what has happened, selling would be a problem.

Delegate 19, Patricia Shinal, Branch 6 questioned reinsurance. Mr. Urda stated the LPSCU does not have a re-insurer and unless the society can provide an awful lot of business, it would be difficult to contract with a re-insurer.

Delegate 38, Justine Wesnak, Branch 38 questioned the maximum amount of insurance written on an insured. President Kluchinski explained the difference between a medical versus non-medical limit further clarifying the maximum amount of insurance on any member is derived through a calculation with the Society’s available surplus.

President Kluchinski thanked Mr. Urda for his report and called a ten minute recess.

Upon reconvening, President Kluchinski introduced Ellen Bush, Senior Vice President and Karen Natishan, Second Vice President from Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

Ms. Bush stated any type of investment portfolio that tries to match liabilities to assets, interest rates impact dramatically the pension returns. In the last four years, we’ve seen an incredible decrease in those rates. What a challenge it has been for the board and Executive Finance Committee who has done a tremendous job during incredibly difficult periods of time as it relates to opportunities and options. As we approach the end of this quarter, a familiar pattern is now emerging in the markets. For the last three years, we have seen deals rise in the first quarter, peak in the first quarter of the new year and successively decline into the summer months; and 2012 is progressing in a very similar fashion.

Ms. Bush referenced information provided to the delegates regarding our portfolio positive returns over a period of time, and not an easy period of time as it relates to

all of the bonds, certainly, but also to stocks and preferred equities. On a year to date basis, the portfolio is at a 5.87% return primarily being driven by 80% fixed portfolio. A summary of the dividend strategy fund reported 17% of total assets invested.

Ms. Bush stated fixed bond rates have been kept low by the Federal Reserve and at some point when things are better, corporate bond rates may get better. Another reason to keep rates low is to encourage investing in the equity market.

Ms. Bush then reviewed the two scholarship award programs: Ann Shinal Cichy and Bishop Grutka.

President Kluchinski thanked Ms. Bush and Ms. Natishan for their presentation and thanked all the presenters for taking the time to report to the delegates.

President Kluchinski introduced Cecilia Gaughan, Chairperson of the Greetings Committee, to introduce guests at the convention. The following guests were introduced:

- Right Reverend Abbot Christopher Schwartz, O.S.B., St. Andrew Abbey, Cleveland, Ohio
- Cynthia Maleski, Esq., National President, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Beachwood, Ohio
- Sue Ann Seich, National Secretary, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Beachwood, Ohio
- Reverend Monsignor Peter Polando, National Chaplain, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Beachwood, Ohio
- Steven Pogorelec, FIC, CEO and Supreme Secretary, Slovak Catholic Sokol, Passaic, New Jersey
- Reverend Andrew Hvozdovic, Supreme Chaplain, Slovak Catholic Sokol, Passaic, New Jersey and First Vice President, Slovak Catholic Federation
- Monsignor Robert Siffrin V.G., Chairman of the Conference of Slovak Clergy, Youngstown, Ohio
- Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, First Catholic Slovak Union, Independence, Ohio
- Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, First Catholic Slovak Union, Independence, Ohio

President Kluchinski thanked the Chairperson of the committee and our guests for taking time out of their busy schedules to be with the delegates at the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention.

President Kluchinski introduced two of our honorary officers that are delegates: Mary Ann Ackerman, Honorary Vice President and Ann Dobias, Honorary Trustee and thanked them for their past and continued service. President Kluchinski acknowledged Reverend Monsignor Francis J. Beeda, Honorary Spiritual Advisor, who was unable to attend.

Reverend Philip Altavilla called upon Bishop Joseph Adamec to close the second session with a prayer.

Recessed for lunch.

## **Monday, June 25, 2012**

### ***Third Session***

President Kluchinski called the third session of the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union to order at 1:30 p.m. Spiritual Advisor Reverend Philip Altavilla led the Convention in prayer.

President Kluchinski called upon Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge for roll call to determine the number of delegates present at this session. Secretary-Treasurer Savidge stated that the roll call verifies that there are 77 delegates present.

President Kluchinski called upon Dolores Evanko, Chairperson of Credential/Registration Committee, for the final report. Chairperson Evanko reported there are 77 delegates registered and thanked the committee for a wonderful job. Ms. Evanko proceeded to have LPSCU Legal Counsel, Jeffrey Malak, draw the winners of the Longaberger/ Vera Bradley Baskets that were donated by Margaret Ferri.

President Kluchinski thanked Chairperson Evanko, the committee members and Margaret Ferri and then called upon the Chairperson of the Salary Committee, Margaret Ferri for their report.

Chairperson Ferri introduced the committee members and reported the committee met twice with Mr. Urda, President of CPS Actuaries, who was present for the purpose of consultation, if necessary. Committee members reviewed the report

dated March 2012 prepared by CPS Actuaries regarding the results of the Society over the last five years as well as the March 31, 2012 quarterly statement and a schedule of 2012 salaries of various fraternalists as well as the LPSCU current salary schedule. After much discussion, the committee recommends the following:

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Spiritual Advisor             | \$ 10,150.00 |
| President                     | \$ 87,500.00 |
| Vice President                | \$ 4,500.00  |
| Chair of Trustees             | \$ 8,000.00  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Term Trustee  | \$ 3,318.00  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term Trustee  | \$ 3,842.00  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Term Trustee  | \$ 4,642.00  |
| Fraternal Activities Director | \$ 8,622.00  |
| Public Relations Director     | \$ 8,622.00  |
| Court of Appeals              | \$ 200.00    |

The salaries of Spiritual Advisor and President are an approximate 5% increase over their current salaries, the other salaries were increased approximately 3%, with an additional \$500 in base salary to the Vice President, whose duties have been increased due to the position's responsibility on the Executive Finance Committee. The Salary Committee also noted that the Board of Directors received only one cost of living increase during the previous term; two increases were voluntarily waived by the members of the Board.

The Salary Committee recommended that the per diem for officers be set at \$50 per day.

The Chairperson thanked the committee and asked if any member had anything to add, at this, Delegate 61, David Palscey, Branch 76 stated it is a complicated job for someone serving on this committee for the first time and recommended the Salary Committee should meet after the presentations of the accountant, actuary and investment consultants.

Chairperson Ferri moved for the acceptance of their report with the recommendation of member David Palscey, which was seconded by Delegate 24, Regina Kapral, Branch 19. The floor was opened to questions.

Delegate 37, Sylvia Goda, Branch 42 questioned whether Mr. Urda, acting as consultant to the Salary Committee, explained the implication of another downside in the economy as it would relate to the organization. Mr. Urda

responded that while you cannot assure yourself of anything in the next two or three years, movement in the society since 2008 has shown steady movement in the replacement of all reserves.

Delegate 49, Elva Silay, Branch 64 stated that delegates should be aware that in addition to the raise given at the convention, officers will receive a cost of living increase when approved by Social Security. President Kluchinski responded by stating that is not necessarily true, while the by-laws allow for the officers to receive a cost of living adjustment annually, the current board of directors refused their cost of living increase for January 2009 in the amount of 6.8%; however did receive a cost of living adjustment in January 2012 because the Society did reflect a profit for 2011.

There being no further questions, the question on the motion was called and approved with no opposition or abstentions.

President Kluchinski thanked Chairperson Ferri and the Salary Committee for their diligent work and then called Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, Mary Ann Ewasko for the report of the committee.

Chairperson Ewasko introduced the members of the committee and presented the committee report. There being no additional intent forms received, the Nominating Committee recommended the following:

| <b>Position</b>                | <b>Individual</b>              |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Spiritual Advisor              | Rev. Philip A. Altavilla, V.G. |
| President                      | Theresa Kluchinski             |
| Vice President                 | Anita Gregory                  |
| Chairperson of Trustees        | Mary Ann Ewasko                |
| Trustee                        | Dolores Evanko                 |
| Trustee                        | Joan Hladek                    |
| Trustee                        | Margaret Jollimore             |
| Trustee                        | Elizabeth Melko                |
| Fraternal Activities Director  | Cecilia Gaughan                |
| Public Relations Director      | Margaret Ferri                 |
| Court of Appeals – Chairperson | Deborah Adamchak               |
| Court of Appeals – Secretary   | Janice Mathews                 |
| Court of Appeals               | Mary Ann Kaylor                |
| Court of Appeals               | Patricia Stearney              |
| Court of Appeals               | Bernadette Walchek             |

A second was made by Delegate 18, Lori A. Napkora, Branch 6; President Kluchinski asked if there were any nominations from the floor for each position; hearing none, nominations for each position were closed. President Kluchinski then called the question. Motion was approved with no opposition or abstentions. Secretary/Treasurer Savidge cast the unanimous vote for those individuals who were unopposed.

President Kluchinski called Anita Gregory, Chairperson of the Balloting Committee, who introduced the committee members and stated there was no preliminary report necessary since there was no ballot.

President Kluchinski called upon Rev. Philip Altavilla, Chairperson of the By-Law Committee, for the committee report. Rev. Altavilla reported the committee met and discussed the proposed revisions, which also had been reviewed both by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department and also in conjunction with our attorney, Jeffrey Malak. The Chairperson also explained the rationale behind the separation of the Constitution and By-Laws. This repositioning creates two distinct documents. As Chairperson of the Committee, Rev. Altavilla moved for the acceptance of the proposed changes in total; with the understanding that during the discussion any particular item can be addressed. Delegate 16, Faith Chipeleski, Branch 6 seconded the motion.

Delegate 19, Patricia Shinal, Branch 6 asked for Attorney Malak to explain to the delegates the reason for removing the word “shall”, which is a mandatory word and putting in the word “will”. Attorney Malak stated the intent was to make it easier for the Board to transact business between conventions. The word “will” gives a more flexible approach to governing, since the supreme authority, the convention, only meets within so many years.

Delegate 19, Patricia Shinal, Branch 6 questioned under the constitution, Page 11, Paragraph (d), it says to determine the salary of all the officers except the Secretary/Treasurer; and then it says subject to the annual increase based on cost of living index as opposed to what is written in the by-laws on page 20, article VI, 1 (a), it says that it’s one of the duties of the Board of Directors, responsible for the annual performance review of the Secretary/Treasurer. Should we add the language “subject to annual increase based on the cost of living”?

President Kluchinski clarified that the Secretary/Treasurer is not entitled to a cost of living adjustment as are the other officers.

It was recommended to change Article VII Section 4 (d) which read “To determine the salary of all the Officers, except the Secretary/Treasurer, subject to annual increase based on cost of living index.” to read “To determine the salary of all the Officers, subject to annual increase based on cost of living index, except the Secretary/Treasurer.”

Delegate 21, Charles Simalchik, Branch 7 questioned Article V Membership under the Constitution, if the Catholic requirement is being entirely removed, to which the Chairperson responded in the affirmative. Mr. Simalchik asked for clarification, since the Roman Catholic faith is the official religion and membership must consider it their sacred duty to fulfill all religious obligations to God and the Church.

Rev. Altavilla responded that the Church of Christ encompasses more than just the Roman Catholic Church and while the LPSCU has the Roman Catholic faith as its religion, it may not necessarily be the faith tradition of all its members. The LPSCU is a Catholic organization, but not all members may be Roman Catholic.

Delegate Simalchik further questioned that since the Articles of Incorporation state “that membership in said association shall be limited to bona-fide communicants, or members of the Catholic faith, Roman or Greek Rite and to persons married to such bona-fide communicants”, that the article then would need to be modified; to which he received an affirmative answer from Attorney Jeffrey Malak.

Chairperson Altavilla also reported the committee received one proposal: Any member aspiring to national office need not be a delegate to the convention but must submit an application and resume either by convention application deadline by submitting that application and a resume at the convention. This implies that the person submitting such application will be responsible for their own expenses. The committee recommended that this not go through and felt strongly that anyone aspiring to office should be at the convention; and even if, because we know in some branches, perhaps people would like to come but perhaps can't, that they have recourse to the home office.

Chairperson Altavilla asked for any further questions, hearing none; called the question on the motion. Motion passed with one change. President Kluchinski thanked Rev. Altavilla for chairing the By-Law Committee.

President Kluchinski reported that we are ahead of schedule and will continue to move ahead with the agenda and should finish all business early Tuesday morning; however, while the convention will officially adjourn, those present are encouraged to stay and have an open forum of questions and answers regarding the products and benefits of the organization, where the organization is heading, etc.

President Kluchinski called Anita Gregory, Chairperson of the Balloting Committee, for their final report. Chairperson Gregory reported since there was a full slate of candidates with no opposition, the delegates accepted the slate as presented, with Secretary/Treasurer Savidge casting the unanimous vote, no ballots were necessary. Chairperson Gregory concluded by congratulating all the newly elected officers and thanked the members of the committee. The final report was given to the Secretary/Treasurer to be kept on file.

President Kluchinski called Margaret Jollimore, Chairperson of the Recommendations Committee for their report. Chairperson Jollimore reported the committee met after the first session and no one has come forward with any recommendations. With exception of the recommendation that was made by Mr. Palcsey during the report of the Salary Committee and one from the committee members that the name badges be larger in print for the next convention. The only other recommendation came from the Board of Directors in that the Recommendations Committee be dissolved and not established for future conventions. President Kluchinski received a second from Delegate 70, Patricia Stearney, Branch 109 and opened the floor for questions.

Delegate 21, Charles Simalchik, Branch 7 questioned if anyone knew the history of why the Recommendations Committee was established in the first place. President Kluchinski could not determine the reason but provided suggestions as to why the committee may have been established in the past; however noting that with the current protocol in place for Board Meetings and Conventions this should not be an issue and hoped that if a member has a question or issue they come forward immediately rather than waiting for a Board Meeting or Convention.

There being no further questions, the motion passed without opposition or abstentions.

President Kluchinski called the Chairpersons of the Donation Committee, Joan Hladek and Elizabeth Melko for their report. Co-Chairperson Hladek introduced the members of the committee and reported that while in 2008 the committee had fifteen requests this year there were only seven:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities, Poland, Ohio .....      | \$ 300.00   |
| Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.....   | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Project Donating Joy of Trucksville, Pennsylvania.....             | \$ 500.00   |
| Dismas House of Massachusetts of Worcester, Massachusetts.....     | \$ 400.00   |
| Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish of Hazleton, Pennsylvania.....     | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Catholic University at Ruzomberok of Ruzomberok, Slovakia.....     | \$ 1,500.00 |
| St. John the Baptist Slovak Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania..... | \$ 2,500.00 |

Total donations \$12,200.00 out of a total budget of \$15,000.00. Co-Chairperson Melko reported that the committee discussed a recommendation from the Board of Directors that the Donations Committee be dissolved; therefore, future conventions would not distribute monies. Rather than monies being awarded every four years, the Board feels that local branches and districts through our Matching Funds Program can provide donations to local non-profit organizations, thereby encouraging members to participate in activities more often. The committee moves for the acceptance of this report. A second was made by Delegate 17, Hope Napkora, Branch 6. The floor was opened to questions.

Delegate 19, Patricia Shinal, Branch 6 questioned if there is going to be a cap on donations, that currently through Convention we offer \$15,000 how much will be given through the Matching Fund Program? President Kluchinski stated that each branch and/or district can submit twice in a year for a total of \$400 for a district and \$200 for a branch. Currently the annual budget for donations is \$7,000 we would probably add several thousand to that figure and based on current usage of the program that is more than sufficient.

There being no further questions, the delegates accepted the report of the Donations Committee without opposition or abstention.

Ten minute recess transpired.

President Kluchinski called Chairperson of the Greetings Committee, Cecilia Gaughan to introduce guests to the convention, to which Chairperson Gaughan introduced:

- David Blazek, National President, National Slovak Society, McMurray, Pennsylvania
- Linda Strom, National Secretary/Treasurer, National Slovak Society, McMurray, Pennsylvania

- Nina Holy, Secretary/Treasurer, Slovak League of America

President Kluchinski called the Chairperson of the Campaign Committee, Dolores Evanko for their report.

Chairperson Evanko reported the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention Campaign brought in a total of \$996,000 worth of insurance, with \$630,000 representing 75 certificates that qualified for the campaign; \$267,000 was excluded representing 50 certificates and additional 16 certificates totaling \$99,000 sold from Home Office was also excluded. The new campaign – 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention Appreciation Campaign will include issue dates from July 15, 2012 through December 15, 2012 with three prizes being awarded: 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$200; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize \$150 and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize \$100.00. A \$50 bonus for selling the most term insurance will also be awarded. Excluded are annuity products and life certificates with a face amount of less than \$5,000. It was reported that twenty-nine applications were received at this convention totaling \$152,000. Chairperson Evanko thanked the committee for their work and moved for the acceptance of the report. A second was made by Delegate 18, Lori Napkora, Branch 6. There being no further discussion, motion was approved without opposition or abstentions.

President Kluchinski introduced first time attendees to which there were fifteen. She then asked for a motion to allow the Board of Directors to assign a committee to work on the minutes for this convention. Delegate 27, Justine Wesnak, Branch 38 made the motion and it was seconded by Delegate 17, Hope Napkora, Branch 6. There being no further discussion, the delegates approved the motion without opposition or abstentions.

A motion was made by Delegate 12, Mary Ann Ackerman, Branch 83 to have the officers pay all the bills associated with the 2012 Convention; seconded by Delegate 49, Elva Silay, Branch 64. There being no further discussion, the delegates approved the motion without opposition or abstentions.

President Kluchinski opened the floor to suggestions for the 2016 National Convention, to which the following was received: Hershey, Gettysburg, Pittsburgh or Western Pennsylvania, Bethlehem, New Orleans.

President Kluchinski asked the Chairperson of the Greetings Committee, Cecilia Gaughan, if there were any other greetings to be read, to which Chairperson Gaughan read a greeting from Bernadette Demechko, Secretary of the Youngstown

Sister Cities Program; she also read a Proclamation from the City of Wilkes-Barre, Office of the Mayor, Thomas M. Leighton.

President Kluchinski asked if anyone had any unfinished business to be brought forward. Delegate 70, Patricia Stearney, Branch 109 questioned if we invite any Lithuanian organizations? President Kluchinski responded that we do not have any affiliation with Lithuanian organizations, fraternal or otherwise. Rev. Altavilla commented that there is a Lithuanian Catholic Federation; however no attempt, by either side has been made.

Rev. Altavilla extended greetings on behalf of Monsignor Francis J. Beeda, Honorary Spiritual Advisor, and to convey assurances that we are in his prayers as we gather.

Abbot Christopher Schwartz, O.S.B., recited a closing prayer before the delegates recessed until Tuesday morning.

## **Tuesday, June 26, 2012**

### ***Fourth Session***

President Kluchinski called the fourth session of the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union to order at 10:00 a.m. Spiritual Advisor Reverend Philip Altavilla led the Convention in prayer.

Bishop Joseph V. Adamec, LPSCU Episcopal Protector, installed the newly elected Officers. President Kluchinski thanked Bishop Adamec for his presence at the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention.

President Kluchinski called upon Chairperson Gaughan for a final report of the Greetings Committee, whereby Chairperson Gaughan reported there were thirteen greeters, one proclamation and one letter.

Dolores Evanko, Chairperson of the Campaign Committee, was asked to complete the drawings for the gifts donated by the committee members and Cecilia Gaughan was asked to announce the winners of the "Then and Now" contest.

There being no further business, the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union was adjourned on a motion from Delegate 17, Hope Napkora, Branch 6 and a second from Delegate 83, Bernadette Walchek, Branch 213. Motion passed.