

ZGODA

SPECIAL EDITION

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

**Polish National Alliance
49th Quadrennial Convention
August 29-31, 2023
Rosemont, Illinois**





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As the largest hotel outside the city, Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago is home to spaces ranging from traditional ballrooms to inspiring networking areas and top-floor reception venues. Located five minutes from O'Hare International Airport, and offering a complimentary airport shuttle, the hotel is a comfortable and convenient location for travelers coming to Chicago, IL. The classic rooms are with well-equipped workstations perfect for productivity, as well as blackout curtains for tranquil nights. Enjoy the excellent amenities and options for dining at the hotel's inviting restaurants and bars.

Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago

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<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/illinois/hyatt-regency-ohare/chiro>

Welcome to Rosemont!

Located just outside of Chicago, Rosemont, IL, is a bustling suburb known for its entertainment options and attractions. These attractions are within walking distance or a short ride away from the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago where you will be staying. Staying an extended period? Book a show or attend an event at one of Rosemont's premier entertainment centers. Here are just a few attractions out of many:



Fashion Outlets of Chicago
5220 Fashion Outlets Way
Rosemont, IL 60018



Rivers Casino
3000 S. River Road
Des Plaines, IL 60018



Parkway Bank Park + Entertainment District
5501 Park Place
Rosemont, IL 60018



Rosemont Theatre
5400 N. River Road
Rosemont, IL 60018

O'Hare Airport Shuttle Service



To get to and from O'Hare International Airport, your hotel offers a complimentary and continuous 24-hour shuttle service.

Catch the shuttle from the hotel's front entrance. It is available 24 hours, every 15 minutes between 4:00am-12:00am, and every 30 minutes from 12:00am-4:00am. From O'Hare Terminal 1-3, the shuttle picks up outside Door 1 of the Bus and Shuttle Center, and for Terminal 5 and International Flights, the shuttle picks up outside of Door 5E. Please note the information is always subject to change. Scan the QR Code to bookmark and follow a live shuttle tracker for your arrival and departure.

CTA L Rosemont



Looking to head over to Downtown Chicago? Your hotel is a convenient 10 minute walk away from the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Rosemont Blue Line stop.

This method of transportation, called the 'L' by many Chicagoans, offers convenient access to Downtown Chicago. The Blue Line in the Forest Park direction will take you directly to the main stops in the Loop. The most common Blue Line



stops to reach attractions are Clark/Lake, Washington, and Monroe. Scan the QR code to learn more about CTA fares and general information.

Continue the Fun in Chicago...

Whether this is your first time in Chicago or you have lived here your whole life, do not miss out on all the beauty this great city has to offer! There are many, many more attractions in Chicago, but here are a few to start with:



Millennium Park: Take a relaxing stroll through beautiful landscapes while admiring notable landmarks such as Cloud Gate (also known as “The Bean”), Crown Fountain, and the Jay Pritzker Pavilion. Check out online resources for updates on concerts and events in the park.



Willis Tower Skydeck: You may hear many locals refer to a skyscraper called the Sears Tower. Well, now it’s the Willis Tower! Although the name has changed, the spectacular views from the glass viewing platform on the 103rd floor have not. If you’re feeling brave, step out on the Ledge, a glass balcony extending from the tower, and take the photos of a lifetime!



Navy Pier: Featuring many lively attractions such as restaurants, shops, theaters, and amusement rides, there is something for everyone. The pier offers stunning views of Lake Michigan, as well as a unique view of the Chicago Skyline. Navy Pier also offers a free dazzling fireworks display on Wednesday and Saturday nights through Labor Day.



Architecture Tour: There is no secret that Chicago is renowned for its impressive architecture. Take an architectural boat tour along the Chicago River or join a guided walking tour to learn about the city’s most iconic buildings and their history.



The Chicago Theatre: An iconic landmark and a historic venue located on North State Street in the Loop neighborhood of Chicago, tourists and locals alike love to take photos in front of its exuberant sign! Be sure to plan ahead and catch a show at this esteemed theater.



Magnificent Mile: Ready to shop? Visit this bustling stretch of Michigan Avenue renowned for its luxury shopping, trendy boutiques, department stores, fine dining, and iconic landmarks such as the Tribune Tower and the Wrigley Building.



July 2023

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the Polish National Alliance (PNA) and for the important decisions you

will be making at the upcoming 49th Quadrennial Convention. It is crucial that these decisions are made with the best interests of our members in mind, as we continue to grow and face various challenges.

We recognize that the PNA, like many other organizations and corporations, is confronted with common issues such as rising healthcare costs, cybersecurity threats, privacy concerns, and compliance and regulatory matters. These challenges require careful consideration and proactive measures to ensure the organization remains on the right track.

One of our primary concerns is the decline in attendance at lodge and council meetings in recent years. While councils were traditionally responsible for electing representatives to attend conventions, we have observed a lack of quorum in many councils, leading individuals to select themselves. To maintain a democratic process, it is essential that all members participate in voting through a direct membership vote, a method that many organizations have successfully implemented.

We take pride in the PNA's resilience during the pandemic, where we adapted and transformed challenges into opportunities for growth. Through this period, we made significant advancements in technology and strategy, thanks to the competence and knowledge of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

To ensure continued success, we recognize the need for capable individuals within each district to carry on the fraternal and community spirit of our organization. Engaging members from all generations in PNA projects and events is a priority.

Despite inflationary times, the PNA has remained committed to supporting education and cultural initiatives. We have awarded scholarships totaling \$821,500 to undergraduate and graduate students and made substantial donations of \$167,000 to our dance groups. Additionally, we have allocated approximately \$62,000 to Polish-language schools. These investments demonstrate our commitment to the growth and development of our community.

Furthermore, we are excited about the upcoming merger with the Polish National Union of America, which will welcome an additional 8,000 members to our PNA family. We are also in the process of establishing an agreement with the POLAM Federal Credit Union in California to offer our insurance products, addressing the membership issue and expanding our services.

The success of the PNA is a result of the support and dedication of many individuals like yourselves. Your unwavering commitment to the organization ensures its ability to support future generations of members. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all representatives elected to the 49th Quadrennial Convention and eagerly anticipate our meeting in Rosemont.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Spula, FLMI
Chairperson

Elected Representatives to the 49th PNA Quadrennial Convention in Rosemont, Illinois

Council	Lodge	First name	Last Name	City	State	District
1	780	Eugene J.	Szymkowiak	Philadelphia	PA	6
1	1	Walter A. III	Musial	Philadelphia	PA	6
1	1	Wesley E.	Musial	Philadelphia	PA	6
1	1	Zbigniew	Wrzos	Philadelphia	PA	6
3	257	Monika	Korczynska	Chicago	IL	13
3	3278	Elizabeth T.	Stolarczuk	Niles	IL	13
3	694	Irene	Hercik	Chicago	IL	13
8	3100	Kristine M.	Chmielewski	Hales Corners	WI	14
8	3100	Teresa A.	Jankowski	Saint Francis	WI	14
8	3100	Irene S.	Hawkinson	New Berlin	WI	14
15	1547	Grace	Sawinski	Farwell	MI	10
15	1547	Leon	Rajski	Farwell	MI	10
20	3187	Stanley M.	Dunaj	North Arlington	NJ	7
21	238	Richard P.	Poremski	Baltimore	MD	6
21	238	Malgorzata	Bondyra	Nottingham	MD	6
22	1327	Paul N. Sr.	Woznak	Johnstown	PA	8
22	1327	Samuel M.	Smolko	Johnstown	PA	8
26	677	Walter W.	Tokarz	Rehoboth	MA	1
26	1770	John E.	Mailloux	Warwick	RI	1
37	2911	Dawne	Griffith	Moscow	PA	7
39	3244	Anna	Zalinska	Chicago	IL	12
39	2727	Stanislawa	Stekala	Burbank	IL	12
39	2927	Aleksandra	Sowa	Chicago	IL	12
39	2927	Raymond E.	Kosinski	Plainfield	IL	12
39	2927	Frank J.	Kokoszka	Chicago	IL	12
39	2727	Leokadia	Chlipala	Chicago	IL	12
41	1474	Anna	Wierzbicki	Chicago	IL	13
41	3237	Allison K.	Kramer	Round Lake	IL	13
41	3237	Donna T.	Woszczak	Palatine	IL	13
43	187	Jason M.	Matiko	Duryea	PA	7
50	455	Barbara A.	Adams	Richfield	OH	9
50	455	Stacey A	Beck	Saint Clairsville	OH	9
50	455	Yvonne	Tuchalski	Weirton	WV	9
54	2525	Christine	Kryszko	Dearborn	MI	10
54	53	Ronald W.	Martin	Canton	MI	10
54	2525	Dan	Czeski	Dearborn	MI	10
54	53	Patricia	Sikora	Lathrup	MI	10
55	825	Sharon	Nelson Liska	Berwyn	IL	12

Council	Lodge	First name	Last Name	City	State	District
58	464	Wieslawa	Kennedy	Rocky Hill	CT	2
58	2612	Marianna	Koziol-Dube	Unionville	CT	2
62	711	Teresa	Sherman Struziak	Wilbraham	MA	1
62	3276	Jeannie M.	Zapala	Ludlow	MA	1
62	3276	Maria A.	Kruzel	Springfield	MA	1
73	3259	Greg G.	Chilecki	Orange	CA	16
73	700	Zbigniew W.	Grzelecki	Fountain Valley	CA	16
75	1776	Mark S.	Dobrzycki	Harwood Hts.	IL	13
75	1776	Irene	Moskal-Delgiudice	Schiller Park	IL	13
75	1776	Joanna	Stasiak	Chicago	IL	13
80	1824	Leszek	Krzyminski	Lemont	IL	12
80	1824	Agata	Mscisz	Mokena	IL	12
80	1824	Joseph P.	Dobersztyn	Tinley Park	IL	12
81	1887	Kathleen A.	Los-Waldron	New Bedford	MA	1
82	2400	Justin	Gadek	Holyoke	MA	1
88	3274	Bernadette	Zubel	Oberlin	OH	9
88	3274	Cathy	Katrenich	Brecksville	OH	9
91	2514	Bogdan	Olejniczak	Des Plaines	IL	13
96	1935	Thomas S. Jr	Pietrzak	Dayton	OH	9
101	3236	Stanley	Straczek	Mundelein	IL	13
110	750	Sean	Jackson	Glassport	PA	8
110	352	William	Frederick	McKeesport	PA	8
111	1063	Wanda	Milecki	Worcester	MA	1
115	1476	Mitchell	Rabiega	Greenfield	WI	14
120	3241	Mary	Srodon	Gurnee	IL	13
120	2475	Wanda	Penar	Arlington Hts.	IL	13
120	669	Janina	Kopacz	Chicago	IL	13
120	101	Magdalena	Solarz	Glenview	IL	13
120	669	Wanda	Juda	Chicago	IL	13
122	1264	Tadeusz	Przybyl	Sterling Hts.	MI	10
122	1264	Stanislawa	Jakobek	Sterling Hts.	MI	10
122	1758	Stella	Szczesny	Hamtramck	MI	10
123	1378	Diane	Lenihan	Westmont	IL	12
125	764	Raymond	Dyrda	Chicago Hts.	IL	12
127	2365	Jeffrey	Jackowski	Saint John	IN	15
127	2365	Steve	Tokarski	Crown Point	IN	15
127	2365	David	Tokarski	Crown Point	IN	15
135	704	Katarzyna	Niemczyk	Kenosha	WI	14
136	1684	Edward	Brzozowski	Latham	NY	3
138	513	Edward Jr.	Zavaski	Wallingford	CT	2
140	650	Kathleen	Konegan	Aston	PA	6
140	650	Hedwig	Pennell	Aston	PA	6

Council	Lodge	First name	Last Name	City	State	District
143	1577	Irene	Spiewak	Willowbrook	IL	12
143	2368	Barbara	Wesolowski	Orland Park	IL	12
143	2244	Shirley	Wass	Glen Ellyn	IL	12
145	1052	Val	Pawlos	Pittsburgh	PA	8
145	1052	Jeffrey	Twardy	Pittsburgh	PA	8
149	1224	Irene	Dyer	Rockford	IL	13
152	441	Leon	Grabowy	Bristol	CT	2
152	441	Irene	Grabowy	Bristol	CT	2
154	1746	Joseph	Radosy	Canonsburg	PA	8
155	1360	Christine	Hanson	Lansing	MI	10
170	3160	Nancy	Szczotka	Dearborn Hts.	MI	10
170	3160	Chester	Szczotka	Dearborn Hts.	MI	10
171	1747	Agata	Dwornicka	Allentown	PA	6
178	843	Halina	Kuczynski	Park Ridge	IL	13
178	3250	Barbara	Stankiewicz	Niles	IL	13
178	843	Stella	Dzierozynski	Chicago	IL	13
182	2336	Erica	Dryden	Friendswood	TX	5
182	2336	Jolanta	Mazewski-Dryden	Friendswood	TX	5
195	3043	Sandra	Schuster	Minto	ND	14
197	1120	Mary	Wozniak	Rolling Prairie	IN	15
203	848	Constance	Donnelly	Falls Church	VA	6
215	76	David	Milcinovic	Parma	OH	17
215	16	Allan	Szuflada	Hinckley	OH	17
215	76	Laura	Lid	Brooklyn Hts.	OH	17
215	16	Patricia	Sobczynski	North Royalton	OH	17
215	1938	Michael	Lewandowski	Brooklyn Hts.	OH	17
215	16	Eric	Ptak	Walton Hills	OH	17
215	16	Jane	Ptak	Walton Hills	OH	17
216	3193	Anthony	Nowak-Przygodzki	Corona	CA	16
217	1903	Grazyna	Michalski	New York	NY	3
217	1903	Bozena	Kaminski	Brooklyn	NY	3
217	1903	Christine	McMullan	New York	NY	3

Home Office Employees Assisting at the 49th PNA Convention

Steve Biesiada (Assistant National Secretary)

Peter Buchcar (Legal Counsel)

James Gura (Chief Financial Officer)

Paulina Kordek (President's Office)

Monica Lebensztejn (Public Relations Manager/Zgoda Editor)

Renata Lorenz (Treasurer's Office/Legal Department)

Victor Modlinski (IT Office Systems Specialist)

Agnes Szafranski (Marketing Manager)

Jolanta Walaszek (Manager of Sales)

*This special edition of Zgoda was created for the Representatives of the 49th Convention
by Monica Lebensztejn and Ewa Krutul.*

From the National Secretary

Dear Representatives to the 49th PNA Quadrennial Convention,

Congratulations on your election, and welcome to the home state of the Polish National Alliance! Team PNA will work diligently to make this convention efficient and productive. Please follow the official PNA website and social media for updates or contact the Office of the Secretary directly.

We hope this convention will demonstrate that our organization is as progressive as envisioned by the founding fathers, recognizing the need to be broad-minded and strengthening the Polish-American community. As representatives of the entire organization, through your decisions, you have the power and responsibility to continue evolving PNA so it can succeed in these changing times.

The Home Office staff is committed to supporting you, so please do not hesitate to let them know how they can make these few days better for you!

On behalf of the PNA employees assigned to assist with the 49th PNA Quadrennial Convention – welcome home!

Most Sincerely,

*Alicja Kuklińska,
National Secretary*

2023 Pre-Convention Committees

Credentials

June 13, 2023

- **Barbara Wesolowski – Chair**
- Wanda Juda
- Monika Korczynska
- Raymond E. Kosinski
- Steve Tokarski

Alicja Kuklińska – Ex Officio

Membership

June 19, 2023

- **Edward Zavaski**
- Dawne Griffith
- Halina Kuczynski
- Agata Mscisz
- Elizabeth Stolarczuk

Jolanta Walaszek – Ex Officio

Fraternal

June 21, 2023

- **Val Pawlos - Chair**
- Malgorzata Bondyra
- Greg Chilecki
- Sean Jackson
- Jolanta Mazewski Dryden

Marian Grabowski – Ex Officio

Nominations

June 26, 2023

- **Sandra Schuster - Chair**
- Edward Brzozowski
- Katarzyna Niemczyk
- Leszek Krzyminski
- Irene Spiewak

Alicja Kuklińska – Ex Officio

Grievance

June 26, 2023

- **Teresa Sherman – Chair**
- Christine Hanson
- Wieslawa Kennedy
- Richard Poremski
- Bernadette Zubel

Alicja Kuklińska – Ex Officio

By-Laws

July 10-11, 2023

- **Frank Kokoszka - Chair**
- Irene Hercik
- Dave Milcinovic
- Christine McMullan
- David Tokarski

Frank Spula – Ex Officio



Polish National Union of America

June 19, 2023

49th Quadrennial Convention
Polish National Alliance
Mr. Frank Spula, CEO

Dear CEO Spula and Delegates,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Members of the Polish National Union of America, I, as the CEO of the Polish National Union, extend greetings to the 49th Quadrennial Convention of the Polish National Alliance. The membership of the PNU hope that your deliberations and actions prove to be fruitful for the advancement of the PNA. During these meetings, we also hope that you, as the delegates to the convention, approve the merger of our two organizations.

The Polish National Catholic Church organized in 1897 in Scranton, Pennsylvania when a group of Poles determined that they wanted and need to set the direction of their church. A young priest named Francis Hodur led this group of people looking for religious freedom and ownership. During these tumultuous times, many of the Polish Fraternal Organizations would not support the members of the fledgling church or its members. The Polish National Alliance in the Scranton Area was the only fraternal organization that would insure and support these people struggling to establish their church. The PNA not only supported the people of the PNCC but the PNCC itself. The PNA in the Scranton area purchased necessary items a Catholic Church needed, such as a monstrance for the Cathedral.

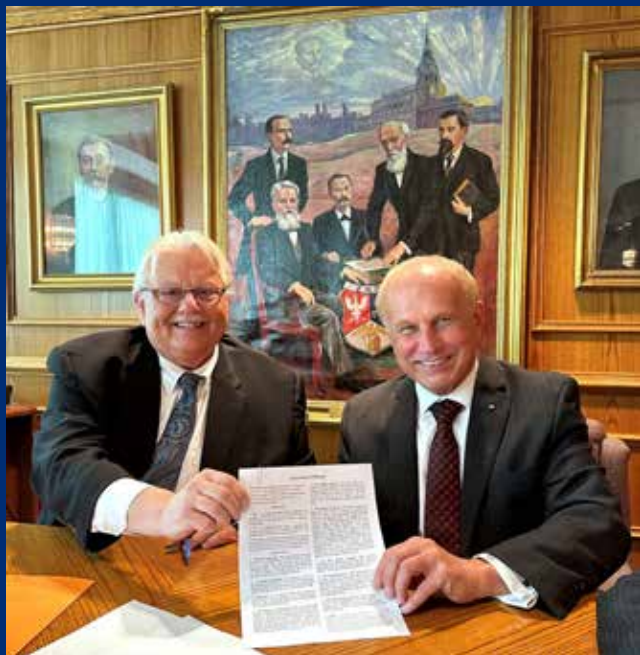
In 1908, Prime Bishop Francis Hodur organized the PNU to continue the direct assistance to the members of the PNCC and her parishes. While the PNU was organized by the PNCC, the PNU continued to work closely with the PNA in fostering benefits for members of Polonia. Fast forward to the 1990s, the PNU and the PNA in Chicago became good and close friends again. At that time, President Moskal and the President of the PNU began to discuss the possibility of the PNU and the PNA merge to solidify both organizations and to continue to promote fraternalism.

In 2022, the PNU reached out to several organizations to discuss the merger of our organization. During these discussions, it was determined that the very best organization to merge with was our friends at the Polish National Alliance. The two organizations' mission are still closely aligned as it was back in 1897. While the Board of Directors of the PNU did have to look at all possibilities for its members, the PNA was chosen unanimously.

As you deliberate during this convention, it is our hope that the question for approval of merger between our organizations is approved. We look forward to becoming a part of the PNA family and know we will work hard for the betterment of Polonia and all ethnicities.

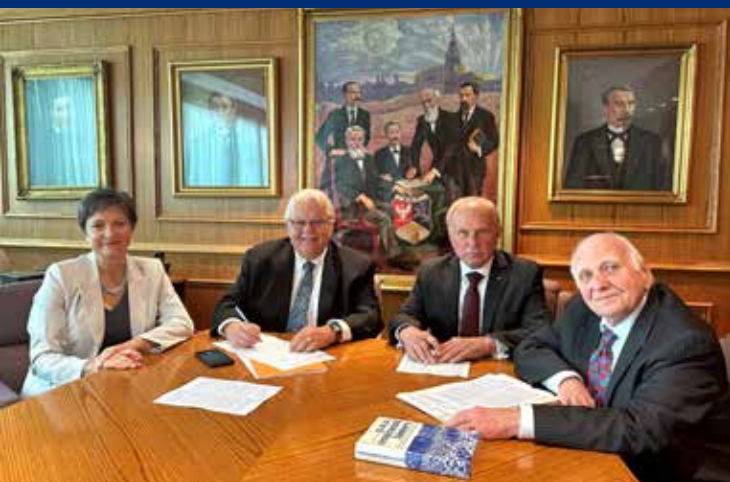
Fraternally,
Martin H. Wachna, Jr. CEO
and the Board of Directors of
The Polish National Union of America

PNA & PNU Merger Agreement



On June 15, 2023, CEO of the Polish National Alliance Frank Spula and CEO of the Polish National Union of America Martin Wachna signed an agreement to enter a merger between the PNA and PNU. Both CEOs met at the Polish National Alliance for the signing. The documents were signed and attested by National Secretary Alicja Kuklińska and National Treasurer Steve Tokarski.

Delegates of the 49th Quadrennial Convention will deliberate on the approval of this merger. If the merger is accepted by the delegates, the PNA will look forward to welcoming PNU members with open arms.



49TH PNA QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

Tentative Agenda

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

11:00 PM – 3:00 PM Registration

3:00 – 7:00 PM Opening Session

Welcome Remarks

Announcement of the Convention Officers

Oath of Office

Report of the Credentials Committee

Roll Call of the PNA Officers

Recess & Immediate Departure
to the PNA Headquarters (Bus)

7:30 – 10:00 PM Welcome Reception (PNA Office) &
Return to the Hotel (Bus)

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

8:00 – 10:00 AM Reports

10:00 – 10:30 AM Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:00 PM Continuation of Sessions

12:00 – 1:30 PM Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:30 PM Continuation of Sessions

3:30 – 4:00 PM Coffee Break

4:00 – 7:00 PM Continuation of Sessions

Presentation of Candidates

Elections

Resolutions

Election Results

Recess

8:00 – 10:30 PM Dinner Reception (at the Hyatt Regency)

Thursday, August 31, 2023

8:00 – 12:00 PM Continuation of Sessions

New Business

Installation of Officers

Adjournment

12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch

Agenda is subject to change.

Election 2023

Candidates for the Elective Offices of the Polish National Alliance

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS



FRANK J. SPULA - CHAIRPERSON

CHICAGO, IL - INCUMBENT

Serving as your President and Chairperson has been a great honor, and I cherish the special connections I have made and the experiences that I've gained. I have proudly committed my life to the PNA and appreciate the knowledge I have attained by working in various positions. My journey at the PNA started in the copy room of the Treasurer's Office. Since then, I have been passionate about fulfilling PNA's mission of protecting families, serving others, and promoting Polish heritage in the United States.

I am grateful for the opportunities I have received over the years. I had the honor of being Chairman of two National Conventions as well as chairing various conferences for other organizations. Being President of the Polish American Congress has assisted me in establishing relationships with local, state, and federal officials, which I have also been able to leverage for the benefit of the PNA. Currently, I serve as a Director on the board of the Edgebrook-Sauganash Chamber of Commerce which allows me to build valuable relationships and promote the PNA beyond our ethnic community.

Every organization faces challenging times, and as President, it has always been my responsibility to make informed decisions that are in the best interest of our members. I have found every year that I have served at the PNA to be extremely rewarding, and I am thankful for everyone's support and encouragement. I see the bright future that PNA has ahead of itself and ask for your continued support in leading the organization.



WESLEY MUSIAL - VICE-CHAIRPERSON

PHILADELPHIA, PA - INCUMBENT

I am 72 years young and from Philadelphia, PA. My family includes my older brother, Walter Jr., his wife Ruth, and their three sons Walter III, Michael, and Christopher. My education is comprised of parochial school and Jesuit sponsored secondary and college level institutions. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a minor in Economics from St. Joseph's College.

I was involved in the family Polish sausage business for over 49 years. This experience enabled me to establish and nurture my business acumen in conjunction with developing my social skills to provide a basis for a successful career in the business world.

I became involved in the PNA following the death of my father, Dr. Walter Musial Sr. in 1976. I have held the position of Lodge Financial Secretary and various Council Offices. In 1991, I was elected as Male Commissioner of District 6, and held the position for two terms. Subsequently, I was twice elected as a National Director from Region D. Following that I served three terms as Censor where I headed the Supervisory Council, and as per the By-Laws, was the Watch-Dog over the PNA. After the dissolution of the position of Censor, I was elected as the initial Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors. My Fellow Delegates, I believe my cultural, educational, business, and fraternal background and experience provide an excellent foundation and basis for a position of leadership in the PNA.



ALICJA KUKLIŃSKA – NATIONAL SECRETARY

HIGHLAND PARK, IL – INCUMBENT

Honorable Representatives to the 49th PNA Quadrennial Convention, I feel privileged working for the PNA as its National Secretary and appreciate the trust bestowed on me by the Delegates of the 48th Quadrennial Convention.

With your approval, I would like to continue my service to the organization and its members by leading our wonderful team of dedicated membership services employees and working alongside distinguished fellow PNA officers and directors. I appreciate the opportunity to apply my education, professional experience, and enthusiasm for the betterment of the PNA and Polish-American community, which I proudly represent.

Born and educated in Poland, as many of you, I followed the American dream which brought me to Chicago, the largest Polish population in the world, and home of the PNA. I dedicated my time and talents to the organization that provides financial security to its members and preserves Polish heritage in the United States. I genuinely believe in the PNA's mission and importance to the community. My commitment is now reinforced through my experience as the PNA National Secretary.

The Convention, being the PNA's highest governing body, provides its representatives with the aptitude to further advance the organization and select the most qualified and skilled individuals to be its leaders. I wish you successful deliberations and wise decisions rewarding your diligence with a great sense of accomplishment!



ANTHONY NOWAK-PRZYGODZKI – TREASURER

CORONA, CA

I was born and raised in Orange, CA, and am currently a resident of Eastvale, CA. My late parents, Adam and Zofia Nowak-Przygodzki, immigrated to the United States in 1959 to start a family. I earned my bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton, in Business Administration. Also, I completed a 3-year program with Pomona Colleges, Western CUNA Management School certificate, and a leadership program with the University of Southern California.

My professional training/career experience has been through working in the credit union industry. The credit union is a not-for profit, member-owned, financial cooperative. The credit union industry is like the fraternal industry as it is constantly battling the for-profit alternative.

My experience at the PNA started as a teenager being involved in the local lodge and council. This helped me learn about the organization and share in its successes. At the time I joined, I was dancing for a folklore dance group, Gorale Folk Dancers. I have been elected a delegate to the past five National Conventions since Denver. I strive to grow professionally and personally in everything I do, learning all that I can from those that were in leadership positions. I am currently a PNA National Director.

I am a member of other fraternal organizations, such as the Knights of Columbus. I truly believe in grass-root fraternalism and hope that our great organization has a very long future of supporting and providing services to our members. My purpose is to help our members build better lives with protecting their family's financial wellbeing. I have held positions in the local chapters for the credit union industry as well as on boards for the local Chambers of Commerce. I'm active in charitable activities for the community. I am proud to be Polish and have a 100% PNA member family.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5 DIRECTORS TO BE ELECTED



GREG CHILECKI

ORANGE, CA

I was born in Poland. In 1989, I came to the USA as a political refugee, and shortly after joined the PNA. Since then, I have held many positions in the PNA, starting as Vice President of Lodge 3259 “Piaśt” and then its President, Treasurer of Council 73, District 16 Commissioner, Fraternal Director, and Fraternal Advisor of Region J. I was elected as a representative to six National Conventions and served on many pre-convention committees representing my District.

I am exceptionally knowledgeable about the financial product and fraternal activities of the PNA. I also understand the trends and areas in which fraternal organizations must operate to succeed in the current environment. Being a partner owner in a successful construction business, I have financial acumen, understand financial management, budgeting, and reporting, and know how to solve issues. As a community leader, I organized many events, festivals, and cultural happenings in Southern California, making PNA visible and providing opportunities for our sales representatives. I am a team player with leadership, organizational, and communication skills that earned me respect of my community which I proudly represent.

For over 12 years, I served as a member of the financial committee at the Polish Center in Yorba Linda, CA. Recently, I initiated cooperation between the PNA and Polam FCU, recognizing the opportunity to expand the PNA membership. I would like to continue applying my business dispositions and collaboration skills for the growth of our organization on national, and perhaps one day, international level. If elected National Director, I promise to work diligently so our organization grows in strength and its members can benefit from the financial stability of the PNA. I believe in hard work, cooperation and principals that make the PNA the leading fraternal ethnic organization in the United States.



VAL PAWLOS

PITTSBURGH, PA - INCUMBENT

I have been a member of the PNA for over 40 years. I have held many positions in the PNA. I am currently your National Director. I have been Business Director, Fraternal Director and Sports Director all on a national level of the PNA. I was President of Lodge 1052 for 33 years and I am still Secretary of Council 145 for over 40 years. I feel I am very qualified to serve as your National Director for the next four years. My history of making decisions for you have always been in the best interest for the organization.

I have received awards for my abilities in serving the community and for my accomplishments, including Man of the Year for District 8, Man of the Year for the Kosciuszko Foundation, and the PNA Silver Medal. Council of the City of Pittsburgh awarded a day named after me for my active community service. I have been a delegate for the last six national conventions and a delegate in District 8 for the last 40 years. I have also served on numerous committees for both national and district conventions.

My family is 5th generation PNA members. My wife Janet of 44 years, my daughter Erin (Eric), son Michael (Emily), and grandsons Marino and Robert are all PNA members. I am asking for your vote in making sure the right decisions are made for the betterment and future of the PNA. It would be an honor to keep serving you as your National Director for the next four years.



MARY SRODON

GURNEE, IL

It is my pleasure to introduce myself to you, although you know me well as a loyal employee to the PNA for the past 45 years - since 1978. As a longtime employee, my goal has always been to serve our members efficiently and professionally, and that's why I've taken pride in everything I've done for our organization. In fact, it was my knowledge of PNA and passion that led me to take on this role as Fraternal Coordinator. Consequently, I have organized and operated all major PNA events, from educational programs to Polish and American patriotic celebrations, banquets to sports tournaments, and beyond. Working as Fraternal Coordinator at PNA required me to wear multiple hats within our organization, and this led me to become an effective communicator, great planner, master of budgeting and operations, and marketing aficionado.

Since 1983, I have attended 11 National Conventions in the capacity of taking minutes. In 2003, I was elected as a delegate to the 44th Convention, making this my sixth convention as a delegate. For over 20 years, I serve as President of Lodge 3241 and Financial Secretary/Treasurer of Council 120. I believe my years of experience at PNA, my knowledge, understanding of our organization in-and-out, and dedication make me an expert-level candidate to continue serving as a business leader for PNA's growth. Through my work, I believe I have created positive change at PNA that has impacted our organization's image echoing into the outside world.

I have been with PNA for longer than I have been married to my dear husband John of 37 years! Our two children, and three grandchildren are 100% PNA family through and through! It would be an honor to continue to serve PNA as a National Director.



STELLA SZCZESNY

HAMTRAMCK, MI

I am running for a position as a member of the PNA Board of Directors and feel that I am qualified for the position. For the last twenty years, I have served as President of Council 122 and Lodge 1758. In addition, I served four years as Commissioner of Council 10, four years as Director of District 10 and currently serve as Region E Fraternal Advisor. In these various positions I have learned the workings of the PNA at various levels. In 2018, I handled the sale of the council building due to increasing costs and decreasing revenues. It was a very difficult decision but one that had to be made.

During my tenure with the State of Michigan as a Personnel Management Specialist, I served on several major projects requiring adopting and changing long standing procedures. One such project was a total revamping of the Unemployment Insurance Agency, specifically the electronic application and payment system. The project eliminated over 30 offices and implemented a phone and computer-based application system. Another major project involved a total revamp of the position application system, record maintenance systems and payroll systems. All these projects required attention to detail, the use and implementation of best business practices and overseeing the changes.

My Masters of Business Administration from the University of Detroit – Mercy also serves to add to my qualifications. In addition to an undergraduate degree and an MBA, I have completed Project Management Training, Myer-Briggs Type Certification, Expert Witness Training, and Confronting Conflict Training. I feel that my experience, education, and past positions would make me an asset to the national offices of the PNA. In addition, I feel that I have the ability to make the necessary decisions to promote the growth and advancement of the PNA.



DAVID TOKARSKI

CROWN POINT, IN

I am a candidate for one of the five positions for the PNA Board of Directors at this convention. I come from a one hundred percent family of lifelong members of the Polish National Alliance and serve as Vice President of the Silver Bell Club of the PNA (Lodge 2465). At the 48th PNA Convention I was selected to serve on the by-laws committee and then served as convention parliamentarian. I have served as a delegate to numerous PNA Council 127 meetings. For my own lodge, I have served on the scholarship committee repeatedly and helped award scholarships to members.

As a practicing attorney for the past sixteen years, my knowledge of the law would provide a key skill to the PNA board identified by the insurance regulators. The job of a lawyer is largely one of a problem solver. I am accustomed to finding a consensus between my clients and other parties who have contentious, opposing views. This legal perspective would benefit the PNA Board of Directors.

As a former president and current active member of the National Advocates Society, a group of Polish-American attorneys and judges, I have experience with management of an organization. During my tenure, I ran my own joint convention with the National Medical and Dental Association. I continue to serve the NAS/NMDA as the editor of their joint Annual Bulletin, a position I've held since 2006. I am a graduate of Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN, and the University of Dayton School of Law in Dayton, OH. I ask that you vote for me and look forward to speaking with you at the upcoming convention.



JEFFREY TWARDY

PITTSBURGH, PA - INCUMBENT

Whether at a sporting event, youth event or a black tie affair, I have the comfort level, knowledge, and experience. I hope utilizing these qualifications illustrate that I can continue to be an asset to PNA, whether in the capacity of business, management or fraternalism. Throughout my many experiences with Lodge 1052 of Pittsburgh, PA, you could say I have learned through the years from the very best. My years of experiences run the gamut, from a participant and management of national tournaments (bowling, golf, softball), to locally being the chairman of the Raymond S. Twardy Scholarship Fund for Lodge 1052.

My business acumen is honed by 27+ years working in the public sector and has provided many projects, transitions and educational experiences that have shaped my skills to understand, solve and manage solutions to complex business problems. I am a graduate of Duquesne University - Business Administration/Finance. Of course, I couldn't do any of this without the support from my two little ladies, Stephanie (15) and Sydney (12), and I hope I can show them the PNA as my grandfather had done with me.



ANNA WIERZBICKI

CHICAGO, IL

I am a lifelong PNA member, continuing my family's commitment to the organization and the Polish-American community. In being a National Director in Region H (District 13) for two terms, I have learned many aspects of our organization, including those ideas and programs that can be implemented and improved upon, along with new ones. I ask for the opportunity to be able to accomplish them. I was a representative to previous conventions and had the privilege to serve on pre-convention committees along with being chosen as the Secretary of the 2019 Convention held in Arizona.

I was born in Chicago and received my Associate Degree in Nursing at Triton College and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from DePaul University. After 20+ years of working in the ICU at Community First Medical Center, I have transitioned into case management.

My PNA background consists of being active in various aspects of the organization, from current to former officer positions held on the lodge, council, and district levels. This does not include all the meetings or events I participated in and committees I served on. Recently, I volunteered at the National Bowling Tournament held in Reno, NV. I strongly believe that members are the strength of the organization. Our predecessors recognized the importance of the financial protection for the hardworking Polish immigrants and the need to preserve our heritage. It is our duty to continue expanding membership and promoting PNA through fraternal, community undertakings.

Sincere greetings and congratulations to the delegates elected as Representatives to the 49th Quadrennial Convention. I look forward to meeting and seeing you at the Convention, and humbly ask for your support so I could have the privilege to serve PNA as a National Director.



EDWARD ZAVASKI

WALLINGFORD, CT

Since becoming a member of the PNA in 1986, I made a conscientious decision to get actively involved and make a difference. Since 2013, I have served as lodge president. During this period, we have grown the lodge and made significant enhancements to the grounds and property. We have managed to grow our club financially and have been involved with District 2 in Connecticut where I serve as president too. I received the PNA District 2 Man of the Year Award in 2011.

In 2019, I was elected as a delegate to the National Convention in Phoenix, AZ, and made a presentation to all delegates. The PNA is certainly an organization that I am familiar with and understand its corporate philosophy and goals. Mr. Spula has utilized my services as a sales trainer, and I have traveled to a variety of locations across the country to work with PNA sales representatives in an effort to help them develop and improve their sales skills.

Because of my extensive background in management and sales of over 45 years, the experience I bring will definitely be an asset. The functions of planning, organization, motivating, and control have been my guiding management principles. Starting sales businesses from scratch operations and turning them into successful businesses has been very fulfilling. As a Nationwide agency principal, I lead our teams to achieve the top 1% of company sales force.

I am fully licensed in all lines of insurance. I also co-founded an independent insurance agency back in 1987. I have served on the Board of Directors for organizations such as Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development for the Town of Wallingford, etc. This experience has allowed me to grow, develop, and work with individuals of all backgrounds.



PNA CONVENTIONS

49. Rosemont, Illinois	August 29-31, 2023	22. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	September 16-21, 1918
48. Phoenix, Arizona	August 25-28, 2019	21. Schenectady, New York	September 27-October 3, 1915
47. Cleveland, Ohio	August 23-26, 2015	20. Detroit, Michigan	September 15-22, 1913
46. Minneapolis, Minnesota	August 18-21, 2011	19. St. Louis, Missouri	October 9-14, 1911
45. Jersey City, New Jersey	August 23-26, 2007	18. Milwaukee, Wisconsin	October 11-16, 1909
44. Denver, Colorado	September 6-10, 2003	17. Baltimore, Maryland	October 23-28, 1907
43. Buffalo, New York	September 11-15, 1999	16. Buffalo, New York	October 23-28, 1905
42. Providence, Rhode Island	August 19-23, 1995	15. Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania	October 19-24, 1903
41. Garden Grove, California	September 8-13, 1991	14. Toledo, Ohio	October 14-20, 1901
40. Chicago, Illinois	September 13-18, 1987	* Chicago, Illinois	March 19-24, 1900
39. Orlando, Florida	September 18-23, 1983	13. Grand Rapids, Michigan	October 16-21, 1899
38. Washington, D.C.	August 26-31, 1979	12. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	October 6-21, 1897
37. Milwaukee, Wisconsin	September 21-26, 1975	11. Cleveland, Ohio	September 9-14, 1895
36. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	September 19-24, 1971	10. Chicago, Illinois	September 4-9, 1893
35. Detroit, Michigan	September 17-22, 1967	9. Detroit, Michigan	September 21-29, 1891
34. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	September 15-20, 1963	8. Buffalo, New York	September 10-15, 1889
33. Hartford, Connecticut	September 20-25, 1959	7. St. Paul, Minnesota	September 12-15, 1887
32. Minneapolis, Minnesota	September 18-23, 1955	6. Bay City, Michigan	July 5-7, 1886
31. Buffalo, New York	September 23-29, 1951	5. LaCrosse, Wisconsin	February 14-17, 1885
30. Cleveland, Ohio	August 24-30, 1947	* Chicago, Illinois	February 21-23, 1884
29. Boston, Massachusetts	September 19-25, 1943	4. Milwaukee, Wisconsin	September 21-24, 1883
28. Detroit, Michigan	September 10-16, 1939	3. Chicago, Illinois	September 21-23, 1882
27. Baltimore, Maryland	September 15-21, 1935	2. New York, New York	September 21-24, 1881
26. Scranton, Pennsylvania	September 20-26, 1931	1. Chicago, Illinois	September 15-18, 1880
25. Chicago, Illinois	September 19-20, 1927		
* Chicago, Illinois	August 27-September 1, 1928	* Special Conventions	
24. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	August 25-30, 1924		
23. Toledo, Ohio	September 26-October 1, 1921		

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Unforgettable Memories Unfolded

Over the past four years, our organization has shown incredible resilience and creativity in organizing numerous fun-filled events, even amidst the challenges posed by a pandemic. Despite the obstacles, we remained committed to fostering a sense of community and joy among our members. Here are just a few out of the many events that we look back on fondly!

PNA 140TH ANNIVERSARY



POLONIA FOR UKRAINE



SONG & DANCE CONCERT



GOLF TOURNAMENT



BOWLING TOURNAMENT



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60	\$12,577.80	\$11,688.30
65	\$14,638.80	\$13,720.20
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