



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 72

November 2020

NUMBER 11

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, November 18

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 30

Board Meeting

ZOOM - 7:00 pm

A monthly news bulletin for
the Chicago Society PNA

Director of Publications
editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Brothers,

Sad news, we have lost another long time member, Brother Ted Lipkowski. Once in a while Ted would call to ask how the Chicago Society was doing and how he misses coming to our meetings. He loved reading the forum and hearing about what the members were up to. Our condolences to his family. Also, I would like to pass along our condolences to Tony Kawalkowski and his wife Bozena, on the passing of Tony's mother in law. May they rest in Peace.

During November, we exercise our right to vote for which men and women will lead us into the future. Whether it was for our country or in other countries that seek Democracy, this right, many took for granted. I have never seen so much interest in a voting season as I have seen this year. An amazing 145 million plus people took to the polls this election. Many issues were on the table, from income tax to the legalization of recreational marijuana.

This is why our country is great. No matter if you are Republican, Democrat, Green Party or Libertarian or mixed, Our rights are our own and no one can take that away from us. We thank all veterans, those still with us and those who have passed away, for their service so we

may be free. Thanks to our members who served for us. We have several of them. Thank you!!

We too, in Chicago Society, have elections where we elect our Officers and Directors. This year, no one challenged the recommendations of the Nominating Committee, which has some new faces. This is good for the Society as new members bring new ideas. Congratulations to our 2021 Officers and Directors of the Chicago Society.

I would like to pass some news of events that we normally have. The 2020 Deserving Children's Christmas Party is still on for December 12th, the May 3rd Polish Pre-Parade Brunch is in the planning stages and so is our annual Golf Outing. Due to the changing conditions of the pandemic, we are still in limbo as when we can meet. For now, we are still hosting our meetings via Zoom and is a great way for our members especially those who are out of town to keep in touch and see us.

Concluding November, on behalf of the Officers and Directors, I would like to wish all our members and your families a Happy Thanksgiving. This years dinners may not be like the past years as families are celebrating in smaller crowds, the theme is still the same, lets say Thanks for what we have as many are not as fortunate as we are.



Peter Dykas

Chicago Society President



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

Join us on Zoom wherever you are!

The Chicago Society is still meeting and conducting business despite today's challenges in large part due to Zoom. Wherever you are, whether or not you can physically make it to a meeting due to a health condition, moving out of the area or just being stuck at the office, you can join us as we continue our efforts to support our various causes and initiatives. That includes attending meetings and voting on various initiatives. Even when in person meetings are able to resume, Zoom attendance will be incorporated into our meetings to allow for input from our members that are unable to physically attend, for whatever reason. Please therefore join us, and encourage any previous brothers that have left our ranks due to a move or inability to commute to join us, as we continue to work for the good of Polonia and each other.

-Adam Konopka



Deserving Children's Christmas Party

Scheduled for Saturday, December 12th at noon.; the event will be held at the PNA parking lot. Our Chairman, Brother Peter Dykas, is seeking both monetary and food donations and help the day of (chips, soda and milk have been donated). Seeking contacts for pizza and/or chicken nugget lunches. Please contact Brother Dykas at padykas@yahoo.com or 312-493-3046. The event will follow city and state guidelines for safety. Santa will be there.

2021 Officers & Directors:

Adam Konopka - President
Christopher T. Grzadziel - 1st Vice President
Charles Cwiakala - 2nd Vice President
Andrew Haszlakiewicz - Secretary
Richard Ciesla - Financial Secretary
Jan S. Plachta - Treasurer
Edward J. Wasilewski - Advocate
Peter Dykas - Senior Director (Non-voted Position)
Zenon Kurdziel - Director of Social Activities
Kenneth J. Kogut - Director of Personnel
Ted Kozelka - Director of Publications
Romuald Matuszczak - Director of Outreach

November Elections: The slate of Officers and Directors for Chicago Society stands as presented to the membership. No one submitted a petition to challenge any office holder.

There will be no elections this year.

Congratulations to all!

Polish History: The November Uprising

After the Partitions of Poland, Poland ceased to exist as an independent political entity at the end of 1795. However, the Napoleonic Wars and Polish participation in the wars against Russia and Austria resulted in the creation of the Duchy of Warsaw in 1807. The Congress of Vienna brought that state's existence to an end in 1815, and essentially solidified the long-term division of Poland among Russia, Prussia and the Habsburg (Austrian) Empire. The Austrian Empire annexed territories in the South, Prussia took control over the semi-autonomous Grand Duchy of Poznań in the West, and Russia assumed hegemony over the semi-autonomous so-called Congress Kingdom.

The November Uprising (1830–31), also known as the Polish–Russian War 1830–31 or the Cadet Revolution, was an armed rebellion in the heartland of partitioned Poland against the Russian Empire. The uprising began on 29 November 1830 in Warsaw when the young Polish officers from the local Army of the Congress Poland's military academy revolted, led by lieutenant Piotr Wysocki. Large segments of the peoples of Lithuania, Belarus, and the Right-bank Ukraine soon joined the uprising. Although the insurgents achieved local successes, a numerically superior Imperial Russian Army under Ivan Paskevich eventually crushed the uprising. The Russian Emperor Nicholas I decreed that henceforth Russian-occupied Poland would lose its autonomy and become an integral part of the Russian Empire. With Warsaw remaining little more than a military garrison, its university closed.

After the end of the November Uprising, Polish women wore black ribands and jewelry as a symbol of mourning for their lost homeland. Such images can be seen in the first scenes of the movie Pan Tadeusz, filmed by Andrzej Wajda in 1999, based on the Polish national epic.



Chicago Society, P.N.A.
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Held on Monday November 2, 2020
Due to the corona virus emergency this was a ZOOM meeting



Call to Order: President Dykas called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

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

Bills: Br. Ciesla informed about a letter that was received from Christina Zagaja, from British Columbia in Canada. She writes about a book "My Fathers Memoirs" that contains a collection of poetry, a firsthand account of the war years as experienced by a Polish soldier and resistance fighter. She would like to have this information be included in our Forum hoping, that some of our members maybe interested in this book. Attendees agreed to publish this information in the current edition of Forum. Br. Ciesla moved to purchase an ad with Dziennik Zwiazkowy with Christmas wishes of joy, happiness and peace with thousands of Poles in the Chicago area. The ad will be of identical format of the one we had last year. The cost will be \$150. Additionally, there is a bill for \$131.10 from System Forms, Inc., for printing and mailing of the October Forum. Br. Matuszczak moved to pay the bills. Br. Mikoda seconded. Motion passed.

Directors and Officers Reports:

1st Vice-President: Br. Konopka stated that for the November General Meetings don't have a speaker. Br. Mikoda moved to accept the report. Br. Matuszczak seconded. Motion passed.

2nd Vice-President: Br. Matuszczak stated that we will need to continue our Board meetings with a teleconference format. Next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 30. Br. Ciesla moved to accept the report. Br. Cwiakala seconded. Motion passed.

Social Activities Director: Br. Kawalkowski had no report. Br. Dykas informed that Tony's Mother in Law died, and he asked the Board members for a moment of silence. **May She Rest in Peace.** Br. Dykas said that we are planning to hold a Derserving Children's Christmas Party. Soda and juices maybe needed. Pepsi Cola Co. may provide some refreshments. Next year Golf Outing is planned for July 9, at Glen Eagles Golf Course, if normalcy will return by then. Adam Konopka informed that he will get a contract by middle of November for signatures and deposit. Br. Kurdziel discussed potential of holding the Pre-Parade Branch in May 2021. If the Red and White Ball will be held in February, then it will mean that we can go ahead with the Brunch. Presently, we can plan but we can't commit ourselves. Br. Kurdziel volunteered to chair this event. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Ciesla seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Br. Wiermanski stated that last week he send his report to the Board members. There were no comments. Br. Wiermanski is recommending liability coverage insurance for a total of \$1,434.00 from the United States Liability Insurance Company. Our current policy which were from Travelers, cost us a total of \$2,570 last year and they expire on Nov. 15. 2020. It's also a time for critical decision to accept this. In any case we will save about \$1,000 in comparison with the last year policy. Br. Wiermanski observed that we don't have historical documents in one location. There is a question who should be responsible for record storage. Especially critical maybe our IRS tax exemption status. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the expenditure of \$1,434.00 for the liability coverage insurance. Br. Cwiakala seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Secretary: Br. Ciesla reported that our total deposits to date are: \$34,727.42. The Wiecek repayments are on schedule and has a balance of \$6,316.04 (28+more payments). We have 102 members; which includes 3 members with waived dues. Br. George Tolczyk has to be added to the mailing list. Two 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. Br. Kawalkowski moved to accept the report. Br. Kozelka seconded. Motion passed.

Advocate: Br. Pieciewicz had nothing to report. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Kurdziel seconded. Motion passed.

Director of Publications: Br. Kozelka discussed the file that we want to publish in the latest edition of our Forum. This is the issue concerning purchase of an old Firehouse by the Copernicus Foundation for \$300,000 from the City of Chicago. City wants to sell it for \$1 to a private developer. Copernicus Foundation is circulating a petition to be signed by everybody to ask the City to reverse this decision. The more people will sign the petition the bigger will be a chance of success. Copernicus Foundation is asking for our support. By publishing it in the Forum we just want to inform the membership what's going on in Chicago. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Konopka seconded. Motion passed.

Director of Personnel: Br. Cwiakala reported that George Tolczyk has been inducted into the Chicago Society during the October 2020 virtual monthly meeting. Approved were membership applications of Chris Laskowski and Richard Lazarski. They are waiting to be inducted. We received online membership application from Brian S. Waldron. Br. Matuszczak and Br. Cwiakala are sponsoring this application. There was a concern if Brian Waldron is of Polish heritage. Br. Kozelka volunteered to verify the requirement of Polish affinity. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Mikoda seconded. Motion passed.

New Business: Br. Konopka discussed our policy in regard to safekeeping of our records, how long will we need to keep them and where to store them. IRS documents we will need to keep for five years. For example, documents relating to Wiecek case we will need to keep as long as its necessary, until all the money is paid up. We will need to continue this discussion during the next Board meeting.

Good of the Order: Br. Mikoda informed that Br. Kurdziel is currently serving as the Treasurer of the Copernicus Foundation. Br. Wiermanski said that in the near future he is moving to Florida. All Board members wished him happiness and good luck in Florida. Br. Dykas expressed his gratitude to the Board members for their help during his Presidency of the Chicago Society. He was grateful to Board members who sacrificed a lot of their time for the success of the Chicago Society.

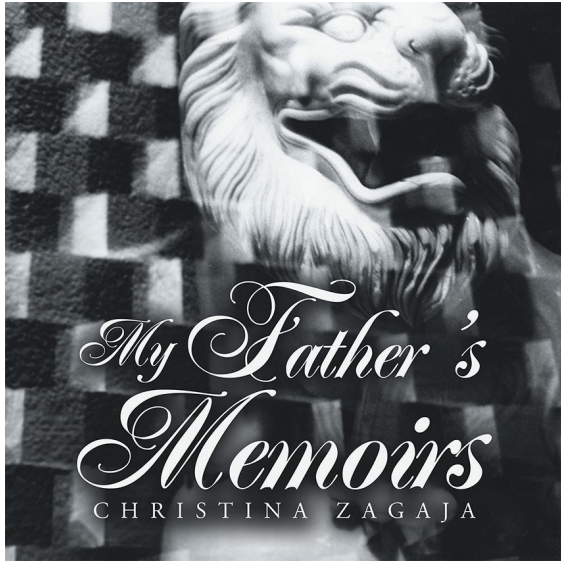
Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Br. Konopka and was seconded by Br. Matuszczak. There being no other business, Br. Dykas adjourned the meeting at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Jan S. Plachta – Secretary



My Father's Memories; A Recommendation



Brother Rich Ciesla received a note from Christina Zagada (the book's author) asking the Chicago Society to share this history with our membership. My Father's Memories contains a collection of poems written in the midst of World War Two, providing a unique firsthand account of the war as experience by a Polish soldier and resistance fighter: Walter Zagaja.

Walter Zagaja passed away March 17, 1996. His poems were translated into English from a diary he kept. Mr. Zagaja was an active member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Polish Branch No. 412 and the Polish Army Veterans Association S.W.A.P. No. 172.

Enchanted Fairytale



Leaves fall off the birch trees in the forest.
A rusty blanket covers the field.
The sound of wind can be heard from a distance.
A nightingale is chirping on the grave.



Among the hanging branches and the sprouting offshoots
above the grave the cross is crying.
It sings a song about love.

It is a love song about suffering without a voice, without publicity.
A victim's dream for humanity...
Missing, yearning, for {your} beloved land,
hoping that God will help and Poland will get its freedom back again after suffering.
After fighting and after all the hardships humankind will
be able to enjoy, the beauty of the sun again,
and be put to rest, among our own people on our land.

This old song can be heard and the crying white birch tree, and the leaning rotten cross.
And I, God's artist, small.
That well-known fairytale is being said, again. I am God's Artist, but small, and that old fairytale
starts again.

I wrote this in Janowski forest (Lasy Janowskie) when we were hiding weapons. Our small group or military squad was being dissolved. The squad captain was Steczeszyn.

WZ-written in Październik /October 1939

An Update Regarding Northwest Side Polonia:

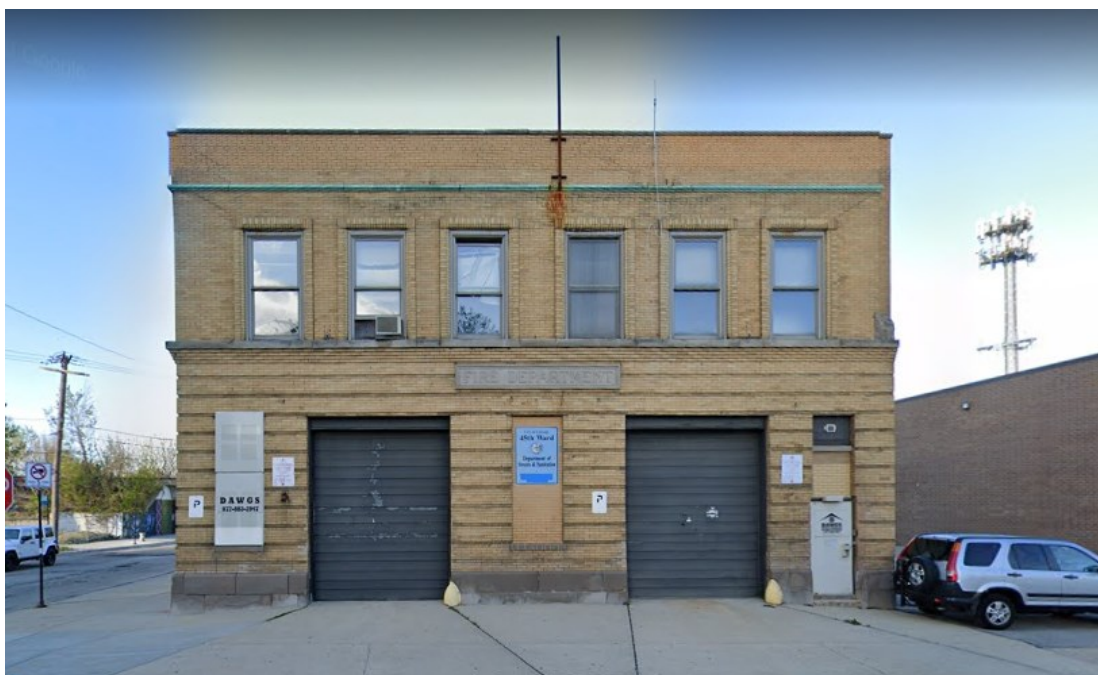
4841 N. Lipps Firehouse

Our friends at the Copernicus Foundation have requested the following information be shared with all Brothers of the Chicago Society. This information is included in the Forum as a means to make more of Polonia aware of this situation and should not be construed as an endorsement:

The Copernicus Foundation is currently in negotiations with the City of Chicago to purchase the abandoned firehouse at 4841 N. Lipps. The Foundation's plan is to renovate the property while also maintaining the historic façade. The Copernicus Foundation has offered to pay \$300,000 for a property appraised at \$208,000.

However, the City of Chicago appears to be in the process of accepting an offer from an outside developer, 4841 N. Lipps LLC (Ambrosia Homes) who will only be paying \$1 for the property. There are a number of steps that have to be taken before that sale is final.

If you wish to express an opinion in support of the efforts of the Copernicus Foundation, please visit www.FightForTheFirehouse.com The site will also allow you to send an e-mail directly to your Alderman asking him not to vote for the negotiated sale of the firehouse to 4841 N. Lipps LLC.





This month our livers will take a punishment tour through the sun drenched streets and canals of Siesta Key near Sarasota, Florida. In addition to being one of the most award winning rum distilleries in the world, the area is now home to Brother Rick Wiermanski, who kindly provided the samples for this review. For reasons unknown, Brother Rick has departed the sub-zero weather and pothole infested streets of Illinois for shimmering white beaches and year-round green golf course; but I digress.

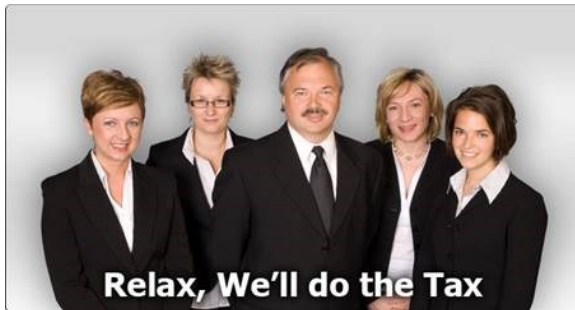
Siesta Key Spiced rum is made in small batches using old school methods. We make our spiced rum by infusing rum with real spices and then adding honey for a bit of sweetness. We do not use any artificial flavors or sweeteners. You can taste the difference.

The highly respected Caribbean Journal gave us the Rummy award for Best Spiced Rum of the Year for our Spiced rum in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017. They called Siesta Key Spiced the best spiced rum on the market. They also said that the competition "wasn't close."

SK Spiced was named one of the best artisan products in the United States by Cooking Light magazine. Wine Enthusiast magazine gave it 91 points and called it a "Best Buy". Miami New Times called it "possibly the tastiest rum in the world."

Siesta Key Spiced Rum is crafted in small batches and flavored with real spices and honey. It is made in Sarasota, Florida by Drum Circle Distilling and bottled at 70 proof.





Brother Mariusz Folta

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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 brother Adam Konopka akonopka@dowdanddowd.com to reserve your spot.



CHCAGO SOCIETY FORUM

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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