



# POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

Your Voice  
in America!

## *POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS* *Council of National Directors Meeting*

*OCTOBER 17-18, 2014**CHICAGO, ILLINOIS*

**E**ighty-two national officers and national directors met in Chicago for a two-day meeting to discuss a variety of topics related to the business of the Polish American Congress.

Friday focused on national officer reports, as well as the financial status of the organization.

Vice President for American Affairs, Anthony Bajdek, reviewed the progress being made in the area of Immigration Reform, specifically how this legislation affects the Visa Waiver Program for Poland. Bajdek explained how Washington's gridlock is causing this legislation to be at a standstill. Bajdek expressed the need to increase the number of PAC state divisions, as well as the importance of supporting candidates who are supportive of Polish issues and concerns.

Vice President for Cultural Affairs, Deborah Majka, reported on her many activities to support the greater appreciation of Polish history and culture.

Rick Mazella, Vice President for Membership Development, reported on his efforts to increase membership. He called for renewed cooperation between state divisions to share ideas about what groups are doing to stimulate new members.

Bozena Kaminski, Vice President for Polish Affairs, introduced Longin Komolowski,

President of the Polish Community Association, who spoke to those assembled regarding the importance of people working together to forge a stronger relationship between Poland and America.

Robert Hughes from the Frank J. Baker Accounting firm reviewed the financial status of the Polish American Congress. Thanks to the successful 70th Anniversary event in Buffalo and continued cost effective measures being employed, the net assets of the organization increased from \$2,866 in 2013 to \$26,402 as of the nine month period ending September 30, 2014.

Also on Friday, the election of national officers took place. Each candidate for a contested office explained their reasons for running, as well as what they planned to do if elected. Following their presentations, those present began the voting process. The results of the election were announced by elections chairperson Christine McMullan at the evening dinner.

Saturday's session began with the opportunity for officers and directors to have breakfast together. Informal discussions provided not only the chance to share the activities taking place around the country, but also renewed and built friendships.

Saturday's general session began with a report from the Executive Council. One major item was the decision to create

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### PAC Newsletter: WHY?

**Information is power.** Organizations important as the Polish American Congress need to communicate with its members through its national directors.

The purpose of this newsletter will be to periodically communicate information that is important to its members. This newsletter is the first of many that will come your way. The goal is to produce at least one newsletter every two months. There will be additional newsletters when necessary.

Future newsletters will be electronically sent to national directors on the following dates: the second Friday of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November, 2015. If you have information you would like included in the newsletter, please make sure it is sent to me no later than the deadline for submissions: the first Friday preceding the dates of publication listed above. Please keep your articles short and feel free to send a photo with caption to add to your story.

Thank you!

**Mark Pienkos**

PAC National Vice President  
for Public Relations

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## Give us your Opinion!

FIND OUT MORE ON PG. 2



# President's Message

FRANK SPULA, PRESIDENT OF POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

Dear Directors,

I bring greeting to you in our first electronic newsletter. Thanks to newly elected Vice President Mark Pienkos for undertaking this task.

I express my gratitude to the Directors who attended the last meeting, participated in the discussion as well as in the election of officers.

The Polish American Congress is in the midst of challenge and response – as it has been since the founding 70 years ago.

Our responsibility is to build for the future with an eye toward the constancy of change and with an acceptance that our job is never done. There will always be issues facing us, in our divisions, whether defending the good name of Poles and Poland, disparaging remarks against the community, issues in Poland, etc...

Unfortunately, the immigration reform bill is at a standstill and is not going to get passed this year. A lot of effort was put forth, but none the less, the issue of visa for Poland did not occur. Not yet, but we still have hope for the future.

The life blood of any organization is its membership and in order to be a more viable and effective organization we need to recruit more members in local state divisions. By having more members locally, more influence is provided both on local and national matters.

I strongly believe that during the next two years we need to focus on younger members within our divisions to take on roles and we need to listen to their expectations so they are prepared to step in.

The issue of Russia and its political views and practices have been and will be of concern to Poland and its citizens. As a Polish American Congress we need to be vigilant when it comes to those important issues.

In closing, thank you again and let's build for a stronger organization.

Wishing you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday,

Respectfully,

*Frank J. Spula*  
President



## PAC wants to know what you think!



In the near future, you will be receiving a survey. The survey will ask you for your input on this newsletter. As well as other ideas you have. **Please respond ASAP.** A drawing will take place for those responding with a special gift awarded to the person whose name is drawn. Let's see how electronic surveys can help our organization function! Again, look for this survey in your email!

## A Special thank you to our PAC Newsletter Committee

I want to thank the following individuals who have volunteered to serve on the Public Relations Committee. Their involvement will help in the quality of this publication.

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## COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS MEETING

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1...

two new membership categories for organizations that may be interested in becoming involved with the Polish American Congress.

During the morning session, officers and national directors met in small groups to discuss a series of topics ranging from how to engage new members, especially young professionals, how to increase PAC's visibility and influence in American politics and society, and how to increase funding for our organization. Following these brainstorming sessions, each group reported on their discussions. One issue still to be resolved is where the next Polish American Congress National Directors meeting will be held. Since we will be meeting only once next year, it was debated as to the importance of having next year's meeting held in Washington, D.C.

After lunch, brief reports from state divisions took place. Finally, resolutions were offered for the Council of National Directors to consider. One resolution that passed focused on the crisis in the Ukraine and the threat it posed on Poland. A resolution was approved directing the President of the Polish American Congress, Frank Spula, to write a letter to the American government expressing our grave concerns and urging military support for Poland. A second resolution was debated and ultimately approved directing President Spula to write a letter requesting Congressional Hearings on the Smolensk crash.

The Council of National Directors meeting adjourned in good fellowship at 4:00 p.m. ■



## SUMMARY

Brainstorming Session

A portion of the morning meeting on Saturday was devoted to small table discussions on the following topics: engaging today's younger professionals, expanding PAC membership, increasing PAC revenues, increasing Polish American visibility especially in politics and society, discussing the major issues confronting Polish Americans, and what should be PAC's focus for the next two years.



**Peter Suchcki**, President of the PAC Massachusetts Eastern Division, is to be thanked for offering the name for this PAC Newsletter: "Your Voice in America." Peter suggested this name at the brainstorming session held on Saturday morning in Chicago. **Dziękuję, Peter!**

# Polish Affairs in the Spotlight

BY MARIA SZONERT BINIENDA  
PAC VICE PRESIDENT FOR POLISH AFFAIRS

As the incoming Vice President of Polish Affairs, I would like to express my appreciation to those who supported my candidacy during the recent elections and encourage all national directors to share your ideas, issues and concerns with me. As Vice President of Polish Affairs, I will be listening to the voices of all Polish-Americans because only by working together we can make a difference. It is also my intent to maintain close relations with Poland, including the executive and legislative branches as well as non-governmental and grass-root organizations. I look forward to the support of the Executive Board and the National Council of PAC in facilitating this important process of working together.

I won the 2014 elections based on high expectations of the Solidarity Generation that the Polish American Congress would become more active on the Polish matters, including the issues of Poland's security and problems with the investigation into the Smolensk crash. I also recognize high expectations of Polonia that the Polish-American Congress undertake pro-active steps to effectively combat anti-Polonism. Educational challenges and social issues will be of concern to me as well.

Immediately following the October 17, 2014 elections, I travelled to Poland where I had the opportunity to meet with various constituencies. In particular, I paid a visit to the Sejm where I met with Deputy Marshal Marek Kuchciński. We discussed possible forms of cooperation between the Sejm and the PAC, in particular a possibility of co-sponsoring a high-level conference on Poland's security in Washington, DC.

I also took part in the session of the Sejm Commission for Cooperation with Polonia, where I had an opportunity to meet a newly nominated Consul General of the Republic of Poland to New York. On November 5, 2014, Urszula Gacek was approved by the Sejm Commission on Polonia for the position of New York Consul General. She takes office on December 1, 2014.

Ms. Gacek was born in Urmston, Great Britain. Her parents experienced Siberian



Reception at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the European Council for the plaintiffs and their legal teams in the Janowiec vs. Russia case, Strasbourg, 13 February 2013.



Marek Kuchciński, Deputy Marshal of the Sejm and Maria Szonert Binienda, V.P. of Polish Affairs, Polish American Congress, Warsaw, October 26, 2014.

deportations and served under General Anders. She learned Polish in the Polish language schools and graduated from Oxford University majoring in political science. Ms. Gacek is an expert on human rights with experience in working with the United Nations and the European Tribunal on Human Rights in Strasbourg.

I met Ms. Gacek while supporting the plaintiffs in the Janowiec case (Katyn families' complaint) before the European Tribunal for Human Rights in Strasbourg. Ms. Gacek made an extra effort to properly welcome and support the Katyn families who came to Strasbourg for the hearing before the Grand Chamber of the European Tribunal on February 13, 2013.

Ultimately, the European Tribunal held on October 17, 2013, that it has no jurisdiction to hear the Janowiec complaint. Thus as of today, Russia does not have to properly investigate and prosecute the Katyn crime. With the appointment of Ms. Gacek as Consul General in New York, Polonia may hope for more progress on the proper resolution of the Katyn case - a grave international crime that has never been adjudicated and punished.

During my visit to Poland I had the opportunity to experience the most unique Polish holiday - All Saints Day - celebrated every November 1. The atmosphere of All Saints Day represents the essence of Poland. On this day the Polish people visit the cemeteries and their family graves. My entire family gathers every year at the family grave to pray and commemorate our loved ones who departed before us. The day was warm, full of memories, flowers and candle lights.

In concluding my report, I kindly request that each PAC state division and each PAC national organization designate its Representative for Polish Affairs by January 1, 2015, and forward the contact information of such designated Polish Affairs Representative to my attention at [mszonert@hotmail.com](mailto:mszonert@hotmail.com). I will work closely with your Representatives in order to properly address numerous concerns of the Polonia community and effectively implement the Polish Agenda. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter. I look forward to working with all PAC directors and members.





# POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS



## Election Results

Every two years, national officers of the PAC are elected. On October 17, 2014, the following individuals ran for office. The sponsoring organization(s) for the candidate is listed.

The results were: →

## National PAC Officers taking Oath of Office



Frank Spula, President; Debbie Majka, VP for Cultural Affairs; Rick Mazella, VP for Membership; Maria Szonert, VP for Polish Affairs; Anthony Bajdek, VP for American Affairs; Tim Kuzma, Secretary; Mark Pienkos, VP for Public Relations.

### President

Frank Spula, PNA - 52  
Ludwik Wnekowicz, NJ Division - 30

### First Vice President

Delphine Huneycutt, PWA

### Secretary

Timothy Kuzma, PFA

### Treasurer

Robert Maycan, PNU

### Vice President American Affairs

Anthony Bajdek, NH Division - 62  
John Czop, NJ Division - 20

### Vice President Polish Affairs

Maria Szonert, NY Long Island, OH, and IL Divisions - 41  
Bonzena Kaminski NY Downstate Division - 40

### Vice President Public Relations

Mark Pienkos, WI and NY Long Island Divisions - 56  
Susanne Lotarski, Washington Metro Division - 26

### Vice President Cultural Affairs

Debbie Majka, ACPC - 63  
Jozef Krutul ,IL Division - 15

### Vice President Membership Development

Rick Mazella Western , NY Division - 51  
Boguslaw Niemczewski, IL Division - 29

### Vice President Financial Development

Hubert Cioromski, PNA

### Nominating/Election Committee:

Christine J. McMullan, Chair, Frances X. Gates, Rev. Carl Urban

**T**he Polish American Leadership Summit meeting took place on March 11-12, 2014, in Pittsburgh. This gathering was proposed in Chicago in May, 2013, at the meeting of the Polish American Congress (PAC) Council of National Directors. The idea was to bring leaders of the major national organizations of Americans of Polish heritage together for the purpose of sitting down with each other to discuss the central issues we face today as a Polish American community and to adopt an action program that, if followed, will help respond to these issues.

The proposal to hold such a Summit was approved unanimously by the PAC leadership. A coordinating committee headed by Tim Kuzma, President of the Polish Falcons of America (PFA), and including Barbara Anderson of the Washington Office of the PAC and U.W.-Milwaukee Professor Emeritus Don Pienkos.

Taking part in the Summit were: Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, Msgr. Thomas Machalski (Rector, Orchard Lake Seminary), Rev. Walter Ptak (President, Polish American Priests Association), Anna Sokolowska and James Robaczewski (Vice President and National Secretary, respectively, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America fraternal), Irene Jujan (President, Polish National Union of America fraternal), Sharon Zago (Vice President, Polish Women's Alliance of America fraternal),

Deborah Majka (Past President, American Council of Polish Culture), Gregory Fryc (President, Pangea Alliance), Mary Kay Pieski (Director, Kosciuszko Foundation of America), Alexander Fiedotjew (President, National Advocates Society), Thaddeus Radzilowski (Piaśt Institute and Polish American Historical Association), Ewa Koch (President, Polish Teachers Association), Dorota Andraka (President, Polish Supplementary School Council of America), Nick Sadowski (Vice President, Nowy Dziennik), Jan Saykiewicz (Director, Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America), James Kaczynski (Polish American Journal), Tim Kuzma (President, Polish Falcons of America fraternal), Bożena Kaminska and Anthony Bajdek (Vice Presidents, Polish American Congress), Barbara B. Anderson (Washington Office, PAC), and Don Pienkos (past director, Polish National Alliance fraternal). PNA/PAC President Spula was unable to attend due to circumstance arising at the last moment.

For two days the participants sat down together, talked, and listened to one another, all in an atmosphere to identify the problems our community faces and to find ways to deal with them, together.

#### *Five general themes came up for discussion:*

**1.** Finding ways for Polish American organizations to energize the Polish American

community and their own memberships by engaging them in our heritage and in so doing strengthening the organizations themselves.

**2.** Reaching out more effectively to young people of Polish heritage.

**3.** Building coalitions with like-minded people and organizations outside our Polish American community to advance shared interests and goals.

**4.** Finding ways for our community to more effectively work with Poland so as to advance the relationship between our two countries.

**5.** How our organizations might better “spread the word” in promoting wider awareness and interest in the activities, accomplishments, and causes that Polish Americans and Poland agree are important.

Forty specific resolutions to enhance the role of our Polish American organizations in achieving both their particular and their more general aims were established.

*(For the list of these resolutions one is invited to e-mail [dpienkos@uwm.edu](mailto:dpienkos@uwm.edu) or Polish Falcons President Tim Kuzma at [tkuzma@polishfalcons.org](mailto:tkuzma@polishfalcons.org).)*



## RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR POLAND



One of the resolutions approved unanimously during the Chicago meeting was the urging of support for Poland as a member of NATO. The resolution authorized President Spula to write to U.S. leaders, including President Obama, to strengthen NATO military presence in Poland due to the Russian threat. Offering the resolution was Krazysztof Zawitkowski from California.

## The year ahead: “Spreading an Awareness of our Rich Cultural Heritage”

BY DEBBIE MAJKA  
PAC NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Merriam Webster defines Culture as “the beliefs, customs and arts of a particular society, group, place or time.” Another definition is “the integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behavior that depends upon the capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations.”

As Vice President for Cultural Activities, my charter is to further the cause of Polish language, art, history, and cultural involvement and to promote the accomplishments that Poles and Polish-Americans have made to our modern American mosaic as well as to the world. Of extreme importance is to share this information beyond our own organization to the mainstream non-Polish community.

Although it seems far off, 2019 to be precise, I believe that we must start planning and organizing a national event to mark the 400th anniversary of the first work stoppage in the New World. We must also reach out to the labor unions to assist the Polish American Congress in organizing this commemoration.

The Jamestown Polish craftsmen’s strike of 1619 occurred in the settlement of Jamestown in the Virginia colony and was the first strike in the recorded history of North America. Polish craftsmen had been brought to the colony by colonial leader John Smith to make glassware, pitch, and tar. When the colony held its first election in 1619, the Polish craftsmen were not allowed to vote, and they went on strike on July 30, 1619. Due to the economic importance of these craftsmen in the young colony, colonial leaders bowed to the pressure and gave full voting rights to the Poles.

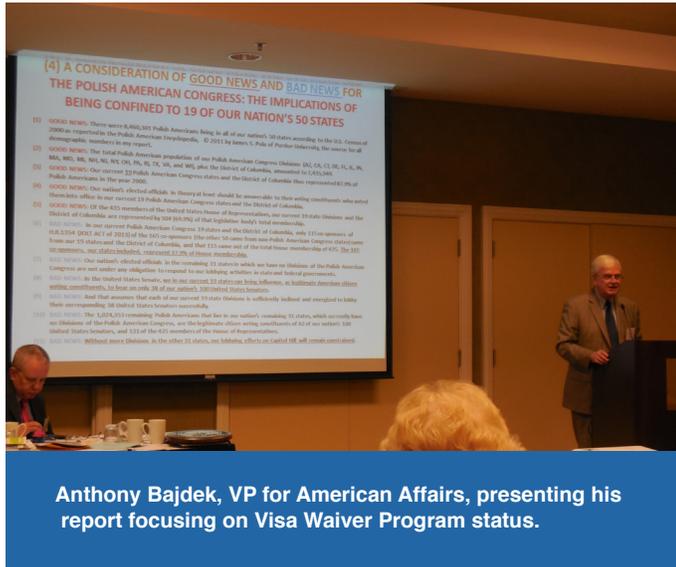
Following is an excerpt from the Thomas Jefferson papers: “Upon some dispute of the Polonians resident in Virginia, it was now agreed (notwithstanding any former order to the contrary) that they shall be enfranchised and made as free as any other inhabitant there whatsoever and because their skill in making pitch and tar and soap ashes shall not die with them, it is agreed that some young men shall be put into them to learn their skill and knowledge therein for the benefit of the country hereafter”.

In this new term, I’m looking forward to finding new and different ways of spreading an awareness of our rich cultural heritage to the mainstream community and working more closely with our Polish language schools to motivate them to participate in the National History Day contest with Polish topics.





# Our American Agenda and the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the Incoming 114th United States Congress which begins on January 3, 2015



Anthony Bajdek, VP for American Affairs, presenting his report focusing on Visa Waiver Program status.

**BY ANTHONY BAJDEK**  
PAC NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR AMERICAN AFFAIRS

## 1. GETTING BACK TO BASICS WHILE PREPARING OURSELVES TO ESTABLISH A COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS “FOOTPRINT” IN WASHINGTON, DC:

Whereas we as an activist organization in the political arena of the United States have been able to establish our Divisional “footprints” with varying degrees of success in our state capitals with the legislative and executive branches of state government, we have yet to establish an ongoing, and readily recognizable, Council of National Directors “footprint” on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC where our nation’s legislative action occurs. Our National Office presence at 1612 K Street, though necessary for the success of our mission, must not be left to stand alone in the task at hand. Based on the fact that, beginning in 2015, the Council of National Directors will meet once annually, it would be appropriate that it meets in mid-September for at least three full 9 to 5 days (remembering that the United States Congress is neither in session during weekends nor on Fridays, therefore making Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday the best combination), with the middle day

being established as our annual, or no less than biennial, “PAC Council of National Directors Day on Capitol Hill.” On the morning of that day, we Council members would visit our House and Senate Congressional delegations on a state-by-state basis. On the afternoon of that day, the Council would seek an audience with the Administration and/or the State or Defense Departments, for example, regarding our concern about Poland’s continuing exclusion from the Visa Waiver Program, on one hand, and Poland’s -- and European Union’s as well -- security concerns over Russia’s “pushing the limits of international order” and peace, as General Martin E. Dempsey, the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chief of Staff, recently discussed on November 5, 2014 in New York City.

**2. OUR PREPARATION SHOULD BE BASED ON UNITY OF PURPOSE AND UNIFORMITY OF STRENGTH IN PURSUIT OF VISA WAIVER STATUS FOR POLAND, AN OBJECTIVE THAT WE ALLOWED TO SLIP THROUGH OUR FINGERS DURING THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 113TH CONGRESS BECAUSE A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF OUR DIVISIONS HAD BEEN LESS THAN UNIFORM IN PULLING THEIR WEIGHT IN OUR ACTIVISM FOR ENLISTING H.R.1354 CO-SPONSORS:** The final “Box Score” of that effort appearing below clearly illustrates that disappointing shortcoming of our Divisions finishing with “battering” averages under .300:

<u>PAC DIVISION</u>	<u># POLISH AMERICANS</u>	<u>H.R.1354 CO-SPONSORS</u>	<u>FINAL BOX SCORE</u>
Delaware	33,107	1 co-sponsor out of 1 possibility	<b>1.000</b>
New Hampshire	32,164	2 co-sponsors out of 2 possibilities	<b>1.000</b>
Rhode Island	46,707	2 co-sponsors out of 2 possibilities	<b>1.000</b>
Florida	124,734	21 co-sponsors out of 27 possibilities	<b>.777</b>
Illinois	987,248	14 co-sponsors out of 18 possibilities	<b>.777</b>
Arizona	40,954	6 co-sponsors out of 9 possibilities	<b>.667</b>
Connecticut	282,027	3 co-sponsors out of 5 possibilities	<b>.600</b>
Ohio	462,533	8 co-sponsors out of 16 possibilities	<b>.500</b>
Massachusetts	323,310	3 co-sponsors out of 9 possibilities	<b>.333</b>
New Jersey	549,515	4 co-sponsors out of 12 possibilities	<b>.333</b>
WMAD**	240,462	6 co-sponsors out of 20 possibilities	<b>.300</b>
Wisconsin	520,873	2 co-sponsors out of 8 possibilities	<b>.250</b>
California	307,124	13 co-sponsors out of 53 possibilities	<b>.245</b>
Michigan	928,204	3 co-sponsors out of 14 possibilities	<b>.214</b>
Pennsylvania	993,409	3 co-sponsors out of 18 possibilities	<b>.167</b>
Texas	158,943	6 co-sponsors out of 36 possibilities	<b>.167</b>
Indiana	187,569	1 co-sponsor out of 9 possibilities	<b>.111</b>



**\*\*Our Washington Metropolitan Area Division** is comprised of the **District of Columbia** (26,438 Polish Americans) with 1 H.R.1354 co-sponsor out of 1 possibility; **Maryland** (150,735 Polish Americans) with 2 H.R.1354 co-sponsors out of 8 possibilities; and **Virginia** (63,289) with 3 co-sponsors out of 11 possibilities.

As soon as new Visa Waiver legislation is introduced, I will activate another weekly “Box Score” reporting system and ask that each Division appoint one of its National Directors to work with me so that the Polish American Congress can achieve a much better record of uniform success for enlisting co-sponsors. Those 17 representatives will in effect serve as our “Task Force” for purposes of achieving Visa Waiver status for Poland.

In retrospect, it is worth reviewing just how close we had been in the matter of success in reaching the 218 threshold for passage of H.R.1354 in its otherwise relentless progress until mid-July 2014. Of the three major bills introduced in the 113th (“DO NOTHING”) Congress -- during which its members introduced 10,132 bills in 2013-2014, Congress only passed 175 bills, of which President Obama signed 165 into law -- that included Visa Waiver provisions, H.R.1354 had the greatest promise of passage. However, bipartisan acrimony; the rise of ISIS and ISIL; Ukraine’s slow-motion dismemberment by Russia and attendant Russian-inspired shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight 17 by pro-Russian separatists; the Ebola epidemic; and lingering, ever-perilous domestic racial unrest in America had distracted Congressional attention and precluded Visa Waiver legislation passage, and that a comparison of H.R.1354 to H.R.300 and H.R.15 proves the point:

- **H.R.300 (VISA WAIVER FOR ISRAEL ACT OF 2013):** Introduced by Brad Sherman (D-CA) on January 15, 2013, and referred to the Judiciary Committee for consideration. It attracted 77 co-sponsors, with Ted Poe (R-TX) being the first on January 15, 2013, and Grace Meng (D-NY) being the last on April 28, 2014. The 77 co-sponsors were made up of 47 (61%) Democrats and 30 (39%) Republicans.
- **H.R.1354 (JOBS ORIGINATED THROUGH LAUNCHING TRAVEL ACT OF 2013):** Introduced by Joseph J. Heck (R-NV) on March 21, 2013, and referred to the Judiciary Committee for consideration. It attracted 165 co-sponsors, with Mike Quigley (D-IL) being the first on March 21, 2013, and Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) being the last on July 15, 2014. The 165 co-sponsors were made up of 89 (54%) Democrats and 76 (46%) Republicans.
- **H.R.15 (BORDER SECURITY, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, AND IMMIGRATION MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2013):** Introduced by Joe Garcia (D-FL) on October 2, 2013, and referred to 14 committees (Agriculture; Armed Services; Foreign Affairs; Homeland Security; Judiciary; Natural Resources; Oversight and Government Reform; Science, Space, and Technology; Transportation and Infrastructure; and Ways and Means) for consideration. It attracted 200 co-sponsors, with Judy Chu (D-CA) being the first on October 2, 2013, and Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) being the last on September 18, 2014. The 200 co-sponsors were made up of 197 (98.5%) Democrats and 3 (1.5%) Republicans. On March 24, 2014, its sponsor,

Joe Garcia (D-FL), filed a “Motion to Discharge” the 14 sub-committees from the process. A “Motion to Discharge” requires 218 signatures for bringing the bill to the floor of the full House of Representatives for an up or down vote. Given that the Motion attracted 192 signatures (all from Democrats), the Motion failed. It is to be noted that H.R.15 was the much-heralded massive immigration reform bill of the Administration.

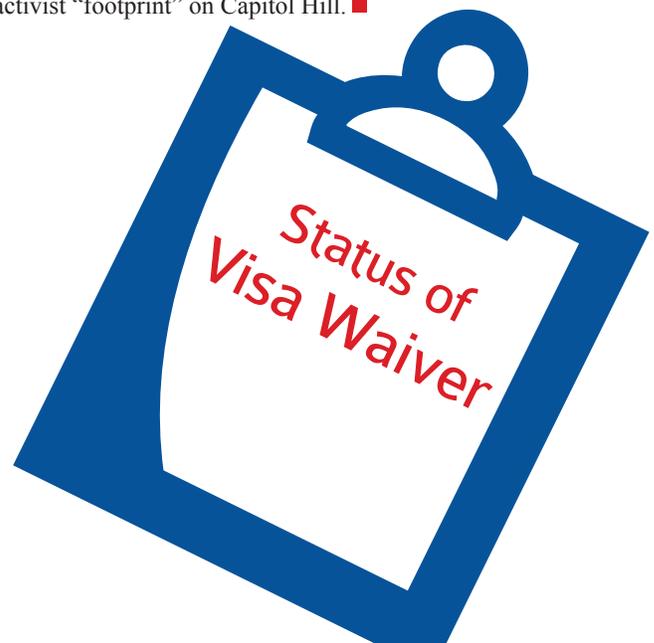
Consider as well that even H.R.300, the “Visa Waiver for Israel Act of 2013” failed to be passed.

Yet given that Poland’s exclusion from the Visa Waiver Program has persisted for over a decade in alternating Democratic and Republican administrations and in the alternately-controlled United States Congress, the only permanent source of that exclusion likely rests in the United States Department of State, and should be addressed by the Council as such.

Other organizations such as APAC (American Polish Advisory Council) may stage academic symposiums on subjects relating to the welfare of Poland, but the reality of the matter is that our nation’s lawmakers on Capitol Hill generally don’t react to the results of symposia, but they do respond to voter support, or lack thereof, among their constituents across our 50 states that constitute the United States of America.

We may be only some 80 to 110 or so National Directors, but we constitute a tangible body representing our nation’s Polish American citizen-voters organized in some 20 states and the District of Columbia, a point that we must more aggressively exploit.

**3. FROM NOW UNTIL THE COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS MEETING IN WASHINGTON, DC THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL EXERT EVERY PREPARATORY EFFORT FOR ESTABLISHING THE COUNCIL’S COORDINATED “FOOTPRINT”:** This will require targeted visits to Congressional leaders and Administration, State and Defense Department’s included, so that all concerned in our nation’s leadership will be cognizant to the breadth and depth of our to-be-reestablished collective activist “footprint” on Capitol Hill. ■





**Pictorial display from the Chicago meeting.**



*FROM YOUR  
POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE . . .*

*TO ALL OF OUR PAC NATIONAL  
DIRECTORS, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:*

*Happy  
Thanksgiving!*



# POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

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Founded in May, 1944, the Polish American Congress is a National Umbrella Organization, representing at least 10 million Americans of Polish descent and origin. Its membership is comprised of fraternal, educational, veteran, religious, cultural, social, business, political organizations and individual membership. The Polish American community prides itself on its deeply rooted commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy, hard work and fulfillment of the American dream. We are present in every state and virtually every community in America, on various social, business and economic levels.

The Polish American Congress, an “umbrella” organization, is a federation of over 3000 Polish American organizations and clubs, ranging from national fraternal benefit societies, such as the Polish National Alliance, Polish Women’s Alliance, Polish Roman Catholic Union, Polish Falcons and others, including veteran, cultural, professional, religious and social associations, with aggregate membership of over one million. The PAC by-laws also provide for individual membership, as well as associate membership.

The PAC promotes civic, educational and cultural programs designed to further not only the knowledge of Polish history, language and culture, but to stimulate Polish American involvement and accomplishments.

The governing body of the PAC is the Council of National Directors, consisting of directors elected by their respective State Divisions or National Organizations and up to 10 at-large directors elected by the Council. Day-to-day operations are conducted by the Executive Committee elected by the Council of National Directors for a two year term.

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## CONTACT US

### NATIONAL OFFICE

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