



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 72

October 2020

NUMBER 10

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 21

General Meeting

Will be ONLINE via ZOOM

6:30 pm "Happy Hour"

7:00 pm Call-to-Order

(see instruction on page 3)

Monday, November 2

Board Meeting

ZOOM - 7:00 pm

Please contribute anything
you would like published
to ted.kozelka@gmail.com.

A monthly news bulletin for
the Chicago Society PNA
membership
Director of Publications
editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Brothers,

Please take a moment of
silence to remember two
members who passed this past
month: Brothers Michael

Schneider and Edmund Gronkiewicz. Our condolences
to their families and may they rest in peace. In their
name, the Chicago Society has donated \$50 per each
member to the Youth Fund.

I would like to thank both Brother Adam Konopka and
Brother Ted Kozelka for all their help last month for
putting together the Zoom meeting. The step-by-step
instructions and visual guide was a big help in making
our meeting successful. September's general meeting
was a success in that we had twenty-two members in
attendance. Lower than typically we have in person, but
still good to see interest. This month, Brother Adam
Konopka will have a treat for us in place of our monthly
speaker. Can't wait to see what it can be.

Sad to say, but Zoom meetings may be the norm for a
while as I don't see us going back to in person meetings
anytime soon. The Chicago Society is an organization
with large numbers of a vulnerable age group; we must
therefore take sensible precautions. We have looked at
having a November meeting in person but we are
required to have a minimum count; something we could
not guarantee. For now, **we will have our October
General Meeting on Wednesday October 21st via
Zoom.**

Speaking of treats, I see that Halloween has not been
cancelled by the cities, States, and our Nation due to the
virus that has changed our lives. I am planning to have
our annual Deserving Children's Christmas Party on
December 12th in the parking lot of the PNA building.

Continued, page 2.





CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

Board of Directors

President:

Peter A. Dykas

1st Vice President:

Adam Konopka

2nd Vice President:

Romuald Matuszczak

Secretary:

Jan S. Plachta

Financial Secretary:

Richard Ciesla

Treasurer:

Richard Wiermanski

Advocate:

Walter Piecewicz

Senior Director:

Mario Mikoda

Social Activities Director:

Anthony P. Kawalkowski

Director of Outreach:

Zenon Kurdziel

Director of Personnel:

Charles Cwiakala

Director of Publications:

Ted Kozelka

Continued from page 1.

Following the States and city requirements, it will be more of a drive-by event to keep all participants and volunteers safe. Plans are still in the works but donations are slowly coming in. If any member has contact with a restaurant to help with donating lunches, please let me know. That would be great!! So are monetary donations. The company and business name will be advertised at the event and on our website. How can we celebrate trick or treat but not Santa, it would be like celebrating Christmas without Christ. Santa has us on his calendar and will be coming to pass out gifts. His reindeers are in question.

Let's all keep positive about the future. Our lives will get back to normal. All bad things come to an end. Be safe, stay healthy and take your vitamins everyday. This too shall pass. See you ALL on Zoom!

And don't forget about All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

Fraternally yours,

Peter Dykas

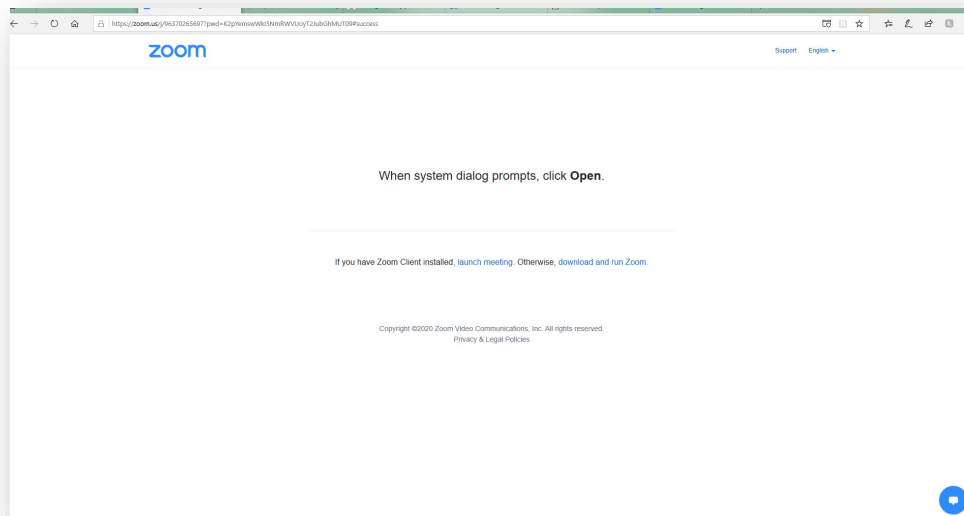
President of Chicago Society PNA

Attending the October General Meeting Via ZOOM (7:00pm, October 21, 2020)

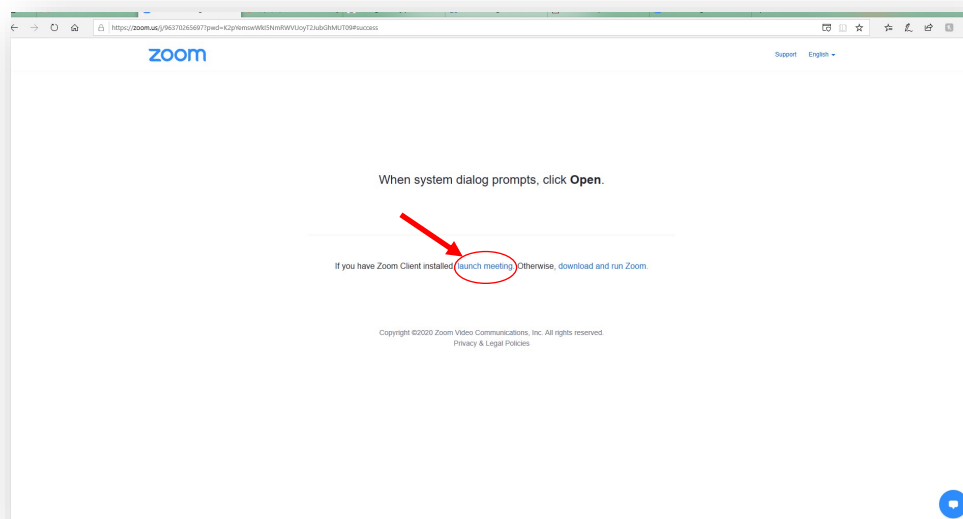
1. **CLICK** on the web link provided in the Forum email, OR:

<https://zoom.us/j/95035304205?pwd=MXNnSkRrYnQxREdYcjdnalTFhRHRhUT09>

The following screen will appear:



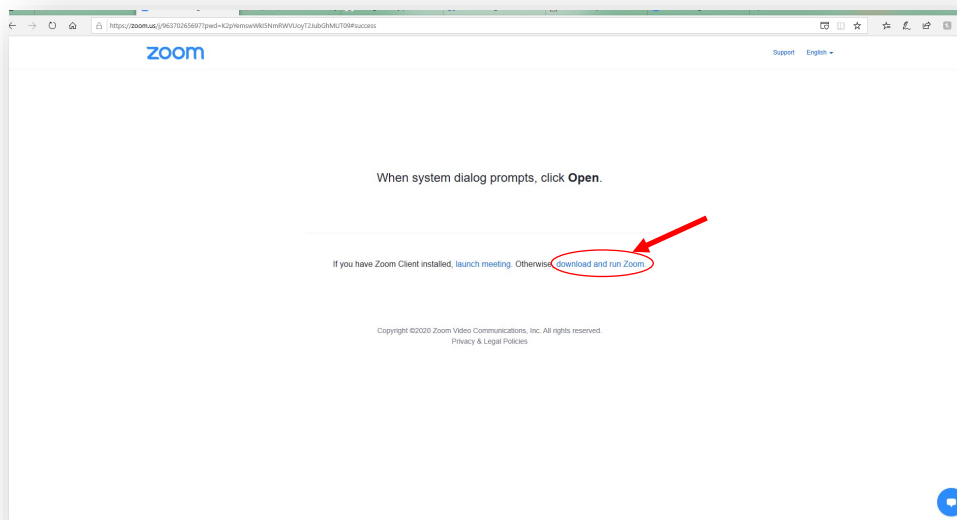
2. **IF** your computer already has Zoom, **THEN** CLICK ON “launch meeting” and enter the following ID and password as follows:



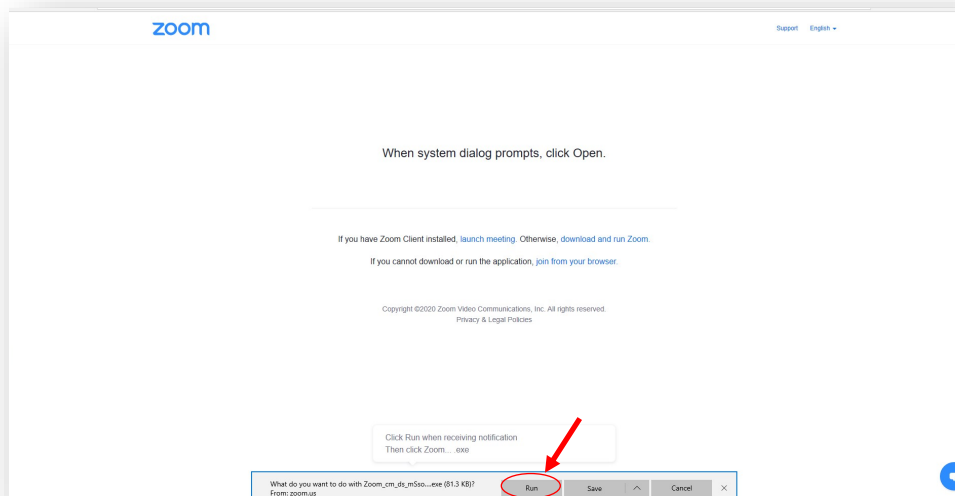
ID: 950 3530 4205

Password: 312954

3. **IF** your computer does not have Zoom, **THEN** process as follows:
-SELECT “download and run Zoom.”

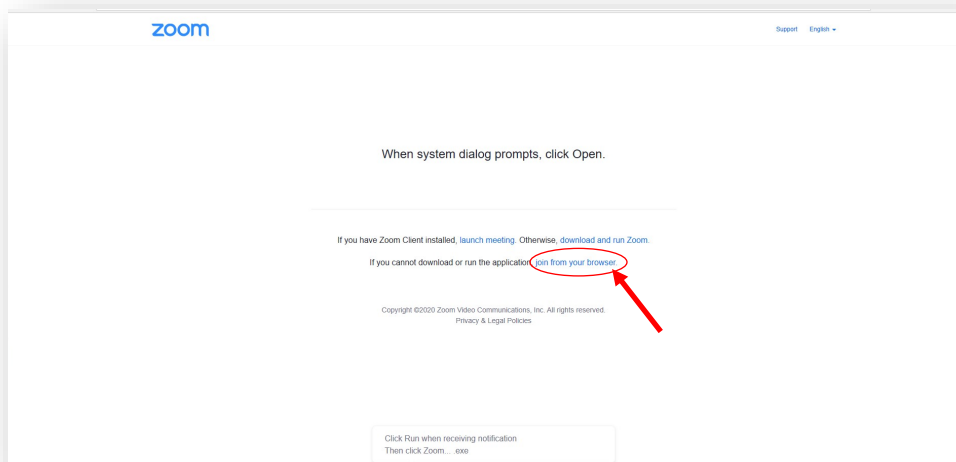


4. A pop-up window will appear at the bottom of your screen. **SELECT** “Run.”

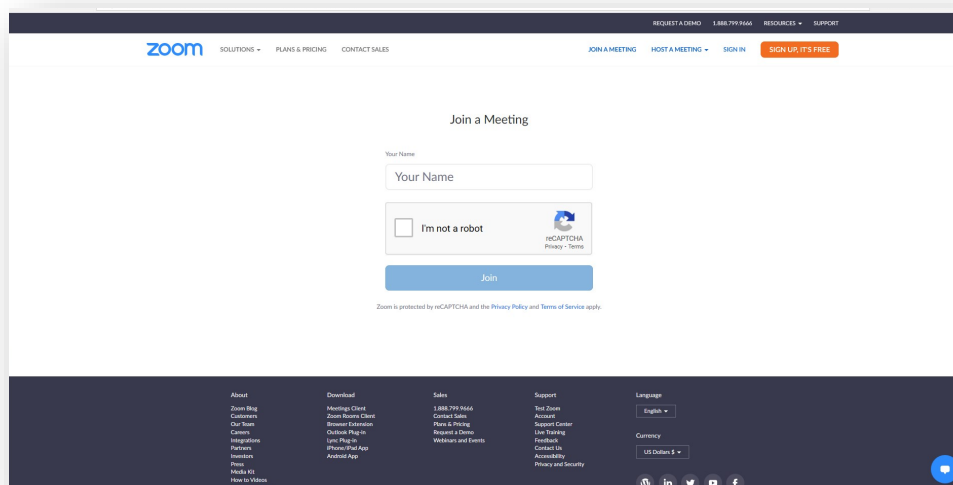


-Your computer will start installing the Zoom program.

6. At this point you should be ready to enter the meeting. **ENTER** the Meeting ID number and password in step 2.
7. If you are still unable to enter the meeting or download the program, **SELECT** “join from your browser.”



8. Your computer will link to the screen below. **ENTER** your name, **SELECT** “I’m not a robot”, and **CLICK-ON** “Join.”



9. Make sure your microphone and video-camera are functioning. Please MUTE audio unless you are speaking. See you there! (***Go to page 9 for meeting agenda.***)

Chicago Society, P.N.A.
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Held on Monday October 5, 2020
Due to the corona virus emergency this was a ZOOM meeting



Call to Order: President Dykas called the meeting to order at 7:23 pm.

Roll Call of Officers and Directors present: Brs. Ciesla, Cwiakala, Dykas, Konopka, Matuszczak, Mikoda Plachta, Wiermanski. Absent were: Brs. Kawalkowski, Kozelka, Kurdziel and Pieciewicz,. Br. Dykas declared a quorum.

Bills: Br. Matuszczak moved to pay the bill for \$131.10 from System Forms, Inc., for printing and mailing of the September Forum. Br. Konopka seconded. Motion passed.

Directors and Officers Reports:

1st Vice-President: Br. Konopka stated that the last General Meeting didn't come out well, this doesn't put us in best light. In October we have traditionally a Business expo. This year it will need to be different. Br. Konopka proposed a free advertising in our Forum. For our General Meetings to fill the gaps he proposed a video. Polish Embassy has a number of great videos that we could use. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Ciesla seconded. Motion passed.

2nd Vice-President: Br. Matuszczak stated that we will need to continue our Board meetings with a teleconference format. The Allegra Banquet Hall could space us out but they will need a minimum of 25 people. Maybe for November we could find something. Our membership is in high risk category and we should be very careful. Safety is most important. Br. Ciesla moved to accept the report. Br. Cwiakala seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Br. Wiermanski stated that last week he send his report to the Board members. There were no comments. Br. Wiermanski informed that he has send an application to the Illinois Department of Revenue for sales tax exemption. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Konopka seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Secretary: Br. Ciesla reported that our total deposits to date are: (redacted) The Wiecek repayments are on schedule and has a balance of (redacted) (28+more payments). We have 101 members; which includes 3 members with waived dues. Two members have passed: Brothers Michael Schneider and Edmund Gronkiewicz. Three applicants are to be inducted. We are still looking for more advertisers. Directory hasn't been updated yet. All dues obligations for 2020 have been completed.

Discussed were possibility of dues reduction due to the current pandemic environment. We have become a kind of a supper club serving multicourse meals. Legally we can't use funds of the club for the cost of meals. It was decided that at this time there will be no change in our dues, but in the near future we will need to do something. Our Constitution says that dues change has to be approved by a majority of present members. We will need to wait until the end of the pandemic. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Cwiakala seconded. Motion passed.

Advocate: Br. Pieciewicz was absent. There was no report.

Social Activities Director: Br. Kawalkowski was absent. Br. Dykas discussed possibility of holding a Deserving Children's Christmas Party. It will be very difficult; it will be hard for the children. Board will have to decide very shortly to do it or scrap it for this year. Br. Mikoda moved to accept the report. Br. Konopka seconded. Motion passed.

Director of Personnel: Br. Cwiakala reported that we didn't receive any new membership application. We have three applicants to be inducted. Discussed were ways to do it thru ZOOM. Br. Dykas volunteered to assist Br. Cwiakala in this process. Br. Dykas asked for moment of silence for two of our members: Br. Schneider and Br. Gronkiewicz that died recently. In the name of the deceased \$50 will be donated to the Youth Fund. Families of the deceased will be notified of the donations. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Mikoda seconded. Motion passed.

Director of Outreach: Br. Kurdziel was absent, there was no report.

Good of the Order: Br. Matuszczak proposed to we pay Br. Konopka for the cost to allow us the use of ZOOM to conduct our meetings. Br. Konopka stated that there is no cost.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Br. Konopka and was seconded by Br. Matuszczak. There being no other business, Br. Dykas adjourned the meeting at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Jan S. Plachta – Secretary

‘COVID was the final straw’: Wilmette’s last American Legion post disbanding

By Karen Ann Cullotta

More than a century has passed since a 22-year-old U.S. Army soldier from the North Shore died during the influenza pandemic of 1918 while aboard a ship headed to Europe.

Peter J. Huerter, who had hoped to serve in World War I, was buried at sea that October. Back home in what is now Wilmette, his grief-stricken family and friends paid homage to the young man by naming one of the area’s two new American Legion posts in his honor.

But this month, amid the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the last remaining American Legion post in Wilmette will cease operations, with its abandoned century-old building slated for demolition, and a farewell, 21-gun salute planned for Veterans Day.

“We just don’t have the horsepower to continue, and COVID was the final straw,” said Andy Haszlakiewicz, 74, of Wilmette, a U.S. Army veteran and the former commander of Post 46.

The post has withered from 240 members in the early 1970s to just a handful of active supporters like Haszlakiewicz.

Bookended between two global pandemics, the story of the rise and fall of Wilmette’s American Legion Post 46 highlights the difficulties facing many American Legion posts across the country.

Officials at veterans organizations like the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars say while posts have long been struggling due to falling membership numbers, the pandemic shutdowns have dealt a formidable blow to needed revenue streams. Paused are moneymakers like BINGO games, spaghetti dinners and banquet space rentals. Those community celebrations are the lifeblood of many posts, and have largely been canceled since mid-March due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

While the groups are concerned that some languishing posts may not survive the pandemic, officials say it is the services that the organizations provide to their members that are vital, now more than ever.

“Our biggest concern right now is it’s estimated more than 20 veterans take their own lives by suicide every day, and that was before the pandemic,” said John Raughter, a spokesman for the American Legion’s national headquarters in Indianapolis.

“The old post burned to the ground and we lost everything,” Conaster said. “But the saddest thing that happened to the post ended up being the best thing. Because while we were heartbroken to have lost all of our history, it brought the community back together again, because so many people stepped up to rebuild a new post.”

From putting up drywall and painting, to roofing and laying tile, Conaster said local tradespeople volunteered their time, while other residents held fundraisers to pay for materials to build a new post that could also serve as a community center for area families.

Today, the post is quiet due to pandemic shutdowns, but Conaster said he looks forward to the day when members can open the doors again for wedding receptions, birthday parties and fundraisers for the high school cheerleading squad.

“Of course, we’re struggling right now, because with COVID, we can’t open for events, which is putting all of the posts in a bind,” Conaster said. “But were still here, it’s just that the work of the Legion is a little different these days.”

Back in Wilmette, where the village once boasted 500 members and two posts — each of which held its own annual Memorial Day Parade — Post 46’s former commander Haszlakiewicz said in many ways the community’s prosperity might have played a role in the post’s demise.

“People were moving away to Florida, some died, and others lost interest,” Haszlakiewicz said. “Residents living in a middle-to-upper-income community, who are college-educated and have had successful professional lives, have a lot of opportunities. They’re just not as attracted to joining a veterans group as people living in small towns, where the American Legion posts and VFW halls are often the social center of the community.”

A retired biochemist who attended college on the GI Bill after serving in Vietnam, Haszlakiewicz said he and a handful of fellow members from the now defunct Post 46 will soon join forces with Morton Grove Post 134.

“We sold our building five years ago, and we’re now just waiting for it to be demolished,” said Haszlakiewicz, adding that the proceeds were donated to local nonprofit organizations.

The site of the former post will be used for an affordable housing development and the Wilmette Historical Society hopes to preserve the sign for the history museum.

The Wilmette veterans held their final event last Sunday at St. Joseph Parish Cemetery. There, a plaque was dedicated in honor of the post namesake, Peter J. Huerter, more than a century after the young soldier’s death.

“We’re closing our shop here, and moving to Morton Grove, which is sad,” Haszlakiewicz said. “Some of us are not too happy about this, but I guess it’s a sign of the times.”



Bad News & Good News: Polish Restaurants on Milwaukee Avenue

The BAD:

Red Apple Buffet (3121 N. Milwaukee & 6474 N. Milwaukee) will be temporarily closing due to the COVID-19 crisis. While very sad, especially given Red Apple's arguably best potato pancakes in Chicagoland, this is no surprise given the buffet layout of the restaurant. Let's hope they are back in business soon!



The GOOD:

Arcadia Polish Restaurant is a fairly new addition to the Polish culinary scene in Chicagoland. Located at 7165 N. Milwaukee Ave in Niles, Ar-



**ARCADIA
POLISH
RESTAURANT**

cadia serves a combination of both traditional and modern Polish foods. The steak tartar, available only on weekends, has this author's full recommendation! See more at <https://www.facebook.com/ArcadiaPolishRestaurant>.





Door County's Hatch Straight Bourbon Whiskey

Bourbon starts with a mixture of grains called the mash bill. Fifty-one percent of the mix must be corn, and the rest must include other grains, such as rye, barley and wheat. The mash is mixed and cooked with water, then fermented, often using specific yeast cultures that help define a brand's signature flavor.

Bourbon is traditionally made from a sour mash that is distilled twice: once in a single-column still, and then again in a pot still. The sour mash includes the tails of the distillate from a prior distillation, which enhances the flavor and consistency of the brand. By law, bourbon may be distilled to no more than 80 percent alcohol by volume, which means that a good number of congeners remain in the spirit, contributing body and flavor.

Aging the whiskey in new, charred American white oak barrels adds the next layer of complexity and character. To be labeled "straight bourbon," it must be aged this way for at least two years and sold unblended or blended only with other straight bourbons. In barrel, the spirit gains its color and a range of rich, toasted flavors that can include vanilla, coconut, toffee, sweet spice and more. No caramel or other coloring is allowed.

Many bourbon producers claim that how and where barrels are stored also affect style. Some continue a traditional aging process in warehouses that regulate temperature merely through open windows, so seasonal temperatures changes have an impact on the spirits' development. Some move barrels around and between floors to ensure consistent development, or devote certain floors to specific styles. Others simply age the Bourbon in brick houses where there is minimal temperature fluctuation. In addition, blending spirits from various barrels at different stages of development will shape the final product. After aging, the final bourbon may not be released with more than 65.5 percent alcohol, or 125 proof.





Business Effected by Covid-19?

Has your business been effected by Covid-19? Take advantage of this year's business expo to share your profession/ business with our membership! All participants in the expo will be given 2-5 minutes of time to present before the attendees of the October Zoom general meeting. In addition, all presenters will be able to advertise in the Forum for free for the remainder of the year. Please contact brother Adam Konopka akonopka@dowdanddowd.com before October 19th, 2020 to reserve your spot and provide your forum advertising.



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**Jack Skaja and John Skaja
Members**

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CHCAGO SOCIETY FORUM

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

