

The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Group 1450 PNA

The Voice of an Autonomous Lodge of the Polish National Alliance

Volume 63 February 2012 Number 2

NETWORKING DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY February 15, 2012 6:00 P.M.

Copernicus Center 5216 W. Lawrence Ave. Chicago, Illinois

RESERVATIONS BY FEBRUARY 13 TO 847-635-0883 OR

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org
ARE MANDATORY

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, March 5, 7:00 P.M. Folak's Lincoln Tavern

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, February 15— General Dinner Meeting Copernicus Center, Chicago

Tuesday, February 21—
Annual Śledź
La Villa Restaurant, Chicago

Wednesday, March 21— General Dinner Meeting Site To Be Announced

CHICAGO SOCIETY LED

This year's annual Chicago Society Śledźwill take place at La Villa Restaurant & Banquets, 3632 North Pulaski Road, in Chicago on Tuesday, February 21, 2012.

Free parking is available in lots located just north and south of the building. The festivities will begin with a social hour (cash bar) at 6:00 p.m. followed by a fine dinner of various entrée choices at 7:00 p.m. This festive event is open to members, nonmembers, family, relatives, singles, and guests. The cost of the event is only \$35.00 per person. Payments can be made via PayPal on our website.

Dinner will start with $\dot{s}led\dot{z}$ (herring) as an appetizer. After dinner, the traditional pageant representing $\dot{S}led\dot{z}$ will be held. The pageant is fun and exciting, complete with an angel, death, the devil, and much frivolity. The pageant is an experience not to be missed!! This will be followed by the crowning of St. Joseph for 2012. The gentlemen selected acts as a chaplain at the



Chicago Society meetings and at special occasions, leading those present in an appropriate prayer. There will be a raffle and a time for dancing to the music of Polka Generation.

The celebration of $\dot{S}led\dot{z}$ 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.

POLISH TRADITIONS IN FEBRUARY



February this year brings the end of *Karnawal*, the period between Christmas and Ash Wednesday—the start of Lent. *Ostatki* (or *zapusty*) is the week preceding *Środa Popielcowa* (Ash Wednesday), from *Thusty czwartek* (Fat Thursday) through Tuesday (*śledzik*). This is a period of unusual fun and frivolity—filled with parties, balls, and fair—before the upcoming solemnity of Lent.

Did you know? February in Polish is *luty*, which comes from the ancient Slavonic word l'utь, meaning severe, cruel, wild—alluding to the weather in February.

CONFUSED ABOUT YOUR 2011 TAXES?

Our speaker at the February General Meeting will be Brother **Ron Olech** a Certified Public Accountant and tax expert. Ron will speak about changes in the tax laws for 2011 and give us suggestions on doing our 2011 tax returns.

INDUCTED TO MEMBERSHIP

We welcome **Robert Martwick** and **Paul Posch**, both sponsored by Brothers **Frank Czaja** and **Thad Makarewicz**, who were sworn in as members at our last meeting. *Witamy*!

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CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

A monthly news bulletin for the Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications **Ted Wiecek**editor@chicagosocietypna.org

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Visit Our Website At www.chicagosocietypna.org

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KEEP TRADITION ALIVE! ATTEND THE ŚLEDŹ

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brothers.

Welcome to the month of February. I hope everyone survived the one big snow that we have had so far. Let's hope the month of February brings us more enjoyable climate. February also brings us Valentine's Day. I hope those of you with sweethearts and wives will take the time to show them you appreciate them and all that they do for you. This year, February also brings with it Lent. So be ready to splurge the first part of the month before most of us give up the p¹ czki . This year is also leap year so we gain that extra day and Brother Ken Gill has his birthday. Sto Lat! to Ken.

I thank everyone who attended the Inaugural Ball and help make it a success. Despite the large snow storm on Friday all the roads were clear and everyone was able to attend. The invocation and the induction of officers by the Most Reverend Andrew Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, and the presentation of the person of the year award to the Honorable Diann Marsalek were the highlights of the evening. I would like to thank Bishop Andrew Wypych for his inspiring words at both the invocation and the induction of officers. Everyone enjoyed the camaraderie and the dancing to the music by Brother Anthony Kawalkowski and his orchestra. It is fair to say everyone had an enjoyable evening and it was an elegant event to start off our one hundred year anniversary celebration. I would like to thank the Ball chairman and co-chairs and everyone on the committee who made this event so successful.

The month of February brings with it our traditional celebration of Tłusty Wtorek (Fat Tuesday). Our annual Śledź is on February 21. Please join us for a night of fun, food, drink and our traditional celebration and the naming of our St. Joseph. Let's all attend and have some fun before the solemn season of Lent. Let us again celebrate our one hundred year anniversary with camaraderie.

Don't forget that February is also the month of love with the celebration of Valentine's day. I hope everyone treats their sweetheart to something special. Whether a dinner out or flowers and candy or just some caring words and thoughts - Happy Valentine's Day to everyone.

Remember to help support our troops by bringing in your old cell phones for the "Cell Phones for Soldiers" project. We are the Chicago Society, join in on all our activities and help us to begin our second one hundred years in grand fashion.

"Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile." – Franklin P. Jones

Fraternally, Frank Czaja



It's official. The members of the Executive Board have been duly sworn in and blessed by Bishop Andrew Wypych and our 100th Anniversary celebration is underway. This will be a very exciting year for the Society. However, in order for it to be successful and memorable, we need the participation of all of our brother members.

We have noticed that attendance at our events has been decreasing. Less than half of our brother members attend the monthly general meetings. Only 15% of our brother members attended the Inaugural Ball. We see this trend at all of our events. As with any organization, the Society is only as strong as its members. All of us come from different walks of life, different economic and social backgrounds. But we all share the desire to foster the ideals of the Society, "good fellowship, to promote the welfare of the community and to advance the civic, social, economic and cultural development of the community" together with our shared Polish heritage.

I challenge each brother member to pledge to attend at least one new event this year. Our Śledź is coming up, a wonderful opportunity to share some good times with your brother members and their friends, to "let your hair down" before the solemnity of Lent. If that's not your style, come to the Picnic, to the Golf Outing, or to any of the various events we host throughout the year. Definitely plan on attending our 100th Anniversary Banquet on October 6, 2012.

If there is an event that you feel would be attractive to our members, please suggest it to any member of the Board. I especially encourage our brother members who are "born later" to take a more active role in the Society.

Hope to see all of you at the Śledź!

2012 INAUGURAL BALL

With the largest snow of the season falling the previous day, many feared that the Chicago Society's 2012 Inaugural Ball would be sparsely attended. However, most of the snow was gone by Saturday and that was not the case. Over 100 members and their guests attended the Ball at Beau Jolie by Victoria in Schiller Park, an elegant hall overlooking O'Hare Airport.

The evening started with cocktails and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, served by the hall's courteous staff. After the guests were seated for dinner, The Most Reverend Andrew P. Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, gave the invocation, acknowledging those that have given their time and talents to make the evening possible, and thanked our honoree of the evening Hon. Diann Marsalek for her sacrifice for residents of the community and Chicago. A gourmet dinner was served, culminating in a fiery extravaganza as the chefs prepared Flaming Bananas Foster in the middle of the room. During dinner, Brother Anthony Kawalkowski strolled among the guests, serenading them with soothing dinner music.

Following dinner, Ball Chairman Brother Mark Orwat thanked everyone for coming. He introduced a number of political and social dignitaries who were present, among them: Cook County Assessor Joseph Barrios, Hon. Tom Lyons, Hon. Ed Marszalek, President of the Illinois Division of the PAC Mary Anselmo, former ald. Carole Bialczak, Secretary of the Polish National Alliance Brother Charles Komosa, President of the Polish Museum of America Maria Ciesla, together with representatives of some of our brother organizations: the Legion of Young Polish Women, the Polish Women's Alliance, Dar Serca, Polish-American Police Association and the Advocates Society.

President Brother Frank Czaja presented the "Person of the Year" award to Hon. Diann Marsalek for outstanding service to the community. In her remarks, Hon. Marsalek recalled how as a child her father would take her to the Society clubhouse, which was where she got to know and respect the Society and its members. The Society has always been close to her heart, she said.

Civic Vice-president Robert Groszek then presented the 2011 Booster Award to Brother Frank Czaja for sponsoring the most new members in 2011. Brother Orwat introduced the officers of the Society for 2012. Bishop Wytych then administered the oath of office to the officers and wished them much success in the coming year. President Brother Czaja officially kicked-off our 100th Anniversary year, wishing the Society greater success in the next 100 years.

Following the official portion of the evening, guests danced to the music of Brother Anthony Kawalkowski and his Orchestra. The orchestra played a variety of tunes - from traditional to contemporary,



The Chicago Society 2012 officers and directors are sworn in by Bishop Andrew P. Wypych.



Honoree Judge Diann Marsalek was presented a plaque by President Czaja, Chairman Orwat and V.P. Grozek

from polkas and waltzes to romantic melodies - to the enjoyment of the guests. The Dancing Crystal Ball is awarded to Brother Marian Skawski and his wife Teresa for dancing non-stop throughout the evening. The Orchestra played its last strains at midnight, and our guests now have another evening to remember.

The Sawa Family invites you to

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2012 OUTSTANDING POLE ABROAD CONTEST

We would like to invite you to participate in the second "Outstanding Pole in the United States" Contest.

The contest is organized by the Polish Promotional Emblem Foundation, known for selecting the best Polish products and services and presenting them with the prestigious award of "Teraz Polska." In the United States, the role of organizer and coordinator of this competition was given to Pangea Alliance. Because this contest spans across the entire United States, the Consulates of the Republic of Poland in New York and Chicago are part of the organizational efforts.

Similar to last year, the main goal of the contest is to create and promote the positive image of Poland through endorsement and support of Polish people living in the USA, people who achieved great accomplishments and succeeded in the country they live in.

The winners of last's year award were: prof. Maria Siemionow, Grażyna Auguścik, Agnieszka Wojtowicz-Vosloo, Janusz Kapusta, Piotr Sikora, and Michał Siwiec.

This competition is divided into two stages: regional and national. The task of the organizing committee is to coordinate promotional efforts on the regional level. The first step is to engage as many people as possible and choose a wide pool of candidates for the award. The second step is to select the most deserving candidates for each category.

Following last's year success, we are hoping to receive nominations for many quality and valued candidates.

The deadline to submit candidates' application forms is March 3rd. They should be sent electronically through the Pangea Alliance website at www.pangealliance.org, or mailed as hard copies to either one of the Consulates of the Republic of Poland in the United States.

Further details of the contest as well as a copy of the application are included in the rules and regulations manual, also available at the above website.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Brother Norbert Barszczewski at 224-717-9891 or electronically at norbert@barszczewski.com. Brother Norbert, Brother Frank Spula and Brother Andrew Pawlowski are members of the committee of experts evaluating nominations in this year's edition of the contest.

New Chicago Society Website

From our Webmaster, Brother **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert**: We are pleased to announce that the completely re-designed Chicago Society website is now available online. Please take a look around and see all the features, including drop-down menus, slideshows, stylized calendars and

Direct-to-YouTube video.

The Member Area will be available soon. It requires additional technology and username/password input.

While you are at the website, note the information about the Śledź and plan to attend. You can even purchase your tickets(s) online. Please recall that a major part of your membership commitment is



participation in Chicago Society events.

Visit us at http://www.chicagosocietypna.org and discover the website for yourself.

ED DERWINSKI, FORMER CABINET MEMBER, DIES

Chicago (PMN)—Former Congressman Ed Derwinski died January 15, 2012, in hospice after a long battle with a rare form of cancer. He was 85 years old.

Derwinski served as the first Cabinet-level United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, serving under President George H. W. Bush from March 15, 1989, to September 26, 1992. He previously served as a member of the United States House of Representatives from 1959 to 1983, representing south and southwest suburbs of Chicago.

He served in the United States Army in the Pacific Theater during World War II and in the postwar U.S. occupation of Japan. He graduated from Loyola University Chicago in 1951. In 1957 he was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives, where he served one term before winning election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1958. He served 12 terms as a Republican representative from the 4th District of Illinois, a suburban region south and west of Chicago, eventually becoming ranking member of the House Foreign Relations Committee. He also served as a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly 1971-1972 and as chairman of the U.S. delegation to the Interparliamentary Union from 1970–1972 and 1978-1980.

After losing his congressional seat to another Republican, President Ronald Reagan appointed him Counselor to the State Department. In 1987, Reagan appointed him Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance, Science and Technology, where he served until the end of Reagan's term, shortly after which he was selected to head the Veteran's Administration.

A Polish American, Derwinski was noted for his efforts on behalf of Eastern Europe throughout his career. Notably, he aided in the rehabilitation of the Serbian Royalist general Draza Mihailovic.

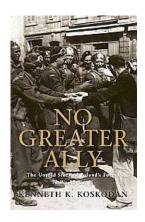
Derwinski served as head of "Ethnic Americans for Dole/Kemp" during the 1996 presidential election.

He resided in Glen Ellyn, Illinois with his wife, the former Bonita Hickey. He had two adult children, Maureen and Michael, from his first marriage to Patricia Derwinski.

NO GREATER ALLY: THE UNTOLD STORY OF POLAND'S FORCES IN WORLD WAR II

There is a chapter of World War 2 history that remains largely untold: the story of the fourth largest Allied military of the war, and the only nation to have fought in the battles of Leningrad, Arnhem, Tobruk and Normandy.

This is the story of the Polish forces during the Second World War, the story of millions of young men and women who gave everything for freedom and in the final victory lost all. In a cruel twist of history, the monu-mental struggles of an



entire nation have been largely forgotten, and even intentionally obscured.

No Greater Ally, by Kenneth K. Koskodan, equalizes the balance, giving a comprehensive overview of Poland's participation in World War 2. Following their valiant but doomed defense of Poland in 1939, members of the Polish armed forces fought with the Allies wherever and however they could. With previously unpublished first-hand accounts, information never before seen in English, and rare photographs, this title provides a detailed analysis of the devastation the war brought to Poland, and the final betrayal when, having fought for freedom for six long years, Poland was handed to the Soviet Union.

No Greater Ally is available in bookstores and online. Thanks to Brother Walter Piecewicz for bringing this book to our attention.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Produced and Distributed by the Polonia Media Network

Polish popular singer Irena Jarocka died on Saturday, January 21, 2012, in Warsaw at the age of 65. After her debut at the Sopot Song Festival in 1968, she had many hits. For many years she lived in the U.S. (most recently Texas) where she gave concerts in many cities, often in support of charity causes. She returned to Poland several years ago.

Poland's unemployment rate reached 12.5% in December 2011, higher by 0.4 percentage points on a month-on-month basis. Unemployment also rose on an annualized basis. Only 34,600 jobs were added in December, 10,300 fewer than in November. The year ended with 1.98 million citizens registered as jobless. The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy reports that in the last four months of 2011 the number of unemployed increased by 128,000.

The editorial board of the CNN special project "CNN Go" has published the list of the most attractive travel destinations in 2012. The "Top Three" places to visit included Southern Korean Yeosu, Antarctica, Ukraine and Poland. Ukraine shares the third position with Poland, thus becoming top European travel destination in 2012, when the two countries will co-host the Euro 2012 European Football Championship. CNN motivates their readers to visit Ukraine and Poland with the catchy "Who doesn't love a major sporting event with 'crazy road trip' written all over it? ... Euro 2012, the 14th European Football Championship, looks like just the ticket."

The EU Parliament's outgoing President, Jerzy Buzek, called on the institution to help

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Phone 773-777-6300 4540-50 W. DIVERSEY AVE. CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60639 promote media freedom "both inside and outside the EU." Speaking on January 9, 2012, Buzek described press freedom as "crucially important. I am particularly aware of this as I am from a country where a democratic media was impossible for decades," he said.

Two Illinois politicians, U.S. Senator Republican Mark Kirk and Democratic Congressman Mike Quigley, headed to Poland for talks with officials about adding the country to the visa waiver program. The program allows travelers to temporarily visit the U.S. without a visa. The politicians said it would be good for Chicago's tourist economy.

CHICAGO SOCIETY PNA JOINS CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS CAMPAIGN

The Chicago Society is supporting the "Cell Phones for Soldiers" program by asking members to bring cell phones and chargers to



the January and February General meetings.

More than 150,000 troops are serving overseas and are away from their families. "Cell Phones for

Soldiers" and the Chicago Society are calling on everyone in the area to support these brave men and women by donating your unused cell phones.

"Cell Phones for Soldiers" was founded by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Berquist from Nowell, Massachusetts, using \$21 of their own money. Since then, the registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization has raised almost \$1 million dollars and distributed more than 5000,000 prepaid calling cards to soldiers serving overseas. The donated phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays "Cell Phones for Soldiers" for each donated phone, enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad with prepaid calling cards.

Please help us support our troops. We will be collecting used cell phones with chargers at our January and February General meetings. This activity is being chaired by Brother **Fred Koziol**, Director of Special Projects. Bring in your cell phones and chargers and give them to Fred at the meetings.

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PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following gentleman has applied for membership in the Chicago Society of the PNA. If any member has an objection regarding the admission of this prospective member, he should contact the Personnel Director prior to the next general meeting. Sponsors are to attend the general meeting in which the new member will be inducted and to introduce him to the Personnel Director and to others before the Induction ceremony.

Name: Joseph D. Dondalski Address: 202 Brampton Lane

Lake Forest, IL 60045

847-736-4790

Occupation: Certified Financial Planner

Birth date: April 10, 1957 Birthplace: Chicago, IL

Education: MBA, Kellog Northwestern

University; CPA, University of Illinois, BSC, DePaul University

Spouse: Mireya Sponsors: Frank Czaja

Thaddeus Makarewicz

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- 1 Francis Gembala James N. Kopka
- 3 Richard W. Wiermanski
- 4 Wictor Drapszo
 Edmund Gronkiewicz
 Michael Spinder, Watson
- 7 Raymond Golenia
- 23 Terrance L. Przybylski
- 26 Gregory M. Kosin Ray Sikora
- 28 William B. Sawicki William Schupp
- 29 Kenneth P.Gill

New Officers of the Chicago Society Foundation

On Monday, January 23, 2012, at the annual meeting of the Chicago Society Foundation, the following were elected to office:

President - Stanley Sawa
Vice President - Walter Piecewicz
Secretary - T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert
Treasurer - Romuald Matuszczak
Congratulations to the new officers and
we wish them all the best.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

Membership dues notices have gone out. Your payment is due March 1. You can make your payment via PayPal in the "Payments" area of our website at http://www.chicagosociety.pna.org.

POLISH TRIVIA

The Oscars will be awarded at the end of the month. Which Pole has won 2 Academy Awards, both for Best Cinematography? If you know the answer, please email it to editor@chicagosocietypna.org. The first person who emails the correct answer will be featured in the next *Forum*.

Answer to January's question: Artur Rubinstein. The correct answer was given by Brother Marian Skawski and Brother Frank Czaja.

THANK YOU FROM "DAR SERCA"

Dear Mr. Czaja,

Thank you for choosing Gift from the Heart Foundation as the recipient of the profits from your Annual Gaming event. Every dollar

Gift from the Heart / Dar Serca

raised is badly needed in helping the children under the care of the Foundation.

We are looking forward to 2012 with a new vision and energy

that will enable us to make new projects come to life and be successful, assist lots of children with medical treatments they need as well as we hope to enrich lives of local children with the programs we are offering.

Sponsors like yourself are a core of any charitable organization so we are truly honored that we can have you among the Foundation's patrons and friends. On behalf of the children and all of us at the Foundation, I thank you.

Dorothy Malachowski

President, Gift from the Heart Foundation

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FROM THE ANNALS OF THE CHICAGO SOCIETY

One organization, the Chicago Society, illustrates particularly well both the aspirations and the frustrations of Polonia at this time. The Chicago Society was originally founded in 1912 as a local affiliate of the Polish National Alliance; but, in the early twenties, its leaders broke off from the PNA and attempted to make the society an independent organization of Polish-American professional men. The society envisioned two broad goals for itself: enhancement of ethnic solidarity and the winning of greater recognition for outstanding Polish-Americans. In many ways it was carrying on the traditional work of Polish-American organizations, attempting to realize the Polonia ideal by drawing together the fragmented Polish communities in Chicago.

But in its emphasis on professional people, its complete divorce from church influence, and its breach from the established PNA affiliation, the Chicago Society was clearly trying to chart a new course. The society published its own weekly newspaper, containing commentary on current business. social, and political affairs and eventually opened its own hall on Humboldt Boulevard, which was also used by other cultural and professional groups founded in the twenties. The society's membership reached a high point of five hundred, including many of the most influential Chicago Poles. A former president of the society, in reminiscing about its history, stated that the numerous Negro organizations of the present day which are striving for black power and-recognition remind him of the early militancy of his Organization. However, Polish-Americans did not attain the degree of unity that blacks have been forced to maintain. The Chicago Society was unsuccessful in wielding any influence in the city as a whole and- it eventually reestablished a tie with the PNA and became just another local member association of that organization.

 $\label{thm:excerpted} Excerpted from \textit{Polish-American Power:} \\ \textit{Hopes and Realities.}$

MEMBERS' ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate brother member Mark Cwiakala, who is celebrating the 20^{th} anniversary of his induction this month.

COPERNICAN AWARD TO DONALD GUTOWSKI

Over 100 devoted friends braved the fierce snowstorm of January 20 and attended the opening of the Copernicus Center Annex and presentation of the Copernican Award to Brother **Donald Gutowski**. Brother Gutowski served as President of the Copernicus Foundation for 3 years and still remains on its Board of Directors, taking an active role in all aspects of the Center's operations and activities.

In his remarks, Brother Gutowski said," The Civic and Cultural Center exists today because of the volunteers, donors, and supporters ... I feel privileged to accept this award on [their] behalf."

Congratulations to Brother Don on an award so richly deserved.

[Don and Lucille at right]





LET'S HAM IT UP

Since Easter this year falls before our April general meeting, we will be having our

Annual Ham Raffle at the March meeting. Details are being worked out as to the best way of having hams available to the winners



before Easter. If there are any questions, you may contact House Director Ro Matuszczak at 847-635-0883 or cmatco@gmail.com. Further information will be in the March Forum.

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OSU PRESIDENT GORDON GEE INSULTS POLISH ARMY

Chicago (PMN)—In response to an inquiry from the *Columbus Dispatch* (Ohio), the Polish American Congress (PAC) released a statement on January 12, 2012, protesting remarks by Ohio State University President Gordon Gee, reported on January 11.

Gee's remarks as reported were:

"... in a question-and-answer session, Gee referred to the problem of coordinating 18 divisions such as independent schools and colleges. 'When we had these 18 colleges all kind of floating around, they were kind of like PT Boats, they were shooting each other,' Gee said. 'It was kind of like the Polish army or something. I have no idea what it was.' As nervous laughter arose in the audience of a couple hundred listeners at a Columbus Metropolitan Club monthly forum, Gee said, 'Oh, never mind, who did I embarrass now?' A moment later he said: 'I'll have to raise money for Poland now.' Gee did not apologize afterward, and stumbled a bit in responding to questions about the propriety of the remark.

The PAC released a statement to the *Columbus Dispatch*, dated January 12, 2012, as follows:

"The Polish American Congress is shocked by the slanderous analogy used by Ohio State University President Gordon Gee and his slur on the military of a nation that has been fighting valiantly and effectively alongside the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan. Poland not only has a capable military, but also is strong economically and does not need money being raised for it. We are dismayed by the bigotry and ignorance expressed by the President of such a large and prominent American university, especially since Ohio has a large Polish-American population and many OSU students are of Polish heritage. President Gee needs to apologize for his remarks."

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