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October 2016

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 5

Your Voice
in America!



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

Chicago, Illinois - September 15-17, 2016

The Polish American Congress held the election of officers at its annual meeting of the Council of National Directors on Sept. 15-17 in Chicago, IL. More than 80 National Directors were in attendance at the meeting; 84 votes were cast during the election.

The Council of National Directors constitutes the organization's highest level decision-making body and is comprised of presidents of PAC divisions and chapters, presidents of member organizations, as well other elected and appointed delegates.

Frank J. Spula was reelected to another two-year term as President of the PAC. Other officers elected were: First Vice President: Rick Pierchalski; Vice President for American Agenda: Anthony J. Bajdek; Vice President for Polish Affairs: Bozena Kaminski; Vice President for Membership Development: Rick Mazella; Vice President for Cultural Affairs: Debbie Majka; Vice President for Public Relations: Mark Pienkos; Vice President for Financial Development: Hubert Cioromski; Secretary: Timothy Kuzma; and Treasurer: Micheline Jaminski.

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

Future PAC Newsletters will be sent out.

Deadline for submission	Publication date
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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 requested.

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

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



(Continued...)

“The PAC delegates sent a strong message that they wish for the Polish American Congress to continue its primary and statutory focus on the Polish American Community in the U.S. The organization should also remain politically independent and free of any partisan influences,” said Mr. Spula about the results of the election.

The three-day meeting offered ample time for discussions that traditionally revolved around three matters of organizational growth and development: activities, fundraising, and membership.

The National Directors also approved an amendment to its Bylaws that will add a new Vice President of Learning and Education. The position will be filled at the next meeting of the Council of National Directors in 2017.

Guest speakers included Congressman Robert Dold (R-IL) and Piotr Janicki, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago. Damon Wilson (Executive Vice President of Atlantic Council) spoke on behalf of the Hillary Clinton Presidential Campaign while Thomas Cioppa and Martha Medina of the USIS office in Chicago outlined steps needed to be taken for a green card holder to obtain U.S. citizenship.

They urged community-based organizations and national organizations, such as the Polish American Congress, to encourage green card holders to move towards full citizenship which entitles one the important responsibility to be able to vote.

The last speaker to address the Council was Stanislaw Karczewski, MD, Marshall of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, who spoke on the current state of Polish affairs both within Poland and the world. He also outlined both successes and concerns facing Poland and Polish communities worldwide. He also thanked the Polish American Congress for its many years of its dedicated service to American Polonia and Poland and encouraged continued concern and work for the benefit of both.

Founded in 1944 in Buffalo, the Polish American Congress is today the largest and one of the oldest Polish American organizations with a presence nationwide. The primary goal of the organization is dedicated to providing national leadership for expanding and sustaining organized Polish American political and cultural life in the United States.

PAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET IN PITTSBURGH

Following the September 2016 annual meeting of the Polish American Congress in Chicago, the executive committee agreed to meet in Pittsburgh on November 1st and 2nd to develop plans for the upcoming year. Initiatives to be discussed include the upcoming 2017 Council of National Directors Meeting in Washington, D.C. Also, the meeting will provide the opportunity for team-building. A report on the outcomes of the Pittsburgh gathering will be reported in the December PAC “Your Voice in America” newsletter.



President's Message

Dear National Directors of the Polish American Congress, members and friends of the Polish American community,



Frank J. Spula, President

Thank you again, to all the National Directors of the Polish American Congress (PAC) who attended the recent meeting of Council of National Directors (COD) in Chicago. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated and will be taken into consideration in planning activities for the next two years. The newly-elected Executive Committee is embarking on a series of initiatives that will be reviewed and in due time presented to the COD. The overarching goal, however, is invariably to be vigilant and attentive to the needs of our organization and the Polish American community as they arise while ensuring that the PAC remains a strong organization.

With the presidential elections coming up in the very near future, the Polish American Congress was pleased to have the opportunity to host presidential candidate Donald Trump in the offices of the Polish National Alliance. The initial discussion about having such a session emanated shortly after the meeting of PAC Council of National Directors. Vice President for American Affairs Anthony Bajdek reached out inquiring if I would be able to host and arrange a meeting for Donald Trump and the American Polish community. The meeting was put together in a very short period of time, with many changes taking place prior to the meeting.

The day before the visit and meeting, I received a phone call that an individual was trying to sabotage the conference for the Polish community. Through the intervention of an outside source, and my assurance to the campaign committee that the purpose of the meeting was to meet with Mr. Trump in a cordial atmosphere so he could address specific questions, they concurred to proceed.

In fact, there were two meetings with Mr. Trump that took place that day: a private conversation set up for twenty-five representatives of the Polish American community and a public address that was held in the lower level of the building that was attended by approximately two hundred participants.

I know there were comments made that the meeting was held in Chicago and that not enough time was provided for PAC Directors to attend but, as mentioned earlier, the meeting was arranged by the Trump campaign and they controlled several aspects, such as the date and time, number of attendees, the time allotted, etc.

Mr. Trump seemed to be enamored by the hospitality he received from the Polish American Congress and the Polish people in general. He was appreciative and mentioned if elected he will work with the Polish American Congress.

Nevertheless, and as it usually happens in similar situations, there were individuals who were pleased that Mr. Trump took the time out of his busy schedule to meet with the Polish American Congress while at the same time there were others who were discontented with the fact that the meeting took place. As we always point out – the Polish American Congress is a non-partisan organization that meets with all parties and candidates. Holding such meetings in no way constitutes the organization's endorsement. In order to remain relevant, we simply have to be able to talk to everyone, regardless of their political orientation, and to present the matters that are important to the Polish American community and to the organization.

Approximately a week later on Monday, October 10th, another important meeting took place when the Polish American Congress met with Madeleine Albright, the former Secretary of State, who represented the Hilary Clinton presidential campaign. This meeting again was arranged in a very short period of time – in fact, in a matter of one day. Dr. Andersen, PAC Executive Director, communicated with me on Sunday afternoon inquiring if I would be available to meet with Secretary Albright in the afternoon of the following day? My response was that I would, depending on where and when. Secretary Albright was scheduled to be in Chicago on Monday, so invitations were emailed early on Monday morning to meet with her that afternoon. There were approximately twenty Polish American participants in the meeting, including some of the PAC National Directors from the Chicago area: Vice President for Financial Development Hubert Cioromski, Vice President for Public Relations Mark Pienkos, Parliamentarian Steve Tokarski, and others. There were numerous questions asked and Secretary Albright responded to each.

We still hope to meet with Secretary Clinton as we have reached out to her campaign with such an invitation. In the event that such a meeting is scheduled to take place, the PAC Council of National Directors will be promptly informed.

As important as presidential elections are, local elections are just as vital since they affect our local communities and our lives. I meet with numerous elected officials, as well as candidates of all parties, to make them cognizant of the concerns and needs of the Polish American community. As leaders within our respective communities, we need to reach out to candidates and encourage our constituents to vote.

This November, we will have the opportunity to elect those who will represent us in our respective states as well as on the federal level. I strongly urge everyone to take advantage of their right and responsibility as a U.S. citizen to take an active part in the elections and cast a vote for the candidates of your choice. What happens in these elections impacts us here, in our communities. Please learn about the candidates that are requesting your vote and see if they support an approach to governing that respects not only the most fundamental values of our great nation such as freedom and democracy, but also the principles of accountability, integrity, and honesty. I ask you to also ponder on their position regarding international matters, especially ones that affect Poland and what they plan on doing to lead us for the next four years in these turbulent times, both domestically and globally.

On a final note, I would like to encourage all readers of this Newsletter, who are not yet members of the Polish American Congress to join us. Let's work together for the benefit of our Polish American community, the United States of America, and Poland!

Sincerely,
Frank J. Spula, President

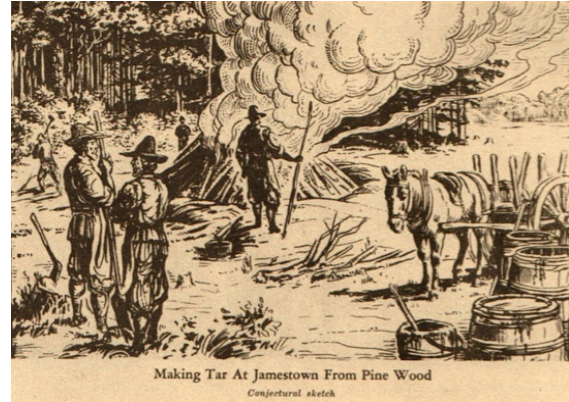
FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, DEBBIE MAJKA

In 2019, we will mark the historic 400th anniversary of the first work stoppage in the New World. The Jamestown Polish artisans led this non-violent strike for human rights to gain the right to vote. They said, “no vote, no work”. And since the Poles were so valuable to the Jamestown colony, they were immediately enfranchised.

In Poland, 2016 has been officially dedicated to Henryk Sienkiewicz, (1836-1916) the first Polish author to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. The others: Władysław Reymont for *Chłopi* and the poets Czesław Miłosz and Wisława Szymborska.

Poles love Sienkiewicz for his rollicking, swashbuckling tales of Poland’s days of glory. He is best known for his Trilogy—*With Fire and Sword* (*Ogniem i Mieczem*), *The Deluge* (*Potop*) and *Pan Wołodyjowski*. His *Quo Vadis*, released in 1895 was a huge success in Poland and abroad.

Hollywood adapted the Sienkiewicz novel for its 1951 technicolor film. The novel had previously been made into an Italian film in 1924. However, Sienkiewicz was also a prodigious travel journalist, who colorfully and with humor documented his trips in Africa, America and even on the London Underground. He traveled with the great Shakespearean actress Helen Modrzejewska and her friends to the U.S., and his travels inspired the “Letters from a Journey in America.” Sienkiewicz received the Nobel Prize in Literature for his “Outstanding accomplishments in the field of the epic.” One member of the committee commented, “A rare genius for incarnating the spirit of the nation.”



A \$5,000 research grant is available for the Jamestown Research Project.

Objective: The purpose of this project is:

- (1) to establish through independent research the nature of the work the Polonians of the Jamestown Colony performed,
- (2) to document their work stoppage using original materials and documents not before cited, and
- (3) to write an appropriate academically well-documented paper as a result of the research.

For application information: www.pac1944.org

Trump and Albright Meet with PAC

During the two separate meetings with Mr. Trump and Madame Albright, Mark Pienkos read a prepared statement and question for the Republican Presidential nominee and Hillary Clinton’s representative. Dr. Pienkos gave a copy of his statement to both Mr. Trump and Madame Albright. It read:

“The United States and Poland have a shared history dating back to the American Revolution, when Tadeusz Kościuszko and Casimir Pulaski fought in our War of Independence. Millions of Poles immigrated to America to help build our great country. Our own organization, the Polish American Congress, lobbied successfully to have The U.S. support Poland’s inclusion in NATO that took place in 1999. Poland has been a major ally in the fight against terrorism sending troops to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Also, let this never be forgotten: The people of Poland were the victims of the most cruel and merciless totalitarian aggression in WWII. Let no one ever forget this.

What assurances can you give us today, as well as Americans of Polish descent that number around 10 million people in America, that you will strongly support NATO and the security of Poland?”

Their responses to these questions and others can be found in the following press releases.



DONALD TRUMP MEETS WITH PAC

Written and Distributed by: Dr. Mark Pienkos, PAC VP for Public Relations and Dr. Barbara Andersen, PAC Executive Director.

On September 28, 2016, Republican Presidential candidate Donald J. Trump met with representatives of the Polish American Congress (PAC) as well as other leaders of the Polish American community at the office of the Polish National Alliance in Chicago.

The meeting was organized by the Polish American Congress. PAC President Frank Spula welcomed Mr. Trump to the Polish National Alliance headquarters. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani accompanied Mr. Trump.

President Spula addressed issues of importance to Polish Americans and Poland; specifically the critical need for a strong NATO, of which the Republic of Poland has been a member since 1999, as well as Poland's inclusion into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program.

Mr. Trump expressed strong support for both issues, including the support of a missile defense system with elements located in Poland. Mr. Trump said, "I am all for NATO and in a Trump Administration, we will have a friendly and strong partnership with Poland and Polish Americans."

Although unfamiliar with the issue of inclusion of Poland into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, Trump expressed concern that Poland is not a member of the Program. Trump said, "I promise that within weeks of my Administration being sworn into office, I will see to the approval of Poland in the Visa Waiver Program."

Mr. Trump thanked those in attendance for the hospitality afforded him and Mr. Giuliani.

Following the meeting with leaders of the Polish American community, Mr. Trump spoke to nearly two hundred Polish Americans who gathered in the PNA headquarters.

Mr. Trump reinforced his fondness and commitment to Poland and Polish Americans.

The meeting was organized by the Office of President Spula, Mr. William Ciosek of the Donald Trump Campaign with the assistance of Anthony Bajdek, Polish American Congress Vice President for American Affairs.

The Polish American Congress has reached out to the Hilary Clinton Campaign for a similar opportunity to meet with Secretary Clinton. As of today, the campaign has not responded to the invitation.

The Polish American Congress does not endorse candidates, but hopes to inform candidates as to the issues facing Poland and Polish Americans.

Meeting participants included:

Frank J Spula, President of the Polish American Congress & Polish National Alliance
Rick E. Pierchalski, PAC First Vice President
Dr. Mark Pienkos, PAC VP for Public Relations
Hubert Cioromski, PAC VP for Financial Development
Tim Kuzma, PAC Secretary, President of the Polish Falcons of America
Micheline Jaminski, PAC Treasurer, President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America
Romuald Poplawski, President of the PAC Illinois Division
Mary Anselmo, PAC National Director
Jacek Niemczyk, PAC National Director, General Manager of the WPNA Radio Station
Magdalena Pantelis, PAC National Director, General Manager of the Alliance Publishers and Printers
Joseph Drobot, PAC National Director, President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America
Marian Grabowski, PAC National Director, Treasurer of the Polish National Alliance
Bozena Nowicka McLees, PAC National Director, Chair of the PAC Educational Commission
Charles Komosa, PAC National Director, Secretary of the Polish National Alliance
Margaret Blaszcuk, PAC National Director, Editor of the Polish Daily News
Alicja Kuklinska, PAC National Director, Editor of Zgoda
Mark Grzymala, PAC IL Division Director
Dr. Kornelia Krol, President of the Polish American Medical Association
Maciej Pikarski, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Washington
Piotr Janicki, Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Chicago
Anna Morzy, President of the Polish American Chamber of Commerce
Ewa Koch, President of the Polish Teachers Association in America
Jan Cikowski, President of the Polish Highlanders in America
Iwona Węgrzyn Bochenki, President of the Warsaw Committee of Chicago Sister Cities.

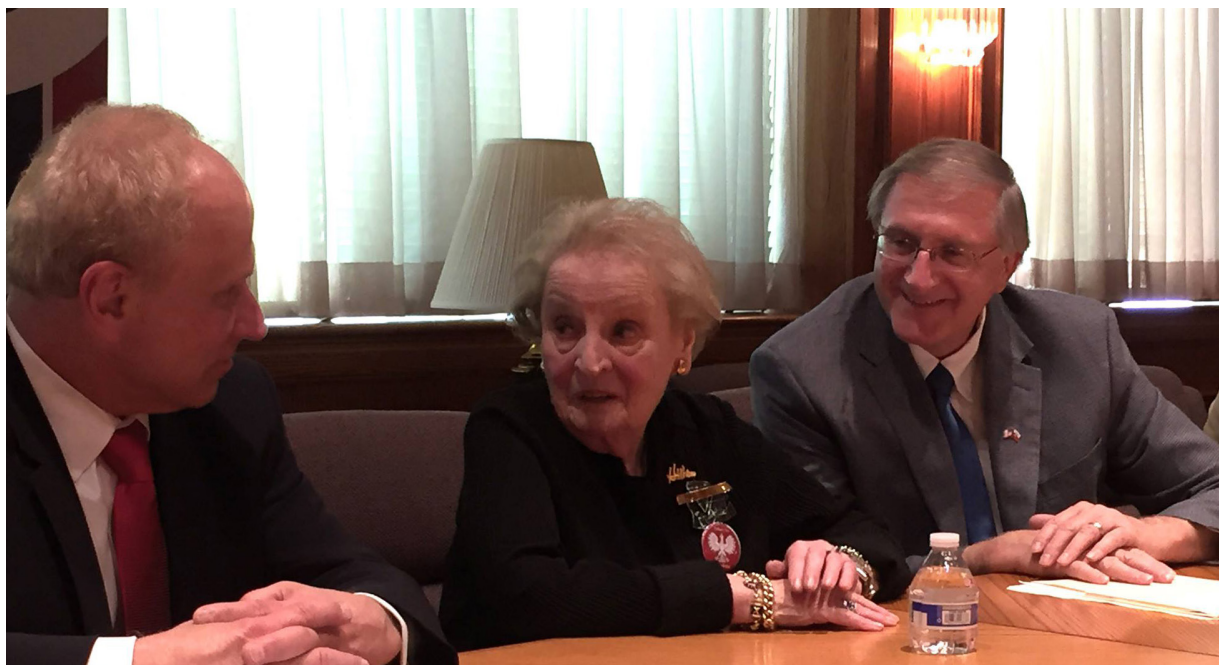


Photo Credit: REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst, photographer



Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump responds to a question posed by Dr. Mark Pienkos, PAC Vice President for Public Relations. Also pictured are (L-R): Romuald Poplawski (President, PAC Illinois Division), Hubert Cioromski (PAC VP for Financial Development), Frank Spula (President of the Polish American Congress & Polish National Alliance), Tim Kuzma (PAC Secretary, President of the Polish Falcons of America), Dr. Pienkos, Bozena Nowicka McLees (PAC National Director, Chair of the PAC Educational Commission)

Photo Credit: Alicja Kuklinska, PAC National Director, Editor of Zgoda



Madeleine Albright meets with the PAC.



Madeleine Albright Meets with PAC

On October 10, 2016, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met with representatives of the Polish American Congress (PAC) as well as other leaders of the Polish American community at the office of the Polish National Alliance in Chicago. Secretary Albright, a founder and a partner of the DC-based advisory firm - the Albright Stonebridge Group, spoke on behalf of the Hillary Clinton Presidential Campaign.

PAC President Frank Spula welcomed Secretary Albright and noted that this was the first time that a present or former United States Secretary of State had visited the headquarters of the Polish National Alliance.

President Spula asked Secretary Albright to explain Hillary Clinton's views on issues of importance to Polish Americans and Poland; specifically, the critical need for a strong NATO engagement in Poland in the region of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), as well as Poland's inclusion into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program.

In response, Secretary Albright relayed Secretary Clinton's strong support for Poland and the CEE region. As one of the examples, she cited Poland's inclusion into the NATO Alliance in 1999 during the Bill Clinton Administration. Albright reaffirmed Secretary Clinton's support for Poland and NATO adding, "I am very troubled by the statements made by Mr. Trump. Anyone who gives credence to Russia's Vladimir Putin doesn't understand the seriousness of the situation in Eastern Europe. Secretary Clinton shares this assessment." Speaking of the art of diplomacy, Secretary Albright said that, "Hillary Clinton understands the balance between dialogue and deterrence."

Regarding the inclusion of Poland in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (VWP), for which the Polish American Congress has been strongly advocating in recent years, Albright said, "There is no question that something needs to be done. One of the questions is to verify who is asking to enter our country. This has gotten to be very complicated. The Republican candidate said he could do this in two weeks. He doesn't understand how complex this issue is. It is not something that can be done in two weeks. It shows a lack of understanding of the process."

The meeting that lasted more than an hour offered ample time to address in depth not only the topics of NATO and inclusion of Poland in the VWP, but also other matters raised by PAC hosts that included the issue of lump-sum compensations and property restitution in Poland, the ongoing investigation of the Smolensk plane crash, as well the growing concern about negative publicity that Poland's newly-elected government has been receiving in recent months in Europe and worldwide as well.

Secretary Albright expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to share her views on behalf of Hillary Clinton.

Albright specifically stated that Secretary Clinton has great admiration for the Polish American community and the nation of Poland, a long-standing ally of the United States. Albright's final statement was, "I really do believe that Hillary Clinton will be an incredible President. She is so well-prepared."

"It was a very productive meeting," said Frank Spula after the session concluded. "As the largest Polonia umbrella organization in the United States, we have the responsibility to raise awareness about the issues of greatest concern to the Polish American community. We need to continue to educate not only those who are already elected, but also those who are aspiring for leadership positions, at all levels, including the highest one. They need to know what the issues are that we face, as well as those that face Poland and the entire region of Central and Eastern Europe as well."

The meeting with the PAC and Polonia leaders was yet another in a series of meetings that Secretary Albright held with the representatives of the Polish American Congress. In June of 2016, and then again in September, she met with the Central and East European Coalition – an informal association of 18 ethnic organizations representing Americans who trace their ancestry to the region of Central and Eastern Europe to discuss issues of common concern. The Polish American Congress is one of the founders and an active member of the Coalition. Dr. Barbara Andersen represented the PAC during both sessions.

NOTE: The Polish American Congress does not endorse candidates for elected offices. The organization meets with representatives of all political factions in effort to present and discuss issues of key importance to the Polish American community, Poland, and the region of Central and Eastern Europe. Contact: Dr. Mark Pienkos, PAC VP for Public Relations; 262-325-8039; markpienkos2012@gmail.com or Dr. Barbara Andersen, PAC Executive Director, Pacwash@pac1944.org

Meeting participants included:

Frank J. Spula, PAC President
Dr. Mark Pienkos, PAC VP for Public Relations
Hubert Cioromski, PAC VP for Financial Development
Steve H. Tokarski, President of PAC Indiana Division
Andrzej Gedlek, PAC National Director
Stanislaw Zagata, PAC National Director
Mary Anselmo, PAC National Director
Donald Versen, PAC National Director
Malgorzata Blaszczyk, PAC National Director, Editor in Chief/Polish Daily News
Alicja Kuklinska, PAC National Director, Editor of Zgoda, PNA Publication
Jacek Niemczyk, PAC Director at Large, Manager of WPNA 1490, Radio
Magdalena Pantelis, PAC National Director, Alliance of Printers and Publishers
David Tokarski, PAC National Director, President National Advocates Society
Anna Wierzbicki, PAC National Director
Ewa Cholewinski, Treasurer of PAC IL Division
Bogdan Struminski, Vice President of PAC IL Division
Mark Grzymala, PAC IL Division
Maureen Pikarski, National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Council, Chicago
Bozena Haslakiewicz, President of Legion of Young Polish Women
Konrad Nowak, Polish American Association, and Grzegorz Dziedzic, City Editor/Polish Daily News

Pulaski Day Parade

The PAC - Long Island Division is to be commended for its efforts, including participation in the Pulaski Day Parade. What a fine way to highlight "October is Polish American Heritage Month!" Keep up the fine work! *Dziekuje!*



PAC - Long Island Division
Marta Wesolowska, Vice President of Youth, and
Kazimierz Nietupski assist people in registration.

New York City Auditor, Scott M. Stringer was invited to the October Polish Heritage Breakfast, which takes place every year. It was a wonderful opportunity to talk with people who have an effect on what is happening in the city. Without a doubt one of these people is the No. 2 man in NYC, Scott Stringer. Grzegorz Worwa, President of the Polish American Congress Faculty of Long Island, helped organize this event. Mr. Singer boasted of his Polish roots. Also, this event provided opportunities for Polish American activists to engage in conversations with politicians.

Also, The PAC - Long Island Division took part in the annual Pulaski Day Parade in New York City. During the parade, participants handed out forms to interested people encouraging voter registration for the Presidential Election in November. Leading our contingent was Dr. Janusz Romanski, President of Polonia Technica. The PAC - Long Island Division takes seriously the upcoming elections and that is why we organized information and assistance points during the parade where prospective voters could ask questions and gain information as to how to fill out the voter registration forms.



Pulaski Day Parade
Marching on New York's Fifth Avenue



Polish Heritage Breakfast



Polish Heritage Breakfast
Grzegorz Worwa, President, PAC - L.I. Division
Scott Singer, PAC - L.I. Division



Pulaski Day Parade



**THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary**

**For Immediate Release October 7, 2016
GENERAL PULASKI MEMORIAL DAY, 2016
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA: A PROCLAMATION**

Over two centuries ago, Polish immigrant Casimir Pulaski crossed an ocean to take up the cause of defending a young nation. Rising quickly to the rank of Brigadier General in the Continental Army, he reformed our cavalry, saved the life of General George Washington, and helped secure our independence. Today, we celebrate the legacy of liberty he forged and reflect on the many ways Polish American voices continue to shape the unending story of our Nation.

Spending his formative years in Poland laboring for his home country's independence, General Pulaski came to America with both an expertise in combat and a passion for liberty that made him invaluable to our new Nation's fight for freedom. Leading a legion of men on horseback and working alongside General Washington, General Pulaski achieved victory after victory. But he would never see the results of his valiant efforts fully realized -- he succumbed to battle injuries on October 11, 1779, giving his final full measure of devotion in defense of the ideals we cherish.

More than 200 years later, Polish Americans across our country honor the spirit of General Pulaski through their many contributions to our Nation and through living the values that unite us all. The proud members of the Polish American community strengthen the rich heritage of our country -- many serve in our Armed Forces, protecting the very freedoms General Pulaski helped secure centuries before -- and they reflect the strong friendship that endures today between the United States and Poland.

On General Pulaski Memorial Day, we commemorate one of our Nation's earliest embodiments of the belief that no matter who you are or where you come from, those who love this country can change it for the better. In honor of General Pulaski's sacrifice and the important role Polish Americans play in our country, let us rededicate ourselves to defending our founding ideal of liberty for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2016, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. I encourage all Americans to commemorate this occasion with appropriate programs and activities paying tribute to Casimir Pulaski and honoring all those who defend the freedom of our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.

Polish Translation by Grzegorz Worwa

**Presidential Proclamation
General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2016
GENERAL PULASKI MEMORIAL DAY, 2016
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA: PROKLAMACJA**

"Dwa wieki temu polski imigrant Kazimierz Pułaski przekroczył ocean, by podjąć sprawę obrony młodego państwa. Szybko awansując do rangi generała brygady Armii Kontynentalnej zreformował naszą kawalerię, uratował życie Jerzego Waszyngtona i pomógł obronić naszą niepodległość" - "Zrobił wszystko, co mógł, by bronić wartości, które czcimy"

Swoje młode lata spędził w Polsce walcząc o niepodległość kraju. Generał Pułaski przybył do Ameryki zarówno jako doświadczony w walce jak i z pasją do wolności, które uczyniły z niego bezcennego w walce o wolność naszego młodego kraju. Prowadząc legion mężczyzn na koniach i współdziałając razem z Generałem Waszyngtonem, Generał Pułaski osiągnął zwycięstwo za zwycięstwem.

Nigdy nie zobaczył rezultatów swoich mężnych działań, gdyż zmarł z powodu zadanych ran w bitwie 11 października 1779 roku, pokazując nam wielkość oddania w obronie ideałów, które my czcimy.

Polskie społeczeństwo z dumą upamiętnia generała, wielu jest w służbie w naszej armii, broniąc wolności i tych wartości, o które Generał Pułaski walczył ponad dwa wieki temu i które odzwierciedlają trwająca do dzisiaj silna przyjaźń między Stanami Zjednoczonymi a Polską.

"W Dzień Pamięci Generała Pułaskiego upamiętniamy człowieka, który ucieleśniał nasze przekonanie, że niezależnie kim jesteś i skąd pochodzisz, to kochając ten kraj możesz zmienić go na lepsze"

"Zatem ja, Barack Obama, prezydent Stanów Zjednoczonych, na mocy uprawnień nadanych mi przez Konstytucję i prawo Stanów Zjednoczonych, ogłaszam 11 października 2016 Dniem Pamięci Generała Pułaskiego. Zachęcam wszystkich Amerykanów do uczczenia Jego pamięci w odpowiednich programach i oddanie hołdu Kazimierzowi Pułaskiemu oraz wszystkim tym, którzy walczyli o niepodległość naszego kraju.

Jako dwięście czterdziesty pierwszy prezydent Stanów Zjednoczonych podpisuje ustawę siódmego października roku pańskiego dwa tysiące szesnaście.



RESOLUTIONS APPROVED DURING THE COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS MEETING

September 15-17, 2016, Chicago, IL

**Resolution I: Frances X. Gates Resolution; Submitted by
Barbara B. Andersen, Ph.D.**

Whereas Frances X. Gates served as a National Director of the Polish American Congress over the course of more than two decades representing the Polish Singers Alliance of America, and

Whereas Frances X. Gates served on and chaired various committees of the Council of National Directors of the Polish American Congress during this time and also was an officer or director of other Polish American organizations, such as the Polish Singers Alliance of America, the American Association of the Friends of Kosciuszko at West Point, The Kosciuszko Foundation, and the Pulaski Day Parade on Fifth Avenue in New York City, and

Whereas Frances X. Gates' strong record of wide-ranging support for Polish American causes, her considerable contributions to the management and direction of Polonia's organizations, and her many contributions to the Polish American Congress make her a true example to all Polish Americans and a model of dedicated activism, unbiased judgment, and focus on the greater good of Polonia organizations and the Polish community at large.

Let it be resolved, that the Council of National Directors of the Polish American Congress that gathered on September 15-17 in Rosemont, IL expresses its deep appreciation for the many years of Frances X. Gates' selfless, dedicated, and exemplary service, and wishes her good health, satisfaction with all she has done, and the proverbial *Sto Lat!*

**Resolution II: Resolution by the Polish American Congress
for its Participation in the First Forum of American Polonia,
July 26-30, 2016, Rzeszow, Poland.**

Whereas on July 26, 2016 the Polish American Congress met for the first time in its history, one that spans more than seven decades, outside the borders of the United States, in Rzeszow, Poland as a part of the historic First Forum of American Polonia, and

Whereas the Polish American Congress is today the largest and one of the oldest organizations that brings together Americans of Polish descent in an effort of unifying the Polish American community to work together for the common benefit of the United States and Poland, and

Whereas since its inception, the Polish American Congress has been a champion for many causes of a free and independent Poland, including providing humanitarian aid as well as strong support for Poland's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization which was accomplished in 1999, and

Whereas the unprecedented 2016 Forum in Rzeszow was spearheaded by the Marshal's Office of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship to not only present the great potential of the Podkarpackie area but also to bring attention to its many possibilities for foreign investments and partnerships.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Polish American Congress expresses its great appreciation and gratitude to the Marshal's Office of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship for its generous invitation as well as for the development of a very informative and rich program to acquaint the Forum participants with the extensive economic, educational, and cultural possibilities of the region. For many participants, this was a one of a kind opportunity to experience first-hand the proverbial Polish hospitality, as well as to witness the great innovation and business development of the Podkarpackie Province.

Be it resolved that the Polish American Congress hopes that the 2016 Forum of American Polonia in Rzeszow will become a model and inspiration for other similar initiatives both in Poland and in the United States. These future forums will not only promote and enhance business, educational, and cultural relationships, but also, and foremost, provide a platform for greater dialog and strengthening ties between the two nations.

Be it further resolved that the Polish American Congress will work diligently to maintain its close and continuing contacts with both local governments in Poland, as well as at the national level. The PAC recognizes the key importance of such events as the 2016 Rzeszow Forum as a foundation for tangible successful business, educational, and cultural enterprises.



Resolution III: Appreciation Resolution; Submitted by Stephen Flor on behalf of the Polish Falcons of America.

Whereas, the Polish American Congress has functioned successfully for 72 years, primarily as an umbrella organization, unifying the Polish American Community of the United States, and

Whereas, we dedicate these proceedings to our members of the Polish American Community, that our incoming Officers and Directors have the leadership, inspiration, vision and motivation to guide our organization and to value all members, regardless of opinion, diversity, geography or philosophy to ensure our growth and stability, and

Whereas, we look forward to the future with a dedicated spirit, unafraid to discuss, but united in purpose, and

Whereas, we continually work to build up and support our youth through athletic, cultural, scholarship and leadership programs, therefore,

Be it resolved that we express our heartfelt gratitude to the Organizers for a successful meeting; to the National Office for warmly hosting our events; to all of the volunteers especially to those who tirelessly worked behind the scenes to make things proceed and to the City of Rosemont, for any and all assistance provided to the Polish American Congress.

Resolution IV: 1050th Anniversary of Christianity and May 3rd Constitution in Poland; Submitted by Stephen Flor on behalf of the Polish Falcons of America.

Whereas the year 2016 marks the 1050th Anniversary of Poland's acceptance of Christianity, and

Whereas, the year 2016 marks the 225th Anniversary of the signing of the Polish Constitution of May 3rd, 1791, known as the "First Constitution in Europe and the Second in the World to that of the United States, therefore,

Be it resolved that all Polish Americans commemorate these events appropriately and exhibit special pride in the historic bond between the people of the United States and Poland in the evolutionary development of democratic government.

Resolution V: World War One Centennial Commission; Submitted by Stephen Flor on behalf of the Polish Falcons of America.

Whereas the year 2014 marked 100 years since the beginning of World War I in Europe, and

Whereas the year 2017 will mark 100 years since the entry of the United States into the "Great War", and

Whereas some 300,000 Polish Americans served in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War I, and

Whereas the Polish American Community was instrumental in the recruitment and formation of 22,000 volunteers from America to General Józef Haller's Polish "Blue" Army in France, and

Whereas the Congress of the United States established the World War One Centennial Commission, and the year 2018 will mark the end of World War I, to be celebrated on November 11th, as Veterans' Day, and

Whereas, November 11th will mark the 100th Anniversary of the Rebirth of Poland at the end of World War I, therefore Be it resolved that all research and develop the recognition of those Polish Americans who served, working closely with the American Legion formed by U.S. Veterans from World War I and Polish Army Veterans Association (SWAP) formed by the returning soldiers of Gen. Józef Haller's Army and commemorate Veterans' Day in an appropriate manner, and

Be it further resolved that all Polish Americans promote the historic continuity of the resolve of the American people for the Freedom and Independence of Poland.

Resolution VI: Support for NATO and U.S. Troops Worldwide; Submitted by Stephen Flor on behalf of the Polish Falcons of America.

Whereas, the members of the Polish American Community have been good and conscientious citizens of the American nation since its inception and cherish their rights and liberties, engaged at a moment of growing civil unrest within the United States, and recognize that liberty should be denied to none, but protected for all, and

Whereas, in July of 2016, the Polish American Congress had witnessed the NATO Summit, held for the first time in Warsaw, Poland, and

Whereas, all Polish Americans encourage fellow citizens to support the good mission of NATO to preserve and defend the freedom and independence of our nation's greatest ally - Poland, therefore,

Be it resolved that we continue to show support for our troops worldwide and for Law Enforcement, as well as our Democratic process in the upcoming 2016 Presidential election.

PAC Resolutions Committee: Theresa Bunk (Chair), Richard Brzozowski, James Lawicki, and David Tokarski.

Polish Museum of America Awarded Gold Medal for Merit to Culture – Gloria Artis

On September 27, 2016, Piotr Gliński, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, awarded the Gold Medal for Merit to Culture – Gloria Artis - to the Polish Museum of America (PMA). PMA President Richard Owsiany and Managing Director Małgorzata Kot accepted the award on behalf of the PMA. The ceremony took place at the office of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York. Jarosław Sellin, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, announced this honor on September 15, during the 38th Annual Conference of the Polish Museums, Archives, and Libraries Abroad, held in London.

The Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America (New York) and Janusz Sporek also received Gloria Artis awards.

One of the oldest and largest ethnic museums in the United States, the Polish Museum of America (PMA) is dedicated to preserving the Polish American past for future generations. Founded in 1935 by an initiative of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and open since 1937, the PMA celebrates more than 80 years of service to the community.

The Museum showcases a unique permanent collection. Highlights include: personal and professional mementos of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, statesman and pianist (1860-1941), in the IJ Paderewski Room; Inter-War paintings and sculptures in the Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak Art Gallery; and art and artifacts from the Polish Pavilion at the 1939 New York World's Fair, displayed in the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall and throughout the PMA. Temporary exhibits of various art and historical themes round out visitor experiences, creating an engaging space to learn about the Polish American past and present.

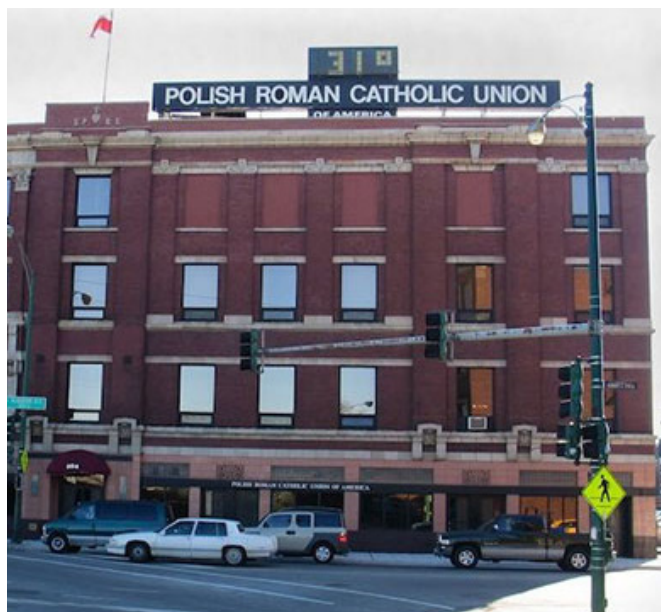


Gloria Artis Gold Medal Award

The PMA's rich programming engages audiences and preserves Polish arts, customs, and traditions for all generations. Annual events include the Official State of Illinois Pulaski Day Celebration on the first Monday in March, the Summer Ball in early June, the Library's Duplicate Book Sale, "Art for Heart" fundraiser and exhibition, and an Autumn Dance. Arts and crafts workshops are held for children and families: Easter pisanki, or egg coloring; wycinanki – traditional paper cutting techniques; kite making on International Kite Day; and Christmas ornament making. This is in addition to regularly scheduled "Meet the Author" and literary discussions, lectures on art or history, film screenings, and musical performances throughout the year.

The PMA Archives contains historic materials, documents, maps, and photographs from Polish and Polish American individuals and organizations. A Polish-language guide to the archives collections was recently published – the first of its kind in the PMA's history. The PMA Library, which celebrated its centennial in 2015, holds over 100,000 books for research and lending, and collections of Polonica, rare prints, and periodicals.

For more information, please visit:
www.PolishMuseumOfAmerica.org



Polish American Heritage Month Celebrated in Wisconsin!

Raising Public Awareness about Poland and Polish Affairs in Wisconsin

David Rydzewski, President
Polish American Congress - Wisconsin Division

The Polish American Congress - Wisconsin Division has been pleased to organize educational programs about the Polish experience in cooperation with the Polish Heritage Alliance of Wisconsin. These events were held at the magnificent Polish Center built in 2000 and located near Milwaukee.

This Fall, five programs were organized at the Polish Center. On September 15, past PAC National Director Don Pienkos gave a talk on the history and dynamics of Polish immigration and settlement in the United States to more than one hundred attendees. On September 27, Dr. Thomas Holbrook of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a specialist on presidential elections, spoke to a fine audience in a program underwritten by a PAC member organization, the Milwaukee Society of the Polish National Alliance. Dr. Holbrook discussed how immigration into the U.S. and population movement within the U.S. have become critically important forces impacting American politics and the programs the two major parties have come to adopt. A lively and serious discussion followed his remarks about the current election campaign.

On October 11, 18, and 25 the PAC, working with the members of the UW-Milwaukee Polish Studies Committee and the Polish Center sponsored a series of outstanding documentary films about Poland and Polonia. These included "Nine Days that Changed the World" and "The Fourth Partition."



"On September 27, 2016, Dr. Tom Holbrook, Political Science professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, spoke at the Polish Center of Wisconsin to nearly forty people. His topic focused on voting trends and the current presidential election. Dr. Holbrook's presentation was part of the lecture and film series sponsored by the PAC-Wisconsin Division, the Milwaukee Society of the PNA, and the Polish Heritage Alliance."

All of these events were free and open to the general public and underscored the Polish American Congress - Wisconsin Division's commitment to raising awareness about Poland and the Polish experience in America. AND on November 6, the Polish American Congress - Wisconsin Division will hold its 19th annual Polish Independence Day/Veterans Day luncheon at the Polish Center. On this day, we will celebrate both Poland's Independence Day - November 11, 1918 - and our country's Veterans Day. In addition, we will honor a number of outstanding individuals and organizations that have been devoted to our community's betterment in a variety of significant ways. The recipients will receive the Congressman Clement J. Zablocki Civic Achievement Award, named in memory of one of our finest government servants of years past and a dedicated friend of Poland's freedom and independence.

WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL

POLISH AND POLISH AMERICAN INPUT

By Jan Lorys

Next year, the United States will commemorate the centennial of the Declaration of War against the Central Powers and its emergence as a dominant, if reluctant player on the world scene. Poles and Polish Americans were very active in that period and the events leading up to it, but I do not think that a concerted effort is being made to commemorate those events. We have some statesmen and leaders to emulate, but also the involvement of people in the quest for Polish independence at all levels of society.

World War I, as every struggle, changed the lives and events of those who participated in it and its effects are still felt after 100 years – the maps of Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East were changed and that has impacted our current events.

The Polish Museum of America (PMA) is proposing that the Polish American Congress establish a Commission to commemorate these events and personalities on a local, national, and international level. A few actions have been started and there is still time to complete many more.

- Late last year, the PMA began our photo project to identify with photographs the 30,000 enlistees to the Polish Army of France, who joined from October 1917 through February 1919 and trained in Canada before shipping out to France. After the war the enlarged Army, under the command of General Józef Haller, came to Poland and helped secure the boundaries of the new state. The Polish Genealogical Society of America has sent out requests to its members to aid in this endeavor. We are going through our photo collection also. We encourage the Polish Army Veterans' Association (SWAP) to raise funds and obtain grants to bring their archives on line and help with our project.

- The PMA is preparing an exhibit on the Army in early 2018 which could be made into a traveling exhibit for sending out to various locations within the United States.

- The Polish Falcons of America transferred a WW I Falcon recruitment film into a VHS back in the 1980s and should now take the next step and transfer that onto a DVD format. This film, made in 1917/1918, takes the form of a docudrama of a young man wishing to enlist in the Polish Army in France. His thoughts about the war are shown through stock footage of a U.S. propaganda film showing the front. After he joins up with his friend, he is sent to Canada and writes a letter to his mother and sister, the contents of the letter are shown as the documentary of the Polish Falcons film shows daily routines in the camp. Also highlighted are some individuals including LTC LePan, the Canadian Camp Commandant and notables from the Polish community in Buffalo.



American recruitment poster for the Polish Army in France by W.T. Benda



Scenes from Chicago are included in the first section. In 1918, the film was shown in the Army and Navy Club in Washington, D.C. The VHS version includes commentary by Dr. Joseph T. Hapak of Chicagoland, who did his doctoral dissertation on the recruiting effort.

- A documentary on the Polish Armed Effort using WWI film footage, as well as interviews of the last remaining volunteers done by film producer Andrew Chudzinski and historian Jan Lorys in the mid 1980s. This film can be done in English and Polish to widen the audience and the appeal. The popular documentary “The Fourth Partition” deals a little with the Polish Army, but has a much broader subject area.

- Everything that the American community did during the First World War, the Polish community did also. There were 50 recruiting centers and stations for the Polish Army in France in states that had a large Polish population. The headquarters of the PRCUA was center number 2 and it also held a U.S. Selective Service Office, and Illinois had at least five centers/stations, Wisconsin had two in Milwaukee and Stevens Point. Michigan had four: Detroit, Bay City, Grand Rapids, and Saginaw. This proposal should be done on a local level: We should identify those buildings that served as recruiting centers/stations and have them identified as such by the State Historical Association, the local WWI Centennial Commission and place a plaque in Polish and English stating that the given building was a recruiting center for the Polish Army in WWI.

- The Polish Legion of America Veterans was formed in the early 1920s to highlight Polish American service in the U.S. Military. Of the first 100,000 volunteers for the U.S. Military, 42,000 were of Polish descent, and by the end of the war, 300,000 had served in the American Armed Forces. While Poles were 3.5% of the population, they made up nearly 10% of the military – both by volunteering or submitting to the draft. The U.S. Military was very liberal in Americanizing Slavic names or whitewashing them. Michael Eliaz from St. Louis, MO received a Medal of Honor (MOH) as Michael Ellis. Two of the United States Marine Corps MOH recipients with obvious Slavic names, were listed as Austrians (technically true by way of citizenship, but not nationality). Many of the leaders of Polonia in the interwar period served in the First World War.

- Participation in the war was not limited to men. Young Polish American women joined the Polish White Cross and the Grey Samaritan Nurses for hospital work in France and later Poland after the war. The mothers of “Rosie the Riveter” worked in the factories in the North, the Midwest, and regions with large immigrant populations.

The Polish American community basically supported two wars – the main American effort and the cause of Poland. Their sacrifice should be known and honored by America, Poland, and the community itself.

Important Dates to highlight:

➤ June 14, 1917

France announces formation of the Army

➤ October, 1917

Recruitment begins; volunteers go to Niagara-on-the Lake, Ontario

➤ December, 1917

First trainees sail to France

➤ June 22, 1918

The Polish Army obtains regimental standards from French cities

➤ October, 1918

General Józef Haller is nominated as Commander in Chief of the Polish Army in France

➤ February, 1919

Niagara-on-the Lake closes

➤ March-April, 1919

The reorganized and enlarged Army goes to Poland across Germany by train

➤ 1920

Units of the Army fight against the Bolsheviks

➤ June, 1922

The last of the Veterans return to the United States

➤ 1923

General Haller visits the U.S. in a tour organized by the American Legion to honor all Allied Commanders. This was done in conjunction with the Polish Veterans in the U.S. and Polish Legion of American Veterans.



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

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

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**

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



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