



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

Your Voice
in America!

On January 15, 2016, the following letter was sent to the President of the European Commission and President of the European Council.

Dear President Juncker and President Tusk,

In recent weeks there has been much negative publicity and conflicting messages concerning Poland, its government and decision making practices. The recent actions by the European Commission (EC) regarding Poland contributed to the discussions and debate taking place both in Poland as well as outside her borders among the members of Polish communities worldwide, including the United States, where the Polish American diaspora is approximately ten million.

The Polish American Congress, founded in 1944, is the largest Polish American organization. Many of our members closely follow situations in Poland.

Since the announcement of the discussion on Poland by the European Commission, our organization has been inundated with messages expressing great distress among members of our organization and the Polish American community in general. It's unfortunate that the debate on Poland and associated negative publicity has escalated to this magnitude on an international level causing harm to the good image of Poland.

We understand, the European Commission is concerned about Poland because of political and administrative actions undertaken by the newly-elected Polish President and Parliament. We also understand that Poland agreed to a possibility of such action while signing the documents of accession to the European Union; however, we question if such a strong approach was necessary. (Continued on next page...)

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

Our PAC Newsletter will be sent out five more times this year.

Deadline for submission	Publication date
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Friday, April 1, 2016	Friday, April 8, 2016
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Friday, June 3, 2016	Friday, June 10, 2016
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Friday, August 5, 2016	Friday, August 12, 2016
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Friday, October 7, 2016	Friday, October 14, 2016
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Friday, December 2, 2016	Friday, December 9, 2016
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"Your Voice in America" newsletter is published bimonthly by the Polish American Congress. The purpose of the newsletter is to offer PAC National Directors and PAC Executive Committee members the opportunity to share news and information about their state divisions and offices. The newsletter does not receive funds from any external source. The editor is Dr. Mark Pienkos.

Articles should be between 100 and 400 words. Some editing will be done to match our style guidelines and spatial constraints, as well as correcting grammatical errors. We do not send proofs for approval. When sending photos, please include captions with names, official titles. All submitted materials become the property of the Polish American Congress and may be used to promote the mission of the PAC. Materials will not be returned unless it is requested.

Articles are due according to this schedule. Send your submissions to PAC National VP for Public Relations, Mark Pienkos at markpienkos2012@gmail.com.

Join us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/pages/Polish-American-Congress

2016 Council of National Directors Meeting

On January 12, 2016 the Executive Committee agreed that the next meeting of the Council of PAC National Directors will take place in Chicago, IL.

The meeting will start on Thursday September 15, 2016 and will conclude on Saturday, September 17, 2016. Look for more details to follow.

(Continued from Page 1...)

Regrettably, the unprecedented steps by the Commission regarding Poland have provoked a great degree of anxiety and worry that Poland has been singled out for this type of measures. Furthermore, it provides additional arguments for Euro-skeptics. The internal political and social agitation that currently takes place in Poland around EC's decisions fuels the agendas of those who do not have Poland's best interest at heart, including one of Poland's neighbors - Russia. Nonetheless, and in response to the great concern among the members of the Polish American community, we urge you, Mr. President, as well as other members of the Commission, to thoroughly and objectively review the facts of the situation in Poland and take under careful consideration all of its aspects including political, legislative and those of a historical, social, and cultural nature. We are confident that Beata Szydlo, Poland's Prime Minister, and her staff will be able to resolve matters in question in an amicable and equitable manner.

It is in the best interest of all concerned that Poland remains a politically and economically strong member of the European Union.

I hope this matter gets resolved in the very near future for the benefit of all: Poland, the European community, as well as Polish communities worldwide.

Sincerely yours,

Frank J. Spula

President, Polish American Congress

PAC WEBSITE RE-BOOT!

During the past several months, work has been taking place to replace our present PAC website with a new look.

The website committee consists of present PAC webmaster, Ted Mirecki, website designer, Tomasz Cop (Polish Daily News – Dziennik Zwiazkowy), PAC Executive Director Barbara Andersen, PAC President Frank Spula, and PAC Vice President for Public Relations Mark Pienkos.

After reviewing several possible templates and existing Internet site pages for ideas, a selection was made that will make our new website not only more attractive, but also easier to navigate. Currently, information from our current website is being transferred to the new website. Once completed, the new website will have new graphics and easier ways to access information. Ted Mirecki, who has served as our PAC webmaster for many years, has been very helpful in the transition process.

Look for the official launch of the website to take place in the very near future - hopefully by end of March (if not sooner). We hope you like it!

2016 NATO SUMMIT

The Polish government has agreed on the plan of action concerning the preparation of the NATO Summit that will take place in Warsaw on July 8-9, 2016.

The main agenda of the Summit will focus on the role of NATO in the European and global security and emphasize the importance of adjusting the NATO strategies to challenges and insecurities of the modern world.

This includes the strengthening of the NATO presence at its eastern flank, development of the relevant infrastructure, and improving effectiveness of the NATO leadership.

Tomasz Siemioniak, Polish Minister of National Defense, pointed out that NATO should be a "360 degree organization," which sees and responds equally to insecurities emanating from all sides of the globe.

By organizing the Summit, Poland wishes to demonstrate its commitment to the organization as well as Poland's credibility as one of the NATO members, emphasized the Governmental Information Center.

(Right)



Source: Global Times / Published: October, 2015

POLAND TO CELEBRATE KEY ANNIVERSARIES IN 2016



From the Desk of Debbie Majka,
Vice President for Cultural Affairs

Poland marks two important anniversaries in 2016. The first is 1,050 years as a Christian nation. Mieszko I, the first Christian ruler of Poland, and his court converted to Christianity and were baptized on April 14, 966, thus marking the beginning of the Polish nation.

Mesko, the King of the North as he was known, betrothed the Czech King's daughter, Dubravka, and took her to his home in Poznań. As part of the marriage agreement, he renounced the pagan religion of his ancestors, and was baptized into the Christian faith. He was in no sense a national monarch whom we might imagine today. He was chief of the Polanie, one of the numerous Slav tribes of the period. He was a warlord and was as ready to plunder his various Slav neighbors as he was to make common cause with Germans and Czechs alike. Of all his feats, like those of his grandson Canute in Denmark and England, none but his baptism was permanent. By this one act, he brought his people into the world of western culture and Latin literacy. He prepared the way for the creation in the succeeding reign of the ecclesiastical province of Poland with its Holy See at Gniezno. He started the recorded history of the Poles which has continued without a break from then to the present day.

On the 100th anniversary of his death, this year in Poland is officially dedicated to Henryk Sienkiewicz (1846-1916), Poland's first author to receive the Nobel prize for literature. In 1888, Sienkiewicz completed his *Trylogia* (Trilogy of historical novels – *With Fire and Sword*, *The Deluge*, and *Fire in the Steppe* – set in the 17th-century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth). These represented the zenith of popular literature in Poland. In the eyes of his readership, Sienkiewicz's chivalric tales of the Cossack Wars of the 1650's, and in *Krzyżacy* (1900), of the medieval struggle against the Teutonic Order, lacked nothing in comparison to his world-wide success with *Quo Vadis* (1896). The *Trilogy* and *Quo Vadis* have been filmed, the latter several times, with Hollywood's 1951 version receiving the most international recognition. Sienkiewicz soon became one of the most popular Polish writers of the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, and numerous translations gained him international renown, culminating in his receipt of the 1905 Nobel Prize in Literature for his "outstanding merits as an epic writer."

Because of his rollicking, swashbuckling tales of Poland's days of glory, Sienkiewicz is usually forgotten for his immense output as a travel journalist. He was a writer who colorfully and with humor documented his trips in Africa, America and even on the London Underground.

The other Polish Nobelists in Literature include: Władysław Reymont for *Chłopi* (1924), Czesław Miłosz, Poetry (1980) and Wisława Szymborska, Poetry (1996).

Polish American Citizens Club Officer Installation

by Steven Wychorski

February 9, 2016

On Wednesday, January 20th the Polish American Citizens Club in Dorchester, MA celebrated the Installation of Officers and Directors. The Club dates back to 1939 with a long history of providing Polish Immigrants of Boston a place to mingle, to meet new friends and family, as well as celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the land they left behind. Throughout the years the Club has regularly installed new Officers and Directors and this year is particularly special. The installation of so many dedicated individuals reflects the rejuvenated club under the management of Chris Lisek. Without the hard work of all these individuals, the Club would still find it difficult to survive. Today, the Club is thriving and growing in membership and regaining its positive recognition.

The night was introduced by our very own PAC President Peter Suchcicki who is also the Treasurer of the Club. After Peter's dedication speech, the Honorable Consul of the Republic of Poland, Marek Lesniewski Laas gave us formal greetings and congratulations from the Republic of Poland. His speech motivated us to work politically for Polonia: That we need to speak with one voice to our local and national government about the interests of Polish Americans and US relations with Poland.

Our next speaker, and keynote of the night, was Senator Linda Dorcena Forry(D) of the 1st Suffolk District. Her family, immigrants from Haiti, struggled like so many immigrants from Poland. When her family came here, they worked hard to achieve standing yet maintained their cultural identity. "Whether it's Poland, Haiti, Vietnam or Ireland, it was the American Dream that brought us here. We must not lose sight of what brought us here," Senator Forry stated. Other local politicians that joined us for the night were Annissa Essaibi George and Councillor Frank Baker of Dorchester. Annissa is a newly elected City Councillor at Large for Boston, as well as a member of the Polish American Citizens Club, plus she is a resident of the Polish Triangle neighborhood and is of Polish decent. State Representative Dan Hunt of Dorchester also attended, as well as members of State Representative Nick Collin's office. All the elected officials extended their wishes that the new leadership at the Club will be a turning point and get people involved.



From Left: Senator Linda Dorcena Forry, Attorney Adam Russo, Hon. Consul Marek Lesniewski Laas, PAC EMass President Peter Suchcicki.

Our formal portion of the evening was City Councillor Annissa Essaibi George and Frank Baker granting all the recipients their certifications as Officers and Directors from the City Council President of Boston, Michelle Wu. The Officers and Directors pictured below are as follows: President: Chris Lisek, Vice President: Joseph Nowak, Seretary: Richard Rolak, Treasurer: Peter Suchcicki, Marshall: Zygfryd Miszewski along with the new Directors: Joanna Curry, Amy Deveau, Peter Dziedzic, Erica Manczuk and Nicole Wiktorowski.



Our night concluded with a folk dance by the Krakowiak Polish Dancers of Boston. The humor of the dance with ladies competing for the attention of the gentlemen is known for its Czech influence in style and form.

Congratulations to the new Officers and Directors of the Polish American Citizens Club!

"SUPPORTING POLONIA IN NEW ENGLAND AND POLAND IN TODAY'S WORLD"

LOCKHEED LOOKS TO BUILD POLISH BLACK HAWKS

By Jen Judson, Defense News, February 4, 2016



WASHINGTON — The possibility of Poland purchasing Black Hawk helicopters from Lockheed Martin and AW149 helicopters from AgustaWestland has reemerged as the new defense minister there plans to decrease the amount of Caracal EC725 helicopters the country had planned to buy from Airbus Helicopters and look to other options. And due to Antoni Macierewicz's move to reassess Poland's helicopter procurement plans, Lockheed Martin, having recently bought Black Hawk-manufacturer Sikorsky, stands to establish a larger footprint and stronger relationship with the Polish defense industry at a time when it hopes to also win missile defense system contracts in the country. Sikorsky's local subsidiary PZL Mielec makes the Black Hawk, while AgustaWestland's PZL Swidnik offshoot produces the AW149. The decision in December comes following the formation of Poland's new government in November by the conservative Law and Justice (PiS) Party. Last April, the previous Cabinet decided to order 60 multirole choppers from Airbus Helicopters to replace the Polish military's Soviet-designed Mil Mi-8, Mi-14 and Mi-17 helicopters. "We respect the ongoing analysis process by the new Polish MoD as they reevaluate options for the Polish Multirole Helicopter program," Lockheed Martin spokesman Frans Jurgens told Defense News in a statement.

The company "remains ready to support the government of Poland with proven multi-role Black Hawk helicopters in a timely manner that can address Poland's urgent and compelling security requirements." Buying Black Hawks would allow Poland to gain interoperability with US and NATO forces and would also "maximize" the contributions of Polish industry, Jurgens said. Lockheed is committed to maintaining the Sikorsky PZL Mielec facility, he added, "which is now the largest European production plant owned by Lockheed." The facility has fully functional airframe manufacturing, a final assembly production line, a completion center and flight operations with capacity to build 24 Black Hawks annually, Jurgens said. "If asked, we could deliver helicopters to the Polish government dependent on unique configuration in less than 12 months from contract award," he said. Poland's fresh look at the helicopter deal is welcome news to Connecticut Democrat Sen. Chris Murphy. Sikorsky is based in Stratford, Connecticut. According to Murphy in a statement Thursday, there are new negotiations between Poland and Lockheed Martin for the sale of up to 70 Black Hawks. Murphy said he met with former Polish defense minister Tomasz Siemoniak early last year to urge Poland to buy the Black Hawk helicopter. "I will follow these negotiations closely, and do everything I can to help Sikorsky in this process because a new contract for 70 helicopters would mean billions of dollars in business for Sikorsky and more work for the skilled Stratford workers who have made the Black Hawk the international standard," Murphy said.



A New PAC-Long Island Division Educational Publication

by Zbyszek Koralewski

In the fall of 2016, the inspiration for a new kind of publication was born during the meeting of northeastern PAC Division members in Albany, N.Y.. Attendees were unanimous in their complaints: “We get a lot of links, too often and too much. We have no recommendations as to what is really important so we open only some links. Articles are usually long and often it is difficult to distinguish what really matters. It discourages us to open other links. By ignoring them we might miss some valuable information. If an article is in the language we are not proficient in, we also lose.”

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While driving back home from the meeting in Albany, I thought of an idea as to what can be done and looked for a title for the Polish version of a publication: *Warto Przeczytać*. The title I had for the English version was modified by Teresa Bunk, President of N.Y. Central Division, to be more convincing: *Must Read*.

Description of WP / MR publication:

- Contains carefully selected material
- Has maximum of 2 pages
- Is issued twice a month
- Has Polish and English versions

The goals of the WP / MR publication are: to educate ourselves, our members, Polonia and friends in Poland, to be aware of what is going on, and to help us undertake proper decisions.

During the past 3½ months, seven positions were issued. To view these and future articles, please visit www.paclidiven.blogspot.com/.

For further assistance, follow these directions:

(How to subscribe to MR / WP? Look at the right side of the page below “Blog Archives.” There is a space where you enter your email and click on “Submit.” A small screen will open, rewrite a set of scrambled letters and hit “Complete.” After that, wait to receive a verification message - You must respond by sending it back. All new editions will automatically be sent.)



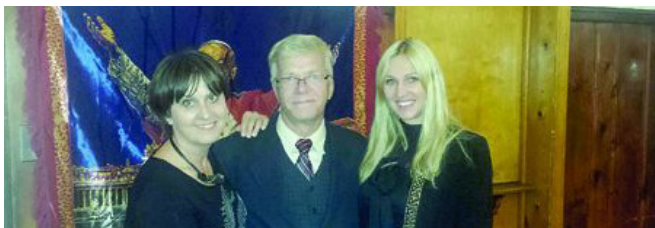
THAT WE MAY BE ONE...

Published: October 25, 2015 / Author: Elizabeth Popławska
(translated by Zbyszek Koralewski)

On October 18, 2015, as part of the October celebration of Polish heritage in the US, Marta Wesolowski, vice president of PAC-LI Division, along with a group of volunteers, prepared a beautiful musical and artistic meeting that was attended by 200 people. The event took place in the very hospitable Polish National Home in Glen Cove, under the sponsorship of Consul General Urszula Gacek. The event was one of the most interesting Polish community events on Long Island in 2015.



Participants of the contest with diplomas.
Right - Janusz Szlechta, chairman of the judging.
Photo by: Elizabeth Popławska



From left: Marzena Wojciechowska – contest judge, Janusz Szlechta – chairman of the judging, Marta Wesolowski – organizer of the contest held in the Polish National Home in Glen Cove.



Bishop Andrzej Jerzy Zglejszewski gave a religious and patriotic message to Poles in the audience.
Photo by: Elizabeth Popławska

The guests were welcomed by the president of Polish National Home, Elizabeth Majewski, who for many years has worked as an animator of Polish culture on Long Island, as well as Grzegorz Worwa, president of the PAC-Long Island Division and Marta Wesolowski, Vice President of PAC-LI Division. Marta is representative of the younger generation who is greatly devoted to the Polish community organizations that promote Poland and Polonia in the United States. Vice Consuls Alice Tunk and Sabina Klimek, officials of the Polish government attended and gave remarks. Those in attendance were not only from the local area. This event also honored: Bishop Andrzej Jerzy Zglejszewski, Peter Rożek, as well as members of the PAC-LI Division Board: Richard Brzozowski - honorary president, Zygmunt Staszewski - vice president, and Zbigniew Koralewski - secretary.

Teachers and parents came from Riverhead and from southern Brooklyn - primarily from the Sienkiewicz Polish School. Their students have won a large number of awards and prizes in the literary and artistic contest areas.

This competition was announced in June, 2015 by the board of KPA-LI under the slogan "Poland - is our common heritage." It alluded to the resolution of the Sejm establishing 2015 as the Year of John Paul II.

A highlight of the resolution was to create initiatives during 2015 that enrich all of us through "the words of John Paul II uttered years ago at Jasna Gora: 'I watch' – which also means: "I feel responsible for this great common heritage, and the name is Poland. This name describes all of us. This name obliges us all."

The event in Glen Cove was dedicated also to our great compatriot, Pope John Paul II, whose anniversaries were celebrated this year: April 2 - the 10th anniversary of his death and October 16, 1978 the election of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła as Pope. In addition, this year is the 20th anniversary of the release of one of the most important encyclicals of St. John Paul II, "Ut unum sint" in which the Pope deals with ecumenism, stressing that the Church is moving toward unity.

Marta Wesolowski together with Grzegorz Worwa prepared the competition. It was intended for children, adolescents and adults. Adults could submit their work in any form of expression (short story, essay, letter, or poem) on one of the following topics:

I watch - it also means: "I feel responsible for this great common heritage called Poland. This name is for all of us. The name obliges all of us. Paraphrasing the words of the Holy Father, "How you think and what you feel you are thinking about Poland? What would you would like to thank your homeland for? What are you grateful for? What do you miss most about Poland?"

(Continued on next page...)

(Continued from Page 7...)

May 24, 2015 is the 20th anniversary of the announcement of the papal encyclical "Ut unum sint." In relation to today's political situation in the world, write how you interpret the words of the Holy Father quoted in the title: "To be one."

In the competition for young people ages 12-17 years, works could be submitted using a following topic:

1. The Holy Pope John Paul II, the friend of all children and adolescents.
2. Why will John Paul II forever remain in our memory?

For the art competition for children ages 5-11 years, works submitted could use any technique on the theme: "The Holy Pope John Paul II, the friend of all children."

Judges were Janusz M. Szlechta (chair) editor of "Nowy Dziennik", Father Simon Kurpios and Marzena Wojciechowska (teacher) rated these works.

For the competition for adults, nine works were judged. Prizes were awarded to:

1. Janusz A. Bernatowicz, of Glendale, NY, for the poem "Genius."
2. Magdalena Denarska - Skórski from Bay Shore, NY, for the poems (lines) "I watch" and "to be one."
3. Izabela Makarewicz - Wojcicki from Lindenhurst, NY, for the poem "Unity."

For the competition for young people ages 12-17 years, thirteen works were submitted. Prizes were awarded to:

1. Julita Wiechowski, Lindenhurst, NY, for a touching letter to St. John Paul II.
2. Karolina Palace, Brooklyn, NY, for a very interesting essay: "Why John Paul II will always remain in my memory?"
3. Juliet Koszelak, Bay Shore, NY, for reflections about: "Why John Paul II will forever remain in our memory?"

Honors:

1. Kevin Skowronski, Brooklyn, NY for a poem "Lolek" and essay on the travels of Pope John Paul II and the impact he has had on our lives.
2. Carolina Anxiety, Middle Village, NY because she shared her thoughts about John Paul II, emphasizing that "talking about him is still not enough."
3. Nicole White, Brooklyn, NY for a touching poem: "Always close to me."

At the competition for children ages 5-11 years, eighteen works were submitted. Prizes were awarded to the following:

1. Veronica Pliś, Brooklyn, NY
2. Amanda Gloria Partyka, Riverhead, NY
3. Peter Slawik, Brooklyn, NY

Honors:

1. Victoria Wesolowski, Lindenhurst, NY
2. Dominique Tetlak, Copiague, NY

Judge Chair Janusz Szlechta presented certificates to all the participants and highlighted prizes. The literary contest: First place - \$200, Second place - \$100, Third place - \$75. Prizes in the art competition: First place - \$150, Second place - \$100, Third place - \$75.

The artistic and musical portion of the event was prepared by Bogdan Czerwotka – guitarist and soloist.

At the conclusion of the event, refreshments were offered, including "kremowki," which was a favored pastry of Pope John Paul II.



WHY POLAND NEEDS AMERICAN SUPPORT

By Witold Waszczykowski, Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs
New York Times Op-Ed: February 16, 2016

WARSAW - Sitting next to Barack Obama at a luncheon during the United Nations General Assembly session in 2009, President Lech Kaczynski of Poland gave his counterpart a copy of "The Peasant Prince," a biography of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the Polish military commander who joined George Washington's army in 1776 and drew up the strategy for the Battles of Saratoga, the turning point of the American Revolution.

And last September, it was the newly elected president of Poland, Andrzej Duda, political heir of Mr. Kaczynski, who sat with Mr. Obama at a dinner during the General Assembly session. President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia sat at the same table but seemed somewhat left out of the conversation.

Poland and the United States are more than strategic partners; we are close friends and allies with a shared history and values. After the 9/11 attacks, Poland responded to America's call for solidarity, and its soldiers served in Iraq. In Afghanistan, Poland provided one of the largest military contingents to the NATO-led mission, and our military advisers continue to help train Afghan troops.



Andrzej Duda, President of Poland, with President Obama at a dinner during the UN General Assembly in New York, last September. Credit Justin Lane/European Pressphoto Agency

It is precisely because of this close bond that it is vital for the United States to understand the predicament facing Poland. Europe has been rocked by growing instability, with the European Union weakened by recession and troubled by wars waged right on our doorstep. Russia's aggression against Ukraine, Poland's eastern neighbor, is a problem for both our countries. Poland's new Law and Justice government is determined to face its international challenges with a bold, realistic and, above all, effective foreign policy. But we cannot do it alone. We need the support of the United States and other NATO allies.

Poland takes its NATO obligations very seriously, investing in our own capabilities and meeting the defense-spending benchmark of 2 percent of our gross domestic product — something only four other members of the 28-country alliance can say. Poland will soon host a missile defense site as part of the American contribution to the NATO ballistic missile defense system. We have participated in virtually every Allied mission and operation, and paid for it with blood and treasure.

With this in mind, Poland is looking forward to hosting the upcoming NATO summit in July, an opportunity for the heads of all NATO member states to recalibrate the alliance's key strategic missions. At the last summit, in 2014 in Newport, Wales, members agreed to beef up exercises, rotate forces and preposition military equipment in the Eastern European member states. This "Newport package" has been valuable — but it is only a temporary solution. This year, we hope to see a "Warsaw package" that will go much further, including a permanent NATO presence in Poland.

Only a meaningful forward presence — including infrastructure, military ground units and advanced defense systems — can give Poland and other allies in the region the level of security we need. Such a presence must be underpinned by regular joint military drills and, above all, become a core part of precise NATO defense plans. Such a presence isn't a radical departure — NATO has already conducted exercises and pre-positioned equipment and vehicles in several Eastern European states. But we need the United States to go further, to take the lead in making a forward presence on NATO's eastern flank a multinational endeavor.

Polish-American relations go well beyond matters of security. Promoting democratic values and supporting fledgling democracies has been a hallmark of our partnership. Even our shared economic interests are rooted in the belief that stimulating growth and creating equality fortifies democracy — and this is what we have also set out to do at home, in Poland.

Poland's new government is the first in the country's history to win an absolute majority and has a unique opportunity to project strength and confidence in the region. Poles voted for the Law and Justice Party last October hoping it would deliver social justice and democratize the political process. We are now answering those demands.

It is true that critics have labeled some of our party's actions antidemocratic - most notably when the country's newly elected deputies annulled the appointment of five new members of the Constitutional Court. But that decision was taken to remedy action taken by the previous government - realizing that it would be voted out of power, it rushed to make a series of last-minute judicial appointments to the Constitutional Court. By annulling those appointments, we have made the court more pluralistic and democratic. In a similar vein, while some have criticized our media reforms, which move the power to appoint public radio and TV chiefs from a supervisory committee to the Treasury minister, the goal is to restore a sense of mission within public media while securing independence, objectivity and pluralism.

Kosciuszko's motto, in fighting for American independence, was "For your freedom and ours." Welded together by shared history, interests and values, Poland and the United States can and should contribute to a more stable and prosperous Europe.



ILLUMINATING AMERICA'S HEROES

From a conversation between David C. Jamison & Anthony J. Bajdek, PAC Vice President for American Affairs

The following essentially serves as an update on the progress being made by the Foundation to Illuminate America's Heroes, Inc. This 501(c)3 organization's ongoing purpose is to honor the memory - by way of a Hollywood film production - of Merian C. Cooper (1893-1973), anti-Bolshevik and anti-communist American, lifelong-admirer of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, and friend of Poland.

Cooper had been the First World War U.S. Army bomber pilot who volunteered subsequently to serve as a fighter pilot for defending Poland's independence in the original Kosciuszko Squadron during the Polish - Bolshevik War of 1919-1921, for which he received the Virtuti Militarii decoration personally from the hands of Poland's charismatic leader, Jozef Pilsudski.

Honoring Cooper's memory draws attention to the Bolshevik communist existential threat to the early history of Poland's Second Republic and Poland's success in eliminating it.

Today, as indicated below from David C. Jamison, Executive Director of the Foundation to Illuminate America's Heroes, Inc., Poland's new government has initiated involvement in the project, among others that seek to honor Poland's own heroes, such as Witold Pilecki, widely.

To say the least, the Merian C. Cooper film project is worthy of the support of Polish Americans and their friends throughout North America.



Please visit the following link here to see for yourself the amazing accomplishments, which have already been done, regarding a major Hollywood movie telling the profound and inspiring story of Poland's great hero, Witold Pilecki:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5I_zcW1xkORZ1F2VlhZV25GLVU/view?ts=56331805

This great project is 90% on its way to begin production in Poland as early as next summer with strong interest from a major Hollywood producer. In the link (above) you will note the funding from the Polish Film Institute, etc. An update to that link is that the new government in Poland is actively seeking a major Hollywood group to commit to the project and promising even more financing for it. We are working with the Producer of a documentary on Witold Pilecki, Miroslav Krzyszkowski, to coordinate our efforts with the contacts he has with the Polish government.

In addition, the American producer of this great project, David Aaron Gray, has become an equal one third owner of our Merian Cooper/Kosciuszko Squadron Hollywood movie project. He has already received approximately \$11.5 million of formal grants from the various cultural and the Film Institute in Poland and presales payments from the largest distributor of films in Europe. After completing the Witold Pilecki film project, "Into the Fire," he and we will run our Cooper project through the same grants and distribution model he has already successfully received and the Hollywood producer will make it the next project!

I urge you to visit (Right now as you are reading this message) the link above to the PowerPoint summary of the Witold Pilecki Hollywood film project. You will be very impressed and pleased. You will know every aspect of this story and great project, everything that has already been accomplished and of the last remaining priorities before production begins.

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

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

LAYOUT AND DESIGN BY POLISH FALCONS OF AMERICA:

Courtney Caughey-Stambul,
Communications Director

Andy Darragh,
Communications Assistant



Public Relations – **ADVOCATE!**

As Polish Americans, it is vital that we advocate for issues important to all of us in America, as well as for issues facing Poland. For example, the importance of the United States affirming its NATO commitments to Poland. This is especially critical as Poland is set to host the July 2016 NATO Meeting in Warsaw.



SAMPLE LETTER THAT YOU CAN USE TO WRITE TO YOUR LEGISLATOR

(Month) (Day) (Year)

The Honorable (First name) (Last name) (Room Number), Address
(City, State, Zip Code)

RE: (state the topic you are requesting action on, or include the bill number, author and subject if you are writing to support or oppose a particular legislative bill)

Dear (Senator or Congressman) (Last name):

My name is (your first and last name) and I am a member of the Polish American Congress (your state division) who resides in your district.

(State why you support or oppose the bill or other issue here. Choose up to three of the strongest points that support your position and state them clearly.)

(Include a personal story. Tell your representative why the issue is important to you and how it affects you, your family member and/or members of the Polish American community.)

(Tell your representative how you want her or him to vote on this issue and ask for a response. Be sure to include your name and address on both your letter and envelope.)

Sincerely,

SIGN YOUR NAME

Print your name street address City, State, Zip code

TIPS FOR WRITING, SENDING AN E-MAIL OR CALLING A LEGISLATOR:

Writing a letter to a legislator:

- Use the proper salutation, for example: The Honorable (first name) (last name) Address City, State, Zip code
- Dear (Senator/Congressman) (last name)
- Be courteous and informative in your communication.
- State the purpose of the letter in the opening sentence and if you are referring to a bill, include the bill number, author and topic. If you live in the elected official's district be sure to say this in the opening paragraph as well.
- Focus on the message and key points. Personalize the letter by including examples of how the legislation might impact you and your family – or the Polish American community – or Poland. Keep the letter brief – not more than one page.
- Restate your request at the end of the letter, for example urging them to support or oppose the bill – or the position you are writing about.
- Thank the legislator for his or her support and offer to address any questions that he or she might have. Be sure to include your contact information, and sign the letter.

Sending e-mail communication to a legislator:

- The same guidelines apply to e-mail as to written letters.
- Before sending an e-mail, you might want to call the legislator's office and ask if a letter sent by e-mail is effective. If you do send an e-mail, send it to the representative. Do not copy other representatives or send a mass e-mail. Make it a brief message with no special layouts or graphics. Do not include attachments. Include your full name and address so it is clear that you are a constituent, and ask for a response. You might also want to send a hard copy of your e-mail to the legislator.

Phone calls to a legislator:

- State your name and address and identify yourself as the legislator's constituent. You will often be speaking with a secretary or aide.

Briefly make known your position as they keep track of the issues that people call about to report to the legislator. Have your thoughts organized in advance, which will help you to keep the call brief and to the point. It is also very helpful to share how the issue affects you personally. Thank them for their support.

Helpful hints on writing a sample letter to the Editor:

- Keep it short. No longer than 300 words.
- Add personal stories.
- Send to your local daily and weekly newspapers. Look in your paper or online to see where you can send letters to the editor.
- We suggest you email and send a hard copy. Watch for deadlines or limits.
- Follow up with a phone call to ensure receipt.
- Encourage your members and friends to send letters to their papers.

Please send a copy of printed letters to the PAC Vice President for Public Relations, Mark Pienkos. Thank you.



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, 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.

CONTACT US NATIONAL OFFICE

1612 K Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20006
Tel.: (202) 296-6955
Fax: (202) 835-1565

Visit: www.pac1944.org

E-mail: pacwash@pac1944.org

Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Polish-American-Congress