

ZGODA

Winter
2022

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

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Winter Greetings
Zimowe pozdrowienia

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Peaceful winter scene in the Polish mountains. The wooden house pictured is traditional Polish architecture often found in the mountain region. During the winter, the Polish mountains turn into a true winter wonderland.

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of the U.S. of N.A.

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From the President

November 2022

Dear Members,

The Officers and I are very happy to send our warmest greetings and best wishes to all during the holiday season.

On Christmas, we celebrate with prayer, feasting and merriment, but most of all, we experience the magic in our hearts. The feeling is seen in the faces of children and hopeful eyes of the aged. It's reflected in the brilliant colors, joyful sounds and the beauty of the winter season.

For most of us, the holidays bring back a trove of memories, evoked by things, such as the smell of pine or a scene on a Christmas card. As we grow older, the joy and meaning of Christmas only deepens. We still find pleasure in exchanging greetings and gifts and find delight in the colorful imagery, but most importantly, we understand that the true beauty of the season lies in the Christmas spirit of giving to others.

For some of us it has been a challenging year due to inflation or changes in our lives. Maybe we have had some serious health issues, experienced loss of a loved one or were forced to cut back on necessities.

As you reflect on your family, past and present, please consider choosing PNA as a vehicle to secure your ancestral and financial legacy. This has been part of our mission and focus for the past 142 years. Our organization has done well through difficult times and continues to do so with assets around \$445 million.

During this holiday season, we again are offering a Single Premium Life Plan for adults and children. For adults who have assets and would like to leave a specific amount for their heirs, this is an excellent way to leave such an amount for each person or charitable organization you have in your thoughts.

For example, if you are a 50-year-old male and, have \$10,000, and are uncertain how to maximize it for your children or grandchildren, that amount would provide \$32,501 of benefits which you could divide and leave TAX FREE for your loved ones or a charitable organization. If you are a 70-year-old female, with \$10,000, you would be able to obtain \$18,911 coverage. This plan is available to applicants up to age 85. This approach is beneficial and can be used as a means to provide for a family legacy.

Around this time of year, we are always thinking of what to provide for our children or grandchildren. Life insurance might be the perfect gift which will last a lifetime, long after the wrapping paper is discarded. The PNA is offering a Single Premium Plan with only one payment coupled with a Term to Age 25, in the amount of \$25,000 for only an additional \$30.00 annually. You have a choice in what fits your needs and budget.

In addition, PNA is offering a gift for children between ages of 0-15 to make the season more special. Each applicant between the ages of 0 and 6 will receive a lovable teddy bear, children ages 7 to 11 will receive a Growing Crystal Garden, and ages 12 to 15 will receive an Amazon gift card. Hurry, so that your loved one will be protected and secured with a gift that lasts beyond a lifetime.

For further information, please contact your local representative office or one of our representatives at the Home Office by calling 1-800-621-3723.

I hope you consider the PNA for your needs. We are here to serve you as we have for the past 142 years.

In closing, please accept our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God's blessing of peace be upon us all.

Sincerely,

*Frank J. Spula, FLMI
President & CEO*



Our Official PNA Representatives

We are here for you. Our PNA representatives are just like family and we know that sometimes you need to reach out and talk to someone who understands your concerns. Below is a list of directors and fraternal advisors, the districts and regions they represent, and their email addresses. Feel free to contact them with your comments and questions; after all, we are here for you!

Region	Fraternal Advisor	Contact
A	Irene Grabowy	pnagrabowy@juno.com 860-589-0592
B	Sean Jackson	sjacksonpna@gmail.com 412- 841-3120
C	Bozena Kaminski	pacbozenak@gmail.com 917-750-8143
D	David Milcinovic	davidgmilcinovic@yahoo.com 216-299-1407
E	Stella Szczesny	stellaszcz@gmail.com 313-680-4548
F	Barbara Wesołowski	bwesolowski1@yahoo.com 708-460-6657
G	Magdalena Solarz	pna.fraternal.g@gmail.com 773-777-8800
H	Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden	jola@drydeneventproductions.com 713-805-5810
I	Teresa Jankowski	jtjankowski@sbcglobal.net 414-559-9301
J	Greg Chilecki	gchilecki@dslextreme.com 714-744-2775

Region	District	Area	Facebook Page
A	I, II	Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut	Polish National Alliance, North - East states
B	VIII	Western Pennsylvania, Western New York	PNA, Region "B" Fraternal Group
C	III, VI, VII	Eastern New York, New Jersey, East and Southwestern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, DC	Polish National Alliance, Mid Atlantic
D	IX, XVII	Ohio, West Virginia	Polish National Alliance, Ohio and West Virginia
E	X, XV	Michigan, Indiana	Polish National Alliance, Michigan and Indiana
F	XII	South Chicago	Polish National Alliance, South Chicago
G	XIII	North Chicago	Polish National Alliance, North Chicago
H	IV, V, XI	Texas, Nebraska, Missouri, Florida, Colorado	Polish National Alliance, Region H
I	XIV	North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin	PNA, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin
J	XVIII	Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Arizona	Polish National Alliance, Pacific Coast, Nevada and Arizona



Who gets your money?

Make sure your check ends up in the right hands!

Your beneficiary designation (not your will) dictates who will inherit your life insurance, annuity, or retirement savings.

These life-changing moments should make you check your beneficiaries:

- ✓ You got married or got divorced
- ✓ You birthed or adopted a child
- ✓ You lost a loved one
- ✓ You decided to leave money to your favorite charity

Make sure the paperwork is up-to-date. Please contact PNA customer service:

1-773-286-0500 ext. 376

Download **Change of Beneficiary** form of the PNA website pna-znp.org

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

*May peace, love and joy
be yours this holiday season
and all year long!*

Merry Christmas!

*Wesołych Świąt
Bożego Narodzenia!*

Executive Officers:

Frank J. Spula, President, CEO
Marian Grabowski, Vice President
Alicja Kuklińska, National Secretary
Steve H. Tokarski, Treasurer

Directors:

Wesley E. Musial, Vice Chair
Irene T. Hercik
Anthony Nowak-Przygodzki
Val Pawlos
Jeff Twardy
Teresa Struziak Sherman

Fraternal Advisors:

Irene Grabowy. Sean Jackson.
Bożena Kaminski. David Milcinovic.
Stella Szczesny. Barbara Wesolowski.
Magdalena Solarz. Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden.
Teresa Jankowski. Greg Chilecki



Dear Members,

It has been ten years since I was entrusted with composing our Zgoda publication, and now it is time for a change.

I am incredibly grateful for the privilege of getting to know the very best of our Organization. Through Zgoda, I had an opportunity to meet its most distinguished members and become part of its amazing history.

Being a PNA member, employee, and officer presented me with, essential to every immigrant, a comforting sense of belonging.

As an Editor-in-Chief, I've had the pleasure of collaborating with many contributors, as Zgoda is a mosaic of PNA stories from different parts of the country. I want to thank expressly graphic designer Ewa Krutul, health (and so much more) contributor, Director Teresa Struziak Sherman, Malgorzata Bondyra and Richard Poremski of Council 21, and Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden for your consistent contributions. I extend my most sincere appreciation to all contributors. Please continue sharing your stories with our PNA family.

As of 2023, Miss Monica Lebensztejn, a Northwestern University graduate highly skilled and talented young lady, will lead the Zgoda. We welcome her to our PNA team and wish her great success!

As National Secretary, I intend to remain close and keep you informed about what is happening within the Organization and continue as a Zgoda contributor.

Thank you to all Zgoda readers for your loyalty to the Organization and its publication. Please continue reading!

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year,

Most Sincerely,

*Alicja Kuklińska
Editor-in-Chief*



From the Manager of Sales

Dear PNA Members,

The best time of the year is just around the corner. We are about to celebrate the most important people and values in our lives: family, friends, community, furry friends, good health, and joy. During this season, we often think about giving our loved ones a meaningful gift that will be treasured for a lifetime.

• For our youngest loved ones, a Single Premium Whole Life certificate is an everlasting gift that is bound to surpass any material present. Life insurance is the least expensive at a young age, and a low one-time premium can buy a substantial coverage amount with growing cash value. This year with a SPWL purchase, children ages 0-15 will receive a special gift which will be mailed before Christmas morning. You can also purchase during this holiday season a Term to Age 25 plan with coverage amount of \$25,000 for only a \$30.00 annual premium payment. This term plan secures future insurability for your loved one when they will be entering adulthood. As an optimal holiday package, we recommend purchasing the SPWL and Term to Age 25 Plan together. Don't miss this wonderful offer to set your child on the right financial path into their future.



• For adults, a Single Premium Whole Life plan provides one premium payment coverage that is good for a lifetime. A few weeks ago, I met with a husband and wife at the PNA Home Office, who were picking up a life insurance claim check in the amount of \$50,000. They asked me how they could spend this money today to secure their futures with the PNA. The SPWL was the answer. The \$25,000 share purchased for the wife (56-years-old nonsmoker) resulted in a coverage amount of \$75,920. The husband's (57-years-old smoker) share of \$25,000 purchased a total coverage amount of \$54,477. They told me they made the right choice in trusting the PNA to protect their family – a gift that lasts more than a lifetime. “The stock market is too unstable, and who else will provide a triple or double return on our money,” commented the husband. Not too many insurance company offer such a plan like PNA does. Also, PNA's SPWL plan has very comparative premiums.

Call your PNA representative or reach out to the PNA Home Office directly, and take advantage of the great offers PNA has in store for you. We care and want you and your families to have a worry-free holiday season filled with love, happiness, and lots of cheer!

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and healthy and prosperous New Year!

Fraternally yours,

Jolanta Walaszek, Sales Manager

A graphic featuring Santa Claus peeking over a red and white striped border. To his right, the text "SPECIAL GIFT from PNA" is written in red and white. Below this, a white box with a red border contains the following text:

This Christmas, the PNA is pleased to offer a special gift for children between the ages of 0-15 for applications submitted until December 31, 2022.

0-6: TEDDY BEAR
7-11: CRYSTAL GARDEN
12-15: AMAZON GIFT CARD

Special Gift for Christmas

This holiday season,
the Polish National Alliance
is pleased to offer
a Special Gift for children
between the ages of 0-15.

Make this Holiday season *Unforgettable*

Make this Christmas meaningful by giving a gift that lasts more than a lifetime. With our special holiday package that provides an extra layer of security for your young, loved ones, you focus on people, not things.



FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$30.00 ANNUALLY,
YOUR LOVED ONE CAN HAVE AN ADDED COVERAGE
OF \$25,000.

With this optimal package, know that you are securing
the future. Share some love this Christmas!

What could be a better gift than that?

Call PNA today (800) 621-3723

**Application must be submitted between
November 1st - December 31, 2022 to receive a surprise gift.*



SINGLE PREMIUM WHOLE LIFE				
AGE	BOY		GIRL	
	\$15K	\$25K	\$15K	\$25K
0	\$1,231.95	\$2,033.25	\$1,107.15	\$1,825.25
1	\$1,272.15	\$2,100.25	\$1,143.15	\$1,885.25
2	\$1,314.00	\$2,170.00	\$1,180.95	\$1,948.25
3	\$1,357.50	\$2,242.50	\$1,220.25	\$2,013.75
4	\$1,402.65	\$2,317.75	\$1,260.90	\$2,081.50
5	\$1,449.60	\$2,396.00	\$1,302.90	\$2,151.50
6	\$1,498.05	\$2,476.75	\$1,346.40	\$2,224.00
7	\$1,548.30	\$2,560.50	\$1,391.55	\$2,299.25
8	\$1,600.50	\$2,647.50	\$1,438.20	\$2,377.00
9	\$1,654.35	\$2,737.25	\$1,486.50	\$2,457.50
10	\$1,710.00	\$2,830.00	\$1,536.45	\$2,540.75
11	\$1,767.60	\$2,926.00	\$1,588.05	\$2,626.75
12	\$1,826.70	\$3,024.50	\$1,641.60	\$2,716.00
13	\$1,887.30	\$3,125.50	\$1,696.95	\$2,808.25
14	\$1,948.95	\$3,228.25	\$1,753.50	\$2,902.50
15	\$2,011.35	\$3,332.25	\$1,811.10	\$2,998.50

Protecting families since 1880

Protect your legacy

Maintain control of your money
Enjoy tax advantages

*One payment,
a lifetime of coverage!*

Call (800) 621 - 3723



Polish National Alliance of the U.S. of N.A.
www.pna-znp.org | Facebook.com/PNAZNP

SINGLE PREMIUM WHOLE LIFE PLAN \$30,000.00 INSURANCE COVERAGE

AGE	MALE	FEMALE
55	\$10,740.60	\$9,908.70
56	\$11,087.10	\$10,244.40
57	\$11,444.40	\$10,590.00
58	\$11,811.90	\$10,945.80
59	\$12,189.90	\$11,311.80
60	\$12,577.80	\$11,688.30
61	\$12,974.10	\$12,074.70
62	\$13,378.80	\$12,471.30
63	\$13,791.00	\$12,877.50
64	\$14,211.00	\$13,293.90
65	\$14,638.80	\$13,720.20
66	\$15,070.80	\$14,127.90
67	\$15,510.90	\$14,544.60
68	\$15,958.50	\$14,970.00
69	\$16,413.00	\$15,404.10
70	\$16,873.20	\$15,846.00

Standard Non-Smoker Rates, other amounts available.



**APPLICATION FOR
INDIVIDUAL LIFE
INSURANCE**
Amounts \$30,000 and below

**POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE
of the United States of North America**
A Fraternal Benefit Life Insurance Society since 1880
6100 N. Cicero Avenue
Chicago, IL 60646-4386
pna-znp.org

Lodge No. _____

Certificate No. _____
For office use only

1. Name of Proposed Insured:		2. Sex M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Date of Birth	4. Age	5. Email
6. Address				7. Phone	8. Place of Birth
9. Social Security No.	10. Marital Status <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced		12. Occupation		13. Employer
14. Owner: (if other than insured):		Relationship:	Social Security No.	Email	
Address		City:	State	Zip	
15. Primary Beneficiary:		Relationship:	Social Security No.		
Address		City:	State	Zip	
16. Contingent Beneficiary:		Relationship:	Social Security No.		
Address		City:	State	Zip	

17a. Plan of Insurance _____ 17b. Amount of Insurance _____

18. Would you like to add the following riders: Disability waiver of premium Yes No; Accidental Death Benefit Yes No

19. Select a mode of payment: annual semi-annual quarterly monthly Payment Submitted: _____

20. Select a dividend option: Left on deposit Cash Purchase Paid up additions Reduce Premiums

21. Would you like the automatic premium loan option? Yes No

22. Does the proposed insured have any existing life insurance or annuity contracts now in force? Yes No

23. Is this insurance intended to replace or change any insurance now in force? Yes No

If "Yes" provide Company and Policy # below

INSURABILITY QUESTIONS

	Yes	No
1. Height _____ 2. Weight _____ 3. Have you smoked or used any form of tobacco within last 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Within the past 10 years has the proposed insured ever been treated for or diagnosed by a medical professional with:		
a. Disease or disorder of heart, kidneys, stomach, liver, lungs, bones or joints?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. High blood pressure, chest pain, diabetes, cancer or tumor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Nervous or mental disease, alcoholism or any drug habit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Currently taking medication? (If yes, indicate type and dosage below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Has the proposed insured been treated by a medical professional for any other physical disease or deformity or consulted or been examined by any physician for other than a symptom-free check-up or had an electrocardiogram, x-rays, blood studies or has been hospitalized during the past five years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Has any application for life insurance been declined, withdrawn, postponed, or modified in any way by any insurance company during the past 5 years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Has the proposed insured had a driver's license suspended or revoked in the past 5 years? If "Yes" provide DL #	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FOR QUESTIONS 3 THRU 8 ABOVE, PROVIDE DETAILS TO "YES" ANSWERS. Attach another sheet if you need more room

Question:	Name and address of physician and hospital	Specific reason consults and results

Fraud warning notice

Any person who knowingly presents a false statement in an application for insurance may be guilty of a criminal offense and subject to penalties under state law.

Glassport PNA Women's Auxiliary Committee Stuffs the Bus

The Glassport PNA Lodge 750 Women's Auxiliary Committee held a "Stuff the Bus" with school supplies event this past August. The ladies collected donated items from the community in an effort to help the less fortunate children of the South Allegheny School District. Over 3,000 items were collected, ranging from pencils, crayons, and notebooks to backpacks, winter coats, and gloves. Not only did the ladies "stuff the bus," but when the school supplies were taken to South Allegheny Elementary School, there were enough to fill the entire library! Overall, the total amount of donated items was over \$5,000! In addition to collecting donations, Lodge 750 held a Kid's Day with food trucks, face painting, a bake sale, and a Chinese auction.

The Glassport PNA Women's Auxiliary Committee would like to thank everyone who donated and helped make a difference in their community. They are looking forward to doing an even bigger event next year.

*Submitted by Sean Jackson,
Fraternal Advisor Region B*



District VIII Holds 2022 Convention

The members of the PNA Lodges of District VIII gathered at Glassport PNA, Lodge 750 for their annual District Convention. Joining the delegates from the PNA Home Office were PNA CEO and Chairman Frank Spula, PNA National Secretary Alicja Kuklinska, and PNA National Directors Val Pawlos and Jeff Twardy. Fraternal Advisor Sean Jackson conducted the convention in front of a large gathering of members from around Western Pennsylvania.



Mr. Spula congratulated the district on their great sales numbers, number of fraternal activities, and commended the members for their commitment to the PNA. He also awarded former Commissioners of District VIII David Sinclair and Irene Nickel with the Bronze Legion of Honor and Richard Tyszkiewicz with the Silver Legion of Honor. Directors Val Pawlos and Jeff Twardy were awarded with the Silver

Resolutions of the District VIII Convention October 15, 2022

We as members of the Polish National Alliance District VIII Convention Resolution Committee held on Saturday October 15, 2022, at The Polish Literary and Gymnastic Society of Glassport, PNA Lodge 750 in Glassport, PA do hereby decree:

- We wish to extend our thanks to all National Officers, Directors, Advisors, Council and Lodge Officers, past and present for their commitment and dedication to the Polish National Alliance and District VIII.
- We thank the members of the Convention Committees for their work in making this annual convention a great success.
- We wish to thank and remember in our prayers the courage of our forefathers, who with their wisdom and foresight in 1880, laid the groundwork for the fraternal organization that we so enjoy today as the Polish National Alliance.
- We wish to congratulate our District VIII agents and Financial Secretaries for their outstanding efforts and performance since our last convention. District VIII is proud to have many top agents in all of the PNA.
- We wish to congratulate the lodges of District VIII who have again propelled our district to the forefront of the PNA in membership, sports, youth activity and fraternalism in 2022 and beyond.
- We encourage and challenge our Lodges and Councils to actively participate in community affairs and fundraising events for charity. Let us be the leaders of giving back to the communities in which we enjoy a good life.
- We would like to honor and acknowledge Polish-American Heritage Month. May our rich heritage be remembered and shared throughout the country so that Polonia may always live on.
- We pray for a quick and peaceful resolution to the crisis in Ukraine. May the Ukrainian people find comfort and safety in their homeland and may the perpetrators of these atrocities be brought to justice.
- We commend the brave and charitable people of Poland, who welcome with open arms the refugees of war and continue to be a beacon of hope and strength in the world.
- We wish to thank our men and women in our armed forces, along with the armed forces of Poland and the free world for keeping our lands safe and from harm's way.
- We wish to thank and support the members of our communities who continue to battle the COVID-19 virus and we remember and pray for those who are affected by the ongoing struggle of illness and loss.

In conclusion, we wish good health to all and the best of luck in our endeavors not only in our personal lives, but as members of District VIII and members of our community and country.



Legion of Honor for their years of dedication and service to the PNA. In addition, Mr Spula also presented the district with the President's Award for their efforts in giving back to their communities. Also recognized at the convention were Jeff Twardy, Mike Sharek, Edward Solecki, Sean Jackson, and Don Jones for their top sales numbers for 2021.

*Submitted by Sean Jackson,
Fraternal Advisor Region B*



SENIOR OUTINGS ARE BACK!

On November 9, 2022, the Polish National Alliance hosted a senior outing to a luncheon and showing of "A Christmas Story, The Musical" at the Marriott Lincolnshire Theater.

Thank you to all who participated in this excursion after a long break.



District X Joint Convention

District 10 and the Women's Division held its annual Joint Convention on Saturday, September 17, 2022, at the Fr. Ted Blaszczyk Activities Center of Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish in Hamtramck, MI.



Members listen while presentations were being given.

PNA Fraternal Advisor Stella Szczesny welcomed all the delegates and introduced National Treasurer Steve Tokarski.

The convention began with singing the American and Polish national anthems, followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of deceased members. Barbara Gronet was appointed the convention secretary, and two members were appointed to the Mandate Committee.

Reports were presented by all the District 10 and Women's Division Officers and were accepted as presented. Representatives of Lodges 53, 1547, 1758, 2525, and 316, as well as Councils 15, 54, 122, and 170, gave their yearly reports.

Treasurer Tokarski provided an update on issues from the National Home Office. He spoke on merging Lodges and Councils to develop a stronger PNA. He also spoke about being proactive in using social media, Zoom, etc., to stay connected with members.

Treasurer Tokarski then presented Thomas M. Schemanski, former District 10 Commissioner and Lodge 1758 Vice President, with the PNA Bronze Legion of Honor in recognition of his many years of service and dedication.

Also, Treasurer Tokarski presented the Silver Legion of Honor to Stella

Szczesny, former Commissioner and current Fraternal Advisor.

Delegates were then appointed to various convention Committees: Budget Committee, Nominating Committee, Resolutions Committee, and Membership Committee.

The meetings took a break when the Polish Village Café delivered the Polish buffet lunch. Following the lunch break, the committees presented their reports, which were unanimously approved.

Both District 10 and Women's Division elections were held. The Nominating



PNA National Treasurer Steve Tokarski administers the Oath of Office to the newly elected Board.

PNA Members Honored



PNA National Treasurer Steve Tokarski (center) with award recipients Thomas Schemanski and Stella Szczesny.

Committee presented their slate of officers for 2022-2023: District 10 Vice President Edward Nizienski; Secretary Barbara J. Gronet; Treasurer Jerome Brzezinski; Auditors Chester Szczotka, Donna Kutylowski, and Richard Lapham. Women's Division Officers elected were Vice Presidents Barbara J. Gronet and Francine Nizienski, Secretary Donna Kutylowski Czeski, Treasurer Christine Kryszko, Auditors Gena Mackiewicz, Nancy Szczotka, and Anna Matuszczyk.

Treasurer Tokarski administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected officers and wished them continued success in all their pursuits.

*Submitted by Barbara J. Gronet,
PNA District 10 Secretary*



The Polish American Central Citizens Committee of Hamtramck, MI, held its annual Pulaski Awards Banquet on Sunday, October 23, 2022. The banquet was held at the Barrister Gardens Banquet Center in St. Clair Shores, MI.



Chester Szczotka receives the General Pulaski Medal of Honor for 2022, pictured with PNA Fraternal Advisor Stella Szczesny.

This year, the Centennial Dancers of Lodge 53/Council 54 were presented with a plaque in honor of their 40th anniversary. Bethany Stawasz Donovan accepted the plaque on behalf of the group.

Chester Szczotka of PNA Lodge 3160/Council 170 was awarded the General Pulaski Medal of Honor in recognition of his many years of service to Polonia, PNA, the Polish Veterans, and other Polish organizations. In May 2022, Chester was also recognized at the International Armed Forces annual dinner and presented with their prestigious award. He was born in Poland, and at the age five, he and his family were deported to Siberia. Afterward, they moved to Africa and subsequently settled in the Detroit area.

Chester never let adversity rule his life. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Army Reserves.

Chester and his wife, Nancy, live in Dearborn, MI. Both have served PNA in various Lodge, Council, and District offices.



Szczotka Family Portrait.



Stella Szczesny presented the plaque to Bethany Stawasz Donovan of the Centennial Dancers of PNA Lodge 53/Council 54, in recognition of their 40th anniversary.

*Submitted by Stella Szczesny,
PNA Region E Fraternal Advisor*

District XII Annual Convention

The District XII Annual Convention was held on Sunday, September 11, 2022, at Camelot Banquets in Hickory Hills. Fraternal Advisor Barbara Wesolowski welcomed all present. Honored guests included Alicja Kuklińska, National Secretary and Editor of the *Zgoda*; Steve Tokarski, National Treasurer; Anthony Nowak-Przygodzki, Business Board Director; Cecelia Tomasziewicz and Arthur Trybek, former National Directors; Anna Kokoszka, Roman Bucon, Jerzy Hejna, and Agata Mścisz, former District Directors; and Boleslaw Pałka, President of the PNA Youth Camp Association.

Shirley Wass was appointed as Recording Secretary. Anna Kokoszka led the group in the singing of the American and Polish national anthems. The Mandate Committee's Report of 29 delegates attending was approved, and National Treasurer Tokarski administered the Oath to all Delegates. The minutes of the last Convention were approved, as well.

National Secretary Kuklińska presented a very informative report on the status of the PNA and the processes that are and have been underway within the National Office. She reported that the PNA is financially sound, with \$445 million in assets, but stressed the need to continue increasing membership to maintain the organization's viability. After her presentation, the group thanked her for her fine work as Editor of *Zgoda*.

Diane Lenihan delivered Treasurer Joseph Dobersztyn's report, as he could not attend due to recent heart surgery. This was followed by a report given by Judith Trybek, District 12 PNA Youth Home Corporation Scholarship Chair. She reported that the Youth Corp awarded \$5500 in college scholarships in 2020, \$18,000 in 2021, and \$16,000 in 2022. Since 1987, the Youth Home Corporation has awarded 923 scholarships totaling \$478,000.



Diane Lenihan

Boleslaw Pałka spoke to the Delegates about the events taking place at the PNA Youth Camp and the maintenance of the buildings and grounds. Barbara Wesolowski presented Mr. Pałka with a check for \$1,575 from District 12 to subsidize the cost of 63 District children who attended the camp this year. Agata Mścisz, Youth Camp Board Director, stated that 543 children participated this summer. 63 of the 80 PNA members who attended were from District 12. She was also happy to report that the District 12 Cicero PNA Society replaced the bench the Society donated many years ago in honor of fellow member,

the late Adam Tomasziewicz, for his many dedicated years of service to the PNA.



Boleslaw Pałka

Barbara Wesolowski presented the District 12 Membership Report, detailing that 153 PNA policies have been sold since 2019. The top salespeople were Krzysztof Mścisz, Agata Mścisz, and Barbara Wesolowski.

Treasurer Tokarski informed the delegates of efforts taking place in the PNA Office to narrow the organization's by-laws to make them more streamlined, understandable, and legally sound. These amendments will be proposed at next year's National Convention.

Representatives of Councils 39, 55, 80, 123, and 143 gave reports of the many fraternal and charitable activities taking place within their groups.

Officers for the next term include Irene Śpiewak as Vice-President, Joseph Dobersztyn as Treasurer, Shirley Wass as Secretary, and Jan Chlipała as Marshall.

District IX and XVII Convention

On October 29, 2022, the joint District IX and XVII Convention was held in Slavic Village, OH. Fraternal Advisor David Milcinovic opened the meeting where over 30 attendees were present. President Frank Spula spoke about various issues regarding the Polish National Alliance, including promoting membership and involvement in fraternal activities. Mr. Spula then provided a financial status of the organization and appealed to those present to become more engaged and invite their family and friends to become members of the organization. Later, Mr. Spula presented the following awards:

District IX:

Jason Brych (Lodge 1938) – Silver Legion of Honor
 Anna Marie Gdula (Lodge 455) – Silver Legion of Honor
 Bernadette Zubel (Lodge 3274) – Bronze Legion of Honor

District XVII:

David Milcinovic (Lodge Q076) – Gold Legion of Honor
 Allan Szufłada (Lodge Q016) – Silver Legion of Honor
 Jane Ptak (Lodge Q016) – Bronze Legion of Honor
 Mark Relovski (Lodge Q046) – Bronze Legion of Honor



Director Anthony Nowak Przygodzki (CA), Fraternal Advisor (Region E) Barbara Wesolowski with District 12 Officers Jan Chlipata, Irene Śpiewak and Shirley Wass.

The highlight of the Convention was Secretary Kuklińska's presentation of the Bronze Legion of Honor to Agata Mścisz and the Silver Legion of Honor to Barbara Wesolowski for their distinguished and dedicated service to the PNA.



Award presentation to former PNA Director, Fraternal Advisor Barbara Wesolowski and former Commissioner Agata Mścisz. (l-r) Anthony Nowak Przygodzki, Barbara Wesolowski, Alicja Kuklińska, Agata Mścisz, and Steve Tokarski.

After closing remarks, Anna Kokoszka led the group in the singing of "God Bless America" and "Boże Coś Polskę." Following the meeting, the attendees socialized and enjoyed a delicious and bountiful meal.

*Submitted by Shirley Wass
 Photos Alicja Kuklińska*



Pictured with President Frank Spula and Fraternal Advisor David Milcinovic are the awardees.

Congrats to all recipients on your well-deserved awards!

Submitted by David Milcinovic, Fraternal Advisor Region D

Region H News

Greetings from Region H – Happy Fall and Holiday Season!

Fall and soon-to-be winter are in the air; Thanksgiving holiday and dinner with family are long-awaited events. Family and friend get-togethers are joyous occasions, and just around the corner are Christmas and New Year!

We have had time to reflect on the many changes and challenges this year has put on our path, and we have taken on new initiatives with great plans for 2023!

Please do not forget the opportunities and products PNA has to offer. Be sure to share with your friends and family, and make sure you have protection! You never know when you will need what PNA offers.

Region H hopes all are safe and in good health.

Wishing you and yours Happy Holidays – Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Życzymy wszystkim Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i radosnego Nowego Roku!

Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden, Fraternal Advisor, Region H

Passing of an Influential Polish Spiritual Leader - Bishop John Yanta

In August, the Polish community came together to honor the life of Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta of the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the Diocese of Amarillo. He was the first bishop of Polish background to be appointed to a Texas diocese. The South Texas native died early on August 6th; he was 90. Bishop Yanta was an active member and supporter of numerous Polonia organizations, including PNA Region H.



Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta.

We thank Bishop Yanta for all he has done for the Polish Community. His spiritual leadership is deeply missed. To read more about Bishop Yanta's accomplishments, please visit <https://www.polishheritagecentertx.org/bishop-john-walter-yanta-0>

Annual Dożynki Celebration

The Annual Dożynki Celebration in Chappell Hill, TX, was a great success with traditional festivities. Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz along with many PNA members assisted with the ceremonies and Mass. After Mass, there was a traditional Dożynki procession with everyone dressed in Polish folk wear as well as folk music performances.



PNA Lodges 165, 2336, Council 182 & Polish Home Meeting

Many exciting plans have been established until the end of the year. The PNA groups discussed various new ideas and made plans to sponsor numerous exciting events.



Houston Polish Harvest Festival – Dożynki

Houston knows how to celebrate a great Dożynki festival with delicious Polish food and desserts, spectacular folk entertainment, and a Polish Silent Auction. The Dożynki traditions consisted of a Mass, procession, and sharing of bread.



PNA family at Dożynki



PNA 2336 Members Stephan and Sabrina Frydrych and Erica Dryden (Lodge 2336 Secretary) at Dożynki



The traditional Dożynki bread made by Chrystina Aponiuk



PNA Member Katie Kubiak, Lukas Bielecki and Erica Dryden in their Lo-wicz outfits.

Houston Slavic Heritage Festival

PNA Region H was one of the many Slavic organization that assisted in organizing and sponsoring the Houston Slavic Heritage Festival. PNA Region H presented a cultural display at the event, and crowned Sabrina Frydrych (Lodge 2336) as Polish Princess 2022. Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Houston Robert Rusiecki delivered a presentation. All proceeds from the event were donated to the Ukrainian Community to support them in their war efforts.



PNA members representing at the Houston Slavic Festival – Donna Frydrych, Stephan Frydrych, Erica Dryden, Sabrina Frydrych (Polish Princess 2022), and Lukas Bielecki.



Fraternal Advisor Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden and the Chairman from the Slavic Heritage Festival showing solidarity with various cultural groups.

Annual Fall Festival at St. Stanislaus Kostka

St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church hosted its 68th annual fall festival that featured PNA's own Polish fiddler, Brian Marshall. PNA Region H talked to attendees about the benefits of being a PNA member. The event was a great outdoor success!



Gene and Doris Twardowski, PNA members from Anderson and Kosciuszko Lodge 165 meeting for the first time. Thank you for stopping by!



Polish Heritage Day Picnic

The first Annual Polish Heritage Day in the Park was a wonderful opportunity for families to gather and celebrate their Polish heritage together. There were guest speakers, performances, music, kids' activities, food, and games. PNA Region H, Polish Home, and Lodges 165 and 2336 were just a few of the sponsors and coordinators of this successful event.



PNA members representing and assisting at the PNA booth with Fraternal Advisor Dryden.



Committee Chairs - John Zientek, Bill Ogradowicz, Jerome Bielamowicz, Dr. Piotrowski - St. Thomas University, Council General Rusiecki, Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, Fraternal Director Dryden pictured with Commissioner Precinct 4 Jack Cagle receiving his honorary Polish certification

Special Celebration

Special birthday wishes and Sto Lat to Roza Ekimov, PNA Progressive Lodge 2336 member, who has been with the lodge for over 40 years, held a variety of positions, and is still a highly active

member in the Polish community. Happy 90 Years Young!



Roza Ekimov at her celebration with PNA member Maryann Ciaston.

Be sure to like and share our PNA Region H Facebook page!

PNA is looking to expand in Region H. If you are interested in being an agent and representing our products, contact us: jola@drydeneventproductions.com or call 713-805-5810 or 773-286-0500.

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS DIRECTORS MEET

Polish National Alliance members are involved in many aspects of Polish-American society. On October 19-20, the Polish American Congress held their Council of National Directors Meeting at the Home PNA Office in Chicago. The PNA was instrumental in founding the PAC in 1944 and has been supporting the organization ever since.

We are proud to have had a significant representation of PNA members and directors present at this meeting and share their ideas on Polish-American affairs.

ML



Dożynki Time at District 10



The Dożynki Committee: (l-r) Marcia Lewandowski, Francine Nizienski, Jerome Brzezinski, Barbara Gronet, Ed Nizienski, Donna Kutylowski Czeski, PNA Region „E” Fraternal Advisor Stella Szczesny, Christine Kryszko and Thomas Schemanski.

On Sunday, October 2, 2022, the Women’s Division and PNA District 10 hosted their annual Dożynki celebration at the American Legion Walter Stitt Post in Dearborn Heights, Michigan. Fraternal Advisor Stella Szczesny welcomed the guests on a beautiful fall day.

The afternoon began with a social hour that allowed guests to catch up with friends. A Polish buffet luncheon consisted of meatballs and gravy, city chicken, baked chicken, and numerous sides.

After the dinner, Christine Kryszko, Women’s Division Treasurer, gave a presentation in English and Polish on the history and significance of the Dożynki. The Polanie Song & Dance Ensemble presented the symbolic loaf of bread to Fraternal Advisor Stella

Szczesny, who blessed the bread. The dancers then distributed baskets of bread to each table for the guests to share the harvest bounty.

Polanie then took to the dance floor and entertained the guests with several traditional Polish folk dances and songs. The guests thoroughly enjoyed the performances.

In addition to the program, guests had the opportunity to shop at the Polish Boutique sponsored by PNA member Curtis Posuniak, founder of “Klassics by Kurtis.” Lodges, Councils, and individual members donated ten baskets that were raffled off. Baskets contained numerous items such as liquors, Bolesławiec pottery, lottery tickets, and much more.

A “Share the Wealth” raffle was also held.

The event was deemed a success as several guests remarked, “Please keep us on your mailing Lists for all your events!”

The Dożynki culminated several months of work by the committed and hard-working officers of the Women’s Division and District 10. Congratulations on a job well done.

*Submitted by Barbara J. Gronet,
PNA District 10 Women’s Division
Vice President*



Members of the Polanie Song & Dance Ensemble entertained the guests.



The Harvest Table with baskets & wreaths to symbolize the villagers’ contributions to the harvest.

Greetings From PNA Staff!

The key to success is knowing how to balance hard work with joy. That is why PNA believes in the importance of giving our staff opportunities to celebrate and create a positive atmosphere in the office. We hope that their smiling faces can spread a little cheer.

Don't miss our PNA Home Office news by liking our Facebook page www.facebook.com/PNAZNP.

Polish-American Heritage Month

Our office warmly felt the spirit of Polish-American Heritage Month in October when our staff decided to wear elements of Polish folklore and white and red.



Halloween Costume Contest

On Monday October 31, our staff came dressed up in their best and spookiest costumes to celebrate Halloween.



Happy Holidays!

The PNA Staff wishes you and your families very Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!



#PNAgoesPINK

During October, the PNA was sharing links and resources about National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. For years, PNA has been supporting regular mammograms for individuals who are of the recommended age as a preventative measure. PNA also prepared and delivered care packages to breast cancer patients treating with Illinois Cancer Specialists located at Resurrection Hospital. Remember, the conversation does not stop in October; prioritize your health year-round and remind family and friends about the importance of scheduling screenings.



ML

Kalifornijskie Dożynki

Piękną polską, sięgającą XVI wieku, tradycją jest świętowanie dożynek symbolizujących podziękowanie za udane plony.

W położonym około 60 kilometrów od Los Angeles, Polskim Ośrodku im. Św. Jana Pawła II w Yorba Linda, dożynki stały się coroczną tradycją, zapoczątkowaną w 1978 roku za czasów duszpasterstwa ś. p ks. Józefa Karpa. Ten barwny, polonijny festiwal od początku cieszył się wielkim zainteresowaniem i ściągął do ośrodka tysiące mieszkańców Kalifornii i turystów.

W dniach 17-18 września 2022 roku, dożynki w Yorba Linda odbyły się po raz 43, prezentując mieszkańcom hrabstwa Orange polską historię kulturę i folklor. Niewątpliwą atrakcją festiwalu była wyśmienita polska kuchnia i pełne wigoru występy zespołów folklorystycznych.

W tym roku wystąpiły zespoły ludowe sponsorowane przez ZNP (PNA): „Krakusy” z Los Angeles, „Polonez” z San Diego i „Piaś” z Las Vegas. Zaprezentował się też, po raz pierwszy, zespół „Lajkonik” z Tuscon Arizona.



Dziewięć z Polskiej Szkoły im. Heleny Modrzejewskiej działającej przy Ośrodku Św. Jana Pawła w Yorba Linda zaprezentowały swoje umiejętności wokalne i recytatorskie, wystąpił też lokalny chór „Totus Tuus”.



Ważnym punktem obchodów była uroczysta, dziękczynna Msza Święta celebrowana przez biskupa Diecezji Orange, Kevina Vanna i procesja dożynekowa, którą poprowadzili tego-roczni starostowie państwo Joy i David Lafranchi.



Ogromny wkład pracy w przygotowanie dożynek włożyli członkowie lokalnych grup Związku Narodowego Polskiego. Członkowie Grupy 3259 „Piaś” prowadzili stoiska i pracowali w kuchni. Nie zabrakło również kiosku prowadzonego przez doradcę Grzegorza Chileckiego wspólnie z Jarosławem Musiałem, Elżbietą Rudzińską i dyrektorem Antonim Nowakiem-Przygodzkim.

Polskie potrawy oraz wyroby cukiernicze cieszyły się ogromną popularnością. Organizatorzy przygotowali wiele atrakcji z myślą o dzieciach i młodzieży, zorganizowano wystawę malarstwa polskiego.



Ponieważ przynajmniej połowa odwiedzających festiwal to to Amerykanie, kalifornijskie dożynki stały się doskonałą okazją do popularyzowania kultury polskiej w Stanach Zjednoczonych i wpisały się na stałe w kalendarz imprez tego regionu.

Grzegorz Chilecki, Doradca w Regionie J

We are proud of...

Alicja Otap

OUTSTANDING POLE
ABROAD



Ms. Alicja Otap was recently honored with an Outstanding Pole Abroad award at the annual Polish Independence Day Celebration held by the Polish Consulate in Chicago. Ms. Otap is the Editor-in-Chief for Dziennik Związkowy - Polish Daily News, the oldest Polish-language newspaper in the world, and as well as Lodge 127 President. Throughout her career as a reporter and a journalist for Dziennik Związkowy, spanning 38 years, she interviewed many politicians, dignitaries, and interesting people of great importance in the USA and Poland. In her work as a Journalist, she strives for honesty, independence, fairness, diligence, and responsibility. As an editor-in-chief, she strives to deliver to the readership of Dziennik Związkowy original content of great interest to the Polish community in the Chicago area and beyond.

Richard Owsiany

LAUREL WREATH
RECIPIENT



Mr. Richard Owsiany, member of Lodge 127 for almost 40 years, was awarded

the Laurel Wreath of the Kościuszko Foundation at the Tadeusz Kosciuszko's Name's Day - Imieniny ceremony at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago for his incredible accomplishments and involvements in the Polish-American community. Mr. Owsiany is the President of the Polish Museum of America. He is active in multiple Polonia organizations as well as a recipient of numerous prestigious awards such as Gold Officers Cross by the Republic of Poland and City of Chicago Community Recognition Award.



Alicja Kuklińska, Richard Owsiany and Frank Spula at the Kościuszko Foundation celebration.

Ewa Barczyk

POLISH AMERICAN
OF THE YEAR



Ms. Ewa Barczyk is the 70th person – and fourth woman – to be honored as the Mil-

waukee Society's Polish American of the Year. As a former UW-Milwaukee Librarian, Ms. Barczyk focused on international librarianship and presented at conferences throughout the world, created exchanged programs for foreign librarians, and authored numerous articles and book chapters. Ms. Barczyk held many offices in national and state level library associations. Earlier this year, Ms. Barczyk was awarded a medal of recognition from the Polish Ministry of Education to recognize her work of promoting Polish culture and education. Ms. Barczyk has been a member of Lodge 257 in Chicago for almost 40 years, and her children are longtime members as well.

She is daughter of the late Victor and Zofia Barczyk, founders and directors of Fryderyk Chopin Polish School and distinguished participants in the Polish-American community



Ewa Barczyk with PNA Council 8 members. Submitted by Teresa Jankowski, Fraternal Advisor Region I

Emily Jendzejec
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



Dr. Emily Jendzejec is a lifelong member of Lodge 1770 in Rhode Island and granddaughter of Stanley M. Jendzejec, former PNA Vice President. She graduated in August 2022 from Boston College with

her Ph.D. in Theology. Dr. Jendzejec was the recipient of several years of graduate scholarships through the PNA. She began a new full-time faculty position as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Studies at the Loyola University of New Orleans in fall 2022.

PNA is so proud to fund the education of our young generation of professionals and leaders.

Submitted by proud grandfather, Stanley M. Jendzejec

Daniel “Pogo” Pogorzelski
MWRD COMMISSIONER



Mr. Daniel “Pogo” Pogorzelski was recently elected as Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner of Cook County, Illinois. We are so proud to see Mr. Pogorzelski reflect the values of PNA’s mission

to uplift and service others within the community. Mr. Pogorzelski is a member of Lodge 2514. We wish you all the very best, Mr. Commissioner!

POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2023

The Polish National Alliance is pleased to announce the PNA Annual Scholarship Program. The program is available to all PNA members who are currently enrolled as full-time college or university students and will be continuing their undergraduate studies in the Fall 2023 semester.

Full-time students who will be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in the Fall 2023 semester qualify for scholarships. Incoming freshmen do not qualify.

HOW TO APPLY

You can receive an application in any of these three easy ways!

Visit our website
www.pna-znp.org and
 click the 'Scholarship
 Program' tab

Call us at
 1-800-621-3723

Email us at
[fraternal@
 pna-znp.org](mailto:fraternal@pna-znp.org)

Applications are available as of January 1, 2023.

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

WELCOME TO THE PNA



Vivian Dailey,

born January 18, 2019



Frank Dailey,

born November 10, 2020



Valerie Dailey,

born June 13, 2022

Children of Michael and Joanna Dailey are the newest members of Lodge 3253 in District 13, IL. Their PNA certificates are a thoughtful gift from their loving grandparents, Karol and Helen Leja.



Magdalena Zofia Dechnik,

born on July 21, 2022, to PNA parents Jessica and Dawid Dechnik of New Boston, MI, is a new member of Lodge 2525. Her brother, Maksymilian, is also a PNA member.



Nicholas Krzysztof Florek,

born on February 3, 2022, is the son of Krzysztof and Courtney Florek of St. Louis, MO. He is the newest member of Polish Cadets Lodge 1134. His certificate is a thoughtful gift from his loving grandparents, Zbigniew and Katarzyna Florek.



Shahla Viola Pludrzynski,

was born on September 18, 2022, to Thomas and Jessica Pludrzynski of Cohoes, NY. She is a new member of Lodge 1684, and her certificate is a thoughtful gift from loving grandparents, John and Mary Pludrzynski. She was signed up by Sales Representative Marian Wiercioch.



Lydia Marie Kudla,

born on August 28, 2022, to PNA parents Krysia and Paul Kudla of New Boston, MI, is a new member of Lodge 2525. Her sister, Alina, is also a PNA member.

Magdalena and Lydia's certificates are thoughtful gifts from their loving grandparents, Mary and Mark Sitko.



Sophie Orzechowicz, born on March 19, 2017, to Amanda Sautel and Eric Orzechowicz of Hebron, IN, is a new member of Lodge 2727.

Eli DiFiore, born on May 27, 2021, to Amanda Sautel and Joshua DiFiore of Hebron, IN, is a new member of Lodge 2727.

Their certificates are a thoughtful gift from their loving grandparents, Arthur and Julie Mink.



Olivia Kaye Kozlowski, born on December 9, 2021, is the daughter of Joseph and Kira Kozlowski of Tinley Park, IL. Olivia is a new member of Lodge 1411, and her certificate is a thoughtful gift from her loving grandparents, Donald and Carol Kozlowski.



Sadie Rya Wrona, born on September 3, 2022, is the daughter of Kevin and Josette Wrona of North Royalton, OH. She is a fourth generation PNA member and is a new member of Parma Lodge 3274. The PNA membership is a thoughtful gift from her loving grandparents, Philip and Lauren Wrona.

District XVII Raffle

On November 6, 2022, District XVII held a Reverse Raffle. There were 175 people present and a delicious breakfast was served. Afterwards, gift baskets with exciting prizes were raffled off to the lucky winners. The raffle was a huge success, thanks to Chairman Mike Lewandowski!

*Submitted by David Milcinovic,
Fraternal Advisor Region D*

Thank you

to all individuals who submitted content for this issue! We had an overwhelming amount of submissions that we could not fit in every piece of content. We love and appreciate your enthusiasm for ZGoda and will feature missed content in the upcoming issue!

Stay tuned!



Council 54 Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet

OVER THREE DECADES OF SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING POLISH YOUTH DURING THEIR FORMATIVE YEARS

PNA Council 54, serving the greater Detroit-metropolitan area, held its Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet at the American Legion Carl E. Stitt Post #232 in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, on June 28, 2022. Scholarship recipients from 2020, 2021, and 2022 years were honored for their academic accomplishments, community service, and participation in Polonia-based events. Newly elected Council 54 President Mrs. Donna Kutylowski welcomed the students, their parents, and special guests. Vice President Mrs. Andrea Cooper delivered the prayer before the meal.

Following an excellent Polish dinner catered by Halina, the Scholarship Committee Members individually introduced the Scholarship Recipients. As the major accomplishments of each student were read aloud, including their plans for college, university, or trade school attendance, the students each received their scholarship certificate.

The following students received PNA Council 54 Scholarships:

PNA COUNCIL 54 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS		
STUDENT NAME	YEAR	LODGE
Isabella Cirulis	2020	2525
Kathryn Grytzelius	2020	53
Helaina Motts	2020	53
Rachel Baritche	2021	2821
Victoria Jedruszko	2021	2525
Grace Ozog	2021	53
Caitlin Tabin	2021	53
Julijan Garbek	2021	2525
Daniel Cooper	2021	2821
Kara Hassen	2021	2525
Joseph Michalak	2021	53
Jonathan Bartley	2022	53
Alicia Hausz	2022	2525
Lauren McMahan	2022	2525
Michael Suter	2022	2525



Region “E” Fraternal Advisor, Mrs. Stella Szczesny, delivered closing remarks and shared motivational comments that inspired students and those in attendance.

The primary purpose of the Scholarship Fund is “to provide Freshmen Scholarships to high school seniors and members of Council 54, who are entering into an accredited college, university, or technical trade school with a full-time “student classification.” The PNA Council 54 Scholarship Program was founded and established in 1990 under the leadership of then-Council 54 President Mrs. Teresa Abick. The first Council 54 scholarship was conferred in 1991 and has been given to deserving students every year, consecutively, since 1991. Mrs. Abick was highly active in several Polonia organizations and in PNA, where she eventually served as Vice President at the national level. All of Polonia has mourned her loss since her passing in April 2022 at the age of 93. The Scholarship Fund is a time-honored anchor of Council 54. We honor the efforts and dedication of committee members, board officers, and general membership that have allowed this cherished legacy to continue serving, supporting, motivating, and encouraging youth to become the absolute best individuals they seek to become.

Prepared by Scholarship Committee:

Committee Chair: Patricia Sikora
 Committee Members: Sherry Cauchon, Jan Favot,
 Christine Kryszko
 Council 54 President: Donna Kutylowski

Submitted by Donna Kutylowski, Council 54 President

PIG ROAST FUNDRAISER A GREAT SUCCESS

Bondsville, MA. It was time for the Polish Alliance Youth Camp, Camp Stanica, to replace the leaking roof of the Main Lodge building and the adjoining girls' and boys' bathrooms. The Main Lodge contains kitchen facilities, quarters for resident staff personnel, an infirmary under the supervision of a Registered Nurse, a sick room, and separate rest rooms and showers. It has been at least 35 years since the roof was replaced on the 75+-year-old building.



Camp Stanica is a low-tuition co-ed overnight summer camp that is situated on 60 acres of land comprised of grassy fields and wooded areas. It is nestled between the Swift River and Crystal Lake in Bondsville, MA, a part of Palmer, MA. The address is Camp Stanica, 22 Paul Street, Palmer, MA 01069. There are 12 cabins equipped with cots for the campers to sleep in. The campers learn to become independent, make new friends and make memories that last a lifetime. Thousands of children have enjoyed camping at Camp Stanica throughout the 75 years of PNA operation. Delegates from PNA Council 62 of Chicopee, MA, form the camp's delegates/directors and officers.



L-R: Mike Kruzal, Maria Kinney, Richard Knurek, Teresa Sherman, Jeannie Zapala, and Helena Jalbert

The estimated cost for a new roof is \$20,000. The officers and directors had agreed to conduct a Pig Roast Fundraiser, with all proceeds to be applied to a new roof for the Main Lodge and adjoining bathrooms. Included at the fundraiser were roasted pig, hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, homemade desserts and beverages, a cash bar, games, raffles, and surprises. Along with field games, a bounce house was available for children's play. The day was sunny with a cool breeze blowing softly, and the attendees, adults and children alike, had a great time, many requesting that we have a repeat pig roast next year.

We have yet to reach the goal of \$20,000, but we plan to continue with the project. The leaks have been temporarily stopped to prevent further damage to the building. We realize that many readers could not attend the event but would be willing to donate to this worthy cause. You may send donations to Richard Knurek, President PAYC, 92 North Street, Three Rivers, MA 01080, or to Teresa Struziak Sherman, PNA National Director, P.O. Box 266, Wilbraham, MA 01095-0266; phone: 413-596-9578; e-mail: Terrysherm@aol.com



L-R: Christine A. Mazewski, Jeannie Zapala, Carol Landry, and Teresa Sherman



Please help us raise funds for a new roof so that more children can come to Camp Stanica and enjoy summer camping experiences. The Committee thanks all the donors/sponsors who have supported the cause of building a new roof for the good of all our children. Thank you and dziękuję!

For more information, visit www.campstanica.com

*Submitted by Teresa Struziak Sherman,
PNA National Director*

Polish Events in Western Massachusetts

Western Massachusetts. Several events marking Polish-American Heritage Month in the Western MA section of PNA District 1 took place in October 2022.

There was a Polish flag-raising ceremony on October 3 at City Hall in Holyoke, MA. Many PNA members were in the audience and addressed by the Honorable Mayor Joshua A. Garcia. The Polish flag was on display for the entire month of October.

The Pulaski wreath was placed at Pulaski Park in Northampton, MA, the second week of October by two PNA Lodge 1168 members, Christine A. Mazewski and her sister, Carol Landry. This event takes place every October in honor of Casimir Pulaski, Father of the American Cavalry. In September 1929, Congress declared October 11 to be observed in the United States as Pulaski Day.

Another Polish flag-raising ceremony was held in Chicopee, MA, on October 13. Students of St. Stanislaus School sang the American and Polish national anthems. Many public dignitaries and representatives of several Polish organizations, including the PNA and the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College, were present to hear the inspiring words of the Honorable Mayor John Vieau. Mayor Vieau spoke about the many contributions of past Polish mayors of the City of Chicopee, MA. His inspiring words to students and everyone at the event

were, “Take pride in your heritage. Always be proud of who you are and where you come from. Your heritage

is something that’s very special, and don’t let anyone ever make you feel anything different.”

Polish Flag Raising in Chicopee, Massachusetts



Chicopee, MA. On October 13, 2022, a Polish Flag raising ceremony was held on the grounds of the Chicopee City Hall in honor of Polish-American Heritage month. The Honorable Mayor John Vieau of Chicopee, MA (also of Polish descent) delivered an inspiring message about being proud of one’s Polish heritage. Pictured with the Polish flag before the flag-raising ceremony is Chicopee Mayor John Vieau in the center, flanked by two Polish Chicopee police officers on both sides and two representatives of Polish organizations on his far left and right.

*Submitted by
Teresa Struziak Sherman, PNA National Director*

Święto Dziękczynienia w Gminie 91

Święto Dziękczynienia jest obchodzone w Gminie 91 PNA od kilkunastu lat. Zapoczątkowała tę piękną tradycję prezes gminy, znana działaczka związkowa i polonijna Stanisława Dorota Rawicka. Choć w tym roku problemy ze zdrowiem nie pozwoliły jej uczestniczyć w uroczystości, jej zastępczyni Anna Wińska-Bajena doskonale wywiązała się z powierzonego jej zadania.



Program wieczoru rozpoczął się dostojnie, od odśpiewania hymnów i przywitania gości, wśród których znaleźli się min. prezes PNA i KPA Frank Spuła, sekretarz krajowa PNA Alicja Kuklińska, doradca regionalna PNA i dyrektor artystyczna zespołu „Wici” Magdalena Solarz polonijne działaczki profesor Anna Kordylewska i Halina Bielowicz.

Po krótkich przemowach prowadzącej i dostojnych gości na parkiet wkroczyli tancerze Teatru Pieśni i Tańca „Wici”, od najmłodszych po najstarszych wiekiem i doświadczeniem, dając widowni krótki, ale wspaniały popis umiejętności tanecznych i wokalnych.

Ważną częścią programu było rozstrzygnięcie konkursu plastycznego „Barwy Jesieni”, zorganizowanego przez należące do Gminy 91 Towarzystwo Giewont (Grupa 2514) oraz Bajena Art Studio. Wzięło w nim udział kilkadziesiąt uczniów polskich szkół z aglomeracji chicagowskiej, a nadesłane prace plastyczne były imponujące i można je było obejrzeć w zaaranżowanej na ten wieczór galerii.

Jury w składzie: Anna Wińska-Bajena, Leszek Bajena i Urszula Leleni wręczyli nagrody, ufundowane przez Towarzystwo Giewont, Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, Związek Narodowy Polski (PNA) Bajena Art Studio i Urszula Leleni Photography. Zwycięzczyniami konkursu zostały; Emilia Niedorezo w kategorii wiekowej od 6 do 8 lat, Alexandra Chmielik w grupie od lat 9 do 11 oraz Victoria Mieczkowski w grupie od lat 12 do 15.

Po wymienionym obiedzie Anna Winska-Bajena oraz znany muzyk i kompozytor Jarosław Gołombowski przeprowadzili loterię, po której wystąpił dynamiczny duet muzyczny Marcus Band porywając gości do tańca.

Tradycji stało się zadość, Gmina 91 Związku Narodowego Polskiego oraz Towarzystwo Giewont zainauguowały sezon świąteczny 2022!

Pani Stanisławie Rawickiej przesyłamy serdeczne pozdrowienia i życzenia powrotu do zdrowia i sił!



The Polish Miss Massachusetts 2023

HOLYOKE, MA. The Polish Miss Massachusetts Pageant 2023 was held at Pilsudski Park in Holyoke, MA, on Saturday, August 20, 2022. The Polish National Alliance Lodge 525 and the Polish American Congress of Western Massachusetts organized the 19th annual event under the new pageant name of Polish Miss Massachusetts.

Judges for the pageant were: The Honorable Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor of Holyoke, MA; Mary Kay Brown, Director of Partnerships - MA Psychology/Counseling; Jeffrey M. Chirgwin, President of PNCU Insurance Division; Barbara Zurawski, Professional Model and Attorney, and Nick Zayac, Builder/Contractor of Zayac Construction. The DJ JW Band provided live music that entertained an audience of more than 200 people. Ms. Edyta Halastra and Andrzej Jamroga served as Masters of Ceremony and introduced the contestants in English and Polish.

During breaks in the competition, the 8th Annual Junior Polish Miss Massachusetts Pageant 2023 was held for girls ages 10-14. There were four girls in this category. Magdalena Frelek, age 10, from Chicopee, MA, won the Junior Polish Miss Massachusetts 2023 title. She loves to dance and play sports.

This year there was a Little Polish Miss Massachusetts 2023 for girls ages 7-9. Two girls competed in this category. They presented on stage in casual wear and fancy dress wear. Liljana Kukwa,

age 8, from Springfield, MA, won the Little Polish Miss MA 2023 title. She also likes to dance and read. Tamara Pierzchalski, in English, and Oliwia Bragiel, in Polish, conducted the Jr. Polish Miss MA 2023 Pageant and the Little Polish Miss MA Pageant.

Of the four Polish Miss Massachusetts 2023 contestants, all very beautiful and intelligent young women, Katelyn Walas, age 18, of Granby, MA won the title of Polish Miss Massachusetts 2023 and received the "Talent" award. She performed an award-winning dance ensemble for the audience. Ms. Paulina Wysocka, the previous titleholder of Miss Polonia MA 2022, presented Katelyn with her crown. Ms. Walas is a sophomore at Worcester State University majoring in occupational therapy with a minor in psychology. Katelyn and the first runner-up competed for the 2023 title of Miss Polish America this past October in Connecticut. The winner will compete in the Miss Polski North America Pageant in Miami, Florida.

The first runner-up and "People's Choice" award winner was Grace Drost, age 20, of Chicopee, MA. Grace is a sophomore at Springfield College. She is studying finance and marketing with a minor in psychology. Brielle Los, age 18, of Chicopee, MA, won the "Miss Personality" and "Glamour" awards. Brielle is a freshman at the University of Massachusetts studying kinesiology on the pre-physician assistant track. Emma

Wesoloski, age 22, of South Deerfield, MA, graduated from Springfield College with a major in sports management and a minor in business administration and marketing.

Escorts for the event were Aleksander Wojcik, Krystian Wojcik, and Kuba Bulatewicz - all members of PNA Lodge 525.

Committee members included: Irena and Richard Gadecki; former Commissioner PNA District 1, Frank Wolanin and Mary Wolanin; John and Dorothy Wolanski; Joseph M. Kos; Ewa Pierzchalski; Margareta and Pawel Misniakiewicz; and Renata Janiszewski.

Special guests attending the event were PNA National Director Teresa Struziak Sherman, former PNA Commissioner of District I Jeannie Zapala, and many former and current PNA Council and Lodge officers. They offered congratulations to the pageant winners!

POLISH MISS MASSACHUSETTS 2023 HAILS FROM GRANBY, MASSACHUSETTS

Katelyn Walas, age 18, from Granby, MA, was crowned Polish Miss Massachusetts 2023 at the 19th annual pageant on August 20, 2022, at Pilsudski Park, Holyoke, MA. Over 200 guests attended the event sponsored by PNA Lodge 525 and the PAC of Western MA. The evening featured traditional

homemade Polish food, dancing, entertainment, and fun for everyone.



THE POLISH MISS MASSACHUSETTS 2023 WINNERS



Pictured on stage with the 2023 contestants of the Polish Miss Massachusetts 2023 Pageant are Emma Wesoloski, winner of the “Active Award”; Grace Drost, First Runner-up and “People’s Choice” award winner; Katelyn Walas, Polish Miss Massachusetts 2023 and “Talent” award winner; Joseph M. Kos, President Polish American Congress of Western MA; Brielle Los, winner of the “Personality and Glamour” awards; Teresa Struziak

Sherman, PNA National Director; and Dorothy Wolanski, President PNA Lodge 525. Magdalena Frelek, who won the Junior Polish Miss Massachusetts 2023 contest, is missing from the photo.

JUNIOR MISS POLONIA MASSACHUSETTS 2022 “GLAMOUR AWARD WINNER” AND PNA MEMBER



Joslyn Sexton, age 10, from Holyoke, MA, and winner of the “Glamour” award, is pictured with Teresa Struziak Sherman, PNA National Director, and Irena Gadecki, pageant organizer and Financial Secretary of PNA Lodge 525 at the Junior Polish Miss Massachusetts 2023 Pageant held at Pilsudski Park, Holyoke, MA on August 20, 2022. Joslyn is a member of PNA Lodge 525 of Holyoke, MA. The Pageant is sponsored by PNA Lodge 525 of Holyoke, MA, and the Polish American Congress of Western Massachusetts.

*Submitted by
Teresa Struziak Sherman,
PNA National Director*



100 STO LAT, HAMTRAMCK!

“The World in Two Square Miles” celebrates its Centennial!

One hundred years ago, the township of Hamtramck was chartered into what we now know as the City of Hamtramck, within the city of Detroit.

On Labor Day, the city held a parade celebrating this accomplishment. Participating in the parade were numerous groups from all over the world - and, of course, that included Poles.

Two PNA Lodges, 1264 and 1758, were started in Hamtramck, as was the home of Council 122 for many years. Representing PNA Lodge 1758 in this year’s parade were Vice President Thomas Schemanski and Secretary Barbara Gronet.

*Submitted by
Barbara J. Gronet
PNA Lodge 1758 Secretary*



Krakus Festival Embraces Polish Heritage

Ludlow, MA. The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College in Chicopee, MA, sponsored a very successful fundraiser, the 16th Annual Krakus Festival, held on October 29, 2022, at the Ludlow Country Club. Over 270 people attended the dinner and enjoyed music and a fantastic dance performance by the Polanie Folk Dance Group of Bridgeport, CT. The program continued with the singing of the American and Polish national anthems and the Invocation by Rev. Charles Jan DiMascola, Pastor Emeritus from Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Turners Falls, MA.

A special tribute and presentation of the Polish Center's 2022 Polish Heritage Awards were made to two exceptional individuals in the community. They also received a proclamation from Chicopee Mayor John Vieau, a great supporter of the Polish Center. The first award was presented to Kathleen C. Keating, SSJ, by the Polish Center's President Emeritus, Joseph M. Topor, Jr., and Board Chair Joanne Gruszkos. Sister Keating, from her early years, wanted to become a teacher, which she did. Sister Keating then received advanced degrees from Villanova and Fordham University. She taught high school and later became an assistant history professor at Elms College from 1966 to 1975. After serving as president of several organizations, Sister Kathleen returned to Elms College as its seventh president in 1994 until her retirement in 2001.

She also established the Irish and Polish Cultural Centers on the Elms College campus. She realized the great need for people to learn about their own cultures. She expanded both centers, and today, they continue to grow and become sites for the community to know and understand what our ancestors contributed to American culture, history, and customs. Sister Kathleen received a trophy and special gift of Polish pottery pieces to enjoy as she has her meals.

The second 2022 Polish Heritage Award was presented by the Vice Chairman of the Board of the Polish Center and Chairman of the Krakus Festival Committee, Richard Pinkos, to Ronald Lech, recently retired President of the Polish Center. Ron became a teacher and principal in the East Longmeadow public school system. Although Ron was raised in a strong Polish family, he realized what his heritage was all about when he took a tour of Poland. He offered to volunteer four hours per week at the Polish Center. Very quickly, the time commitment became 40 hours. Ron has now dedicated 17 years to the Polish Center. He enjoyed giving tours of the museum and often said, "While there is a big Polish museum in Chicago with many impressive works of art, we have Babcia's pierogi board." The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College aims to show how our immigrant ancestors lived when they settled here in America. Once you have completed his tour, you will be

proud of the Polish heritage and culture. We will all miss Ron Lech at the Polish Center. Ron received a trophy and a specially made painting of the Polish Center building.

A delightful dinner was served to the guests. Entertainment was provided by the Polanie Folk Dancers from Bridgeport, CT. There were two age groups, an adult group of dancers and a children's dance group, both fitted in Polish folk wear. They performed several numbers each and one combined. All enjoyed the dancers' talents, but the younger dancers especially stole the show with their outstanding enthusiasm.

On May 3, 2005, the Polish Center received the keys to the 18-room, 130-year-old former rectory of the Holy Name of Jesus Parish located at 33 South Street, Chicopee, MA. Many renovations to the old building were required, and more work remains to be done. Once completed, we will have an attractive home in which our Polish history will be preserved for future generations with provisions for expanding programs and exhibits. The Polish Center's collection of historical memorabilia is impressive and continues to grow. The building has three floors that have been renovated strictly by the generous donations of individuals, businesses, and organizations throughout the United States. The final phase will be to build an addition to the building that will allow the center to accommodate groups for

concerts, lectures, and other cultural and educational programs, plus two classrooms.

The Polish Center has come a long way since 1999 and is considered a valuable national resource for education and entertainment. Embrace your heritage! Become a member of the Polish Center, a tax-deductible 501c (3) non-profit organization. For more information, visit the website at:

www.polishcenter.net,
call 413-592-0001, or e-mail:
polishcenter@elms.edu.

PNA WELCOMES KRAKUS GUESTS WITH A DISPLAY



At the entrance to the Polish Center’s Krakus Festival ballroom was a PNA display of information for guests to browse on arrival and exiting. PNA National Director Teresa Struziak Sherman set up the display. Pictured is Edward Dzielenski, a member of PNA Lodge 711, receiving information on the PNA Annuity Special from PNA Director Teresa Struziak Sherman.

Call the PNA for more information at **1-800-621-3723**.



CONGRATULATIONS TO SISTER KATHLEEN KEATING, SSJ



Many guests were present at the 2022 Krakus Festival honoring Sister Kathleen Keating, SSJ and Ron Lech. Pictured are left to right: Polish Miss Massachusetts 2023, Katelyn Walas; award recipient, Sister Kathleen Keating, SSJ; and Harry Dumay, Ph D, MBA, President of Elms College, Chicopee, MA.

RON LECH RECEIVES THE POLISH HERITAGE AWARD



Ron Lech, retired President of the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College, received his Polish Heritage Award at the 2022 Krakus Festival on October 29, 2022. Pictured left to right: Joanne Gruszkos, Chairperson of the Board at the Polish Center in Chicopee, MA; Ron Lech;

and Richard Pinkos, VP of the Polish Center and Chairman of the Krakus Festival event.

THE POLANIE FOLK DANCE



Pictured in Polish folk wear while entertaining the guests at the Krakus Festival dinner and award presentations are the members of the Polanie Folk Dance Group from Bridgeport, CT.

POLISH MISS MA



Pictured above are Teresa Struziak Sherman, PNA National Director and Sales Representative for Chicopee PNA Lodge 711, and Polish Miss Massachusetts 2023 discussing the importance of PNA life insurance and its benefits toward securing her financial future.

*Submitted by
Teresa Struziak Sherman,
PNA National Director*

Polish Heritage Celebration

PNA District 10 and the Polish American Congress Michigan Division joined forces to present a Polish Heritage Program at the Novi Public Library in Novi, MI, on October 29, 2022.



Polish American Congress V.P. for American Affairs Donna Bielecki and Thomas Schemanski man the information booth.

Gail Anderson, the Programming Coordinator at the Novi Library, worked with the committee to schedule and develop the afternoon program.

The program began with a presentation by the “Winged Hussars,” who are Char Zawadzinski and Michael Ostrowski. Mr. Zawadzinski was dressed as a nobleman warrior and gave a presentation on Polish history, the Winged Hussars, and how they played an important role in various battles. He described the various weapons and equipment and provided

an opportunity for the audience to handle these items.

Mr. Ostrowski was dressed in the Winged Hussar uniform. He also elaborated on the various pieces of equipment and their functions.

Following the Hussars, the Wawel Folk Dance Ensemble took to the floor and entertained the audience with various Polish folk dances. Donna Skurski, Wawel’s Artistic Director, provided information on the various pieces of Polish folk dress. Both Donna and her husband, Thomas Skurski, Wawel’s Managing Director, are members of the Polish National Alliance.



The Winged Hussars weapons and equipment.

Ann Bankowski, PAC Michigan Division President, gave an overview of Polish history and its current relationship with Ukraine.

Donna Bielecki, PAC Vice President for American Affairs, gave two very

informative presentations. The first was titled “Amber.” She discussed the uses and historical significance of amber, the Baltic’s gift. Donna also enlightened the group on the importance of storks and their significance to Poland’s agriculture and culture.



Mr. Char Zawadzinski, dressed as a nobleman warrior.

Barbara Lemecha, PAC Michigan Division Executive Vice President, gave a presentation on Polish crystal and provided samples of stemware, bowls, vases, goblets, and dishes.

Stella Szczesny, PNA Fraternal Advisor, presented the various types of Polish pottery from the Bolesławiec factories and “Fajans” from Włocławek. She also provided an anecdote of how the CIA commissioned the Bolesławiec pottery company to be made encompass its logo.



Mr. Michael Ostrowski dressed as a "Winged Hussar."

Following all the presentations, a door prize raffle was held for a piece of Polish pottery. Guests were then invited to a sampling buffet of various Polish foods. Pierogi, kielbasa, cheese, kapusta, sałatka jarzynowa, bread, Polish cookies and candy were all on the menu.

Guests enjoyed the afternoon and thanked the presenters for a wonderful afternoon.



Display of Polish artifacts and information.



The committee that organized the Novi Library's Polish Heritage event: (l. to r.) Barbara Lemecha, Executive Vice President, Polish American Congress Michigan Division; Stella Szczesny, PNA District 10; Donna Bielecki, VP for American Affairs, PAC/MI Division; and Ann Bankowski, President, PAC/MI Division.

Submitted by Stella Szczesny, Fraternal Advisor Region E

Polish Independence Day 10k/5k Run/Walk

On October 30, 2022, we were glad to see so many PNA members at the run! "Team Rabiega" joined us from Wisconsin and had a virtual participant in Minnesota, Emily. "Team Baltimore" hosted a virtual run in Baltimore, MD. See you next year at the run!



"Team Rabiega" with President Spula and Secretary Kuklinska



President Spula and Secretary Kuklinska presented awards



"Team Baltimore"

Surviving the Loss of a Loved One

It seemed that all was going well on the day and evening hours of February 8, 2022. As my beloved spouse and I were about to retire for the night, all seemed fine and normal. Suddenly, he was not fine. He began to cough and then wheeze. He was not O.K. Within minutes he gasped for air and was gone from this life, even after the Wilbraham resuscitation team provided CPR and defibrillation which revived him for 25 minutes. In the very early morning hour, on February 9, 2022, he was pronounced dead. He was gone from this world, only to have entered a new and beautiful place where there is no longer suffering, stress, pain and worry - a place where there is eternal love and peace.

As I entered a major life transition, a place where I thought I knew most of what to expect, I very quickly realized how little I really did know. The days that followed became a blur. Family and friends phoned, visited, brought food, and sent cards and gifts. It was such an unreal time to live through. I could not turn back the time to when I felt comfortable with life.

After the funeral and covering expected expenses, the chores and my new responsibilities began to weigh in. As the first weeks passed and everyone went back to their routines, a new form of reality began to sink into my being. I was forced to take on his responsibilities as well as my own. Prices were going up on everything, but I was now getting half the income to pay for it all. It was overwhelming to say the least. He was an accountant and the statistical editor of the Barron's weekly newspaper. He loved numbers and working with numbers, so he always paid the bills and completed our tax returns. He managed most of our finances as well as household maintenance needs. I now had inherited them all. Being February, tax season was soon to be upon us.

Not every reader will share all my experiences, but may experience similar or different circumstances. However, please know that there will be many decisions and occurrences you never expected that you will need to address. Although I am concentrating on the loss/death of a spouse, that does not exclude losing a loved one through other means.



Purpose of this article. When I realized how much my life had changed with the passing of my spouse, I wanted to share what I had learned with everyone I knew. The experience was profound. It seemed as though situations unfamiliar to me were occurring, and I felt unprepared to resolve them adequately. I needed to find someone who could help, such as family members, friends, contract professionals, medical team providers, government officials and agencies or organizations.

- Throughout your lifetime together, or if you are alone and unmarried, choose the person who will manage your affairs when you pass. Inform s/he about your personal affairs/effects periodically, so they will know where the information is located.
- Make sure you have enough life insurance. I cannot stress this enough. I never realized how many expenses would be incurred, and continue to occur, long after the passing of my spouse. For a minimum amount, a person should be insured for no less than \$50,000. Depending upon your income and lifestyle, it could be much more. You are now faced with rising prices for most expenses in your budget, but will now receive half or more of your family income. If he did not have the amount of PNA life insurance that he had, I do not know where I would be right now. Life insurance is not wasted money. It definitely has its purpose to help the surviving spouse to continue. There are some issues that must be addressed very soon upon the passing of a spouse, while some can wait a few weeks or a couple of months.

Preparation Guide for the Survivor

Keep these items available for your survivor, where applicable, so they know what actions to take:

- Original copy of Death Certificate, if available
- Will or legal documents, property deeds, titles
- Marriage certificate, divorce or child support documents
- Military or discharge papers
- Insurance policies and Trust documents and beneficiaries, change beneficiaries as needed on your policies
- Burial or cemetery pre-arrangement documents
- Social Security numbers of you and your spouse
- Birth certificates of you, spouse and any minor children
- Credit card account numbers and current statements, contact credit card companies
- Financial records of bank, checking, savings, retirement, mortgage, loans, real estate deeds, and all other financial statements you receive. Include current beneficiaries where applicable, pay attention to IRAs
- Health insurance policies/statements and recently paid premiums
- Household contracts, auto/homeowners insurance policies and payment records
- Vehicle records and payments, including taxes paid
- Past tax records, and prepare for the coming year's tax return
- Contact information for attorney, financial advisor and tax advisor
- Contact the Social Security Administration for advice on your ability to receive increased benefits and the one-time payment of \$255.00 as the survivor
- If the deceased spouse was employed, contact the employer and ask about any workplace compensation you may be due or if you may remain on the health insurance plan
- Contact Medicare, if applicable, or any private insurance to remove your spouse from the plan
- If any children are involved, contact the school
- Cancel subscriptions, memberships, services for the deceased

The survivor will need access to the information listed previously, plus perform additional tasks:

- The funeral home can help you with making the arrangements, flowers, necessary details, church services, media notifications, cemetery requirements, cremation and burial rites. Have any questions ready for the funeral director.
- Choose a place for the reception following the funeral services, and make the decisions involved with that event.
- Notify close friends and family members of the passing.
- Notify medical insurance(s), pharmacy used for your spouse's medications, all doctor's involved in your spouse's care, any specialty services, such as medical supplies, special equipment maintenance providers, etc. of his/her passing.
- Notify the spouse's employer.
- Notify all life insurance companies where your spouse had an insurance policy. Plan what you will do with the proceeds from the life insurance claims. Update your beneficiaries on all your policies, legal and financial.
- When you speak with the Social Security Administration officer, ask about benefits that you may be entitled to receive. They have been very helpful to me.
- When you speak to your attorney, s/he may have forms for you to sign, and consider scheduling an appointment to update your own personal legal matters.
- Write thank you cards for all the donations received, flowers, Mass cards, and any special gifts that were a part of this tragic experience.

- Keep current by paying all bills due. Do not allow your expenses to become overwhelmingly overdue.
- Cancel any services that you really do not need, or seek out other estimates and compare to determine whether some money can be saved.
- Be assured that you will experience unusual happenings, such as breakdowns of appliances, plumbing, motor vehicle leaking oil, critters in your garage, unexpected household repairs, computer or phone issues, mistakes in service provider billing procedures and the like. After nine months, the circus continues. You may want to just run and hide, but it is not in your cards to do so. Something always happens to cause you to remain behind and resolve the issue. A solution to maintaining your sanity is to write things down of when you need to act on a concern. Schedule the resolution for a day for completion. Many issues cannot be resolved immediately, so put them on a follow-up day's schedule as a reminder.
- Plan clean-up of personal belongings and arrange for disposal.
- Keeping up to date with vehicle inspections and dump sticker permits.
- Begin to gather information for the next federal and state tax returns.

Feeling overwhelmed? Please do not. When you have some idea as to what to consider, don't put it off. Start



now to get everything organized. You may never need to go through the process. If you ever feel overwhelmed, remember it is good to cry. At all ages we cry when we are affected by feelings of helplessness, frustration, or when we have a loss or separation. Give yourself permission to cry. Dr. Blysmá, an assistant professor of psychiatry and psychology at the University of Pittsburgh who studies crying states, "Suppressing your tears takes a lot of effort and over time it wears you down."

Keys to survival:

- Keep open communication with your spouse/significant other person who will settle your obligations, such as what you have, where it is all kept and any special information needed on your behalf to settle your estate.
- Have enough life insurance to cover expenses, not only funeral expenses, but also all the living expenses that will be encountered by the person left behind to survive the storm. I cannot stress this enough! The PNA is a perfect vehicle for you to meet your needs. Call us today, and I really mean it!
- In my St. Catherine of Siena parish bulletin, Fr. Charles Jan DiMascola wrote on May 30, 2022, "The discipline of gratitude is to focus on the beauty and good around me. So... let us surrender to His love. His peace, His creativity, His joy, His truth, His beauty, His goodness and build on that and be thankful for all of it!"

Thank you for your kindness in reading this article. I hope it was, and will be, helpful for you in your preparation for a next chapter in your life.



Author:
Teresa Struziak Sherman,
RN, BSN, MS
PNA National Director

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1. Bernstein, E. [June 29, 2022]. *Crying is good so go ahead and let it out.* *The Wall Street Journal.* Dow Jones & Company. P. A11.
2. Fr. Charles Jan DiMascola. [August 14, 2022]. *The Discipline of gratitude.* *St. Catherine of Siena Parish Bulletin.*



Council 171 Pierogi Fundraiser

PNA Council 171 organized a pierogi making effort at the Polish American Citizens Club in Allentown, PA. Volunteers crafted 440 dozen potato pierogi by hand. The proceeds from the sale of the pierogi and a Dozynki Festival will fund scholarships to benefit students of Council 171.

Submitted by Chris Thompson, Secretary Council 171



The holiday season would not be complete without our favorite traditional Polish dishes. Two important Polish Christmas traditions include refraining from eating meat on Christmas Eve and sampling 12 dishes for good luck and health in the upcoming year. These dishes are perfect for keeping tradition and to be enjoyed year-round. As always, we thank Ms. Małgorzata Bondyra for sharing her culinary expertise with us!

Merry Christmas and Wesolych Świąt!

Lenten Red Beet Soup

Barszcz czerwony postny



Ingredients:

- 3 L (12.7 cups) water
- 5-6 medium beets
- 1 onion
- 1 small carrot
- 1 small parsley root
- 1 small piece of celery root
- 2 bay leaves
- 2-3 allspice berries
- 1 tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2-3 cloves garlic

- Sour cream or heavy whipping cream (optional)
- 1 tsp. dried marjoram
- Lemon juice
- Salt, pepper, and Maggi liquid seasoning (I recommend Polish style) to taste

** In the place of water and vegetables, vegetable broth may be used.*

Directions:

Peel and wash all vegetables. Cut beets into quarters. Place all vegetables into a pot, and add bay leaves, allspice berries, and water. Bring to a boil and cook until soft. Add salt, pepper, Maggi liquid seasoning, oil, and lemon juice, and bring it to a boil. Reduce heat. Add minced garlic cloves and cook for an additional minute (add cream if desired). Turn off the heat. Add dried marjoram and mix. Serve plain or with uszka or krokiety (ravioli or croquettes).

Wild Mushroom Soup

Zupa grzybowa postna



Ingredients:

- 2 oz. dried wild mushrooms
- 5 L (21 cups) water
- 1 onion
- 1 small carrot
- 1 small parsley root
- 1 small piece of celery root
- 2 bay leaves
- 2-3 allspice berries
- 1 tbsp. vegetable oil
- Sour cream or heavy

whipping cream (optional)

- Chopped fresh parsley leaves to garnish
 - Salt, pepper, and Maggi liquid seasoning (I recommend Polish style) to taste
- * Vegetable broth may be used in place of the water and vegetables*

Directions:

Soak the mushrooms for a few hours until soft, then clean thoroughly under running water to eliminate any dirt. Chop mushrooms into smaller pieces, place into a pot and add bay leaves, allspice berries, and water. Bring to a boil, and cook until the mushrooms are soft. Grate carrot, parsley root, and celery root on the large eye of the grater. Cut onions. Add all vegetables to the pot with mushrooms, and cook for 30 minutes. Add salt, pepper, Maggi liquid seasoning, vegetable oil, and some chopped fresh parsley leaves. Optional: mix in heavy whipping cream if desired. Turn off the heat. Serve with pasta, and garnish with fresh parsley leaves and swirls of sour cream (if heavy whipping cream was mixed in, you don't have to use sour cream).

Pierogi with Mushrooms and Sauerkraut

Postne pierogi z kapustą i grzybami

*Please note that many people use “pierogies,” but the plural form in Polish is “pierogi.”



Pierogi Dough

Ingredients:

- 2 cups All-Purpose flour (more as needed)
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1-2 tbsp. vegetable oil
- Water as needed for consistency

Directions:

Add flour to a bowl, then add egg, salt, vegetable oil, and a small amount of water. Mix with a wooden spoon or mixer using a dough hook. Add water or flour as needed to ensure proper texture of the dough and is ready to knead. Add some flour to a sturdy surface, such as a large wooden cutting board or a kitchen counter, and knead the dough until it is soft and elastic.

Mushroom and Sauerkraut Filling

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. sauerkraut
- 2 handfuls of dried wild mushrooms
- 1 medium onion
- 3 tbsp. oil
- 2 allspice berries
- 2 bay leaves
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Soak mushrooms in cold water for 1-2 hours, then rinse well and drain. Cut the drained mushrooms into thin strips, and then chop even finer. Peel the onion and chop it finely. Preheat

the frying pan with 3 tbsp. oil, add chopped onion, and sauté on medium heat for about 10 minutes. Add chopped mushrooms and sauté for an additional two minutes. Rinse the sauerkraut in cold water, and squeeze the water out very well. Chop the sauerkraut and place it in a pot. Add bay leaves, allspice, pepper, and ¾ cup cold water. Add the onion with mushrooms, and mix everything thoroughly with a wooden spoon. Cover the pot with a lid, and cook for about an hour on low heat, stirring well about every 20 minutes. Remove the lid, and fry the filling for about 20 minutes. The excess water will evaporate, and the filling will brown. Add salt and pepper to taste and allow to cool.

Forming the Pierogi:

Lightly flour the surface you use for the dough and use a rolling pin to roll the dough thin. Some people like thicker dough, and some like it thinner. You could also use the pasta attachment of a stand mixer to “roll” the dough. Use a glass or cup to cut out circles of the size you want for your pierogi. Use a spoon to take some mushroom and sauerkraut filling into each dough circle. Use only a little filling, as the pierogi will not seal properly. Fold the dough in half, enclosing the filling and creating a half-circle shape. Gently pinch the circular side to seal the pierogi. Keep pierogi separate from each other on a tray or work surface until ready to cook.

Cooking the Pierogi:

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Carefully add pierogi to the water, and gently boil until they float. Use a slotted spoon to remove the pierogi once they float, draining as much water as possible. The pierogi are then ready to eat! Optionally, sauté pierogi in butter to create a slightly crunchy texture.

Wheat and Poppy Seed Dessert

Kutia



Ingredients:

- 2 cups All-Purpose flour (more as 1 lb. whole wheat grains)
- 1 cup dry poppy seeds
- 5 oz. raisins
- 7 oz. honey
- 3 oz. walnuts
- 3 oz. hazelnuts
- Orange peel and candied fruit for decoration

Directions:

Rinse the wheat grains in a strainer/sieve, place them into a pot, pour boiled water over them, and set aside a few hours to soak. After a few hours, without changing the water, bring the grains to a boil and cook until soft. Then drain in a strainer and allow to cool. Place the poppy seeds in a sieve and rinse with cold water. Transfer to a bowl and pour boiling water over the seeds. Leave for 2-3 hours to soak, drain well and grind twice in a meat grinder. Soak the raisins in boiling water (add some alcohol – optional), then strain them. Place honey in a saucepan and heat on low heat. Chop the nuts, add to the honey, and stir. Take the pot off the heat. Combine poppy seeds, whole wheat seeds, raisins, and honey with nuts and cool down. Transfer to a serving bowl, and decorate with orange peels and candied fruits.

*Małgorzata Bondyra,
PNA Lodge 238
President,
Council 21,
Baltimore, MD*



*Photos by
Michael Carnahan,
Lodge 339,
Council 21, MD*

KRAKÓW'S CHRISTMAS MAGIC

Extravagant Szopki (Nativity Scenes)

On the first Thursday of December, Cracovians gather in the Main Market Square to admire the magnificent, handmade *szopki* (nativity scenes) created for the annual Cracovian Nativity Competition. The Cracovian *szopki* distinguish themselves with their lavish designs, modeled after Krakow's famous landmarks such as St. Mary's Basilica Church, Wawel Castle, and Sukiennice. Creators embellish the *szopki* with folkloristic and cultural elements such as adding figurines of great artists and politicians or legendary characters such as the Wawel Dragon. The focal point of the *szopki* is, of course, the Bethlehem scene of Jesus's birth. *Szopki* can be created from various materials including glass, wood, steel, clay, and more. Electrical cables bring *szopki* to life by illuminating them and allowing the figurines to move around. Some *szopki* can measure up to ten feet tall!



Our very own szopka in the home office kindly donated by PNA Member Bogusław Boskowicz

Crafting these intricate displays can take up to a year, but anybody can create their own *szopka* by signing up for special workshops. In 2018, UNESCO added this traditional practice onto its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity for its important cultural emphasis.

Szopki are additionally sold in Poland and Polish stores around the world for those who wish to bring the Cracovian Christmas magic into their homes.

Christmas Market

Often listed by travel publications as one of the best Christmas markets in Europe, the annual Krakow Christmas Market invites travelers from across the world to experience its festive, holiday magic. Nestled in the Main Market Square, the Krakow Christmas Market features vendors from across Poland and Europe selling Christmas trinkets and delicious treats. Shoppers marvel at all the colorful dis-



plays of beautiful handmade creations such as ornaments, wreaths, jewelry, and pottery. The aromas of sizzling kielbasa and sweet baked goods fill the air. Once the sun sets, marvelous Christmas decorations adorn the market with twinkling lights and shoppers stay cozy with warm hot chocolate or wine.

Beginning with the Spring 2023 issue, we will be introducing a new Destination Poland series – Poland's magical castles. The first castle we will feature is a favorite of many worldwide. We left a hint for you with this article. Can you guess which castle it is?

Monica Lebensztejn

Santa Claus is Coming to the Polish National Alliance

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022
AT 1:00PM

Polish National Alliance
6100 N. Cicero Ave
Chicago, IL 60646

- Games
- Lots of surprises
- Gifts for all registered children
- Photo opportunity with Santa

Children Free
Parents/Guardians \$10.00
Reservations required
for information call PNA 773 286-0500 ext. 312
email: mary.srodon@pna-znp.org

- Please make a reservation by
 - November 30th
 - Space is Limited

December 4, 2022

PNA DISTRICT VIII

DUCKPIN BOWLING TOURNAMENT



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4TH, 2023
GLASSPORT LANES & PNA LODGE 750

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE



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Thank you

to all individuals who submitted content for this issue! We had an overwhelming amount of submissions that we could not fit in every piece of content. We love and appreciate your enthusiasm for Zgoda and will feature missed content in the upcoming issue!

Stay tuned!

Merry Christmas



STUDIO TAŃCA ZNP

W każdy wtorek 7:00 - 8:45 PM

Zajęcia taneczne w miłej atmosferze dla osób w każdym wieku!

- walc angielski
- walc wiedeński
- salsa
- samba
- rumba
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POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE
60th National Golf Tournament

Save the Date

July 28-29, 2023

HOSTED BY LODGE 1327



Save the Date
Polish National Alliance Bowling Tournament

May 1 & 2, 2023 Reno, NV

WIĘC! Grupa dorosła

Zajęcia tańca dla początkujących

Piątki od 8 pm do 9:30 pm

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847-767-7578
Po więcej info: 773-615-1120

Budynek PNA - 6100 N Cicero Ave, Chicago, IL 60646

THE CHICAGO SOCIETY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES FOUR SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALING \$22,500 FOR POLISH-AMERICAN STUDENTS

The Chicago Society Foundation, affiliated with the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance, Lodge #1450, proudly announces that it again will be funding four scholarships, one for \$7,500 and three for \$5,000, for the 2022-23 academic year through its James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship Fund. Jim Kulze, a former President of the Chicago Society, and his wife, Lillian, generously endowed the Fund to provide meaningful scholarship support benefiting worthy student scholars each and every year. These scholarship awards are available to U.S. residents of Polish descent with demonstrated financial need who are pursuing academic studies in college, graduate or professional school.

Initial applications will be accepted through **March 1, 2023**. Selections will be made in April 2023 for the subsequent fall academic term. Forms, dates and other information regarding selection criteria and requirements will be found on the Chicago Society's website, www.chicagosocietypna.org, 'Foundation' tab.



WESOŁYCH ŚWIAT

JOIN US FOR THE 2022 POLISH HOME, INC.
& PNA FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022, 2:00 PM
OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA, CHURCH HALL
1731 BLALOCK ROAD, HOUSTON, TX 77080
PNA LODGE 2336 AND 165 MEMBERS MAY BRING ONE GUEST.

DINNER WILL BE CATERED BY POLOMIA RESTAURANT.
WE ASK EVERYONE TO BRING THEIR FAVORITE DESSERT!

As in the past, Santa Claus will be visiting us, and there will be a special performance by Iszkierczanie, an authentic Polish village band from Debica, Poland, sponsored by Lodge 165 and Polish Home, Inc.

Feel free to bring a wrapped gift with your child's name on it for Santa to distribute.

Traditional Christmas treats for children will be provided by Council 182. Door prizes are sponsored by Polish Home, Inc.

As this will be a catered event, please RSVP no later than Sunday, November 27, 2022.
PolishHomeHouston@gmail.com → Please ref. Polish Home 2022 Christmas Party



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