

# СРПСКИ ГЛАСНИК / SERBIAN HERALD

## St. George Serbian Orthodox Church

*Lenexa, Kansas*



Serbian Orthodox Diocese of New Gracanica and Midwestern America  
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### OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA ...

*Please visit our website, [www.st-george-church.org](http://www.st-george-church.org)  
for a schedule of Lenten services.*

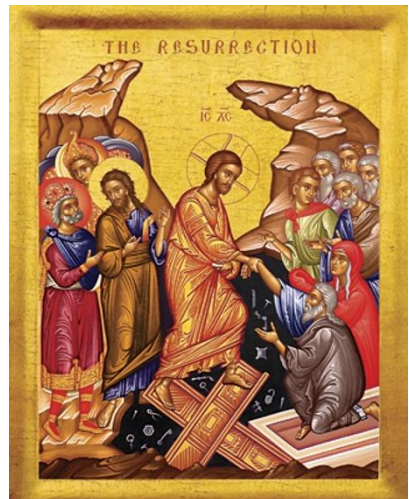
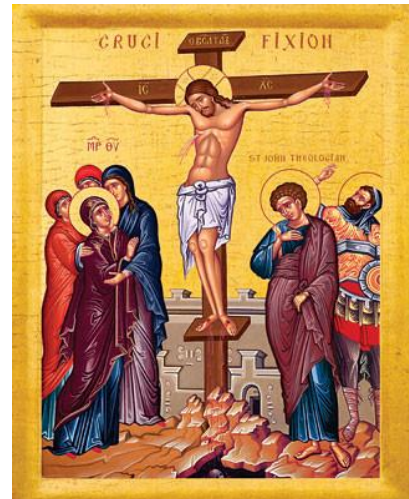
*Easter/Pascha is Sunday, April 12, 2026*



“O Lord and Master  
of my life,  
Take from me the spirit  
of sloth, despair,  
lust of power  
and idle talk;

But give rather the spirit of chastity,  
humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.

Yea, O Lord and King,  
grant me to see my own transgressions  
and not to judge my brother, for blessed  
art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.”



## A message from Fr. Radomir ...

### Why you should take the next 40 days Great Lent to radically transform your life

Today I'm writing to you to urge you to change your life.

If you're totally happy with everything, you have no problems, and nothing ever bothers you, feel free to ignore me. But if – at the bottom of your heart – you have a troubling sense that there's got to be more to this life, read on, because...

To quote a famous song, right now "it's the most wonderful time of the year!"

Of course, I don't mean Christmas, I mean Great Lent. When it comes to spiritual life, there's no other time of year where nearly everything our Church says is so conducive to a **radical change of life**. If you've never experienced this transformation, no matter how small, you really haven't lived an Orthodox life. And you're missing out!

But before we get into it, let's clear up a few common misconceptions.

Great Lent is not simply an outward exchange of meat products for meat-*like* products...

It's a special time when our Church encourages us to live a life of *intensified prayer*. It's a time when we give relief to our soul and body by abstaining from rich foods and decadent pleasures.

For what purpose? For the purpose of being a little more prepared for a face-to-face meeting with our Lord.

You might find this disturbing, but I urge you to be open-minded. You see, some very wise people call Great Lent a *small death*. Because for 40 days or so, – to the extent of our spiritual ability – we tear our thoughts away from everything worldly and begin thinking in terms of *eternity*. We meditate on the coming Judgment, on the recompense to sinners and the righteous... We take stock of what has already been achieved, and what we haven't even begun to do.

In this way, we *die* – or at least *pause* – in relation to everyday life. Orthodox Christians have been choosing to make this pause – for the glory of God – for 2,000 years. St Sava did it. So did St George. How can I be so sure? Because all I have to do is look at the fruits of their labors that are seen even to this day. Neither of them could have endured what they endured without a deep spiritual ascetic life. So, if you want to honor them – imitate them!

Now's the perfect season to do this because Great Lent (if spent in the right way) becomes an *investment* not just into our mental and physical health on this Earth... It becomes a rich endowment in our *next life*.

When you hit the pause button on your remote, exchanging Netflix for the Psalter, trade happy hour for prayer hour in a quiet, darkened church, ***something changes in you.***

When you do these things – even temporarily, even inconsistently – you start to change the way you think and act. Instead of inevitably following your fallen nature, you start asking yourself: “Will God be pleased or sad if I do *this*?”

One consequence of living this way is developing *radical honesty*. If your mind is constantly checking in with the Lord, you'll start seeing your own shortcomings. I know that doesn't sound too inviting, but wouldn't it be interesting to finally find out what everybody else already knows about you?

And once you realize how imperfect you really are, you can repent and confess, and in that way -- grow closer and closer to God.

I'm not a life coach, so I won't promise you exciting results in 40 days or less. But I can tell you one thing. If you want to experience heaven on Earth this Pascha, try this simple experiment this Great Lent:

- Come to church at least twice a week. You'll discover a wealth wisdom and comfort you never knew existed
- Unplug. Allow yourself a season of rest from second-hand drama.
- Instead of watching a show, read an Orthodox book.
- Fast to the extent of your ability. (getting blessing from me- fr. Radomir)
- Repent and confess. Experience first-hand what purity of heart means.
- Take Holy Communion. Unite with your God – the way He wants you to.

If you do these things for the glory of God – not for ticking some sort of box – you will experience this Pascha in a very different way. You will understand

why at every Liturgy we sing: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” You will understand why clergy so annoyingly talk about the same tools: confession, fasting, and prayer. It’s because we know that they work. St Sava would agree. So would St George. Try it yourself this Lent.

In Christ

Your parish priest

Priest Radomir Plavsic

**Зашто би требало да искористите наредних 40 дана Великог поста да радикално промените свој живот.**

Данас вам пишем да вас подстакнем да промените свој живот.

Ако сте потпуно задовољни свиме, немате проблема и ништа вас никада не узнемирава, слободно ме игноришите. Али ако – у дубини срца – имате узнемирујући осећај да у овом животу мора бити више, читајте даље, јер...

Да цитирам познату песму, тренутно је „најчаробнија доба године!“

Наравно, не мислим на Божић, мислим на Велики пост. Када је у питању духовни живот, нема другог доба године где је скоро све што наша Црква каже тако погодно за **радикалну промену живота**. Ако никада нисте доживели ову трансформацију, ма колико малу, заиста нисте живели православним животом. И пропуштате много!

Али пре него што се упустимо у то, хајде да разјаснимо неколико уобичајених заблуда.

Велики пост није само спољашња замена месних производа за производе сличне месу...

То је посебно време када нас наша Црква подстиче да живимо животом *интензивне молитве*. То је време када олакшавамо својој души и телу уздржавајући се од богате хране и декадентних задовољстава.

С којим циљем? Да бисмо били мало спремнији за сусрет лицем у лице са нашим Господом.

Можда ће вам ово бити узнемирујуће, али вас позивам да будете отвореног ума. Видите, неки веома мудри људи називају Велики пост *малом смрћу*. Јер око 40 дана, – колико год нам је то духовно могуће – откидамо своје мисли од свега светског и почињемо да размишљамо у смислу *вечности*. Созерцавамо и размишљамо о предстојећем Суду, о накнади грешницима и праведницима... Правимо рачун онога што је већ постигнуто, а шта нисмо ни почели да радимо.

На овај начин *умиремо* – или барем правимо *паузу* – у односу на свакодневни живот. Православни хришћани већ 2000 година бирају да праве ову паузу – у славу Божију. Свети Сава је то урадио. Такође је и Свети Ђорђе. Како могу бити тако сигуран? Јер све што треба да урадим јесте да погледам плодове њиховог труда који се виде и данас. Ниједно од њих не би могло да издржи оно што су они издржали без дубоког духовног аскетског живота. Дакле, ако желите да им одате почаст – имитирајте их!

Сада је савршено време за то јер Велики пост (ако се проведе на прави начин) постаје инвестиција не само у наше ментално и физичко здравље на овој Земљи... Он постаје богат дар у нашем *следећем животу*.

Када притиснете дугме за паузу на даљинском управљачу, замените Нетфликс за Псалтир, замените срећан сат у кафани за молитвени час у тихој, замраченој цркви, ***нешто се мења у вама***.

Када радите ове ствари – чак и привремено, чак и недоследно – почињете да мењате начин на који размишљате и делујете. Уместо да неизбежно следите своју падшу природу, почињете да се питате: „Хоће ли Бог бити задовољан или тужан ако ово урадим?“

Једна од последица оваквог живота је развијање *радикалне искрености*. Ако ваш ум стално проверава са Господом, почећете да видите своје недостатке. Знам да то не звучи превише примамљиво, али зар не би било занимљиво коначно сазнати шта сви други већ знају о вама?

И када схватите колико сте заправо несавршени, можете се покајати и исповедити, и на тај начин - постати све ближи и ближи Богу.

Нисам животни тренер (лајф коуч), тако да вам нећу обећати узбудљиве резултате за 40 дана или мање. Али могу вам рећи једну ствар. Ако желите да доживите рај на Земљи овог Васкрса, испробајте овај једноставан експеримент овог Великог поста:

- Дођите у цркву најмање два пута недељно. Открићете богатство, мудрост и утеху за које нисте ни знали да постоје.
- Искључите се. Дозволите себи период одмора од драме из друге руке.
  - Уместо да гледате емисију, читајте православну књигу.
- Постите колико год можете. (добиајући благослов од мене - о. Радомир)
- Покајте се и исповедите се. Искусите из прве руке шта значи чистота срца.
- Примите свето причешће. Сједините се са својим Богом - онако како Он жели.

Ако чините ове ствари за славу Божију – а не за испуњавање неке врсте поља – доживећете овај Васкрс на сасвим другачији начин. Разумећете зашто на свакој Литургији певамо: „Блажени чисти срцем, јер ће Бога видети.“ Разумећете зашто свештенство тако досадно говори о истим алатима: исповести, посту и молитви. То је зато што знамо да делују. Свети Сава би се сложио. Такође би се сложио и Свети Ђорђе. Пробајте сами овог поста.

У Христу

Ваш Парох

Јереј Радомир Плавшић

## From the President ...

Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter this sacred season, we warmly welcome the beginning of **Great Lent**, a blessed time of spiritual renewal in the life of the Orthodox Church.

With heartfelt gratitude and humility, I write to you as the newly elected President of our beloved Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church. It is both an honor and a blessing to serve this extraordinary community of faith, tradition, and love in Christ.

As I step into this role, I first want to express my deep appreciation for those who have faithfully served before me—our clergy, board members, volunteers, and all who have dedicated countless hours to sustain and strengthen our parish. Their commitment has built the foundation upon which we now continue to grow.

Our church is not simply a building; it is a living body made up of each of you, your prayers, your presence, and your participation. Together, we celebrate the Divine Liturgy, nurture our youth in the Orthodox faith, cherish our culture and language, and serve those in need. These sacred responsibilities call us to unity, love, and a shared vision for the future.

In the months ahead, my focus will be on three essential goals:

1. **Spiritual Growth** – Encouraging deeper engagement in worship and education for all generations.
2. **Community Strength** – Fostering fellowship and service through parish events, outreach, and mutual support.
3. **Sustainable Stewardship** – Ensuring the responsible care and development of our church's resources for future generations.

I warmly invite each of you to take an active role in the life of our parish. Whether through attending services, volunteering, joining a committee, or supporting new initiatives, your contributions—large and small—enrich our community and strengthen our faith.

May the prayers of Saint George, our patron and protector, guide us in all that we do. Let us move forward together with faith, love, and renewed devotion to Christ and His Holy Church.

With gratitude and love in Christ,  
Michael Kimbell  
President, Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church

**Donations to our Church can be made on our website:  
[www.st-george-church.org](http://www.st-george-church.org), given at Church, or mailed to our address:  
 11001 Greenwood St., Lenexa, KS 66215.**



### **KOLO SRPSKIH SESTARA “SV. PETKA” ...**

We are off to a great start to the year. First, we provided snacks after services on Badnja Vece and on Christmas and the dinner for the New Year’s Celebration dance. Shortly following was our annual Sveti Sava Celebration. I want to personally thank all of the Kolo sisters that give so much of their time and talent to make each of these events successful. We could not do it without you.

Looking ahead, the Church will be celebrating its 120<sup>th</sup> Church Slava the first weekend of May. And once again, our Sv. Petka Kolo, will be providing a banquet for our own parishioners as well as out-of-town guests. I am confident that it will be a huge success.

If you are not a Kolo member and would like information on how you can join, please contact me or any board member. My contact information is [marie\\_henre@yahoo.com](mailto:marie_henre@yahoo.com). May the Lord continue to bless us throughout the year.

Marie Henre Sv. Petka Kolo President

### **Bazaar 2025**

The Kolo hosted our annual Bazaar on November 22. Our Bazaar has become a “well-oiled machine” thanks to efforts of everyone involved! The months of preparation of our food and pastries prior to the Bazaar, and the time and energy dedicated to the day of the Bazaar is very much appreciated. Our online pre-sales also continue to be an efficient and successful part of the Bazaar.

Most importantly, we continue to hear very positive comments from our guests about the delicious food and the warm, welcoming atmosphere. We should be proud of the fact that we are able to share our culture and traditions in such a positive way.

I would like to thank EVERYONE for all of the hard work and time dedicated to our Kolo and church community, and I encourage anyone who has not participated in the past to volunteer for next year’s Bazaar!

Donna Bajich  
 Bazaar Chair



### **ST. GEORGE CHOIR ...**

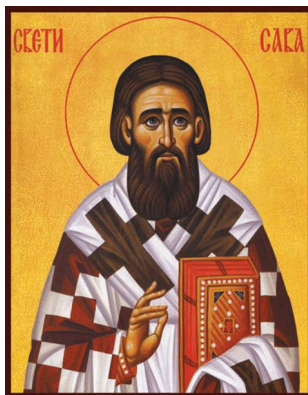
Your church choir has another busy year planned for 2026. In addition to our main duty of singing responses on Sundays, thank you to our members who were able to show up and sing responses throughout this past holiday season.

The choir will be hosting our annual Choir Slava for St. Nikolaj of Zica on March the 15th with a luncheon to follow service that Sunday and event chaired by Seja Bajich. We will be having our lenten fish fry on Friday, April 3rd also chaired by Seja Bajich. After church on Sunday, April 5th there will be a lenten bake sale, all things posno, to prepare us for Holy Week organized by Lisa Gribble and Jordan Beeves.

Your choir will once again be sponsoring the Serbia Booth at the Ethnic Enrichment Festival the 3rd weekend of August. We always appreciate those who are able to volunteer their time to help work this event as well as those donating baked goods etc. Co-chairs for this event are Lisa Gribble and Jelena Miller. We really appreciate the hard work it takes to chair such an event.

We will be hosting our annual fall choir concert featuring our honored guests the Holy Trinity Cathedral Choir from Pittsburgh, PA as well as the St. Nicholas Choir from Omaha, NE. We are still up in the air for a date for our concert weekend but will most likely be in October so be on the lookout for that. While we will not be participating in this year's SSF Festival in Steelton, PA, we do have fall travel plans. We are invited to be the honored guest choir for the Stevan Sijacki Choir in Milwaukee, WI the weekend of October 17th. All in all another event filled year for your church choir, we are always appreciative of all your support and charity. Here's to a successful and blessed 2026.

Harold Kanatzar  
Choir President



### **CHURCH SCHOOL ...**

We have been blessed to have had church school classes since September 2025, with an average number of students of 18. A special appreciation goes to our teachers, Miro Cubric, Stephanie Mattivi, Leah Lemley, Popadija Alena and Nick Mattivi, who continue to dedicate their own time planning lessons and organizing various activities for our children.

**Our annual Fall Festival**, graciously hosted by the Gribble Family, was held on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Another great time was enjoyed by everyone (see pictures on the church website).

**On Badnja Vece**, 31 students, led by Anna Bajich, sang several beautiful songs to the delight of their parents and all those present at the Christmas Eve Service. Please visit our church website for the video of the children’s performance.



**Our annual Sveti Sava Celebration** was held on Sunday, January 25th, 2026, with over 30 students participating and WOW, what an **AWESOME CELEBRATION!!!**

Congratulations to our Kuma, Miro Cubric, who has tirelessly and passionately served our children with over 35 years of teaching and attending our annual EOYC Church Camp as the Camp Nurse and a Counselor. Thanks again to Dayna Meyers and our Kolo for preparing and providing the delicious luncheon, our Choir for singing responses and of course Mary Jean Venema for our dessert! Much appreciation is given to Dragana Lugonja who distributed the poems to the children and to the parents who assisted and encouraged their children in learning their poems. Please visit our church website for the video of the children’s performance.

**On Cheese Fare Sunday**, the older students, coordinated by Shauna Bajich and her **A-Team**, provided a variety of special delights for our luncheon to be shared by everyone in attendance.

**EOYC Camp** will start the week of July 26<sup>th</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>, in which attendance and participation in church school will assist in reducing your student’s registration fee.

Paul Bajich  
Church School Superintendent





### **ST. GEORGE LODGE #43 ...**

Greetings to the parishioners of St. George Church!

Lodge #43 held their annual assembly on Sunday, December 21, 2025. During the meeting we welcomed our newest lodge members: Aidan Brown, Angelica Brown, Cassia Brown, Emily Javor, Nikola Javor, Milena Jovanovic, Stefan Jovanovic and Jovan Ozegovic. Going forward in 2026, we hope to see our membership continue to grow even more! The assembly ended with all former officers being reelected.

There are plenty of good reasons to be members of the Serb National Federation - quality life insurance, annuities, and even sponsored sports, academic and cultural events. Scholarships are also available to high school and college students. More information about the SNF can be found at their website, [snflife.org](http://snflife.org).

Save the date for Lodge 43's annual luncheon on Sunday, July 12, 2026. We hope you will be able to join us. Thank you for your continuing support throughout the years! If you have any questions regarding the SNF, please reach out to any of our lodge officers.

Stephen Lemley, President  
Beverly Sobotka, Treasurer

Mary Jean Venema, Vice President  
Donna Lemley, Secretary

### **SerbFest 2026 ...**

Our 19th Annual SerbFest will be held May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The SerbFest Committee has already begun planning and preparing for this year's event! However, the event can only be made possible and successful if we have the help and support of the parish. Each year we ask individuals to sign up to work shifts, bake, help set up, put things away, etc. We as a committee are very grateful for those who do this festival after festival! If you have not donated your time before, this year is the time to do so!

SerbFest has been a steady source of extra income to the church the last several years; however, the profit from the event has not increased over time as much as we would hope for. With that comes the need to publish and market our event wider. So, we will be doing this and need more support than ever to pull off an event with hopefully more people interested in our culture and heritage! Another way you can support SerbFest is by becoming a sponsor of the event in general or donate the expense cost of a particular item(s). If you have any questions regarding sponsorship opportunities, please see either SerbFest Co Chair. Thank you all for your support and help in making this year's SerbFest our best one yet!

Sincerely, Brad Hijaz and Paul Milosovich, SerbFest 2026 Co Chairs

## **NOVA GODINA / NEW YEAR'S PARTY ...**

The St. George Serbian Orthodox Church community held its annual Nova Godina / New Year's Party complete with food, fun, music and dancing - kolo that is, on Jan 17th. Luckily there was no blizzard, ice or sub-zero temperatures to dampen our spirits.

Thanks to the kitchen crew and those who donated food; Seja Bajich-Bock, Marie and Lisa Henre, Alexis Bajich, Brad Hijaz, Brandi Bencun, Rada Samardzija, Harold Kanatzar, and of course CP with his amazing Ethiopian-style roasted chicken. Yum! We had Dayna Meyers who not only had a champagne toast ready but also whipped up a new cocktail, the "Doley-Stoley", in honor of Shauna Bajich's special birthday! Thanks Paul for having her celebration at the New Year's Party.

Hanging from the ceiling were festive decorations carefully placed by Jovi Bajich and Nikola Cubric. Thanks for your expertise and willingness to help!

The Bajich Brothers Orchestra provided the musical entertainment. Pete who is still recovering from surgery, was able to join in and sing some tunes. Thanks to Pete Sasich from Omaha, NE for filling in. Thanks also to those who traveled from Omaha to enjoy the evening and celebrate Mark Evanoff's special birthday with us. Later in the evening we enjoyed music by Simo, Jovi, and Nikola on the drums. Bozhi joined in to help with the vocals.

This year we crowned our first Kolo King - Zeljko Skavo and Kolo Princess - Danjela Popovic. It warms the heart to see everyone young and older dancing altogether and having a good time. What a great way to keep up with our Serbian heritage. Hopefully next year we can continue in this tradition.

Mirjana Cubric, Chairperson

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## **Ensuring the financial stability of our Church - in the present and into the future**

There are several ways in which you can support your Church financially and make your giving count. Donating to the Church provides a solid financial foundation - benefiting the Church in the short-term, for planning and budgeting, as well as in years to come.

### *For the Future*

At this time, we would like to announce the establishment of the St. George Designated Perpetual Memorial Fund.

The St. George Designated Fund is set up to provide interest and dividends annually to the Church, while the initial investment stays intact. Monies will be distributed based on greatest need to the Church and its affiliated organizations within our parish, Kolo, Choir, Lodge, etc.

This fund has been established at the World Giving Foundation for the exclusive benefit of St. George Serbian Orthodox Church. Contributions to the fund are tax deductible and will be invested for the long term benefit of the Church.

Contributions can be made through personal checks or grants through the World Giving Foundation. *For specific information contact Jelena Miller or Paul Milosovich.*

Giving to this fund can continue your legacy of your beliefs and practices in the Orthodox faith and our St. George Serbian Orthodox Church community.

You can include the St. George Designated Fund in your will, trust, or beneficiary designations.

Beginning this year, the start up investment of \$1million dollars made in 2025 by some very generous donors, will generate up to \$50,000 yearly into perpetuity - basically, on going.

Truly memory eternal for parishioners and loved ones.

#### *For the Present*

Weekly/Monthly Donations - These monies are deposited into either the Operating Account or the Maintenance/Building Account.

Operating Account - covers ongoing expenses - salaries, utilities, insurance, etc.

Real Estate Account - monies earmarked for maintenance and building repair.

Celebrations/ Special Events - Depending on which organization is hosting, donations can be for operations, maintenance/repair, or other specific causes.

#### *How to Give*

Donations can be given by cash, check, or on through PayPal on our website, www.st-george-church.org. The website also allows you to set up an automatic, on-going monthly donation.

We ask that you contribute to the best of your ability to the material needs of our parish.

*"It is not the amount that counts with God, but the degree of sacrifice out of what a person possesses. Many who give the least give the most; some who give the most, give the least in proportion to their abundance. God takes note of our giving." – Interpretation Mark 12:41-44, The Orthodox Study Bible.*

**Memorials and Special Donations September 15, 2025 - February 22, 2026**

**In Memory of  
Milka Cubric**  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bajich \$100.00  
Ms. Linda Lewis \$30.00  
Ms. Milica Milakovich \$100.00  
Dr. Radmila Samadzija \$50.00

**In Memory of  
George & Andree Budimlija**  
Mr. Joey Budimlija \$200.00

**In Memory of  
Silvera Evanoff**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Miller \$100.00

**In Celebration of the  
Baptismal of Bodgan Dennis  
Kanatzar**  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Aines \$50.00

**For the Health and Salvation  
of  
Luka John, Neven Clyde,  
Myles Philip, Nina Beatrice**  
Mr. & Mrs. Milorad Samardzija \$100.00

**In Memory of  
Chad Martin**  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mattivi \$50.00

**In Memory of  
Zivko Kapetanovich**  
Mrs. Gizela Kapetanovich \$25.00

**In Memory of  
Delle Budimlija**  
Mr. Joey Budimlija \$200.00

**In Memory of  
David Monchil**  
Mrs. Sophie Monchil \$100.00

**In Celebration of the Newly  
Converted Orthodox Kelsey Stancic**  
Ms. Seja Bajich-Bock \$25.00  
Mr. & Mrs. Ratko Cubric \$50.00

**In Memory of  
Protopresbyter Stavrofor  
Milan Bajich**  
Mr. & Mrs. Milorad Samardzija \$50.00

***REMINDER: Annual Membership Dues***

**Don't forget to pay your 2026 membership dues to be considered a member in good standing!**