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POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

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Your Voice
in America!

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

Future PAC Newsletters will be sent out:

Deadline for submission	Publication date
Friday, June 4, 2021	Friday, April 9, 2021
Friday, August 6, 2021	Friday, August 13, 2021
Friday, October 1, 2021	Friday, October 8, 2021

President's Message



Frank J. Spula,
President

Dear Directors of the Polish American Congress,

It has been quite a busy past few week at the PAC! I hope you and your loved ones had a wonderful Easter Holiday. I would like to provide updates on our recent activities.

We've been closely monitoring the fate of Polish pro-democracy activists who have been unjustly imprisoned by the Lukashenko Regime in Belarus. The Polish American Congress strongly condemns and deplores the arrests of Andżelika Borys, Andrzej Poczobut, and Anna Paneszewa and others. We have posted a statement on our website expressing our solidarity with them, and other Belarusians who stand against this oppressive regime. We are also collecting donations on our website for the legal representation of the Polish-Belarusian activists who have been detained.

We have also issued a statement of condemnation against The New Yorker article titled, "The Historians Under Attack for Exploring Poland's Role in the Holocaust" by Masha Gessen. Our statement has been emailed to the Editorial Staff of The New Yorker and has been posted on our website.

Continued on next page...

"Your Voice in America" is a bimonthly newsletter published 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.

All 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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Statements against this article, and the lies it perpetuates about Poland's role during World War II, have been made by several other entities, including The Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and the American Jewish Committee of Central Europe.

The weekend of April 11th was the 11th anniversary of the Smolensk Airplane Crash. Commemorations were held throughout the country to remember the victims of the Smolensk tragedy, where President Kaczynski and many others lost their lives.

May 3rd will mark the 230th anniversary of Poland's Constitution. Commemorations of this event will be different this year due to COVID restrictions.

The news about vaccine distribution and effectiveness gets more promising every day. However, our in-person events will continue to be limited for some time as this storm seems to be lingering around. We need to be patient as we overcome this crisis.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Spula

Frank J. Spula, President

2021 Meeting of the Council of National Directors

The Executive Council of the Polish American Congress met via Zoom to discuss a variety of matters on March 18, 2021. The Executive Council consists of the PAC State Division Presidents and the PAC Executive Committee.

One of the items discussed was the 2021 annual meeting of the Council of National Directors (CoND). Following a lengthy discussion, it was decided that due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 travel restrictions, the CoND meeting should be held virtually via Zoom sometime later in this calendar year. The specific date will be announced as soon as it has been determined.

Besides normal business, the 2021 CoND meeting will also include election of PAC Executive Committee officers, consider By-Law changes, as well as discuss and approve Resolutions.

To prepare for the annual meeting, State Divisions should:

1. Conduct State Division elections
2. Elect National Director(s)
3. Pay dues

It is important for State Division leaders to look for additional information that will detail the upcoming CoND meeting. This information will be sent via special announcements from the PAC Washington, D.C. national office.



2019 Council of National Directors Meeting
Chicago, Illinois



Katyn and Smolensk Commemoration at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish

*Written by Bozenna Buda
PAC Director – Washington Metro Area Division*

On April 11, 2021, we remembered the 81st anniversary of the Katyn Massacre and the 11th anniversary of the Smolensk plane catastrophe with a Commemorative Holy Mass at Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe (OLQP) Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland. It was also Divine Mercy Sunday and we venerated the relics of St. John Paul II and St. Faustyna Kowalska. It seemed timely to recall St. John Paul II's words from his homily at the dedication of the Divine Mercy Shrine in Lagiewniki, Poland (2002):

"Wherever respect for life and human dignity are lacking, there is need of God's merciful love, in whose light we see the inexpressible value of every human being. Mercy is needed in order to ensure that every injustice in the world will come to an end in the splendor of truth."



OLQP Pastor, Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., celebrated the Holy Mass and led us in prayer for the victims of Katyn and those in the Smolensk plane catastrophe. The latter included the President of Poland Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, the last President of Poland in Exile Ryszard Kaczorowski and the rest of the 93 people aboard. Even during these challenging times, when Mass attendance is sharply limited due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, parishioners and representatives of several organizations came to pray together. They gathered to remember our collective history and to honor those who had made such tremendous sacrifices for freedom and justice and truth.

The Mass was requested by the Polish American Congress-Washington Metro Area Division (PAC-WMAD) with participation by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, the Knights of Columbus St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16634, the Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV) and Polish Scouting Organization-Zwiazek Harcerstwa Polskiego (PSO-ZHP).

Photo to left: Katyn & Smolensk Commemorative Mass on April 11, 2021 at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Silver Spring, Maryland.

(L-R): K of C Council 16634 GK David Birely, PAC-WMAD VP Malgorzata Rogoyski, PAC-WMAD Dir. & PSO-ZHP Bozenna Buda, Deputy Attaché Col. Pawel Marzeda, OLQP Pastor & KofC Chaplain Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, Gen. Cezary Wisniewski, PAC-WMAD VP & SK Jacek Marczyński, SK Dr. Richard Z. Okreglak, PLAV Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, PAC-WMAD Treasurer & SK Karol Klonowski.

(Photo: Malgorzata Rogoyski)

Ignacy Paderewski

*Written by Malgorzata Schulz, Reporter
PAC National Director At-Large*

“The Polish Lion” Ignacy Jan Paderewski today would be 160 years old, were he still alive. This great Pole, pianist and diplomat is not only one of those who established Poland’s independence in 1918, he is also an American pioneer.

Paderewski had great influence on the growth of Paso Robles, a small Southern California town, where he bought a ranch and started a winery. As Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, Paderewski visited California after his successful concerts in New York and San Francisco. During his stay in San Diego, he played a concert at the Fisher’s Opera House, one of the most modern concert halls in America.

Paderewski often traveled to the States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. At that time, San Francisco was the biggest city in California, while Los Angeles and San Diego were just small towns. A voyage from San Diego to San Francisco by train took 12 hours, but the great Polish pianist did not mind the difficulties—between 1914 and 1939 he visited Paso Robles several times. Likewise, Paderewski was the celebrity pianist of his time. His personality and style powerfully impressed audiences who were electrified by his music. He also had effective public relations and was very popular among journalists who enjoyed writing about this original and unique artist. There were almost 200 articles written in the Los Angeles Times about this world-famous performer, over the course of his American concert tours.

In 1914, he had to take a break from playing music, because of his arthritis. This caused harm to his right hand that stopped him from performing. He was forced to rest and start physical therapy of his

arm and hand. Paso Robles turned out to be a healing place for him. He chose that small town in San Luis Obispo County because of its Hot Springs. Southern California became such a special place for him, and he decided to buy a ranch. He built a winery where he grew Zinfandel grapes and made his own wine.

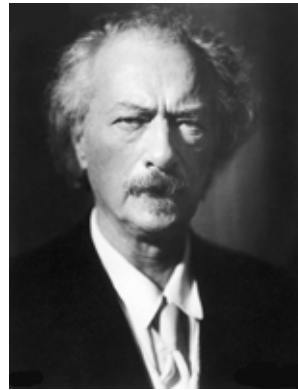
Today, he is remembered and cherished by residents of Paso Robles, which to date has a population of 33,000. There is a statue of this famous Pole in the park adjacent to the Public Library.

People living there know Paderewski—who he was as well as his role in international diplomacy. He later met with President Woodrow Wilson and became friends. Similarly, Paderewski helped future

United States president Herbert Hoover, when he was an engineering student at Stanford University, by forgiving him payment of money owed to Paderewski after the young Hoover ineptly organized and promoted a concert for Stanford University students. This allowed Hoover to continue to study, and he graduated and became a successful engineer, who later on moved into politics and organized food relief in Poland after World War I. Hoover was in Poland to witness the Polish victory at the Battle of Warsaw on Assumption Day 1920. Herbert Hoover led providing food and care for 4 million Poles in 1919–1920.

Paderewski organized approximately 300 rallies with concerts to persuade public opinion to support a free and independent Poland with access to the Baltic Sea. This was President Wilson’s Thirteenth of his Fourteen Points to make the world safe for democracy after World War I.

Lastly, Paderewski also played a major role in influencing the Polish diaspora in the United States to join the Blue Army in France, which was commanded by General Jozef Haller.



Ignacy Paderewski (circa 1935)



Ignacy Paderewski



United States Commemorative Stamp Honoring Paderewski
1960 Issue



FOREIGN POLICY

*Biden looks to appoint special envoy to kill Russia-Germany energy pipeline.
The administration is vetting Amos Hochstein to negotiate
the thorny geopolitics surrounding Nord Stream 2.*

*Written by Natasha Bertrand & Andrew Deslender
April 7, 2021*

The White House is in talks to appoint a special envoy to lead negotiations on halting the construction of Russia-to-Germany gas pipeline Nord Stream 2, current and former U.S. officials said, as the Biden administration grapples with how to stymie a nearly completed energy project that would serve as a major financial and geopolitical boon to Moscow. Amos Hochstein, who served as the special envoy and coordinator for international energy affairs under President Barack Obama and was a close adviser and confidant to then-Vice President Joe Biden, was informally offered the role by National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan late last month and is being vetted, the officials said, but he has not yet accepted the job. Hochstein, who stepped down from the supervisory board of the Ukrainian energy company Naftogaz late last year, declined to comment.

The potential appointment of an envoy indicates a new strategic focus by the administration. Previously, the White House had tasked the European affairs experts at the National Security Council and the State Department with handling the pipeline diplomacy; officials tell POLITICO there's consensus that the thorny geopolitics surrounding Nord Stream 2 now require more dedicated attention—especially as the pipeline, which is already nearly 96 percent finished, races toward completion. It's also a nod to the pressure campaign from Capitol Hill, where senators from both parties have been pushing the Biden administration to effectively cripple the pipeline before it's too late. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) has held up speedy confirmation of Biden's top State Department nominees as part of that effort, and other senators have publicly called on the administration to accelerate a sanctions package targeting entities involved in the pipeline's construction, as required by law.

Photo above: Amos Hochstein, who served as the special envoy and coordinator for international energy affairs under President Barack Obama, was informally offered the special envoy role late last month and is being vetted.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

In a recent private meeting, Cruz pressed Victoria Nuland, Biden's pick to lead the State Department's political affairs office, about the possibility of appointing an envoy to handle the matter, according to two people familiar with the conversation (The senator's office declined to comment).

Cruz's efforts, though incremental, are having an impact. Last month, the Texas Republican released his hold on CIA Director William Burns' nomination after Secretary of State Antony Blinken publicly committed to shutting down the pipeline. "The [State] Department reiterates its warning that any entity involved in the Nord Stream 2 pipeline risks U.S. sanctions and should immediately abandon work on the pipeline," Blinken said.

However, one U.S. official familiar with the matter argued that the administration was already dragging its feet. The Justice Department gave legal sign-off last month to at least two sanctions packages targeting Nord Stream 2 AG, the company responsible for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of the pipeline, and its CEO Matthias Warnig, the official said. But the packages have not yet been implemented, and it remains to be seen whether the administration will include Nord Stream 2 AG and Warnig on the list of sanctionable entities that it is required to provide to Congress next month.

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Some officials, however, are wary that the appointment of an envoy could actually be counterproductive, and further delay sanctions against Nord Stream 2 by telegraphing to Germany and Russia that the U.S. is open to some form of reconciliation. But a Senate Democratic aide told POLITICO that Hochstein's appointment to the role would be "welcomed" by Democrats. "Amos would be a great person for this position," the aide said, noting that he "has a good reputation" and worked on similar issues during the Obama administration.

While it's not yet clear what the envoy's exact mandate and parameters would be, the role would at least initially be focused on managing delicate negotiations over how to impede the pipeline without alienating a key U.S. ally in Berlin. It might then expand to deal more broadly with international energy issues, similar to what Hochstein was doing at the State Department under Obama, said two people involved in the discussions.



This diplomatic situation is extremely delicate, officials said. The administration wants to impede Moscow's energy leverage—Biden has called it "a bad deal for Europe"—but it also wants to strengthen the U.S. relationship with Germany, which has been lobbying Washington for the pipeline's construction to continue unabated. "We're between a rock and a hard place," a senior administration official said last month. The German government has floated several potential offers to get the U.S. to lay off the pipeline, said people familiar with the conversations, including trade deals and increased investment in green energy projects in Europe and Ukraine.

But U.S. lawmakers from both parties have argued that regardless of any German attempts to sweeten the deal for Washington, the pipeline would place Russian infrastructure inside NATO territory and thereby threaten its member states. It would also make some European countries more dependent on Russian energy, the lawmakers contend, while depriving Ukraine of billions of dollars in revenue by allowing Russia to circumvent the country when transferring gas to Europe. "[C]ountering Russian malign aggression is in the vital national security interests of all of NATO, all EU members, and our partners in Eastern Europe," Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) and Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) wrote in a letter to Blinken late last month. "We cannot lose sight of this central principle as we engage diplomatically on the pipeline."

PRESIDENT BIDEN CONGRATULATES POLISH AMERICAN OVER NASA'S SUCCESSFUL MARS LANDING

NASA's acting chief Steve Jurczyk, 55, personally received congratulations from President Joe Biden an hour after the Perseverance rover successfully landed on the red planet. His first words were 'Congratulations, man,' and I knew it was him," Jurczyk said of the surprise phone call from the US Chief Executive. "He talked about how proud he was of what we had accomplished." The event was immediately reported by Polish Television (TVP) and other Polish media. It took Perseverance nearly half a year to travel the 128 million miles from planet Earth. The SUV-sized rover has been designed to collect Martian soil and rock samples as well as register temperature, aridity, and other parameters of the vast Jezero crater, named after a village in Bosnia. A drone photographed and filmed the landscape. The mission is setting the stage for the first manned space flight to Mars, possibly within a decade.



Steve Jurczyk

Jurczyk earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Virginia in electronic engineering and began his NASA career in 1988. Like many kids his age, Jurczyk watched in awe and admiration the TV transmission of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin strolling on the Moon, and that was what got him hooked on space travel. In 2019, Jurczyk visited the homeland of his Polish immigrant ancestors to attend the European Rover Challenge in the south-central city of Kielce. On that occasion, he told reporters that America's goal was to establish a permanent presence on the Moon.





POLISH HERITAGE CENTER PANNA MARIA, TEXAS



PAC Executive Committee Unanimously Approves Resolution

During its March 2021 meeting, the Executive Committee of the Polish American Congress unanimously approved the following resolution commending the efforts of all involved who have worked so very diligently to create the new Polish Heritage Center in Panna Maria, Texas:

The first permanent Polish settlement in the United States occurred in Panna Maria, Texas in 1854. The history of this event, as well as the many achievements of Polish Americans, is being commemorated by the proud descendants and other benefactors of present day Panna Maria and nearby communities that the immigrants founded; the great state of Texas, the United States, as well as friends worldwide. The soon-to-be completed \$14M Polish Heritage Center, is a tremendous achievement that all Polonia can rightfully be proud.



Furthermore, the PAC joins with the over ten million Americans of Polish descent in offering its heartfelt congratulations for all the work being done by the many contributors to the Polish Heritage Center, led by its driving force and founder, Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta.

President Frank J. Spula, on behalf of the PAC Executive Committee and its members, heartily commends and thanks all of you!



Bishop John W. Yanta being recognized by Andrzej Duda,
President of the Republic of Poland



Commemoration of the Indomitable Soldiers

*Written by Malgorzata Schulz, Reporter
PAC National Director At-Large*

The month of March is the beginning of Spring, but in Poland the first flowers announce the commemoration of the Indomitable Soldiers – Polish troops who gallantly resisted the Soviet army which was imposing communism on Poland by armed force from 1944 to 1947. Some few continued their resistance until the early 1960s.

March 1st, in Poland, is the National Day of Remembrances of the Indomitable Soldiers, also called Doomed and Unbroken soldiers. Indomitable and Unbroken is the best expression as it explains their mission and core values. These soldiers were anti-Soviet and anti-communist Polish resistance movements formed in the later stages of World War II to fight for Poland's freedom. Nazi Germany was defeated and withdrew from Poland by 1945. The Soviet Red Army and NKWD, as well as Polish communists became the enemy of Indomitable Soldiers as they took power and introduced a totalitarian regime in Poland.

National Day of Remembrance was established in 2011, by the Sejm of the Republic of Poland to fulfill a patriotic duty to restore the memory of these forgotten Polish heroes who waged a valiant struggle against communism. During the communist regime in Poland, it was forbidden to commemorate unbroken soldiers and knowledge of them was erased from public sources.

"Żołnierze Niezłomni," also known as fathers of independence, since 1944 fought against Soviet troops and communist terror apparatus for Polish Independence. They exemplify what is best in the Polish nation: courage, resistance, fight for others, ultimate sacrifice and

Photo above: The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Warsaw, Poland

giving their lives for a greater good. Information about their lonely and for decades forgotten battle was suppressed by the communist regime. The Indomitable Soldiers in Polish "niezłomni," "niezłamani," "niezwycięzeni," put into action the core Polish values: freedom, independence, courage and resistance.

They paid the ultimate price for defending their homeland from Soviet regime, tortured in the dungeons of detention in jail on Rakowiecka street, in Warsaw. Some died there from a bullet in the back of the head and were buried in unmarked graves - the location still unknown. Communists struggled to subdue these soldiers who in many cases were well organized, many of them were WW II heroes such as Captain Witold Pilecki and General August Emil "Nail" Fiedorf. In 2016, Rakowiecka Street Prison was transformed into the "Museum Żołnierzy Wyklętych."

Polonia in Southern California commemorated those who died in battle for a free and independent Poland, on Sunday, March 14, 2021. Patriotic Polonia in Los Angeles remembers the struggle against the Soviet and communist terror apparatus for an independent Poland. These topics are important for Poles living outside the country, because although far from their homeland, their hearts are always close to it. This is why this writer and Konrad Wilk prepared an artistic program, reminiscent of the Feast of The Fallen Soldiers. Elisabeth Romuzga also performed at the ceremony, presenting a patriotic poem. The celebrations took place at the Sanctuary of St. John Paul II, on the territory of the Polish parish and Our Lady of Jasna Góra in Los Angeles.

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Konrad Wilk joined this project because, as he said during the performance, he is the son and grandson of Siberians, Poles exiled to Siberia by Stalin, and a Warsaw veteran of the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. In his speech, he mentioned seven Polish heroes shot by communist tormentors on March 1, 1951 in Mokotów prison.

"They'll only take my life, but that's not the main thing. I am glad that I will be murdered as a Catholic for the holy faith, as an independent Poland, as a man for truth and justice," in words spoken on death row by Lieutenant Colonel Luke Ciepliński ps "Plug", Tademar began his speech. He also mentioned Major Mieczysław Marian Kawalec, Major Adam Kalikst Lazarowicz, Rotmaster Józef Batory, Rotmaster Józef Rzepka and Infantry Lieutenant Karol Chmiel.

This writer decided to organize this performance to commemorate the tragic fate of Polish heroes, murdered by the communists in Rakowiecka 37, and to publicize the Museum of Indomitable Soldiers, which includes documentation on political prisoners persecuted by the Polish People's Republic.

"It has become a patriotic duty to restore the memory of forgotten heroes, whose place of burial is often still unknown. The Indomitable Soldiers, also known as the fathers of independence, have been fighting Soviet troops and the communist terror apparatus for an independent Poland since 1944," this writer observed. Moreover, the organizer of this commemoration recalled the collected history of the soldiers of the Independentist Polish Army, who paid the highest price, gave life for freedom. Though they died for Poland—they kept the spirit of Polish Independence alive.

The Soviets and those who collaborated with them had no mercy and did not even listen to the voices of the children who begged for the release of their fathers, writing letters to Bolesław Bierut, nota bene buried in Powązki with honors, while Polish patriots were buried secretly, with contempt in the "Ł" quarters on the so-called Link. Since 2012, nearly 200 bodies have been recovered from there and exhumations still continue.

Elisabeth Romuzga recited a patriotic poem. At the end of the ceremony, the parish priest, Father Mirosław Frankowski thanked the organizers for preparing the patriotic program and after prayers sang a beautiful and touching Marian song.





TRANSITION OF POLAND'S ENERGY SECTOR: *A Work in PROGRESS*

*Written by Paulina Rezendes
PAC National Office Intern*

Poland is the second largest producer of coal in Europe after Germany. Since coal plays an important role in the energy sector, the topic of energy transition to clean energy can be controversial. Besides coal there are also other fossil fuels used as a source of energy in Poland. Having coal as a natural resource makes Poland less dependent on energy from Russia than other countries in the European Union (Ćwiek-Karpowicz, p.1). In 2018, energy production in Poland was estimated for 2650 PJ, comprising 57.9% of hard coal, 18.1 % of lignite, 5.5 % of natural gas, 1.6% of crude oil and 16.9% of renewables. The amount of consumption for that year was 4500 PJ and following that 50% of it was from hard coal and lignite (trade.gov). Recently, we can see growing demand for gas in Poland. Domestic production significantly decreased, and Poland needed to import natural gas. Russia benefited as the principal exporter of gas to Poland, but provided less than 50% of Poland's domestic gas needs, so Poland decided to make a deal with the United States (trade.gov).

When Poland became a member of the European Union in May of 2004, there was more pressure to meet European standards of energy sufficiency. Ecology became one of the most important contemporary issues with increased awareness that fossil fuels are a depletable resource, and that renewables are a more sustainable source of energy. Renewable energy sources are readily available in Poland and are becoming more popular. One prevalent form of renewable energy in Poland is wind power. The attractiveness of wind energy started with the 2005 amendment of the Energy Law Act, which separated trade in electrical power from trade in "green certificates," which allows energy producers to earn income from two sources instead of one. This means that energy delivery

companies are appointed as the last resort and are obligated to purchase electricity from renewable energy sources. On the other hand, "Green Certificates" are certificates which can be converted into property rights and can be traded in power exchanges (Stawicki, p.214-215). If Poland would focus on energy renewables it could have a positive effect on energy security and efficiency.

In the past, Poland imported natural gas and crude oil from Russia at a reasonable price because two of the energy routes to Germany passed through Poland. In 2011 and 2012 a new oil terminal was created in Ust-Luga, and Russia was able to directly transport its resources to Western Europe bypassing Poland. This had a negative effect on Poland's energy security as Russia can cease exporting to Poland at any time (Ćwiek-Karpowicz, p.2-3). Because Poland shares a difficult history and complicated relations with Russia, the former tried to find other suppliers of natural gas, like Norway, to minimize its dependence on Russian energy resources from the 1990s until 2004, but it was without success. In 2005, this changed because of internal and external developments. Internally, the process of securitization had an influence on energy policy, and with a new president, energy security became a priority for the Polish government. Externally, in 2004 the Yamal-Europe gas pipeline was surprisingly turned off for a day due to problems between Russia and Belarus. But this was not the end of the Kremlin's weaponization of natural gas. In 2005 Germany and Russia signed a contract for the North European Gas Pipeline which avoided transit through Polish territory. An additional problem was a conflict between Russia and Ukraine which also led to a reduction in supplying some of the EU countries (Wyciszkiewicz, p.18-19). These reasons forced Poland to think about energy security as a top priority, and to plan energy efficiency improvements.

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A new contract was signed between Poland and U.S. companies called Polish Oil and Gas Company (PGNiG) and Venture Global Liquefied Natural Gas (VGLNG). Polish Oil and Gas Company (PGNiG) is the leader in Polish natural gas market which also provides heat and electricity to Polish citizens. The contract is to purchase 1.5 million tons per annum of liquefied natural gas, and the beginning of the operation is expected for the year 2023. This agreement will help Poland become less dependent on energy resources from Russia, and Poland will receive 3.5 million tons of LNG for a competitive price (VG LNG). A contract like this will have an impact on Polish policies as Poland will become more independent from Russia regarding critical resources provided for its citizens at home. The downside is that LNG is far more expensive than natural gas.

Another important step which qualitatively will improve energy resources in Poland was the Strategic Agreement on U.S.-Poland Cooperation Towards Developing Poland's Civil Nuclear Energy Program which was signed in October 2019 between the U.S. and Poland. This Agreement will be valid for the thirty years from 2019 and is intended to give Poland the promise about long-term relations with the U.S. In the Polish government's opinion, Poland and its businesses will benefit from that project as this will give the opportunity for the country to have clean energy and also will help develop energy security supply apart from its dependence on natural resources from other neighboring countries. This project is intended to meet the long-term goal of improving Poland's economic growth, geopolitical security, and technology (energy.gov).

Europe is trying to decarbonize its economy by the year 2050, and forecasts show this goal is achievable. In Poland, by the year 2030 it is possible to reduce power emissions by approximately 40%. There are two ways to achieve this, and the first one is a technology mix which would be less expensive than nuclear by using only a carbon price scenario based on carbon capture storage, which could be built easier. The second option is a Technology Support scenario. This option would focus on renewables and increasing carbon price. Renewables are safe and there are less possibilities for unpredictable accidents (Zorlu, p.2).

The transition of Poland in the energy sector and its security is going in the right direction to implement energy policy changes. There is a high demand for changes in Poland and all countries of European Union as pollution is a collective problem. In order to have a better future for other generations and a more sustainable planet, countries need to take action and make changes in their energy sector and CO2 emissions which have a tremendous impact on our environment.

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(Editor's Note: This is a follow-up story from the PAC – Wisconsin Division's contest that appeared in the December 2020 PAC Newsletter. Fine work! Fun, too.)

DO YOU KNOW POLAND?



From the contest entries received, two really stood out. Both were so thorough and well constructed that both were declared co-winners. They are:

1. Ralph Tyksinski of the PHC Madison-Wisconsin
2. Anna Kochanowski of the PAC – Wisconsin Division

Congratulations to Pan Tyksinski and Pani Kochanowski, for your incredible knowledge and understanding of Poland, it's history and heritage. And thanks to all of the contest entrants for their efforts. We hope that DYKP? will inspire others to use the resources listed to aid their learning and appreciation for Poland and its people. For more information, please visit our PAC – Wisconsin Division website: pacwisconsin.com

BOOKS AND INFORMATION ON POLISH HISTORY AND CULTURE

**Contest answers provided by the map designer, Irena Frączek
PAC – Wisconsin Division**

{NOTE: Begin at the 11:00 position on the map above and then move clockwise around the map to find the 23 answers which are explained below.}

- Contest answers provided by the map designer, Irena Frączek
PAC – Wisconsin Division**
- {NOTE: Begin at the 11:00 position on the map above and then
move clockwise around the map to find the 23 answers which are
explained below.}**
1. Pilots of No. 306 Polish Fighter Squadron "Torunian" (pl: 306 Dywizjon Myśliwski "Toruński"), one of several Polish squadrons in the Royal Air Force (RAF) during the WWII. Flight Lieutenants Tadeusz Czerwiński and Stanisław Skalski are photographed with Polish emblem in Churchstanton, Somerset, UK. on January 26-28, 1942.
 2. A girl in the Kashubian folk costume photographed during the Polish Fest in Milwaukee. Kashubians (an indigenous Slavic population) live near the Baltic Sea in the eastern part of Pomerania. Kashubian dialect is related to Polish but classified as a distinct language. Almost 90% of Kashubians see themselves as simultaneously Kashubian and Polish.
 3. Rare autograph of Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849) against a few measures of his widely known Polonaise in A-flat Major "Heroique" Op. 53. A musical celebrity and symbol of the Romantic era, his compositions are permeated with influences from Polish folk music and remain as popular around the world as ever. Polonaise (pl. polonez) is a national dance of Poland.
 4. Named after Marshal Józef Piłsudski, the ocean liner MS Piłsudski (an older sister ship to the famous MS Batory) was a tribute to the country's leader and his role in the long struggle for Poland's independence regained in 1918. Its home port in Gdynia embodies the achievements and entrepreneurial spirit of the II Polish Republic, while service on the transatlantic route evokes numerous Polish-American connections.
 5. The Westerplatte Monument (officially named the Monument to the Defenders of the Coast) commemorates the first battle of WWII that came to symbolize the war outbreak and the heroic Polish resistance against the Nazi Germany. In this battle, lasting for seven days, about 200 Polish soldiers bravely withheld attacks of 3,400 German forces supported by a battleship, torpedo boats and military aircrafts.
 6. A true Renaissance man, Nicolaus Copernicus (pl. Mikołaj Kopernik) placed sun in the center of his heliocentric model of the universe. His book 'On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres' triggered the Copernican Revolution that gave rise to modern science. Jan Matejko, a painter known for capturing the most profound moments of Polish history, created the painting "Astronomer Copernicus, or Conversations with God" adopted on the map.
- Continued on next page...*

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7. The Białowieża Forest is the second oldest of 23 Polish national parks, and the only UNESCO-designated natural World Heritage site in Poland. It protects the last remnant of Europe's primeval forests and the largest population of European bison (pl: żubr). Polish kings started to protect the European bison already in the 16th century, but by the 20th century, the species had to be back brought from near extinction by conservation efforts.
8. Skyline of Warsaw Poland with a good view on the city's seventh tallest building (630 feet, 192 m) - a luxury residential skyscraper located at Żłota 44 and nicknamed the "Glass Sail."
9. Irene Sendler was a nurse and social worker who with help of her underground network and at great personal danger rescued about 2,5000 Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto. In October 1943, she became a head of children's section of Żegota (the Polish Council to Aid Jews, pl. Rada Pomocy Żydom), the only organization in German-occupied Europe that was established specifically to save Jews. Her wartime activities brought Irene Sendler numerous awards and Yad Vashem's recognition as the "Righteous Among the Nations."
10. The Little Insurrectionist (pl. Mały Powstaniec) monument in Warsaw commemorates the youngest fighters of the Warsaw Uprising (August 1 - October 2, 1944), the single largest military effort taken by any European resistance movement during World War II.
11. A very progressive for its time, the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791 was the first modern written constitution in Europe, and only the second in the world after the Constitution of the United States. It remained in effect for just one year, becoming later a cherished national symbol that helped to keep alive the aspirations for Poland's independence and social justice.
12. The winged hussars, also called the Polish hussars, were the elite branch of heavy cavalry in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from the 1570s until 1776. Using a tactic of charge at and through the enemy, they won numerous battles - even against the overwhelming odds. They won some of the most important battles in the history of Poland (the Battle of Chocim, 1673) and Europe (the Battle of Vienna, 1683).
13. "Zbójnicki," a traditional dance of Gorals (pl. górale), highlanders from the mountainous Podhale region in Southern Poland, performed by Śląsk Song and Dance Ensemble.
14. Pope John Paul II during his first papal visit to Poland in 1979. The red stole was a gift from the Pauline Friars taking care of the Jasna Góra Monastery, one of the most important Marian shrines in the world. The painting of Black Madonna held in the monastery and portrayed on the stole has been an important part of Poland's history for over six hundred years.
15. Tadeusz Kościuszko is the national hero of the United States (the Revolutionary War), Poland and Lithuania. The 1938 painting by Arthur Szyk recalls Kosciuszko's legacy as defender of freedom, justice and equality for all. It also revisits his unfulfilled wish for Thomas Jefferson to execute his last will stipulating the use of all Kosciuszko's assets to buy out black slaves and provide them with education needed to make a fresh start in life.
16. Ignacy Jan Paderewski was a virtuoso pianists and composer admired in concert halls all over the world. He used his fame to advance the cause of restoring Poland's independence - especially when having an ear of the US President Woodrow Wilson. The power of his word was so great that the victorious Greater Poland uprising (1918-1919) broke out just one day after his patriotic speech in Poznań. What a joy it must have been for him to place his signature on the Versailles Treaty recognizing the Poland's hard-won independence in 1918.
17. Most people have seen Zofia Stryjeńska's art but not many know her name. Yet she earned the title of the "princess of Polish art" in interwar Poland (and fame in Europe) for her art deco designs and effervescent images. Her work revolved around pagan rituals, pre-Christian Slavic deities, historic themes, as well as Polish folk costumes, dances & traditions - just like the Polish custom of floating wreaths and candles on St. John's Eve (pl. Noc Świętojańska).
18. Sierpiński triangle became my choice of an eye catching and hard to forget symbol of the astounding achievements of the Polish School of Mathematics to put on the map. Growing rapidly in the interwar period, three branches bloomed simultaneously in Warsaw, Lwów and Kraków. Interestingly enough, Waclaw Sierpiński applied his math genius to breaking Soviet codes, thus contributing to the Polish victory in Polish-Soviet war (1919-21).
19. Another triumph of the Polish cryptologists came when Marian Rejewski, Henryk Zygalski, and Jerzy Różycki developed a method for breaking German codes generated by the Enigma machine in December 1932. After Poles disclosed their secrets to the Allies in 1939, British code-breakers gradually started deciphering German communications. But only after Poland joined NATO in 1999, they began acknowledging the Polish role in those successes.
20. One of the greatest scientists of all times, Marie Skłodowska Curie, she developed the theory of radioactivity and discovered new elements: polonium (named after Poland) and radium. Despite multiple barriers on her path (poverty, misogyny and xenophobia), she became the first women ever to win a Nobel Prize, the first person to win it twice and the first in two separate disciplines (Physics in 1903 and Chemistry in 1911).
21. Red poppy might be a national flower of Poland but on this map, it represents the blood of Polish soldiers shed on the slopes of Monte Cassino in one of the fiercest battles of WWII., The Polish II Corps ended it launching one of the final assaults in the four month long struggle. On May 18, 1944, Polish flag was raised over the ruins, followed by the British Union Jack. "The Red Poppies on Monte Cassino" (pl. Czerwone maki na Monte Cassino) is one of the best-known songs in Poland.
22. Straight from the 1952 film "High Noon," Gary Cooper walks in this poster with the Solidarity badge on his chest and a ballot in his right hand. Used to put the Solidarity movement on the map, the poster urged people to vote in the pivotal 1989 election. The result was a landslide victory for Solidarity and a major step in the collapse of communism.
23. Robert Lewandowski is a captain of the Polish National Soccer team, one of the best players in the Bundesliga history (where he plays for Bayern Munich). Widely considered to be one of the best strikers in the world, he recently won the 2020 Best FIFA Men's Player Award and the 2020 UEFA Men's Player of the Year Award. On March 22, 2021, Polish President Andrzej Duda awarded Lewandowski the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta for his professional achievements and promotion of Poland abroad.



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS ELECTIONS FOR THE PAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD IN 2021

Written by Mark Pienkos
PAC National Vice President for Public Relations



At the 2019 PAC Council of National Directors Annual Meeting in Chicago, I announced I would not seek a fourth two-year term as the PAC National Vice President for Public Relations. The next election cycle for all PAC Executive Officers was to take place in 2020.

Then . . . COVID-19 happened.

I have continued to edit and publish the PAC “Your Voice in America” Newsletter. I am also very grateful for the assistance of the Polish Falcons of America for its assistance—especially

in formatting the beautiful editions you have received over the past seven years. Since being elected in October 2014, I will have published 42 newsletters—never missing a monthly publication deadline. I am very proud of this record since I believe when you make a promise or commitment you must keep it.

I made my announcement in 2019—and am repeating it once again here—to alert interested people who would like to nominate someone for the PAC National Vice President for Public Relations position to follow the By-Laws regarding being nominated so that individual’s name can appear on the election ballot at the next Council of National Directors Meeting scheduled for later this year.

Besides the newsletter—which I established in 2014—there are other responsibilities of this office. Participating in Executive Committee meetings, writing press releases, communicating with members, working with the PAC National Office in Washington, D.C., attending meetings, and traveling when necessary or requested, are just a few of the duties. For example, I was honored to be in the delegation

of 44 members of the Polish American Congress that traveled to Poland for a first-ever meeting outside of the U.S. borders. The PAC participated in the 2016 Forum Polonii Amerykanskiej (Forum of American Polonia) held July 25-30, in Rzeszow, Podkarpacie Region. What made this event even more special was that I once again was able to visit the birthplace of one of my grandparents – Walenty Pienkos. Finally, this is a voluntary office, so there is no compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

If anyone is interested in speaking to me regarding this office, please feel free to contact me. I will be happy to explain my responsibilities. My email address is: markpienkos2012@gmail.com and my phone is 262-325-8039.

My plans? I hope to continue to share my energy, talent, experience, and passion for all things Polish and to help further the mission of the Polish American Congress.

It has been an honor and pleasure to have served you as PAC National Vice President for Public Relations since 2014. Over the years, I sincerely appreciated all of the wonderful people who submitted articles for the newsletter, as well as the nearly 1,200 (and growing) subscribers to the newsletter. **I wish you all the very best! STO LAT!**





*From Your Polish American Congress Executive Committee
To Our PAC National Directors, Members, and Friends:*

Celebrate Poland's Constitution Day May 3rd!



**THE CONSTITUTION OF
3 MAY, 1791
POLAND**





From the Bookshelf

When Victimization of Poland was never in Doubt Compiled, Edited and Annotated by Anthony Bajdek

CONGRATULATIONS, Anthony Bajdek!

For 21st century Americans in generally, and Polish Americans in particular, a rare view of what was being reported about the state of affairs in Poland principally by European, and secondarily, by American journalists, exactly as the news of the day was being written verbatim in those times.

In this, the first quarter of the 21st century, Americans as well as others who are well-informed about the history of Poland's painful epic struggles to exist as a free and independent nation, have been taken aback both by sources in several otherwise friendly sister states of the European Union, and, unsurprisingly, by Russia, who propose that Poland's claim of having been victimized over some two hundred forty-seven years—when Poland initially was partitioned by its contiguous neighbors—has been and is an exaggeration, pure and simple. This is the reason that I have dedicated myself to document and illuminate Poland's rightful claim of victimization, initially by way of presentations I made under the title, "Fostering Knowledge of and Sympathy for Poland in the Early American Republic, Niles' Register, 1811-1849" at academic conferences and

other meetings such as, for example, at Columbia University, the United States Military Academy, and to the venerable Kosciuszko Mound Committee (Komitet Kopca Kosciuszki) of Kraków, Poland, wherein I described what Americans had been reading about Poland by virtue of an exemplar of the free press in the United States during the period, 1811 to 1849. Concomitantly, as I identified and compiled the evidence, I also decided to seek its broader publication as a book in its own right.

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About the Author



Anthony J. Bajdek, American academic administrator, history educator. Recipient of the Civic Achievement award from the Polish American History Association (2000), as well as numerous other awards. Member Polish American Congress and current PAC National Vice President for American Affairs. Member: Pi Sigma Alpha, Phi Alpha Theta.

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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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