



POLISH AFFAIRS PG. 3 ■ 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL PG.4

BY-LAWS PG. 5 ■ WHAT POLAND MEANS FOR ME? PG. 5 ■ THREE SIMPLE POLISH AMERICAN

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS PG. 6 ■ THE PLAQUE COMMEMORATING GENERAL PULASKI PG. 7

SOLIDARITY ACCORDING TO WOMEN PG. 8 ■ PAC NEWSLETTER SURVEY RESULTS & PUBLICATION DATES PG. 10

Jan. 2015

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1

Your Voice
in America!



*Washington, D.C. ...
Here WE Come!*



PAC Newsletter: WHY?

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 is the second "Your Voice in America" newsletter and the first published in 2015. 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

262-325-8039
markpienkos2012@gmail.com

PLANNING FOR THE NEXT Council of National Directors Meeting

In 2015, we begin meeting once annually as a Council of National Directors. Plans are being laid for this gathering to take place in Washington, D.C. The exact dates and times are still in the works as a hotel venue needs to be secured. As soon as this information is finalized, you will be notified.

Why meet in Washington, D.C.?

In order for our organization to have visibility on a national level, we decided at our October meeting in Chicago to

plan for a trip to our nation's Capital. There, we will maximize our time with visits to Congressional offices, as well as meet to conduct our organization's business.

This will be a great opportunity for the PAC. In order for this meeting to be a success, we will need everyone present. Start planning for the Washington, D.C. meeting and as soon as specific information becomes available, you will be notified. Then, start making your plans to attend!



President's Message

Greetings,

A new year is upon us and I want to extend my most sincere appreciation to all the officers, directors, and members for their commitment to the Polish American Congress.

We are fortunate to have thoughtful and dedicated officers serving in the PAC Council of National Directors, as well as the divisions themselves.

In the upcoming months, elections will be held throughout the divisions to elect officers for the current year. Membership is the bedrock of the Polish American Congress and it is important to send out dues notices, as well as to make the effort to enroll new members. The more members a division has, the greater influence exists within the community.

Let's set goals for the divisions to expand the membership for 2015 by a specific percentage. Winning is a group effort!

As we celebrate this New Year, let's build for the future.

I wish you all a prosperous New Year with health, happiness, and future success!

Respectfully,

Frank J. Spula

PRESIDENT OF POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS



PAC Newsletter Committee

Anita Jedwabski (Massachusetts)
anitareliv@gmail.com

Ania Karwan (California)
ania_k@hotmail.com

Zbigniew Koralewski (New York)
zkoral@aol.com

Tim Kuzma (Pennsylvania)
tkuzma@polishfalcons.org

Boguslaw Niemczewski (Illinois)
bniemczewski@op.pl

Mark Pienkos (Wisconsin)
PAC National VP for Public Relations
markpienkos2012@gmail.com



Polish Affairs

BY MARIA SZONERT BINIENDA
PAC VICE PRESIDENT OF POLISH AFFAIRS

Polish Agenda Invites You!

The Polish Agenda Board (“PA Board”) chaired by PAC Vice President of Polish Affairs invites PAC directors and members to join and support the work of the Polish Agenda. The PA Board consists of Polish Agenda representatives from state divisions. PAC national organizations are also invited to designate their Polish Agenda representatives. It is highly advisable that a designated Polish Agenda representative be fluent in Polish language. The PA Board meets every month via electronic media. Presidents of state divisions and national organizations are welcome to participate.

The PA Board established several working groups to address the key issues identified by the Polish Agenda members. The following working groups have been established: Polonia Relations with Poland, Security and Defense of Poland, Good Name of the Polish People, Social Needs of Polonia, Learning and Education.

In addition, a group on current events in Poland has been established in order to provide a broader range of information from Poland to the PAC members. This group focuses on translating the most important Polish language information into English. Polish-English translators with various levels of Polish and English language skills are very much needed! Please consider offering your time and talent to translating for our PAC community.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Poland faces many challenges, the Polish Agenda Board is seeking people with interest in Polish history, culture, politics and economy, people aware of their Polish roots and dedicated to the Polish causes, people with open minds and hearts who are willing to enrich their lives with meaningful endeavors to the benefit of Polonia and Poland. Professionals of Polish descent are especially encouraged to join the Polish Agenda working groups. Please offer your expertise and talent to the benefit of your people! It is very much needed today and will be greatly appreciated.



PAC VP of Polish Affairs with Leaders of PAC Eastern Massachusetts Division in Boston on November 23, 2014. From left: PAC VP Polish Affairs Maria Szonert Binienda, Michigan Eastern Division Treasurer Łukasz Gawel, President Peter W. Suchcicki, and VP for Polish Affairs Wiesław Wierzbowski

This appeal for volunteers is also directed to Presidents of PAC state divisions and national organizations. Please identify in your communities people who may have interest and expertise in the working group subject areas and encourage them to join us. Please contact leaders of the following working groups directly:

- *Polonia Relations with Poland*
Bogusław Niemczewski, bniemczewski@op.pl
- *Learning and Education*
Stanisław Śliwowski, stsliwowski@hotmail.com
- *Social Needs of Polonia*
Zygmunt Staszewski, Ziggy11001@aol.com
- *Current Events in Poland*
Andrzej Burghardt, arb3@gmail.com
- *For other working groups and issues related to the Polish Agenda*, please contact:
Maria Szonert Binienda, mszonert@hotmail.com.

The Polonia Relations with Poland working group (“PRP Group”), has been recently involved in providing input into a draft of the Polish Government Program of Cooperation with Polish Diaspora for the period 2015-2020.

On the weekend of November 23, 2014, I met with Polonia in Boston and New Britain. I also had the pleasure to meet with the leadership of the PAC Eastern Massachusetts Division and met in person with the Polish Affairs Representative Wiesław Wierzbowski.

PAC-Southern California Division



COMMEMORATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

BY NATALIA KAMINSKA

On the rainy day of December 2 at 9:30 a.m. in the Los Angeles County Hall of Administration, Board of Supervisors Hearing Room there was a special celebration commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. The consul generals of Germany, Hungary, Austria and Poland as well as respective community leaders participated. Among them, there were the executive committee members of the Polish American Congress of Southern California and the former Solidarity members residing in Los Angeles County, total of 10 Polish community representatives.

The commemoration event was led by the Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich who highlighted the peaceful reunification of the two Germany's, Austria and Hungary for the opening of the Hungarian border in the summer of 1989 thereby allowing East Germans to flee to the West, and, Poland because of the success of its Solidarity movement in the historic 1989 elections which obtained half of the parliamentary seats for Solidarity for the first time during a communist led government. Political events in these countries helped move the fall of the Berlin Wall forward in East Germany. Following his speech, Supervisor Antonovich presented the consul generals and community leaders with the special scrolls commemorating this event. Mr. Mariusz Brymora, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles and Mrs. Natalia Kaminska, the president of the Polish American Congress of Southern California, both received the scrolls which read: "The Board of Supervisors joins in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, an event which led to the reunification of Germany, and to the spread of freedom and democracy to millions of people in Central and Eastern Europe; as well as celebrating the historical role played by the people of Poland with their Solidarity movement winning half of the parliamentary seats in the first partially-free election in communist Poland on June 6, 1989, thereby inspiring East Germans to seek their own freedom."



NOVEMBER 18, 2014

*Signed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles,
State of California, United States of America:*

Michael Antonovich – Supervisor, Fifth District

Don Knabe - Chairman of the Board, Supervisor Fourth District

Gloria Molina – Supervisor, First District

Mark Ridley – Thomas, Supervisor, Second District

Zev Yaroslavy – Supervisor, Third District

One more scroll was presented to Mr. Richard Widerynski, vice-president of the Polish American Congress of Southern California, American Agenda in recognition of his work to bring the freedom and independence to Poland.

Next, the representatives of each country addressed the Board of Supervisors emphasizing the importance of the Fall of Berlin Wall event in the modern history and thanking the Board for the recognitions. The celebration ended at the photo-taking session.



Recently, I took a moment to re-read the newly adopted By-Laws for our great organization. These By-Laws were amended and adopted at our May 2014 National Council of Directors Meeting.

I found this helpful as I began my responsibilities as Vice-President for Public Relations. Specifically, I wanted to make sure I knew the Purposes and Objectives of the Polish American Congress. These can be found in Article I and here's what they state:

Section 1. The Polish American Congress, ever mindful of its unswerving past record of civic action in its successful commitment to its founding aims, is dedicated to:

- Provide national leadership for expanding and sustaining organized Polish American political and cultural life in the United States.
- Support Poland as a loyal ally and proven friend of the United States, and work to strengthen the United States – Poland relationship.
- Work with all Americans to enhance their knowledge and appreciation of the rich Polish and American heritage.
- Defend the good name of Polish Americans and Poland from their detractors.



PAC By-Laws

BY MARK PIENKOS
PAC VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Support candidates for elected office on all levels of American government who advocate for the goals and objectives of the Polish American Congress and Polonia.
- Encourage Polish Americans to be involved in the American political process, including exercising their constitutional right to vote in the interests of the Polish American community.
- Educate and engage elected officials on all levels of American government in proposing legislation in support of the aims and objectives of the Polish American Congress and Polish American citizens.

The above purposes and objectives serve as the guiding principles of the Polish American Congress. As we all know, we can be greatly proud of the achievements of our organization. Since its founding in 1944, think of all the tremendous things our PAC has done: worked to establish a free and independent Poland, provided relief services to Poland while under Communist rule, worked to support Poland's admission into NATO, and PAC continues its efforts to support the Republic of Poland as one of the strongest allies to America.

As I work to fulfill my responsibilities as Vice President for Public Relations, I will continue to focus my work on the purposes and objectives in Article I of the PAC By-Laws.

What Poland means for me?



BY Z. KORALEWSKI

Under this title, president of the PAC-Long Island, Grzegorz Worwa, organized the essay contest for Polish school children, in the Fall of 2014. The Contest was sponsored by the newspapers: "Nowy Dziennik", "Kurier Plus" and "Gwiazda Polarna".

Results were announced during the Academy commemorating Poland's Independence Day, organized also by Grzegorz, at the Polish National Club in Hempstead. Most of the 28 participants taking part in the contest were born in America. Their essays, filled with patriotism and strong cultural and emotional attachments towards the country of their forefathers, are very touching. These papers, written by children, can be an inspiration to all of us and an eye opening for those Polish-Americans, who forgot where they came from, who are indifferent to Polish affairs, ignorant and oblivious.

All essays were published in Tuesday's editions of Nowy Dziennik. Sponsors of awards: Polish & Slavic Credit Union, Polonia Technica, PolNet, Richard and Marion Brzozowski.



From left: Kevin Wesołowski ("Amonth") – 2nd place, Louisa Olesiejuk – 3rd place, Grzegorz Worwa - initiator of the contest, president of KPA- LI, Gabriel Starzec ("Mieszko") – 1st place*Photo by: JANUSZ M. SZLECHTA

Click the links below to read the essays:

Essay by Autor: MACIEJ GUGAŁA – "Żołnierz"

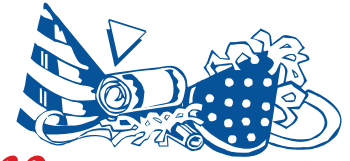
Essay by Autor: IZA RADZIWOŃSKI – "Słoneczko"

Essay by Autor: LOUISA OLESIEJUK - "Malinka"

Essay by Autor: KEVIN WESOŁOWSKI - "Amonth"



3 Simple Polish American New Year Resolutions



BY BARBARA B. ANDERSEN, PH.D.
PAC NATIONAL OFFICE DIRECTOR

Now that the rush of the Holidays is behind us, perhaps it is a good time to take a moment and to look at what is still ahead of us, both as an organization and as individual members of the Polish American community.

Perhaps it is also a good time to set forth a few goals and New Year resolutions that each member of the Polish American community could take upon him or herself to accomplish in 2015 for the benefit of all of American Polonia.

The following items can be seen as a kind of a Polish American “wish list” but I hope that members of our community will, at the minimum, consider adding them to their own lists and (optimally) completely incorporate these three items into his or her New Year Resolutions for 2015.

Resolution 1. Form New Bonds of Friendship and Cooperation

In November 2014, the entire nation (or rather a significant portion thereof) went to cast their votes for their representation in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as for one third of the U.S. Senate. Now is the time to contact these newly-elected, re-elected, or continuing-in-office officials and share with them the concerns of the Polish American community. The following are some of the steps that could help you in fully achieving this goal if haven’t had this kind of experience already:

1. **Identify your representatives** to the House of Representatives and Senate, focusing in particular on their ancestry, especially any link to Poland or interests that are close to those of the Polish American community.
2. **Identify their contact information**, e.g. phone, e-mail (all information is available at www.senate.gov and www.house.gov).
3. **Contact their state office** (or Washington D.C. office, if you are planning to be visiting). Each member of U.S. Congress

– House and Senate – spends approximately half of their time in their respective states. Take advantage of this fact and set up a brief appointment to introduce yourself and to talk about the main concerns of his/her Polish American constituents. Most probably at this point, the scheduler will let you how much time will you have with the Member of Congress.

4. **Prepare for the meeting.** Most likely the meeting is going to be very short so make sure to make the best possible use of your time. If you have not done so already – educate yourself about the person you are going to meet and prepare 3-5 talking points addressing key issues close to Polish American hearts. Sample options include: the inclusion of Poland into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program; matters relating to Poland’s security [military, energy, etc.]; the need for increased educational/scientific cooperation; issues relating to Russia vis-à-vis its neighbors, etc.
5. **Arrive on time and be prepared** to wait a few minutes. Legislators, especially at the federal level, have very hectic schedules, but they do want to meet you, so be patient.
6. **Enjoy your meeting!** Again, they want to meet you and want to hear what you have to say. Even if you and your Representative or Senator disagree politically this is not the time to debate political principles and differences. The goal of the meeting is for your Representative/Senator to meet face to face with a member of the Polish American community AND open the door for future contacts and cooperation.

7. **After the meeting, remember to send a brief “thank you” note** both to the Member of Congress and to the scheduler/aide who set up the meeting.

8. **Make sure to meet** not only with your Representative and both Senators on the federal level, but also with your legislators (especially those with Polish roots) at the state level.

Resolution 2. Make Our Polish American Voice Heard

From time to time you will hear in 2015 Calls to Action urging you to contact your elected officials and to take a stand in support of, or opposition to, certain legislative initiatives. When you hear (or read) such a call – take action! The strength of our community in our number. The more people pick up a telephone and call their Representative or Senator to speak about the issue, the greater the visibility, and hence perceived strength, of our community.

Resolution 3. Actively Support the Polish American Community

It is a very “common sense” resolution that, sadly, is not implemented nearly often enough. Possible actions include:

1. **If you are already a member of a Polish American organization – great!** But if you are not, please consider joining. There are many groups to choose from and, naturally, the Polish American Congress is always

Continued on PG.7 ...

3 SIMPLE POLISH AMERICAN NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

CONTINUED FROM PG.6 ...

at the forefront, looking for new, passionate, and teamwork-oriented members. Join Us!

2. **Support Polish American businesses and initiatives.** Whenever you have a choice – choose Polish! Whether its life insurance, Christmas tree ornaments, newspapers, realtors, doctors, or... politicians – choose Polish American.
3. **Attend Polish American events** and spread the word about them to others who might be interested.
4. **Make it a personal goal to Polonize others.** It is particularly important in case of individuals of other ethnic ancestries. Invite them to participate in our traditions, tell them about our history, encourage them to support our community (e.g. Resolution 2), let them sample our food, etc.

That is it... only three Resolutions. But just imagine the enormous transformation that our community would undergo if every member of the estimated 10 million Americans of Polish ancestry followed them throughout the incoming year (and hopefully for years to come). Don't wait for others to start – lead by example! ■



From left: Zbyszek Koralewski, Richard Brzozowski, Mayor Thomas Tweedy, Grzegorz Worwa.

On November 11, 2014 the Floral Park, New York Veterans Day ceremony was observed with great respect, reflection and dignity. Residents, community members and town officials, including Mayor Thomas Tweedy, joined with the American Legion, boy scouts and Polish American Congress, Long Island Division to honor all veterans at Memorial Park.

During the ceremony, a plaque was dedicated in memory of General Kazimierz Pulaski, who gave his life during the American Revolutionary War and others of Polish heritage who have served in the U.S. military. The presentation of wreaths and plaque dedication was led by members of the Polish American Congress, Long Island Division: President Grzegorz Worwa, Honorary President Richard Brzozowski, Halina Koralewski, Zbyszek Koralewski and Zygmunt Staszewski. An invocation was delivered by Father Peter Rozek of St. Hedwig Church in Floral Park.

Placing the plaque in the park was a project conceived, designed, funded and implemented by Richard Brzozowski.

PAC-Long Island Division

THE PLAQUE COMMEMORATING

GENERAL PULASKI

BY RICHARD BRZOWSKI



Solidarity according to women

HALINA KORALEWSKI,
PAC - LONG ISLAND DIVISION

*Recounts her efforts to
assist in the showing of this
important film.*

The premier of "Solidarity According To Women ", on the screen Anna Walentynowicz.

I volunteered to help two independent movie directors from Poland who undertook the incredible task of documenting the role of women in the Solidarity movement. The directors found a unique recording done by NBC TV in 1982 showing the release of Polish women from the prison in Gołdap located in northeastern Poland. The price for the rights to the two minute recording with sound was \$14,400. The directors asked me to find organizations and private sponsors among Polonia to fund this project as their efforts for getting support through resources in Poland for the hour and half movie were exhausted. As this was my first experience with a documentary, I was surprised at the expense. I found the person responsible for the recording and began a six month process to negotiate a fee. After countless emails and telephone calls, I was able to bring the price down to \$9,000. At the same time, I sent over 100 letters asking for donations from various organizations located in New York and New Jersey, as well my friends and family members.

Only one organizations responded: The Polish American Charitable Foundation. Its president, Virginia Sikora, together with the Foundation's directors, fully supported the project and provided funds for the rights to the recording. The remaining \$4,500 of funds were collected by me from individual donors and were spent purchasing the recording from the BBC. The movie premiered in Warsaw in December 2014.

I volunteered for this project because I believe every document showing the role of women in a unique world phenomenon, as the Solidarity movement was, should be available for the public regardless of the price - because it is a part of our history. I am very grateful, that such a reputable organization like the PAC Charitable Foundation, as well as a handful of my friends shared the same view and displayed deep patriotism by supporting my action.



Warsaw - December 6, 2014
During the premiere, Halina Koralewski talks about her involvement in getting the NBC's footage. Next to her the movie directors: Piotr Śliwowski and Marta Dzido

To see a trailer of "Solidarity According To Women"

Click the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXhq4EXilQc>

To read about women in Solidarity

Click the link below:

http://www.watchdocs.pl/2014/f/solidarnosc_wedlug_kobiet-film-10-pl.html



Your Voice in America

acknowledges one of our state division's efforts!

Here is a fine example of
PAC-Long Island Division's promotion.
For more information contact:

Zbigniew Koralewski
718-343-4316



1. Jeśli jesteś Polakiem/Polką to naturalne, że powinieneś/ powinnaś poczuwać się do solidarności z rodakami.
2. KPA reprezentuje Polonię (czyli również Ciebie) przed władzami polskimi i amerykańskimi - występuje w obronie Twoich interesów.
3. Jeśli masz pomysły społeczno - polityczne będziesz miał(a) okazję nie tylko mówić o nich, będziesz mógł (mogła) je realizować.
4. Jeśli nie chcesz- nie możesz angażować się, sama Twoja przynależność do KPA - LI jest również bardzo ważna - ilość członków świadczy o poparciu działalności org.

MASZ PYTANIA ? PROSZĘ DZWOŃ:
718-343.4316; 516-354.4349
631 - 741-2405

EMAIL: PAC.LONGISLAND@YAHOO.COM

WEBSITE: WWW.PACLONGISLAND.ORG

1. If you are a Polish-American you should naturally feel attached to the Polish ethnic group.
2. The PAC represents the interests of all Polish-Americans (including you) and is the only one that can stand up for your rights before Polish and American governments.
3. If you have social or political ideas, you will not only be able to talk about them, you will have a chance to implement them
4. If you have no time or do not want to be engaged in our projects, just your membership alone is very important - it will make the PAC-LI more significant

HAVE QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL:
718-343.4316; 516-354.4349
631 - 741-2405

EMAIL: PAC.LONGISLAND@YAHOO.COM

WEBSITE: WWW.PACLONGISLAND.ORG



Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej (KPA)

powstał w roku 1944. Na pierwszym zjeździe kongresu w Buffalo, zgromadziło się ponad dwa tysiące przedstawicieli wszystkich większych polonijnych organizacji. Polacy byli oburzeni zdradą Roosevelta i Churchilla; zmniejszeniem terytorium Polski i oddaniem jej Stalinowi. Polonia zrozumiała, że musi się zjednoczyć, że tylko wtedy władze w Polsce i w USA będą się z nią liczyć. Ta prawda jest nadal aktualna. Zachęcamy każdą organizację do współpracy z nami dla dobra całej Polonii.

Wydział LI obecnie zajmuje się:

- redukcją podatków od emerytur
- zniesieniem wiz dla Polaków
- propagowaniem historii Polski
- obroną dobrego imienia Polski

Planowane projekty:

- szkolenie przyszłych liderów
- filmy, spotkania, kursy
- współpraca z wszystkimi organizacjami na LI

ZAPRASZAMY!

The LI Division works on:

- reduction of tax retirement
- visa waiver
- promotion of Polish heritage
- cases of falsified history

Planned projects:

- educating future leaders
- films, lectures, courses
- cooperation with all organizations on LI

YOU'RE WELCOME!

The Polish American Congress (PAC)

was established in 1944. During the first Convention in Buffalo, over two thousand representatives of most Polish-American organizations gathered to express their outrage caused by betrayal of Poland by Roosevelt and Churchill; reducing Poland's territory by 1/3 and selling her to Stalin. It was then, when Polish-Americans (Polonia) understood that they must unite to be listened to. This is still true today. We encourage your organization to cooperate with us.





PAC Newsletter “Your Voice in America” Survey Results

BY MARK PIENKOS
PAC VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

Thirty-seven people responded to the newsletter survey. This was a good return rate, especially for the first survey of its kind. Thank you for all who took the time to respond to the questions, as well as provide comments.

Congratulations to Zbigniew Koralewski from the Long Island Division for not only returning his survey by the January 5 deadline, but also for being randomly selected as the survey contest winner! Zbyszek will receive a \$50 Visa gift card for his efforts.

Survey respondents showed the following:

- ✓ Did you receive the November Polish American Congress “Your Voice in America” newsletter? 91.7% said Yes, while 8.3% responded No.
- ✓ What is your overall opinion of the newsletter? 61.7% responded indicated Excellent, 32.3% indicating Good.
- ✓ Were you able to easily open the newsletter? 96.9% said Yes, 3.1% responded No.
- ✓ Did you like the design of the newsletter? 100% indicated Yes.
- ✓ Did you find the content of the newsletter informative? 62.5% responded that the information was Extremely Informative, 37.5% said it was Somewhat Informative.
- ✓ Did you download and print a copy for yourself? 53.1% indicated Yes, 43.7% said No.
- ✓ Did you download and print a copy for someone else? 46.8% said Yes, 50% said No.
- ✓ Did you forward the link to the newsletter to someone else? 62.5% said Yes, 37.5% said No.
- ✓ Did you read the articles written by the members of the Executive Committee? 96.8% responded Yes, 3.2% said No.
- ✓ Did you find the articles interesting/informative? 96.8% said Yes, 3.2% said No.
- ✓ Would you like to see more articles from the Executive Officers? 96.8% responded Yes, 3.2% Did Not Respond.
- ✓ Did you find the information valuable as it pertained to the October Council of National Directors Meeting? 62.5% found the information Extremely Valuable, 37.5% responded the information was Somewhat Valuable.
- ✓ Do you feel the newsletter will help in recruiting new members or retaining present ones? 64.5% said Yes, 3.2% said No, and 32.3 said Maybe.

Selected responses from respondents’ 75 comments seeking suggestions as to What people liked most/least about the newsletter:

- ✓ **LIKED MOST:** “Informative.” “Various information provided.” “Great combination of script and photos.” “Statistics.” “That we have one.” “The tone – upbeat, including PAC officers messages”.
- ✓ **LIKED LEAST:** “Length of it.” “I did not like the vote tally in the newsletter, that should stay in the minutes, not be part of the newsletter. Just let us know who ran and who won.” “I think there needs to be targeted mailings and distribution to inform Polonia, not just members.” “I would like to have it pasted into the email as well so it could be forwarded as a content in the email.”

CONTINUED ON PG. 11 ...



PAC NEWSLETTER
"YOUR VOICE IN AMERICA"
SURVEY RESULTS

CONTINUED FROM PG. 10 ...

☑ Ideas for future newsletters

"Short reports from the other State Divisions with their activities might be a nice way of 'sharing.'" "Briefings from meetings of the Executive Board." "Fraternal activities." "I am firmly opposed to having the newsletter used by anyone in the PAC as a pulpit to preach his or her own political views on any subject. This is divisive and undermines what we stand for. Only statements by PAC leaders that have been approved by the Executive Committee should appear in the newsletter." "Make it shorter and more often." "What is happening in different divisions, report on it, ask them to send the info so you can disseminate."

☑ What kind of content would you like to see in future newsletters?

"Special profiles of members of Polonia." "Mission and Goals." "Youth activities promoting our younger possible members." "I did not see a calendar of upcoming events – if you could include this would be valuable." "News and important events or activities at the Division Level." "Do you forward this newsletter to the Polish and Polish-American Press?"

Thank you for your input!

Again, thank you to those individuals who responded to this survey. The information gathered will help in making future newsletters even better and more responsive to the needs of our organization. If you would like to see the results of the entire survey, please feel free to email me: markpienkos2012@gmail.com.

Deadlines for Submissions

Our PAC Newsletter will be sent out six times this year. The deadlines for submission of articles and photos, as well as the publication dates are as follows:

PUBLICATION DATES	DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES/PHOTOS
Friday, March 13, 2015	Friday, March 6, 2015
Friday, May 8, 2015	Friday, May 1, 2015
Friday, July 10, 2015	Friday, July 3, 2015
Friday, September 11, 2015	Friday, September 4, 2015
Friday, November 13, 2015	Friday, November 6, 2015

Be thinking about ways to share your division's activities and events with your fellow national directors. This is a great way to network! Plus, you may be able to pick up on a successful idea being done in a neighboring state division. Also, your own state division members – and prospective members – will enjoy seeing your work in the national PAC Newsletter.



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

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

***Happy New
Year!***





POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

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, is a federation of more than 3,000 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 of America and others, including veteran, cultural, professional, religious, and social associations, with aggregate membership of more than a million. The PAC by-laws also provide for individual membership that is organized in state divisions, 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.

CONTACT US

NATIONAL OFFICE

1612 K Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20006
Tel.: (202) 296-6955
Fax: (202) 835-1565
E-mail: pacwash@pac1944.org