



# The Forum

## of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 73

October 2021

NUMBER 10

### COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 20th

**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**  
**847-204-8747 (cell)**  
**847-823-8747 (home)**

Monday, November 1st  
**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 the Society contemplates  
how to proceed into next year  
and beyond we will rely

heavily on a creative and dedicated Board. As of the  
writing of this letter, the slate for the incoming Board  
has three vacancies: (1) Financial Secretary; (2)  
Director of Personnel; and (3) Director of  
Publications.

These critical positions, which are vacant, need to be  
filled and offer an opportunity to individuals of the  
general membership to serve and help advance the  
Society. For any of you which want to see change in  
the Society, or have ideas that they want to share, this  
is your chance. For those that want the Society to  
continue to function and have not yet been on the  
Board, this is your chance to serve.

The duties/qualifications of each position are listed in  
Articles VI, VII and VIII of our constitution, which is  
available on the website [https://](https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/constitution)

[www.chicagosocietypna.org/constitution](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. Petitions for nominations are due before the  
next general meeting. I hope to see some new faces

step up and help shape the direction of our Society.

We are looking to wrap up the year with our Business Expo (October), Thanksgiving  
Turkey Raffle (November) and Christmas Party (December). Join us!!!

**PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE**



*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

## October 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.
- ◆ November General meeting and turkey raffle to take place at Great Escape – bring your dollars to win turkeys
- ◆ Business Expo is in October – contact Brother Grzadziel
- ◆ The nominating committee is accepting nominations for positions as outlined in Article VII – Section 4 of the Constitution:

At the regular meeting in October, the Nominating Committee shall accept for nomination such additional lists of candidates for the respective offices as may be submitted by the petitions of ten or more members, provided however that the signed acceptance of each candidate is attached to each such petition. The adjournment of the meeting shall close the nominations in the absence of a motion for that purpose. Immediately thereafter the Nominating Committee shall submit a list containing all of the names of the candidates to the Director of Publications who shall cause the publishing of such list to all members in good standing at least ten days prior to the date of the November election meeting.

- ◆ As of today the Board has 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.

## Chicago Society's Facebook Page



The Social Media Committee has created a new public Facebook page that will be viewable by anyone. We will use this page to make event announcements and promote the work that Chicago Society and Chicago Society Foundation does for Polonia.

<https://www.facebook.com/Chicago-Society-PNA-1450-101631775366877>.

## 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))



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



**October 24, 2021—51st**  
Polish American Heritage  
Month Awards Banquet



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

### October 20th Business Expo:

Take advantage of the October General Meeting business expo to share your profession/business with our membership! All participants will be given 2-5 minutes of time to present before the attendees during general meetings.



In addition, all presenters will be able to advertise in the Forum for 1 year free. Please contact brother Chris Grzadziel at [cgrzadziel@gmail.com](mailto:cgrzadziel@gmail.com) to reserve your spot.



**Chicago Society, P.N.A.  
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
Held on October 4, 2021  
At D'Agostino's restaurant, 7530 W. Oakton**

- I. Call to Order: President Konopka called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm.
- II. Roll Call of Officers and Directors present: Brs. Konopka, Grzadziel, Cwiakala, Haszlakiewicz, Ciesla, Plachta, Wasilewski, Dykas, Kurdziel, Matuszczak. Absent: Brs. Kogut, Kozelka. Quorum achieved.
- III. Approval of minutes:
- IV. Correspondence: None. Bills: Receipt received for PO Box, \$139.75 to SFI for Forum, bill for dinner. Motion to accept by Br. Matuszczak, seconded by Br. Ciesla. Passed.
- V. Directors and Officers Reports:

**1st Vice-President:** Br. Chris Grzadziel – No speakers for the Business Expo meeting on October 20. Please reach out if any member wishes to speak about their business – there is still time. Motion to accept report made by Br. Dykas, seconded by Br. Haszlakiewicz. Passed.

**2nd Vice-President:** Br. Chuck Cwiakala – Next month's general meeting (November 17) will be at Great Escape with Turkey raffle. 10 to 15 turkeys will be available. December 15 meeting – Christmas dinner – with spouses/family members (for extra charge) will be limited to a maximum of 75 if held at Great Escape. Br. Kurdziel is exploring a different venue. December 6 board meeting will be a bit more upscale at Colletti's (Central & Elston). Br. Wasilewski moved to accept report, seconded by Br. Ciesla. Passed.

**Secretary:** Br. Haszlakiewicz - No report.

**Financial Secretary:** Br. Ciesla - report was emailed to board prior to meeting. Current balance is (Redacted). The C.S. Foundation submitted a check in the amount of \$180.00 to cover half of the PO Box cost. Br. Orwat has not paid dues for the second half of the year, his membership should be suspended. Br. Mance did pay his dues, he should be reinstated. Motion to accept report made by Br. Wasilewski, seconded by Br. Kurdziel. Motion passed. Br. Matuszczak raised the issue of paid members who don't participate in our meetings or functions. Out of 95 paid members, Br. Ro identified 24 who fall into that category and asked the board what can be done to increase their involvement. Br. Konopka took a picture of the list and suggested a special letter be sent to them addressing this issue.

**Treasurer:** Br. Plachta – report emailed to board prior to meeting. Current balance is \$60,550.07. Br. Plachta expressed surprise that we were denied our request for tax exempt status from the state of Illinois. Br. Konopka offered an explanation and indicated that the final hearing on the matter is scheduled for October 5, 2021. What follows is the email Br. Konopka received from Jessica Odigie, Special Assistant Attorney General, ILL. Dept. of Revenue, dated October 4, 2021:

*“Good afternoon, Mr. Konopka:*

*After a review of the answers provided in response to my 8/24/2021 questionnaire, I have a more clear understanding of the reasoning behind the Department’s determination that Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance does not meet the Department’s requirements to qualify for a charitable sales tax exemption. The list below is not in any particular order and is not intended to be exhaustive.*

*Generally, the Department does not grant exemptions to membership based organizations because organizations in this category tend to provide, or aim to provide, a benefit to its members rather than a benefit to the public at large. Based on the stated mission of the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance (“the Society”), the Society intends to, among other things, “support and nurture the business and civic endeavors or its members”.*

*The Department requires the applicant to derive its funds mainly from charity. The Society derives its funds primarily from member dues.*

*The Department requires the applicant to reduce a burden on the government. The Society does not reduce any burden the government currently has.*

*Please let me know whether you have questions or would like to discuss further. Thank you.*

Br. Konopka is hoping the hearing (on Oct. 5) will lead to a more favorable resolution. Br. Matuszczak observed that the treasurer’s report should include the balances of the Deserving Childrens’ Fund, the Youth Fund and all checks issued in the month of the report. Motion to accept the treasurer’s report with the stated corrections was made by Br. Matuszczak and seconded by Br. Kurdziel.

**Advocate:** Br. Wasilewski – Wiecek payments are on time.

**Director of Publications:** Br. Kozelka, absent. Please send in Forum pertinent content.

Director of Outreach: Br. Matuszczak –The family receiving the financial assist is very grateful. Checking with the Yorkville camp for a good rate.

**Senior Director:** Br. Dykas – no report.

**Social Activities Director:** Br. Kurdziel – Deserving Children’s Party Fund. Br. Matuszczak moved, that the Chairman of the Deserving Children’s party have access to the moneys in the Fund for the purpose of purchasing necessary supplies and gifts, as he sees fit, without further approval from the board, subject to proper accounting, and not to exceed the amount in the fund. Seconded by Br. Kurdziel. Motion passed. Inaugural ??, January 29, 2022 Br. Grzadziel will look in to securing last years’ venue – Fountaine Bleu. The required minimum (70 - 80) will need “all hands on deck”. Motion to accept report made by Br. Matuszczak, seconded by, Br. Wasilewski.

**Director of Personnel:** Br. Kogut – Absent

**Social Media Committee:** Br. Grzadziel – Facebook was down...the world got better. The deserving children event and Inaugural will need to be heavily promoted.

**Custodial Committee:** Br. Wasilewski – No report

**Foundation:** - Meeting coming up at end of month.



Continued...  
Chicago Society, P.N.A.  
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting



- VI. Old Business: Milwaukee Society – unable to verify. Motion to void \$100 check to them made by Br. Grzadziel, seconded by Br. Matuszczak. Motion passed.  
The Nominating Committee needs help filling 3 positions: Financial Secretary, Dir. of Personnel and Dir. of Publications. Send suggestions!
- VII. New Business: Dues notices should go out right after Thanksgiving.
- VIII. Good of the Order: Please pray for Brother Ken Kogut who had a procedure done in a hospital concerning a kidney. Thank you.  
Br. Konopka's wife, Amanda, will be having their second daughter right around the Oct. general meeting and Br. Grzadziel will be out of town, so Brs. Cwiakala and Matuszczak will preside over the October 20th general mtg.
- IX. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Br Ciesla and was seconded by Br. Matuszczak. There being no other business, Br. Konopka adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm.

*Andrew Haszlakiewicz*, Secretary



January, 2022—We don't yet know what it's going to be, but it's going to be big, it's going to be loud, and it's going to be great. The Chicago Society is facing a crisis in both declining membership and event attendance. The Board has decided not to go silently into that go night. More details to come, but the January event to welcome in the New Year will be one for the record books. Stay tuned for more. Ideas welcome from all!





This month's episode of taste bud tingling, liver cell destroying, booze inspiring imbibing takes us to the picturesque mountains of Uruguay. The Albariño grape features tastes and notes very similar to a dry Sauvignon Blanc, however it is not as herbal or vegetable-forward as it's more well known sibling. It tends to exhibit notes of citrus fruits, such as grapefruit and lemons, as well as stone fruits, such as peaches and nectarines. In addition to South America, this grape varietal is also grown in the Spanish Galician region and northwest Portugal.

In some ways I'm surprised that the wino of Uruguay has not been more commonplace on shelves of the local purveyor of what used to be the last legal drug (and still is according to the Feds). Chilean wines made quite the rage a few years ago and are not difficult to find. Perhaps it's uncommonness it what makes Albariño so interesting.

Overall this bottle is light-bodied and low in tannins but high in acid. The high acidity makes this wine refreshingly mouth-watering and best served well-chilled. Albariño should be drunk while young (preferably within 16 months) since the wine can develop undesirable flavors if left in the bottle for too long.

The Garzon bottle hit my wallet for a little over \$18 and was well worth the price. This vineyard also features a Pinot Noir rose which also gets full marks.





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



### THE SKAJA FAMILY

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Jack Skaja and John Skaja  
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### SKAJA TERRACE FUNERAL HOME

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Niles, Illinois 60714

### CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

