



# The Forum

## of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 73

November 2021

NUMBER 11

### COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, November 17th

**General Meeting  
IN PERSON**

**The Great Escape  
9450 W. Irving Park Rd.  
6:00 pm "Happy Hour"  
7:00 pm Call-to-Order**

RSVP to Chuck Cwiakala:  
[cecwiakala@aol.com](mailto:cecwiakala@aol.com)  
847-204-8747 (cell)  
847-823-8747 (home)

Monday, November 29th  
**Board Meeting- 7:00 pm**

A monthly news bulletin for the  
Chicago Society PNA

Director of Publications  
[editor@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:editor@chicagosocietypna.org)

Brothers and friends,  
As mentioned in my last letter, the slate for the incoming Board still has three vacancies: (1) Financial Secretary; (2) Director of Personnel; and (3) Director of Publications. These are critical positions which are vacant, need to be filled and offer an opportunity to members of the general membership to serve and help advance the Society. The duties/qualifications of each position are listed in Articles VI, VII and VIII of our constitution, which is available on the website <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/constitution>. If you have any questions about the positions or serving on the Board, please feel free to contact the nominating committee, myself or anyone else on the Board.

Congratulations and thank you to those that have accepted their nominations for Board positions. None of the good we do can happen without your work and sacrifice.



I look forward to our Thanksgiving meeting which will include a Turkey Raffle and a Christmas Party where guests can be invited. Join us!

*Adam Konopka*

President, Chicago Society PNA



## CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

### Board of Directors

#### President:

Adam Konopka

#### 1st Vice President:

Chris Grzadziel

#### 2nd Vice President:

Chuck Cwiakala

#### Secretary:

Andy Haszlakiewicz

#### Financial Secretary:

Richard Ciesla

#### Treasurer:

Jan Plachta

#### Advocate:

Ed Wasilewski

#### Senior Director:

Peter Dykas

#### Social Activities Director:

Zenon Kurdziel

#### Director of Outreach:

Ro Matuszczak

#### Director of Personnel:

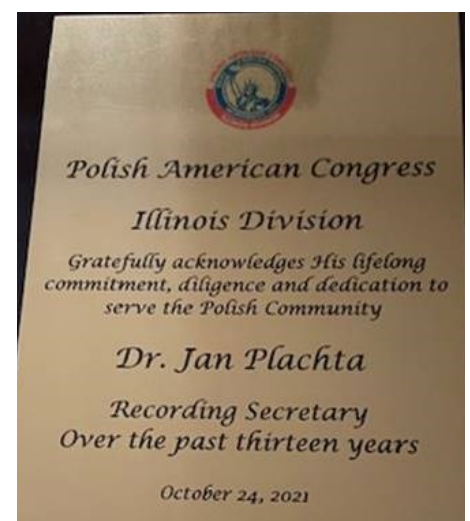
Ken Kogut

#### Director of Publications:

Ted Kozelka

## November Forum Highlights:

- ♦ Deserving Children's Christmas Party – Include that we are accepting donations of new toys and cash to sponsor the event and to direct that to the event chairman Peter Dykas.
- ♦ The Society will be adding a Christmas greeting to support local Polish publication Dziennik Zwiazkowy.
- ♦ The Society will be posting an ad in the booklet for the upcoming White & Red ball for the benefit of Maeve Emma Ciesla, daughter of Brother Greg Ciesla and granddaughter of Brother Rich Ciesla.
- ♦ The nominating committee is accepting nominations for positions as outlined in Article VII – Section 4 of the Constitution. As of today the Board continues to have vacancies in the offices of **Financial Secretary, Director of Personnel and Director of Publications.**
- ♦ Please contact the committee or the Board should you or someone you know be interested in serving on the Board in those or any positions in the coming year.
- ♦ CS Foundation scholarship apps should be available in mid-November. Applications are due March 1st. Need to be of Polonian descent, a U.S. Citizen and enrolled as an undergraduate sophomore or graduate student in the U.S.
- ♦ 4 scholarships total, two for \$7,500 and two for \$5,000.
- ♦ **Congratulations to Brother Jan Plachta on being awarded special recognition for his many years of service to the Polish American Congress.**



## Chicago Society—Mark Calendars for Upcoming Events

### Deserving Children's Christmas Party

Never too early to think about Christmas and Santa. The Deserving Children's Christmas Party to be held tentatively on **Saturday, December 11th** at The PNA building on Cicero Ave. Event will be indoors this year in the cafeteria. Contact Brother Peter Dykas to volunteer and/or make a donation  
([padykas@yahoo.com](mailto:padykas@yahoo.com) 312-493-3046)



**The Legion of  
Young Polish Women**  
Women With A Cause



*Save the Date*

*82nd*

*White and Red Ball  
February 26, 2022*



**November 17, 2021**—Keep your calendars marked for the Society's annual turkey raffle! Gobble, gobble!



**November 14, 2021**—Luncheon at the Park Ridge Country Club hosted by the Polish Arts Club of Chicago.

### Evening of Elegance 2022

The Chicago Society's formal dinner is tentatively being planned for **January 22 or 29**. Please keep these dates open in your calendar. Ideas and suggestions are more than welcome; contact Brother Chris Grzadziel at [cgrzadziel@gmail.com](mailto:cgrzadziel@gmail.com) for more information.



**Chicago Society, P.N.A.  
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
Held on November 1, 2021  
At D'Agostino's restaurant, 7530 W. Oakton**

1. Call to Order: President Konopka called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
2. Roll Call of Officers and Directors present: Brs. Konopka, Grzadziel, Cwiakala, Haszlakiewicz, Ciesla, Plachta, Wasilewski, Dykas, Kurdziel, Kozelka, Matuszczak. Absent: Br. Kogut. Quorum achieved.
3. Correspondence & Bills: Invitation from Dziennik Zwiazkowy to place a Christmas greeting. It was moved by Br. Matuszczak and seconded by Br. Ciesla to repeat last years' ad at a cost of \$150 (1/8 of page). Request from LYPW to place an ad in their program book for the White & Red Ball to be held on Feb. 26, 2022. It was moved by Br. Matuszczak and seconded by Br. Kozelka to place a full page ad in support of Debutante Maeve Emma Ciesla (granddaughter of Brother Richard Ciesla) in the amount of \$500. The ad should include notice of the pre-May 3<sup>rd</sup> Parade brunch. Brother Kozelka offered to design and submit the ad. Also received, a request for support from Debutante Kayla Wisneski – filed with no action taken. Invitation from Polish Arts Club of Chicago to pre-holiday luncheon on Nov. 14. It was moved, seconded and approved to purchase 2 tickets (\$50@) for President Konopka and his wife. Br. Ciesla moved and Br. Matuszczak seconded that two bills, one from SFI (Form printing) and the other for tonight's meeting dinner be paid. All passed.
4. Directors and Officers Reports:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Br. Chris Grzadziel – No speakers for Nov. and Dec. meetings. There are 2 or 3 possible speakers starting in Jan. 2022. Motion to accept report made by Br. Matuszczak, seconded by Br. Kozelka. Passed.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Br. Chuck Cwiakala – Finding dinner venues at a reasonable price is getting very difficult. Many prices are going up. The November general meeting will be at The Great Escape with a Thanksgiving turkey dinner. Due to lower attendance at meetings we raffle off 10 turkeys at the Nov. meeting. In December, the board meeting will be at Colletti's, 5707 N. Central Ave, on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The general meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>, our Christmas Holiday meeting, to include spouses and significant others will be most likely held at The Great Escape (to be confirmed) on Irving Park Rd. Br. Ciesla moved to accept report, seconded by Br. Wasilewski. Passed.

Secretary: Br. Haszlakiewicz – no report.

Financial Secretary: Br. Ciesla - report was emailed to board prior to meeting. Current balance is \$37,491.31. The Wiecek repayments are up to date. We have 94 members and two suspended members. Motion to reinstate Brs. Orwat and Sufranski, who both paid their dues, made by Br. Ciesla, seconded by Br. Matuszczak. Motion passed. Total members: 96. Motion to accept report made by Br. Kurdziel, seconded by Br. Wasilewski. Passed.

Treasurer: Br. Plachta – report emailed to board prior to meeting. Current balance is \$58,934.13 – still four uncashed checks, 2 for D'Agostino's and 2 for SFI. The Youth Fund balance (\$6,363.36) and Deserving Children's Fund balance (\$2,235.73) are part of the current balance. The list of issued checks (1431,1432,1433) should include the recipients. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept report, seconded by Br. Kurdziel. Passed.

Advocate: Br. Wasilewski – no report.

Director of Publications: Br. Kozelka – please send content for Forum. Some of the items to be included in the next Form: PAC Awards Banquet, Arts Club, White & Red Ball, birth announcement (Br. Adam), upcoming meetings and nomination slate. Br. Matuszczak thanked Br. Kozelka for an exceptional job of putting out the Forum and (strongly) encouraged him to staying on as Dir. of Publications. Br. Kozelka indicated that he will take that under consideration. Motion to approve report made by Br. Grzadziel, seconded by Br. Matuszczak. Motion carried.

Director of Outreach: Br. Matuszczak – Looking into “You Can Be My Angel” as an organization we may support. More info at next meeting. Suggestion made to invited the contact person to be a speaker at our meeting. Br. Grzadziel moved to accept report, seconded by Br. Wasilewski. Passed.

Senior Director: Br. Dykas – no report.

Social Activities Director: Br. Kurdziel – The May 3<sup>rd</sup> is ON so plans for the brunch have begun. Several ideas for parade participation were discussed: a float (\$800+), convertible car, trolley or walking with banner. The Deserving Children’s Christmas party will be at the PNA building on Dec. 11. The indoor activity to start at 12 noon. This information to be included in the upcoming Forum. Br. Grzadziel reported on the planning for the January Inaugural Dinner. Three venues are being considered – Allegra, European Crystal and Fountain Blue. Details will be emailed to board members as they become available to be acted on at the Dec. board meeting. Motion to accept report made by Br. Ciesla, seconded by Br. Kozelka. Passed.

Director of Personnel: Br. Kogut – Absent. There is one person to be inducted. Br. Matuszczak will contact Br. Kogut for details about this person and arrange for the induction to occur as soon as possible – Nov.?

Note: after the conclusion of the meeting it was confirmed that George Tolczyk was inducted on Oct. 19, 2020 and Chris Laskowski on Nov 18 both on ZOOM calls. Richard Lazarski is to be inducted at the next general meeting, Nov. 17.

Social Media Committee: Br. Grzadziel – no report

Custodial Committee: Br. Wasilewski - no report

Foundation: Br. Matuszczak – At present, scholarships offered by the foundation, two for \$7,500 and two for \$5,000, are funded by an endowment established by James and Lilian Kulze with the stipulation of financial need. The foundation is considering funding one of these scholarships to be unrestricted, i.e. without the financial need stipulation. Scholarship applications are being accepted, online, now till March 1, 2022. Br. Kurdziel moved to accept report, Br. Wasilewski seconded. Passed.

Old Business: Br. Dykas presented a proposal to restructure our finances in order to qualify for tax exempt status. The spreadsheet detailing this proposal was sent via email shortly before the start of this meeting which didn't allow enough time for all board members to review. It was determined to table this proposal to the next meeting. Conversation continued about how to move forward with our general meetings. Some of the ideas presented were: charge extra for dinners, have meeting tied to functions, have meetings every other month or quarterly (requiring a change to our constitution and/or charter), have meetings without dinners or with less expensive catered menu, using the PNA facility, place more emphasis on certain meetings to generate more participation. Br. Konopka urged members to think about these ideas and continue the discussion at the Nov. general meeting. He also asked our Advocate to review the PNA Lodge Charter regarding meeting requirements. Br. Konopka also asked the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer to review our finances to see if a more favorable dinner budget could be established.

Nominating Committee – leaving three vacancies: Financial Secretary, Dir. of Publications and Dir. of Personnel. Should these position go unfilled into January 2022, the Board of Directors will have the responsibility to fill these vacancies.

New Business: none

Good of the Order: Br. Matuszczak came across a crystal sculpture titled; "Polish Spirit Award" presented to the Chicago Society in 2000. Br. Konopka took possession of it and Br. Wasilewski will add it to the custodial list. Br. Grzadziel suggested we need to start thinking about who will be our honoree at the Inaugural Ball. Br. Konopka asked for a moment of silence in honor of Anne Pieciewicz (wife of Walter) and Helen Makarewicz (mother of Ted), who both recently passed away.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Br Matuszczak and was seconded by Br. Dykas There being no other business, Br. Konopka adjourned the meeting at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted ,

*Andrew HaszLakiewicz*

Secretary

#### November Anniversaries:

Richard W. Ciesla  
Scott E. Cisek  
Peter A. Dykas  
Christopher T. Grzadziel  
Donald A. Gutowski  
Christopher Laskowski  
Robert Pietryka  
William Przybylski

#### November Birthdays:

Edmund Boduch  
Harold J. Brown  
Andrew Csoke  
Robert P. Groszek  
Christopher Laskowski  
Stan Lesniak  
Robert F. Mance  
Marshall S. Olech  
Jesse J. Soszko  
Edward J. Wasilewski



## Chicago Shakespeare Theater

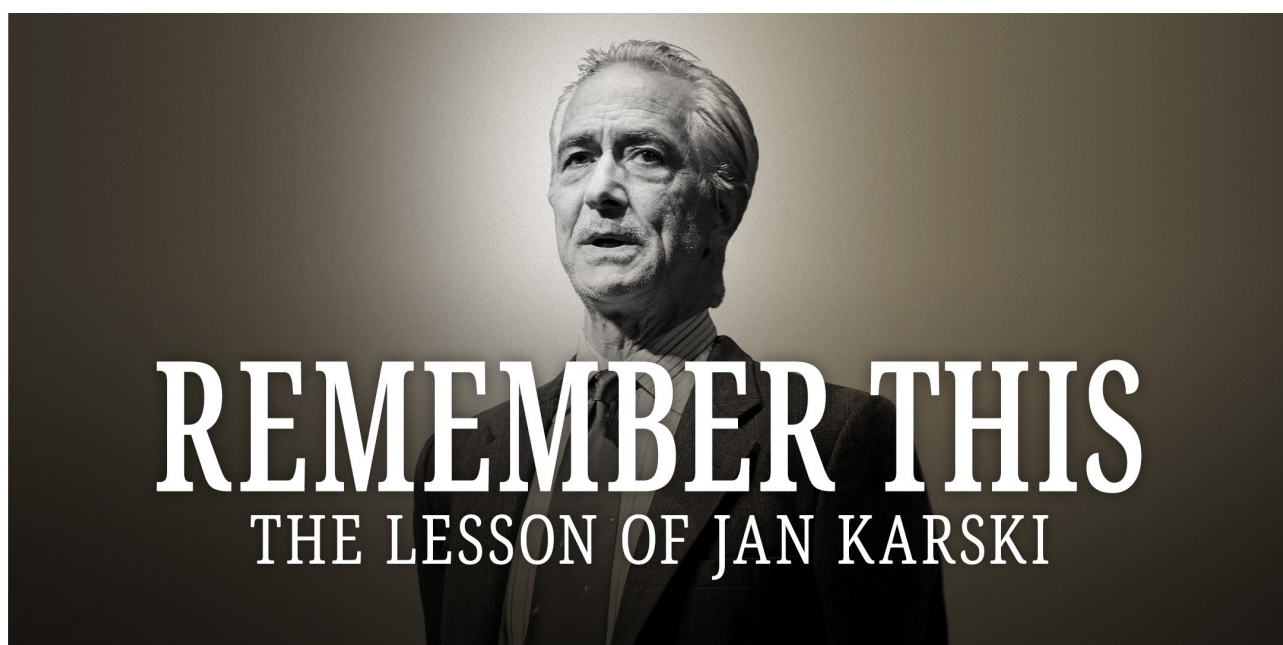
### Remember This: The Lesson of Jan Karski

I wanted to reach out to make sure you were aware of a powerfully theatrical event with deep ties to the Polish community coming to Chicago beginning this week, Remember This: The Lesson of Jan Karski.

Emmy Award-winner and Academy Award-nominee David Strathairn—best known for memorable turns in films including *Good Night, and Good Luck*, *Nomadland*, and *Lincoln*—takes the stage in a tour-de-force performance. Meet World War II hero Jan Karski who, after surviving the devastation of his native Poland by Nazi Germany, risks his life to carry the first eyewitness reports of the Holocaust to the White House, only to be met with inaction and disbelief. Strathairn captures the remarkable life of the self-described “insignificant, little man” who spoke truth in the halls of power. *Remember This: The Lesson of Jan Karski* is playing in a limited engagement at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, November 3–14, 2021. Tickets and more at [chicagoshakes.com/rememberthis](https://chicagoshakes.com/rememberthis).

Would you be able to help us spread the word about this timely and deeply moving production by posting on your social media accounts and including in your website and/or e-newsletter? You can pull sample copy and download image assets here: *Remember This Social Media Toolkit*.

Thank you for your consideration, and for helping us ensure that Jan's legacy of moral courage is never forgotten.





**Congratulations and Sto Lat to our  
President and Mrs. Konopka on the birth  
of their daughter, Natalia Konopka!**

**Born October 14th, 2021.**





## Update from the Alliance of Polish Clubs

Alliance of Polish Clubs would like to invite Polonia organizations to join us on the project “Ziarna Historii” – Grains of History. Janusz Kurtyka Foundation from Poland reached out to us with their historical project Grains of History. We have agreed to coordinate this project and spread the work among Polonia.

This project is addressed to Poles in the USA who were born and grew up in the USA or Canada but still identify themselves with their Polish heritage. The Janusz Kurtyka Foundation will provide books and lectures about Polish history to help them understand it better and to help them become ambassadors of good reputation of Poland’s history among Americans. These are the historical publications by the winners of the Competition for the Janusz Kurtyka Award.

The project consists of three modules. In the first module these publications will be provided free of charge by the Foundation to the participating organizations. Participating organizations will distribute them among English speaking Poles who are interested to use the information while serving as ambassadors of the “good name” of Polish history. Each organization will receive 10 books of each title:

1. Tadeusz Wolsza „Encounter With Katyń: The Wartime and Postwar Story of Poles Who Saw the Katyn Site in 1943”, Carolina Academic Press, Durham 2018,
2. Andrzej Chwalba „The People of Poland War 1914-1918”, Peter Lang, Fundacja im. Janusza Kurtyki, 2021,
3. Damian Markowski „Lwów or L’viv. Two Uprisings in 1918”, Peter Lang, Fundacja im. Janusza Kurtyki, 2021,
4. „The Katyń Massacre. Current Research.”, D. Bębnowski, F. Musiał, Warszawa 2020.

The next module of the project is to organize a conference around those publications. To celebrate Poland’s Independence Day (November 11), we have already scheduled a ZOOM conference with Professor Chwalba, the author of “The People of Poland War 1914-1918” which will take place on Saturday, November 20 at 9:00 am. The moderator of this conference will be Professor Pacyga.

The third module will be an on-line Conference “Grains of History” which will demonstrate people and events which have influenced the way Poland and its history perception is now and was in the past. The Foundation will pick three organizations which will participate in the conference.

The steering committee representing APC is Professor Pacyga, Daniel Pogorzelski and Dr. Lucja Mirowska-Kopec (APC president).

Lucja Mirowska-Kopec, Ed. D., President, Alliance of Polish Clubs in the USA

[www.allianceofpolishclubs.us](http://www.allianceofpolishclubs.us)





[www.taxpol.net](http://www.taxpol.net)



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7812 N Milwaukee Avenue  
Niles, Illinois 60714

### CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

6348 N. Milwaukee Avenue, #360  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

