



# The Forum

## of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 73

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NUMBER 6

### COMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, June 16th**

**General Meeting**

**IN PERSON!**

D'Agostino's (Niles)

7530 W. Oakton St.

6:45 pm "Happy Hour"

7:00 pm Call-to-Order

RSVP to Chuck Cwiakala:

**[cecwiakala@aol.com](mailto:cecwiakala@aol.com)**

**847-823-8747**

**Tuesday, June 28th**

**Board Meeting- 7:00 pm**

**Friday, July 9th**

**Golf Outing at Glen Eagles**

A monthly news bulletin for the  
Chicago Society PNA

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

Brothers and friends,

It is my sad duty to report the peaceful passing of our Brother Stanley Lesniak on May 15, 2021. He was 94 years old and a long time member of the Chicago Society. Per the Board's resolution at its most recent meeting, a donation to the Youth Fund has been made in his name.

PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE



We also mourn with the Advocate's Society in the loss of their Past President Michele Hendrickson, a supporter of everything Polonia. May God rest their souls and watch over their families.

**The Board has decided to conduct in person meetings starting with the general meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 16th. That meeting will be held in the party room of D'Agostino's at their new location (intersection of Oakton/Milwaukee). Please RSVP!!!**

The Golf Outing is scheduled for July 9th at Gleneagles and we are in need of golfers, volunteers and donations/raffle prizes. Please contact me with any questions regarding how you can help!

See you all at the meeting!

*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

## Obituary:

### Brother Stanley Casimir Lesniak, Jr.

**Stanley C. Lesniak, Jr.**, 94, of Mesa, AZ, formerly of Chicago, IL, passed away peacefully on May 15, 2021. WWII ARMY VETERAN, 11th Airborne Division, Staff Sergeant, Expert Marksman and Parachute Demolitionist. Proud owner/operator of Rainbow Roofing Company in Chicago for 37 years.

Member of National and Chicago Roofing Contractors Associations, Chicago Society, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Harley Owners Group, Holy Name Society, and Knights of Columbus.

Preceded in death by his beautiful wife of 67 years, Geraldine; son, Timothy; and brother, Henry. Survived by his loving children, Thomas (Kathleen), Stanley III, and Christine (Ronald) Kern; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; beloved sister Alice (and the late John) Kot; and many nephews and nieces.

Stanley was a world traveler who was passionate about his family and friends, business, and all forms of motorized transportation. His positive attitude, calm nature, loving heart, wisdom, and gentle soul will truly be missed. Heaven has welcomed a genuine saint and hero. Interment Private.



**Dear [Chicago Society]**

My name is Star Albert and I work for the Chicago Department of Public Health. I was given your contact information from Kamila Sumelka at the Copernicus Center to see if you would be willing to partner with us for an upcoming event.

The City of Chicago is partnering with the Copernicus Center for a COVID-19 vaccination event aligned with Immigrant Heritage Month to encourage vaccinations amongst the Polish community. The event is tentatively set for **June 12th from 2pm-4pm** at the Copernicus Center. We are asking local community organizations if they would be willing to assist with promotion of this event. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with translation services. If you are interested in the event and would like to partner, please let me know. I am more than happy to have a call to discuss it more in detail as well.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday weekend!

Best,

*Star*

**Rebecca "Star" Albert**

*City Planner*

Vaccine Operation Center

[rebecca.albert@cityofchicago.org](mailto:rebecca.albert@cityofchicago.org)

Phone: 312.745.3736

Cell: 470.638.5345



## 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>.

Please like and follow the page so that you can receive updates in your feed. Also share the page with the your friends so they can also like and follow our page.

A members only Facebook page has also been created. This site is only for Chicago Society members in good standing. It is a place where we can talk and discuss various topics. To join the members only page, in Facebook, search for "Chicago Society PNA Members". At this page you can click on the "join" button. You will be presented with a couple questions and will need to agree to the rules of the group.



# Chicago Society of the PNA GOLF OUTING

## JULY 9, 2021

### GLENEAGLES COUNTRY CLUB

13070 McCarthy Rd, Lemont, IL 60439

Registration 12:00 PM

Shotgun Start 1:30 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

- Lunch and beer provided on course
- Dinner and open bar to follow

### GOLF & DINNER

\$150 Per Golfer | \$600 Per Foursome

- 18 Holes with cart
- Lunch & beer on course
- Dinner with open bar

### DINNER ONLY

\$60 Per Person

- Dinner with open bar

### SPONSORSHIPS

A portion of all proceeds will be used to directly support the Youth of Polonia!

#### HOST SPONSOR - \$1,500

- Golf for four with VIP hospitality bags
- Tee box signage
- Name/logo on registration and dinner table
- Banner at registration sign in "VIP Sponsor Area"
- Name/logo on Chicago Society PNA Website (June & July)

#### EVENT SPONSOR - \$750

- Tee sign at hole
- Name/logo on registration and dinner table
- Sign in "VIP Sponsor Area"
- Name/logo on Chicago Society PNA Website (June & July)

#### BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR - \$500

- Tee box signage
- Beverage cart and beer station signage
- Name/logo on Chicago Society PNA Website (June & July)

#### HOLE SPONSOR - \$100

- Tee box signage

Donations for raffle prizes or cash in any amount are welcome.





# Chicago Society of the PNA GOLF OUTING

Thank you for joining us and supporting our mission!  
Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will directly impact the lives of the Youth of Polonia.

☐ **GOLF & DINNER**

\$150 Per golfer - \_\_\_\_ golfer(s)

☐ **DINNER ONLY**

\$60 Per diner - \_\_\_\_ diner(s)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

**Select Sponsorship**

☐ \$1,500 | Host Sponsor

☐ \$750 | Event Sponsor

☐ \$500 | Beverage Cart Sponsor

☐ \$100 | Hole Sponsor

☐ I would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to  
the Chicago Society of the PNA

## GOLFER(S) INFORMATION

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	PHONE
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

## Deadline for Registration, Payment and Tee Sign Logos is July 1st

To submit logos, make a donation or for more information, please contact:

Adam Konopka , Event Chairman & President at  
president@chicagosocietypna.org or (773) 220-1891

Register, Pay and Submit Tee Sign Logos Electronically at

<https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/golf-outing> or

Checks and registration can also be mailed to:

Attn: Rich Ciesla | 1808 Weeg Way, Park Ridge, IL 60068-1230



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



- I. Call to Order: President Konopka called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.
- II. Roll Call of Officers and Directors present: Brs. Konopka, Grzadziel, Cwiakala, Haszlakiewicz, Ciesla, Plachta, Wasilewski, Dykas, Kurdziel, Matuszczak. Br. Kogut on Zoom. Absent: Br. Kozelka. Quorum achieved. Br. Konopka asked for a moment of silence for Br. Stanley Lesniak. Motion to transfer \$50 into the Youth Fund in Br. Lesniak's honor was made and approved. Br. Konopka will send a letter to the family.
- III. Approval of minutes: Motion to approve minutes of previous General Meeting as published in the Forum was made by Br. Cwiakala, seconded by Br. Wasilewski. Motion carried.
- IV. Correspondence: Br. Haszlakiewicz read thank you note from the Gembala family, presented nomination form for Director of PNA Youth Camp Assoc. and a letter from the Chicago Vaccine Operation Center asking us to promote the June 12 vaccination event at the Copernicus Center. This information to be included in the next Form. Br. Dykas announced we received 10 copies of the book by Jack Fairweather, "The Volunteer" from Harper College Publishers. The true story of Witold Pilecki, who infiltrated Auschwitz. No explanation was given why we received these books. We will wait one month for clarification. We may be able to use them at the golf outing.
- V. Bills: No bill yet from Br. Kozelka for Form printing. Bill for our evening meal was \$99.50. Motion to approve report made by Br. Dykas, seconded by Br. Ciesla. Motion passed.
- VI. Directors and Officers Reports:

1st Vice-President: Br. Chris Grzadziel – Still difficult to acquire a speaker for in-person general meetings. Looking for suggestions. Motion to accept report made by Br. Ciesla, seconded by Br. Matuszczak. Motion passed.

2nd Vice-President: Br. Chuck Cwiakala – Br. Ciesla made the motion to have the next general meeting – on June 16 - in person, seconded by Br. Kurdziel. During discussion it was pointed out that most restaurants ask for a 25 person minimum. Br. Konopka offered to send out an email polling our members to see how many would attend. The motion passed. Br. Cwiakala offered that he could probably secure The Great Escape for the meeting. Suggestion was made to donate unused meals to a food kitchen if we don't meet the minimum.

Secretary: Br. Haszlakiewicz – No report

Financial Secretary: Br. Ciesla - report was emailed to board prior to meeting. Current balance is \$17,738.64. 93 members including 3 waived dues. 8 people have forfeited their membership by failing to pay by June 1. Motion to accept report made by Br. Kurdziel, seconded by Br. Matuszczak. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Br. Plachta – report emailed to board prior to meeting. Balance of assets is \$58,246.80. No response from state about the tax exemption letter. A second letter of inquiry will be sent. Also will ask for assistance from PNA legal dept. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept report, Br. Ciesla seconded. Motion passed.

Advocate: Br. Wasilewski – Has not received Wiecek payment for June. Will wait a few days. As COVID restrictions are easing up, there won't be need for waivers. Motion to accept made by Br. Grzadziel, seconded by Br. Kurdziel. Motion passed.

Director of Publications: Br. Kozelka – absent. Please submit items for publication by this Friday.

Director of Outreach: Br. Matuszczak – Will try to get some scouts to take part in the Yorkville Youth Camp. We may need to offer financial support – to be seen. Br. Ciesla moved to accept report, Br. Cwiakala seconded. Motion passed.

Senior Director: Br. Dykas – no report.

Social Activities Director: Br. Kurdziel – Golf outing – need people to register and volunteers to help at the event. Keep spreading the word! Br. Dykas moved to accept report, Br. Matuszczak seconded. Motion passed.

Director of Personnel: Br. Kogut – Will try to set up induction at next general meeting. Richard Lazarski is one potential inductee and another gentleman is being contacted. Br. Plachta moved to accept report, seconded by Br. Wasilewski. Motion passed.

Social Media Committee: Br. Grzadziel – The new Facebook site is up – we have around 58 joined. Everyone is encouraged to join, like and share. Br. Wasilewski moved to accept report, seconded by Br. Kurdziel. Motion passed.

Custodial Committee: Br. Wasilewski - confirmed locations of items needed for the golf outing. Br. Ed will make an inventory of materials with locations and have it available to the board members via email. Br. Dykas moved to accept motion, Br. Ciesla seconded. Motion passed,

Foundation: No report.

- VII. Old Business: Br. Grzadziel suggested that a committee be formed to review our constitution and by-laws. He went on to explain that in view of our diminishing number of members, qualifications and rules for future board members may need to be adjusted to ensure continued qualified leadership for the Society. Nominated for this committee were: Brs., Grzadziel, Matuszczak, Konopka, (Makarewicz, in abstencia, pending his acceptance). Motion to approve made by Br. Ciesla, seconded by Br. Dykas. Motion passed. Br. Konopka appointed Br. Grzadziel chairman of the Constitutional Committee.
- VIII. New Business: For the June general meeting to be successful we will need a head count by Friday, June 4.
- IX. Good of the Order: Due to the 4th of July holiday, the next board meeting will be Tuesday, July 6.
- X. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Br Matuszczak and was seconded by Br. Ciesla. There being no other business, Br. Konopka adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

*Andrew Haszlakiewicz*

## Congratulations Alicja Szczepkowska: \$5,000 Kulze Scholarship Winner

My name is Alicja Szczepkowska and I am from Orland Park, Illinois, a southwest suburb of Chicago. I recently graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies with a focus on governance, conflict, and resolution.

I was born in Poland and moved to the United States with my parents when I was just two years old. My parents were born and raised in small, neighboring villages and graduated high school in Northeastern Poland. However, their financial status prevented them from continuing their education and prompted their decision to move to the U.S.

Growing up in a Polish household, I learned how to speak, read, and write in Polish and attended Polish school every Saturday from ages 4-16 where I was taught about the Polish language, literature, culture, traditions, history, and geography of Poland.

This spring I have transitioned into a five-year B.A./M.A. program in European Union Studies. My interest in European politics, in general, developed when I began interning with the Polish American Congress in January of 2019. The Polish American Congress is a U.S. umbrella organization of Polish Americans and Polish American organizations. This was a remote internship during which I conducted in-depth research on specific pieces of legislation on various matters concerning the Polish American community and Poland and wrote articles about policy and security issues concerning Poland and Central/Eastern Europe as well as Poland-U.S. relations.

As a Polish-American, this internship allowed me to learn more about Polish domestic and international relations and how they affect Polish Americans. Furthermore, last spring I studied abroad in Krakow, Poland at Jagiellonian University. Although my semester in Krakow was cut short due to the ongoing pandemic, I did stay in Poland with relatives for the duration of the semester and took great interest in the Polish presidential election which exposed the deep cultural and religious divides among Polish society.

This election was one of the most important elections Poland has had since the end of communist rule in 1989 because its results will most likely define Poland's relationship with the EU. The current president, Andrzej Duda, was re-elected for a second term. Duda is a member of the conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party and his reelection might determine Poland's fate in the EU because the PiS party has been subject to criticism ever since coming to power in 2015.





For example, Poland has triggered several lawsuits and an unprecedented sanctions procedure by the European Commission for disregarding European Union laws, infringing European Union treaties, and for politicizing Polish independent courts as well as Polish media.

After witnessing Duda's Eurosceptic attitudes and populist approach during his campaign, these are some potential areas of interest that I would like to further examine and study while pursuing my Master's in European Union Studies at the University of Illinois. Euroscepticism and nationalist populism are quite fascinating issues that the entire European Union faces today, and I would like to delve deeper into them.

In addition, after taking an introductory course for my master's program this past fall semester, I have taken great interest in the refugee crisis of the European Union and hope to connect that back to my master's thesis in some way. The European refugee crisis has impacted communities and countries throughout the European Union since its beginning in 2015. As a result, the EU has faced considerable criticism for lacking coherent and effective migration and asylum policies for incoming migrants. This influx of refugees into European countries has affected developing attitudes and perceptions towards refugees within the past five years and I would like to compare and contrast how these views vary across Europe.

This semester I am working as a graduate research assistant. I am providing background research, data visualizations, database construction, preliminary analyses, as well as manuscript presentation for work related to the Central Eurasian State Capacity Initiative (CESCI). This research will be carried out and supervised by Professor Cynthia Buckley. I am hoping that this project provides insight into how I would like to approach my master's thesis. The Central Eurasian State Capacity Initiative focuses on three European countries: Estonia, Georgia, and Ukraine and evaluates factors such as healthcare, education, and elections. I look forward to working with Professor Buckley on this project and hope that it is a valuable experience for my graduate program.

Overall, by pursuing a Master of Arts in European Union Studies, I would like to ultimately work for the European Union someday. European Union affairs are of great interest to me and I hope that this program will expand my knowledge and understanding of how the EU plays a role in international relations as well as how relations within the EU affect domestic matters.



## Notice: Failure to Renew Membership

The following have forfeited their membership in the Chicago Society, PNA, as they have not paid their dues by June 1, 2021. They will be removed from the mailing list and from the list of dues paying members. This is the last Forum they will receive.

**Adam J. Augustynski**

**Joseph N. Bauerle**

**Andrew Csoke**

**Mark Kaszubski**

**Robert Mance**

**Andrew Noyszewski**

**Frank Spula**

**William Sufranski**

### **June Anniversaries**

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following Brothers on their anniversary of being inducted into the Chicago Society.

**Casey Baczynski**

**Andrew Batorski**

**Walter Kazmierczak**

**Frederick Koziol**

**Daniel Mateja**

**Jon Osada**

**Stuart Sawa**

**Donald Versen, Sr.**



### **June Birthdays**

The Chicago Society would like to extend to the following brother members, who are celebrating their birthday in April, a warm wish of  
**Sto Lat!**

**Adam Augustynski**

**Casey Baczynski**

**Raymond Golenia**

**Bernard Pacyniak**

**Jan Plachta**

**Donald Versen, Sr.**

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### CHCAGO SOCIETY FORUM

6348 N. Milwaukee Avenue, #360  
Chicago, IL 60646-3728

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



### THE SKAJA FAMILY

Family owned and operated  
Serving out community for  
84 years

Jack Skaja and John Skaja  
Members

### SKAJA TERRACE FUNERAL HOME

7812 N Milwaukee Avenue  
Niles, Illinois 60714