

"Together – We Can and We Will"

ZGODA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE **POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE** OF NORTH AMERICA

APRIL/MAY/JUNE **2015** | www.pna-znp.org

1881-2015 Vol. 143; No. 2



**Build your future
Protect it through PNA**

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Cover: Syda Productions

(USPS 699-120)
Published Quarterly
The Official Publication
of the Polish National Alliance

6100 N. Cicero Avenue
Chicago, IL 60646-4385
Phone: (773) 286-0500
Fax: (773) 286-0842
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Periodicals—Postage Paid at Chicago,
Illinois and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address

changes to Zgoda, c/o PNA

6100 N. Cicero Avenue

Chicago, IL 60646-4385

Change of address

or interruption in subscription
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From the Censor of the Polish National Alliance

May, 2015

My Sisters and Brothers,

It is difficult to imagine that nearly four years have passed since we convened in Minneapolis at the last national PNA Convention. Moreover, these four intervening years have presented numerous challenges and difficulties to the PNA and its Executive Administration. In my opinion, the President, Executive Committee and the Board of Directors have done a competent job given the situation and its numerous variables which confronted them.

I would like to personally congratulate and thank Teresa Abick who recently retired as Woman Vice-President of the PNA. Over the years, Mrs. Abick has contributed immensely to the governance, fraternal welfare, and general success of the PNA. Mrs. Abick's many achievements include the summer Youth Courses, Jamborees, Dance Groups, Spelling Bees, Debutante and Squire Balls and others too numerous to mention. Teresa, it is our hope that you enjoy a long and healthy retirement where you can combine life with your family with the fraternal spirit that will always burn within you.

One major issue which has overshadowed everything has been the PNA Bank. The Bank was seriously affected by the Great Recession and the subsequent downturn in the housing market in the Chicago area. This led to a number of mortgage failures and foreclosures which affected the stability of the Bank. The fact that the PNA had a bank affiliation brought us under the scrutiny of the Federal Reserve and its examiners. The situation has played out over these many years. We can emphatically say that the PNA Bank did not fail. We have found a suitor who is willing to buy the Bank, and the process is moving along to its conclusion. I'd like to thank Larry Chlum, who resigned only after the sale of the Bank was

formalized, for his contributions to the Bank but also to the Alliance for services rendered during various emergencies which occurred over the last several years.

Another overlaying issue that has greatly affected the PNA is investment income. My friends, this is the engine which powers the Alliance, its many functions and various Fraternal programs. Not that long ago, 2007, our investment income was \$24.6M. Last year, we were able to earn \$17.4M (\$16.7M net). This is a decrease of over \$7M. \$7M could fund quite an array of programs and jobs. However, this is the playing field we face. Our average rate of return has fallen from 5.94% to about 4.2%. It seems any new investment is paying less than the one it is replacing. You know the kind of rates you are receiving from your local bank. The PNA is in the same boat. We are unable to find any attractive investments given the restrictions which govern our investment policy. Let us use our energies not to bemoan these limited funds but to ingenuously maximize the efficacies that this limited funding can produce.

In addition, the condition of the Bank and the effects of the diminished Investment income affected our surplus. This drew the attention of the Illinois Department of Insurance (DOI). This has the possibility of being the most onerous of any examinations we can encounter. Facing this scenario, President Spula and the Executive Committee espoused a strategy that is both proactive and reactive. Recognizing the trend that is evolving in regulating Fraternal Organizations, the PNA amended its by-laws to require that positions vital to the operation of the Alliance require some degree of qualification whether it be academic, professional, or financial. The National Officers and the newly created Business

Board of Directors fall under this dictum. The entire organization has also been streamlined by these changes to the By-Laws. There will be only one Vice-President. The Fraternal Board of Directors will have ten members. There will be only one Commissioner per District. These changes were done in complete compliance with the procedures spelled out in the By-Laws governing the amending of the By-Laws between National Conventions. These changes were overwhelmingly approved by the delegates to the Minneapolis Convention via mail ballot.

At the top of the previous paragraph, I mentioned the surplus of the PNA. Please note the surplus has grown over the last few years from about \$10.5M to \$16.2M. When two other accounts are combined with the surplus, the adjusted total is closer to \$26M. This gives an indication of the underlying strength of the Alliance.

I would like to congratulate those delegates who have been elected to represent their Councils. The Council members have demonstrated a faith and confidence in you to represent them and more importantly to consider, debate, and define policies which will strengthen the Polish National Alliance and safeguard and protect the integrity of the Alliance and its members.

Please note the Convention is scheduled to be one day shorter than before. Please come prepared. Read the reports which will be furnished to you beforehand. I do not expect that all reports will be presented orally to the Convention. If nominated, I hope your schedule will permit you to serve on a Pre-Convention Committee.

With all this as a background, let us convene in Cleveland during August. Let us use this opportunity to thoughtfully and amicably consider, discuss, and debate policies which will move our beloved Polish National Alliance forward on a path of renewed stability and growth, as well as a Fraternal Mission which maintains our cherished heritage, culture, and customs while promoting new programs to attract the next generation.

Remember,

TOGETHER WE CAN AND WE WILL.

Wesley E. Musial, Censor

A little history...

August 10, 1880, has usually been given as the Polish National Alliance date of birth. The first convention, or sejm began on September 20th, 1880.

It was a modest affair, though no less historic because of that fact. After the religious service at Saint Wenceslaus the delegates and observers headed for the Palmer's House, one of the Chicago's leading hotels. There the main business of the convention was handled, which included the approval of a constitution and the election of the organization's first officers. In all, fourteen delegates took part in the sejm, ten of whom were from Chicago. (...)

There are no records of this meeting, but it is believed that non-voting observers outnumbered the voting delegates three to one.

Most important among the actions taken by the convention was its adoption of a constitution.

Five specific aims were stated:

1. To lay proper foundation for the construction of institutions dedicated to material and moral advancement of the Polish immigration in America, by creating a permanent fund under the control of the Alliance. Institutions to be aided by the Alliance include Polish settlement houses, schools, educational training facilities, reading rooms, shelters for the sick, and industrial firms own by Poles located in the areas of Polish immigrant settlement;
2. To care for the needs of the Polish immigration in America;
3. To strengthen the immigrants politically as American citizens by setting up a Polish newspaper and to make contacts with American press in defense of Polish concerns;
4. To commemorate anniversaries that honor the Polish homeland;
5. To promote moderation in the consumption of alcohol.



Based on "P.N.A. Centennial History" by Donald E. Pienkos



President's Corner

May, 2015

Dear Members,

Since the last convention, there have been many changes in the financial community including the Polish National Alliance. There have been challenges to overcome and we have addressed each and every issue. As an organization, we need to embrace the past and build for a stronger future.

In conjunction with our 135 years of existence, our Actuary is developing a new insurance plan in the amount \$15,000.00, on a permanent basis. The plan will be available on a direct mail basis on a simplified issue application. In commemoration with the anniversary, the premium will be discounted 13.5% making it more affordable and attractive in comparison to our other products. We're hoping to introduce this plan in the very near future.

During the last four years, we have seen prevailing low interest rates throughout the industry having an impact on investment income. Fortunately, as an Executive Committee, we recognized the flat economy and addressed the lower rates of return and monitored our expenditures in a prudent manner. We cut down expenses, trying not to eliminate any fraternal programs that would have an effect on our membership, contrary to what you might have heard.

We continue to support financially the Polish language programs, provide subsidies for the dance groups throughout the country, and maintain investing in our college students by providing \$200,000 annually in undergraduate scholarships plus an additional \$50,000 in graduate programs. Sports are an attraction

for members in certain parts of the country and the Alliance provides subsidies as well.

Fraternal programs are a core of our organization. We will continue to support popular programs, but in these changing times we need to focus on activities that are also attractive to younger generations and that have meaning and value to them – we need to listen to what is sought after. We need to keep our younger generation of members engaged in activities, preserving our language, culture and traditions.

Please note that funds available for empowering fraternal activities are based on investment yields. We need to manage them accordingly and dedicate those funds for actual programs and not the administration of them.

I mentioned in the last issue of Zgoda that this upcoming convention will be somewhat different due to the demands suggested by our regulators, which we are compelled to abide.

Congratulations to the representatives who recently have been elected to the upcoming convention starting August 23rd. Our National Secretary, Mr. Charles Komosa is in the process of making necessary preparations to accommodate all representatives. The local general pre-convention committee is in full momentum making all necessary arrangements to making sure all representatives will feel the Ohioan hospitality. Pre-convention committees will shortly be selected and will be meeting in June to make their recommendations to the representatives at the

Convention.

I am pleased to announce the hiring of a new Sale Manager for the Polish National Alliance, Ms. Anna Kozusko. We welcome her on board to our family. She is a professional bringing over eighteen years of financial and insurance experience. I am confident she will bring positive results to the organization in the upcoming months. You can read further about her inside this Zgoda edition. Hopefully you will be meeting with her in person.

In order to increase our sales, we are working in conjunction with our new Radio Station Manager, Mr. Jacek Niemczyk of WPNA to create spot announcements on the radio. In addition, we are working with our newspaper to create new attractive ads. Once we have tested this new advertising campaign locally, we will be able to use them in other areas.

With the hiring of Mr. Niemczyk, we have incorporated new ideas as well as developed new approaches at the station to increase popularity. In the upcoming months, we will be creating a studio in the offices of the Polish National Alliance. We are excited about these changes and hopefully updating our image on the air.

With the retiring of Mrs. Teresa Abick, as Vice President, we have consolidated the Education and Sports Department into one division. The "Fraternal Activities", will be coordinated by Mrs. Mary Srodon, who has worked with Mrs. Abick for many years. Mrs. Srodon will be assisting Vice President Paul Odrobina in the fraternal programs.

A long time employee of the Polish National Alliance and for the last several years of the Sport and Youth Department, Mrs. Joan Oskorep has retired as of May 1st 2015. I thank her on behalf of the Polish National Alliance for her tenure of thirty seven years. During this time, she proved herself as a loyal and committed employee – always with a smile and kind word. We will miss her and wish her well.

In addition, Mrs. Halina Biezychudek of the Dividend Department decided to retire from her position. Mr. Robert Jadach of the Sports and Youth Department was transferred to take her role in that position.

With the resignation of Mr. Chlum as Bank

President and Investment Manager for the Polish National Alliance, we engaged an investment firm to manage our portfolio. I'm pleased to share that the results are encouraging. We are grateful to Mr. Chlum for being part of our team and sharing his expertise with the organization. We wish him well in his new position. Our surplus has increased since the beginning of the year and is continuing to do so and hopefully we will return to the levels before the financial crisis. The sale of PNA Bank continues; as I mentioned FLC Holding Company accepted an offer which is being reviewed by regulators and hopefully the transaction will be approved in this quarter.

This past month, I participated in a conference arranged by the American Fraternal Alliance, the umbrella organization representing fraternal organizations in the United States. During the two day program, various issues were presented and discussed, some topics were; low interest yield a prominent factor affecting financial institutions and fraternal organizations since 2008, changing markets, rising costs, corporate governance, disaster recovery procedures, employee and distribution methods, Risk Based Capital, etc...

All the issues mentioned above created much discussion during the conference. The key points were the low rates, low oil and low currency relative to the US dollar as well as solvency measures, adjusted surplus and risk based capital. Corporate governance was a topic which was discussed at length and its importance in all business, specifically the financial services and insurance organizations.

I am certain some of the topics I mentioned will be discussed at the upcoming Convention as well as NAIC guidelines which are making an impact in the industry.

As the convention gets closer, let's keep in mind to embrace our past legacy so we can have a better and stronger future.

Looking forward in seeing you in August at the Convention and have a great summer!

Sincerely,
Frank J. Spula, FLMI
President



From the Editor

May 2015

Dear Members,

Summer is just around the corner and before we know it, we will be meeting in Cleveland, Ohio at the 47th Quadrennial Convention. This already would be my second!

Just in case you are planning your vacation in Poland, please make sure the Castle of Teutonic Order in Malbork is on your "to see" list. Since you will be exploring the northern part of the country, travel to the west and visit Szczecin, so you could see the most beautiful new building in Europe – Szczecin Philharmonic Hall. I promise you will not be disappointed!

Do you bake? If so, try this simple bread recipe from one of our members, Halina Zurawski of Lodge 3284. I did, and even though I'm not much of a baker it was a great success. Banana bread is my husband's specialty, it is effortless and delicious.

Thank you to all those that submitted stories and pictures, please continue reporting fraternal activities, interesting events, tell us about those we are proud of. Take pictures!

You will find a lot of information regarding the upcoming 47th PNA Convention in this issue of Zgoda. There will be more on our website; our IT Department created a special page for all news articles related to the Convention, as well as the hotel information.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of our publication, please let me know if there is something particular you would like to read about. I am waiting for your articles, pictures and ideas.

With kindest regards,

Yours truly,

Alicja Kuklińska, Editor

Na początku maja, na zaproszenie Stowarzyszenia "Wspólnota Polska" miałam zaszczyt uczestniczyć w uroczystościach jubileuszu 25-lecia tej zacnej organizacji oraz obchodach Dnia Polonii, Dnia Flagi oraz święta uchwalenia Konstytucji 3 Maja.

Podczas uroczystej gali zorganizowanej wraz z TV Polonia na Zamku Królewskim w Warszawie przyznano specjalne nagrody i wyróżnienia dla Polaków w kraju i za granicą, za ich szczególne zasługi. Z wielką przyjemnością dzielę się z czytelnikami Zgody informacją o specjalnych wyróżnieniach, które trafiły do działaczy i organizacji w Stanach Zjednoczonych.



W kategorii Fundamenty Polskości, za działania na rzecz kształtowania świadomości narodowej oraz przekazywanie dziedzictwa chrześcijańskiego wśród Polonii i Polaków poza granicami kraju nagrodę otrzymała, w imieniu Zrzeszenia Nauczycieli Polskich w Ameryce z siedzibą w Chicago, pani prezes Ewa Koch.

Nagrodę TV Polonia "Za Zasługi dla Polski i Polaków poza granicami kraju" otrzymał prezes Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej oraz Związku Narodowego Polskiego Frank J. Spula.

Gratuluję obu organizacjom i ich liderom i życzę wytrwałości w dalszej pracy na rzecz Polonii.

Obszerny artykuł na temat Stowarzyszenia "Wspólnota Polska", jego działalności i znaczenia dla Polonii świata i Stanów Zjednoczonych w następnym wydaniu Zgody.

Membership Department

May, 2015

Dear Members,

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all at the Polish National Alliance for welcoming me here in my new role as a Sales Manager. I am very excited to work for an organization with such rich history and traditions.

I moved to Chicago at the age of 15 from Bialystok, Poland and attended Edwin G Foreman high school followed by University of California in Irvine, CA. Upon earning my degree I returned to Illinois and began my career as a financial advisor and sales manager. I have obtained several licenses and designations during my employment (7, 6, 65, 63 as well as life and P&C licenses). While managing several bank locations and sales personnel I've enjoyed working with many different ethnicities with a great degree of success. As a driven coach and a mentor to sales teams, my influence has had a deep impact on our sales and advertising strategies.

I have always been proud of my Polish heritage, so when approached by the PNA I saw this as a wonderful opportunity that would give me a chance to get back to my roots and give back to the community. My main focus for the next few months will be to get to know our members and the sales team and transfer our energy on the sales strategies. Membership at the PNA carries extensive benefits to young and older generations alike.

With the graduation and first Holy Communion season upon us lets remind our members and friends how valuable a gift of life insurance can be to a child. By purchasing for your children a gift of insurance certificate from the PNA you are also guaranteeing them a membership in the biggest Polish fraternal organization in the United States. Children can also take advantage of valuable tuition assistance and reimbursement programs, summer camps as well as various sport activities and competitions.

Our scholarship program awards \$250,000 to college and graduate students. Membership at PNA carries extensive benefits to young and older generations.

I hope to meet all of the delegates at the upcoming 47th PNA Convention in Cleveland, OH.

I would like to extend a helping hand to all of the sales representatives out in the field.

I'm looking forward to working with all of you.



Fraternally yours,

Anna Kozusko
Sales Manager

IMPORTANT!

It is possible that you have been named as a beneficiary on your relative's insurance certificate through the Polish National Alliance.

If you are aware or think that you are the designated beneficiary on the life insurance certificate of someone that was a PNA member or know someone that is, please contact our office for further information.

In order to process the claim we will need the following:

- The insured's original Life Insurance Certificate or an Affidavit of Loss Form, which is available through the Home Office and on line.
- A certified copy of a the insured's death certificate
- The address and social security number of the beneficiary
- Complete a claimant's form which is available through the Home Office and on line.

Please call our Claim Department at:

1-800-621-3723

www.pna-znp.org



\$200,000 Awarded in 2015 Scholarships



The Polish National Alliance Scholarship Ad Hoc Committee met on May 13th, 2015 to peruse approximately 300 applications.

Agnieszka Kaminski, Wanda Penar, Barbara Sullivan, Barbara Wesolowska and Halina Żurawski, after reviewing all submitted applications and careful deliberations, awarded scholarships on a point system with highest points given based on the student's GPA.

A full list of recipients can be viewed on the PNA's website: **www.pna-znp.org**

All PNA Scholarship recipients will be notified via USPS mail.

PNA is very proud, that so many members aspire towards higher education.

We wish 2015 PNA Scholarship recipients best of health and continued success in your future endeavors.



Graduate Scholarship

Application must be submitted
by June 22nd, 2015



Polish National Alliance announces the availability of scholarships to qualified post-graduate students for 2015. Applicants must:

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident
- be a PNA member (for min. 5 years, with a permanent certificate of insurance no less than \$10,000.00)
- have a high academic record supported by an official transcript
- be involved in the local community activities and voluntary services
- be involved in the Polish-American community
- Submit Application and Resume providing information regarding applicant's achievements, extracurricular activities, work experience etc...
- Submit a typed 500 words essay in which the applicant will provide information about why he/she deserves the financial support from the PNA.



For Application and additional information please call
PNA Home Office: **1-773-286-0500** ext. 380 & 320
Or visit our website: **www.pna-znp.org**

Wesley E. Musial, Censor

Koncert zespołów tanecznych ZNP



Rozśpiewane i roztańczone ludowe zespoły działające pod patronatem Związku Narodowego Polskiego wystąpiły w dorocznym wiosennym koncercie. Publiczność przez ponad trzy godziny oklaskiwała nie tylko umiejętności młodych tancerzy, ale także i ich entuzjazm.

W barwnym widowisku zaprezentowały się m.in.: Słoneczka, Gwiazdki, Polonez, Małe Wici, Świtezianie z chórem Iskra i Warta, Polanie, Wawel, Mały Wawel, Wiślanie, Gaik, Gaiczek, Śmieszki i Figielki, Vera, Lajkonik, Mały

Lajkonik, Wiśła, Mała Wiśła, Whisperers, a także reprezentacyjny zespół Związku Narodowego Polskiego – Teatr Pieśni i Tańca “Wici”.

W różnorodnym repertuarze układów choreograficznych przedstawiono: krakowiaki, polonezy, polki, walce, trojaki, kujawiaki oraz tańce kaszubsko-pomorskie, cieszyńskie, kurpiowskie, śląskie, wielkopolskie, lubelskie i łowickie. Była nawet grecka zorba. Wirowali na scenie w kolorowych, regionalnych strojach, tak, że aż dech zapierało. Największą nagrodą

dla artystów były gorące brawa publiczności.

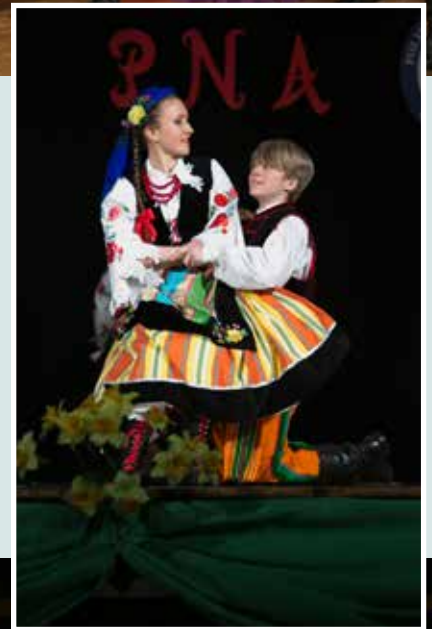
Ogromne uznanie dla młodych tancerzy i organizatorów koncertu wyraził Frank Spula, prezes Związku Narodowego Polskiego i Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej. Dyrektorka Wici, Magdalena Solarz, czuwająca nad całością imprezy od strony artystycznej i choreograficznej, została przez swoich wychowanków obdarowana kwiatami.

Koncert, prowadzony przez Kingę Modjewska i Grzegorza Chilińskiego, był dowodem na to, że muzyka, śpiew i taniec folklorystyczny są naprawdę piękną formą podtrzymywania polskich tradycji i dziedzictwa narodowego wśród młodej Polonii.

Przypomnijmy, że pod egidą Związku Narodowego Polskiego działa około sześćdziesiąt zespołów pieśni i tańca oraz chórów, które pielęgnują oraz promują kulturę kraju nad Wisłą. Co roku grupy artystyczne biorą udział w wiosennym galowym koncercie, a co cztery lata w festiwalu młodzieżowym, którego sponsorem jest ZNP.



*Tekst i zdjęcia: Artur Partyka
Dziennik Żwiązkowy*



Lepiej zapobiegać niż leczyć

W sobotę 9 maja, w siedzibie Związku Narodowego Polskiego w Chicago odbył się kolejny już Festiwal Zdrowia. Spotkanie zostało zorganizowane przez polonijną placówkę



medyczną, Tukiendorf Training Institute i było okazją to skorzystania z bezpłatnych badań.

Przewodnią myślą spotkania była profilaktyka zdrowotna w myśl zasady: lepiej zapobiegać niż leczyć. Prowadzący podkreślali, jak ważne są regularne badania i obserwo-

wanie zmian zachodzących w organizmie, które często są pierwszym sygnałem poważnych schorzeń. Jednak wychwycone odpowiednio wcześniej skracają proces leczenia, a często wręcz ratują życie.

Uczestnicy spotkania mogli bezpłatnie poddać się badaniom ciśnienia, nasycenia krwi tlenem, poziomu cukru, EKG oraz sprawdzić swoje BMI, czyli wskaźnik masy ciała. Dla wielu



osób, które ze względów finansowych nie mogą pozwolić sobie na częste wizyty u lekarza fakt, że badania były bezpłatne miał wielkie znaczenie.

Dużym zainteresowaniem cieszył się wykład naturopaty – doktora Dariusza Lemberta, który zwrócił uwagę zebranych na różnice pomiędzy medycyną konwencjonalną, a naturopatyczną. Podkreślał,

że ta pierwsza prowadzi do wyraźnej bierności pacjentów, pozbawiając ich chęci aktywnego uczestniczenia w procesie leczenia. Mówił również jak zapobiegać nadwadze, cukrzycy i zapaleniom stawów.



Inicjatywę bezpłatnych badań i wykładów poparli swą obecnością konsul generalna RP Paulina Kapuścińska oraz prezes Frank Spula, który przed kilkoma laty zapoczątkował bezpłatne badania oraz prelekcje lekarzy w siedzibie Związku Narodowego Polskiego. Takie profilaktyczno – edukacyjne spotkania są niewątpliwie popularną i skuteczną formą zapobiegania chorobom, i zapewne będą organizowane w przyszłości.

*Tekst i zdjęcia: Dariusz Lachowski
Artykuł w całości:*

www.dziennikzwiazkowy.com

Stacja Chicago



Jacek Niemczyk

pełni od niedawna funkcję dyrektora generalnego radiostacji WPNA



1490 należącej do Związku Narodowego Polskiego. Jest to doświadczony, znany i lubiany w środowisku polonijnym dziennikarz z wieloletnim stażem radiowym z Polski i Stanów Zjednoczonych.

Jacek Niemczyk przybył do USA z Opola, jest z wykształcenia nauczycielem języka angielskiego ale również politologiem ze specjalnością komunikacja i dziennikarstwo polityczne. Jest również absolwentem Institute of Audio Research w Nowym Yorku.

Swoją dziennikarską karierę rozpoczął w Rozgłośni Harcerskiej w Warszawie, pracował dla radia RFM FM, a po przyjeździe do Stanów Zjednoczonych początkowo w nowojorskiej rozgłośni radiowej 910 WRKL a później dla chicagowskiego Polskiego Radia 1030 oraz telewizji Polvision.

Od 1 maja, 2015 na falach WPNA 1490 AM, codziennie od 12:00 PM do 15:00 możemy słuchać audycji autorskiej Jacka Niemczyka – Stacja Chicago. Para doświadczonych dziennikarzy: Magda Marczevska oraz Jacek Zieliński współredagują ten dynamiczny program radiowy cieszący się w Chicago rosnącą popularnością.

Zapraszamy do radioodbiorników lub do słuchania programu przez internet.

WPNA 1490 AM

www.radiowpna.com

PNA Lodge 2093 of New Britain, Connecticut Elects New Officers for 2015

New Britain, CT. On December 28, 2014, PNA Lodge #2093 elected and conducted an Installation Ceremony for the Officers who will guide the lodge in 2015.

Those elected were: Barbara Zakrzewska President, Mateusz Ratajczak Vice-President, Mark Mordasiewicz Treasurer, and Henry Perucki Secretary. Chester Klymczuk, John Wallace Sr. and Stanley Wojciak were elected to the House Committee while Izabela Wroblewska and Katarzyna Fil were elected to the Board of Directors.

After the Installation Ceremony, the newly elected officers were congratulated and everyone retired for refreshments.

Submitted by: Henry Perucki, Secretary, Lodge 2093



Seated l-r Mark Mordasiewicz, Mateusz Ratajczak, Barbara Zakrzewska, Henry Perucki. Standing l-r Stanley Wojciak, John Wallace Sr, Chester Klymczuk, Izabela Wroblewska, and Katarzyna Fil.

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

Election of Mr. Steve

Tokarski to the PNA

Business Board of Directors



On Monday, March 30, 2015 during a meeting of the National Business Board of the Polish National Alliance, Mr. Steve Tokarski of Crown Point, Indiana, Region "G", was elected by secret ballot, as the new Business Director of the Polish National Alliance to fill the vacancy due to the sudden and unfortunate passing of Mr. Joseph Samreta on January 9, 2015.

Mr. Steve Tokarski has been a former Director for the Indiana/Michigan region, as a member of the Board of Directors, as Chairperson of the Rules and Regulations Committee, and as a member of the Education Committee, the Financial Control Committee, and the Membership Committee. He also served as Parliamentarian, First Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary for various conventions. Additionally, Steve has served as President of PNA Council Number 127 and of PNA Lodge Number 2365--Silver Bell Club. Mr. Tokarski also served two years as Publisher of the Polish Daily News in Chicago, a PNA subsidiary.

In addition to his efforts with the PNA, Steve has also been extremely active in the Polish American Congress (PAC), currently serving as the President for its Indiana division, a position he has maintained since 1977. Mr. Tokarski has also served as the National Director and the Parliamentarian for the Council of National Directors of the PAC and as Chairperson of the By-Laws and Grievance Committees. He has also served as Vice President of the PAC's charitable foundation since 1995.

Steve's community involvement does not end with his service to these two outstanding organizations. He is also an active member of several Purdue University alumni associations, as well as the Purdue President's Council, and he has held positions as Secretary-Treasurer and State Vice President of the National Advocates Society since 1984.

When not engaged within the community, Steve spends his spare time with his loving wife of 35 years, Marsha. Steve and Marsha, a stained glass artist and former science teacher, have two sons: David and Christopher. A 100% PNA family. Congratulations, Steve, on behalf of the officers and members of the Polish National Alliance!

Fraternally,

*Charles A. Komosa
National Secretary*

Polish National Alliance District 16

Debutantes and Squires Ball

On the evening of April 18, 2015, the Polish National Alliance, District 16, held its Debutantes and Squires Ball at the Pope John Paul II, Polish Center, in Yorba Linda, California. Presenters for this event were the organizers, Ania Karwan, and Greg Chilecki, the Polish National Alliance ("PNA") Commissioners of PNA District 16.

Over one hundred and forty arriving guests were in awe of how their Church hall was transformed into an elegantly decorated and sophisticated venue with red, white, and black theme, complete with red carpet for the debutante and squire participants to walk down during their introduction our PNA community and friends. The elaborate hall was decorated under the artistic direction of Kazia Kmak with volunteers and officers from PNA lodges 3259, 700, and 3193. Each table was decorated with lamps and lighted centerpieces in keeping with the formal evening theme, with appetizers on each table, appealingly presented by Teresa Turek, the caterer for the event.

The PNA Debutantes and Squires Ball ("Ball") opened with the singing of the Polish anthem and American anthem led by Asia Lojewska, a participant from the 2011 PNA Ball. PNA Commis-

sioners Ania Karwan and Greg Chilecki then each welcomed all the PNA families, friends, debutantes, and squires, and spoke in appreciation for their participation in PNA as members and for making the Ball possible. Rev. Henry Noga, Director of the Pope John Paul II, Polish Center gave the invocation for the event. The Honored Guest from PNA's national office was PNA National Secretary Charles Komosa, who spoke to the attendees and especially to the debutantes and squires about PNA, stating that this PNA Ball will be a good memory for them for years to come.

The entertainment of the evening was provided by Krakusy Polish Folk Dancers of PNA lodge 700. Krakusy opened with the dance Mazur. The next dance Polonez was introduced by reading about its history, in English by Asia Lojewska, and then in Polish by Krystyna Kajdas. Krakusy invited all of the debutantes and squires and their parents to join them in dancing the Polonez, expertly directed by Edward Hoffman, the choreographer for Krakusy.

It was then time for the presentation of the debutantes and squires by PNA Commissioners Ania Karwan and Greg Chilecki. Assisting were Julia Machon and Anthony Antoszewski, the junior debutante and squire, who gave each participating debutante and squire a rose at their introduction.

The 2015 Polish National Alliance District 16 Debutantes and Squires were:

Joanna (Asia) Antoniuk; Nicole Antoniuk; Eliza Bubienko; Natalia Dudek; Julia J. Golonka; Olivia Grechuta; Alexander F.



Iwan; Maya Jablonowska; Yagoda Jedrzejczak; Albert Jelowicki; Marta Kajdas; Emilian Kazimierski; Krystian Kazimierski; Alexandra Kmak; Daniel Kopec; Natalie Kopec; Julia Kozlowski; Jan Kujawski; Evalyn Lucero; Jeffrey Mansur; Paul Markley; Natalie Musial; Jacob Piotrowski; Natalie Piotrowski; Adriana Sobaszek; Dominik Sobaszek; Dominika Wilczek.

Each debutante and squire was given a commemorative book for the event that was prepared by Alicja Chilecki.

PNA District 16 had a prize gift drawing for one lucky debutante or squire participant. The PNA National Secretary, Charles Komosa, had the honor to choose from a hat the name of the winner: Dominik Sobaszek!

After dinner and dessert, there was a disco by DJ Lukasz Globisz for the debutantes and squires to continue the party and their celebration at the wonderful Polish National Alliance Debutantes and Squires Ball.

*Submitted by Ania Karwan,
Commissioner, District XVI*





Council 3 Annual St. Joseph Table

Chicago, Illinois – PNA Council 3 held its annual St. Joseph Table on March 19th at Old Warsaw Restaurant in Chicago. President Irene Hercik welcomed the guests, most of whom wore something red to express their heritage. Wearing the color red is a tradition begun by the early Italian and Polish Catholic immigrants that came to Chicago in the 1800's, with red being a color in both of the countries' national flags. Polish and Italian Americans dressed in red not only to celebrate their patron saint, but to publicly show their ethnic identity. The tradition quickly spread throughout the multi-ethnic Catholic community and continues to this day.



Rev. Andrzej Bartos, Pastor of St. James Parish in Chicago, spoke about the many ways St. Joseph comes to the aid of those who pray to him. As the patron of workers and the protector of



the family, he is honored with a feast on March 19, along with an altar which features a beautiful statue of the saint. Father Bartos gave a special blessing to all the guests and blessed the food buffet which contained many sumptuous delicacies. The custom of the food buffets goes back centuries to when the villagers in Sicily prayed to St. Joseph to end a dreadful famine. Through his intercession their



prayers were answered, and the tradition to commemorate this event is held in his honor.

Vice President Elizabeth Stolarczuk introduced our special guests, PNA President and Delegate, Frank Spula, Treasurer Marian Grabowski, Vice President Paul Odrobina, National Directors Wanda Penar, Stanislaw Rawicki, District 13 Commissioners Wanda Juda and Joseph Hercik, and Irene Moskal-DelGuidice, Polish American Congress Illinois Division President. Also present was Former Commissioner, Zenon Olejniczak.

President Irene Hercik presented a bottle of fine wine on behalf of Council 3 to the Feast Day honorees. This year, there were three gentlemen, Messrs. Jozef Penar, Joseph Hercik and Joseph Lisak. She wished them a Happy Feast Day along with special blessings from St. Joseph.

Delegate Walter Bochenek presided over the raffle of beautiful springtime baskets. He then con-



ducted the exciting "Split the Pot" cash raffle, with the cash award growing by the hour. The lucky winner of the \$300 grand prize went to Mr. Joseph Lisak. Mr. Bochenek surprised the guests with an additional drawing for a cash prize of \$200, courtesy of Jusuru International, with the winner being Mrs. Jadwiga Olejniczak! Congratulations to our lucky winners!



Special thanks for the dedicated efforts of our organizing committee, which included Walter Bochenek, Daniel and Roberta Gols, Joseph and Irene Hercik, Joseph Lisak, Elizabeth Stolarczuk, Therese Winters, and Halina Zurawski.

*Submitted by
Council 3 President Irene Hercik
Photos:
Council 3 Delegate Alicja Kuklinska*



Wybory Zarządu Gminy 39 ZNP

Gmina 39 ZNP od wielu lat działa prężnie na południowej stronie miasta Chicago. Skupia największą ilość członków, a tym samym i delegatów na sejm ZNP.

W dniu 10 marca 2015 roku odbyło się posiedzenie wyborcze Gminy. Na spotkanie przybyło wielu delegatów z licznych grup zrzeszonych w Gminie 39. Obecna była również, zaproszona przez Annę Kokoszkę, komisarka Dystryktu XII, Barbara Wesołowska.

Posiedzenie rozpoczęła wiceprezes Anna Kokoszka witając zebranych delegatów, gościa honorowego, komisarkę Barbarę Wesołowską oraz oświadczając, że poprowadzi posiedzenie w zastępstwie zmarłego niedawno Prezesa Gminy – śp. Mariana Winczo. Następnie głos zabrała komisarka Barbara Wesołowska, która podziękowała za zaproszenie i serdecznie powitała zebranych delegatów.



Zarząd Gminy 39 ZNP od lewej: J. Chlipała, A. Sowa, A. Kokoszka, B. Wesołowska, S. Stękała, S. Wróbel

W dalszej części posiedzenia uczczono minutą ciszy zmarłych w ostatnim okresie członków gminy: prezesa śp. Mariana Winczo, długoletniego wiceprezesa, śp. Waltera Tokarza oraz delegatów: śp. Józefa Kokoszkę i śp. Jadwigę Korycką.

Po części wstępnej przeprowadzono wybory nowego Zarządu Gminy 39. Zmarłego niedawno prezesa Gminy 39 Mariana Winczo, zastąpi dotychczasowa wiceprezes Anna Kokoszka.

Nowy zarząd Gminy 39:

Prezes – Anna Kokoszka

Wiceprezes - Jan Chlipała

Sekretarka Protokołowa - Aleksandra Sowa

Sekretarka Finansowa - Stanisława Stękała

Marszałek - Stanisław Wróbel



Wybrano również delegatów do poszczególnych komitetów, a po wyborach dokonano zaprzysiężenia nowego zarządu. Przysięga odebrana została przez gościa honorowego, komisarkę Barbarę Wesołowską, która w krótkim wystąpieniu poinformowała zebranych o zbliżającym się 47 Sejmie ZNP w Cleveland, Ohio. Komisarka Wesołowska zapoznała delegatów z przepisami obowiązującymi w czasie wyborów do sejmiku oraz zachęcała do wzięcia w nim udziału.

W części końcowej ustalono, że następne posiedzenie Gminy 39 ZNP odbędzie się 26 marca 2015, w restauracji New Warsaw, na którym wybrani zostaną na 47 Sejm ZNP. Po zakończeniu zebrania podano smaczną kolację a po kolacji odbyła się loteria fantowa z której dochód przeznaczono na dalszą działalność Gminy 39.

Sekretarka Protokołowa - Aleksandra Sowa

Zdjęcia: Anna Żalińska

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PNA 69th National Bowling Tournament

Chicago, Illinois - The 69th National Bowling Tournament was held this year on April 10, 11 and 12, 2015 in South Bend, Indiana. Thursday, Lodge 83 hosted a hospitality night to welcome the bowlers to their club. The lodge also had music, dancing, food, and other entertainment at their facility on Friday and Saturday nights.



Bowling got under way on Friday with the Singles and Doubles events and again on Sunday to complete those events. Saturday featured the team events with two squads bowling during the day.

Between the two team sessions, the tournament was officially started with the annual opening ceremonies held at Chippewa Bowl. Vice President Paul Odrobina welcomed the bowlers to South Bend and wished them good bowling and high scores. Vice President Odrobina thanked the officers and members of Lodge 83 for hosting the tournament and the owners of Chippewa Bowl and their staff for the terrific job they have done for the tournament. After the anthems played, a moment of silence was given to Director Joseph Samreta, who was the National Director for the Indiana/Michigan area. He introduced all the PNA dignitaries and guests who attended the opening ceremonies which included; PNA President Frank Spula,

PNA Treasurer Marian Grabowski, PNA Commissioners; David Sinclair (District 8), Thomas Schemanski (District 10), Jerry Hejna (District 12), Wanda Juda (District 13), Mary Wozniak (District 15), Former PNA Director, Anna Wierzbicki, Former Commissioner of District 15 Irene Wroblewski, President of Council 197 Dennis Wozniak, President of Lodge 83 Denise Hock, Secretary of Lodge 83 Tasha Klipich, and former President of Lodge 83 Jason Newgent and Janice Odrobina. Lastly, Vice President Odrobina thanked his staff Joan Oskorep (who will be retiring from the PNA at the end of April) and Robert Jadach for the many years they assisted in making the Bowling Tournament run so smoothly.

To keep with the tradition started a few years back, the winning Men's and Ladies teams from last years' Tournament held in LaPorte, Indiana were announced and awarded their first prize plaques. The winning men's team was "I Am" from Slovan, PA and Joe Machak is the team captain. The winning ladies team who could attend this year but mentioned was "Dolls With Balls" from McKeesport, PA and Maureen Nelson was the teams' captain. The winning team accepted their awards from Vice President Odrobina, President Frank Spula and Treasurer Marian Grabowski. Vice President Odrobina asked Lodge 83 Officers Denise Hock, Jason Newgent and Tasha Klipich to roll out the first ball.

The results of PNA's 69th National Bowling Tournament – www.pna-znp.org

Story and photos by: Robert M. Jadach



PNA Accepts Credit and Debit Card Payments Online

On January 12, 2015, the Polish National Alliance launched the capability of accepting secure online credit and debit card payments via the PNA website at www.pna-znp.org. You can now make a wide range of secure online payments to the PNA using your VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express cards.

The following payments are being accepted online now:

- Insurance Premium Payments.
- Policy Loan Payments.
- Registration & Fees for Seniors Events like luncheons, casino trips, etc.
- Registration Fees for Sporting Events like golf, bowling, etc.
- Payments for the PNA Gift Cards program.
- Educational Department payments for trips, book purchases, special events, etc.
- Convention Registration and other related events.
- Charitable Donations.

You can make these payments with confidence that your private information will remain safe and secure. When making a payment, please be sure to give us as much information as possible about the payment so that we may credit it properly. Once your payment processes successfully, you will be able to print a hard copy receipt and then receive a confirmation to the e-mail address you provided when making the payment.

Your payment is processed using a 128-bit secure SSL (Secure Socket Layer) payment page provided by our trusted card payment processing provider Converge / Virtual Merchant. PNA's network systems and GeoTrust SSL certified web server are tested constantly via Trustwave.com and are fully secure and compliant to the payment card industry's strict new PCI DSS credit card processing standards.

You can also make your credit card payments via the telephone to the PNA Direct Billing Department by calling toll-free at 1-800-621-3723 and asking for the Direct Billing Department at extension 351.

There are still some payments that we cannot yet accept through this new payment system, like Insurance New Business Application payments or Lodge Secretary Assessment payments.

If you prefer to make your payments as you did before, you can still do so. We still accept checks and money orders through the mail and cash if you are paying in person.

For more information about this convenient new payment option, please visit our website at www.pna-znp.org and click on the Make a Secure Payment Online graphic.



We hope that you will take advantage of this exciting new and timesaving way to pay with the PNA!

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In Memoriam

DR. WALTER SMIETANA, 92



of New Bedford, former president of Alliance College, passed away on Wednesday, April 22, 2015.

He graduated from New Bedford High School and served as a navigator in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II where he gained the rank of Lieutenant. For his military service, Dr. Smietana

was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, American Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal, and the Air Medal. Dr. Smietana later completed his bachelor's degree in education at the University of Michigan. He then completed his master's and doctorate degrees at Boston University.

Dr. Smietana dedicated his life to education and was an instructor at numerous educational establishments throughout his career. This included serving as a professor at both Elmhurst College and Alliance College. While he was a professor at Alliance College, Dr. Smietana helped to develop a study abroad program in cooperation with the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. In addition, he helped to develop several educational programs on the state, regional, and national levels. Dr. Smietana later served as the **President of Alliance College** where he completed multiple educational publications.

During his time in PA, he was also a participant in the PA Department of Education. When Dr. Smietana returned to New Bedford, he served as a chairman of the Republican Party as well as a member of the Citizens Advancement Committee. He also served on the Board of Trustees at the New Bedford Institute of Technology and was a past commander of the Polish-American World War Veterans Association. He was a member of the Friends of Poland. His avocations included Astronomy and Photography. Dr. Smietana was also a well known philanthropist who enjoyed spending time with his family.

STANLEY MARTIN SOJA, 93



years young, passed away peacefully at his home on April 18, 2015 surrounded by his loving family, with devoted wife Stella Helen Soja (Smola) at his side.

Born in Wilbraham MA, to Aniela and Marcin Soja, Stanley remained a lifelong

resident of Indian Orchard and a parishioner of Immaculate Conception church. After graduation from Springfield Trade School, Stanley joined the U.S. Army Air Corps, training as a B17 engine mechanic at the Lockheed factory, Seymour Johnson Field SC before being stationed at Hamilton Field CA. Stanley was a 40 year employee of the Springfield Street Railway Co. and a proud member of both the Polish American Veterans Club of Wilbraham and American Legion Post 277.

The Polish National Alliance would be a major focus for the rest of Stanley's life. Elected President of PNA Lodge 1484 in 1965, Stanley would rise through the ranks to be elected **Commissioner of PNA District 1**, and would serve as three-time president of PNA Council 62. PNA and civic awards include Council 62 Father of the Year (1983), District 1 Man of the Year (2000), Bronze Legion of Merit (1995), Silver Legion of Merit (2014) and Polish American Congress Man of the Year (1998).

Stanley was an avid Red Sox fan, enjoyed a good game of golf and was never at a loss for sharing a good joke.

Board of Director's Meeting

The Board of Director's meeting will commence on Monday, June 8th, 2015, at the Home Office, 6100 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, Illinois, according to the following schedule:

Sunday, June 7, 2015

(Arrival in Chicago)

Monday, June 8, 2015

(Fraternal & Business Board of Director's Meeting)

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Business Board of Director's Meeting

Accommodations will be at the Holiday Inn North Shore: 5300 W. Touhy Ave., Skokie, Illinois, Phone# **(847) 679-8900**.

For inquiries please contact:

Steve Biesiada

Assistant National Secretary

steve.biesiada@pna-znp.org

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Polish Heritage Night

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PNA District XIV Convention – Minto, North Dakota

On Saturday, April 18th, PNA Lodge 3043 of Warsaw hosted the bi-annual meeting of PNA District 14 representatives at the Minto Community Center in Minto, North Dakota.

PNA officers, members and Lodge delegates were in attendance from the areas of Minto/Warsaw, North Dakota, South St. Paul, MN, Milwaukee, WI and Chicago, IL. The states of North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin comprise PNA District 14.

PNA Commissioners Gary Babinski of Warsaw, ND and Teresa Jankowski of Milwaukee, WI led the events of the day. Reports were delivered by various PNA

Lodges and Councils and Director Sandra Schuster of Warsaw spoke about national PNA items of interest and concern, and the upcoming PNA National Convention to be held in Cleveland, Ohio in August, 2015.

National PNA Vice-President Paul Odrobina of Chicago was the honored guest and keynote speaker. He spoke about the importance of fraternalism in our Lodges and Councils. PNA Sales representatives were urged to continue to promote membership and he congratulated the Warsaw/Minto Lodge for their many fraternal activities in the community.

Attendees were delighted to meet Sabrina Majerczyk of Phoenix, Arizona who also spoke at the convention. Sabrina only recently became acquainted with members of Lodge 3043 when she discovered there are North Dakotans of Polish descent around the village of Warsaw in northeastern ND. She attended the recent "Polish Food Fest" in the Minto area and is excited to get involved with the PNA while she is living here. She is a 1st year college student at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND. Sabrina

is 100% Polish and is attending UND on a 4-year soccer scholarship.

Art Wosick of Warsaw, ND was presented "Man of the Year"



Delegates and guests present for the convention.



Director Sandra Schuster presented the commissioners with gifts of appreciation for their work & dedication.



Art Wosick - Lodge 3043, Treasurer and Council 195 President, receiving "Man of the Year" award from Commissioners Jankowski & Babinski.



Art Wosick family - surprising him at the convention for his "Man of the Year" award.



District luncheon

PNA Vice President Paul Odrobina



Sabrina Majerczyk - Univ. of North Dakota student speaking on Polish heritage



L - Mari Kautzman and R - Leona Schulz of Lodge 1033, So. St. Paul, MN

award at the noon luncheon where his entire family, all PNA members, surprised him for this honor.

Sandra Schuster, Director of Region "J" presented gifts of thanks and appreciation to Commissioners Teresa Jankowski of Milwaukee and Gary Babinski of Minto, ND for their hard work and dedication.

At the conclusion of the days' activities, guests were given a tour of the Walsh County Historical Museum in Minto by Wally Ebertowski and then attended mass at Sacred Heart Church in Minto.

Submitted by Sandra Schuster, PNA Director, Region "J"

District 12 PNA Youth Home Corporation Meeting

The annual shareholders meeting of the District 12 PNA Youth Home Corporation was held on April 16, 2015 at St. Jane School Cafeteria in Chicago, Illinois. Seventeen delegates attended representing District 12 and its Women's Division, member Councils and Lodges. Marian Grabowski, National PNA Treasurer and delegate administered the Oath to the Delegates.

Judith Trybek, Scholarship Committee Chairwoman, reported that nineteen scholarships were awarded to District 12 college students, totaling \$7,000, in 2014. Over the past forty-eight years, the Youth Home Corporation has awarded hundreds of scholarships to deserving District 12 members. Scholarships will be awarded to eligible District 12 college students again this summer for the fall semester.

Marian Grabowski presented the Audit Report. He commended Judith Trybek, Financial Secretary/Treasurer, for her fine work. This was followed by the election of four Directors for the years 2015-2018: Marian

Grabowski, Raymond Kosinski, Irene Spiewak, and Shirley Wass.

Roman Bucon, Marian Grabowski, and Irene Spiewak were re-appointed to continue to serve on the Audit/Finance Committee. The Executive Board was re-elected: Barbara Wesolowski, President, Arthur Trybek and Anna Kokosaka, Vice-Presidents, Judith Trybek, Financial Secretary/Treasurer, and Shirley Wass, Secretary.

Jerzy Hejna, District 12 Commissioner, administered the Oath of Office to the Executive Board and the Audit/Finance Committee.

The Investment Committee, consisting of Barbara Wesolowski, Joseph Dobersztyn, Arthur Trybek, Raymond Kosinski, and Marian Grabowski, will meet in May to decide on investment options.

Attendees socialized and enjoyed light refreshments after the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Shirley Wass



Camp Stanica Prepares for 2015 Camping Season

Bondsville, MA. The Polish Alliance Youth Camp, Inc., known as Camp Stanica, is



Pictured are the newly elected officers for 2015 left to right: Richard Knurek, President; Jeannie Zapala, Vice President and PNA District 1 Commissioner; Evelyn Saczawa, Secretary, and Eugene P. Kirejczyk, Treasurer and Chairman of the Camping Committee.

preparing for the 2015 camping season. The annual meeting and election of officers was held at the Pulaski Club in Willimansett, MA.

The camp located in Bondsville, MA on 60 acres of grassy fields and woods with the Swift River and Browns Pond/Crystal Lake providing for fishing, swimming, and hiking. There are facilities for games, gymnastics, dancing, and arts and crafts. The campers sleep in cabins on metal frame cots with mattresses. Camp Stanica is a co-educational overnight camp for children ages 6-14. The weeks of camping are

Session I: July 12-18, and Session II: July 19-25.

For more information or a brochure please contact Eugene Kirejczyk at 48 Szetela Drive, Chicopee, MA 01013, or by phone: 413-592-0227.

Camp Stanica information and Application can be obtained on the PNA website at:

www.pna-znp.org

News from District VIII

Latrobe, PA Members of Lodges 664, 752 and 1231 met on March 28th, 2015 to participate in the on-going shuffle board tournaments that are held through the year. This year's first host was PNA Lodge 1231, White Eagles of Latrobe. Winners of this round was Glassport Lodge 752 with Tina Goodrun and Dean Vickers first place winners with runner-up Michelle Kubicki, Vice President and Monaca Valla, President of the lodge 1231. This is a newer event



Left to Right: Michelle Kubicki, Monica Valla, Tina Goodrun and Dean Vickers.

for District VIII and has been well received with members of the various participating lodges enjoying fraternization at both; relaxing and competitive levels.

Submitted by : David Sinclair, Commissioner, District VIII

Retirement Party at PNA Lodge 1684

Cohoes, NY. Members of PNA Lodge 1684 held a surprised Retirement Party for Mary Sala and Maria Swieton. Mary Sala is recording secretary and former Commissioner of District 3, retired from Saratoga County Office of the Aging. Maria Swieton is Vice-President of the Lodge, President of Council 136, and President of St/Michael's Church Rosary Society. She retired from the Little Sisters of the Poor Nursing Home.

PNA members and friends wish both Mary and Maria good health and many years of continued volunteer services for the benefit of PNA and Polonia.

Walter Brzozowski, President, PNA Lodge 1684



District VIII Activities – Egg Hunt

Easter Saturday, Bentleyville, PA

10,400 plastic eggs waited to be discovered by the young mem-



Children gathering in line to meet the Easter Bunny in person.

bers of Lodge 1930 on Easter Saturday in Bentleyville, PA. The members annual Easter Egg Hunt was again, very successful with a large turnout of children and their families. A party was held indoors after the hunt was over and many children departed thankful for being a vital part of the Polish National Alliance, great fraternal organization. Many thanks to the Lodge members and officers who make this event a community standard.

*Submitted by : David Sinclair,
Commissioner, District VIII*



PNA Council 62 Holds Easter Egg Hunt

Chicopee, MA.

PNA Council 62 held its annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 28 at the Pulaski Club in Chicopee, MA. Unfortunately we were experiencing more of the snowy weather on that Saturday, so the hunt was held indoors. Registration began at 11:30 A.M. on the large hall decorated for Easter. The hunt began at noon. The children, ages 0-10, were divided into three age groups: 0-3; 4-6, and 7-10. Gift bags were awarded by the Easter bunny to all children after they hunted for the eggs. After the hunt, refreshments consisting of hot dogs, chips, homemade desserts, and beverages were served by PNA Council 62 volunteers. The event was free. A raffle was held to help defray the costs of the event. PNA members, non-members, families and friends were encouraged to attend. Articles were sent to local media, radio and newspapers, announcing the Easter Egg Hunt. Despite the weather, everyone had a great time! Hope to see more children in 2016.

PNA EASTER EGG HUNT SHOWN AGES 0-3



Children ages 0-3 had the first opportunity to hunt for Easter eggs in their designated area at the PNA Council 62 Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 28 at the Pulaski Club in Chicopee, MA.

CHILDREN ENJOYING THE EASTER BUNNY



Some of the children attending the PNA Council 162 Annual Easter Egg Hunt are shown greeting the Easter bunny at the event on March 28. Although the hunt needed to be held indoors due to inclement weather, it did not prevent everyone from having a fun filled day.

COMMISSIONER PNA DISTRICT 1 SPORTS AN EASTER BUNNY



The PNA Council 62 Annual Easter Egg Hunt held at the Pulaski Club in Chicopee, MA had refreshments for all in attendance. Waiting for their turn in the refreshment line were PNA Commissioners of PNA District 1, Jeannie Zapala, and Frank Wolanin, holding the Easter bunny which was a raffle prize, and Teresa Struziak Sherman, former PNA National Director Region "A" and currently Financial/Recording Secretary PNA Council 62. Volunteers from PNA Council 62 assisted in making the event a success. The Pulaski Club, Mitchell Nowak, President and Vice President of PNA Lodge 711, donated the hall for the Easter Egg Hunt. We all look forward to a warm and Happy Spring!

*Submitted by:
Teresa Struziak Sherman*

WICI in Florida



On a delightfully warm night on February 8th in Venice Florida, an excited audience poured into the banquet center, which was prepared with tables for food and a stage ready for entertainment. This night was a special night for the local Polish-American church – Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski had graced the church with a visit from the Vatican. After all, this wonderful night was dedicated in his honor.

In preparation for this important day, Father Zenon Kurzyna of Venice made a phone call 1,000 miles away to someone he had only heard would

provide the best of entrainment – the representative group of the Polish National Alliance WICI. During the negotiations of the details of this performance, WICI was requested to display an extensive repertoire as well as one more interesting request. The organizers of event implored that the event be cut shorter than previously planned on the account of his imminence, Cardinal Grocholewski, who would surely be exhausted from his extensive travels.

What happened later that night would take everyone by surprise. The performance was riveting; colorful costumes span left and right. Ranging from Spanish waltz and American country to Polish folk, the variety of dances was astounding. As the time for the shorter event ran out, WICI took their bows and received a standing ovation with applause that seemed to have no end. Everyone took notice when the guest honor of this event, Cardinal Grocholewski, stood up from his table, applauded the dance company and insisted on an encore.

In the days following the performance, the amount of praise and thanks Father Zenon Kurzyna received solidified how captivated everyone had felt with WICI's performance. With such a success to look back on, it won't be long till WICI is back in Venice and ready to enchant its viewers once again.

Submitted by: WICI Song and Dance Theater



District XVIII Bowlers

Johnstown, PA Despite the prolong winter, hearts and spirits were warm as the District VIII Bowlers fired-up the lanes of host Moxam's PNA Lodge 1327 annual bowling tournament. This event brings the Lodges of District VIII together for great competition and fraternalism. Great job from the members and officers of Moxam, located in the mountains of Johnstown, PA!

Winners:

GOLDEN GIRLS

Elise Dobrosky
Lael Simmons
Diana Tamski
Carol Smith
Edith Hoak



WHO CARES

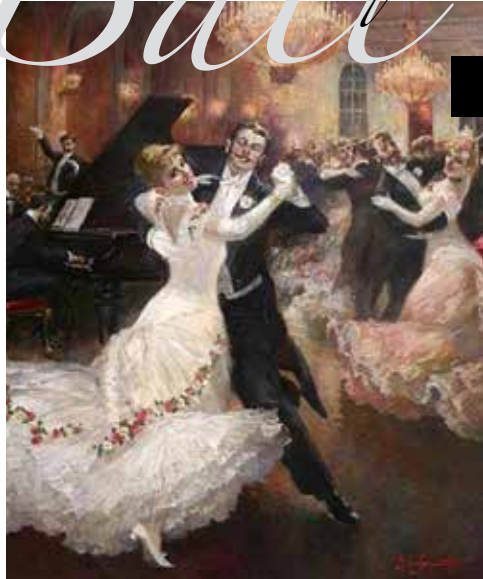
Ken Morton
Travis Fox
Jeffrey Wudkwyck
Mike "Hoots" Attenberger
Rick Flood



*Submitted by: David Sinclair,
Commissioner, District VIII*

PNA of INDIANA DISTRICT XV ANNOUNCES

Debutante and Squire Scholarship Ball



October 17, 2015

Blue Chip Casino

Michigan City, Indiana

District Directors and Commissioner Mary Wozniak set the date for the District XV Debutante and Squire Scholarship Ball for Saturday October 17, 2015 at the Blue Chip Casino Ball Room. Personal announcements are being sent out to all PNA District XV Fraternal young adult members through out

Indiana from ages 16 to 22 years. Also, we are asking if any junior Debs and Squires from the ages of 13 to 16 who would like to assist in the presentation at the Ball to contact your lodge or email Commissioner Wozniak as well.

For Ad donation, tickets and information on the Ball will be sent out to all fraternal members of PNA to join us on this Special occasion. Anyone wishing to request any information in advance may contact using the email and phone numbers below. We hope to make it a great success for our young people of PNA. Please help in keeping our tradition of our Polish Heritage alive and in the hearts of everyone who participates in this Gala event by participating or calling for information.

If you do not receive a letter, contact your lodge Officers for the information or contact Commissioner Wozniak, 219-778-2001
dpwozniak@comcast.net or request by Fax # **219-778-3133**

Annual Spelling Bee in District XVII



Shown above is Abigail and Commissioner Matiko.

Polish National Alliance District VII Northeastern Pennsylvania held its annual Spelling Bee with Abigail Bartuska, Hanover Township, emerging as the local winner. Bartuska is a member of Lodge 430, Council 86. She was presented with a monetary award by District Commissioner Michael Matiko. She is the daughter of Dennis and Rebecca Bartuska.



*Submitted by: Michael Matiko,
Commissioner, District VII*

District 1 PNA Holds Annual Joint Convention

Chicopee, MA. District 1 PNA held its Annual Joint Convention for 2015 at the Pulaski Club in Chicopee, MA, hosted by PNA Lodge 525. Commissioners Frank Wolanin and Jeannie Zapala co-chaired the meeting and elections of secretary and treasurer. Re-elected secretary for PNA District 1 was Wanda Milecki. Re-elected Treasurer of District 1 was Ka-

DISTRICT 1 PNA MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR FOR 2015



Chicopee, MA. Pictured receiving her award left to right: PNA National President Frank J. Spula; Woman of the Year 2015, Teresa Struziak Sherman holding her engraved trophy and bouquet of fresh flowers; District 1 Commissioner, Jeannie Zapala; PNA National Director Region "A" Walter Tokarz, and District 1 Treasurer, Kamila Wnuk.



Chicopee, MA. Pictured at the PNA District 1 Joint Convention for 2015 are left to right: Zosia Sydlík, PNA Council 111; Walter Tokarz, PNA National Director Region "A" Man of the Year 2015, Henry Kotarba holding his engraved trophy, and PNA District 1, Secretary, Wanda Milecki. The trophies were very unusual in that they included each recipient's picture as part of the engraving.

mila Wnuk. The Convention delegates were honored with the presence of illustrious leader, PNA National President, Frank J. Spula. Also present were PNA National Director Region "A" Walter J. Tokarz and Stas Radosz, Executive Director of the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College, Chicopee, MA. President Spula spoke about the many changes in the regulations affecting our organization and the controls on how the PNA spends its money. Stas Radosz enlightened us about the many events and activities being offered at the Polish Center museum, and encouraged everyone to visit this excellent display of exhibits that preserve our Polish heritage. To learn more, visit the Polish Center on line at: www.polish-center.net, or call 413-592-0001. The meeting was fruitful and the dinner, which was prepared by the Pulaski Club under the direction of Mitchell Nowak and his team, was delicious and a delight for all the delegates present.

This year Commissioners Frank Wolanin and Jeannie Zapala presented a monetary award to the top salesperson of PNA District 1. Receiving the top award for the greatest number of new members enrolled was former PNA National Director Region "A", Teresa Struziak Sherman of PNA Lodge 711 in Chicopee, MA.

The District also presents a distinguished Man and Woman of the Year award annually at the District Convention. The trophy award for "Woman of the Year 2015" was presented to Teresa Struziak Sherman of PNA Lodge 711 of Chicopee, MA. Teresa has been a member of Lodge 711 since infancy, and assists at many meetings whenever needed, and at Lodge events. Teresa (Terry) Struziak Sherman was born and raised in Chicopee, MA. Her introduction to her Polish heritage was through the Polish National Alliance, PNA, at the age of 9, when she began helping her Father who was the Financial Secretary of Polish National Alliance Lodge 711, Chicopee, MA. Upon his passing in 1966, she was elected to fill his position, and was the first woman to be an officer of that Lodge. She was also the youngest officer in the Lodge's history at the age of 23.

As a Sales Representative and Financial Secretary for PNA Lodge 711 of Chicopee, MA for 49 years, she has enrolled over 300 members with over \$ 8 Million of insurance. Teresa's family is a 100% PNA family. As a delegate to PNA Council 62 for 49 years, she has been elected Recording/Financial Secretary

OUTGOING COMMISSIONERS HONORED



Chicopee, MA. PNA District 1 presented special honors to Edward Bernat for his efforts in rebuilding Lodge 525's Pilsudski Park in Holyoke, MA. As the President of Lodge 525, he has revitalized the facility as well as the lodge. May his spirit continue and spread throughout District 1.



Chicopee, MA. PNA District 1 proudly honored its outgoing Commissioners at the PNA District 1 Convention on April 18. They will be completing their term of office at the end of this year. Pictured left to right: PNA National President, Frank J. Spula, presenting a bouquet of flowers to PNA District 1 Commissioner Jeannie Zapala; Walter Tokarz, PNA National Director Region "A", and Frank Wolanin, Commissioner PNA District 1.

for 34 years, and chairs the Membership Committee. Teresa has been a Secretary of District 1 PNA, and was elected Commissioner of PNA District 1 in 1991. Also in 1991 the PNA Censor appointed a "Zgoda Committee" and Teresa as the Chairperson. She is currently the author of a health column, called Living Well in the National PNA publication, Zgoda. She was honored as Mother of the Year by PNA Council 62, and Woman of the Year by PNA District 1. Teresa was presented the Bronze Cross Legion of Honor award for "Dedication and Concern for the Future Welfare of the Organization" by the PNA President

in 1996. She was presented the PNA Silver Cross Legion of Honor award in September, 2014.

Teresa has been elected a delegate to ten National PNA Conventions serving on the Youth, Membership, Budget and Finance, and Alliance Publications and Communications Pre-Convention Committees, where she chaired the latter committee for two National Conventions. She was also the Third Vice Chairperson at three national PNA conventions in Buffalo, Denver and in Jersey City. Teresa was elected to two limited terms as PNA National Director of Region "A". As a PNA Board member Teresa served on the Membership, Education, and Public Relations Committees, and Chaired the Rules and Regulations Board Committee, and Special Committees of the Board. She has also served on the Board of Directors of Alliance Communications and the Alliance FSB bank.

Teresa also currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Polish Alliance Youth Camp, Camp Stanica, in Bondsville, MA where she has also volunteered as a camp nurse. She has served on the Board for the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College, where she chaired the Public Relations Committee, and was the Community Service Award recipient at the 9th Annual Krakus Festival on October 17, 2014. Terry also served on the Chicopee Falls Polish Home Association Board where she was the Financial Secretary. Teresa has been a speaker at the Annual Pulaski Day Parade in Northampton, MA. She is a member of the New England Chapter of The Kosciuszko Foundation and the Society of Polish American Culture.

Teresa's professional and educational experiences include staff nurse, Charge Nurse Medical/Surgical Unit, Charge Nurse Emergency Room, Nursing Supervisor, Staff Development/ Nursing Education at Ludlow Hospital, Assistant Professor of Nursing at the College of Our Lady of the Elms, Adjunct Assistant Professor at Western New England College. She has managed resources and budgets up to \$ 14 Million annually as a Director of Nurses, at the Springfield Municipal Hospital and Jewish Nursing Home of Western Massachusetts, a Nursing Home Administrator at Ring Health Care Centers, Springfield, MA, President and Director of Clinical Practices for Gericare, Inc. and as part owner and Program Director of CEU Direct, Inc, offering accredited health care education programs on the Internet for re-licensure of health care professionals.

Educational accomplishments include receiving a Diploma as a Registered Nurse from Springfield Hospital School of Nursing, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree with Highest Honors from Amer-

ican International College, and a Master of Science degree in Nursing Administration with a minor in Public Health Administration from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. A major accomplishment has been her efforts to eliminate medication waste in nursing homes and jails through testimony before the Massachusetts Legislature's Joint Committee on Health Care in Boston, presentations before the Western Massachusetts Legislators and interviews on WNNZ, Westfield, MA and Channel 40 News, Springfield, MA.

Teresa has served as President of the Western Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives. She has taught courses at both the Bachelor and Master's levels in area colleges. She has published articles in nursing journals. Her experiences also include public speaking on radio and television, a guest lecturer, and speaker at many seminars and nursing education programs. Many of her nursing seminar topics have included biomedical ethics, ethical issues, ethics committees, end of life decisions, dying with dignity and nursing research development. She has also presented many insurance sales seminars for the Polish National Alliance. Teresa has received many awards for her dedication and contributions to Polish Organizations, Polonia, and the nursing profession. Teresa is a member of Alpha Chi, National Honor Society at American International College and the National Honor Society of Nursing at the University of Massachusetts, Sigma Theta Tau. She is a member of the Massachusetts Nurses Association and the National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration in Long Term Care.

Teresa resides in Wilbraham, Massachusetts with her husband Gilbert, who was the recipient of Teresa's knowledge and skill in CPR when he went into cardiac arrest and was saved by her in 2005. He is fortunate to be with us here today. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 20, 2014. They have three children, Gayle, Reverend Scott, and Greg Sherman, and seven grandchildren.

Receiving the award for "Man of the Year 2015" was Henry J. Kotarba of PNA Lodge 2876 of Dudley, MA, a long time dedicated PNA Financial Secretary and Sales Representative. Henry was presented a token of appreciation at the 2014 PNA District 1 Convention in Lowell, MA. Henry was honored by PNA Lodge 2876 of Dudley, MA for 48 years of service to the PNA as the Lodge's Financial Secretary and Sales Representative at the Lodge's 75th Anniversary celebration in 2012. Henry is Vice President of PNA Council 111, Worcester, MA. He has been a Council 111 Delegate for 49 years. Henry is also on the Board of Directors of the PNA Home in Dudley, MA.

The District 1 PNA Commissioners will be completing their last terms this year. They were presented bouquets of flowers by PNA President Frank J. Spula. In appreciation for their dedication to the PNA and District 1, the Commissioners also presented District 1 Secretary, Wanda Milecki and District 1 Treasurer with flowers. A special recognition was presented to Edward Bernat, President PNA Lodge 525 for his untiring efforts dedicated to refurbishing Pilsudski Park in Holyoke, MA.

*Submitted by:
Teresa Struziak Sherman.*

Installation of Officers at Lodge 1224

Rockford, IL. Sunday, January 1224 held our installation of the officers for the year of 2015. Joe Wojewodzki administered the oath to the new officers. At the end of our meeting everyone enjoyed a light brunch.

The new officers of Lodge 1224:

President: **Marian Bielawski**
Vice-President: **Stanisław Wawioroko,**
Financial Secretary: **Teresa Bulka**
Treasurer: **Ann Wojewodzki**
Recording Secretary: **Irena Dyer.**

Submitted by: Joe Wojewodzki, Lodge 1224



*(L-R) Secretary of our Council 149
Margaret Borowski, officers of Lodge 1224:
Ann Wojewodzki, Stanisław Wawioroko,
Teresa Bulka, Marian Bielawski, Irena Dyer.*

POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

"I Can't Believe My Camera Took This Picture"
(photos so good, you can't believe it came out of your camera)

PNA PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY BLANK



PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ AGE _____

PNA CERTIFICATE _____ LODGE _____

PHOTO TITLE _____

TYPE OF CAMERA _____

CONTEST RULES

1. Participants must be members of the Polish National Alliance
2. Photos may be of any person, place or thing by the entrant during 2015.
3. Duration of the Contest is **May 1, 2015 to September 15, 2015.**
4. Each contestant is limited to **TWO (2) Photo** entries.
5. No restricted age limit for contestant.
6. Entries of photos can be either in **BLACK AND WHITE or in COLOR.**
7. Photo size must be a **minimum of 4" X 6" to a maximum of 8" X 10". DO NOT MOUNT ANY PHOTO. DO NOT WRITE ON, DEFACE THE FRONT OR BACK OF PHOTO. ANY PHOTO MOUNTED OR DEFACED WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**
8. Photos can be either from a **FILM or DIGITAL CAMERA** and must be submitted in Print form on photo paper. **NO ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
9. Each entry must have your full name, address, phone number, PNA Lodge number and Certificate Number. (use entry blank)
10. All entries become property of the Polish National Alliance. No entries will be returned.
11. Ten (10) Winners will receive an Award Winners Plaque with photo mounted on it. All contestants will receive a Certificate of Appreciation.
12. Judges decisions will be final. Winners and their prizes will be published in the Zgoda and on the PNA Website.
13. Only **AMATEUR** photographers are eligible.
14. All entries must be postmarked **NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15, 2015** & mailed to:

**P.N.A. PHOTO CONTEST
SPORTS AND YOUTH DEPARTMENT
6100 NORTH CICERO AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60646-4385**



A Royal Presentation Ball

On Saturday May 2, 2015, the Polish National Alliance District 10 and the District 10 Women's Division held a Royal Presentation Ball honoring 21 Debutantes and 6 Squires at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan.

The evening began with District 10 Commissioners Thomas M. Schemanski and Stella G. Szczesny along with Polish Alliance Dancers Director Christine Kryszko welcoming the guests and reading congratulatory letters from President Frank Spula, Vice-President Paul Odrobina and National Director Steve Tokarski. National Censor Wesley Musial and Vice President Teresa Abick were in attendance. Squire Benjamin Timpf sang a very moving rendition of the American



and Polish National Anthems.

Past Debutantes Jessica Sitko and Paulina Kowalczyk along with past Squire Randy Favot introduced each Debutante and Squire along with their parents.

The Debutantes and Squires were: Kelly Baritche, Bianca Bowman, Michael Cieslak, Stephanie Cieslak, David Cooper, Victoria Cote, Kailyn Delonis,

Alexis Dolecki, Laura Dudek, Rachel Dudek, Stefania Dudek, Emily Fradette, Julia Fradette, Hannah Gove, Krystyna Hausz, Kelsey Joseph, Kristin Karwan, Krystyna Kitlinski, Adam Kowalczyk, Megan Krolikowski, Monika Michalik, Megan Nowakowski,

Mateusz Pelic, Andrew Pietrzak, Rachel Pietrzak, Benjamin Timpf, and Christina Wallag,

The escorts for the evening were Mitchell Bobrowiecki, John Boudreau, Dawid Dechnik, Kamil Dechnik, Michal Halon, Derek Hausz, Robert Hausz, Marcin Jablecki, Mateusz Koper, Brendan Leahy, Darin Lenhardt, Rafal Liedke, Antos Palac, Ryan Panczak, and Thomas Schemanski.

The twenty-one couples took to the floor and performed a beautiful Polonaise choreographed by Kasia A. Schemanski and Darin Lenhardt. The music was from the movie "Pan Tadeusz" com-



posed by Wojciech Kilar. The Polonaise was followed by the waltz "Tredowata" also by Wojciech Kilar and choreographed by Thomas A. Schemanski. The talent and artistry of the choreographers was evident throughout the entire dance program. The young couples danced gracefully throughout their entire program to the delight of their guests.

National Censor Wesley Musial gave congratulatory remarks and wished the young men and women the very best in the years to come and expressed how proud PNA was of all of them and their accomplishments.

Gifts were given to the Debutantes and Squires by Commissioners Thomas Schemanski and Stella Szczesny. The gifts were provided by Council 54, Council 122, Lodge 53, Lodge 1264, Lodge 1758, Lodge 2525, Lodge 2821, District 10 and the District 10 Women's Division. Gifts of appreciation and

onet, Christine Kryszko, Edward Nizienski, Francine Nizienski, Commissioner Thomas M. Schemanski and Commissioner Stella G. Szczesny.

The evening was not only a celebration of the young men and women but also their families, our Polish heritage, traditions and the spirit of fraternalism that is the hallmark of PNA District 10.

*Submitted by: Stella G. Szczesny,
Commissioner, District 10*

*Pictures by: Rafal Nowakowski
of Telewizja Detroit*



*(L-R). Kasia A. Schemanski, Thomas M. Schemanski,
Wesley E. Musiat, Stella G. Szczesny and Thomas A. Schemanski.*

special recognition were given to the choreographers for their dedication and hard work to ensure a beautiful performance.

Following the presentation of gifts, Rev. Fr. Bogdan Milosz of St. Faustina Parish, gave a very touching invocation honoring the young honorees and their past accomplishments and congratulating them on their wonderful performance. The guests then enjoyed a delicious four course meal followed by a sweets table offering numerous delectable choices.

The Debs and Squires and their guests danced late into the evening to the music of "The Coachmen".

The evening would not have been such a memorable event without the hard work, dedication and teamwork of the committee: Joan Baritche, John Baritche, Jan Favot, Barbara Gr-

PNA Camp available for rent in 2015!

Youth Camp Association
District 12 & 13 in
Plano/Yorkville, IL
is currently accepting reservations
for **April** through **October**
events for 2015.

We offer rental facilities for events
such as family picnics, wedding,
music festivals and sporting events,
accommodating up to
4,000 + people.

We are also renting halls for family
gatherings up to **200** people.

For detailed information and
reservations contact
Edward Mika – **630.201.0582**,
e-mail: **eddiemika@hotmail.com**



We are proud of

Hedy Rabiega

During the Celebration of 224th Polish Constitution Day and its 70th Anniversary Pulaski Council of Milwaukee awarded Mrs. Hedy Rabiega, PNA Lodge 3100 its annual Polish Heritage Award.

Hedy Rabiega (Jadwiga Henryka) was born in Warsaw, Poland to Henry & Maria Zablocki. She was five months old when II world war broke out and her father left to fight for Poland in the famous 303rd Squadron of the British Air Force. Hedy lived through the war years with her mother in the heart of Warsaw and has many vivid memories, especially about the time of the Warsaw Uprising.

In December 1945, Hedy's father, then stationed with the Polish squadron in Germany, hired a man to come into Poland and let her mother know he was alive and to get her out to join him.

After spending a little over a year in Germany, followed by five years in England, the Zablocki family came to the USA in March 1952 just before Hedy's 13th birthday.

Although Hedy was not even seven when she left the land of her birth, Poland and the Polish language were always dear to her heart. At age 18 after graduation from Pulaski High School she married Mieczysław (Mietek) Rabiega.

Hedy's family became a member of the Polish National Alliance in 1962. The children attended the Lodge Christmas parties, they sang in small PNA choral group, and they took part

in a Youth Jamboree at Alliance College, which Hedy enjoyed as much as they did!

Hedy Rabiega became really involved in the PNA in 1977 when her Lodge was looking for someone to audit, to set up records for over 200 members and to set up a new collecting system, and asked her to be the Financial Secretary. She also did these services for several other Lodges.

She attended her first National PNA Convention in 1979 in Washington, D.C., and numerous ones since. Sixteen years ago, she became Commissioner of District 14, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Minnesota and held that



position for eight years, and then was National Director for that region for eight years.

In 1969, Hedy went back to Poland for the first time with her 11 year old son to visit family and took an Orbis bus tour. She went back in 1972 with her husband and two daughters so that they could see the same.

In 1980's, Hedy worked part-time in a Polish travel office which enabled her to travel to a few places she may not have been able to otherwise. It was at this time that she helped host a large group of children from Warsaw's "Mini-Mazowsze," finding lodging and organizing a tour in town for them.

As a young wife and mother, Hedy was a supporter of the New Life Men's Chorus – Chór Nowe Życie, the pride and joy of Director Janusz Oksza-Czechowski for over 40 years. She was recognized for her hard work by the Polish Singers Alliance as an Honorary Member at a PNA Convention in New York.

Polonia Sport Club was always a part of her life as her father was a great supporter and she married a soccer player. Their son, Richard (who has been involved in soccer since a child and just last night was inducted into the Wisconsin Soccer Association's Hall of Fame) is presently President.

For many years Hedy was a member and Director of Pulaski Council of Milwaukee. She has also been a member of the Polish American Congress ever since she can remember a member of Polish Heritage Alliance of Polanki and a supporter of Syrena & Syrenka dancers. Mrs. Rabiega was chosen to represent the Polish community on the first Board of Directors of Polish Fest, and has been an annual volunteer ever since.

The most memorable and life-changing occasions for Mrs. Rabiega were the pilgrimages to Caracas and Maracaibo in Venezuela, Lourdes in 1986. On the same trip, while in Rome, a special audience for pilgrims from Poland at the Vatican enabled her and Mitch to shake hands with Pope John Paul II, now a Saint!

Hedy Rabiega thanks God daily for her life's partner, her husband Mitch, who, after their children were older, allowed her to be involved with the various Polish organizations throughout her life, and has truly been a great support! She is very proud that all three of their children, their spouses, and their five grandchildren have also been active by volunteering in the Polish community for many years.

Congratulations!



Hedy Rabiega & Mitchell Rabiega with Mr. & Mrs. Vice President Paul Odrobina at the Pulaski Council of Milwaukee event.



Artur Kozłowski

(Grupa 3284 ZNP) ma 16 lat. Chodzi do Northside College Preparatory a w piątkowe wieczory uczęszcza do Polskiej Szkoły im. św. Maksymiliana Marii Kolbe przy Parafii św. Konstancji. Jego amerykańska szkoła, Northside College Prep jest najlepszą szkołą w Illinois oraz 3 w Stanach Zjednoczonych pod względem nauki. Interesuje się sportem i trenuje siatkówkę w klubie „Division 1.” Razem z drużyną zdobył pierwsze miejsce w turnieju „Sports Performance Volleyball Tournament” i 5 miejsce w „St. Louis Presidential Classic”, w którym brało udział ponad 50 drużyn. W czasie wakacji grał w siatkówkę plażową z kolegą w



Chicago Elite Beach volleyball Club. Razem z nim 3 krotnie wygrał Montrose Beach Volleyball Tournament i brał udział w North Avenue Beach Volleyball Tournament. Jest członkiem dwóch orkiestr dętych przy parafiach Miłosierdzia Bożego w Lombard i św. Konstancji w Chicago. Gra na klawirze już 8 lat i na saksofonie 6 lat. Jest pięciokrotnym laureatem konkursu muzycznego „Granquist Music Competition.”

Uczy się także języka hiszpańskiego i jest członkiem „Spanish Honors Society”. Chciałby znać więcej języków obcych, na przykład francuskiego, włoskiego oraz niemieckiego i zwiedzić te kraje. W przyszłości chciałby kontynuować naukę w wybitnym uniwersytecie i grać tam w siatkówkę. Chciałby studiować księgowość, prawo lub medycynę.

“Język polski jest częścią mojej tożsamości. Dzięki jego znajomości mam możliwość porozumienia się z rodziną w Polsce oraz mogę głębiej poznać swoją Ojczyznę. Gdy ktoś się pyta skąd pochodzę, z dumą odpowiadam, że jestem Polakiem i potrafię mówić czystą polszczyzną. Każdy język jest oknem na świat a język polski jest właśnie oknem na piękny polski świat.”

Artur Kozłowski

Nadstąpił: Paweł Skrzyniarz

Frank J. Spula

(Lodge 257), prezes Związku Narodowego Polskiego oraz Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej został odznaczony Krzyżem Komandorskim Orderu Zasługi Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej przez prezydenta RP Bronisława Komorowskiego podczas uroczystości z okazji 25-lecia Stowarzyszenia



„Wspólnota Polska” oraz Dnia Polonii i Polaków za granicą. Order ten przyznany został prezesowi Spuli za zasługi na rzecz Polonii i Polaków za granicą oraz promowanie spraw Polski w Stanach Zjednoczonych.

Uroczystość odbyła się w Warszawie, w Domu Polonii będącym siedzibą Stowarzyszenia „Wspólnota Polska”. Prezes Spula był jedną z siedmiu osób, przedstawicieli Polonii z całego świata, odznaczonych przez prezydenta RP.

„Jest mi bardzo miło, że mogę okazać wdzięczność w imieniu państwa polskiego, w imieniu Polski, bo takie jest prawo prezydenta, że mogę podziękować za państwa służbę dla Polski, za działania na – nie tak łatwej – niwie polonijnej i polskich spraw” – powiedział prezydent wręczając odznaczenia.

Dzień Polonii i Polaków za Granicą obchodzony jest 2 maja. Święto ustanowiono w 2002 r. „uznając wielowiekowy dorobek i wkład Polonii i Polaków za granicą w odzyskanie przez Polskę niepodległości, uznając wierność i przywiązanie do polskości oraz pomoc Krajowi w najtrudniejszych momentach, w celu potwierdzenia więzi Polonii z Macierzą i jedności wszystkich Polaków, tak mieszkających w Kraju, jak i żyjących poza nim”.



We are proud of

Welcome to our PNA Family



Clark David Hales
was born March 27, 2014.
His policy was a gift from
loving great grandparents
Charles and Rebecca
Zalewski,
Grand Rapids, MI.
*Submitted by Charles and
Rebecca Zalewski*



Claire Austen Bielamowicz
daughter of Adam and Meghan , is the newest member of Lodge
128, Bremond, TX. She was signed up by her great grandparents
Richard and Beatrice Bielamowicz.
Submitted by: Wand Kotch Ray, Financial Secretary, Lodge 128

Aiden Michael Bugala,
born November 13, 2014.
Parents: Steven and Julie
Bugala, grandparents: George
and Judy Bugala
Submitter by: George Bugala



Samuel R. Stalilonis
born March 1, 2014 is a
new member of Lodge
2365. Samuel is the son of
Dan and Michelle Stalilonis
and grandson of the late
Joseph Samreta,
National Director.



Vivien Z. Ziemlo
(born August 27, 2013)
daughter of Aleksandra and
Zack S. Ziemlo of Wood Dale,
IL became a new member of
PNA. The policy was a gift
from her loving grandmother
Barbara Ziemlo.



**Violet Grace
Kubiak,**
Born 1-24-2015,
Lodge 128,
Bremond, TX
*Submitted
by John Ray,
Director, Region I*



Evelyn Elizabeth Szozda,
born September 27, 2014.
Daughter of Cynthia
and Michael Szozda.
Granddaughter of Cheryl
and Stanley Szozda. Great-
niece of Mary (Recording
Secretary of Lodge 1684,
Cohoes, NY) and John Sala.

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	BOY		GIRL	
	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
ONE-TIME PAYMENT				
0	512.50	906.50	465.50	813.00
7	618.00	1,102.50	562.75	991.80
14	723.75	1,314.20	652.65	1,171.90
18	817.70	1,498.70	740.70	1,344.40

Polish National Alliance
6100 N. Cicero Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60646



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**Polish National Alliance
47th Quadrennial Convention
August 23-26, 2015
Renaissance Cleveland Hotel
Cleveland, Ohio**

BY-LAWS REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATION FOR ELECTIVE OFFICERS OF THE POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the Polish National Alliance of the United States of North America, the following are the requirements for Nominations for Elective Officers in connection with the 47th National Convention to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, in August, 2015.

1. ELECTIVE OFFICERS

The elective officers of the Alliance shall be a Censor, a Vice Censor, a District Commissioner elected from each Commissioner's District, a President, one (1) Vice President, one (1) Vice President of the Union of Poles, a Secretary, a Treasurer, five (5) Business Board Directors, and a Fraternal Board Director for each Director's Region "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "H", "I" and "J".

In the event an employee of the Home Office shall be elected a Region Director or a District Commissioner, than such individual must resign employment with the Alliance prior to taking office.

A. DIRECTOR'S REGIONS

DIRECTOR'S REGION "A" – covers the Commissioner's District I & II, which includes the States of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut.

DIRECTOR'S REGION "B" – covers the Commissioner's District VIII, which includes the States of Western Pennsylvania, Western New York.

DIRECTOR'S REGION "C" – covers the Commissioner's District III, VI & VII, which includes the States of Eastern New York, New Jersey, East and Southwestern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and Delaware, DC.

DIRECTOR'S REGION "D" – covers the Commissioner's District IX & XVII, which includes States of Ohio, West Virginia.

DIRECTOR'S REGION "E" – covers the Commissioner's District X & XV, which includes States of Michigan, Indiana.

DIRECTOR'S REGION "F" – covers the Commissioner's District XII, which includes Chicago South.

DIRECTOR'S REGION "G" – covers the Commissioner's District XIII, which includes Chicago North.

DIRECTOR'S REGION "H" – covers the Commissioner's District IV, V & XI, which includes the States of Texas, Nebraska, Missouri, Florida and Colorado.

DIRECTOR'S REGION "I" – covers the Commissioner's District XIV, which includes the States of North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

DIRECTOR'S REGION "J" – covers the Commissioner's District XVI & XVIII, which includes the State of Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California and Arizona.

B. COMMISSIONER'S DISTRICTS

District I	- Main, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont -- 1 Commissioner
District II	- Connecticut -- 1 Commissioner
District III	- East New York -- 1 Commissioner
District IV	- Florida (New District) -- 1 Commissioner
District V	- Texas (New District) -- 1 Commissioner
District VI	- East Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, S New Jersey, DC -- 1 Commissioner
District VII	- N. New Jersey, N.E. Pennsylvania -- 1 Commissioner (Combined V & VII)
District VIII	- Western New York, Western Pennsylvania -- 1 Commissioner (Combined IV & VIII)
District IX	- West Virginia, Ohio -- 1 Commissioner
District X	- Michigan -- 1 Commissioner
District XI	- Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri (New District) -- 1 Commissioner
District XII	- Chicago South -- 1 Commissioner
District XIII	- Chicago North -- 1 Commissioner
District XIV	- Wisconsin, North Dakota, Minnesota -- 1 Commissioner
District XV	- Indiana -- 1 Commissioner
District XVI	- California, Arizona, Nevada - 1 Commissioner
District XVII	- Ohio/UP -- 1 Commissioner
District XVIII	- Washington, Oregon (New District) -- 1 Commissioner

2. QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES

A candidate for an elective office, specified in Section 78, must possess the following qualifications:

- a) at the time of filling his or her application, he or she must be a beneficial premium-paying member of the Alliance in good standing, uninterrupted for at least five (5) years, immediately preceding his or her election to office. In addition, a candidate for a Director of the Alliance shall be a member of a lodge for at least one year in the District to which election is sought.

NOTE 1: A candidate for the office of Director of the Alliance shall also be a resident of the Director's Region which he or she is vying to represent on the Board, except Districts 12 and 13, who shall be a resident of the State of Illinois.

NOTE 2: A candidate for an elective office shall be a "beneficial member of the Alliance in good standing", as of the date of his or her application.

"Beneficial Member" means a member who has a PNA benefit certificate in force. (Section 12). A member is not in "good standing" whenever he or she fails to make timely payments of lodge dues or assessments, if any, required by his or her lodge and/or the annual premiums as required, (Article II, Section 13 and Article I, Section (m), in the amount approved by the Board of Directors of the PNA. In case a member is an owner of an Annuity Plan, such a member must maintain at least a \$10,000.00 balance in said Annuity or make at least a \$100.00 annual contribution. (Article I, Section 1, Paragraph P)

Holders of certificates include all certificates, which were fully Paid-up, Single Premium, all Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) and Deferred Annuity, Universal Life, provided they paid all Lodge dues, if any required, or annual premium on any premium paying certificate of insurance, as approved by the Board of Directors.

- b) Must be a citizen of the United States of America.
- c) Unless an incumbent officer, they must have, since the last Convention served for at least three (3) years, as officers of Lodge or as a delegate to Council.
- d) Cannot serve as an officer, agent, delegate or employee of any other fraternal benefit society, or be engaged in any capacity whatsoever in any life insurance company or association.
- e) Shall not be a member of any subversive organization having for its object the overthrow of the government of the United States of America by force or violence, or engage in acts of espionage for and on behalf of any foreign power.
- f) A candidate for the position of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Business Board of Director must be either the incumbent for the position or demonstrate knowledge of insurance by passing the FMLI certification issued by LOMA, being a certified public account, a chartered financial planner, hold a master's in business administration or be a chartered underwriter. Additionally, an individual can be eligible if such individual has passed at least the first two (2) LOMA exams concerning insurance products and insurance operations and agrees to pass at least one additional exam each quarter after his or her election. In the event such a candidate is elected and fails to pass the additional exams as specified herein, the Business Board of Directors shall declare a vacancy in the position to which such candidate was elected at its meeting immediately following such failure.
- g) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, Candidates shall not be eligible if they have been convicted of a felony, been discharged in bankruptcy or if any federal or state statute, regulation or rule prevents such individual from holding such office.
- h) The candidates for nomination of District Commissioner shall possess qualifications prescribed in Section 78, and they shall be members of a Lodge within the Commissioner's District to which the nominating Lodge belongs and be residents of said District, with the exception of Districts 12 and 13 wherein residence in the State of Illinois shall be required.
- i) Knowledge of electronic communication.

3. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

A. GENERAL RULES

Nominations for all elective Officers of the Alliance, with the exception of District Commissioner, shall be made by petition in the form prescribed by the Board of Directors, signed by at least twenty-five (25) beneficial members of the Alliance, in good standing, and filed with the Secretary of the Alliance not less than sixty (60) days before the Convention. (Section 79).

- a) The Secretary shall acknowledge the receipt of such petition from each such nominee and shall publish the names of all nominees in the official publication of the Alliance not later than fifteen (15) days before Convention, and deliver all nomination petitions to the Nomination Committee of the Convention.
- b) The Nominating Committee shall examine each petition and if it is found to be a proper form, shall report the name of the candidate to the Convention to be placed in nomination.
- c) In the instance where not more than two petitions for nominations have been filed, then in the event of the death or resignation of any member who has filed his or her petition for nomination, after the time for filing of the petitions for nominations has expired, any qualified member may file his or her petition for nomination for said office of the Alliance at the Convention, provided, he or she presents his or her petition for nomination signed by ten (10) duly elected Representatives to the Convention and providing, further, that said petition is presented to the Nominating Committee of the Convention prior to its report to the Convention. (Section 79).
- d) Candidates for elective office must personally request a single petition for candidacy by mail, e-mail, fax or in person. A request must be signed by a candidate. A candidate can file only one (1) petition for one (1) elective office. The National Secretary will not accept more than one (1) petition.
- e) Candidates for the office of Commissioner shall not be a candidate for election to any other Office at the same Convention.
- f) Be knowledgeable of the PNA Membership Products.

B. NOMINATIONS OF DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

The Representatives to the Convention from each Commissioner's District, shall, at a time fixed by the Convention Committee on Rules and Order of the Day, meet in a separate caucus and select by majority vote from the nominees of the various Councils in said Commissioner's District its nominee for such District Commissioner. In the event no nominee receives a majority vote of the caucus, the Supervisory Council by mail shall cast ballots to break the tie. Otherwise, each caucus shall report to the Convention the names of its nominees who shall be declared elected by the Convention.

OFFICERS OF THE PNA

Frank J. Spula, *President*
 Paul C. Odrobina, *Vice-President*
 David G. Milcinovic, *Vice-President*
 Union of Poles, *Division of P.N.A.*
 Charles A. Komosa, *Secretary*
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 Walter Tokarz
 Bernadette Zubel

PNA 47th Quadrennial Convention Souvenir Book

Dear Friends,

This year the Polish National Alliance will be hosting its 47th Quadrennial Convention from August 23-26, 2015 in Cleveland, OH. The purpose of the Convention will be to discuss the most important matters of the organization, its future and the governance - National Officers, Directors and Commissioners will be elected.

For this momentous occasion, we are preparing a souvenir program book. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

The deadline for all ads is **July 1, 2015**.

For detailed information and rates visit the PNA official website **www.pna-znp.org**

If you have any questions,
call Monika (216) 849.1292 or
Jane (440) 476.1721 or e-mail:

pna2015convention@gmail.com

Thanking you for your support,

Monika Sochecki, *Souvenir Book Chair*
Jane Ptak, *Souvenir Book Assistant Chair*



Polish National Alliance 47th Quadrennial Convention Local Organizing Committee, Cleveland, Ohio



Sitting left to right: Director Allan Szuflada, Vice President - Union of Poles Division of PNA David Milcinovic, Director Bernadette Żubel

Standing left to right: Michael Lewandowski, Barbara Adams, Danuta Panfil, Commissioner Jane Ptak, Monica Sochecki, Cathy Katrenich, Joseph Magielski. Committee members not pictured: Aundrea Cika-Heschmeyer, Commissioner Ann Marie Gdula, Jason Semik, Commissioner Edward Sobczynski

Submitted by: Monica Sochecki



ANNOUNCEMENT

The request for and filing period of applications for PNA National Offices, Censor, Vice Censor, National Business Board of Directors, Fraternal Board of Directors, and District Commissioners will be available from the Office of the National Secretary on **May 11, and run through June 23, 2015** per the PNA By-Laws.

Complete information and instructions on the elections and filing period will be available in the May issue of the Zgoda and be advertised on the PNA website.

Charles A. Komosa
National Secretary
773-286-0500 ext. 304
charles.komosa@pna-znp.org

LIST OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO THE 47TH NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

DIST	COUNCIL	LODGE	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CITY	STATE
1	26	1770	MAILLOUX	JOHN	WEST WARWICK	RI
1	26	677	TOKARZ	WALTER	REHOBOTH	MA
1	26	1001	BERTRAND	DAVID	WEST WARWICK	RI
1	62	711	SHERMAN	GILBERT	WILBRAHAM	MA
1	62	711	STRUZIAK-SHERMAN	TERESA	WILBRAHAM	MA
1	62	3276	ZAPALA	JEANNIE	LUDLOW	MA
1	81	1667	LOS-WALDRON	KATHLEEN	NEW BEDFORD	MA
1	82	525	GADECKI	IRENA	CHICOPEE	MA
1	82	1220	SULIKOWSKI	GEORGE	SOMERS	CT
1	111	1063	MILECKI	WANDA	WORCESTER	MA
2	25	315	KNAPCZYK	VINCENT	TRUMBULL	CT
2	25	315	KNAPCZYK	HELEN	TRUMBULL	CT
2	58	2612	WISNIEWSKI	STANLEY	KENSINGTON	CT
2	58	2612	KOZIOL-DUBE	MARIANNA	UNIONVILLE	CT
2	58	464	KENNEDY	WIESLAWA	ROCKY HILL	CT
2	138	513	ZOLKIEWICZ	EDWARD JR	WALLINGFORD	CT
2	152	441	GRABOWY	IRENE	BRISTOL	CT
2	152	441	KRUPA	GRAZYNA	BRISTOL	CT
3	17	30	JUREWICZ-BABIK	MARIA	NEW YORK	NY
3	84	2366	BLYSKAL	BARBARA	STATEN ISLAND	NY
3	136	1684	WIERCIOCH	JANINA	COHOES	NY
3	217	1903	BRONCHARD	DANUTA	BROOKLYN	NY
3	217	1903	BRONCHARD	ROBERT	BROOKLYN	NY
3	217	1903	KAMINSKI	BOZENA	BROOKLYN	NY
3	217	1903	MCMULLAN	CHRISTINE	BLUFFTON	SC
3	217	1903	MICALSKI	GRAZYNA	NEW YORK	NY
4	27	512	KUCZKOWSKI	RICHARD	WEBSTER	NY
4	44	271	NEWTON	PAMELA	SYRACUSE	NY
4	72	2205	SOBCZAK	CONRAD	ERIE	PA
4	72	2205	FULTON	EILEEN	ERIE	PA
4	104	1094	SEMESKY	MARLENE	ELMIRA	NY
4	168	395	BASIAK	JEAN	NORTH TONAWANDA	NY
5	9	2571	KUTARBA	TADEUSZ	CLIFTON	NJ
5	20	2676	DUNAJ	STANLEY	NORTH ARLINGTON	NJ
5	47	2769	VANTUH	ANTONINA	COLONIA	NJ
6	1	780	SZYMKOWIAK	EUGENE	PHILADELPHIA	PA
6	1	342	MUSIAL	WESLEY	PHILADELPHIA	PA
6	21	238	MISLAK	JAMES	BALTIMORE	MD
6	21	238	POREMSKI	RICHARD	BALTIMORE	MD
6	140	650	SZYMCZYK	JAN	LINWOOD	PA
6	140	650	PENNELL	HEDWIG	ASTON	PA
6	166	308	WRZOS	HENRYKA	PHILADELPHIA	PA
6	166	308	WRZOS	ZBIGNIEW	PHILADELPHIA	PA
6	166	308	GARDYASZ	ELIZABETH	RIVERTON	NJ
6	166	714	CZAPLICKI	DOLORES	BENSALEM	PA
6	171	2286	JANIK	JOSEPH	EASTON	PA
6	203	848	BUCKOSKI	BRIAN	GLENN DALE	MD
6	205	3131	SZUMAL	MARIAN	BENSALEM	PA
6	205	3131	JODLOWSKI	RENATA	PHILADELPHIA	PA
7	13	1654	HAROWICZ	SEPTA	WILKES BARRE	PA
7	13	600	SWIDA	JUNE	WILKES BARRE	PA
7	37	2911	GRIFFITH	DAWNE	ROARING BROOK TWP	PA
7	42	484	BABETSKI	ANGELA	NANTICOKE	PA
7	43	187	MATIKO	CAROL	DURYE	PA
7	86	430	KNAPP	HELEN	EDWARDSVILLE	PA
7	131	656	SALITIS	ELIZABETH	DURYE	PA
7	141	437	SULKOWSKI	PATRICIA	SUGAR NOTCH	PA
8	22	1327	BIRUS	JOHN	JOHNSTOWN	PA
8	22	1327	FAIGHT	ROBERT	JOHNSTOWN	PA
8	38	1243	WHITE	CECILIA	PITTSBURGH	PA
8	38	1243	WHITE	WILLIAM	PITTSBURGH	PA
8	60	976	ZADROZNY	VANESSA	FAYETTE CITY	PA

8	60	976	ZADROZNY	MICHAEL	FAYETTE CITY	PA
8	65	1234	ZIEMIANSKI	JOHN	AVONMORE	PA
8	110	750	JACKSON	SEAN	GLASSPORT	PA
8	110	750	TYSZKIEWICZ	RICHARD	GLASSPORT	PA
8	110	352	STEPHENSON	THOMAS	MC KEESPORT	PA
8	145	1052	PAWLOS	VAL	PITTSBURGH	PA
8	145	1052	TWARDY	JEFFREY	PITTSBURGH	PA
8	146	615	JASIONOWSKI-NICKEL	IRENE	MC KEES ROCKS	PA
8	146	615	ANDRZEJEWSKI	KRISTOFER	MCKEES ROCKS	PA
8	154	1746	RADOSY	JOSEPH	CANONSBURG	PA
9	6	1938	LEWANDOWSKI	MICHAEL	BROOKLYN HTS	OH
9	6	17	PANFIL	DANUTA	HINCKLEY	OH
9	6	1487	FIODOROWICZ	EILEEN	SEVEN HILLS	OH
9	46	827	MAGIELSKI	STANLEY	NORTH LIMA	OH
9	46	827	MAGIELSKI	JOSEPH	YOUNGSTOWN	OH
9	50	3001	TUCHALSKI	YVONNE	PITTSBURGH	PA
9	50	455	GDULA	ANN	BRIDGEPORT	OH
9	50	2220	DOMBROSKI	WALTER	ADENA	OH
9	88	3274	ZUBEL	BERNADETTE	PARMA	OH
9	88	3274	KATRENICH	CATHY	BRECKSVILLE	OH
9	96	1935	TOKARSKY	FRANK	KETTERING	OH
9	134	1099	WYSZYNSKI	MARIANNA	UNIONTOWN	OH
10	15	439	RAJSKI	LEON	FARWELL	MI
10	15	1547	MATUSZCZYK	ANNA	WATERFORD	MI
10	15	1547	MATUSZCZYK	MARK	WATERFORD	MI
10	54	53	KARWAN	ROBERT	NOVI	MI
10	54	53	KARWAN	DEBORAH	NOVI	MI
10	54	2525	KRYSZKO	CHRISTINE	DEARBORN	MI
10	54	53	MARTIN	BARBARA	CANTON	MI
10	122	1264	LECHANSKI	JOSEPH	DETROIT	MI
10	122	1758	SZCZESNY	STELLA	HAMTRAMCK	MI
10	122	1758	ODROBINA	PAUL	CHICAGO	IL
10	122	53	NIZIENSKI	EDWARD	LIVONIA	MI
10	155	1874	PIERON	JOHN	JACKSON	MI
10	155	1874	PIERON	DAVID	JACKSON	MI
10	170	3160	YGEAL	JOANNE	LIVONIA	MI
10	170	3160	SZCZOTKA	CZESTER	DEARBORN HTS	MI
10	170	3160	SZCZOTKA	NANCY	DEARBORN HTS	MI
10	175	2809	CAMERON	MICHAEL	NORTON SHORES	MI
11	30	1134	BARAS	JOHN	EUREKA	MO
11	30	1134	KRAUZE	BERNICE	ST LOUIS	MO
11	66	128	KOTCH-RAY	WANDA	BREMOND	TX
11	182	165	GURKA-MARTIN	WENDY	CYPRESS	TX
11	182	165	GURKA	LARRY	JERSEY VILLAGE	TX
11	182	2336	DRYDEN	JOLANTA	SEABROOK	TX
12	11	1411	KUK	DOROTHY	NEW LENOX	IL
12	34	1876	KOCUREK	CONSTANCE	STILLMAN VALLEY	IL
12	39	2927	KOKOSZKA	ANNA	CHICAGO	IL
12	39	3244	ZAGATA	STANISLAW	HICKORY HILLS	IL
12	39	2927	KOSINSKI	RAYMOND	PLAINFIELD	IL
12	39	3244	ZALINSKA	ANNA	CHICAGO	IL
12	39	298	SOWA	ALEKSANDRA	CHICAGO	IL
12	39	2727	BLAIR	IRENE	PALOS HEIGHTS	IL
12	39	2727	STEKALA	STANISLAWA	BURBANK	IL
12	55	825	TOMASZKIEWICZ	CECELIA	CHICAGO	IL
12	80	1824	GRABOWSKI	MARIAN	LEMONT	IL
12	80	1824	HEJNA	JERZY	PALOS HILLS	IL
12	123	1378	TRYBEK	JUDITH	PALOS HILLS	IL
12	123	1378	TRYBEK	ARTHUR	PALOS HILLS	IL
12	143	1577	FURMANIAK	CHERYL	BOLINGBROOK	IL
12	143	1577	SPIEWAK	IRENE	WILLOWBROOK	IL
12	143	2368	WESOLOWSKI	BARBARA	ORLAND PARK	IL
12	143	2244	WASS	SHIRLEY	GLEN ELLYN	IL
13	3	694	HERCIK	IRENE	CHICAGO	IL
13	3	3253	LISAK	JOSEPH	LINCOLNWOOD	IL
13	3	3278	BOCHENEK	WALTER	CHICAGO	IL

13	41	1474	MATUSIAK	MATHEW	ELK GROVE VILLAGE	IL
13	41	1474	WIERZBICKI	ANNA	CHICAGO	IL
13	41	3237	KAMINSKI	AGNES	DES PLAINES	IL
13	75	1776	STASIAK	JOANNA	CHICAGO	IL
13	75	1532	BIERNAT	PETER	CHICAGO	IL
13	75	1776	DELGIUDICE-MOSKAL	IRENE	SCHILLER PARK	IL
13	91	3279	CHLEBEK	KAZIMIERZ	GLENVIEW	IL
13	91	2514	RAWICKI	STANISLAWA	PARK RIDGE	IL
13	101	3236	GABIGA	JESSE	ANTIOCH	IL
13	120	2475	PENAR	WANDA	NILES	IL
13	120	669	TARCHALA	CHRISTINE	ROUND LAKE BEACH	IL
13	120	669	KOPACZ	JANINA	CHICAGO	IL
13	120	669	JUDA	WANDA	CHICAGO	IL
13	120	2993	ZIEMBA	HENRY	NILES	IL
13	120	1450	ORWAT	MARK	STICKNEY	IL
13	120	3241	SRODON	MARY	GURNEE	IL
13	128	2879	GAJDA	SOPHIE	DES PLAINES	IL
13	128	2879	GRCIC	JADWIGA	MORTON GROVE	IL
13	149	1224	BIELAWSKI	MARIAN	ROCKFORD	IL
13	177	3275	KOZIOL	CHRISTOPHER	HIGHLAND PARK	IL
13	177	3275	NOWACKI	MARIAN	CHICAGO	IL
13	178	523	JAROCINSKI	IRENE	MEDINAH	IL
13	178	843	SLOMSKI	MARIA	NORRIDGE	IL
13	178	850	CHOJNOWSKI	EUGENE	ARLINGTON HTS	IL
13	211	3251	WOLSKI	BRIAN	GLENVIEW	IL
14	8	310	HAWKINSON	IRENE	NEW BERLIN	WI
14	8	3100	JANKOWSKI	TERESA	SAINT FRANCIS	WI
14	8	3100	MUSSELMAN	GEAROLD	PEWAUKEE	WI
14	8	2159	PIENKOS	MARK	LAKE GENEVA	WI
14	115	1476	CARRIER	NICOLE	OAK CREEK	WI
14	195	3043	BABINSKI	GARY	MINTO	ND
15	24	83	HOCK	RICHARD	SOUTH BEND	IN
15	24	83	HOCK	DENISE	SOUTH BEND	IN
15	49	3149	WILENSKI	JEFFREY	FORT WAYNE	IN
15	127	2365	TOKARSKI	STEVE	CROWN POINT	IN
15	127	2365	DUNAJSKI	PHYLLIS	PORTAGE	IN
15	127	2365	BAUMGART	LAURINE	HOBART	IN
15	197	1120	WOZNIAK	MARY	ROLLING PRAIRIE	IN
16	57	156	HICKER	ANNE	FEDERAL WAY	WA
16	73	3259	CHILECKI	GREG	ORANGE	CA
16	73	700	AKRAMI	KATHERINE	SIERRA MADRE	CA
16	73	3259	KARWAN	ANIA	YORBA LINDA	CA
16	216	3193	NOWAK-PRZYGODZKI	ANTHONY	CORONA	CA
17	214	31	SOBCZYNSKI	EDWARD	PARMA	OH
17	215	16	PTAK	JANE	WALTON HILLS	OH
17	215	16	SZUFLADA	ALLAN	HINCKLEY	OH
17	215	52	GIBSON	JOYCE	CLEVELAND	OH
17	215	76	MILCINOVIC	DAVID	CLEVELAND	OH
17	215	76	SEMIK	JASON	BRECKSVILLE	OH
17	215	21	JOHNSON	THERESA	SEVEN HILLS	OH
17	215	46	RELOVSKY	MARK	BROOKLYN HTS	OH

Wycinanki Exhibit at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning



The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College recently presented an exhibit at the museum in Chicopee, MA. The exhibit was comprised of over 80 Polish paper cuts, known as wycinanki, representing original traditional pieces as well as interpretations of the art form. The exhibit was on display from April 15 through April 30, 2015. A lecture by art teacher and outstanding expert in the art of paper cutting Susan Urban, was held on April 17 and a class on Polish paper cutting held on April 25. The Polish Center is looking forward to working with art teachers who wish to introduce this form of art to their students. The exhibit and programs were made possible through a grant from Hampden Bank, now Berkshire Bank. Admission to the exhibit was free and open to the general public.

There are three nations known for their expertise in paper cutting, China, Switzerland and Poland. The art form grew in popularity in Poland's villages during the half of the 19th century into the first quarter of the 20th century. Cutouts of fresh images of farm animals, abstract stars and trees decorated the wooden beams and walls of village kitchens. Styles of wycinanki differ with each region of the country. The rooster appears often in cutouts, which depict animals. Some scholars believe cutouts with two roosters facing inward toward a tree, or a tall flower design, are ancient motifs representing the god of the upper world, the god of the lower world, and the tree of life. The pieces from Lowicz are most entertaining and depict work on the farm or traditional sheep shears, which were much more available to villagers and less expensive than scissors, to perform the cutouts.

Chicopee, MA. Visiting the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College Wycinanki exhibit on a recent trip to MA our National PNA President, Frank J. Spula. Pictured above at the exhibit hall are front row: Richard Gadecki, PNA Lodge 525; back row: Irena Gadecki, Financial Secretary PNA

Lodge 525 and Treasurer PNA Council 82; Jeannie Zapala, PNA Commissioner District 1; PNA National President, Frank J. Spula; Teresa Struziak Sherman, former PNA National Director Region "A", Secretary PNA Council 62 and Financial Secretary/Sales Representative PNA Lodge 711; Frank Wolanin, PNA Commissioner District 1; Mary Wolanin, PNA Lodge 525, and Stas Radosz, Executive Director of the Polish Center and manager of the exhibit. The Polish Center is in need of both monetary donation and items more than 50 years old that relate to Polish customs, life in Poland, or what Polish immigrants brought to America. In honor of our Polish heritage, let us be proud. For more information call Stas at 413-592-0001; email: polishcenter@elms.edu or visit website: www.polishcenter.net

Submitted by: Teresa Struziak Sherman



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



May 3rd Parade in Chicago

On Saturday, May 2nd, the Chicago's Polonia celebrated its 124th May 3rd Polish Constitution Day Parade in honor of the 224th Anniversary of the first democratic constitution in Europe.

Polish National Alliance was supported by its Executives, Directors,

Commissioners, Home Office employees, as well as dancers of the Wici Song and Dance Theatre. Also on a separate float were Dziennik Związkowy – Polish Daily News and WPNA 1490 AM Radio, which both were accompanied by “Profusion Band”.

Famous basketball coach of Polish decent, Mike Krzyzewski, also known as Coach K was this year's Grand Marshal of the May 3rd Parade. He opened the ceremony with inspiring remarks and led the way. This year's slogan was “Kocham Polskę i Ty ją kochaj,” which means “I love Poland and you should too.”

The Polish Constitution Day Parade is an excellent opportunity to promote Polish culture and history, as well as to expose the Polish-American organizations and businesses in the heart of downtown Chicago.

Photos: Mary Srodon & Artur Partyka



Historic Slonim Tapestries Return to Poland

Washington, D.C.

Polish American, **Mr. Xavier Puslowski** is a very generous man indeed. He has donated two priceless Slonim tapestries – “Flo-ra” and “Leda” - to the Wawel Royal Castle’s Slonim Collection in Krakow, Poland where they will be lovingly restored to their original and vibrant-colored conditions. At present the 18th century silk weavings are faded to an overall cream-tone and almost completely devoid of any coloring. However, the in-woven figures and copious decorative embellishments, being slightly raised, are readily visible to the naked eye upon close inspection.

Professor Jan Ostrowski, Director of the Wawel Royal Castle Museum, was present to take possession of the tapestries and to deliver relevant remarks. We also learned that Slonim tapestries were made in an artists’ workshop set up by the Grand Hetman of Lithuania Michal Kazimierz Oginski around 1782, and operated by a Saxon-born weaver, Johan Karl Kletsch. His weaving studio’s greatest achievement was a series of 12 tapestries which depicted statues of ancient gods to decorate a garden pavilion in Oginski’s sprawling Slonim Palace complex



– a miniature Versailles.

Today no trace of the once-ostentatious palace exists, and Slonim is now located in Belarus as a result of redrawn national borders following World War II, as previously agreed upon by the victorious allies comprising the Soviet Union (Russia), Great Britain, and the United States of America.



So here, at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland on January 8, 2015, under the admiring gaze of Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf and guests, Mr. Xavier Puslowski was justly decorated with the “Well Deserved for Polish Culture Honorary Award,” by the hand of Poland’s Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna, in appreciation of Puslowski’s generosity and fidelity to Poland’s culture, art and history.

*Richard P. Poremski, Lodge 238
Polish American Journal,
Washington, DC Bureau*



Wesley E. Musial 2015 Pulaski Parade Grand Marshal

The Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, is proud to announce that Wesley Musial will be the Grand Marshal of the 2015 Pulaski Day Parade.

Wesley Musial is serving his second term as the Censor of the Polish National Alliance, America’s largest national fraternal organization, which was founded in Philadelphia, PA in February, 1880. He was selected by the Polish American Congress in recognition of his many years of participation with the Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, the Pulaski Day Parade in Philadelphia and supporter of organizations in Polonia.



Wesley will lead the Pulaski Day Parade in Center City Philadelphia on Sunday, October 4, which is one of the many events in the Philadelphia area held in recognition of the National Celebration of Polish American Heritage Month. For more information about Philadelphia’s Pulaski Day Parade, visit the front page of the PolishAmericanCongress.com or PulaskiDayParade.com.

On behalf of the Polish National Alliance congratulations to Censor Wesley Musial!

F.M. Schetyna Officially Received in Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C. At the invitation of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Poland's Minister for Foreign Affairs Grzegorz Schetyna was officially received here on January 7-8, 2015. In addition to Sec. Kerry, he met with various top officials of foreign affairs for the U.S. Government.



Minister Grzegorz Schetyna and Frank J. Spula

Topics of discussion included European and global security, the situations in Ukraine and Afghanistan, and threats from the so-called Islamic State. On Capitol Hill he was feted by the Bipartisan Senate Caucus on Poland, led by U.S. Senators/founders Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), Chris Murphy (D-Ct.) and Jim Risch (R-Id.).



(L-R) Dr Barbara Andersen (PAC), Dr Susanne Lotarski (PAC), Minister Grzegorz Schetyna, Frank J. Spula (PAC President), Polish Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf and Ted Mirecki (PAC).

On the second day of his visit, F.M. Schetyna was the guest of honor at an Embassy of the Republic of Poland reception hosted by Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf. During the proceedings, Minister Schetyna personally decorated Dr. Timothy Snyder with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. Dr. Snyder, an author of seven scholarly books, and a professor at Yale University, was recognized as a specialist in the history of Central and Eastern Europe, and for his knowledge and promotion of Polish History.

As chief of Poland's diplomacy, Minister Schetyna was very eager to also meet with a coterie of leaders and notables of the local Polish-American community, including president of the Polish American Congress and Polish National Alliance, Frank J Spula, as arranged by Ambassador Schnepf. He was gregarious and very generous with his valuable time, speaking at length to individuals and small groups about their concerns, ideas, suggestions, etc. – all in the spirit and synergy of continued bilateral co-operation between Poland and America. In his address, Minister Schetyna expressed his admiration and solidarity with the Polish diaspora for their contributions fostering Polish-American relations and building a good image of Poland in the U.S., and he concluded by saying "I would also like to assure you that you have my support and that I'm always there for you."

*Story & photos: Richard P. Poremski,
PNA Lodge 238
Polish American Journal,
Washington, DC Bureau*

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 being available from the Polish National Alliance Home Office.

These cards could be used for your Lodge or Council as awards for the members, dance groups, Saturday Polish Schools, sports, contests, or for your own personal use.

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

www.pna-znp.org
or call the Sport and Youth
Department of the Polish
National Alliance:
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.**

2015 – Polish Anniversaries Celebrated in Association with UNESCO

Celebrating and drawing attention to personalities, works or events that have contributed to the mutual enrichment of cultures helps to promote international understanding, closer relations among peoples and peace. UNESCO therefore participates since 1956 in the commemorations of historic events and in the anniversaries of eminent personalities celebrated by Member States and Associate Members, in order to give them worldwide significance.

100th anniversary of the birth of Tadeusz Kantor, artist (1915-1990)



Tadeusz Kantor is one of the greatest artists and reformers of twentieth-century European theatre, on a par with Piscator, Meyerhold, Barba, Brook and Grotowski. After the 1940s, he took inspiration from different artistic movements and his own historical experience to develop an original theatrical aesthetic, which he himself called "Theatre of Death". In his shows he returned repeatedly to his roots and the village he came from – a crossroads of Polish, Jewish, Ukrainian and German culture – which had been ravaged by death during the war years. His highly expressive shows, loaded with reminiscences of this painful past, aimed to oppose totalitarianism along with its excesses and

violence. Kantor's theatre had an international dimension; actors from Poland, France, Italy and other countries were members of his theatre company. He also had two main stages, one in Poland and one in Italy.

200th anniversary of the death of Jan Nepomucen Potocki, writer (1761-1815)

Jan Potocki was one of the most innovative writers of his time. Today he is recognized as a pioneer of the "fantastic" aesthetic of Roger Caillois and of the "fantastic" novels of Tzvetan Todorov. "The Saragossa Manuscript" is a highly original work which has often been compared to Boccaccio's "Decameron" and "The Arabian Nights". It consists of 66 stories that fit together in a highly ingenious construction. Its structure encompasses a variety of modes of narration and different forms of the novel, constantly playing on multiple cultural connotations – European, Christian, Jewish, Arab-Muslim, etc. It is also worth mentioning that Potocki contributed to the birth of ethnology, established the first free press in Warsaw in 1788 and, in 1792, opened the first free reading room in the city.



250th anniversary of the birth of Michał Kleofas Ogiński, composer, writer and diplomat (1765-1833) (Belarus, Lithuania, Poland)



This request, submitted by three countries – Belarus, Lithuania and Poland – focuses on the 250th anniversary of the

birth of a composer and politician of the Polish-Lithuanian Union, (which also included Belarus). Michał Kleofas Ogiński was a well-known composer in Europe, highly regarded for his polonaises, including the famous "A Farewell to the Homeland". In addition to his musical activity, Michał Kleofas Ogiński worked for the liberation of his country, helped to reform the University of Vilnius and, towards the end of his life, attempted to introduce important social reforms on his estate (now in Belarus). This commemoration, supported by three countries of the former Polish-Lithuanian Union, is a remarkable example of close international cooperation in order to preserve a shared cultural heritage, and shows how a common history can be explored in a spirit of mutual understanding and reconciliation.



2015 - Polskie Rocznice Pod Patronatem UNESCO

100. rocznica urodzin Tadeusza Kantora

Tadeusz Kantor (1915-1990), reżyser, twórca happeningów, malarz, scenograf, pisarz, teoretyk sztuki, aktor we własnych przedstawieniach, wykładowca krakowskiej ASP. Biografię twórczą Kantor rozpoczął jako malarz, jednak już w czasie wojny organizował w Krakowie konspiracyjne



przedstawienia teatralne. W 1955 r. stworzył teatr Cricot 2, który zyskał światową sławę. W 1975 r. przygotował spektakl „Umarła klasa” będący manifestacją jego idei „Teatru Śmierci”. Od tego

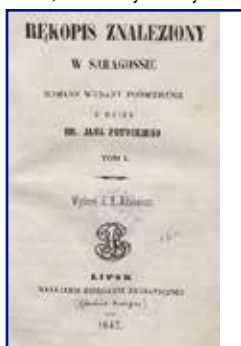


czasu teatr Kantora oraz cała jego twórczość zostały uznane za fenomen, a kolejne spektakle odbywały światowe tournee. W tym okresie nazywany był „najbardziej światowym z polskich artystów i najbardziej polskim z artystów światowych”. Jego twór-

czość i biografia do dziś stanowią niezwykle istotny punkt odniesienia współczesnego teatru i sztuki oraz źródło inspiracji kolejnych artystów na całym świecie.

200. rocznica śmierci Jana Nepomucena Potockiego

Jan Nepomucen Potocki (1761- 1815), polski pisarz tworzący w języku francuskim, autor „Rękopisu znalezionego w Saragossie”. Potocki to pierwszy polski archeolog, badacz starożytności słowiańskich. Erudyta zafascynowany nowymi koncepcjami naukowymi, wolnomyśliciel i fantast, światły umysł wykraczającym



poza ramy epoki. Odbył liczne podróże: do Turcji i Egiptu (1784), Holandii (1787), Hiszpanii i Maroka (1791), Dolnej Saksonii (1794) i na Kaukaz (1797-1798). Służył w armii austriackiej, walczył z berberyjskimi piratami na Morzu Śródziemnym. Przygody dokumentował w relacjach - niektóre tłumaczył na polski Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz. Był jednym z pierwszych badaczy historii i archeologii Słowiańszczyzny, swoje odkrycia zawarł w tomach „Recherches sur la Sarmatie” (1789-1792) i w „Histoire primitive”. Po powrocie do Polski został posłem na Sejm Czteroletni - działaczem obozu reform.

250. rocznica urodzin Michała Kleofasa Ogińskiego (wspólna rocznica Polski, Litwy i Białorusi).

Michał Kleofas

Ogiński (1765-1833), polski kompozytor i teoretyk muzyki, pamiętnikarz, pisarz polityczny, podskarbi wielki litewski (1793-1796), miecznik wielki litewski, a od 1789 roku, senator rosyjski, członek konfederacji targowickiej, członek konfederacji grodzieńskiej 1793 roku, uczestnik insurekcji kościuszkowskiej (na Litwie w 1794), konspirator niepodległościowy (po 1795), działacz emigracyjny, mason, kawaler maltański. Komponował polonezy fortepianowe, romanse, pieśni, kadryle, menueta, walce oraz jedną operę pod tytułem „Zélis et Valcour ou Bonaparte au Caire” („Zelis i Valcour, czyli Napoleon w Egipcie” w jednym akcie. Jednakże opera ta nigdy nie doczekała się wystawienia. Jest autorem Listów o muzyce oraz pamiętników „O Polsce i Polakach: od roku 1788 aż do końca roku 1815” wydanych po francusku jako „Mémoires de Michel Ogiński sur la Pologne et les Polonais, de 1788 jusqu'à la fin de 1815” w Paryżu w 1827 roku. Dziś najbardziej znany jest jako autor poloneza a-moll Pożegnanie Ojczyzny.

Lista rocznic uchwalana jest co dwa lata na Konferencji Generalnej UNESCO na podstawie zgłoszeń komitetów narodowych państw członkowskich. Na tej prestiżowej międzynarodowej liście umieszczane są wydarzenia historyczne oraz wyjątkowe osobistości, których bezdyskusyjny dorobek związany jest z misją UNESCO, a zwłaszcza z upowszechnianymi przez Organizację ideami dialogu kultur i zrozumienia międzynarodowego.

Source: www.unesco.org

National Geographic 2015 People's Choice Adventurer of the Year – Aleksander Doba

On April 19, 2014, Aleksander Doba, 68 paddled the final stroke of his 7,716-mile transatlantic journey, docking OLO, his 23-foot kayak, in a marina in New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

The Polish native had departed from Lisbon, Portugal, on October 5, 2013, with the intention of paddling 5,400 miles across the Atlantic's widest point and arriving in Florida in mid-February. But storms and equipment failure threw Doba off course, tacking an additional 1,300 miles and two months onto a journey that already would have broken the record for the longest ever solo kayaking voyage. He is one of two people in the world to kayak across the Atlantic without a sail. No one had ever kayaked across open water for this many miles before his journey. Doba traveled an average of 30 miles a day, often paddling at night, when the temperatures dropped. He slept no more than six hours a day in multiple installments, crammed into his cockpit on his side among five months' worth of food and equipment. Two months into the voyage, almost dead center in the North Atlantic, Doba's satellite phone stopped working, rendering him



unable to communicate for 47 days. He rode through 30-foot waves and spent 40 unplanned days and nights wrestling with unfavorable winds and currents that sent him paddling in circles around the notorious Bermuda Triangle. Finally, the kayak's rudder snapped in the storm, and, unable to battle against the trade winds with a broken rudder, Doba was forced to retreat to Bermuda to have his boat repaired. Unloading OLO from the sloop that returned Doba back to the exact spot where he had been forced off course, the kayak's so-called wings, designed to act as roll bars to keep the vessel upright, broke. Doba removed the remainder of the broken pieces and the navigation light attached to them and used an empty plastic jug and duct tape to reattach the lights to the body of the kayak before waving the sloop away for the final 700 miles of his journey.

This was not Doba's first transatlantic crossing in OLO. In 2010, He spent 99 days of the First Transatlantic Kayak Expedition paddling 3,400 nautical miles (3,913 miles) across one of the narrowest points of the Atlantic, between Dakar, Senegal, and Aca-
rau, Brazil.

"The First Transatlantic Kayak Expedition was to check myself and my kayak. The second trip was to 'raise the bar,'" said Aleksander Doba to Jen Altschul from the National Geographic.

AK

Source: www.nationalgeographic.com



Filharmonia Szczecińska – najpiękniejszy budynek Europy

Oddany do użytku w 2014 roku gmach Filharmonii im. Mieczysława Karłowicza w Szczecinie 8 maja 2015 roku otrzymał Mies van der Rohe Award, najważniejszą nagrodę architektoniczną Europy i jedną z najbardziej prestiżowych na świecie.

Fabrizio Barozzi i Alberto Veiga w 2007 roku wygrali międzynarodowy konkurs architektoniczny na gmach Filharmonii Szczecińskiej, proponując wybudowanie wśród zabytkowych, monumentalnych



gmachów lekkiej bryły z mlecznego szkła, kształtem przypominającej lodową górę.

Siedziba Filharmonii Szczecińskiej nie ma prawie okien, nie ma tradycyjnego podziału na

kondygnacje, jej dach przenika się z elewacją, a nietypowy kolor zwraca uwagę i wyróżnia się na tle cegieł i tynków okolicznych zabudowań. Biała sylwetka Filharmonii jest parafrazą historycznej zabudowy – ciągu kamieniczek o dwuspadowych dachach. Wysokość i gabaryty budowli korespondują z sąsiedztwem (budynek Filharmonii został “sklejony”



z neogotyckim gmachem Komendy Wojewódzkiej Policji), kształt budynku doskonale został wpisany w siatkę ulic i miejski kontekst centrum Szczecina.

Filharmonia ma też starannie zaprojektowane

wnętrza. Biały hol został pomyślany jako tło dla gromadzącej się przed koncertem publiczności lub wydarzeń tu organizowanych, wystaw i spotkań. Główna sala koncertowa ma złote ściany, skomponowane z lekko, nieregularnie wystających, trójkątnych płyt, których układ zapewnia wnętrzu doskonałą akustykę.

2015 Mies van der Rohe Award for the Szczecin Philharmonic Hall

The first Polish building ever to reach the Mies van der Rohe Award finals, the Szczecin Philharmonic Hall, was crowned this year's winner in a ceremony in Barcelona on May 8th, 2015. The architects behind it, Spanish-based firm Estudio Barozzi Veiga, headed by Fabrizio Barozzi and Alberto Veiga, were rightfully delighted.

Oscar for “Ida”



Poland's politicians, filmmakers and fans rejoiced over the nation's first ever foreign language movie Oscar for “Ida,” seeing it as a sign

of the country's cinematography coming of age.

The win marks the first foreign language Oscar for Poland despite nine previous nominations and a rich history of filmmaking, including by renowned directors like Andrzej Wajda and Roman Polanski.

Polish-British director Pawel Pawlikowski made “Ida” in black and white, using imagery of the 1960s. It plunges into World War II and the early years of communism, two dark chapters of Poland's history, via a young Catholic nun who discovers she is Jewish. It was one of the critical hits of 2014 in Europe and the U.S. Being so well known helped the movie in the Academy members' vote, Polish critics said.

Polish 1993 Oscar-winning production designer Allan Starski said the country's filmmakers always aspired to be among the leaders in the world of cinema.” Polish films often won nominations for foreign movies ... We were often very close, but we never won an Oscar. This time we have an Oscar. This is a huge success,” Starski said.

After years of a downturn following political and economic change, Polish cinema is getting momentum, also thanks to funding from the state Polish Film Institute, which also helped finance “Ida.”



UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Poland

Castle of Teutonic Order in Malbork



Malbork Castle is the most complete and elaborate example of the Gothic brick castle complex in the characteristic and unique style of the Teutonic Order, which evolved independently from the contemporary castles of Western



Europe and the Near East. The spectacular fortress represents the phenomenon of the monastic state in Prussia, founded in the 13th century and developed in the 14th century by the German communities of military monks who carried

out crusades against the pagan Prussians on the south Baltic coast. The fortified monastery on the River Nogat represents the drama of Christianity in the late Middle Ages, stretched between extremes of sanctity and violence.

Malbork is located in the southwest of a territory inhabited since prehistoric times by the Prussians a tribe of Baltic origin who were pagans until the 13th century. To the south lay the Polish state, which had accepted Christianity in the 10th century. The missions organized by Polish rulers to bring Christianity to the Prussians had little success, and led to the martyrdom of St. Adalbert and St. Bruno. An intensification of Polish missionary activities in the early 12th century led to devastating Prussian raids on Polish territory. In 1215 Pope Innocent III created a missionary bishopric to the Prussians, and his successor, Honorius III, decreed that a Crusade to their lands would be equal to those

to the Holy Land.

The Polish Prince Conrad called upon the Teutonic Order for assistance, granting them lands on the frontier of his territory. The Order established itself there in 1230, but the fierce resistance of the Prussians lasted for half a century. Taking advantage of his good relations with the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II, and his influence in the Papal court, the Grand Master of the Order, secured the grant of the entire conquered territory and independence from Polish ecclesiastical control.

Malbork's importance increased greatly after 1309, when the seat of the Grand Master of the Order was moved there from Venice. The original Fore Castle was adapted as his residence and administrative headquarters, the impressive palace of the Grand Masters and Great Refectory were built.

When the Treaty of Torun brought the wars between Poland and the Teutonic Order to an end in 1457, Malbork Castle passed to the Polish Crown, and remained in use, virtually unmodified from its medieval form, for three centuries,





serving at different times as an administrative headquarters, a central arsenal, and a temporary royal residence. It suffered some damage during the successive Thirty Years' War, Polish-Swedish War and Nordic War, but its robust basic structure remained intact.

After the first partition of Poland (between Austria, Prussia, and Russia) in 1772, Malbork Castle became part of the Kingdom of Prussia and was promptly modified to serve as a barracks; a number of unsympathetic demolitions and additions took place. Fortunately a number of artists and intellectuals had begun to take an interest in the Castle, and as a result of their pressure it was designated as an historic monument in 1804. Conservation work began after 1815 and continued until 1939.

The Castle was partly destroyed at the end of World War II, after which it passed once again within the boundaries of the new Poland. Since 1947 there have been continuous campaigns for the reconstruction and restoration of the monument.

UNESCO designated the "Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork" and the Malbork Castle Museum a World Heritage Site in December 1997.



Zamek w Malborku jest jednym z bardziej charakterystycznych polskich zamków. Będący niegdyś główną siedzibą mistrzów krzyżackich, położony na prawym brzegu rzeki Nogat uważany był za twierdzę nie do zdobycia. 10 dni po wielkiej bitwie pod Grunwaldem, podczas oblężenia zamku doszło do pamiętnego zdarzenia. Wojska Władysława Jagiełły były formacjami lekkimi i niezbyt zdatnymi do szturmów. Postanowiono więc zablokować dostęp prowiantu do zamku. Mijały dni, lecz krzyżacy żywiący się zapasami, nie zamierzali poddawać twierdzy. Daleko więc było do zdobycia Malborka, a w wojsku polskim zaczęły szczyrzyć się szept, że żołnierze chcą wracać do swych domów. Aby uniknąć buntu postanowiono zdobyć zamek podstępem. Wycelowano armaty wprost na Letni Refektarz, gdzie zgromadzona była cała starszyna zakonna, tak by uderzając w strop, zapadł się dach budowli. Pewnego dnia narada krzyżaków została przerwana potężnym hukiem, witraże popękały w oknach i do sali wpadła wielka, kamienna kula armatnia powodując jednak tylko wyłom w ścianie i rozbijając posadzkę. Krzyżacy uznali to za cud. Stwierdzili też, że opatrzność Matki Boskiej nigdy nie zezwoli na upadek zakonu. Rozkazano wmurować pocisk w ścianę, tak aby każdy wiedział kto spojrzy, że Malborka Polacy zdobyć nie zdołają, a Zakon panować będzie tu wiecznie. Pocisk ten można oglądać po dziś dzień. Pierwsze oblężenie w 1410 roku po trzech miesiącach zakończyło się klęską. Król Jagiełło wycofał się na ziemie polskie. Dziś, wołając Opatrzności Boskiej, zamek w Malborku, wraz z kulą z murze, należy do Polski.

Sweet Stuff – Sugars, Artificial Sweeteners and Your Health

Most of us enjoy sweet foods and drinks. After we have satisfied our want of sweetness, we may wonder about how sweets affect our waistlines and our overall health. Is sugar really bad for us? What about the benefits or bad effects of consuming artificial or low-calorie sweeteners? What have the scientists researched and learned about the sweet things that most of us eat or drink daily? The following information will help to answer these questions. There is still much left to be discovered as the puzzle begins to unfold.

What are sugars anyway?

There is one type of sugar that our bodies need to survive. That sugar is glucose. Glucose is a type of sugar used by the body for energy. It is the most important food for the brain. When the blood levels of glucose become too high, however, it can damage any of your body tissues and organs, for example, the heart, brain, eyes, kidneys and liver. Your body does not need large amounts of glucose because it can break down food molecules of stored carbohydrates, proteins and fats and convert them into glucose. Carbohydrates are a class of food molecules that include sugars, starches and fiber.

Sugars are naturally found in foods such as fruits, vegetables and milk. For example, when you eat an apple, you are getting many good nutrients and dietary fiber along with the natural sugars. Sugar is not bad for you. It has a bad reputation because we eat much, too much, of it. Even worse, much of the sugar we consume is not natural sugar, but sugar that is added during preparation or processing. Sugar is in about every food we eat. The American adult diet consists of approximately 15% calories from added sugars, or about 22 teaspoons of added sugars per day. Sugar added to beverages such as, soda, energy drinks and sport drinks are the main source of added

sugars in the American diet. Juices naturally contain sugar, but more is usually added to make them taste better. It is very important for you to read the labels on the products you buy to notice the amount of grams of carbohydrate in the food, and to check the listed

ingredients to see where sugar is named. The closer to the beginning of the list, the more sugar is in the product. It is not enough to read how much sugar is on the list, but to know how many grams of carbohydrates are contained in the food as well. An average sized adult should eat 40-45 grams of carbohydrates per meal. Sugar contains 16 calories per teaspoon, can be used in moderation and is considered a safe food by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

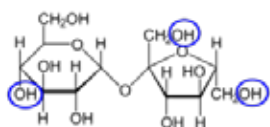
The term sugar is used to describe many varieties that range

in their degree of sweetness. If an ingredient ends in “ose” it is most probably a form of sugar. The most common sugars include: glucose, fructose, galactose, sucrose (your common table sugar), lactose (milk sugar), and maltose (the product of starch digestion, one example, pasta). ***Most of us know that there is added sugar in soda, but the “popular vitamin-type” waters, sports drinks, coffee drinks and energy drinks also contain a very high amount of added sugar and can be dangerous to your health.***

Sucrose. This is our regular table sugar. It is made from low-sugar, sugar cane or beet juice. It contains half glucose and half fructose. Raw sugar is granulated, coarse or solid and brown in color. It is the solid part left when the juice of the sugar cane evaporates. Brown sugar is made from sugar crystals that come from molasses syrup, and confectioner’s sugar is finely ground sucrose and known as powdered sugar. Turbinado sugar is unrefined and made from sugar cane juice. Fructose, also called levulose, is the fruit sugar occurring naturally in all fruits. Honey, which is produced by bees, is a combination of fructose, glucose and water. High fructose corn syrup (HFCS) and corn syrup are made from corn. Sugar and HFCS have about the same level of sweetness. Often used in soft drinks, baked foods and some canned products, HFCS

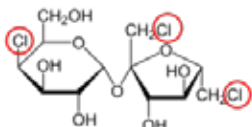


SUCROSE (SUGAR)



VS

SUCRALOSE



has been involved in the scientific debates about its role in increasing the risks of people for type 2 diabetes and obesity.

Sugar alcohols. These sweeteners are used in many food products that are labeled “sugar-free”, “diabetic” or “low carb”. Examples of sugar alcohols are mannitol, sorbitol and xylitol. These sweeteners contain half the calories of sugar and are absorbed by the body at a slower rate. They should not be confused with sugar substitutes that are calorie free. Sugar alcohol can cause stomach cramping and diarrhea. Erythritol, a sugar alcohol, occurs naturally in fruit and fermented foods, is 60-70% as sweet as table sugar, has fewer calories, but does not result in raising blood sugar as high as sucrose and does not cause stomach discomforts.

Other types of natural sugars. Glucose combined with water is Dextrose and is often used to administer intravenous solutions in the hospital setting. Invert sugar is used in a liquid form to help keep candies and baked items sweet. Agave nectar is a highly processed type of sugar, is 1.5 times sweeter than regular sugar and is not any healthier than any other type of sweetener. Maple Sugar comes from the sap of maple trees and is made up from sucrose, fructose and glucose. Molasses is a residue product of sugar cane processing. Lactose, or milk sugar, is made up of glucose and galactose.

What are the effects of excessive amounts of sugar in the body? Over time, the consumption of excessive sugars can cause a negative impact on your body. Worldwide, studies have linked eating excessive amounts of sugar with obesity in children and adults, metabolic syndrome, high blood pressure and heart problems. Added sugars can be difficult to notice. Read the food labels! Sugar only provides calories, no other nutrients. Sugars and other sweeteners can cause tooth decay if proper oral care is not maintained. Sugar alcohols may cause stomach cramping and diarrhea.

Artificial sweeteners. Substances that are used instead of sucrose, or table sugar, to sweeten foods and beverages are called artificial sweeteners or sugar



substitutes. They are many times sweeter, so less is needed to create the same level of sweetness as table sugar. Artificial sweeteners are regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and must be approved before they can be made available in the United States. There have been claims that artificial sweeteners are linked with various cancers. The FDA reviewed more than 100 studies for each artificial sweetener and found no evidence that these sweeteners cause cancer or pose any serious threats to human life.



Negative effects of artificial sweeteners. One of the latest research findings in the use of artificial sweeteners is that they can affect the healthy microbes in our digestive tract that help us in the process of food digestion. This can cause problems for the body to use the glucose it needs for survival, which may result in weight gain and possible Type 2 Diabetes. Research must continue in this area. The brain enjoys sweet tastes. Research is needed to determine if artificial



sweeteners cause changes in the brain and its functions. Artificial sweeteners are more potent than sugar, and may give the brain the message that it needs more sweetener to be satisfied.

The key to good health. Eating a balanced diet with a variety of foods, along with keeping physically active is the key to good health. Try to eat whole foods and limit foods with added sugars.

How to cut added sugars from your diet?

- Choose water, fat-free milk, or unsweetened tea or coffee instead of sodas, sports drinks, energy drinks, and fruit drinks.
- Reduce sugar in recipes. If a recipe says 1 cup, use 2/3 cup.
- To enhance flavor, add vanilla, cinnamon, or nutmeg.
- Eat fresh, canned, frozen, and dried fruits without added sugar. Choose fruits canned in their own juice rather than syrup.
- Use fruits to top foods like cereal and pancakes rather than sugars, syrups, or other sweet toppings.
- Read the ingredients list to pick food with little or no added sugar.
- Use the Nutrition Facts label to choose packaged foods with less total sugar.

Additional information about artificial sweeteners can be found at:

FDA, 10903 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Springs, MD 20993; phone: 1-888-463-6332; or on line: <http://www.fda.gov/>

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Teresa Struziak Sherman, RN, BSN, MS



Surprising Sources of Hidden Sugar

Pasta Sauces

They taste savory, not sweet -- but many pasta sauces have between 6 and 12 grams of sugar per half-cup serving. That's the same amount you'd get from a chocolate chip cookie.

Granola Bars

Check granola bar labels for ingredients like corn syrup, brown sugar, honey, brown sugar syrup, dextrose, and fructose. Some have a yogurt or chocolate coating, or chocolate chips, which can ramp up the sugars fast -- anywhere from 8 to 12 grams per serving.

Yogurt

Yogurt is full of healthy calcium and protein, but even low-fat flavored yogurt can have 17 to 33 grams sugar per 8-ounce serving -- that's about as much as 2 scoops (1 cup) of chocolate ice cream.

Salad Dressing

Sweet dressings, such as raspberry vinaigrette, French, and Catalina, have the most sugar-- about 5 to 7 grams of sugar in a 2-tablespoon serving. So watch how much you pour on.

Energy Drinks

Most of those drinks that say they'll give you a lift have tons of sugar along with caffeine. Some energy drinks have about 25 grams per 8-ounce serving.

Coleslaw

One regular-size side of coleslaw from many popular fast-food places will cost you about 15 grams in sugar.

Dried Fruit

With all the water taken out, dried fruit has way more sugar by volume than fresh fruits. A small box of raisins -- 1.5 ounces -- has more than 25 grams of sugar.

Ketchup

At about 4 grams per tablespoon, ketchup on your burger can give you a minor sugar boost.

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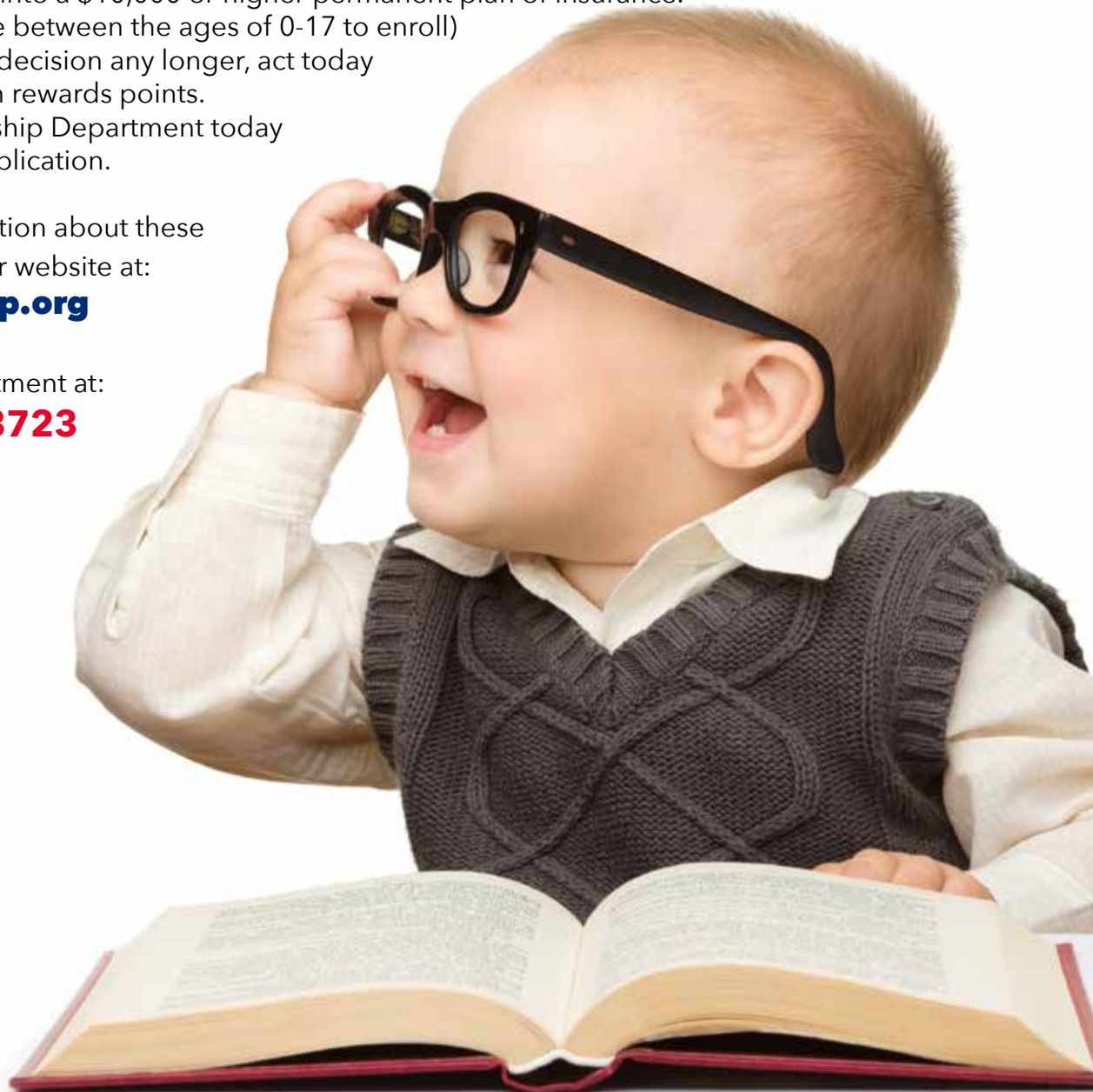
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Bread

“Good bread is the most fundamentally satisfying of all foods; and good bread with fresh butter, the greatest of feasts.”

Artisan Bread

Preparation time: 5 min. baking time: 45 min.



Ingredients:

- 6 cups all-purpose flour
 - 2 ½ tsp salt
 - ½ tsp active dry yeast
 - 2 2/3 cups water (room temperature)
- Alternative (you may add any seeds and grains to this bread, such as millet, flax seeds, sunflower seeds, and pumpkin seeds – 2 tbs. each).

Preparation:

In a big bowl mix flour, salt and yeast together. If you are adding seeds and grains do so at this time. Pour water into the bowl and using a spoon mix it until it's all incorporated. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and let it sit on your counter for 12 to 18 hours.

Preheat oven to 450 F degrees. Add your cast iron pot to the oven and heat it as well until it's at 450 F degrees.

In the meantime, flour your work surface really well and make sure you flour your hands really well. With your floured hands gently remove the dough from the bowl and roughly shape it into a ball. Cover with kitchen towel and wait until oven is ready. Take the ball of dough and drop it into the pot. Cover the pot with the lid and place it back in the oven. Cast iron pot will be extremely hot - please be careful!

Bake for 30 minutes with the lid on, after which remove the lid and bake for another 15 to 20 minutes until golden brown. Remove from the oven, put on a wire rack and let cool.

*This simple and delicious bread recipe came from **Halina Żurawski, Lodge 3284, Chicago, IL***

Banana Bread

Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup butter
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 1/3 cups mashed overripe bananas

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x5 inch loaf pan.

In a large bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. In a separate bowl, cream together butter and brown sugar. Stir in eggs and mashed bananas until well blended. Stir banana mixture into flour mixture; stir just to moisten. Pour batter into prepared loaf pan.

Bake in preheated oven for 60 to 65 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into center of the loaf comes out clean. Let bread cool in pan for 10 minutes, and then turn out onto a wire rack.

Photos: Alicja Kuklińska



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