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June 2017

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3

Your Voice
in America!

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

Future PAC Newsletters will be sent out:

Deadline for submission	Publication date
Friday, August 4, 2017	Friday, August 11, 2017
Friday, October 6, 2017	Friday, October 13, 2017
Friday, December 1, 2017	Friday, December 8, 2017

Council of National Directors meeting dates:

September 25th - September 28th. Location: Hilton Garden Inn Reagan National Airport, 2020 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.

There are 40 rooms available for the guest room bloc from Monday, September 25th until Wednesday September 27th. The room rate is \$149 plus 13.25% tax. Overnight parking costs \$15. Please call 1-800-445-8667 BEFORE 08/25/2017 to make room reservations for the PAC.

Remembering a great suggestion from last year: To assist travelers who may need an additional day or two prior to the start of our meeting or afterwards, conference participants can reserve rooms at the negotiated group discounted rate of \$149.

Speakers:

Ambassador Piotr Wilczek will address the CND on September 25th at the dinner banquet.

Professor Marek Chodakiewicz has confirmed our invitation to deliver the keynote address at the CND meeting.

The day for Capitol Hill visits is Tuesday, September 26.

Wednesday's and Thursday's events include briefings by experts on Poland's accession to the Visa Waiver Program and the threat of Resurgent Russian Imperialism to Poland, Europe and the United States.

"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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Zbigniew Brzezinski

(1928-2017)



In 1977 at Camp David, President Jimmy Carter with Brzezinski and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Don Pienkos, Prof. Emeritus (Political Science)
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski was without question the most significant and influential American of Polish origin in the history of the American political experience.

He was a first rate scholar.

His greatest works - *Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy* (with Carl J. Friedrich) and *The Soviet Bloc: Unity and Conflict* - respectively - influenced American academic and intellectual views of the Soviet state and the character of post-World War II Eastern Europe - for decades.

But Brzezinski - like Henry Kissinger and Daniel P. Moynihan - was not content to be an academic scholar. He wanted to do more.

For more than forty years he worked tirelessly - in his writings, in his government service, and in his many appearances on various media - to be a true public intellectual - always dedicated to the values he believed were central to our country's best interests - nationally and internationally.

Dr. Brzezinski played a pivotal role in the 1960s in making Americans better appreciate the importance of building bridges with the peoples of communist dominated Eastern Europe.



In 2010, Former National Security Advisers meet with President Barack Obama. Seated at the table, from left, are Brent Scowcroft, Bud McFarlane, Colin Powell, Dennis Ross, Sandy Burgher, Frank Carlucci and Brzezinski.

He was a vigorous critic of American appeasement to Soviet interests and wrote effectively (with Samuel Huntington) against the silly and dangerous theory of convergence that was so fashionable in the 1970s.

As National Security Advisor to President Carter, he played perhaps his greatest role in pressing our government to stand strong for Poland in the crisis time of Solidarity. Throughout the 1980s he worked tirelessly for Poland's freedom and the West's victory over Soviet communism - which he viewed as a total failure - in his writings, in his contacts with U.S. officials, and in his many public appearances.

Indeed, Zbigniew Brzezinski played a truly important role in giving his talents to bringing the Cold War to an end. In doing so, he worked closely with the Polish American Congress. Moreover, in the 1990s he was a clarion voice on behalf of the admission of Poland, and the Czech and Hungarian republics, into the NATO Alliance - and for all the right reasons.

And what is more, he never forgot the importance of promoting the enlightenment of Americans about Poland - as a key figure in the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America and in many other ways as well.

I recall that it was Zbigniew Brzezinski who was responsible back in 1978 for inviting scores of young American academics - like myself and my wife - to the White House to be present to learn about President Carter's visit to Poland. What a moment that was!

And it was Brzezinski who wrote so much of the great speech on behalf of Solidarity that Carter delivered to over 3,000 Polish Americans at the centennial anniversary of the Polish National Alliance in September 1980 - just one week after the Gdansk accords had been signed.

Thank you for those efforts, Dr. Brzezinski, and for a career of devoted and simply extraordinary public service!

FROM THE DESK OF DEBBIE MAJKA, VICE PRESIDENT FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The year 2017 marks the 200th anniversary of the death of hero and patriot, Tadeusz Kosciuszko. He lived at the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth century (1746-1817). In recognition of his activity for the sake of peace, independence and democracy – the equality of people regardless of their skin color or religion – he is considered a national hero in Poland and in the United States. He emphasized the role of both practical and citizen education, so that men and women who regained freedom should be aware of their rights, but also their duties with respect to the freedom and welfare of others.

In Poland, Kosciuszko fought for the freedom and equality of all citizens: peasants, who had to work as slave-like serfs, Jews who were a religious minority, women, who had fewer rights than men, and other people who were not treated equally. He emphasized the importance and role of women in the society, which at that time was a very cutting-edge approach. He was a precursor of the development of national awareness in its modern sense, encompassing all social strata and groups. In his fight for freedom and independence, he favored peaceful solutions.

In acknowledgement of his activity for the sake of independence, peace and equality for all, Kościuszko is a national hero in Poland and the United States, and an honorary citizen of the French Republic. It is worth emphasizing that all views and ideas which he advocated remain relevant and important today.

During the American War of Independence, Kościuszko served as a colonel in the Continental Army. He designed and oversaw the construction of state-of-the-art fortifications, including those at West Point. Thomas Jefferson called him “the purest son of liberty I have ever known.”

And Jefferson, who is often quoted with his high regard for Kosciuszko, and whom Kosciuszko named the executor of his Will, sadly did not carry out the wishes of Kosciuszko that his property be used for giving Negroes their freedom.

Editor's Note:

Thank you, VP Majka! As we commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of this great humanitarian and patriot, let us always remind ourselves, as well as the people we meet, that Kościuszko was a "Man for All Seasons" and a Hero to the World!



Tadeusz Kosciuszko

The following is the exact wording from Tadeusz Kosciuszko in his famous 1798 document.

Will of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, May 5, 1798

“I Thaddeus Kosciuszko being just in my departure from America do hereby declare and direct that should I make no other testamentary disposition of my property in the United States I hereby authorise my friend Thomas Jefferson to employ the whole thereof in purchasing Negroes from among his own or any others and giving them Liberty in my name, in giving them an education in trades or otherwise and in having them instructed for their new condition in the duties of morality which may make them good neighbours good fathers or moders, husbands or vives and in their duties as citizens teaching them to be defenders of their Liberty and Country and of the good order of Society and in whatsoever may Make them happy and useful, and I make the said Thomas Jefferson my executor of this.”

T. Kosciuszko

Events have been launched in Poland to mark the 200th anniversary of the death of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, military commander and national hero of Poland and the United States. They were inaugurated Friday, March 24, in the Market Square of Kraków, the place where Kościuszko proclaimed the act of insurrection against Tsarist Russia on March 24, 1794. The bicentenary of Kosciuszko's death is included in the 2017 UNESCO list of anniversaries.



VISA WAIVER UPDATE

Anthony J. Bajdek, Vice President for American Affairs

On May 4, three members of the United States House of Representatives - Mike Quigley of Illinois as sponsor, and Marcy Kaptur of Ohio and Dan Lipinski of Illinois as original co-sponsors - introduced a bill, H.R.2388 ("Poland Visa Waiver Act of 2017") that is now in search of co-sponsors, a point which provides us an opportunity to work on this long-standing problem of Poland's exclusion from our nation's Visa Waiver Program, not only in the House, but also in the Senate where we should be asking our Senators to introduce their own version of H.R.2388 as well.

In the past, some among us have said, and likely will continue to say, that Visa Waiver status for Poland is not all that important anymore. Yet, Poland's exclusion from VWP is clearly insulting, no matter what the reason(s) may be. This state of mutually-driven affairs is rendered all the more pernicious given that Poland takes all of its commitments to NATO seriously, and is always a dependable ally of the United States in international matters. Moreover, Poland's exclusion from Visa Waiver likely colors to some degree other aspects of United States - Poland relations.

Should Polish American citizen-voters ignore the continuation of this insulting treatment of Poland, and by extension, to themselves as well? I, for one, don't think so. It's clear that Quigley, Kaptur, and Lipinski don't think so as well. They have done their part in the matter by presenting corrective legislation. Now it is up to us to do our part once again.

If we fail to do our part in support of H.R.2388, Quigley, Kaptur, and Lipinski may well become less likely to "go out on a limb" for any future legislative activity beneficial to Polish Americans or Poland.

Whereas the President of the United States has his own role to play (e.g. Mr. Trump promised, as a candidate at the PNA building in Chicago, to work for inclusion of Poland in VWP in his first weeks as President), so does every member of the United States Congress which collectively bears an equal one-third share of responsibility in the governance of the United States along with the President and the Judicial branch.

Once other specific legislation (e.g., permanent versus rotating U.S. and NATO troop deployment in Poland) of interest and importance to our nation's Polish American citizen-voters is introduced on Capitol Hill, we can use the information I have previously sent to the Council of National Directors as a "road map" for contacting members of the Congressional delegations representing the 19 states in which we have Divisions.

Our united action can and does make a difference, not only in international affairs but also in purely domestic affairs, the latter of which must be addressed as well.





PAC-WI Division volunteers (seated) Dan and Jan Klosowski speak with PRCUA volunteer and PAC-WI Division member, Sharon Haberski.



PAC-WI Division member, Tom Rodoszewski, demonstrates his recipe for gołąbki to a large - and appreciative - Polish Fest audience.



Marcie from Milwaukee is the first visitor to PAC-WI Division information table! Greeting her is PAC-WI Division Polish Fest chairperson, Ann Pienkos.



Ann Pienkos and Mark Pienkos pose with Sister Andrea (from Jastrzębie Zdrój, Poland) and Sister Simon (Rzeszów) - both Dominican Sisters at St. Ann's Rest Home in Milwaukee.



Ann Pienkos, Doris and Stan Graiewski.

MILWAUKEE'S POLISH FEST

First begun in 1981, Polish Fest Milwaukee is now America's largest Polish festival – and it continues to grow each year. Recently our three-day festival has been named a top festival by a variety of publications such as the WISN 2012 Spring Fever A-List, American Business Association and the Travel Channel. We are proud of these accomplishments.

The 2017 edition honored Tadeusz Kościuszko and featured traditional music, cuisine, fireworks, speakers, and cultural activities. The Polish American Congress – Wisconsin Division sponsored a table for visitors to learn more about our State Division, as well as obtain information about our organization's many activities. Ann Pienkos coordinated the many volunteers that provided their time and talents for our booth. These included: Jan and Dan Klosowski, David Rydzewski, Karen Wieckowski, Debbie and Jerry Halkoski, Steve Pienkos, Danny Carlin, Doris and Stan Graiewski, Robert Bialecki, Derek Zarzeczny, Don Pienkos, and Mark Pienkos. They all did a terrific job sharing their enthusiasm and love for their Polish heritage!



PAC-WI Division members, Stan Graiewski and Teresa Jankowski chat at Polish Fest! Teresa organized and volunteered at the Polish National Alliance and Milwaukee Polonia Sports Club informational tables. Teresa is also a Director for the PAC-WI Division. Stan dressed as Tadeusz Kościuszko for all three days at Polish Fest distributing flyers about this great patriot and humanitarian. Stan is very active as a Civil War and Plains Indian War re-enactor, traveling throughout the country to various events. He is also a professional Parliamentarian.

Tom Rodoszewski, PAC-WI Division Member

Famous Gołąbki Recipe

- 2 Large cabbages – makes up to 30-40 rolls
- 2 pounds ground beef (85% lean)
- 1 pound ground pork (80% lean)
- 2 cups long grain white rice with 2 cups water
- 3 cups chopped onions
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh garlic
- 3 tablespoons dry marjoram
- 1 table spoon salt
- 2 teaspoons ground black pepper

Remove cabbage core and submerge in boiling water. Remove leaves as they soften and fall off the head. Trim leaves. Saute onions and garlic in vegetable oil. Bring two cups of water to a boil and add two cups rice. Stir and simmer. Remove from heat when all water is absorbed. Combine and mix all ingredients. Assemble the rolls. Put chopped cabbage or sauerkraut on bottom of baking dish. Place rolls in baking dish. Add chicken broth up to 2/3rds the height of rolls. Cover with foil. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 ½ hours. Serve with tomato or mushroom sauce.

Smacznego!

THE PAC NATIONAL OFFICE IN ACTION

Submitted by Klara Z. Wisniewska

After a brief hiatus following the departure of Dr. Barbara Andersen in February 2017, the PAC's National Office went back into action on May 1, 2017. Born in Lublin, Poland where she received her elementary and secondary education, Klara Wisniewska earned her Bachelor's degree in Intelligence Studies at Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania and is now the Administrator of the Washington Office. A long serving member of the Polish American Congress and the National Director of New Jersey Division, John Czop recently was appointed Director of Policy Development and Administration. Born in Patterson, NJ, Czop earned a M.Phil. degree in History at Columbia University. His work experience includes university lecturing and newspaper reporting.

John Czop and PAC National Secretary Tim Kuzma participated in the commemoration of Poland's May 3, 1791 Constitution at the elegant residence and gardens of the Polish Ambassador which overlooks Rock Creek Park in Washington.

Wisniewska and Czop met on May 23 with the recently appointed Ambassador of Poland to the United States, Piotr Wilczek, at the beautiful Beaux Arts mansion which houses the Polish Embassy in the Adams Morgan section of Washington. The meeting lasted ninety minutes. Ambassador Wilczek made it clear that an effective and efficient advocacy group of United States citizens is of vital importance to persuade both United States governmental and public opinion that Poland protects United States national security interests in East Central Europe, and promotes American democratic values in that part of the world. Our Washington Office staffers let Ambassador Wilczek know that the strength of the PAC inside the Washington Beltway depends on the vigor of our State Divisions outside the Beltway. This is why the success of the PAC depends on you! Without your votes, and financial contributions to the PAC, we cannot organize effective advocacy in Washington for our kin country Poland.

On May 19 and 20, Czop participated in the annual meeting of the Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC). The key topic at this event was the security implications of Kremlin's August 2017 Zapad war games. This massive war game deploying over 100,000 Russian soldiers includes the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons. The scenario of Zapad 2017 is Russia repels NATO's invasion of Belarus. This shows that the Kremlin continues wrongly to portray NATO as aggressive when in fact it is a defensive alliance. Many analysts suspect that Russia will leave behind a substantial number of troops in Belarus to intimidate the regime in Minsk which seeks closer ties with the West.



Marion Smith, Executive Director of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, and Klara Wisniewska, Administrator at the National Office of the PAC, at the June 9 Annual Roll Call of Nations and Organizations event.

Readers recall that recently deceased Professor Zbigniew Brzezinski, in the speech he delivered at Columbia University in November 2005, reminded us that whatever alliances a country may accede to, every sovereign nation is responsible for its own defense. This is why Brzezinski asserted that Poland urgently requires a state-of-the-art defense force capable of defending the national territory for two to three weeks. This will provide enough time for public opinion in the NATO nations to understand that Poland was in fact invaded under the cover of a refugee situation on Poland's border with Belarus. Since 2005, Poland has made some progress in improving her defensive posture in the East, however, the situation on Poland's border with Belarus is becoming more ominous. The other key concern at the JBANC annual meeting was the need to challenge the Kremlin's claim expressed by Putin's top ideologist, Vladimir Dugin, that Russia represents the defense of traditional moral and religious values against the decadent West.

On June 7, Wisniewska hosted at the Washington Office headquarters a meeting of the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC), which represents approximately 20 million U.S. citizens, whose kin countries are between the Baltic and Black Seas. The initiative to create this coalition came from Polish American Congress' past Executive Director, Colonel Casimir Lenard. At the meeting, the coalition decided to support the Ukrainian Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill scheduled for June 14. The top item on the coalition's agenda is to persuade governmental and public opinion to do more to counter resurgent Russian imperialist aggression and Russian disinformation.

Finally, this year's Polish American Congress Council of National Directors (CND) meeting needs to succeed in persuading official Washington that it is high time for Poland to accede to the State Department's Visa Waiver Program. It is great news that at long last we have three members of Congress who have sponsored a House Resolution calling for fair play for Poland.

For the first time ever, the Polish American Congress participated in the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation's (VOC) 10th Annual Roll Call of Nations Wreath Laying Ceremony. Its purpose was to commemorate the over 100 million victims of communism since the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. This event was held at the Victims of Communism Memorial at the intersection of New Jersey and Massachusetts Avenues on Friday, June 9. Readers recall that the Vice-Chair of VOC is the former United States Ambassador to Estonia Aldona Wos. In September 2015, the CND approved a resolution calling on all PAC members to contribute as individuals to the VOC.



The PAC's Washington office's Director of Policy Development and Administration, John Czop, at the Victims of Communism Monument, a bronze sculpture by Thomas Marsh, inspired by the plaster sculpture erected by Chinese students in Tiananmen Square. In June 1989, that was destroyed by the Communist Chinese tanks who dispersed a pro-democracy demonstration.

We recently announced the new internship program 2017-2018. We are looking for Policy, Fundraising and Marketing, as well as IT and Digital Media interns. So far we have accepted Lukasz Rzycki as an intern and we will consider applications of other candidates.

We are working on organizing the 2017 CND meeting in Washington D. C. from September 25th through September 28th. Capitol Hill advocacy visits to Congressional offices are scheduled to take place on Tuesday, September 26th. We will have our banquet on Monday September 25th. Ambassador Wilczek will address the CND at the banquet. Professor Marek Chodakiewicz, who holds the Kosciuszko Chair of Polish Studies at the Institute of World Politics (IWP), will deliver the keynote speech at the banquet on the topic: "What Poland does for the United States?"

We need Polish American Congress members to open their checkbooks and contribute \$5,000 to meet the matching grant challenge of the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation (PACCF). If we accomplish this objective, then the National Office will have \$10,000, sufficient funds to buy state-of-the-art equipment so we can serve you better.

Wisniewska set up a new way for PAC members to better share information - a LinkedIn Business Page at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/polishamericancongress>.

We are looking forward to working closer with you to be sure that we succeed in doing our best to advocate Poland's accession to the State Department's Visa Waiver program and to challenge resurgent Russian aggression which want to overturn international law and justice.



Vytautas Landsbergis, first head of state of Lithuania after its independence declaration from the Soviet Union, was a keynote speaker at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation event on June 9.

REPORT - ALBANY 2017

Northeastern Regional Meeting of Polish American Congress Divisions

June 3, Saturday – 10 AM to 5 PM

Polish Community Center - 225 Washington Avenue
Extension, Albany, NY 12205

Participants

Reps of PAC-CNY: Teresa Bunk, Mary Curie, Jeff Karas, Janina Kowalik, Henry & Susan Matala, Tom Mroczek, Rev. Carl A. Urban. Reps of PAC-LI: Richard Brzozowski, Zbyszek Koralewski.

I would like to thank:

Prof. Anthony Bajdek, VP for American Affairs – for sending an interesting report, John Czop PhD, PAC Executive Director – sending a note about the Russian troops. Wieslaw Kruszewski, member of PAC-LI for sending his suggestions of ideas to implement. Also, Leszek Pawlik (PAC-SC), Jim Lawicki (PAC-WNY) and Wieslaw Wierzbowski (PAC-EM) who wished to participate via Skype – our attempts to connect them failed – sorry.

The registration fee was \$25 that covered refreshments and Polish style lunch. No Robert's Rules of Order were followed (as usual at these meetings) but our own rules.

1) After a prayer initiated by Fr. Urban, participants presented their bios and projects they are personally, or their divisions, are involved in.

2) Briefly, opinions about the last PAC election were expressed.

3) Personal encounters with Jan Karski and late Zbigniew Brzeziński were shared as well as their attitudes towards Polonia. All agreed that their legacies are valuable.

4) Mr. Richard Brzozowski read his proposal of resolutions for the PAC convention:

- To establish a Committee responsible for implementing resolutions. At first, the committee would have to check the status of approved resolutions; Update them if necessary, and implement them. All agreed that it is a good idea.
- To invite nonmembers, for example law students, to serve on the Grievance Committee. This suggestion needs to be discussed further, as bringing conflicts outside of PAC can fuel negative publicity.

5) We thoroughly discussed:

- Selected ideas to better serve Polonia
- Ideas that we can implement in the foreseeable future
- Reasons why a new political organization is needed and ways to cooperate on issues important to Polonia. Attendees were reminded that more than a decade ago, a similar initiative took place in Albany.

6) It was decided that an electronic Bulletin Board will be initiated. Notes about coming events, projects and important anniversaries will be announced. This will require each division to nominate a contact person that will send information to: zkoral@aol.com or call, 718-343-4316.

It was decided that the next Northeastern Regional Meeting will take place in 2018 on Saturday, April 29. Please mark your calendars.

Prepared by Zbyszek Koralewski 6-6-17



Sitting from left: Janina Kowalik, Teresa Bunk, Mary Curie, Susan Matala. Standing: Tom Mroczek, Jeff Karas, Henry Matala, Rev. Carl A. Urban, Richard Brzozowski, Zbyszek Koralewski.

Extra info

1) Theme of the meeting: "To be useful for Polonia."

2) Reps of following northwestern divisions were encouraged to attend: New Jersey, South New Jersey, Northern New Jersey, Long Island New York, Downstate New York, Western New York, Central New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut. Let's hope that we will have reps of all above divisions at Albany 2018 meeting (April 29).

3) Comments: Dear Zbyszek: Your brief referrals to all of the subjects on our Agenda are to the point and in support of our attempts at modifying, changing and improving the current status of PAC. Thank you for your input, your concerns and your friendship!Teresa

Hello Zbyszek! - Thank you to all who attended. I felt very welcomed considering that this is all new to me. Your agenda was very ambitious. I'm looking forward to learning more about your individual divisions working together to forge future continued success. Sincere regards, Mary Curie

Jeff Karas: Meetings that you organize in Albany are very interesting and useful.

Fr. Urban - The meeting was worthwhile, BUT we did attempt to consider an extremely broad array of issues...perhaps too broad. As a result, I think this would be a valuable tool for the entire Organization, if other regions would do likewise. Thank you for your sincere and dedicated efforts.

PAC President, Frank Spula during the meeting on Long Island, April 2nd expressed his opinion: Regional meetings as yours in Albany should be organized in other regions as well. They would be highly beneficial to PAC's members giving them chance to discuss issues and come with solutions. At conventions, there are too many people and not enough time to do what can be done during smaller gatherings at regional meetings.

PAC WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

(portions of this article re-printed from
PNA Zgoda, April/May/June 2017 edition)

During World War I, over 300,000 Polish Americans served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Additionally, 24,000 volunteered to the Polish Army in France. Their efforts resulted in victory on November 11, 1918. Poles, and Polish Americans, know that besides the Great War's end, Poland as a nation re-appeared on the world's map as a free and independent country.

The World War I Centennial Commission has been formed to commemorate the bravery for all who fought to bring peace to a war-weary world in November 1918. Also, Poland – and Polonia world-wide – is preparing in 2018 to celebrate the centennial of Poland's Independence secured one hundred years ago next year on November 11, 1918.

At its annual Council of National Directors meeting held in Chicago in September 2016, the Polish American Congress passed an unanimous resolution offered by Steve Flor, PAC National Director representing the Polish Falcons of America, to support and participate in the World War I Centennial Commission's activities. Steve Flor was appointed as Acting Chairman of the PAC's efforts in this regard.

Volunteering to serve with Flor include historian Dr. James Pula, author Dr. Paul Valasek (who wrote *Haller's Army in France*), PAC National Vice President for Public Relations Dr. Mark Pienkos, and Marcin Chumiecki from the Orchard Lake Polish Mission.

All PAC State Divisions are urged to participate. Encouraging involvement of parishes, posts, nests, and lodges is a great way to alert people of the Polish American Congress' involvement with the World War I Centennial Commission's efforts. Discuss this project at your next local meeting. Any ideas or planned activities should be brought to the attention of Steve Flor at: stephenflor.polenia@gmail.com.

The 2018 calendar year provides all PAC members with a tremendous opportunity to commemorate those that valiantly served to win the freedom of Europe, as well as a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Poland's Independence Day: November 11, 1918!

For additional information, please visit the World War I Centennial Commission's website: www.worldwar1centennial.org and while doing so, view the PAC logo and statement about our organization.

Excellent work, PAC member, Steve Flor!



Dear Council of National Directors,

On Flag Day, June 14, 2017, the United States Senate voted-up, 97-2 (with two NAY votes by Senators Paul (R-KY) and Lee (R-UT); with Senator Van Hollen (D-MD) NOT VOTING), Senate Resolution 341 (S.341) - "Russian Sanctions Review Act of 2017".

This strong support by the Senate for continuing sanctions against the Russian Government, which has not changed its policy toward Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, Donbas, very likely will bring House Resolution 1059 (H.R.1059), the House version of S.341, to a prompt vote by the full House of Representatives.

It's important for all PAC National Directors to make sure that the members of your Divisions and Member Organizations, telephone and email their member of the House of Representatives. Our callers and writers should identify themselves as PAC members and strongly encourage their member to vote for H.R. 1059 because the Russian Government has not changed its aggressive behavior.

The Russian Government's ZAPAD war games, scheduled for early August 2017, poses a threat to all the countries between the Three Seas. Poland is the largest NATO country in the area and is especially threatened by the scenario of ZAPAD 2017: Russia repels with, at least, 100,000 soldiers NATO's invasion of Belarus. It is the most compelling reason why sanctions against the Russian government need to continue.

Your efforts in contacting your member of the House of Representatives to vote for H.R.1059 would be appreciated ASAP.

Sincerely, Frank J. Spula, President



PAC - Wisconsin Division Celebrates Kosciuszko!

David Rydzewski, President

Polish American Congress – Wisconsin Division

pacwisconsin.com

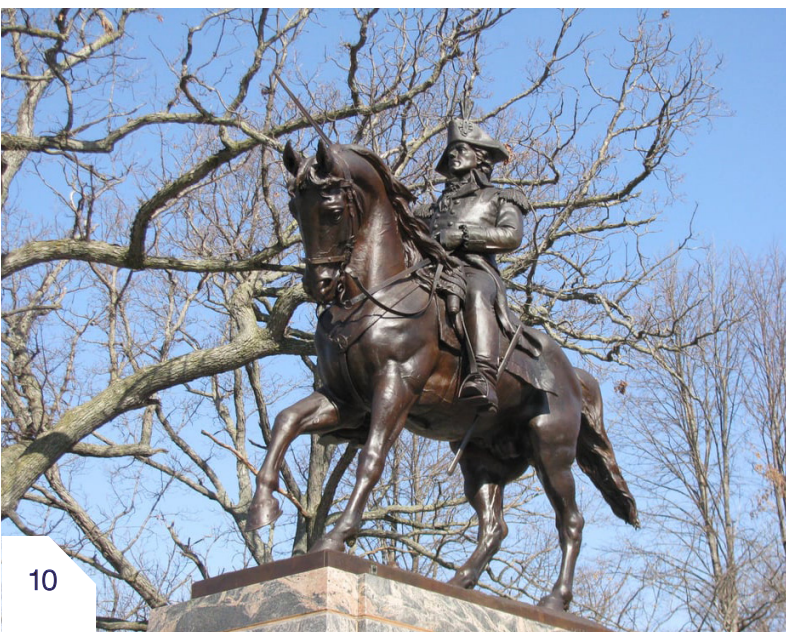
In observance of the 200th anniversary of Tadeusz Kosciuszko's death, the PAC-Wisconsin Division is paying tribute to this incredible man, with a number of programs telling about Kosciuszko's service to America in the Revolutionary War, in Poland's fight for freedom and independence, and in championing human rights.

Our first program of the year in March began with a lecture by Dr. Anne Gurnack on "The Kosciuszko Monuments In America - Their Historical Background And Political Influences."

That was followed in April by United States Military Academy graduate Ernest Litynski speaking on "Tadeusz Kosciuszko's Military Career And His Place At West Point."

In September, we will join Polanki, the Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee, sponsoring "Lunch With The General." This will be a gathering at the site of the Kosciuszko Monument located in Milwaukee's Kosciuszko Park. The 112-year-old Monument was recently restored. This event will feature a picnic lunch plus a special program on Kosciuszko's life story. Most people know of Kosciuszko the Revolutionary War hero, but don't know much beyond that. We hope our audience will understand that as important as that was, there was much more to his life.

Recently restored Kościuszko Monument in Milwaukee.



In another program in September, we will join the Milwaukee Society of the Polish National Alliance, Polanki, the Polish Heritage Alliance, and the Polish Studies Committee of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in hosting an "Evening With Kosciuszko" at the Polish Center of Wisconsin for a presentation by the esteemed Kosciuszko scholar, Dr. James Pula.

All of these programs are free and open to the public.

Finally, another feature of the PAC – Wisconsin Division's tribute to Kosciuszko is a brochure that has been created that gives a quick look at his history. These brochures were given to visitors at this year's Polish Fest, June 16-18, at Milwaukee's beautiful Lakefront.

We salute other PAC State Divisions in their efforts to remember and honor Kosciuszko's life. Please visit our website for more information as to our division's activities and upcoming events.

Monument of Tadeusz Kościuszko in Poznań - Photo Courtesy of: Radomil



PAC - ILLINOIS DIVISION

(First of three from the new administration)

By Michael Niedzinski, President

The Annual Election of the PAC - Illinois Division took place on March 27th at Copernicus Center. The meeting was presided by John Wojciechowski, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee. There were two candidates for the office of PAC President: Michael Niedzinski and Robert Redlinski. Michael Niedzinski and Robert Redlinski provided their biographies and spoke about their plans to move forward the Illinois Division. During the final tally, Michael Niedzinski received 127 votes; Robert Redlinski received 56 votes. Members of the Executive Board elected were: 1st Vice-President Bogdan Struminski, 2nd Vice-President Stanislaw Rawicka, Treasurer-Ewa Cholewinski, Financial Secretary-Jolanta Grocholski, Recording Secretary-Jan S. Plachta, and Sgt. at Arms-Walter Bochenek.

Additionally 6 Vice-Presidents were elected from a pool of 16 candidates: Anna Zalinska, Irene Hercik, Jola Kaczmarska-Waltos, Mark Grzymala, Piotr Wyszowski and Halina Zawadzka.

Post-election, Michael Niedzinski (shown top right) thanked attendees for the vote of confidence and he stressed the need for unity. The new administration was sworn in on March 30th by National President of Polish American Congress, Mr. Frank Spula.

It is our vision and mission to support Polonia and Poland and to enhance our image and improve perception of the contributions made by Polish Americans over the past 400 years. To that effect we started a campaign to contact members of the local media and become more involved in the city, county and state events and initiatives.

Members of the Polish American Congress participated in various events associated with the celebration of Poland's May 3rd Constitution Day. Celebrations started with the placement of a wreath at the statue of Tadeusz Kosciuszko on Solidarity Drive. That was followed by the raising of the Polish Flag at the Daley Plaza and breakfast sponsored by the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance. The Polish American Congress float (#58) paraded on Columbus Drive. The parade was followed by the attendance at the concert at the Chopin Garden in Grant Park. The PAC-IL Division Treasurer Ewa Cholewinski leads the float (Shown on the right).

During the festivities, members of PAC-IL met with Republic of Poland Senator Anna Maria Anders. These meetings took place at the Polish Consulate in Chicago on May 3rd. Senator Anders' addressed the Council on Global Affairs on May 4th. Other events included activities at the Daley Plaza and banquet at Jolly Inn organized by Alliance of Polish Clubs on May 6th. **(Continued on next page.)**



Michael Niedzinski, PAC - Illinois Division President



Starting from left: Bogdan Struminski - 1st Vice President, Rena Hercik, Halina Zawadzka, and Jolanta Kaczmarska - Vice Presidents, Dr. Jan Plachta (red tie) - Recording Secretary, Piotr Wyszowski - Vice President, Jola Grocholska - Financial Secretary, Anna Zalinska - Vice President, Stanislaw Rawicka - 2nd Vice President, Ewa Cholewinski - Treasurer, Michael M Niedzinski - President.



Wreath laying celebrating May 3rd Constitution Day





On May 15th, 2017 three members of PAC-IL, Ania Wierzbicki, Richard Makowski and Michael Niedzinski, attended the opening ceremony at the James Thompson Center in Chicago which dedicated a one week exhibit celebrating 1050 years of Christianity in Poland. Another exhibit was also opened that is dedicated to 150 years of Polonia in the Chicago area.

Members of the Polish American Congress met with Illinois State Treasurer, Honorable Michael Frerichs, at the Copernicus Center on May 18th. A round table discussion with Polonia organizations took place. We presented several initiatives that could be beneficial to Polonia.

One of the objectives of the Polish American Congress is to inform and educate the American community on the history and contributions of the most outstanding persons of Polish ancestry in the development of America. To that effect, on May 25th, Dr. Jan Plachta and Michael Niedzinski met with Dan Soles, Executive VP for TV programing at the headquarters of WTTW in Chicago. We explained our desire to develop a more comprehensive relationship with WTTW and suggested more programming aimed at providing enhanced visibility of Polonia and Poland. Dan was very sympathetic to our suggestions. As a first step, he agreed to the screening of the Ralph Modjeski documentary in August and also during October Heritage Month. The recently produced film "Bridging Urban America - The Story of Master Engineer Ralph Modjeski" tells the story of Polish American Engineer, Ralph Modjeski, and how his passion for bridge building contributed to the urbanization of America - transforming American landscapes through innovation and ingenuity.

Our agenda for the next three months includes meeting with Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, US Senator Dick Durbin and various other activities aimed at promoting the image of Polonia. Fifteen new members joined the ranks of the PAC-IL.

General meetings take place every fourth Monday of each month at the Polish National Alliance Headquarters located at 6100 North Cicero in Chicago



(L-R): Piotr Janicki, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago; Anna Maria Anders, Republic of Poland Senator; Ewa Cholewinski, PAC-IL Division Treasurer; and Michael Niedzinski, PAC-IL Division President.



Newly elected PAC - IL Division Executive Committee

Happy Fourth of July from your PAC Executive Committee!

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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.

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