



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 73

January 2021

NUMBER 1

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 20

General Meeting

Will be ONLINE via ZOOM

6:45 pm "Happy Hour"

7:00 pm Call-to-Order

(instructions will be sent by email)

Monday, February 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,

The Chicago Society was founded in 1912. Since then it has endeavored to take a leadership role in Polonia, promote awareness of Polish history and culture and support the civic and business endeavors of its members. It is a legacy to be proud of and one that the 2021 Board and I have sworn to uphold in the upcoming year. On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank the outgoing 2020 Board and Past President Peter Dykas for their service, hard work and commitment in the last year. 2020 brought unique challenges that required difficult decisions. Thank you for continuing to push the work of the Society forward while the world would come to a stop.

I also thank and congratulate this year's Board on volunteering their time, efforts, expertise and services to the Society in the coming year. I very much look forward to working with this year's Board in preparing the Society to take a leadership role in the post-Covid era. To do so we have already begun to look inwardly at our own policies and recently adopted a document retention policy which requires the Society records to be kept electronically. The policy also requires anyone in possession of any Society documents to provide them to our Secretary for electronic filing. Please therefore contact the Secretary if you have any such documents. We will also continue to use video conference technology to conduct business. Once meetings are able to resume in person, we will work to continue to allow attendance via video conference for our membership.



There are many other issues that we are addressing in the early part of this year so that we can flourish moving forward. Our Society however is only as strong as our member's commitments to its mission. If anyone would like to be more involved there will be no lack of need for assistance or ideas now or in the future. If anyone knows of an organization that would like to partner with or sponsor our mission, there is no time like the present to discuss those possibilities. If anyone is aware of a person or organization that would benefit from our assistance and is in line with our mission, please consider this an open invitation to contact me, or anyone on the Board at any time to discuss. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas regarding how best to fulfill our mission, those comments are welcome as well.

I am honored to serve as your President and excited by what we can accomplish together in 2021 and beyond!

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



Helping Those in Need this Christmas:



CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SMILE 2020

November 27 - December 31, 2020

As the holiday season comes upon us, the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union humbly invites you to help us make a difference – to be the difference by embracing the gift of giving back. This holiday season, for the seventh time, we are blessed with the opportunity to help those in need – not only locally, but also abroad in Poland and Lithuania. We ask that you join us alongside the Children's Smile Foundation in our effort to help our communities experience a memorable Christmas. Our goal is to raise funds for underprivileged children in the U.S. and hospices for children in Poland and Lithuania. The Children's Smile Foundation opened 4 separate deposit accounts at our Credit Union. Every donation, no matter how small, makes an impact. With your generosity, the children in need can feel the love and joy this holiday.



Blessed Rev. M. Sopocko
Hospice in Vilnius
Account no. 1426548



"Promyczek" Home Hospice for
Children Foundation in Otwock
Account no. 1426554



"Dom Chłopakow" Care
Center for Children and Youth
in Broniszewice
Account no. 1426551



Children's Smile
Foundation, NY
Account no. 1426539

The Chicago Society PNA is very pleased to report that a \$300 donation was made to the Children's Smile Foundation. The foundation's goal is to raise funds for underprivileged children in the U.S. and hospices for children in Poland and Lithuania. This particular effort is sponsored by our friends at the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union.

"The Children's Holiday Smile 2020" will send funds to the following organizations:

- ♦ **Blessed Rev. M. Sopocko Hospice** in Vilnius, Lithuania
- ♦ **"Promyczek" Home Hospice for Children Foundation** in Otwock, Poland
- ♦ **"Dom Chłopakow" Care Center for Children and Youth** in Broniszewice, Poland
- ♦ **Children's Smile Foundation** in Queens, New York

Children's Smile Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Deserving Children's Christmas Party a Success!

December 12th, 2020 Chicago, IL. The Chicago Society PNA hosted their traditional Deserving Children's Christmas Event in the parking lot of the Polish National Alliance. Due to the

current pandemic and state regulations, the traditional party was an outdoor drive thru event. Mother nature tried to make the afternoon bearable as it stopped raining. We hosted 66 children to a hot dog lunch with chips, donated by Vitners, and soda, donated by the Polish Scouting Organization. A special treat bag of various



chocolates and crackers and snacks was also given out to all children that came which was graciously donated to us by the Polish firm of Lowells International Foods. And the highlight of the afternoon was Santa, waiting patiently as cars drive from station to station, who had a present for the children. Check out the pictures on our website . Seeing the smiles on the children's faces as the parents drove up to Santa made it all worth while. The families came from the Polish American Association, a local Polish School in the city, and families from the Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church. Special thanks go out to all our donors, Lowell International Foods, The Polish Slavic Federal Credit Union, Dee Blicharski, Brother Chris and Kasia Grzadziel, Brother Ted and Marianne Kozelka of T.K. Woodworking, Brother John Wasilewski, Brother Ray Golenia, Brother Zenon Kurdziel, Tom Jaconetty, Vitners Snacks, and the Polish Scouting Organization. Another group to give a big Thank You goes to all the volunteers that made this happen, Tanya along with her children Eva and Max Theodosakis-Cwiakala, Andrew Haszlakiewicz, Ted Kozelka, Kasia and Chris Grzadziel and last but not least, my family Agnes, Matthew and Isabella Dykas. We could not be able to have this event and run so smoothly if it was not like friends and volunteers of the organization like them to make it happen. Planning on next year's already and hoping this pandemic will be over soon.

**Chicago Society, P.N.A.
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Held on Monday January 4, 2021
Due to the corona virus emergency this was a ZOOM meeting**



Call to Order: President Dykas called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

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

Bills: Br. Matuszczak moved to pay the bill of \$125.65 from System Forms, Inc., for printing and mailing of the December Forum. Additional bill for \$100.47 to Br. Ciesla as a reimbursement for the mailing of dues notices. Br. Konopka seconded. Motion passed.

Correspondence: Br. Ciesla informed about a letter with Christmas Greetings and request for a donation that was received from the Polish Museum of America. Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union is informing us that they are raising funds for three children care facilities in Poland. Br. Matuszczak moved to donate \$300. Br. Cwiakala seconded. Motion passed.

Directors and Officers Reports:

1st Vice-President: Br. Konopka had nothing to report, we didn't have any speakers. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept to accept the report. Br. Ciesla seconded. Motion passed.

2nd Vice-President: Br. Matuszczak stated that we didn't have any meetings, had nothing to report. Br. Konopka moved to accept the report. Br. Kurdziel seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Secretary: Br. Ciesla reported that our total balance to date is: (redacted) The Wiecek repayments are on schedule and has a balance of (redacted) (26+more payments). We have 102 members; which includes 3 members with waived dues. One applicant is to be inducted. Dues invoices for 2021 have been mailed. 40 members have already paid their dues. In February a reminder will be mailed. There are four email addresses that have been changed or corrected: Frank Gembala, Chris Grzadziel, Andrew Haszlakiewicz and William Marutzky. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Kurdziel seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Br. Wiermanski stated that last week he sent his report to the Board members. There were no comments. Br. Wiermanski stated that this year we have about \$8,000 surplus due to the pandemic environment and lack of face to face Society meetings. Tax forms for 2020 will be prepared by Mariusz Foltas from the Taxpol Corporation. In the next few days Br. Wiermanski will mail all the Treasurer documents to Br. Plachta who will be the CS Treasurer for 2021. The documents are ready for the audit. Budget for 2021 has been prepared with input from Br. Konopka and Br. Ciesla. The assumptions are, that the General meetings will resume in October. Events will resume in late summer with a picnic and a golf outing. Br. Dykas thanked Br. Wiermanski for the outstanding job he did as a Treasurer. The names of Br. Plachta and Br. Grzadziel have been added to the signature cards at the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union office at the Mt. Prospect Branch location. Br. Ciesla moved to accept the report. Br. Kawalkowski seconded. Motion passed.

Advocate: Br. Pieciewicz was absent, there was no report.

Director of Publications: Br. Kozelka stated that overall cost of Forum publication for the year was nearly \$1400. Average opening of the Forum via email was 64%, about 2/3 of recipients read the Forum electronically. He questioned if we should continue to publish hardcopies of Forum. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Ciesla seconded. Motion passed.

Director of Outreach: Br. Kurdziel didn't have a report this time. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Mikoda seconded. Motion passed.

Social Activities Director: Br. Kawalkowski didn't have much to report. He congratulated Br. Dykas for a successful Deserving Children's Christmas Party. There were 66 children in attendance. Total donations were \$1010.62. Polish Slavic Federal Credit Union donated \$300, Dee Blicharski donated \$300, Kasia & Chris Grzadziel donated \$200. John Wasilewski and Ted Kozelka donated \$50 each, Ray Golenia and Zenon Kurdziel donated \$20 each. Thomas Jaconetty donated \$75. There were also

donations from Lowells Int. Foods, potato chips and Polish Scouts donated soda. Total expenses for LCD writing tablets, hot dogs, gifts for volunteers and supplies were \$782.26. The Golf Outing is scheduled for July 9, at Glen Eagles Golf Course. Adam Konopka stated that we need volunteers and sponsors to achieve a success. Deposit of \$500 is needed now. Br. Matuszczak moved to approve this expenditure. Br. Ciesla seconded. Motion passed. Br. Kurdziel volunteered to be chairman of the Pre-Parade Brunch. It is still undecided if we will have a May 3rd Parade. Br. Matuszczak volunteered to find out what's the status of the Parade.

Br. Kurdziel moved to accept Br. Kawalkowski report. Br. Mikoda seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: Br. Konopka informed about our Document Retention Policy. The documents of the Society will be kept electronically by the Secretary and be available for use or inspection upon request of the President or the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall retain, for seven (7) years, any documents received or generated by the Society related to their meetings, events or activities on a month to month basis in an electronic folder. Such documents include, but are not limited to meeting minutes, receipts, contracts, correspondence (ingoing and outgoing), event reports, reimbursement requests, tax returns, applications for membership, invoices, officer and director reports, insurance policies and audit reports. Any Society member, be it Board Member, Officer, Director, event organizer, auditor, committee member or otherwise shall provide the Secretary with an electronic copy of the aforementioned within 30 days of receipt or generation. Any documents required by law or directed by the Board of Directors to be maintained via hard copy shall be kept by the Secretary in paper form and available for use or inspection by the Society upon request of the President or the Board of Directors. With the exception of corporate documents and any documents directed by the Board of Directors to be maintained perpetually by the Society, all Society documents more than seven (7) years old shall be destroyed and/or deleted. Any Society member, past or present, in the custody of Society documents in any form, shall inform the Secretary of their existence. The Secretary will then retain or destroy the documents in accordance with this policy. Outgoing Society Officers, Directors, Board Members, event organizers, auditors, committee members shall provide any documents to their successors and the Secretary in electronic form and destroy any other copies. Br. Mikoda moved to accept the report. Br. Ciesla seconded. Motion passed.

Director of Personnel: Br. Cwiakala reported that there are no new applicants. One applicant is to be inducted. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Kozelka seconded. Motion passed.

Good of the Order: Br. Konopka stated that there are several Chicago Society items that are kept in storage by several Chicago Society members. He recommended that a spread sheet be prepared with information about these items and where are they stored.

New Board of Directors: The out-going Board of Directors was given a thank you for their services and Br. Wiermanski administered the oath of office to the new Board of Directors. Br. Konopka as 2021 President continued the meeting.

President – Adam Konopka
2nd Vice President Charles Cwiakala
Financial Secretary – Richard Ciesla
Advocate – Edward Wasilewski
Director of Social Activities – Zenon Kurdziel
Director of Publications – Ted Kozelka

1st Vice President – Christopher T. Grzadziel
Secretary – Andrew Haszlakiewicz
Treasurer – Jan S. Plachta
Senior Director (non-voting) – Peter Dykas
Director of Personnel – Kenneth J. Kogut
Director of Outreach – Romuald Matuszczak

As the new Secretary Br. Haszlakiewicz recorded the further proceedings.

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 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan S. Plachta

Secretary 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Haszlakiewicz

Secretary 2021



This Month in Polish History—The January Uprising

The January Uprising (powstanie styczniowe) was an insurrection principally in Russia's Kingdom of Poland aimed at the restoration of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth. It began on 22 January 1863 and continued until the last insurgents were captured by the Russian forces in 1864. It was the longest lasting insurgency in post-partition Poland. The conflict engaged all levels of society, and arguably had repercussions on contemporary international relations and ultimately provoked a social and ideological paradigm shift in national events that went on to have a decisive influence on the subsequent development of Polish society.

It was the confluence of a number of factors that rendered the uprising inevitable in early 1863. The Polish nobility and urban bourgeois circles longed for the semi-autonomous status they had enjoyed in Congress Poland before the previous insurgency, a generation earlier in 1830, while youth encouraged by the success of the Italian independence movement urgently desired the same outcome. Russia had been weakened by its Crimean adventure and had introduced a more liberal attitude in its internal politics which encouraged Poland's underground National Government to plan an organized strike against their Russian occupiers no earlier than the Spring of 1863.

They had not reckoned with Aleksander Wielopolski, the pro-Russian arch-conservative head of the civil administration in the Russian partition, who got wind of the plans. Wielopolski was aware that his fellow countrymen's fervent desire for independence was coming to a head, something he wanted to avoid at all costs. In an attempt to derail the Polish national movement, he brought forward to January the conscription of young Polish activists into the Imperial Russian Army (for 20-year service). That decision is what triggered the January Uprising of 1863, the very outcome Wielopolski had wanted to avoid.

The rebellion by young Polish conscripts was soon joined by high-ranking Polish-Lithuanian officers and members of the political class. The insurrectionists, as yet ill-organized, were severely outnumbered and lacking sufficient foreign support, and were forced into hazardous guerrilla tactics. Reprisals were swift and ruthless. Public executions and deportations to Siberia eventually persuaded many Poles to abandon armed struggle. In addition, Tsar Alexander II hit the landed gentry hard, and as a result the whole economy, with a sudden decision in 1864 to finally abolish serfdom in Poland. The ensuing break-up of estates and destitution of many peasants convinced educated Poles to turn instead to the idea of "organic work", economic and cultural self-improvement.

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. 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.



Pope Francis' 10 New Years' Resolutions for You

- I. Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are.
- II. Take care of your family life, giving your children and loved ones not just money, but most of all your time, attention, and love.
- III. Take care of your relationships with others, transforming your faith into life and your words into good works, especially on behalf of the needy.
- IV. Be careful how you speak, purify your tongue of offensive words, vulgarity, and wordly decadence.
- V. Heal wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness, forgiving those who have hurt us and medicating the wounds we have caused others.
- VI. Look after your work, doing it with enthusiasm, humility, competence, passion, and with a spirit that knows how to thank the Lord.
- VII. Be careful of envy, lust, hatred, and negative feelings that devour our interior peace and transform us into destroyed and destructive people.
- VIII. Watch out for anger that can lead to vengeance; for laziness that leads to existential euthanasia; for pointing the finger at others, which leads to pride; and for complaining continually, which leads to desperation.
- IX. Take care of brothers and sisters who are weaker ... the elderly, the sick, the hungry, the homeless and strangers; because we will be judges on this.
- X. Making sure your Christmas is about Jesus and not about shopping.





We'll kick off 2021 with a review of the delightful Kentucky bourbon I received as a gift from my brother-in-law. This bottle hits well above its weight with a light start and complicated aftertaste. You can find Longbranch at your local fine spirits vendor for typically less than \$40, which is a steal in the Bourbon world.

Matthew McConaughey (the actor) and Master Distiller Eddie Russell are proud to present this rare, small-batch bourbon. Eight Year-Old Wild Turkey Bourbon is refined with Texas mesquite and oak charcoals for deeper flavor and complexity.

The aroma is a balanced blend of vanilla and spices. Flavors of caramel, pear, and hints of citrus round out the palate, while the subtle, smoky finish is buttery smooth—with notes of gentle pepper and toasted oak.

For anyone who is a fan of the Wild Turkey brand's flavor profile, Longbranch is more of the same yet slightly tweaked. In the end Longbranch might not blow you away but it offers just enough to keep it from being just another new bourbon on the market. It will be interesting to see if this release connects with bourbon drinkers and if it will become a permanent expression for the company. Wild Turkey may not have reinvented the wheel here but there's enough to justify its place on the shelf.



**2020 CHICAGO SOCIETY PNA
DESERVING CHILDREN'S DRIVE-BY CHRISTMAS EVENT**

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS:

LOWELL INTERNATIONAL FOODS

POLISH SLAVIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE

DEE BLICHARSKI

CHRIS AND KASIA GRZADZIEL

TK'S LIVE EDGE WOODWORKING

JOHN WASILEWSKI

ZENON KURDZIEL

THOMAS JACONETTY

RAY GOLENIA

VITNER'S

POLISH SCOUTING ORGANIZATION

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 Brother Adam

Konopka akonopka@dowdanddowd.com for details.



CHCAGO SOCIETY FORUM

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Chicago, IL 60646-3728

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



THE SKAJA FAMILY

Family owned and operated
Serving out community for
84 years

Jack Skaja and John Skaja
Members

SKAJA TERRACE FUNERAL HOME

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Niles, Illinois 60714