



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 5

Your Voice
in America!



DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

Future PAC Newsletters will be sent out:

Deadline for submission	Publication date
Friday, December 1, 2017	Friday, December 8, 2017
Friday, February 2, 2018	Friday, February 9, 2018
Friday, April 6, 2018	Friday, April 13, 2018
Friday, June 1, 2018	Friday, June 8, 2018
Friday, August 3, 2018	Friday, August 10, 2018
Friday, October 5, 2018	Friday, October 12, 2018
Friday, December 7, 2018	Friday, December 14, 2018

President's Message



Frank J. Spula, President

Dear Directors,

With October being Heritage Month, I hope the state divisions were engaged in promoting various programs in their areas, by highlighting the accomplishments and contributions of Poles and Polish Americans have made in this country as well as over the entire world.

October 15th, 2017 was the 200th anniversary of the death of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko. Over the years, monuments have been erected all over the world in recognition for his heroism. On Sunday, October 15th, I had the pleasure of attending the ceremony and representing the organization in Washington D.C.

The program was arranged by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. Ambassador Piotr Wilczek and Ambassador Rolandas Krisciunas of Lithuania made remarks on behalf of countries they represent, and I spoke on behalf of the Polish American community.

The monument was donated to the United States government by the Polish National Alliance in 1910.

"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

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Council of Directors meeting in Washington due to medical reasons; I appreciate Secretary Kuzma chairing the assembly. I was pleased to hear positive comments about the meeting itself. Thank you to the Executive Committee, Ms. Wisniewska and Mr. Czop in assisting with the conference.

I was delighted to learn that the speakers did an excellent presentation. I am optimistic that the programs presented will come to fruition over the upcoming months. I appreciate the card with your wishes.

The visits to Capitol Hill and meetings with elected officials are paramount to achieving further success for the Polish American Congress and should be continued. Developing personal contacts with elected officials is imperative in strengthening political influence. This should also be done on a local level in your respective divisions, by doing so more programs or initiatives can be implemented.

We still have time to think of ways to commemorate the upcoming anniversary of Polish independence and promoting it to the American community. Feel free to share your thought on this topic.

Frank J. Spula, President



Wiele wydarzeń we wrześniu, w październiku. 17 września delegacja KPA LI złożyła kwiaty pod pomnikiem KATYN 1940 w Jersey City. Na zdjęciach Prezes Wydziału Grzegorz Worwa i Andrzej Kolczyński, członek Wydziału. Siedzi Konsul Generalny RP Maciej Gołubiewski z żoną.



“Gdy Polacy będą umieć siebie samych cenić w domu, będą ich cenić i za granicą.”
— Stanisław Staszic

Pulaski Day Parade Committee

The Pulaski Day Parade Committee was honored to have Dr. Teresa G. Wojcik as the Grand Marshal of the 2017 Pulaski Day Parade.

Article submitted by Micheline Jaminski



Dr. Wojcik is an Associate Professor of Education (tenured) in the Department of Education and Counseling at Villanova University. She is also an Assistant Director of the Teaching English in Poland summer camp program through the Kosciuszko Foundation, as well as co-chairperson of the Polish American Festival at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa and has served as President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation for 13 years. Teresa was selected by the Polish American Congress in recognition of her many years of participation with the Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, the Pulaski Day Parade in Philadelphia and supporter of organizations in Polonia.

Teresa lead the Pulaski Day Parade in Center City Philadelphia on Sunday, October 1, which is one of the many events in the Philadelphia area held in recognition of the National Celebration of Polish American Heritage Month.



President Donald J. Trump Proclaims October 11, 2017, as the 88th anniversary of General Pulaski Memorial Day

GENERAL PULASKI MEMORIAL DAY, 2017

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, A PROCLAMATION

Today, we commemorate General Casimir Pulaski, a Polish immigrant whose heroic contributions to the American Revolutionary War helped shape our Nation's history. Known as the "Father of the American Cavalry," General Pulaski demonstrated bravery as a soldier and exceptional leadership as a military officer. General Pulaski is internationally renowned for having supported and fought for independence and freedom, both in his native Poland and in the United States.

Born into Polish nobility, General Pulaski and his family fought to preserve a free and self-governing Poland. Exiled from his country after a failed uprising against Russian control of Poland, the Marquis de Lafayette and Benjamin Franklin recruited General Pulaski to join the fight for freedom in the American Revolution. During his first military engagement with the British, at the Battle of Brandywine, General Pulaski led a courageous charge that averted a defeat of the American cavalry, saving the life of General George Washington and earning him the rank of Brigadier General in the United States Continental Army.

General Pulaski gave his complete devotion to the American cause for freedom. He spent the harsh winter that ran from 1777 into 1778 at Valley Forge with General Washington, and used his own personal finances to supply his cavalry legion when resources were scarce. Fatefully, on October 9, 1779, General Pulaski was severely wounded leading a daring charge against British forces, this time in the Battle of Savannah. General Pulaski died shortly thereafter, paying the ultimate sacrifice for his adopted American compatriots.

General Pulaski once wrote to General Washington: "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it." In recognition of his selfless devotion to our country and its cause, the Congress, in 2009, granted honorary citizenship to General Pulaski, one of only eight people ever to have earned this distinction. He is an example for all those who love freedom and seek the courage to defend it.

General Pulaski's defense of the Polish-American values of liberty, the rule of law, and the sovereignty of the people symbolizes the close bond between the United States and Poland. We have helped one another in the most challenging of times, from the American Revolution to the Polish liberation from communism. Today, our strong bilateral relationship with Poland, forged initially by remarkable individuals like General Pulaski, continues to enhance the important security, economic, and social ties that help bring prosperity to both countries.

More than 200 years after General Pulaski's heroic death, there are 9.5 million Americans of Polish descent. They carry forward General Pulaski's legacy by protecting our shared values, strengthening our cultural heritage, and serving in our Armed Forces. They remind us that the story of Poland, like the story of America, is of a people who have never lost hope, have never been broken, and have never forgotten who they are.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, 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, 2017, as the 88th anniversary of General Pulaski Memorial Day. I encourage all Americans to commemorate on this occasion those who have contributed to the furthering of our Nation.

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

DONALD J. TRUMP

General Casimir Pulaski





HUNDREDS TOOK PART IN THE KOSCIUSZKO FREEDOM RUN!

On October 14 and 15 in Washington, DC the Embassy of the Republic of Poland hosted two grand commemorations to honor the 200 year legacy of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko

Congratulations and thanks to all who took part in the Kosciuszko Freedom Run!

The Embassy was thrilled to be joined by so many fellow diplomats, members of the Polish-American community, members of the DC running community, cadets from USMA West Point, and all who sought to honor Kosciuszko by taking part in our run!

On the eve of the 200th anniversary of the death of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, over 200 runners joined in the Kosciuszko Freedom Run, honoring General Kosciuszko's contribution to America's independence and his commitment to liberty and equality.

The Embassy looks forward to seeing athletes at its next run in 2018!



GENERAL KOSCIUSZKO HONORED IN LAFAYETTE SQUARE

On the 200th anniversary of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko's passing, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland organized a commemorative wreath laying ceremony at the Kosciuszko Monument in Lafayette Square next to the White House.

In his remarks Ambassador Wilczek explained, "Kosciuszko committed himself wholeheartedly to the American cause – which, meant both American independence and liberty for all. Kosciuszko's legacy is deeply rooted here in the United States, and celebrated across the world."

On the sunny Sunday afternoon, The Embassy was joined by the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania Rolandas Kriščiūnas, the President of the Polish National Alliance Frank Spula, the organization which championed the construction of the Kosciuszko monument over 100 years ago, as well as dignitaries, members of the Polish-American community and the United States Armed Services.

The Embassy wishes to thank all who joined us on this historic day to commemorate our hero – Kosciuszko!





Congressional Caucus on Poland

We are proud to present the PAC national directors with the roster of the Congressional Caucus on Poland. This Caucus is anything but uniformly pro-Polish. It was established in 1991 to put United States Government pressure on Poland to pay lump-sum compensation for private property formerly owned by Jews on conquered Polish territory, that first was despoiled by Nazi Germany, and then nationalized by the communists.

Representative Chris Smith (R-NJ4), one of the founders of the unicameral, House of Representatives only, Congressional Caucus on Poland, sponsored in 2005, and again in 2007, House Resolutions calling for Poland to pay lump-sum compensation. Therefore, it is anything but surprising that to date only five members of the Congressional Caucus on Poland have agreed to co-sponsor H.R. 2388 calling for Poland's prompt accession to the Visa Waiver Program now administered by the Department of Homeland Security.

For further information please review the Appendix to President Spula's letter of September 17, 2016 to then Senator Barbara Mikulski, which is posted on the web site of the national PAC in the column "Office of the President".

Those who support lump-sum compensation argue that the Polish judicial system is slow and unfair to claimants. Those who oppose lump-sum compensation argue that a one-size-fits-all lump sum compensation settlement is unfair because each claim is specific. Both opponents and supporters of lump-sum compensation are skeptical of Polish judges, many of whom owe their appointments to transformed communists who benefited from the "privatization", sometimes labeled "re-privatization", of property despoiled by the Nazi Germans and then nationalized by the communists. The Jewish American Congress, whose most famous member Alan M. Deshowitz sued in the early 1990s Cardinal Glemp over the presence of the Carmelite Nuns Monastery near the former Nazi German Concentration Camp Auschwitz, recently opened an office in Warsaw to press their claims for compensation.

Soon a political action committee will be established to defeat Representative Chris Smith and support friendly candidates in Southern New Jersey.

Best regards,
John Czop

Congressional Caucus on Poland

Room 2332 RHOB - Rayburn House Office Building
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Phone: 202.225.2301 Fax: 202.225.1844

Federal Caucus Member	Carson, Andre D.	D-h07	Indianapolis
Federal Caucus Member	Cartwright, Matthew A.	D-h17	Wilkes-Barre
Federal Caucus Member	Courtney, Joe	D-h02	Enfield
Federal Caucus Member	Dingell, Debbie	D-h12	Ypsilanti
Federal Caucus Member	Doggett, Lloyd A.	D-h35	San Antonio
Federal Caucus Member	Esty, Elizabeth H.	D-h05	New Britain
Federal Caucus Member	Gutierrez, Luis V.	D-h04	Chicago
Federal Caucus Member	Higgins, Brian M.	D-h26	Niagara Falls
Federal Caucus Member	Himes, Jim A.	D-h04	Stamford
Federal Caucus Member	Hunter, Duncan D.	R-h50	Temecula
Federal Caucus Member	Issa, Darrell E.	R-h49	Dana Point
Co-Chair	Kaptur, Marcy C.	D-h09	Cleveland
Co-Chair	Lipinski, Daniel W.	D-h03	Orland Park
Co-Chair	Murphy, Tim F.	R-h18	Pittsburgh
Federal Caucus Member	Quigley, Mike	D-h05	Chicago
Federal Caucus Member	Schakowsky, Jan D.	D-h09	Evanston
Co-Chair	Smith, Chris H.	R-h04	Freehold



Polish American Congress Meets in Washington, D.C.

September 25 - 28, 2017

The Polish American Congress (PAC) held its annual Council of National Directors (CND) Meeting September 25-28, 2017. The Hilton Garden Inn, near President Ronald Reagan National Airport in Arlington, VA., was the venue for the CND's business meetings and banquet on September 25. On Tuesday 26 September the national directors and their guests boarded a bus to Washington, DC for an all-day-event, Polish American Congress Advocacy Day For Poland on Capitol Hill, which included, for the first time, a Reception/Rally in prestigious Congressional Meeting Room, North, with brief speeches delivered by members of the Congressional Caucus on Poland and Polish Government officials representing the Embassy and the Polish Cultural Institute in New York City. The CND continued its business meetings at the Hilton Garden Inn on Wednesday and Thursday.

The keynote speaker and Guest of Honor at the CND's opening session was Reverend Miroslaw Krol, newly appointed Chancellor of Orchard Lake Seminary in Michigan. Reverend Krol thanked the PAC for playing a major role in helping Orchard Lake to continue its mission on behalf of the Church and Polonia.

The members of the PAC Executive Committee, Mrs. Micheline Jaminski, Honory Consul Debbie Majka, and Messrs. Anthony Bajdek, Hubert Cioromski, and Richard Mazella delivered their reports at Monday afternoon's session. Mrs. Bozena Kaminski's well received report on Polish Affairs included remarks by a surprise guest speaker: Mrs. Anna Holden, Unit Chief, Counter Terrorism Division, U.S. Department of Justice. The PAC is making good progress.

The Guest of Honor at Monday evening's banquet, Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, praised the achievements of the PAC from its establishment, in 1944, to the present. Ambassador Wilczek called on the PAC to continue its advocacy for permanent NATO armed forces bases in Poland, with troops from western Europe and North America, at this time of resurgent Russian imperialism and aggression. Professor Marek Chodakiewicz's keynote address called on the PAC and Polonia to open their checkbooks so we can persuade official and public opinion that a strong and truly sovereign Poland protects United States National Security Interests and promotes American values of freedom and free enterprise in the lands between the Baltic and Black Seas.

Polish American Congress Advocacy Day For Poland on Capitol Hill had two components. First, PAC national directors, who represent the 19 states where the PAC has Divisions, and their guests, visited the offices of their United States Senators and Members of the House of Representatives. They delivered two strong messages. First, resurgent Russian imperialism requires strengthening NATO's northeastern flank to ensure Poland's security. Second, members of the House of Representatives should co-sponsor H.R. 2388. President Spula persuaded Congressman Mike Quigley to sponsor this resolution calling for Poland's prompt accession to the Visa Waiver Program. Soon there will be a similar Senate resolution.

Advocacy Day For Poland on Capitol Hill concluded with a Reception/Rally in Congressional meeting Room, North. President Spula asked Congressman Quigley to sponsor this prestigious room for the PAC's event on the evening of 26 September from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Brief speeches were delivered by:

Mrs. Bozena Buda, Washington DC Chapter, Friends of Saint Pope John Paul Foundation II / Congressman Mike Quigley (Illinois) who was the Key-Note Speaker / Congressman Tim Murphy (Pennsylvania, first vice-president Rick Pierchalski's is his top Polish American constituent) / Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (Ohio, introduced by PAC National Director David Milcinovic) / Congressman Lapinski (Illinois, introduced by National director Mary Anselmo) / Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (Michigan) / Pawel Kotowski, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington D.C. / Izabela Gola, Polish Cultural Institute, New York City / Dr. Lucja Swiatkowska Cannon, Chairwoman of Polish Americans for Trump Advisory Committee / Mrs. Monika Jablonska, author of a new biography of Saint Pope John Paul II / Mrs. Anna Wellisz, strategic communications expert on correcting the image of Poland and the Poles. / Mr. Brandon Weichert, expert on Russia.





To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of the great hero of the American Revolution and patriot of his native Poland, General Tadeusz Kosciuszko, a delegation representing the Polish American Congress and Polonia throughout the United States, laid a wreath at the Kosciuszko Monument located in LaFayette Square, across from the White House. Members of the delegation were Micheline Jaminski, Hubert Cioromski, and Dr. Mark Pienkos, who delivered remarks about Kosciuszko. In 1910 the Polish National Alliance gave this magnificent monument to the United States. President William Howard Taft presided over the dedication ceremonies.

The PAC Council of National Directors resumed its business meeting on Wednesday. Ian Brzezinski, Director of the Brent Scowcroft Center, of the Atlantic Council explained the various measures taking place to protect Eastern European nations that are NATO members, including the Republic of Poland. Wednesday's meeting continued with discussions on ways to improve communication within the organization, as well as action on resolutions.

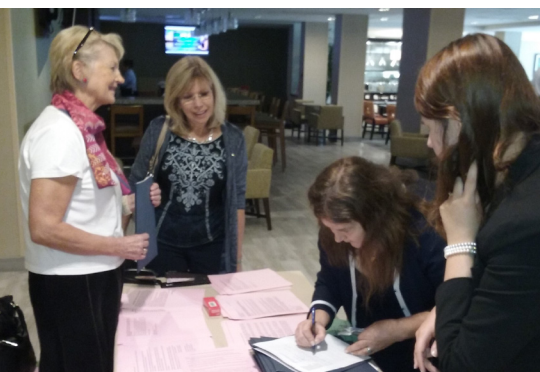
The PAC annual meeting continued on Thursday morning with speaker Dale Denda who described how General Kazimierz Pulaski leading his Legion, composed largely of cavalry, kept open the overland supply route to Philadelphia, capital of the Continental Congress, from Little Egg Harbor, on the Atlantic coast of New Jersey.

Founded in 1944, the Polish American Congress is an umbrella organization representing at least ten million Americans of Polish descent, many of whom also are citizens of Poland. The PAC promotes civic, educational, and cultural programs designed to further knowledge of Polish history, language, culture, and encourages Polish American involvement in civic affairs. For further information, please visit our website: www.pac1944.org

On behalf of the Polish American Congress, Polish Americans, and friends of Polonia, elected national officers of the PAC laid a wreath at the Kosciuszko Monument in LaFayette Square across from the White House in Washington, D.C. on September 26, 2017. Commemorating the 200th anniversary of the death of this great American Revolutionary General and patriot of his native Poland are:



From the left: Richard Mazella, Dr. Mark Pienkos, Micheline Jaminski, Hubert Cioromski



Registration was well organized.



Guest Speaker, Ian Brzezinski.



Zbyszek Koralewski welcomes Stanisław Śliwowski, MD, President, PAC - New Jersey Division



National Directors at work.



Honoring the General: Mark Pienkos pinning 1910 Kosciuszko medal on Steve Flor.



Guest speaker: Polish Ambassador, Piotr Wilczek



Steve Flor discusses WWI Centennial Commission.



Zbyszek Koralewski (Polish Singers Alliance) greets Debbie Majka (PAC Vice President for Cultural Affairs).



Resolutions Committee performs their duties in an excellent manner!



Capitol Hill - Dr. Mark Pienkos, Tim Kuzma, Congressman Mike Doyle (14th District - Pennsylvania), Debbie Majka and Rick Mazella.

Zbyszek volunteered to be a member of the "Welcoming Committee" at the PAC Council of National Directors Meeting in Washington, D.C. Other volunteers assisting Klara Wisniewska (PAC Administrator) were Halina Koralewski and Mark Pienkos. Besides providing information and handouts, the "Welcoming Committee" also gave bottles of water and Polish candy bars to arriving National Directors. This was all part of the effort to provide "Polish Hospitality" to PAC members.

Several people asked about ways to get a similar PAC banner for their own state division. Interested? For details, please contact Mark Pienkos, PAC Vice President for Public Relations. Mark's email is: markpienkos2012@gmail.com.

The banner is a great way to highlight your state division at meetings and events you sponsor. Also, a great background for photos!

From Your Polish American
Congress Executive Committee . . .
To all of our PAC National Directors,
Members and Friends:
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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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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