



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 73

February 2021

NUMBER 2

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, February 17
General Meeting
ONLINE via ZOOM
6:45 pm "Happy Hour"
7:00 pm Call-to-Order

Meeting ID: 969 2563 2546
Passcode: 080272
Call in at (312) 626-6799

Monday, March 1
Board Meeting
ZOOM - 7:00 pm

Friday, July 9
Golf Outing at Glen Eagles

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA

Director of Publications
editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Brothers and friends,

Our brother, Judge Francis A. Gembala (ret.) passed away on Friday, January 29th, may he rest in peace. In his memory and honor, as has become our custom, the Board transferred \$50 into our youth fund and a card with our sympathies was sent to his widow, Judge Bettina Gembala. Our thoughts remain with the Gembala family.

The Society continues to focus on its own housekeeping as we prepare for the possibility of resuming our previous in person activities. I nominated, and the Board recently approved, a Social Media Committee and a Custodial Committee to help in that regard. The Social Media Committee (comprised of Brothers Peter Dykas, Chris Grzadziel and brand new father Ted Kozelka – congratulations!) will focus on identifying any existing social media accounts of the Society and utilizing it to promote our initiatives and accomplishments, while allowing for another avenue for communication with our membership and Polonia. They will also suggest new platforms through which we can extend our reach and message. If anyone would like to join the committee or has ideas with regards to its mission, please let me know.

The Custodial Committee (comprised of Brothers Ro Matuszczak, Rich Ciesla and Ed Wasilewski) will focus on documenting the location and custodian(s) of the Society's property. They will then implement and maintain a system for the storage and use of that property for the good of the Society. If anyone would like to join the committee or has

information regarding Chicago Society property, please contact me or the committee. As always, all thoughts are greatly appreciated.

Our search for the next St. Joseph, to lead us in prayer at the beginning of our general meetings, continues. Please send any nominations for our next St. Joseph to me at akonopka@dowdanddowd.com. Feel free to nominate yourself or others, the role lasts a calendar year.

Our current St. Joseph, Brother Andy Haszlakiewicz, is also our current Secretary.



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CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

President's Message Continued....

Board of Directors

President:

Adam Konopka

1st Vice President:

Chris Grzadziel

2nd Vice President:

Chuck Cwiakala

Secretary:

Andy Hasztrakiewicz

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

In that capacity, he has been working diligently, in accordance with the recently adopted document retention policy, to convert our documents into electronic files for storage. If you have any Society documents, from any time period, please notify Brother Hasztrakiewicz so he can store them appropriately and direct you with regards to the destruction of any hard copies.

All meetings are still proceeding via Zoom. The Zoom instructions are provided via email in advance of each meeting. If you have not been getting those instructions or have questions on how to join in (joining by phone only is acceptable and works) please let the Board know. You can join the link at 6:45pm for a "happy hour" prior to our call to order at 7:00 pm. Hope to see everyone, including any out of town members, there.

As you can see, the Society is busy readying itself to resume in-person activities when appropriate and greatly looking forward to continuing to be a positive influence in Polonia!

Adam Konopka

President, Chicago Society PNA



Chicago Society Early History: Lodge 1450

Founding:

The idea of founding the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance was conceived by Messrs. Leo S. Mallek, Frank A. Osuch and Alexander M. Smietanka. The preliminary organization was effected at the Western Hall on April 1, 1912 and the Charter incorporating the Society was granted by the State of Illinois on May 2, 1912: the franchise admitting it into the Polish National Alliance as Group 1450 was received on the same day.

Others who participated in the founding are Casimir Adamowski, Charles Brozowski, Leon W. Dyniewicz, Matthew J. Dynowicz, F. Phil Garbark, John Konczyk, August J. Kowalski, John A. Kozczynski, Anthony Mikitynski, Mitchell Paczynski, William Paczynski, Edward Prezis, Leon Prsinski, Walter Romanowicz, Joseph F. Tocelski, August C. Urbanski, Stephen Wieckowski, John W. Wisniewski, Adalbert L. Balassa, Frank Baranik, Edward Dombrowski, Maximilian Gorny, Leon F. Jareczek, Sylvester Klosowski, Anthony A. Kowalski, Victor Parazinski and Frank Rogalski.

Objectives:

The founders proposed the objectives of Pol-American Organizational effort as two-fold: First, service related to causes cherished by the early settlers and pioneers of social activity among the Poles in America, i.e. service to Poles as Poles;

Secondly, service related to the problems confronting the progeny of these early settlers and pioneers reared in the atmosphere of America, educated in its institutions and constituting an integral part of American citizenship.

Services related to the first objective consisted of participation in existing national organizations, support of their idealistic aims and intro-organizational correlation and coordination of activities predicated on service to charity, education and welfare, as exemplified by the founding of the Polish Day Association and the Polish Welfare Association (now called Polish American Association).

Services related to the second objective follows three main areas of activity: (1) cultivation and promotion of good will in the American community by acquainting it with the historical and cultural Backgrounds of the Polish people, the contributions made by the Pol-American segment to the economic and social welfare of America; (2) gaining due recognition and representation in the official life of America by participating in all civic endeavors, contributing to the civic thought of the community, and cooperating in all sociological efforts; (3) training and developing alert leadership to carry on and guide future efforts by establishing protectorate over the under-privileged youth, granting subsidies for talented scholars and artists, and encouraging a common front in all matters affecting American citizens of Polish nativity or descent.

Inspired by the hope of accomplishing the foregoing purposes, the professional and businessmen of Polish extraction united in the Chicago Society by bonds of fellowship and common objectives have caused it to become a power for good and a symbol of service in the community.

Chicago Society, P.N.A.
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
Held on Wednesday, January 20, 2021
Due to the corona virus emergency this was a ZOOM meeting



Call to Order: President Brother Konopka called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call of Officers and Directors present: Brs., Konopka, Grzadziel, Cwiakala, Haszlakiewicz, Ciesla, Plachta, Wasilewski, Dykas, Kurdziel, Kogut, Kozelka, Matuszczak. All board members present.

Chicago Society Pledge and Prayer: Br. Matuszczak conducted the Pledge to the Allegiance ceremony. Br. Haszlakiewicz, the designated St. Joseph, recited the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Minutes of the previous Board and General meetings were provided in the latest Forum edition. Motion by Br. Matuszczak to dispense of the reading of the meeting minutes and approve them as presented was seconded by Br. Dykas. Motion passed.

Directors and Officers Reports:

1st Vice-President: Br. Grzadziel stated that securing speakers for our present ZOOM format meetings would be difficult and that he is exploring other options which, after conferring with the president, he will share with the membership. Motion to accept report made by Br. Gondela and seconded by Br. Kogut. Motion passed.

2nd Vice-President: Br. Cwiakala is exploring meeting venues for when in person meetings return and asked for help from our brothers. He said he would like to avoid using Sawa's. Suggestion was made to use Great Escape on Irving Park which Br. Cwiakala said was already "in his basket". Motion to accept report made by Br. Ciesla and seconded by Br. Kurdziel. Motion passed.

Secretary: Br. Haszlakiewicz will continue to accept any and all Chicago Society documentation electronically or otherwise. He offered to pick up any paper documents from member brothers and scan them into computer files to be archived. Question was raised whether Chicago Society Foundation should also digitize their documents. Br. Makarewicz asked to table this issue to a future meeting. Br. Konopka explained that the new "Document retention policy" (which is published in its entirety in the Forum) is intended to safeguard all Society documents from loss and to be managed by the secretary. Motion to accept report made by Br. Makarewicz and seconded by Br. Matuszczak. Motion passed.

Financial Secretary: Br. Ciesla said that nearly 45% of members have paid their dues and that he will send out another notice before Feb. 1 to remind everyone that dues are due by March 1st. Motion to accept report made by Br. Gondela and seconded by Br. Kogut. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Br. Plachta confirmed that he sent documentation to Br. Kogut for the Audit committee and to Br. Haszlakiewicz for archiving. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report and Br. Ciesla seconded. Motion passed.

Advocate: Br. Ed Wasilewski reported that Ted Wieczek continues to make timely agreed on payments and that any changes to the agreement will be brought forth. Motion to accept report made by Br. Cwiakala, seconded by Br. Makarewicz. Motion passed.

Senior Director: Br. Dykas – no report. Enjoying his "retirement" from the presidency.

Director of Social Activities: Br. Kurdziel had nothing to report, however, Br. Konopka added that the golf outing at Glen Eagle on July 9 has been secured and planning is moving forward while hoping the pandemic crisis will be behind us by then. This will be our first event for the year and Br. Konopka asked for "all hands on deck" to make it a success. Brs. Makarewicz, Wiermanski and Nowak have already volunteered to help. Br. Dykas thanked everyone who came out in support of the Deserving Children

Christmas Party which was held in the PNA parking lot as a drive-by event. Specifically, lunch from Costco, treats and cookies from Lowell Int. Foods, sodas provided by Polish Scouts, and Santa Claus. There were about 66 participating children from various organizations and the monetary donations exceeded what was spent, so there's money left over for next Christmas. Br. Ciesla asked about the plans for May 3 brunch/parade. Br. Matuszczak explained that after talking with Jan Kopec, Director of the May 3 parade committee, that it's unlikely that there will be a parade this year. Motion to accept report made by Br. Ciesla and seconded by Br. Przybylski. Motion passed. Director of Outreach: Br. Matuszczak reported that it's been difficult getting out to see people due to the pandemic and he's hoping to do some youth activities by July or August. Even though we missed the deadline, The Polish & Slavic Credit Union accepted our \$300 donation to three schools in Poland which came out of our Youth Fund. Br. Konopka added that we were invited by the Credit Union to donate to Youth Hospices in Poland which resulted with \$100 being donated to three different hospices through efforts by Brs. Matuszczak and Ciesla. Br. Cwiakala suggested we pay for one or two children to attend the PNA Youth Camp in Yorkville. (This was not addressed further at this time.) Motion to accept report made by Br. Ciesla and seconded by Br. Pieciewicz. Motion passed.

Director of Personnel: Br. Kogut confirmed that he sent to the newly selected Audit Committee all pertinent financial documents for 2020 as well as a copy of the previous years' audit report and directions on how to proceed. Br. Kogut acknowledged that he is the liaison to the committee and Br. Michalak its' chairman. The emails sent to the audit committee were also copied to Brs., Ciesla and Plachta and Br. Wiermanski can always be called on to assist. Br. Kogut directed Br. Michalak to have the report ready by March 1, 2021. Br. Kogut explained that Br. Michalak is an attorney and an accountant who he has known for over 30 years and has full confidence as chair of the committee. There are no personnel issues at this time. Br. Cwiakala offered to get together with Br. Kogut to help with the transition. Motion to accept report made by Br. Kurziel and seconded by Br. Dykas. Motion passed.

Director of Publications: Br. Kozelka asked for articles and news worthy items which could be published in our Forum. Motion to accept report made by Br. Matuszczak and seconded by Br. Kogut. Motion passed.

New Business: Br. Kozelka suggested the Forum include a "networking" section for employment opportunities and job seekers – like a two way help wanted. It was deemed to be a good idea.

Good of the Order: Br. Konopka urged everybody to stay safe and healthy.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Br. Matuszczak. Br. Przybylski seconded. There being no farther business Br. Konopka adjourned the meeting at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Hasz Sakiewicz

Secretary





Passing Notice: Brother Francis Gembala

JUDGE FRANCIS A. GEMBALA, beloved husband of Judge Bettina Gembala (nee Marchlewski); loving father of Claire (Michael) Nass & Justine (Adrian) Skawski; dearest grandfather of Francis John, Marieclaire & Eloise; dear brother of Walter Gembala; cherished by his sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nephews, nieces, cousins & friends. During his service with the Circuit Court of Cook County, he was assigned to the Criminal Division, Child Protection Division, Domestic Relations Division, & supervising judge in the Domestic Violence Section. After retirement from the bench, Judge Gembala became a partner at Birnbaum, Haddon, Gelfman & Arnoux, LLC. His background included a Juris Doctor degree from Loyola University of Chicago & a post doctorate LL.M. degree in taxation from DePaul University School of Law. He is a former faculty member of the National Judicial College & has served as president of the Chicago Advocates Society & member of the Chicago Bar Association, Illinois Judges Association & Catholic Lawyers Guild of Chicago. Inspired by his strong Catholic faith & committed to helping those in need, he was a member of the Chicago Catholic Charities Board of Advisors & invested as a Knight of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. At St. John of the Cross Parish, Western Springs, he served as a Minister of Care & supported & assisted the sick on pilgrimages to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France & the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin. Visitation Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 4-7 p.m. at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Ltd., 8999 S. Archer Ave., Willow Springs. Lying in state Thursday, February 4, 2021, 10 a.m. at St. John of the Cross Church with Mass following at 11 a.m. Online registration required due to current restrictions. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. (708) 839.8999



Birth Notice: Izabela Jane Kozelka

Brother Ted Kozelka and his wife, Marianne, are pleased to share news of the birth of their daughter, Izabela Jane Kozelka. Little “Iza” was born on January 22 at 9:58am; weighing in at 7lbs and 12oz. Both mother and baby are doing well.



2021 Dues Reminder:

The Financial Secretary reminds all that membership dues need to be paid by March 1, 2021, otherwise he is obligated to list the members in the March Forum. Second notices have been mailed to members whose dues have not been received by February 1. All members are encouraged to fulfill their obligation to the Society. Pandemic time hopefully is coming to an end and we will be meeting in some manner shortly, hopefully.

2021 Kulze Scholarships

The Chicago Society Foundation, affiliated with the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance, Lodge #1450 of the PNA, proudly announces it will be awarding up to four scholarships, consisting of one **\$7,500** scholarship and three **\$5,000** scholarships each, for the Fall 2021-Spring 2022 academic year, through its James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship Fund.

Jim Kulze, a former President of the Chicago Society, and his wife, Lillian, generously endowed the Fund to be able to provide meaningful scholarship support benefiting worthy student scholars each and every year. These scholarship awards are available to U.S. residents of Polish descent with demonstrated financial need who are pursuing academic studies in college, graduate or professional school.

Initial applications will be accepted through March 1, 2021. Selections will be made in April 2021 for the subsequent Fall academic term. Forms, dates and other information regarding selection criteria and requirements will be found on the Chicago Society's website, www.chicagosocietypna.org.

Advertise with the Chicago Society Forum!

Has your business been effected by Covid-19? Take advantage of General Meeting business expos 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 free.

Please contact President Brother Adam Konopka akonopka@dowdanddowd.com for details.

The 2021 Golf Outing is Coming!

Please put a note in your calendars, the Chicago Society PNA will be having our **2021 Golf Outing at Glen Eagles on Friday July 9th.**

Sponsored by Brother Adam Konopka, the Society will be looking for golfers, volunteers, and sponsors. Let's make up for not having this event in 2020 in a big way! Stay tuned for more details.



18th Century: Zenith of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth



The Commonwealth was able to sustain the levels of prosperity achieved during the Jagiellonian period, while its political system matured as a unique noble democracy with an elective monarchy. From the mid-17th century, however, the huge state entered a period of decline caused by devastating wars and the deterioration of its political system. Significant internal reforms were introduced in the late 18th century, such as Europe's first Constitution of 3 May 1791, but neighboring powers did not allow the reforms to advance. The existence of the Commonwealth ended in 1795 after a series of invasions and partitions of Polish territory carried out by the Russian Empire in the east, the Kingdom of Prussia in the west and the Habsburg Monarchy in the south. From 1795 until 1918, no truly independent Polish state existed, although strong Polish resistance movements operated. The opportunity to regain sovereignty only materialized after World War I, when the three partitioning imperial powers were fatally weakened in the wake of war and revolution.



CHCAGO SOCIETY FORUM

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

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