



# The Forum

## of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 65

FEBRUARY 2014

NUMBER 2

### DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

**WEDNESDAY**

**February 19, 2014**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets  
Niles, Illinois**

### RESERVATIONS

**by February 15 to**

[meeting@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:meeting@chicagosocietypna.org)

**or 847-823-8747**

### NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

**Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 P.M.**

**PNA Home Office,**

**6100 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, Ill.**

### COMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, February 19, 2014—**

**Dinner Meeting**

**Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets**

**Tuesday, March 4, 2014—**

**Śledź Mardi Gras Party**

**Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets**

**Wednesday, March 5, 2014—**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**PNA Home Office**

**Wednesday, March 19, 2014**

**Dinner Meeting**

**Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets**

### THE CHICAGO SOCIETY'S ŚLEDŹ MARDI GRAS PARTY

This year's annual **Chicago Society Śledź** will take place at the **White Eagle Restaurant and Banquets**, 6839 North Milwaukee Ave., Niles, Ill. on Tuesday, March 4, 2014. The festivities will begin with a social hour (cash bar) at 6:00 p.m. followed by a fine dinner of at 7:00 p.m. Herring in Cream Sauce, Chubs, Rye Bread, Biały (White) Barszcz Soup, Potatoes, Pierogi, Kiełbasa, Kapusta, Polish Style Chicken De Volaille, Green Beans Almondine, Coffee or Tea, Ice Cream, and Pączki.

This festive event is open to members, non-members, family, relatives, singles, and guests. The cost of the event is only \$40.00 per person. Dinner will start with Śledź (herring) as an appetizer. After dinner, the traditional pageant representing Śledź will be held followed by the crowning of St. Joseph for 2014. The gentleman selected acts as a chaplain at the Chicago Society meetings and at special occasions, leading those present in an appropriate prayer.

The celebration of Śledź is the Chicago Society's version of Christian and Polish traditions that date back centuries. It is a celebration of carnival, or Mardi Gras - the period immediately preceding Lent. Dinner will be followed by our unique Pageant, open bar, dancing to music provided by DJ Kamil Bartoszcze, KBE Ent. and a raffle with prizes.

For reservations or information call **Brother Frank Czaja** at 312/520-6144 or 708/425-6144 or purchase your tickets online through PayPal at [www.chicagosocietypna.org](http://www.chicagosocietypna.org).

### 2014 INAUGURAL BALL RECAP

The Chicago Society's 2014 Annual Inaugural Ball and Installation of Lodge Officers was held on Saturday, January 18, 2014. This was a beautiful evening, a perfect evening to enjoy the warmth of camaraderie. Upon entering the elegant Rosewood Restaurant, over 170 guests were offered flutes of champagne, selections of mini flavored martinis, wine, and gourmet hors d'oeuvres, served by the gracious wait staff.

The festivities began with Aleksandra Podowska leading the guests in the National Anthems of the United States and Poland. Ball Chairman **Frank Czaja** then welcomed the guests and spoke about the historical importance of this installation of officers for 2014. Rev. Idzi Stacherczak, pastor of St. Priscilla Church in Chicago, gave the Invocation in both Polish and English; he asked the Holy Spirit to enlighten our commitment and our unity. He said that we members of the Chicago Society are examples of Christianity, emulating the values of Blessed Pope John Paul II.

Gourmet dinner entree selections included a choice of filet mignon, filet of salmon, or chicken francaise served by the cordial wait staff. During dinner, Brother **Anthony Kawalkowski** strolled among the guests, serenading them with soothing dinner music. The Polonia Folk Dance Ensemble added levity to the program, performing several waltzes and a number from the musical *Grease*.

After dinner, **President Mark Orwat** and Ball Chairman Frank Czaja presented the 2014 Man of the Year Award to Lodge member **Romuald Matuszczak** in recognition of his dedication to the Chicago Society and his philanthropic support of the PNA Lodge 1450-The Chicago Society and Chicago's Polonia. **Romuald Matuszczak** very simply and humbly thanked the Society for this honor and spoke of when he joined the PNA

— Continued on Page 3 —



## CHICAGO SOCIETY Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the  
Chicago Society PNA membership

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR  
MEETING RESERVATION?

Dear Brothers,

I would like to thank all the members and guests attending this year's Inaugural Ball.

I would like to congratulate our very own **Brother Romuald "Ro" Matuszczak** for being honored as Chicago Society's person of the year. Thank you Brother Ro for all your dedication and friendship to the Chicago Society, PNA. I would also like to thank Brother **Frank Czaja** and his lovely wife Darlene and their committee for an outstanding and very successful inaugural ball.

The number of guests that attended this year has exceeded our numbers in years past. Thank you again for a swanky, top notch event! And last but not least, everyone enjoyed dancing to the music provided by **Brother Anthony Kawalkowski** and his Orchestra.

Just right around the corner is our annual "Śledź" to be held on Tuesday March 4, 2014.

For reservations or information Call **Brother Frank Czaja** at 312/520-6144 or 708/425-6144 or purchase your tickets online through Pay Pal at <http://www.chicagosocietypna.org>.

I want to thank Brother **Charles Komosa** for chairing the Chicago Society Scholarship Committee and all of his hard work. Brother Komosa and his committee have extended the scholarship deadline until February 15, 2014 due to number of responses we have received. The winners will be notified and awarded a monetary prize at the Chicago Society Pre-Parade Brunch on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Fraternally Yours, Brother Mark Orwat



Dear Brothers,

Instead of my Award Winning Self Portrait in 13 Questions segment this month, I ask you to please promote the candidacy of two of our brother members: Brother **Ted Palka**, candidate for Cook County Sheriff and Brother **James Pieczonka**, candidate for Judge of the 12<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit. The primary election will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. There are several important ways to help our brother candidates; by casting a vote for them, volunteering for them, donating a few dollars to them, or encouraging family and friends to support them. In this *Forum*, I write about their background, qualifications, and candidacies.

Happy Valentine's Day to all the wonderful wives, girlfriends, and/or companions of brother members.

Brother Charles A. Komosa

## CHICAGO SOCIETY'S FEBRUARY MEETING SPEAKER

Brother **John Cieslik** has arranged for Larry Matkaitis, the Fire Marshal of the State of Illinois, to be our featured speaker at the February General Meeting to be held on February 19, 2014, at the White Eagle. Larry will discuss the functions and operations of his office in terms of safety and regulations. Larry received the Kathy Osterman Award as the City of Chicago's Outstanding Public Safety employee for 2003. Governor Quinn appointed Larry as the State Fire Marshal in January of 2010. After attending Northern Illinois University, Matkaitis served in the United States Army before joining the Chicago Fire Department in 1975. Larry is a Licensed Paramedic, a nationally certified fire inspector and a certified private pilot.

## FEBRUARY INDUCTION CEREMONY OF NEW MEMBER

Michael Dropka has applied for membership in the Chicago Society of the PNA and his name and application were published in the 2014 January *Forum*. Please attend the February General Meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2014, at the White Eagle and join the membership along with Michael Dropka's sponsors (Brother **John Cieslik** and Brother **Mark Orwat**) for his induction ceremony.



**INAUGURAL BALL** (Continued from page 1)

lodge in 1956 and what the Society represents to him. After Romuald Matuszczak's remarks, Ball Chairman **Frank Czaja** recognized and acknowledged the attendance and congratulatory proclamation presented by the Hon. Judy Baar Topinka, Comptroller of the State of Illinois, a congratulatory letter from the Hon. Dan Rutherford, Treasurer of the State of Illinois and a Republican gubernatorial candidate, Hon. Dan Kotowski, Senator, State of Illinois, and acknowledged the elected officials attending the Ball: Hon. **Robert Martwick**, Representative State of Illinois and Lodge 1450 member, Hon. Kirk Dillard, Senator, State of Illinois and a Republican gubernatorial candidate, Hon. Dan Patlak, Cook County Commissioner, **Hon. Andrew Przybylo**, Mayor of Niles, Illinois, Hon. Ray Suarez, Alderman and Deputy Mayor of Chicago, Hon. Dianne K. Marsalek, Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, **Hon. Edward Marsalek**, Ret. Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Hon. William Raines, Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and Hon. Tom Lyons, Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Chairman **Frank Czaja** then called upon PNA National Secretary **Charles A. Komosa**, who presented Romuald Matuszczak with a magnificent plaque and certificate of appreciation from the PNA National Officers and Board of Directors in recognition of his dedication and many years of service to the PNA and Polonia. Romuald Matuszczak became a member of the PNA in 1940 and Lodge 1450-the Chicago Society in 1956. Charles Komosa shared that presenting Romuald Matuszczak was a special honor because the recipient has a long and established friendship with Charles Komosa's late grandfather **Charles Rozmarek**, his parents, himself, and his children.

Lodge 1450 Civic Vice President **John Cieslik** presented the 2013 Chicago Society Booster Award to Lodge member **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert** for sponsoring the most number of new members in 2013. The Polonia Ensemble then continued the festivities with the elegant, traditional Polonez, in costumes of the Duchy of Warsaw (*Księstwo Warszawskie*).

The culmination of the evening was the Installation of the new Board by the Hon. Dianne K. Marsalek, Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County; she administered the oath of office to the officers and wished them much success in the coming year.

Following the official portion of the evening, guests danced to the music of Anthony Kawalkowski and his Orchestra. The orchestra played a variety of music from traditional to contemporary, from polkas and waltzes to romantic melodies, all to the enjoyment of the guests. The dance floor was full of couples dancing and enjoying themselves throughout the evening, so it's clear our guests had a memorable experience. The Orchestra played its last strains at midnight, and our guests now have another evening to remember.

**Congratulations!** go to Chairman Frank Czaja and the Inaugural Committee members Darlene Czaja and Chris Matuszczak, for creating an elegant, energetic, and colorful evening. As Ball Chairman Frank Czaja promised, the evening met the high standards of the Chicago Society with great food, good drinks, and high quality entertainment. Chicago Society balls have long been well known throughout Chicago's Polonia, and this year's certainly lived up to that tradition!

**FOUNDATION MEETING  
AND ELECTIONS**

On Monday, January 27, 2014 the members of the Chicago Society Foundation Board of Directors met at Sawa's Old Warsaw for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter meeting of 2014. The board voted and approved grants to the Polish American Association in the amount of \$5,000 for their homeless project, and \$5,000 for the Chicago Society Scholarship Fund which will include the Foundation as a scholarship partner.

The board also elected Brother **Charles A. Komosa**, Foundation President, Brother **Frank Gondela**, Vice president, Brother **Stanley Sawa**, Treasurer, and Brother **Mark Orwat**, Secretary. The members of the Chicago Society Foundation Board of Directors are comprised of the current and all former Chicago Society Presidents.

Brother **Ted Makariewicz** was appointed as Foundation Advocate to replace Brother **Bill Powell** after he passed away, Brother **Ron Olech** as Foundation Accountant and Brother **Don Gutowski** as Finance/Investment Committee Chairman.

**BROTHER PIECZONKA IS  
CANDIDATE FOR JUDGE**

Brother **James Paul Pieczonka** is on the Republican Ballot for Cook County Judge in the 12<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit. for the March 18, 2014, and the General Election on November 4, 2014. You must be registered in the 12<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit to vote for him.



Brother Pieczonka has the necessary legal experience with over 10 years as an Administrative Law Tax Judge with the Illinois Department of Revenue, a Cook County attorney for 30 years, in private practice for 17 years, a graduate of the Graduate of The John Marshall Law School (1983) and Hearing Officer for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

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## AROUND THE SOCIETY!

Congratulations to Brother **Marian** and Teresa **Skawski** on the marriage of their son, Adrian Skawski to Ms. Justine Gembala, daughter of Brother Hon. **Francis** and Hon. Bettina **Gembala**, on Saturday, January 11, 2014 at the posh and swanky Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago. Over 230 guests celebrated and reveled in honor of the newlywed couple with an exquisite menu, libations, and professional dance music to the wee hours in the morning. Since Adrian is officially married now, Brother Marian can sponsor him for Chicago Society membership as they both will have an official excuse to be away from home on the third Wednesday of each month! FYI: Adrian's beloved father in law, Brother Francis Gembala, can be his co sponsor! They can split the membership application fee 50/50 for Adrian.

Best wishes to Brother **Donald Versen** on a speedy return to all the action in Polonia. Brother Don had to have his knee replaced for a second time but all is well and he is back walking. Although he did mention that he is giving up his dream of being a field goal kicker for the Chicago Bears.

Brother **Mariusz "Mario" Mikoda** was island hopping with beautiful wife Agata in January and jumped from Honolulu to Maui, and a few other places not listed on the hotel brochure. Brother Mario commented that he saved a few bucks each day by skipping the expensive breakfasts in the resort hotels and

consumed *free* pineapples and bananas, and drank coconut milk to stay hydrated. "*Book Em, Danno.*"

Incoming Brother **Steve Rakowski** is being installed as President of the Advocates Society at their Installation Dinner at the Drake Hotel on February 13, 2014.

Word is that Brother **Robert Groszek** is serving as chairman of the nominating committee and election of officers for the Illinois Division of the Polish American Congress in March! Bobby, Don't forget your riot gear!

Brother **John Cieslik's** grandson, Nicholas Tzanos, who is the son of Brother **Alex Tzanos**, is the newest fraternal life insurance member of PNA Lodge 1450, the Chicago Society. Brother John purchased Nicholas his policy over the holidays because he wants him to carry on the tradition of fraternalism.

Śledź co-chairman Brother **Ted Makariewicz** promised that the traditional Śledź Pageant will have new and exciting twists and turns for the guests and party revelers! Word on the street is that Brother **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert** is the choreographer—stay tuned!

Brother **Gary Kenzer**, Executive Director Polish American Association shared that on a frigid cold night this past January 22, while most of us were home at 9pm, many staff and volunteers from the PAA with other community members coordinated the City of Chicago's Northwest Side "Count the Homeless." From 9:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m., they went in trams and traveled

down the streets, alleys and store fronts looking for our most vulnerable homeless population and offered them an alternative or warm clothes if they choose not to go to a shelter. The crew led by PAA found 10 homeless people throughout the night just in the northwest side. The PAA slogan "Resources for Changing Lives" really comes true in many ways including this annual Night to Count the Homeless.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

- 1 Francis Gembala  
James Kopka
- 3 Richard W. Wiermanski
- 4 Wictor Drapszo  
Edmund Gronkiewicz
- 7 Raymond Golenia
- 12 Mark Pawlas
- 23 Terrance Przybylski
- 26 Gregory Kosin  
Ray Sikora
- 28 Robert Martwick  
William Sawicki

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate Brother **Thaddeus Dabrowski**, who is celebrating his 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Brother **Edmund Nowak** on his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and Brother **Zenon Olejniczak** on his 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of induction in February of their respective years.

## DUES MUST BE BE PAID BY MARCH 1



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### In Memoriam

**Brother William H. Powell**, age 94, beloved husband of the late Mildred nee Tomchek, loving father of Janet M. (the late Richard) Griesenauer, William P., Thomas J., James L. (Kathy) and Mary Grace, cherished grandfather of Bill (Lisa), Jeffrey (Kelly), Daniel (Joan), Michael, Donna, Autumn Malia, Parker, Erin, Stephanie (Aleks), Jacqueline and great-grandfather of Diane, Michael, Katie, Bradley, Ryan, Cara, Danielle, Justine, Ryne and Astrid. Passed away this past December.

Brother William 'Bill' Powell was a proud veteran of the US Navy during WWII from 1941-1945. He was the oldest and longest active member of the Chicago Society until his death, and a member of the Advocates Society.

Brother Bill truly enjoyed the camaraderie and friendships that he shared over many years with the Chicago Society brothers. Brother Bill enjoyed attending social events like Brother Ro and Chris Matuszczak's annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July party with his lovely daughter Mary.



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### In Memoriam

**Brother Kazimer "Kaz" Swierz**, age 94, passed away on Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Kaz, as he was called by family and friends, began life in Tarnów, Poland, but the years that followed would take him across the globe. At the outset of World War II, Kaz and his family faced forced deportation to the USSR. Those that survived the journey were placed into a Soviet labor camp in Kazakhstan. In 1943, after the German invasion of the USSR, Kaz joined the newly formed Polish II Corps. The newly created Polish unit was attached to the British 8<sup>th</sup> Army and started **Kaz** on a journey that stretched across four continents and 17 countries. Traveling through the Middle East, Africa, Southern Europe, and eventually to Britain, Kaz took part in a number of Allied operations, most notably the campaign in Italy where he saw action at the Battle of Monte Cassino. At the conclusion of the war, Kaz spent four years in Britain in the reserves before immigrating to the United States in 1950.

Once in the United States, Kaz, who trained in Poland to become a tailor before the war broke, returned to his chosen profession. He became a partner in Dukart Clothing, Ltd., before working for the House of Duro and then Syd Jerome.

He married his wife Eleanor in 1951, and started his family before moving to Arlington Heights.

Kaz was an active member of the Chicago Society of the PNA, and proud to be a long-standing member.

He was preceded in death by his wife Eleanor (nee Gargula); survived by his children Walter Swierz, and Phyllis (Michael) Carlstrom; his grandchildren Matthew (Kelly) Carlstrom, Amanda Carlstrom, and Kristin (Paul) Lucas; and his great granddaughter Eleanor Carlstrom.

### PALKA IS CANDIDATE FOR COOK COUNTY SHERIFF

With 30 years of dedicated and responsible service as a Deputy Sheriff and Inspector in the Cook County Sheriff's Office, Brother **Tadeusz "Ted" Palka** is the most experienced candidate for the prestigious position of Cook County Sheriff in 2014. Brother Palka has a vision to improve the lives of all Cook County citizens, sheriff's officers, employees and residents.

Brother Ted Palka has countless professional awards and recommendations, including a "Certificate of Excellence" from the Cook County Sheriff's Office. His insight to crime-fighting strategies secured him membership in the prestigious Chicago Crime Commission, a non-profit, non-partisan organization of members including police officers, politicians, lawyers, business managers, and community leaders who combine their efforts to make Cook County a better place to live, work, and play.



Brother Ted Palka is bilingual, fluent in Polish, and arrived in the United States from Poland in 1968. He registered with the US Army in the Classified 1.A. category in 1970 and completed the Deputy Sheriff Academy in 1979. He started working at the Cook County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff and with his impeccable work ethic, commitment to excellence and dedication to serving others, he rose through the ranks and became an Inspector. As an Inspector, he was tasked with running many programs efficiently and ensuring compliance with all policies.

Brother Ted Palka continues to serve others as an usher at Immaculate Conception Church in Chicago and is involved with many charitable programs and events, such as Feed the Children. He is also a proud member of numerous civic organizations including the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 9, "The Untouchables"; American Deputy Sheriff's Association; Polish American Police Association; and the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance

**ŚLEDŹ IS ON MARCH 4**

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