

“Together – We Can and We Will”

ZGODA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE **POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE** OF THE U.S. OF N.A.

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3	Presidents' Corner
4	From the Editor
6	From the Manager of Sales
7- 9	Your Money
10 - 43	Fraternal News & Activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Remarkable Member • Lajkonik Winter Concert • Elections at Councils & Lodges • Chicago Society Inaugural Ball • Wici Winter Gala • It's Cool To Be in Polish School • District XVI Convention • District XII Convention • District XIII Activities • Scholarship Opportunities • We are Proud of • In Memoriam • Region "H" Activities • Council 21 Activities
44 - 51	Life of Polonia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polish Prom in Chicago • LOM in Chicago • PAC Awards the NKMF • Will of Tadeusz Kosciuszko • The Kosciuszko Commemoration Fund
52 - 53	Destination Poland
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ksiaz Castle
54 - 55	Taste of Poland - Simple Polish Dinner
56 - 58	Living Well - How Alcohol Affects Your Body
59 - 61	Bulletin Board
62	Easter Greeting!



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President's Corner

March 2017

Dear Members,

I am writing this column with the hope that the remainder of this winter is almost behind us, bringing an end to the cold and gray. This issue of Zgoda has been delayed to present to you an overview of the financial status of the Polish National Alliance.

Last week, the Business Board and Executive Officers at its first quarterly meeting reviewed the Annual 2016 Financial Statement in its entirety. Also, our Actuary of Griffith & Ballard, presented his Statement of Condition, as well as Advantus Capital Management firm who manages the portfolio of the organization. The Board is always monitoring the organization's finances and budget so we can get closer to our financial goals.

During 2016, the organization experienced an increase in investments by \$4.6 million from the previous year to a total of \$429.4 million. Through the efforts of our investment firm, the Alliance realized a gain of \$4.1 million on bond sales, calls and maturities for the year.

Our sales of life insurance and annuity premiums were higher than in 2016.

Our operating expenses in 2016 were lower by \$135,000 or 2.1% lower than the previous year.

To safeguard the benefits of our members, the Actuary performs a multitude of stress tests, using various interest rates and scenarios. Clearly, by tests, the assets pledged to the Alliances' liabilities, at present are sufficient, in combination with anticipated future cash income, to provide for the expected benefits and expenses of its in-force business.

Our surplus has been increasing each year since 2014. This past year it has increased by \$2,251,638 (million) to a total of \$19,415,914.

The financial stability of the Polish National Alliance is strong and continues to grow, as indicated by the numbers. The Annual Report as presented to the various departments of insurance reflects the organization is financially sound with a growing surplus.

Due to the improved investment yields and favorable claims experience, the Board has approved an increase in the dividend return to members. The surplus refunds or dividends are being increased effective as of April 1, 2017.

As an organization, we are always continuing to expand our technology capabilities to serve the immediate and long-range needs of our members as well as protecting your private information, through our IT Department.

During the course of the year, we conduct numerous programs to promote fraternalism within our organization. Subsidies are provided for Christmas parties for juveniles, Polish language schools to promote language, history and culture, and dance and choral groups. Annually, \$200,000 is provided for college scholarships, plus an additional \$50,000 for graduate studies. In addition to the scholarship program, the organization is sponsoring a Tuition Rewards Program, whereby points earned annually could be used at private colleges or universities.

In addition, there are various sports programs conducted throughout the country, namely; national bowling and golf tournaments. This coming June, for the first time, there will be a 2K Run for Kids in Chicago, with proceeds going to the Shriners Hospital for children's care.

The Polish National Alliance understands the importance of families, and that's one of the reasons we invest time, energy, and finances to promote various fraternal activities.

We're appreciative to all individuals who contribute to the betterment of this organization, its officers, directors, commissioners, lodge and council officers, employees, and financial advisors. It's a team effort to make this organization function and be successful. There are never too many volunteers.

A sincere note of thanks to you – our members for being part of our fraternal family. I appeal to you to reach out to others who are not part of the organization and encourage them to join. The more members we have, the stronger we are!

Best wishes to you in 2017!

Frank J. Spula, FLMI
President



From the Editor

March 2017

Dear Members,

We are already well into 2017. Winter is almost over; it is time to pay your taxes and plan your summer vacation. If you have school age children, perhaps you should consider one of the PNA summer camps? You will find information about Camp Stanica in Massachusetts and Yorkville in Illinois in this issue, along with scholarship opportunities for student members.

We had so much going on in our Lodges and Councils, some of it is reflected in this issue, and some will be in the next. All you need to do is send articles and photos.

I'm pleased to continue with the "A Remarkable Member" series, introducing to you Mrs. Irene Jarocinski of Medinah, Illinois. She is a lady with an extraordinary biography and a genuine passion for promoting Polish culture and folklore. I am proud to be acquainted with her.

I am certain; we have amongst us many members with remarkable life stories and accomplishments. Please, let me know about them so that I could share their stories with Zgoda readers.

I hope you have noticed the changes made to our publication. I decided to reveal to you diverse, and unusual places in Poland that sometimes are away from the main tourist paths. This time, it will be the magnificent Książ Castle. Perhaps, on one of your trips to Poland, you can decide to explore it.

2017 is the Year of Tadeusz Kosciuszko. Please make sure you find some time to get reacquainted with his biography and principles, and makes sure your children know about this real Hero.

Since Easter is early this year, I wish you "Wesołego Alleluja," and a beautiful spring season.

Sincerely,

Alicja Kuklińska
Editor-in-Chief



24 marca 1794 roku, na Rynku Głównym w Krakowie Naczelnik Tadeusz Kościuszko złożył uroczystą przysięgę, ogłaszając tym samym akt powstania narodowego, znanego w historii, jako insurekcja kościuszkowska.

„Ja, Tadeusz Kościuszko, przysięgam w obliczu Boga całemu Narodowi Polskiemu, iż powierzonej mi władzy na niczyj prywatny ucisk nie użyję, lecz jedynie jej dla obrony całości granic, odzyskania samodzielności Narodu i ugruntowania powszechnej wolności używać będę. Tak mi Panie Boże dopomóż i niewinna Męka Syna Twego.”

Tłum wiwatował na cześć Naczelnika, wojsko prezentowało broń, zabrzmiał Dzwon Zygmunta. Rozpoczęło się powstanie, które było ostatnią próbą ratowania Rzeczypospolitej. Trwało ono od 24 marca do 16 listopada 1794 roku i objęło swym zasięgiem prawie wszystkie dzielnice ówczesnego państwa polskiego. Chociaż Kościuszko poniósł klęskę, wskazał drogę walki o wolność poprzez zbiorowy wysiłek całego narodu i to stało się jego testamentem politycznym.

Sejm i Senat Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej ustanowił rok 2107 Rokiem Tadeusza Kościuszki.

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From the Manager of Sales

Dear Members:

I want to say thank you to each and every one of you for making 2016 such a success. The Membership Department team talked to so many delightful members in various parts of the country, responded to your emails and provided you with the guidance in how to financially protect you and your family.

Recently, the Polish National Alliance of the U.S. of N.A celebrated its 137th Birthday. There is so much history behind our Organization. Now, we are expanding it, and we are part of its future. No matter how tough life gets, and no matter what is happening around us, the PNA is here, to protect its member with financial products and to help them through its fraternal programs.

With this in mind, we would love to record your stories on how the Polish National Alliance impacted your life, by providing the protection but also fraternal activities in your areas. The recorded stories could air on WPNA 1490 Radio Station. Please call, or e-mail me if you would like to share those stories.

This year, Tax Day is April 18. The regular tax return filing deadline is April 15; however, due to April 15 being a Saturday and the Emancipation Day holiday being observed on Monday, our Tax Day is on Tuesday. Please consider allocating your IRA contribution with the Polish National Alliance. The rate of interest is very competitive.

We are looking for very motivated sales representatives in your areas to sell our insurance products and annuities and expand our fraternal family. The Polish National Alliance offers very attractive commissions. If you would like to become one of our sales representatives. Please do not hesitate to call me at 1-800-621-3723 ext. 330 so we can discuss this further.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Fraternally Yours!

Jolanta Walaszek
Manager of Sales

PNA Fraternal Activities in the Near Future:

March

Polish National Alliance Song and
Dance Concert
Sunday, March 12, 2017, at 1 PM
At Lane Technical High School
Auditorium
2501 W Addison St
Chicago IL

April

Polish National Alliance National
Bowling Tournament
April 28, 29 and 30, 2017
At Strike N' Spare II
811 Northern Drive
Lockport IL

May

Look for the PNA Float at the
Constitution Day Parade
Saturday, May 6
Downtown Chicago

June

Kids for Kids 2K Walk/Stroll
Sunday, June 4
Polish National Alliance
6100 N Cicero Ave
Chicago IL

October

Polish National Alliance National
Golf Tournament
October 15 and 16, 2017
Myrtle Beach, SC

REAL LIFE STORIES



Michele Krzewina (center) with her children

Keeping a Farm in the Family

As a third-generation dairy farmer, Paul Krzewina's priority was keeping his 585-acre farm in the family. But doing that meant modernizing, and Paul needed to take out a mortgage to build new barns and buy additional cows. He was concerned, though, that the mortgage would be a burden to his wife, Michele, and their four young children if something were to happen to him. Donald Blahnik, LUTCF, their insurance professional, shared that concern and helped Paul buy a term life insurance policy, the only coverage he felt he could afford at the time.

Years later, with his children nearing adulthood and retirement within sight, Donald suggested that Paul

consider converting the term policy to a whole life policy. Paul still needed to protect the next generation, and he liked the idea of accumulating cash values to supplement his retirement savings.

When Paul was diagnosed with a brain tumor three years later, the life insurance proved invaluable. He was able to use a loan against his policy's cash values to pay his health insurance deductible.* In addition, Paul didn't have to worry about keeping his policy in force because of a provision that waived his premiums in the event of a disability.

Paul died a couple years after his diagnosis, but his dreams for his family are very much alive today. His eldest son, Chad, 28, now runs the farm, and used part of the death benefit to add new barns. He plans to expand the operation to 500 cows, from the current 200. "We couldn't have done any of these things without the insurance money," Michele says.

Permanent life insurance provides a death benefit *and* the ability to accumulate cash on a tax-deferred basis. You can access the cash values through withdrawals or policy loans, and it can be used in a number of ways including college savings, supplementing your retirement income or cash for unanticipated expenses. Learn if this type of insurance might be right for you at www.lifehappens.org/selector.



* Withdrawing or borrowing funds from your policy will reduce its cash value and death benefit if not repaid, and may result in a tax liability if the policy terminates before the death of the insured.



Polish National Alliance
1-800-621-3723
info@pna-znp.org
www.pna-znp.org



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Watch Michele's story at
www.lifehappens.org/krzewina

Put some money away for your retirement!

Call the PNA before April 15, 2017

**An IRA account gives you a tax-advantaged way to save for retirement.
Opening an IRA annuity with the PNA helps you secure your financial future.**

What is an IRA?

IRA stands for Individual Retirement Account, it is not an investment but more like a savings account with big tax benefits. It is a great way to save some money for your retirement.

There are several different types of IRAs, including traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs, SEP IRAs, and SIMPLE IRAs. Each has eligibility restrictions based on your income or employment status. All have caps on how much you can contribute each year and penalties if you take out your money before the designated retirement age.

Why should you open an IRA account?

It's generally a good idea to put as much in an IRA as the government allows you to. The more you save in a tax-favored account, the more tax-protected gains you can earn.

How much should you put into an IRA for 2016 tax year?

If you're under the age of 50, your 2016 contributions to a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA are limited to \$5,500 or the total of your taxable compensation, whichever is smaller. If you're 50 or over before the end of the year, you're allowed to contribute up to an additional \$1,000 for a total yearly contribution of \$6,500; this is the IRS's way of encouraging you to save more in the final years before retirement.

The amount you can contribute to a Roth IRA also depends on your income.

When can you start withdrawing the money out of an IRA?

You can take money out of an IRA whenever you want, but if you're under age 59 ½, it could cost you a 10% penalty on the amount you withdraw. That's in addition to the regular income tax you'll owe on your withdrawal. Roth IRAs offers a bit more flexibility. You may withdraw your contributions to a Roth penalty-free at any time for any reason, as long as you don't withdraw any earnings on your investments or dollars converted from a traditional IRA before age 59 ½. In that case, you'll have to pay 10% penalty.

If you're 59 ½ or older: You can usually make penalty-free withdrawals from any IRA, but you'll still owe the income tax if it's a traditional IRA.

You can avoid 10% tax penalty if you're withdrawing the money for a few specific reasons.

- Paying college expenses for you, your spouse, your children or grandchildren
- Paying medical expenses, depending on your age and income
- Paying for a first-time home purchase (up to \$10,000)
- Paying for the costs of a sudden disability

If you put money into your IRA but then decide you need to withdraw it, you can generally „take back” one contribution made to a traditional IRA without paying tax, as long as you do it before the tax filing deadline of that year and do not deduct the contribution from your taxes.

You can also withdraw money from a traditional IRA and avoid paying the 10% penalty if you roll the money over into another qualified retirement account within 60 days.

Where should you inquire about opening an IRA annuity?

For more details about IRAs annuities **call the PNA's Annuity Department or the Membership Department**, who will be happy to answer your questions and help you secure your financial future and retirement.

Call the Polish National Alliance today!
The IRS's tax deadline is April 15.

1-800-621-3723

John – ext. 365

Jolanta – ext. 330



Please note: This article is not intended to provide tax or legal advice. Consult a professional about your particular situation and needs.

AK

A Remarkable Member...

“You have to have passion!”

Irene Jarocinski



Irene Jarocinski is indeed a remarkable member with an extraordinary life story.

Born in the City of Marburg, Germany, she was growing up as Polish as you can be. Living with her parents in Wildfecken DP camp, she was speaking the Polish language,

learning Polish culture, and folklore, performing at various functions, including American Army camps, where she learned a lot about the American way of life. Little Irene is even featured in a book about children in refugee camps called “Bring Forth the Children: a Journey to the Forgotten People of Europe and the Middle East” by Yul Brynner.

After WW II, return to the Soviet-occupied Poland was not an option for her parents. Losing her father Władysław at the age of 8, Irene was raised by her mother Anna Przysiężna (nee Kowal) born in Tarnopol, whom, after long

“I was involved with the PNA from the very beginning: attending summer dancing courses at Alliance College in Cambridge Springs, becoming elected the youngest ever delegate to the PNA National Convention in Washington D.C., and a chairperson of its Sports and Youth Committee.”

Irene’s passion was dancing. She was pursuing and enjoying it herself while taking a leading role as an instructor and choreographer forming two new dance groups, for children and young adults. To help both groups Irene was able to attain a grant from the Ohio Arts Council, and other funds to purchase regional costumes.

Imaginably, Irene’s Business degree from Baldwin Wallace College came helpful in forming, funding and promoting dance groups in Ohio, as well as years later, after coming to Illinois. In addition to being an active member of the PNA, Ms. Przysiężna belonged to the Polish Singers Alliance of America as well as the Polish American Congress.



Irene Przysiężna with her mother Anna Przysiężna in Germany.

awaiting, and thanks to a devoted friend Stefan Mańko, was able to immigrate to the United States.

Irene was 13 when she and her mom arrived in Cleveland, Ohio. They joined the Polish National Alliance shortly after. *“Everybody there belonged to the PNA! Council 6 was just a short walking distance from the place we lived, they had a dance group, my mother and I joined right away”* said Mrs. Jarocinski during my visit in her beautifully located home in one of the western suburbs of Chicago.



Irene Przysiężna performing at one of the PNA functions in Cleveland, Ohio.



Richard and Irene Jarocinski.

While in Weinsberg, Germany, living in a small community of about 500 Polish refugees, the Przysiężny family was friends with the Jarocinski family. Irene played with little Richard Jarocinski, not knowing that years later, in the United States, they would reunite, he would steal her heart, they would marry, and move to Chicago.

Richard Jarocinski worked as a mechanical engineer, Irene found employment as a purchasing and property manager at the Kamflex Corporation and enjoyed teaching ballroom dancing at the local park district. Irene also managed to have a cameo appearance in a "Men Don't Leave" movie starring Jessica Lange. Jarocinskis were able to travel all over Europe, they built a large, custom house in Medinah, Illinois with a lot of storage space, which came in very handy when Irene decided to form a new dance group.

"I was surprised after moving to Chicago, that the PNA did not reach out to me right away, but I wasn't going to let this bother me too long. At the age of 45, I was full of energy and ideas and decided to get involved again. I reached out to the General Sikorski Polish School, found a free room at the Addison Park District and formed "Wisla" Dance Group."

Anyone who had anything to do with the folk groups knows how important costumes are. Mrs. Jarocinski had some of her own, started studying the relevant literature, and sewing them. With some help from the Polish National Alliance and a lot of her own money, earned by working extra jobs, she was able to get Kaszuby costumes, then Lublin, Cieszyn, and others. Mrs. Jarocinski owns an impressive collection of Polish folk costumes, fabrics, ribbons, hardware, etc... It is a blessing; she has enough room in her house and such an understanding husband that allows her to convert a pool table into a costume workstation.

"I used to lend my costumes to other groups, but after a few unfortunate incidents with not getting them back for a long time, or getting them not in the same condition, I have second thoughts about it."

Jarocinski's house is filled with Polish costumes, books, snacks for group members and a good vibe of people making a difference in other people's life. "Wisła" performs not just for the Polish community, but more so for the American community, promoting Polish culture and the Polish National Alliance as well. Mrs. Jarocinski would like to find someone to take over one day, but it is not easy since the job is so demanding and on a volunteer basis.

"The way I live is controlled by dancing, by my group. I care about "Wisła" children and their families; I help them when I can, try to get them engaged and get them to like us. You have to have passion in life, do something good and meaningful."

Irene Jarocinski lives a passionate life. She is a manager, choreographer, seamstress, PNA sales representative... indeed A Remarkable Person and PNA Member.

Alicja Kuklińska



Lajkonik Song and Dance Ensemble's 2017 Winter Concert



The song, “Rodzinny dom” directly interpreted as “family home” was a quintessential theme for this year’s Lajkonik Song and Dance Ensemble’s Annual Winter Concert.

For “retired dancers” this particular song had a richer meaning than ever before - we returned home. Sharing the stage with Lajkonik’s current 120+ member ensemble stirred up feelings of nostalgia, happiness and pride. For many, including myself, Lajkonik was not just a hobby, it was also a part of life for 20 or more years. During these years, we not only received excellent training in Polish Folk Dancing, we were also taught Polish language and traditions through song and events like making “pisanki” or “stroiki.” Together, we shared travels and new experiences that helped us build our lifelong friendships--and even, marriages.

During the concert, a 20th century cottage remained on stage to showcase artifacts and customs from Christmas in Poland; however, at the end of the performance these traditions came alive on stage, as both current and former dancers sang Polish Christmas carols in beautiful and colorful costumes from all regions in

Poland. The scene when the traditional carolers entered the stage was particularly heartwarming as we saw the roles taken by the next generation, some by our younger siblings.

This year’s concert was a witness to Lajkonik’s greatest gift: a home for future generations. Besides being surrounded by former dancers, we were also surrounded by the newest additions to the Lajkonik family - our children. Many of these children stepped onto the stage for the first time, including the tiniest who was recently christened. This extraordinary occasion that brought many generations on one stage is a testament to the fact that no matter how far each one of us branches away from our “family home”, we will always be welcomed back with warmth, support and love.

Congratulations Lajkonik for a wonderful performance. Thank you for letting me share the stage with you yet another year.

Natalia Medrecki-Cisowski, former Lajkonik dancer.

Photos by Artur Partyka.



Wybory i spotkanie noworoczne Grupy 3259 „Piast”

W niedzielę 22 stycznia, w Ośrodku Polonijnym im. Św. Jana Pawła II, odbyło się zebranie sprawozdawczo-wyborcze grupy 3259 „Piast” oraz noworoczny obiad.

Na spotkanie przybyło 30 członków grupy, goście i dyrektor ośrodka, ksiądz Zbigniew Frąszczak. Zebranie rozpoczęło odśpiewaniem hymnu polskiego, przysięgą na flagę USA, wspomnieniem o zmarłych członkach i błogosławieństwem udzielonym przez księdza Zbigniewa.



Nowy zarząd Grupy 3259 i delegaci do Gminy 73. Od lewej: E. Rudziński, H. Łojewski, A. Karwan, M. Jarostawski, M. Hulisz, J. Musiał, B. Łojewska, J. Piątek, B. Jarostawski, J. Męclewicz, G. Chilecki.

Następnie, odchodzący członkowie zarządu złożyli sprawozdanie ze swojej działalności za rok 2016.

Grupa „Piast” liczy 222 dorosłych i 50 młodocianych członków, zorganizowała parę imprez otwartych takich jak zabawę Andrzejkową, ognisko na plaży czy też wielkonoce zbieranie jajek. Członkowie grupy współorganizowali wystawę poświęconą 1050 rocznicy państwa polskiego, dożynki w Yorba Linda i zabawę sylwestrową. Byli również obecni na wielu imprezach patriotycznych, kościelnych i wyjazdach. Grupa sponsoruje wiele innych

działań w środowisku południowej Kalifornii. Pomaga szkole polskiej i grupie tanecznej, członkowie udzielają się w pracach Rady Ośrodka Polonijnego, Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej Południowej Kalifornii oraz Gminy 73. Prezes Grupy 3259, Dyrektor Regionu „J” Grzegorz Chilecki, poinformował zebranych o aktualnej sytuacji finansowej ZNP, wynikach sprzedaży w Regionu „J” i podziękował członkom za ciężką pracę i zaangażowanie oraz wręczył kwiaty najbardziej zaangażowanym w działalność „Piasta” paniom. Następnie uczestnicy zebrania przystąpili do obiadu przygotowanego przez szkołę polską.

Po przerwie odbyły się wybory i został ukonstytuowany nowy zarząd w składzie:

Prezes – Grzegorz Chilecki,
Wiceprezes – Maria Hulisz
Wiceprezes – Jerzy Męclewicz
Skarbnik – Bożena Łojewska
Sekretarz finansowy – Barbara Jarostawski
Sekretarz – Jarosław Musiał
Marszałek – Mariola Musiał
Odźwierny – Janusz Piątek

Wybrano również delegatów do Gminy 73, a była komisarz Okręgu 16, Elżbieta Rudzińska, odebrała przysięgę od członków nowego zarządu i delegatów. Dyrektor Regionu „J” Grzegorz Chilecki wręczył nagrody, kwiaty i dyplomy uznania dla Elżbiety Rudzińskiej i Barbary Jarostawskiej za najlepsze wyniki i zwycięstwo w konkursie na najlepszego przedstawiciela sprzedaży Regionu „J” w 2016 roku. Na zakończenie zebrania ustalono plan działania na rok 2017.

Grzegorz Chilecki, Dyrektor Regionu „J”

Installation of Officers in Lodge 1291

Polish National Alliance Lodge 1291 held their installation of Officers on January 14th, 2017 at the P.N.A. Club in Amsterdam, New York.



From left Frank Wojnar - Lodge Treasurer, Richard Joachim - Lodge Vice President, Greg Swiderski - Lodge President, Amanda Gilston - newly elected Lodge Financial Secretary, Zbigniew Witkowski - delegate to Council 113, Edward Swiderski - Financial Secretary for the last 44 years. Oscar Porath - Delegate to Council 113 and Cindy Vitus - Lodge Lady Vice President.



Edward Swiderski is presenting Lodge books to newly elected Financial Secretary and wishes Ms. Gilston a long and successful career in the Polish National Alliance.

Submitted by Edward Swiderski.

LODGE 711 P.N.A. CONDUCTS 2017 ELECTIONS

Chicopee, MA. Members of P.N.A. Lodge 711 of Chicopee, MA held their annual meeting and election of officers and delegates for the year 2017 at the Chicopee Falls Polish Home, Chicopee, MA on December 4, 2016. Installing Officer, P.N.A. District 1 Commissioner, Wanda Milecki, administered the Oath of Office to the elected officers and delegates.



Pictured standing left to right: Gene P. Kirejczyk, Second Vice President and Auditor; Adella Strycharz, Recording Secretary/Treasurer; Mitchell Nowak, First Vice President and Auditor; National P.N.A. Business Board Director Teresa Struziak Sherman, Financial Secretary/Sales Representative; P.N.A. District 1 Commissioner, Wanda Milecki, and Gilbert J. Sherman, President.

This energetic team is ready to begin a fruitful year of support for the great ideals of our Polish National Alliance. Sto Lat!

Submitted by Teresa Struziak Sherman, PNA Business Director.

Election at the PNA Lodge 2093

Lodge 2093 of New Britain, Connecticut elected the following members as Lodge Officers for 2017. Barbara Zakrzewska President, Cheser Klymczuk Treasurer, Henry Perucki Secretary.

Katarzyna Fil Director, Izabela Wroblewska Director, and Stanley Wojciak House Committee.

All the Officers were unanimously elected. The newly elected officers were congratulated by the President and after the swearing in ceremony, everyone retired to the lodge canteen for refreshments.

Submitted by

Henry Perucki, Secretary.



Seated (l-r): Chester Klymczuk Treasurer, Barbara Zakrzewska President, Henry Perucki Secretary. Standing (l-r): Katarzyna Fil Director, Stanley Wojciak House Committee, Izabela Wroblewska Director.

**Greg Chilecki PNA Director
Region "J" presents:**

Region "J" Sales Contests Results

For the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

The award ceremony was held on January 22, 2017 at the Polish Center, Yorba Linda California.

The Winners:



(l-r) Barbara Jaroslawski, Greg Chilecki, Elzbieta Rudzinski

Highest total premiums

1st Place: Elizabeth Rudzinski
(\$9,786.52) – \$100

2nd Place: Barbara Jaroslawski
(\$5,280.85) – \$50

Most certificates sold

Barbara Jaroslawski (12 certificates and 3 annuity). In this category award was \$5 per policy. Mrs. Jaroslawski was awarded \$60.

Congratulations to the winners!
Let's continue building an even stronger PNA community!

*Submitted by Greg Chilecki,
Fraternal Director Region "J".*

The 2017 Inaugural Ball of PNA Lodge 1450, the Chicago Society!

Saturday, February 4, 2017, was a beautiful evening, a perfect evening to enjoy the warmth of camaraderie. Upon entering the elegant Café la Cave, guests were offered flutes of champagne and gourmet hors d'oeuvres, passed by the gracious wait staff. Upon passing to the ball room, guests were immediately impressed by the simple yet elegant glass bowls of white and red flowers bathed in light on each table.

The festivities began with our dear friends Maria Ciesla and Dr. Geraldine Balut-Coleman leading the guests in the National Anthems of the United States and Poland. Ball Chairman Brother Ro Matuszczak then welcomed the guests. Rev. Robert. Fedek, Pastor of Our Lady of Victory parish gave the Invocation, asking for God's continued blessings on the Chicago Society and its members.

A gourmet dinner was flawlessly served by the cordial wait staff. During dinner, Brother Anthony Kawalkowski strolled among the guests, serenading them with soothing dinner music. Outgoing President Brother Ted Makarewicz spoke, expressing how much of an honor it has been to serve as President of the Society for the past two years. He thanked the members of the Board and all the members for their support, ensuring all that the Society is in good hands with the new Board. President Brother Ted then presented the Honorees of the evening, the Advocates Society, honored for its many years of service to Polonia, especially in sponsoring the Amicus Poloniae, offering free legal advice to those in need. Brother Ted asked all the past presidents present to stand and be recognized; curiously, most of these were women. President of the Advocates Society Matthew Sidor thanked the Chicago Society for the honor and for the many years of collaboration between the two organizations, and look forward to many more years of collaboration for the benefit of Polonia. Executive Vice President Peter Dykas then presented the 2016 Chicago Society Booster Award to Brother Makarewicz for sponsoring the most number of new members in 2016.

The culmination of the evening was the Installation of the new Board by Hon. John Wasilewski, who administered the oath of office to the officers and wished

them much success in the coming year. He then individually administered the oath of office to PNA Lodge 1450 officers; President Brother Steve Rakowski, *Executive Vice President* Brother Peter Dykas, *Civic Vice President* Brother Charles Komosa, *Recording Secretary* Brother Richard Ciesla, *Treasurer* Brother Robert Nowaczyk, *Advocate* Brother Adam Konopka, *Senior Director* Brother Thaddeus Makarewicz, *Director of Social Activities* Brother Romuald E. Matuszczak, *Director of Club House Administration* Brother Charles Cwiakala, *Director of Personnel* Brother Chris Grzadziel, *Director of Public Relations* Brother Ron Topczewski, *Director of Publications* Brother Ted Wiecek, *Director of Finance* Brother Richard Wiermanski and *Director of Special Projects* Brother Mark Orwat.

Brother Steve then gave his address in which he spoke of how powerful Polonia once was. He then challenged the members to become more active in the Society and to bring in at least one more members. He then pledged to increase the vitality and to create a greater understanding of the Society. Finally, he thanked Brother Ro and his wife Chris for making this evening a reality, Brother Ted for all his help, and Hon. John Wasilewski for administering the oath of office to the incoming officers. The program concluded with a lively Krakowiak presented by the Polonia Dancers of the PRCUA, adding some levity to the evening.

Among the dignitaries present were Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios; Marian Grabowski, National Treasurer of the Polish National Alliance; Barrett Pedersen, Mayor of Franklin Park; Dan Patlak, Cook County Tax Review Board; Lucas Fuksa, candidate for the office of Mayor of Park Ridge; Bozena Haszlakiewicz, President of the Legion of Young Polish Women; Brother Member Scott Cisek representing Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners; Co-Chair Charles Komosa, National Secretary of the Polish National Alliance and Judges James Pieczonka, Thaddeus Machnik, and Steven Kozicki.

Following the official portion of the evening, guests danced to the music of Brother Anthony Kawalkowski and his Orchestra. The orchestra played a variety



of tunes from traditional to contemporary, from polkas and waltzes to romantic melodies, all to the enjoyment of the guests. The dance floor was full of couples dancing and enjoying themselves throughout the evening, so it's clear our guests had a memorable experience. The Orchestra played its last strains at midnight. Our guests now have another evening to remember.

Ball Chairman Ro Matuszczak gives grateful thanks to his wife Chris for her immense help, Co-chair Charles and his wife Agata, a big thank you to Ad Book chairman Ted Makarewicz and Ted Wiecek for taking pictures that evening.

As Ro Matuszczak promised, the evening met the high standards of the Chicago Society with great food, good drinks, and high quality entertainment. Chicago Society balls have long been well known throughout Chicago's Polonia, and this year's certainly lived up to that tradition.

*Article written by Ro Matuszczak,
Ted Wiecek and Charles Komosa.*

Election Meeting of Council 3

President Frank Spula officiated over the election and installation of officers of Council 3 on February 7, 2017. The following officers will preside over the council's activities for the coming year:

President – Irene Hercik

Vice Presidents – Joseph Lisak, Elizabeth Stolarczuk

Treasurer – Halina Zurawski

Secretary – Roberta Gols

Sgt. at Arms – Joseph Hercik

Audit Committee – Walter Bochenek, Daniel Gols & Monika Korczynska

*Irene Hercik, President of Council 3, PNA Business Director.
Photo: Monika Korczynska*



(l-r) Daniel Gols, Halina Zurawski, Joseph Lisak, Roberta Gols, Irene Hercik, Walter Bochenek, Elizabeth Stolarczuk, Joseph Hercik.

Christmas Celebration and Election at Lodge 1168

On December 4, 2016, Northampton, Massachusetts Lodge 1168 celebrated Christmas at a local restaurant. The celebration began with a meeting for members and ended with an excellent dinner buffet and endless desserts. A gift raffle was held for those attending the meeting.

An election of the Lodge 1168 Officers was held and resulted in a re-election of the Officers.



From left to right is Pam Kuczynski, Secretary, Chris Majewski, President and Caroline Kuczynski, Financial Secretary-Treasurer.

Mrs. Kuczynski well in the New Year as she will celebrate her 90th birthday in March. She remains an active and viable member of the Lodge. Santa made a brief appearance, and wished us all a Merry Christmas!

*Chris Majewski,
President of Lodge 1168.
Easthampton, MA*

Karnawałowy występ zespołu Wici

Na karnawałową zabawę, pełną życia, kolorów, energii i kunsztu zaprosił 21 stycznia Teatr Pieśni i Tańca „Wici”. Blisko 700 widzów w zapatrzeniu i podziwie oglądało popisy kolejnych grup wiekowych, których artyści pokazali najwyższy kunszt taneczny.

Widowisko rozpoczęła żywa i energetyczna w swoim brzmieniu Straussowska polka Tritsch-Tratsch w choreografii damy układów tanecznych Magdaleny Solarz, a dopiero w chwilę później, mile zaskoczona widownię serdecznie powitali Elżbieta Stolarczuk i Krzysztof Kasperowicz.

W karnawałowej zabawie wzięły udział wszystkie grupy wiekowe Wici. Zaproszeni goście i rodzice małych bohaterów gromkimi brawami nagradzali popisy ich pociech. Na scenie, jak w kalejdoskopie, pojawiały się nowe grupy tancerzy w regionalnych, kolorowych strojach.

Podczas tego karnawałowego widowiska nie zabrakło gości specjalnych. Tancerzy i ich gości zaszczylił swoją obecnością min. konsul Konrad Zieliński z małżonką i dziećmi oraz prezes Związku Narodowego Polskiego i Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej Franciszek Spula. Naj-

serdeczniej zostali powitani dziadkowie i rodzice, czyli ci wszyscy, dzięki którym mali tancerze mogą zawsze zdążyć na czas na próby zespołu.

Podczas wieczoru goście mieli okazję usłyszeć piękną polską muzykę zobrazowaną świetną choreografią w wykonaniu setki tancerzy. Po pięknej muzycznej zabawie dzieci spotkały się ze św. Mikołajem otrzymując od niego prezenty, a dorośli wzięli udział w loterii fantowej. Wieczór z elegancką kolacją i zachwycającym występem dostarczył wielu fantastycznych doznań i wzruszeń.

Tekst i zdjęcia Dariusz Lachowski

Artykuł w całości i pełna galeria zdjęć –
www.dziennikzwiazkowy.com







It's COOL to be in Polish school

*...especially if it is affiliated with the
Polish National Alliance!*

JASEŁKA W SZKOLE IM. GENERAŁA WŁADYSŁAWA ANDERSA

*„Jak obyczaj każe stary, z głębi
ojców naszych wiary...”*

Polska Szkoła im. generała Władysława Andersa w Chicago, IL, należąca do grupy 2475 Związku Narodowego Polskiego, wystawiła w tym roku szkolnym tradycyjne jasełka. Tytuł tegorocznego widowiska poświęconego narodzinom Pana Jezusa brzmiał „Cicha noc, święta noc...”. Młodzi aktorzy-uczniowie poszczególnych klas zaprezentowali program, nawiązujący do świątecznej, polskiej tradycji. Była to wspaniała okazja do spotkania całej społeczności szkolnej oraz zaproszonych gości, tym bardziej, że w tym roku połączono go z akcją zbiórki funduszy na rzecz szkoły.

Pośród wielu gości, stałych widzów jasełek oraz wiernych przyjaciół szkoły byli: Urszula Szatan, Czesława Wolf, a także osoby zaproszone – Zygmunt Goliński, komendant Placówki 90.Stowarzyszenia Wetera-

nów Armii Polskiej w Chicago, Zofia Biernadska, uczestniczka kampanii włoskiej, Wanda Juda – komisarz 13. Okręgu Związku Narodowego Polskiego. Wszystkich serdecznie powitała dyrektor szkoły oraz regionu „G” ZNP Wanda Penar, która podkreśliła, że nie da się wejść w czas oczekiwania na Bożą Dziecinę bez naszych jasełek, jednocześnie dziękując zgromadzonym za obecność i życząc wiele radości i wzruszeń przy odbiorze tego widowiska pełnego świątecznej magii.

W pięcioaktowym przedstawieniu wzięło udział ponad 190 aktorów: dzieci uczęszczające do przedszkoła oraz uczniowie wszystkich klas podstawówki.

Spektakl rozpoczęła pastorałka „Zostań Jezu moim braciszkiem” w wykonaniu najmłodszych dzieci z zerówki. Piękna scenografia, zmieniaana przy określonych scenach oraz barwne kostiumy dzieci dodawały kolorytu całemu widowisku. W rolę Maryi wcieliła się Dominika Franczyk z klasy VI, zaś postać Józefa odtwarzał Nicholas Gniedziejko, uczeń klasy VII. Nie zabrakło też muzycznych perełek, Natalia Kowal-

kowski kolędą na skrzypce „Cicha noc” otworzyła kulminacyjną scenę jasełek, w której stajenkę z nowonarodzonym Jezusem odwiedzają, oprócz Trzech Króli, pasterze, aniołowie, ale także górnicy, krakowianki i marynarz. Muzyczną oprawą zajmował się niezastąpiony Janusz Pliwko.



Za scenariusz, reżyserię i choreografię jasełek odpowiedzialna była Wiesława Dziedzic, zaś poszczególne sceny opracowywały panie z danych klas.

Po jasełkach, do sali, w otoczeniu reniferów, wkroczył św. Mikołaj z workiem pełnym prezentów. Był to długo wyczekiwany przez dzieci moment, ostatnia atrakcja dla najmłodszych, a dorośli chętnie wzięli udział w losowaniu loterii fantowej na rzecz szkoły.

Z inicjatywy p. Anny Franczyk tegorocznym jasełkowym występom



towarzyszyła cała akcja wspierania szkoły, a więc sprzedaż kremówek wcześniej przygotowanych przez p. katechetkę wraz z uczniami klas 7 i 8 oraz pięknych świątecznych stroików, także wykonanych własnoręcznie z uczniami. Takie akcje niezwykle łączą wszystkich w działaniu: dzieci, rodziców, którzy ofiarowali dużo fantów i różnych prezentów na szkolną loterię.

Nad całością przedsięwzięć czuwała dyrektorka Wanda Penar. Nie byłoby sukcesu bez cudownych rodziców, nauczycieli, uczniów. Kończąc się rok zapisał się w pamięci całej społeczności Szkoły Andersa wielkimi zgłoskami -albowiem chodzi o pielęgnację tego bogactwa tradycji, także bożonarodzeniowej..., jak mówił św. Jan Paweł II: „Trzeba, abyście tego bogactwa nie zagubili”.

*Sylvia Babińska,
nauczycielka klas licealnych.*



POLSKA SZKOŁA IM. KRÓLA KAZIMIERZA WIELKIEGO

W nowym roku, do grona szkół działających pod egidą Związku Narodowego Polskiego, dołączyła Polska Szkoła Sobotnia im. Króla Kazimierza Wielkiego z Orland Hills w Illinois, której założycielką i dyrektorem jest pani Izabela Przybyła.

Szkoła istnieje dopiero trzeci rok, ale prężnie się rozwija i ma już na swoim koncie wiele wspaniałych przedsięwzięć. Do najbardziej udanych zdecydowanie można zaliczyć uroczyste poświęcenie sztandaru, Polonijny Dzień Dwujęzyczności oraz jasełka połączone ze szkolną wigilią.

Jasełka odbyły się w piątek, 16 grudnia i cudownie wprowadziły licznie przybyłych w nastrój świąteczny. Wśród gości była obecna Dyrektor Regionu F Barbara Wesołowski oraz ksiądz Grzegorz Warmuz, który wszystkim zebranyom udzielił Bożego błogosławieństwa.

W przedstawieniu brali udział zarówno uczniowie jak i nauczyciele pracujący w szkole. W rolę Maryi wcieliła się p. Agata Mścisz (Komisarska Dystryktu XII), która jest w tej szkole nauczycielką, katechetką, choreografem zespołu "Żaki" oraz instruktorką chóru "Fantazja".

Chór szkolny, w każdą pierwszą niedzielę miesiąca, uświetnia swoim śpiewem msze święte dziecięce w Kościele Św. Szczepana Diakona i Męczennika w Tinley Park, a zespół "Żaki", w tym roku po raz pierwszy, przygotowuje się do wiosennego koncertu PNA.

*Agata Mścisz,
Komisarz Okręgu XII.*



District VIII Convention

Westmoreland City, PA. District VIII held its Annual District Convention this past January 21st, with Vice President David Milcinovic as a special guest from the Home Office. Mr. Milcinovic talked about the upcoming changes within the home office regarding some of the advertisement and presentation of the Polish National Alliance Insurance programs. He also congratulated the top Sales Representatives of the District for doing another outstanding job with the past year insurance sales.



Joe Magielski, former Sales Director presents sales awards to Mike Sharek Lodge 1234, Jeffrey Twardy, Fraternal Director Region "B" and David Sinclair, Commissioner District VIII.

The Top Sales Representatives this year were: Jeffrey Twardy, Dale Myers, David Sinclair, Jeffrey Wudkwyh, Thomas Stephenson and Michael Sharek. Each agent received \$100 for their superior efforts. Val Pawlos, Business Director and Joe Magielski, Fraternal Director Region "D" also reiterated the outstanding job the district did overall in sales. Jeffrey Twardy, Fraternal Director of Region "B", spoke of the last year Fraternal Activities and the agenda for the upcoming year. The convention boasted 35 delegates with former District 8 Director and Commissioner Joe Kaminski, former District VIII Commissioners Richard Tyszkiewicz, and Irene Nichols in attendance. The attendees see a bright future with sales increasing, and the district's fraternal activities well attended. Thank you to the delegates and guests for a very successful and productive convention!

Submitted by David Sinclair, Commissioner District VIII.

Zaprzysiężenie Zarządu Grupy 3237 ZNP



Zebrańie wyborcze Grupy 3237 im. Emilii Plater odbyło się 11-29-2016 w domu Państwa Smolaków w Arlington Heights, Illinois. W skład nowego zarządu wchodzi: Donna Woszczak – *prezes*, Sabina Hass – *wiceprezes*, Stanley Panek – *wiceprezes*, Emily Blazejowski – *sekreterarz protokółowy*, Agnieszka Kaminska – *skarbnik*. Komisja Rewizyjna: Michał Schneider, Halina Selega, Jerzy Smolak.

Emily Blazejowski, sekreterarz protokółowy Grupy 3237 ZNP.

Daylight Saving Time 2017

begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 12.

Remember to "spring ahead" and set your clocks forward 1 hour.

The change comes eight days ahead of the spring equinox on March 20 at 6:29 a.m. ET.



PNA

District XVI Convention

On October 15 and 16, 2016, Polish National Alliance, District 16 held its Convention („Sejmik”) hosted by Lodge 3281 of Las Vegas in the City of Las Vegas, Nevada. Since January 1st, due to changes in PNA District 16, it consists of only three states: California, Arizona, and Nevada; however, District 16 still seems to be the largest PNA District in USA. It has three councils with seventeen lodges. At the Sejmik, five lodges were represented. There were 13 delegates and 12 guests present. Among the guests were members of the Polish American Congress of Southern Cali-



Delegates and guests of the District 16 Convention.



Delegates and guest of the District 16 Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

fornia, whose National President is also Frank Spula. The majority of attendees at the Sejmik are members of both organizations, and we welcomed their presence. There is promise of future collaboration, and they generously contributed towards the cost of renting the meeting room. It made me very happy as Commissioner to bring together these two organizations.

The Sejmik began, as planned, at 9:35 AM on Saturday, October 15, with myself, the new Commissioner Jaroslaw Musial, welcoming all delegates and guests. We welcomed our key guest for the Sejmik, PNA National Secretary Charles Komosa.

After singing the Polish National Anthem and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, Sejmik participants held a moment of silence to remember our deceased PNA members.

There were several speeches of welcome and praise:

Piotr Nowinski, Lodge President of Las Vegas Lodge 3281, welcomed the delegates and guests to the Sejmik and wished us fruitful deliberations. Next, Grzegorz Chilecki - Region „J” Fraternal Director explained the role of the PNA organi-

zation, its history, and the meaning of the PNA emblem. National Secretary Charles Komosa addressed the Sejmik attendees and spoke about PNA's financial outlook, changes in the organization and its future, and its bright outlook. All the hard work and sacrifice is showing results. Edward Wojciech Jesman – President of the Polish American Congress of Southern California division explained the role of his organization. He discussed the challenges facing his organization and wishes that everyone would be involved. He hopes that Las Vegas also would start a Polish American Congress in this area.

And now work started.

As PNA District 16 Commissioner, I made a power point presentation about District 16. I explained how recent changes to PNA affected its territory, how overall PNA reduced the numbers of commissioners, its system of compensation for them, and their reporting of their work to PNA headquarters. A lot of statistical data was shown, and our current financial condition was presented, showing our chal-



(l-r) Charles Komosa, Greg Chilecki, Jaroslaw Musial, Kasia Akrami.



Delegates to District 16 Convention.

lenges. I talked about my activities as Commissioner. National Secretary Komosa was very active and supportive during the presentation. He encouraged delegates to have a discussion. It was a perfect opportunity to ask many questions, the majority of which were directed to our National Secretary. To mention a few, he was asked about the Tax ID for lodges, Tax exemption status, activity reports and why they are needed, the possibility of training for sales representatives and sales representative licensing. I have to say that he did a good job and PNA made a correct decision to send him to our District Sejmik.

There were a lot of positive comments about communication with the PNA main office. It was said that all questions and problems are answered quickly and in a professional manner. The PNA's well-managed website is a tremendous help for our agents. However, there were a lot of concerns about shrinking membership. Agents do not need to be challenged from our leadership to sell more; the agents need positive encouragement, help and tools to do so.

Of course, there was a lot of work done. All delegates and guests were divided into committees to work on

ideas for membership, fraternalism, resolutions, and we had an Audit Committee verify the correctness of the financial books. Afterwards, the committees presented reports and shared their ideas with all Sejmik participants. Delegates and guests volunteered and chose ideas to implement in their lodges and councils, and to report back their results at the next Sejmik.

The excellent work of host Lodge 3281 Las Vegas, was not the only reason to choose Las Vegas as our Sejmik site, but the city itself. Everyone found something to do after our hard work. Some went to see LOVE (the show) some on the other hand preferred to..... (now I have to apply the most important rule of conduct: WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS, STAYS IN VEGAS).

On Sunday, October 16, 2017, the Sejmik continued with myself as Commissioner leading the discussion of New Business. Director Chilecki proposed a "Director Sales Contest" for our District's Sales Representatives. During our Sejmik, our incumbent Treasurer, Marlena Hulisz, was re-elected. The delegates discussed holding their next Sejmik of District 16 in Phoenix, Arizona, and plan to have it on

October 21, 22, 2017.

Our Delegates, guests, and PNA National Secretary Komosa participated in a Polish Mass at Our Lady of Las Vegas, and gathered for a fraternal lunch with further opportunity for conversations with each other.

Commissioner Jaroslaw Musial thanks Las Vegas Lodge 3281 and all participants for making the PNA District 16 Sejmik successful, and give special thanks to PNA National Secretary Charles Komosa for his guidance, expertise, and camaraderie.

*Article by: Jaroslaw Musial
Photos by: Miroslaw Jaroslowski*



Lodge 3259 Barbara Jaroslawska, Grzegorz Chilecki, Anna Dolewski, Ania Karwan, Charles Komosa, Maria (Marlena) Hulisz, Mariola Musial, Elzbieta Piatek, Jaroslaw Musial.



Time for some entertainment – "Love" by „Cirque du Soleil”.

Is your child a PNA member? Are you?

If so, please act today and register your child to the Sage Tuition Rewards Program®.

Thousands of tuition points will be awarded to any PNA members who are enrolled in a \$10,000 or higher permanent plan of insurance.

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Take advantage of the fraternal benefit that grows with your child.

Please note: Every PNA member is entitled to register, and collect 1,500 bonus points. You can give your points to your child, grandchild, niece or nephew.

Time is of the essence. Start accumulating tuition discount points today!

For more information and registration visit **www.pna-znp.org**

Sage Tuition Rewards Program® offers tuition discounts to over 370 universities and colleges in the United States.



Polish National Alliance
6100 N. Cicero Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646-4385

www.pna-znp.org



"Tadeusz Kościuszko – Freedom Warrior."

Original Art Contest for PNA Members Ages 5 to 12

February 1st – May 31st, 2017

2017 marks the 200th anniversary of the death of General Tadeusz Kościuszko (1746-1817).

In recognition of his activity for the sake of peace, independence, and democracy – the equality of people regardless of their skin color or religion – he is considered a national hero in Poland and the United States. The UNESCO organization, as well as the Senate of the Republic of Poland **announced 2017 a Year of Tadeusz Kościuszko.**

We would like to encourage our young members to learn about General Kościuszko, his extraordinary life, accomplishments, memorials around the world, and express their artistic visions on canvas or paper.

Rules:

- All artwork must be original, a hand done creation. Photographs and computer generated artwork will not be accepted.
- Artwork must be at least 8.5 x 11 and no larger than 18 x 24 inches and cannot be thicker than 1/4 inch.
- The child must be a PNA member. Only one entry per child is acceptable.
- 4 age groups: 5 – 6, 7 - 8, 9 – 10, 11 - 12
- The artwork should not have the artist's signature, initials or name on the front. Write only the title in the back of the artwork.
- Send your artwork along with the completed Art Contest Entry Form to:
Polish National Alliance
Fraternal Activities Department
6100 N. Cicero Ave.
Chicago, IL 60646
- Postmark no later than **May 31, 2017**

Winners will be awarded respectively:

\$300 (1st place), **\$200** (2nd place), and **\$100** (3rd place) in each age group, and asked to provide a photo and a short bio for publicity. All entries become the property of the Polish National Alliance and will not be returned.

2017 Art Contest Entry Form

Title of the artwork:

.....

Name:

Age: D.O.B:

Address:

City:

State: Zip:

Phone No.:

email:

Lodge No.:

Parent Signature:

Combined Annual Convention Of District XII

Chicago, Illinois. The Annual Convention of District XII, along with the Women's Division of District XII, was held on Sunday, October 23, 2016, at Royal Palace Banquets in Chicago Ridge, Illinois. Fraternal Board Member, Barbara Wesolowski, welcomed all present. Honored guests included Frank Spula, PNA National President, Marion Grabowski, PNA National Secretary, Irene Hercik, PNA Business Director, Wanda Juda, District XIII Commissioner, Arthur Trybek, former District XII Director, and Anna Kokoszka, Roman Bucon, and Jerzy Heyna, former District XII Commissioners.



Oath of New Officers of District 12 administered by Treasurer M. Grabowski. Jan Chlipala - Marshall, Joseph Dobersztyn - Treasurer, Irene Spiewak - Vice President, Shirley Wass - Secretary

Director Wesolowski appointed Shirley Wass as Recording Secretary. Anna Kokoszka led the group in the singing of the American and Polish National Anthems. The Mandate Committee's Report of 36 Delegates attending was approved, and Director Hercik administered

the Oath to all Delegates.

The Minutes of the last Convention were approved, followed by the reading of a congratulatory letter from Wesley Musial, PNA Censor.

Frank Spula, Keynote Speaker, congratulated the District on its many fine accomplishments over the last decades. He elaborated on the many changes the PNA has undergone in the last year and the many challenges it may face in the future. Mr. Spula also stressed that the PNA is a very solid, stable financial organization, at present, and will continue to be successful.

The District and Women's Division Financial Reports, given by Joseph Dobersztyn and Barbara Wesolowski respectively, were approved. These were followed by reports given by Judith Trybek, District XII PNA Youth Home Corporation Scholarship Chair, Leszek Krzeminski, PNA Youth Camp Treasurer, and Irene Spiewak, Delegate to the Polish American Congress. A \$1,125 donation to the Youth Camp was presented to Mr. Krzeminski, representing \$25 for each District 12 Camper for the year 2016. A motion was passed to continue this donation in the coming year.

Barbara Wesolowski reported that District XII ranked third in the country in the sale of insurance policies, totaling \$20,000 in premium payments.

A discussion ensued on the possibility of merging both the District XII Men's and Women's Divisions, due to the aging Membership's smaller participation in District activities. After due consideration of this issue, a motion was passed



District 12 Officers and President Spula



President Frank Spula – keynote address, Barbara Wesolowski, Fraternal Director Region "F", Chairperson of Convention, Joseph Dobersztyn, Treasurer.



District 12 Convention 10-23-2016

to merge the two Divisions. Director Wesolowski moved to appoint a Joint Board of Officers, and the motion passed. The appointments were as follows: Irene Spiewak, Vice-President; Joseph Dobersztyn, Treasurer; Shirley Wass, Secretary; and Jan Chlipala, Marshall. There will be an appointment of a new District XII Commissioner shortly. He or she will lead Fundraising efforts. It was also decided that there will be two District meetings yearly—a semi-annual meeting and the Convention. Marion Grabowski, PNA Treasurer, administered the Oath to the incoming Officers.

Representatives of Councils 23, 39, 55, 80, 123, and 143 gave reports of the many fraternal and charitable activities taking place within their groups. Subsequently, an Open Forum was held with those present voicing suggestions of ways to safeguard the future of the PNA.

The following appointments were made: Roman Bucon, Irene Spiewak, Jerzy Hejna, and Marion Grabowski as Delegates to the Youth Camp Association; Roman Bucon, Irene Spiewak, and Jerzy Hejna as Delegates to the Youth Home Corporation; and Marian Grabowski, Irene Spiewak, and Walter Cygan as Delegates to the Polish American Congress.

With no other business to attend to, the Convention adjourned. This was followed by a delicious meal and fraternal fellowship.

Submitted by Shirley Wass.

Send all articles, pictures, and correspondence to:
zgoda@pna-znp.org
 or mail to: Alicja Kuklinska
 Zgoda Magazine
 6100 N. Cicero Avenue
 Chicago, IL 60646

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Simply designate the Polish National Alliance Educational Found as your organization of choice.

Only purchases made at **smile.amazon.com** are eligible for donations.

Installation of Officers at Lodge 1224

Rockford, Illinois. PNA Lodge 1224 held the Installation of the Officers for the year 2017 on Sunday, January 22nd. Marian Bielawski administered the oath to the new officers:

President – Stanislaw Wawioroko
Vice President – Joe Wojewodzki
Financial Secretary – Teresa Bulka
Treasurer – Ann Wojewodzki
Recording Secretary – Irena Dyer

Our Lodge is very grateful to Marian Bielawski for his many years of service as a President of Lodge 1224.

Submitted by Joe Wojewodzki.



(l-r) Joe Wojewodzki, Ann Wojewodzki, Stanislaw Wawioroko, Teresa Bulka, Irena Dyer.

Z działalności Okręgu XIII

Rok 2016 rozpoczął się w Okręgu XIII od zebrania sprawozdawczo-wyborczego, które odbyło się 3 marca. Wybraliśmy nowy zarząd na następne 4 lata, którego członków zaprzysięgła dyrektorka biznesowa ZNP Irena Hercik.

Postanowiono, że spotkania w maju, październiku i grudniu będą organizowane wspólnie ze Stowarzyszeniem Dobroczynności ZNP, którego członkowie należą również do naszego okręgu.



Pamiątkowe zdjęcie przed figurką Matki Boskiej. (l-r) Małgorzata Szuba, Janina Kopacz, Irene Hercik, Wanda Penar, Wanda Juda, Joanna Stasiak, o. Adam Styc, Elżbieta Cimochowicz.

Kolejne spotkanie odbyło się 5 maja i rozpoczęło majową mszę świętą, którą odprawił ojciec Adam Styc. Zaraz po procesji wejściowej koronacji figurki Matki Boskiej dokonała Małgorzata Szuba. Po mszy Joanna Stasiak z Gminy 75 została uhonorowana tytułem Matki Roku 2016 i obdarowana bukietem kwiatów. Panie otrzymały symboliczne róże z okazji zbliżającego się Dnia Matki, a wszyscy zgromadzeni uraczeni zostali poczęstunkiem przygotowanym przez członkinie Gminy 75 i Wydziału Kobiet.



Stoją (l-p): Wanda Juda, Janina Kopacz, Irene Hercik, Anna Wierzbicki, Wanda Penar. Siedzą (l-r): Elżbieta Cimochowicz, Anna Kokoszka, Stanisława Rawicki.

Październik jest miesiącem Różańca Świętego, dlatego też w dniu 6 października spotkaliśmy się, jak co roku, aby pod przewodnictwem Elżbiety Cimochowicz odmówić część różańca - Tajemnica Świata. Modliliśmy się za żyjących, chorych i zmarłych członków Okręgu XIII, za żołnierzy odbywających misje w różnych niebezpiecznych zakątkach Świata, oraz za pokój na całym świecie. Po modlitwie zebrani mile spędzili wieczór wśród związkowych przyjaciół. Poczęstunek został przygotowany przez przedstawicielki Wydziału Kobiet i Dobroczynności.

16 października, wspólnie z Wydziałem Kobiet, zorganizowaliśmy doroczny Sejmik Okręgu XIII. Po raz pierwszy od wielu lat nasz Okręg ma jednego a nie dwóch komisarzy. Swoją obecnością zaszczylił nas prezes ZNP Frank Spula, główny mówca zebrania, zapewniający, że Organizacja ma się bardzo dobrze

i proszący o zapisywanie nowych członków i dalszą współpracę. Na spotkaniu obecny był również skarbnik ZNP Marian Grabowski, który zaprzysięgł zebranych delegatów. Nowa menadżer do spraw sprzedaży, pani Jolanta Walaszek przedstawiła się wszystkim zebranym informując o planach ubezpieczeniowych oferowanych przez Związek Narodowy Polski oraz deklarując pełną współpracę i pomoc.

Leszek Krzemiński, skarbnik Ośrodka Młodzieżowego Okręgu XII i XIII w Yorkville, powiedział parę słów na temat planów związanych z wakacjami dla młodzieży oraz innych możliwości korzystania z ośrodka. W 2016 z obozu letniego skorzystało ponad 300 dzieci, a w 2017 będzie zorganizowanych pięć turnusów. Pan Krzemiński prosił zebranych, aby częściej odwiedzali ośrodek, który ma wiele do zaoferowania zarówno członkom ZNP, jak i niezrzeszonym.

Podczas sejmiku, wybrany został nowy zarząd Okręgu XIII na rok 2017 zaprzysiężony przez dyrektorkę Irene Hercik. Zarząd Okręgu XIII i Wydziału Kobiet postanowił wyróżnić Katty Gołowacz z Gminy 3 j przyznając jej tytuł Kobietę Roku oraz Zenona Olejniczaka z Gminy 120, Mężczyznę Roku.



(l-p) Janina Kopacz, Anna Wierzbicki, Wanda Juda, Zenon Olejniczak, Katty Golowacz, Frank Spula,



*Kobieta i Mężczyzna Roku:
Katty Golowacz i Zenon Olejniczak.*

Przyznane również zostały stypendia studentom Okręgu XIII, cztery w wysokości po \$500 i dwa po \$250.

Okręg XIII, jest od wielu lat liderem w sprzedaży planów ubezpieczeniowych. Obecna na sejmiku pani Stanisława Rawicki, która sprzedała najwięcej, aż 49 polis ubezpieczeniowych, otrzymała dyplom i upominek.

1 grudnia odbyło się przyjęcie bożonarodzeniowe Wydziału Kobiet i Dobroczynności. Dzieci ze szkoły sobotniej im. Generała Władysława Andersa, której dyrektorem jest Wanda Penar, przedstawiły wspaniałe jasełka przygotowane przez jedną z nauczycielek tej szkoły, panią Wiesławę Dziedzic. Z podziękowaniem do dzieci przybył św. Mikołaj obdarowując je słodyczami. Zebrani śpiewali kolędy i wzięli udział w loterii fantowej, z której dochód przeznaczony jest zawsze na poczęstunek, a ewentualną różnicę pokrywają Gmina 41, 120, Wydział Kobiet Okręgu XIII i Wydział Dobroczynności. Uczestnicy świątecznego przyjęcia nigdy za nie nie płacą, jest to forma podziękowania za całoroczną działalność. Dyrektorki Wanda Penar, Irene Hercik oraz komisarz Wanda Juda, jak co roku, obdarowały zebranych prezencikami.



Dzieci ze szkoły im. Generała Andersa oraz panie Wiesia Dziedzic, Wanda Penar i Wanda Juda.



Święty Mikołaj obdarował dzieci słodyczami!

Śniadanie ze świętym Mikołajem zorganizowaliśmy, już po raz piętnasty, w niedzielę 4 grudnia. Wcześniej rano dzieci z rodzicami i dziadkami przyjechały do budynku ZNP, aby spotkać się na wspólnej zabawie. Impreza otwarta jest dla wszystkich dzieci, nie tylko tych, które są członkami ZNP i jest okazją do promowania naszej Organizacji oraz podkreślenia, jak ważne są dla nas dzieci – nasz przyszłość. Profesjonalnie przygotowany program gier i zabaw i pyszne śniadanie sprawiły, że i dzieci i rodzice bawili



Goście i gospodarze bożonarodzeniowego przyjęcia.

się świetnie. Na końcu pojawił się wyczekiwany przez najmłodszych św. Mikołaj. Każde dziecko otrzymało paczkę polskich smakołyków i miało okazję do pamiątkowego zdjęcia. By dostać prezent dzieci popisywały się swoimi umiejętnościami i talentami i obiecywały grzeczne zachowanie na przyszłość!



Pragnę podziękować zarządowi oraz wszystkim, którzy pomagali w organizowaniu spotkań Okręgu XIII w roku 2016. Bez waszego zaangażowania i pracy sukcesy Okręgu XIII Związku Narodowego Polskiego nie byłyby możliwe!

Wanda Juda, Komisarz Okręgu XIII

COUNCIL 62 PNA INSTALLS OFFICERS FOR 2017

Chicopee, MA. Council 62 Polish National Alliance delegates of Chicopee, MA held their 2017 annual meeting and elections at the Cavalier Restaurant, Chicopee, MA. Election Chairperson and Installing Officer, Helena Jalbert, PNA Lodge 2279, administered the oath of office to elected delegates and officers.



Pictured standing left to right: Brian Gendron, Treasurer; Jeannie Zapala, former Commissioner PNA District 1, 1st Vice President; Richard Knurek, 2nd Vice President and President of Polish Alliance Youth Camp, Camp Stanica; Helena Jalbert, Installing Officer; Gilbert J. Sherman, President, and Teresa Struziak Sherman, PNA National Business Board Director, Financial and Recording Secretary.

The Council is planning an Easter Egg Hunt on April 22 at Camp Stanica, Bondsville, MA which will begin at noon. Refreshments will be served free of charge. The Easter bunny will join us for the post Easter celebration.

Camp Stanica is planning a 5K Cross Country Trail Run/Walk at the Camp on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 10 A.M. Awards will be given to the first place male and female to finish the race. The event will benefit Camp Scholarships, Programs and the Maintenance Building Fund. Contact Richard Knurek at 413-283-9525 for more information, and registration.

The PNA Council 62 co-educational overnight camping season will open for children ages 6-14 at Camp Stanica, the Polish Alliance Youth Camp in Bondsville, MA. Camping for Session I is July 16-22. Session II is from July 23-29. Anyone interested in sending a child to camp should contact Gene Kirejczyk at 48 Szetela Drive, Chicopee, MA 01013, or call 413-592-0227 for a camp brochure and registration form. Council 62's challenge is to increase PNA membership and has organized a membership contest for all its delegates for the year 2017.

Submitted by Teresa Struziak Sherman, PNA Business Director.

Polish National Alliance Scholarship Program

Deadline is April 15th, 2017



The Polish National Alliance is pleased to announce the PNA's Annual College Scholarships. The program is available to all PNA members who are currently enrolled as full time College or University students and who will be continuing their undergraduate studies in the Fall 2017 semesters.

Full-time students who will be Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors in the Fall 2017 semester qualify for scholarships. Incoming freshmen do not qualify.

Please check Fraternal Benefits/Scholarship Program tabs for Rules, Regulations and Application.

You may also request the Application by e-mailing:

mary.srodon@pna-znp.org

or calling: **1-800-621-3723 ext. 312.**

www.pna-znp.org



The Polish National Alliance is proud of this program. It is not only a substantial demonstration of our organization's dedication to fraternalism but is also keeping with our historic commitment to support the intellectual and educational aspirations of our members.

We are proud of

Richard Poremski Kosciuszko Medal



(l-r) Richard P. Poremski and Janusz Romanski

WASHINGTON, D.C. – At the Polish Independence Day Celebration held here on November 16, 2016 at The Residence of the Ambassador - hosted by Ambassador Piotr Wilczek - an adjunct awards ceremony took place: Richard P. Poremski, Chairman of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation, in Baltimore, Maryland was awarded the meritorious Thaddeus Kosciuszko Medal by the hand of Professor Dr. Janusz Romanski, Chairman of Polonia Technica – The Association of Polish American Engineers in the United States of America, headquartered in New York City. Polish patriot U.S. Brigadier General Thaddeus Kosciuszko is considered the father of the American military engineers due to his vital war-winning battlefield contributions during America's Revolutionary War for its independence from England.

The red and white be-ribboned bronze medal, featuring a high relief bust of Kosciuszko – with a blending of the Polish and American flags on the obverse - was awarded by Polonia Technica to Poremski “In Recognition of his Significant Contribution to the Prestige of the Polish American Community and Over the Years Patriotic Promotion of the Martyr History of Poland in the United States.”

Poremski expressed his utmost thanks for the honor that the striking medal bestows ... and also proudly accepted it on behalf of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation, and for the very prominent Memorial itself standing tall and looking good in Baltimore's Harbor East since being erected there in 2000.

Richard P. Poremski belongs to the PNA Lodge 238 in Baltimore, Maryland, and is a regular contributor to the “Zgoda” publication.

Text: PAJ Staff - Photo: Kris Walski

Thomas & Heather Svec GRADUATES



Thomas and Heather Svec recently graduated from college, and as regular members of the PNA, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Polish National Alliance Scholarship Committees and the PNA Lodge 352 for scholarship support received during their college careers.

Thomas received his undergraduate degree from Slippery Rock University in 2013 as an Athletic Trainer and entered Gannon University's Physical Therapy Program where he served as a graduate assistant for the football, girls gymnastics and baseball teams. He graduated in May of 2016 with his Doctorate in Physical Therapy and successfully passed his boards. He is currently employed by UPMC Centers for Rehabilitative Services in Pittsburgh, as a full-time Physical Therapist.

Heather attended Penn State University, University Park Campus and graduated in May 2016, with her degree in Mechanical Engineering, and a minor in Engineering Leadership. She is currently employed by Bechtel Plant Machinery, Inc. (BPMI) a project engineering organization responsible for providing design, manufacturing, and procurement management for nuclear power plant components for installation in submarines and aircraft carriers.

Sincerely,

Sue & Bob Svec, North Huntingdon, PA.

Welcome to our PNA Family



Lucas John & Theophil (Teddy) Leon Nadeau,

born December 8, 2015 are new members of PNA Lodge 12. Their mom – Sherry, grandmother Mary, uncle Marc and cousins; Alexander, Samuel, Kayla, Kennedy and Nick are also members of PNA Lodge 12! They were enrolled by their loving grandmother Mary Glaza.



Liam Patrick Moriarty

PNA Lodge 711, Chicopee, MA welcomes its newest member, Liam Patrick Moriarty from Lancaster, NH. Liam was born on February 12, 2016. He is the son of Marcie Rohan and Kevin Moriarty. Liam is the grandson of Walter and Simone Rohan, Bob and Christine Moriarty and great grandson to Adella Strycharz, Recording Secretary/Treasurer of PNA Lodge 711, all from Chicopee, MA. PNA National Business Board Director and Lodge 711 Financial Secretary/Sales Representative, Teresa Struziak Sherman enrolled Liam into Lodge 711 PNA.

Claire E. Perona,
born December 07, 2015,
daughter of Margarita and
Thomas Perona, became
a member of PNA Lodge
3237, Illinois.

The certificate was a gift
from her loving grandmother
Barbara Ziemlo.



Owen Thomas Wilke,
born April 22, 2016,
is the newest member
of Kosciuszko Lodge
165, Houston Texas.

He is son of Angela
and Kenneth Thomas
Wilke and grandson
of Marilyn Edwards.
Submitted by Jolanta
Mazewski-Dryden.



Anna Zofia Podczaska,
born March 1, 2012, daughter of Pawel Podczaski and Dr. Joanna Stankiewicz is the newest member of PNA Lodge 257 Star of Kosciuszko Society, Illinois. Anna also joined the Chicago "Wici" Song and Dance Theatre.



Mabel Samantha Davis,
born September 16, 2016 is a new member of Lodge 1052, Pittsburgh, PA. Her parents are Jessica and Jeffrey Davis, grandparents are Lori and David Brooks of Phoenix, AZ, and great grandparents are Marlene and Joseph Kaminski, former National Director of the PNA.

In Memoriam

JEAN A. KOZMOR



Jean A. Kozmor (nee Agentowicz), 99, of North Arlington, NJ, formerly of Jersey City, NJ, died peacefully on Tuesday night November 22nd, 2016 surrounded by her niece and nephew Patricia A. and Stanley M. Dunaj.

Born and raised in Eynon, Pennsylvania, Jean came to New Jersey and worked for the RCA in Harrison for nearly 40 years retiring in 1976 as an Administrative Assistant. She took an active role within the Polish American community. Jean Kozmor was a former NJ State Commissioner of the Polish National Alliance and a former National Director of the organization. She was President of PNA Council 20 located in Jersey City, NJ, and Financial Secretary of Klub Polek PNA Lodge 2676 located in Harrison, NJ. Jean was also President of the General Pulaski Memorial Committee of Jersey City and assisted in organizing the Jersey City contingent for over seventeen Pulaski Day parades along Fifth Avenue in New York City.

Jean was the wife of the late 1st Sgt. Joseph F. Rovinski of Harrison, NJ who was killed in the Battle of Anzio in WWII and is buried in Nettuno, Italy. He was the first soldier to be killed in WW II from the town of Har-

rison, NJ. Twenty years later she married a prominent businessman of Jersey City, the late Edward P. Kozmor with whom they both continued to take active interests in the Polish American community. Her husband Edward became Censor of the Polish National Alliance, and together they worked within the PNA and helped to raise funds for Alliance College in Cambridge Springs, PA. Edward and Jean were married only two short years until his untimely death in 1965.

With all of the hardships of her life, Jean A. Kozmor never wavered and continued to work for the good of all Polish organizations, and continued to help all who were in need. Within her lifetime she met many prominent people including Pope John Paul II and Presidents Kennedy and Carter.

She was a dedicated parishioner of both St. Ann Polish and St. Anthony of Padua RC Churches in Jersey City, and was a member of the Rosary Society of St. Ann Polish RC Church. Jean was the last survivor and was predeceased by six sisters and one brother. She is survived by several loving nieces and nephews, with whom she held most dear.

Life is but a stopping place
A pause in what's to be
A resting place along the road,
To *Sweet Eternity*

Epiphany Mass in Fort Wayne, IN

White Eagle Lodge 3149 of the PNA sponsored a bilingual Polish/English Mass on the feast of the Epiphany, January 8, 2017, at St. Mary Mother of God Catholic Church in Fort Wayne. Father Tim Wrozek was the celebrant. The Mass was followed by light refreshments in the parish hall.



The Lectors for the Mass, Patricja Radziwili Bone and Richard Pacer.

Joyce Pacer was the overall coordinator for the Mass, making arrangements for the music (two musicians played the oboe and the flute) and working for the staff at St. Mary's to facilitate the Mass and reception. Jean Podzielinski handled publicity. Kevin Demetroff, director of music, played the piano and organ and led the assembly in the singing of kolendy. Other PNA members who helped included George and Carol Wilenski, Stanley Podzielinski, and Nellie Wood.

Sponsoring a bilingual Mass has been a PNA tradition in Fort Wayne for over 30 years. In the past, the Mass was entirely in Polish, necessitating bringing a priest in from some distance. In more recent years, the readings for the Mass have been done in both Polish and English, while various prayers are done in one language or other. But the music is always in Polish, consisting of kolendy.

We thank God for making this possible.

*Submitted by Richard & Joyce Pacer.
Photograph by Gabriel Delobbe.*

Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation

5711 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60646
773-763-9942

Announces

The Majer and Lakowski Families Memorial Scholarships

Scholarship Terms:

- Available for full-time undergraduate and graduate students majoring in engineering or business administration.
- Recipients must attend a public state university or college.
- Amount of the scholarship is equal to the annual state-resident (in-state) tuition.
- Scholarships are renewable annually.
- Merit and need are taken into consideration.
- Candidates not selected can reapply annually.
- Preference shall be given to applicants who will be juniors, seniors, or graduate students in the fall term.

To obtain an application, send a request by mail to PACCF (address above) or an application can be printed from PACCF website at www.paccf.org

Applications must be submitted by **March 15, 2017**

PNA

Region "H" Activities

Polish Harvest Festival in Houston, Texas

September 16-18, 2017 Polish National Alliance participated in the annual Polish Harvest Festival. The event was a real Polish Festival with fantastic Polish Food, Dancers and 1000's of attendees. Polish National Alliance, and Progressive Lodge 2336 supported by Kosciuszko Lodge 165, and Polonia Lodge 2308 had a spectacular, informative display promoting PNA and Polish art and culture. Jolanta Mazewski - Dryden, Fraternal Director Region H and local PNA members were on hand to talk with PNA members and prospective members. The response was wonderful, with numerous PNA members from various parts of the country stopping by the display. The 2016 Dozynki Polish Festival featured The Wawel Dance group that includes PNA members dressed in original Polish noble's costumes from the 17th century.



PNA family Danko, Sabrina and Hanka Gazdyszyn and Region H Director Jolanta Mazewski Dryden.



Richard Mazewski, Member of Lodge 2336, and son of the late Antonina Mazewski hosted the PNA booth the entire weekend.



PNA members from San Antonio visited the PNA booth.



Former Polish Eagle Dance Group members.



Dr. Mazurkiewicz and his wife during festival's parade.



Members of Lodge 165, Mike Kurtin, and Maryann Ciaston performing in their new Polish noble's costumes.



Winners of Poland's most talented - Polish Music Group Tekla Kielebnica.



Members of Lodge 2336 Crim Family, Mary Margaret Crim (former Polish Eagle Dancer, Council 182) and her son visited the PNA booth.

53rd Sts. Cyril & Methodius Slavic Heritage Festival

September 25, 2016. PNA hosted a PNA Booth and Polish Cultural Display in Houston, Texas. The yearly event brings together the Polish, Czechs, Ukrainians and Croatians along with other Eastern European groups to a one day festival of culture and togetherness. PNA's booth was once again an excellent representation of the organization and culture display. Region "H" Director Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden was on hand to talk with attendees.



Slavic Festival display

James & Cherry Smock Benefit

October 2, 2016. PNA and Polish Community came together to support their own – a family that has always supported Polish events and promoted them via website and photography. Brian Marshall, member of Kosciuszko Lodge 165, and family along with some of the PNA members Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, Mike Kurtin and numerous others, came together and organized a spectacular benefit featuring great Polish Food, entertainment and fundraising activities. Special thanks to all those who donated in various capacities, and recognition to Brian Marshall for spearheading this event.



PNA Members at the Smock Benefit. Families of Gurka, Borksi, Wisnoski, Marshall, Kurtin, Hill, Borski, Worchesik, Stzelecki, Kubiak, Commissioner Wanda Ray Kotch and former PNA Director John Rey from Bremond, Jolanta Mazewski Dryden, Region H Director and many others.



Denis Kubiak from PNA in Bremond donated a rooster to the live auction at the benefit. The rooster was very well trained!!!



Mike Kurtin, leading audience members in a Polonez Dance.

St. Peter's Polish American Heritage Festival in Dallas

October 23, 2016. Polish National Alliance was featured at the 30th Anniversary of the Polish Community in Dallas, and first St. Peter's Polish American Heritage Festival. Regional Director Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden, and son Thaddeus Dryden, Progressive Lodge 2336 member presented the display and distributed PNA information to hundreds of attendees. Once again, we met PNA members from all over the country! Thanks to St. Peter's Polish Heritage Festival for a great event.



PNA Display at St. Peter's 1st Annual Polish American Heritage Festival in Dallas, Texas



Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden, and PNA member from Chicago.

Polish American Council of Texas Annual Meeting

PNA represented at the Polish American Council of Texas Annual Meeting celebrating the life of Bishop Emeritus John Yanta, a supporter, and organizer of Polish events and organizations in Texas. Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz of Kosciuszko Lodge 165 spearheading this event.

Panna Maria, in Texas, is the oldest Polish settlement in the US going back to December 3, 1854, when a group of Polish immigrants came to Texas from Silesia. They established the first Polish colony and called the place Panna Maria.



Representation from Panna Maria.



Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, Lodge 165 receiving a donation from Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden.

Christmas Party

December 11, 2016. Annual Christmas Party for Progressive Lodge 2336, Kosciuszko Lodge 165, Polonia Lodge 2306, Council 182, and Polish Home at the Polonia Restaurant in Houston. Over 100 members in attendance at this yearly event came to celebrate together. Special thanks to Al Snider of Lodge 165 for chairing the event.



Election at Kosciuszko Lodge 165

January 8, 2017. Kosciuszko Lodge 165 in Houston, Texas held their annual meeting and election of officers. New officers were sworn in by Director of Region "H" Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden.
President – Al Snider
Vice President – Larry Gurka
Recording Secretary – Mike Kurtin
Financial Secretary – Brian Marshall
Treasurer – Marilyn Edwards



Members of Kosciuszko Lodge 165.



2017 Officers of Kosciuszko Lodge 165

Fundraiser for the "Wawel" Dance Group



PNA Lodge 2336 member Katie Kubiak, and Mike Kurtin from Lodge 165 with friends.

Polonia Lodge 2308 Annual Meeting

On January 8, 2017, Polonia Lodge 2308 in Houston held their annual meeting and election of officers:
President – Bruno Maciejewski
Vice President – Clifford Maciejewski
Vice President – Jimmy Kubezaka
Recording Secretary – Patricia Maciejewski
Financial Secretary – Bruce Maciejewski



Officers of Polonia Lodge 2308

Council 182 Annual Meeting

On January 8, 2017, PNA Council 182 held its annual meeting in Houston, Texas

Members from Lodges: Kosciuszko 165, Progressive 2336, and Polonia 2308 elected 2017 officers:

President – Al Snider

Vice President – Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden

Recording Secretary – Mike Kurtin

Virginia Hill – Treasurer



Members of Council 182.

Social Meeting

On January 29, 2017, annual social meeting of Council 182, Kosciuszko Lodge 165, Progressive Lodge 2336, and Polonia Lodge 2308 took place at Polish Home in Houston, Texas. Special remembrance was given to Willie Mae Maciejewski, past member who served as recording secretary for many years, and other members we lost last year.



Meeting of Council 182, Kosciuszko Lodge 165, Progressive Lodge 2336, Polonia Lodge 2308.

Polish "Koledy" in Texas

December 17, 2016, Bremond, Texas and December 26, 2016, Chappell Hill, Texas the Polish Community hosted the annual "Koledy" continuing the Polish tradition of signing Polish Christmas Carols to the surrounding communities. The Koledy's were spearheaded by Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz and Brian Marshall of PNA Lodge 165, and supported by the community and PNA members from Houston and surrounding areas. It is a Christmas celebration like no other filled with music, food, laughter, and a time for giving!

Photos by James Smock.



*Submitted by Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden,
Fraternal Director, Region "H."*

Council 21 Activities

Council 21 Officers for 2017



(l-r) Top row: Richard Poremski - Vice President, Maksymilian Bondyra - President, Thomas Johns - Sergeant-at-Arms. Bottom row: Barbara Damesyn - Treasurer, Melissa Kalinowski - Vice President, Malgorzata Bondyra - Recording Secretary, June Johns - Financial Secretary.

Officers of Lodge 238 for 2017



(l-r) Top row: Richard Poremski - Treasurer, Stanisław Plecha - Vice President, Maksymilian Bondyra - President, Małgorzata Janowski - Recording Secretary, Jan Mokros - Doorkeeper. Bottom row: Małgorzata Bondyra - Financial Secretary, Agnieszka Krajewski - Sergeant-at-Arms, Krystyna Jasinski - Vice President.

Ojczyzna Polish Dancers at the Polish Embassy Gore gwiazda Jezusowi w obłoku...



Sunday, December 18, 2016, was a very busy day for few members of Ojczyzna Polish Dancers (members of PNA Lodge 238), who performed koledy and pastoratki under Małgorzata Bondyra's direction at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC.

Choinka u Ambasadora



W niedzielę 11 grudnia 2016 roku w rezydencji Pana Ambasadora Piotra Wilczka w Waszyngtonie odbyło się tradycyjne spotkanie choinkowe dla dzieci z polskich szkół. Podczas spotkania Krakowiaki Dancers z Grupy 339 ŻNP w Baltimore mieli okazję zaprezentować się w kilku polskich tańcach ludowych.

Council 21 Christmas Party

Council 21 held its Annual Children's Christmas Party on December 10, 2016.

The event included Polish carols singing led by the Polish Language Class, folk dancing by Krakowiaki Dancers and Christmas piano tunes performed by young, and talented Przemek Jagielski.

Submitted by Małgorzata Bondyra, Recording Secretary of Council 21.



Polish National Alliance

Song and Dance Concert 2017

Sunday, March 12, 2017 – 1:00 P.M.

**Lane Technical
High School
Auditorium**

2501 W. Addison St.
Chicago, Illinois



**1-773-286-0500
ext. 312**

**Proceeds benefit
participating groups**

Tickets will also be available through the
dance groups participating in the concert.



Polish National Alliance

6100 N. Cicero Ave
Chicago, IL 60646

1-800-621-3723 | pna-znp.org

Chicagowska Studniówka 2017

Uśmiechnięte twarze, wieczorowe kreacje, odświętny gwar, konkursy, pokazy tańca, życzenia gości honorowych i taneczny sztaf – to niezapomniany obraz tegorocznego balu studniówkowego. W ten radosny sposób 476 maturzystów z 38 polskich szkół sobotnich rozpoczęło odliczanie stu dni, jakie pozostały im do matury.

24. edycję studniówkowej imprezy



zorganizowanej 28 stycznia pod egidą Zrzeszenia Nauczycieli Polskich przez szkołę im. Fryderyka Chopina w salach bankietowych Drury Lane rozpoczęło uroczyste wejście na salę uczniów klas maturalnych z poszczególnych szkół. Uczestników balu witali gospodarze imprezy z nestorką polonijnego szkolnictwa, współzałożycielką szkoły im. Fryderyka Chopina i jej honorową dyrektorką Zofią Barczyk na czele.

Bal rozpoczął się życzeniami i programem artystycznym, na który złożył się krótki koncert fortepianowy Emilii Wielgus oraz recital maturalistki Moniki Cachro. Pokaz tańca przygotowali tancerze z Centrum Ekspresji Artystycznej „Szepty”. Sporo emocji wzbudziło losowanie wśród reprezentantów poszczególnych szkół czterech stypendiów po 1000 dolarów każde oraz wręczenie medali pamiątkowych i upominków.

Błogosławieństwa udzielił zgro-

madzonym ks. biskup Andrzej Wypych. W gronie gości składających gratulacje uczniom, pedagogom i rodzicom znaleźli się: konsul generalny RP w Chicago Piotr Janicki, prezes Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej i Związku Narodowego Polskiego Frank Spula, prezes Zrzeszenia Nauczycieli Polskich Ewa Koch, prezes Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego Joseph Drobot i prezes Związku Klubów Polskich Jan Kopeć. W imieniu maturzystów za opiekę i pomoc w nauce języka polskiego, i historii dziękowali Ania Wąs i Krystian Glapiński. W roli gospodarzy wystąpili dyrektor Ewa Górka oraz prezes szkoły Magdalena Bosak. W rolę konferansjerów wcielili się Wanda Antczak i Marcin Budzik.

Andrzej Baraniak/NEWSRP

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Lokalny Ośrodek Metodyczny w Chicago



W piątek, 3 lutego 2017 r. w Konsulacie Generalnym RP powołany został Lokalny Ośrodek Metodyczny w Chicago, inaugurujący ścisłą współpracę między Ośrodkiem Doskonalenia Nauczycieli Stowarzyszenia „Wspólnota Polska” i Zrzeszeniem Nauczycieli Polskich w Ameryce. Jest to trzeci na świecie i pierwszy w Stanach Zjednoczonych ośrodek służący polonijnym pedagogom.



Wiceprezes Stowarzyszenia „Wspólnota Polska” Dariusz Bonisławski oraz prezes Zrzeszenia Nauczycieli Polskich w Ameryce Ewa Koch.

Zadaniem LOM-u jest inspirowanie i wspieranie nauczycieli polonijnych w ich dalszym rozwoju zawodowym, szkolenia, działalność doradcza i informacyjna, współpraca z lokalnymi placówkami oświatowymi oraz gromadzenie i udostępnianie wiedzy na temat szkolnictwa polonijnego.

Umowę o otwarciu ośrodka w Chicago podpisali: w imieniu Stowarzyszenia „Wspólnota Polska” wiceprezes Dariusz Bonisławski, a w imieniu Zrzeszenia Nauczycieli Polskich w Ameryce prezes Ewa Koch.

Nominacje na instruktorów LOM-u w Chicago otrzymały doświadczone i znane w środowisku chicagowskim i poza nim nauczycielki: Alicja Nawara, Halina Żurawski oraz Anna Rosa. Efekty działalności liderów polonijnego szkolnictwa są już widoczne. W 2016, w ramach formowania się ośrodka metodycznego,

przeprowadzonych zostało sześć spotkań metodycznych, w których udział wzięło ponad dwustu nauczycieli. W imieniu nominowanych instruktorek pani Alicja Nawara wyraziła również nadzieję na współpracę z mniejszymi skupiskami Polonii i odległymi od Chicago polskimi szkołami i ośrodkami edukacyjnymi.

Konsul Generalny RP w Chicago Piotr Janicki, wyraził wdzięczność i zadowolenie z dbałości Zrzeszenia Nauczycieli Polskich w Ameryce o utrzymanie profesjonalnego poziomu nauczania w polskich szkołach aglomeracji chicagowskiej, do których uczęszcza kilkanaście tysięcy polonijnych uczniów.

Należy się spodziewać, że kolejny projekt współpracy między Stowarzyszeniem „Wspólnota Polska” a Zrzeszeniem Nauczycieli Polskich w Ameryce, przyniesie wymierne korzyści społeczności polonijnej w postaci podniesienia poziomu i rangi polskich szkół językowych a w efekcie kształtowania poczucia przynależności kulturowej i narodowej polonijnej młodzieży.

AK



(l-p) Konsul Generalny RP w Chicago Piotr Janicki, prezes Zrzeszenia Nauczycieli Polskich w Ameryce Ewa Koch, wiceprezes Stowarzyszenia „Wspólnota Polska” Dariusz Bonisławski, instruktorki LOM-u: Alicja Nawara, Halina Żurawski, Anna Rosa.

Famous Polish Women Honored



HAMTRAMCK, Mich. – The Piast Institute announces the establishment of the Polish Women's Hall of Fame on the occasion of International Women's Day, March 8, 2017. The virtual exhibit, hosted at **www.FamousPolishWomen.com** raises awareness of and honors women's lives and contributions to culture and history of Poland and the world. The project provides biographies, photographs, bibliographies, and articles on women in Poland and the diaspora.

Ashley Fallon, the director of the newly opened Polish Women's Hall of Fame, explained that the Hall of Fame will serve as a resource for the Polish community, for schools and universities, and especially for young Polish women—and for women everywhere. While individuals like Marie Skłodowska Curie are well-known, the overall story of the achievements and contributions of Polish women has long been overlooked. “We can never fully understand who we are until we join the stories of our mothers to those of our fathers,” said Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, President of the Piast Institute.

Nominations from the general public are accepted in six categories: Science and Education, Arts and Humanities, Religion, Public Life and Service, Philanthropy, and Sports. Final selections for Hall of Fame inductees will be made by a distinguished international panel. For more information, please visit the website at: www.FamousPolishWomen.com or call Ashley Fallon at the Piast Institute at **(313) 733-4535 ext. 105**



Stypendium Sybiraka

Związek Sybiraków w Chicago ustanowił na Loyola University wieczysty fundusz stypendialny by uczcić pamięć o ok 1.5 miliona Polaków zesłanych na Syberię przez władze sowieckie, oraz 25. lecie istnienia tej organizacji.

Podczas uroczystości władze uczelni reprezentowane były przez dyrektora do spraw rozwoju Kurta W. Petersona oraz dyrektora Interdyscyplinarnych Studiów Polskich oraz przewodnicząca Komisji Oświatowej Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej, panią Bożenę Nowicką McLees.



Z inicjatywą ustanowienia stypendium na renomowanej chicagowskiej uczelni wystąpił przed laty pan Eugeniusz Chmielowski, prezes Związku Sybiraków w Ameryce, który ufundował stypendium własnego imienia

przyznawane osobom, które będą na Loyola, przynajmniej przez rok, studiowały język polski.

Założycielami Związku Sybiraków w Chicago byli Eugeniusz Alek Chmielowski, obecny prezes organizacji oraz nieżyjący już dziś: Władysław Chruściel, Jan Kupriańczyk, Janusz Wasiak, Henryk Ścigała oraz Tadeusz Wojnar. Organizacja wydała dwie publikacje poświęcone tematyce wywózki Polaków na Syberię: w języku polskim “Przeznaczeni na zagładę. Wspomnienia polonijnych Sybiraków” oraz angielskim “The Mass Deportation of Poles to Siberia”.

Informacje dotyczące warunków ubiegania się o stypendium znajdują się na stronie internetowej Loyola University Chicago.

<http://www.luc.edu/polishstudies/scholarships.shtml>



Eugeniusz Alek Chmielowski

“Polish American Congress Awards the NKMF”



National Katyn Memorial Foundation Honored. Dr. Susanne Lotarski, President of the Polish American Congress – Washington Metropolitan Area Division, is depicted presenting its 2016 Annual Award to Richard P. Poremski, Chairman of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation, proudly accepting on its behalf with appreciative remarks.

BETHESDA, MD. We’ve all heard quite a lot during the recent presidential election about the possibility of breaking a certain “glass ceiling” – which did not occur since the first female candidate was not elected to the White House. But at the Polish American Congress – Washington Metropolitan Area Division (PAC-WMAD) Annual Thanksgiving Dinner here on November 13, 2016 two smaller glass ceilings were actually broken. For the first time since its founding in 1974 the PAC-WMAD did not bestow its annual award on a person, but on an organiza-

tion: The Nation Katyn Memorial Foundation (NKMF) in Baltimore, Maryland – home of the majestic National Katyn Memorial. It was also the first time that the NKMF itself was so recognized with such a distinct honor.

The striking walnut plaque with its blue and gold metal facing stipulates the *raison d’être* of the NKMF award as follows: “For promoting and preserving the memory of the 1940 Katyn Massacre for the education of future generations. Never Again! You are a credit to all Polonia and the fundamental values that we hold dear. **STO LAT!**”

Thaddeus Mirecki prefaced the award’s ceremony with a detailed history of the NKMF, and its predecessor organization – the NKM Committee. The many trials and tribulations encountered over the years that eventually resulted in the amazing raising of the National Katyn Memorial were all recounted and remembered; and also the fact of the Memorial’s esteemed importance and its recognized prominence set on the Polish-American landscape.

Speaking at the dinner was the Honorable Damon Wilson – Executive V.P. of the Atlantic Council. MC Susanne Lotarski noted that: Our Keynote Speaker, Mr. Damon Wilson, draws our attention to the key security issues currently facing NATO, Poland, the United States and its new President, indeed all of us. These are existential issues which the Polish American Congress was founded to address, has continued to address over the last 72 years, posed to this year’s major party presidential candidates, and which will focus our efforts in the coming years. Please actively join us. It is in our hands to advance liberty and democracy for ourselves and future generations.

There was much to be thankful for ... and much to ponder ... on this Thanksgiving themed Sunday afternoon.

*Richard Poremski,
Polish American Journal
Washington, D.C. Bureau*

Photo: Malgorzata Rogoyski



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Will of Tadeusz Kościuszko



In March 1798, Tadeusz Kościuszko, a hero of the American and Polish revolutions, and Thomas Jefferson, Vice President of the United States, gathered together in Philadelphia to make a pact of honor centered on the Pole's sizable American estate. Kościuszko, who had returned to the United States to a hero's welcome less than a year before, anxiously wanted to leave for Paris. Before the Pole departed, he and Jefferson constructed a will to dispose of \$15,000 (Kościuszko's Revolutionary pay) after his death. The two men labored together to produce a document with the potential to alter American history.

"I, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, being just in my departure from America, do hereby declare and direct that should I make no other testamentary disposition of my property in the United States thereby authorize my friend Thomas Jefferson to employ the

whole thereof in purchasing Negroes from among his own as any others and giving them liberty in my name in giving them an education in trades and otherwise, and in having them instructed for their new condition in the duties of morality which may make them good neighbors, good fathers or mothers, husbands or wives and in their duties as citizens, teaching them to be defenders of their liberty and country and of the good order of society and in whatsoever may make them happy and useful, and I make the said Thomas Jefferson, my executor of this."

Drawing on his strong belief that the downtrodden (peasants and slaves) could prosper if given their freedom under favorable conditions, Kościuszko tried to promote universal liberty and give Jefferson the opportunity to lead Southerners in a quest to remove the stain of slavery from the new nation.

Jefferson endorsed Kościuszko's scheme with a full heart, regarding the Pole as „the truest son of liberty I have even known”, and for the next twenty years, did not waver in his commitment to his Polish friend, maintaining a warm correspondence with Kosciuszko as they grew old together on opposite sides of the Atlantic.

Kosciuszko died on October 15, 1817. After several years of vacillation, Jefferson withdrew from his pact of honor with Kosciuszko by pleading in a Virginia court in Charlottesville that he could not serve as executor of his friend's estate and would not use the money to free his slaves.

As Kosciuszko's will, abandoned by Jefferson, made its way through the courts, many complications arose. The estate was finally awarded by the Supreme Court in 1852, 26 years after most of Jefferson's slaves had been auctioned on the rolling lawn at Monticello to extinguish his debts, to Kosciuszko's descendants.

For years in Poland, Kosciuszko's countrymen held the view that the American Civil War could have been averted if the Polish hero's philanthropic, abolitionist plan had been implemented.

Based on "Friends of Liberty: A Tale of Three Patriots, Two Revolutions, and the Betrayal that Divided a Nation: Thomas Jefferson, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, and Agrippa Hull" by Gary B. Nash and Graham Russell Gao Hodges

The Kosciuszko Commemoration Fund



The Kosciuszko Foundation is pleased to announce that it has established the Kosciuszko Commemoration Fund that is dedicated to assist the Polish American community in celebrating the UNESCO-declared Year of Kosciuszko which marks the 200-year legacy of gen. Thaddeus Kosciuszko since his passing in 1817.

The Fund is created from public donations and sponsorships, and will be used toward supporting a variety of projects throughout the country that stimulate community involvement, increase awareness and highlight the legacy and role of T. Kosciuszko in shaping the history of Poland and the United States.

One of the projects carried out by the Kosciuszko Foundation is taking a leading role within the Polish-American community to coordinate efforts with the NY State Department of Transportation with commemorating Thaddeus Kosciuszko on the New Kosciuszko Bridge in New York City.

The Bridge, which first part is currently under construction and planned to be opened in spring 2017, will be one of the most recognizable landmarks, not only in the NYC, but also in the U.S. As it was agreed, the bridge's name plaques will be visible on the new pillars and two more will need to be manufactured for the second part of the bridge to be completed in approximately three years. Additional ideas include placing information boards, sidewalk mosaics, photo-op elements and other local attractions commemorating Thaddeus Kosciuszko on the site of the bridge and in its vicinity.

The Kosciuszko Foundation is also working closely with institutional partners, organizations and individuals to create a commemoration program for 2017 that will provide everyone interested with an opportunity to engage and participate in celebrations of this historic year. Some of the initiatives include special exhibits, concerts, kids and educational events, public gatherings, talks and screenings. A full roster of KF co-/hosted and co-/sponsored commemoration projects and activities will be featured throughout the year on the KF website.

Gen. Thaddeus Kosciuszko (1746-1817) was a national hero in Poland and the United States; freedom fighter and military leader; ardent advocate for the rights of European serfs, African Slaves, Native American Indians, Jews, Women and all other disenfranchised social groups on two continents; engineer and creator of the West Point. Kosciuszko was a precursor of the development of national awareness in its modern sense, embodiment of the principle of tolerance, called by Thomas Jefferson "the purest son of liberty, I have ever known."

Please support the Kosciuszko Commemoration Fund and help us spread awareness and the legacy of this one of the greatest Polish pioneers.

For more information please contact the Kosciuszko Foundation at:

212-734-2130 or kosciuszko@thekf.org

Discovering Poland



The Polish National Alliance is invited to participate in the trip to Poland sponsored and organized by the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation offered to American Teenagers of Polish descent.

- **July 8-22, 2017**

- For young PNA members 13-15
- Krakow – Zakopane – Wieliczka – Nidzica Castle
- 45 hours of Polish language instructions at the Jagiellonian University
- Fully chaperoned
- Airfare, hotels, meals, entry fees are included
- Space is limited
- PNA will cover half of the cost for the 5 participants chosen by a random drawing

Deadline to apply: March 13th, 2017

For more information, registration, and instructions visit: www.pna-znp.org **1-800-621-3723 ext. 312**

Książ Castle – Zamek Książ

From the shores of Baltic Sea to the rocky Carpathians Poland offers tourist attractions that should not be missed. Rich history, stunning scenery, hidden treasures ...



Last year, there was an interesting article published in The New Yorker about a treasure hidden in the Polish mountains by the Nazis in 1945, „*The Nazi Underground. Is treasure buried beneath the mountains of Poland?*” It was shortly after two Polish explorers announced; they had located a secret tunnel with a train filled with gold and other valuables hidden by Nazi Germans.

The story drew worldwide attention to the Książ Castle seized by Nazis in 1941 as a future residence for Hitler. They built a bunker approximately 50 meters beneath the castle to protect its Führer from Allied bombs using forced labor

from the nearby Gross-Rosen concentration camp. The complex was not completed by the war's end, and its true purpose remains a mystery. Some historians think the complex was to become Nazi command headquarters, and others believe the tunnels were to house a nuclear weapons laboratory. Some of the tall, damp tunnels can be visited by tourists, but most still remain unexplored.

Even without the gold train, Książ Castle is a real treasure. Legend has it that the original castle at Książ was built at the end of the 13th century by Bolko I, Duke of Świdnica and Jawor, but it is best



known as the estate of the Hochberg family, who purchased it in 1508 and owned it until 1941.

The massive gray and pink castle links many architectural styles, dating back to its Slavic rulers. Through the ages, it was repeatedly expanded and transformed from Gothic to Baroque and Neoclassical style. The biggest expansion was carried by Conrad Maximilian Hochberg during the early part of the 18th century.

The Hochberg family owned the castle until the Nazis seized it for



delinquent taxes, and to punish them for not supporting Hitler. The castle's last owner was Wales-born Mary Theresa Olivia Cornwallis-West, first wife of Prince Hans Heinrich XV. The Princess Hochberg von Pless, known as Daisy, was a great beauty related to Winston Churchill. One of the Heinrich and Daisy's children served in the British army, the other in the Polish. The princess died in 1943 and was buried in the Hochberg Mausoleum near the castle, but her servants moved the body a number of times to protect the grave from plunder by Soviet troops, who occupied the area from May 1945 until the end of 1946. As a result, Princess Daisy's resting place remains unknown, but according to the legend, her spirit comes back to visit the beautiful castle.

After the World War II, Lower Silesia region and Książ Castle became part of Poland.

Much of the castle is open to visitors, including the Maximilian Hall, the Games Salon and the exquisite China Salon with its famous murals. English-language tours are offered for groups.

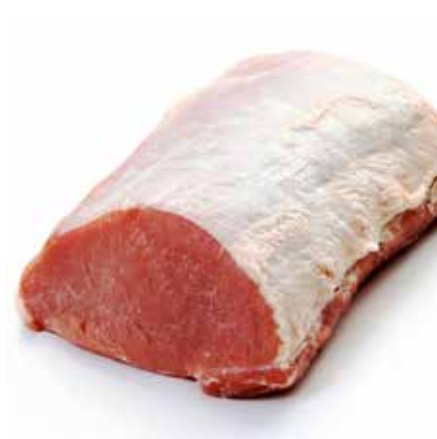
The castle is located in Wałbrzych, just past Świdnica, 70 km from Wrocław.

AK



Simply Delicious Classic Polish Dinner

Polish Pork Chop



Kotlet schabowy

Polish style, breaded pork chops happen to be the most popular Polish meat dish. They are usually served with boiled or mashed potatoes, sautéed cabbage, and salad.

Ingredients:

- 4 medium-sized pork chops
- (pork loin, boneless)
- salt and pepper
- plain flour
- 1 egg, beaten
- breadcrumbs
- Oil/butter for frying

Directions:

Beat out the pork chops until fairly thin. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside.

On separate plates, pour flour, egg and breadcrumbs. Dip each chop into the flour, coating both sides, and then dip into the beaten egg. Finally press the chops on to the breadcrumbs, ensuring even coating.

Heat sufficient oil/butter in a large frying pan. When hot, add

the pork and fry over medium heat approximately 5 minutes on each side, until golden. Best when served immediately.

Serving Suggestions

Polish style pork chops are usually served with potatoes and boiled cabbage stew or sliced cucumbers with sour cream but are great alone and make for decent leftovers for the next day's lunch.



Sautéed Cabbage



Kapusta smazona

Ingredients:

- 1 head cabbage
- 1 cup chicken or vegetable Broth
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons flour
- salt & pepper to taste
- 1-2 Tbsp. lemon juice *or* white or apple vinegar to taste
- 1-2 Tbsp. sugar

Optional:

- ½ sweet onion, diced, and cook in butter until translucent
- 1-2 carrots, peeled and julienned

Core the cabbage, slice into quarters and finely shred/chop. Place into a large pot, pour in broth. (If using carrots and onions, place in pot at this time). Bring to a boil, then cover and cook on low for about 30 minutes, until tender. In a small saucepan, melt butter and whisk in butter. Pour in 1 cup of broth from cabbage pot. Whisk and cook until thickened. Scrape out into cabbage pot and mix well, cooking on medium low until all broth thickens. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add lemon juice or vinegar, a tablespoon at a time to your taste. Add sugar to your liking. Serve hot.

Leek Salad



Surówka z porów

Leeks are a good source of vitamins and minerals and very common salad ingredient in Poland. This simple and healthy salad can be served with any meat dishes.

Ingredients:

- 3 leeks
- 1 stalk celery (optional)
- 2 apples (not very sweet kind)
- 3 tablespoons mayonnaise
- salt & pepper to taste

Directions:

Remove most of the green tops from 3 leeks. (You can freeze greens for soup). Trim off 'whiskers' at the bottom of root if still attached. Cut leeks in half lengthwise and wash well under running water. Cut each half in half lengthwise, place on the cutting-board side by side, and dice fine. Place in a bowl, add diced celery, and thickly grated apples. Toss ingredients, and mix them with mayonnaise, add salt and pepper to your taste.



Carrot & Apple Salad



Surówka z marchwi i jabłek

Ingredients:

- 4 large carrots
- 1 large Granny Smith apple
- juice of 1/2 lemon
- 1 tablespoon sunflower or vegetable oil
- 1/3 cup dark or light raisins (optional)
- Salt & sugar to taste

Directions:

In a large bowl, mix together 5 peeled and coarsely grated large carrots, 1 peeled, cored and coarsely grated large Granny Smith apple, juice of 1/2 lemon, 1 tablespoon sunflower or vegetable oil, 1/3 cup plumped and drained dark or light raisins, if using, salt to taste, and sugar to taste. After ingredients are thoroughly mixed, refrigerate covered until cold and serve.



PNA GIFT CARD PROGRAM



New fundraising agenda for our organization!

The purchase of the gift cards will benefit the Youth fund at the PNA.

The gift cards from a large variety of stores, restaurants, and businesses in your area are available from the Polish National Alliance Home Office.

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For more information on how to obtain gift cards please visit our website:

www.pna-znp.org

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1-800-621-3723 ext. 316

We hope you will take advantage of this great opportunity.

Please, note:

Gift card orders are filled every 15th and 30th of each month.

Please allow up to one week for the mailing.

Beyond Hangovers: How Alcohol can Affect Your Body

Part 1. Alcohol is a part of our culture. Glamorous actors/actresses entertain with cosmopolitan drinks. What wedding does not begin with a toast of wine or champagne? Even James Bond depends on his famous martini to unwind after an altercation with a villain. Alcohol helps us to celebrate, socialize and is even part of religious ceremonies. Drinking too much, on a single occasion, or over time can have serious consequences for our health. Most people know that drinking too much alcohol can lead to accidents and dependence, but that is only part of the story. Alcohol abuse can damage organs, weaken the immune system and increase cancer growth. Alcohol affects people differently. Your genes, environment, and diet can determine whether you develop an alcohol-related disease. Although it may seem complex, and it is, some individuals may benefit from drinking alcohol in small amounts. For you to make a



decision as to what is right for you, discuss it with your medical provider and keep current with accurate information. A “standard” drink contains about 0.6 fluid ounces or 14 grams of pure alcohol.

This can help you determine how much you are drinking and

understand the risks. The following amounts equal one standard drink:

- 12 fluid ounces of beer (about 5% alcohol)
- 8-9 fluid ounces of malt liquor (about 7% alcohol)
- 5 fluid ounces of table wine (about 12% alcohol)
- 1.5 fluid ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits (about 40% alcohol)

Research demonstrates “low-risk” drinking levels for men are no more than 4 drinks on any single day, and no more than 14 drinks per week. Women should not have more than 3 drinks per day, and no more than 7 drinks per week. Even with these limits, you can have problems if you drink too quickly, have health problems or are over the age of 65. Based on your health and how alcohol affects you, you should drink less or not at all.

Abstain from alcohol if you:

- Plan to drive a vehicle or operate machinery
- Are pregnant or are trying to become pregnant
- Take medication that interacts with alcohol (read medication warnings)
- Have a medical condition that might be affected by drinking alcohol

Underage Drinking. Underage drinking is a serious problem in the United States. It is much too easy to obtain alcohol despite laws to discourage such activities. Minors drinking alcohol still happens. Alcohol is the most widely used substance of abuse among America’s youth. Drinking by young people poses very high health and safety risks. The consequences of underage drinking affect us all. We feel the effects of the person’s aggressive behaviors, damages to property, injuries, violence and deaths that can result from underage drinking. It is a nation-wide concern.

Women and Alcohol. The drinking patterns of women are different from men, especially in reference to how much and how often they drink. Women’s bodies react differently to alcohol than men’s bodies, putting women at higher risks. Women who drink beyond moderate levels face many health risks.

Women face greater risks from drinking alcohol than men because:

- Women begin having alcohol-related problems at lower drinking levels than men
- Most women weigh less than men (the alcohol gets to the body organs quicker causing damage at a faster rate)
- Women have less water in their bodies than men and alcohol resides mostly in body water (again, the alcohol gets to the body organs faster)

Alcohol-Related Health Risks for Women versus Men

- **Liver Damage:** Women who drink are more prone to liver damage/inflammation.
- **Heart Disease:** Women are more susceptible to alcohol-related heart disease.
- **Breast Cancer:** Women who drink a drink a day have an increased chance of developing breast cancer

compared to women who do not drink at all.

- **Pregnancy:** Any drinking during pregnancy is risky, and heavy drinking can put a fetus at increased risk for learning, behavioral and other problems.

Older Adults and Alcohol. A national survey identified that about 40% of adults over the age of 65 drink alcohol. The elderly can experience a variety of problems from drinking alcohol, especially individuals who take certain medications that are affected by alcohol, those who have health problems or drink heavily. Aging can lower the body's tolerance for alcohol and experience the effects of alcohol more quickly than when they were younger. This puts the elder person at higher risk for falls, vehicle accidents and other unintentional injuries that result from drinking alcohol.

Older adults are often prone to certain health problems. Drinking too much alcohol can make these health problems worse. Some examples of chronic diseases and conditions affected by drinking alcohol include diabetes; high blood pressure; congestive heart failure; liver disease; osteoporosis; memory problems, and mood disorders.

Many prescription and over-the-counter medications, as well as herbal remedies can be dangerous, even deadly when alcohol is consumed with these substances in the body. Medications that can interact badly with alcohol include, but are not limited to Aspirin; Acetaminophen; cold and allergy medicines; cough syrup; sleeping pills; pain medication; antibiotics, anxiety or depression medicines.

Drinking Guidelines for older adults: Adults over age 65 who are healthy and do not take medications should not have more than 3 drinks on a given day (taken spaced out, not all at once), and not more than 7 drinks in a week. If you drink more than the recommended alcohol amounts, you can be put at risk for serious alcohol problems. Consult your doctor. You may be told to drink less or not at all.

The Dangers of Alcohol Overdose. Parties, celebrations, and gatherings of people often involve the drinking of alcohol. If a person drinks to excess, the results are an overdose of alcohol that can be deadly. If a person continues to drink despite clear signs of having impairments from the alcohol such as loss of balance and slurred speech to coma and death. Underage drinkers may be at greater risk for alcohol overdose because they often drink a large volume of alcohol in a short period of time and this overwhelms the body's ability to handle the alcohol. This leads to rapid increases in blood alcohol content (BAC) which severely impairs all areas of brain function.

Alcohol Poisoning. Alcohol poisoning occurs when there is enough alcohol in the bloodstream that areas



in the brain controlling a person's basic life support functions, such as breathing, heart rate and temperature begin to shut down. It is dangerous to assume that a person who passes out or becomes unconscious will sleep it off. This may not happen, and the person may die. Even if the drinker survives an alcohol overdose, s/he may have long-lasting brain damage. If you suspect someone has alcohol poisoning, do not hesitate to call 911 to get medical help immediately. Cold showers, hot coffee or walking will not reverse the effects someone has with alcohol overdose or alcohol poisoning. It could make the situation worse. The person needs medical help to rid the body of the alcohol immediately.

Medical Treatment and Support Groups. For individuals who have developed an addiction to drinking alcohol, there are local support groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, the church supported groups, other organizations and your health care provider to help an alcoholic recover from the addiction. One need not be ashamed to seek help. The road may be rocky, but it is possible to overcome the problem of drinking too much alcohol. Alcohol can destroy lives, cause family and friends stress and anxiety and cause an individual's personality to change in a negative way.

Part 2. of "Beyond Hangovers: How Alcohol Can Affect Your Body" will offer specific information on how alcohol affects the brain, heart, liver, pancreas, immune system and cancer risks. Hope you will find the information of interest. As the saying goes, "It may be someone you know, or even you, yourself, that can be saved by having the knowledge at the right time/place."



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RN, BSN, MS
PNA Business Board Director.

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Spożywany alkohol zaczyna być wchłaniany w już w jamie ustnej i przełyku, ale najwięcej etanolu dostaje się do krwi przez ścianki żołądka i jelita cienkiego. Nie-wielkie ilości alkoholu nie są szkodliwe, ale większa ilość wywołuje w żołądku stany zapalne i zaburza wchłanianie substancji odżywczych.

Alkohol wchłonięty do krwi powoduje wzrost ciśnienia oraz silne obniżenie poziomu cukru, czego objawem mogą być zawroty głowy i drżenie rąk.

Nerki filtrują krew usuwając wszystko, co jest dla organizmu niepotrzebne i szkodliwe. Do oczyszczenia krwi z etanolu potrzebują dużej ilości wody. Do pozbycia się z organizmu 250 ml wina potrzeba przynajmniej 500 ml wody. Wypicie nadmiernej ilości alkoholu powoduje pragnienie i uczucie suchości w ustach, poważne oznaki odwodnienia.

Wątroba jest organem szczególnie obciążonym po spożywaniu alkoholu, gdyż musi poddać go bardzo długiemu i niebezpiecznemu dla organizmu, procesowi metabolizmu. W wątrobie etanol jest utleniany do aldehydu octowego, dużo bardziej trującego niż alkohol. Aldehyd uszkadza komórki wątroby, niszczy jej struktury powodując marskość, a w skrajnych przypadkach może również doprowadzić do pojawienia się komórek nowotworowych.

Mózg szczególnie odczuwa negatywny wpływ aldehydu octowego reagując nudnościami, bólami głowy i wymiotami. Alkohol reaguje z substancjami odpowie-

dzialnymi w mózgu za aktywność komórek nerwowych. Powoduje zaburzenia w korze mózgowej odpowiedzialnej za zachowanie i logiczne myślenie. Zmniejszając poziom serotoniny w podwzgórzu i przysadce mózgowej, części odpowiedzialnych za bezwiedne reakcje organizmu i wydzielanie hormonów, powoduje ogólne rozluźnienie połączeń neuronowych i wylewność prowadzącą do nagłego wzrostu popędu seksualnego. Najbardziej widoczne i niebezpieczne dla otoczenia są konsekwencje działania alkoholu na mózdzek, część mózgu odpowiedzialną za koordynację ruchów i utrzymanie równowagi ciała, powodując, iż osoba nie jest w stanie utrzymać sylwetki w pionie, iść prosto, a jadąc samochodem prawidłowo określić odległości i szybkości. Alkohol zaburza również działanie rdzenia przedłużonego, w którym skupione są nerwy odpowiedzialne za odruchy mimowolne, powodując ośpienie, senność, spowolnienie reakcji i obniżenie temperatury ciała.

Aby oczyścić się z alkoholu organizm potrzebuje dużej ilości energii i reaguje uczuciem głodu. Węglowodany najszybciej dostarczają tej energii, ale ważnym czynnikiem jest również czas. Im więcej spożytego alkoholu tym więcej czasu i energii potrzeba na pozbycie się go z organizmu. Nie przyspieszą tego procesu żadne środki farmaceutyczne ani żadne inne metody.

AK

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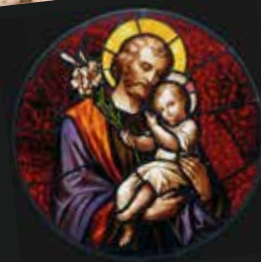
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2017

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www.katynbaltimore.com

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Adam Mickiewicz

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At Easter and always.
Wesołego Alleluja!*

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The Executive Officers, Directors, Supervisory Council and
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Founded in 1880, the Polish National Alliance operates solely for the benefit of its most valuable asset – its members.