



# The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 70

June 2019

NUMBER 6

## COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

June General Meeting  
White Eagle Events &  
Convention Center  
6:00 pm

RESERVATIONS

by June 17 to

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

or (847) 635-0883 or

<https://www.chicagosocietypna.org>

Monday, July 1, 2019

July Board Meeting  
D'Agostino's Pizza and Pub  
Park Ridge - 6:00 pm

FORUM Deadline

Send all articles to

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

Friday, July 12, 2019

Annual Golf Outing  
Carriage Green Country Club  
Darien, IL  
11:30 am

October 2019

Corned Beef and  
Cabbage Dinner  
Date and Location TBA

## June 2019 Meeting and Speaker

The speaker for our June general meeting is our very own Brother Ken Kogut, whose new book - Words to Live By: (a Not All Inclusive Look at Life in Words) is now available on Amazon.com.

Brother Ken maintains a professional energy and management consulting practice serving clients in the commercial, industrial, institutional, and governmental sectors. A man of letters, he is a registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) in several states, currently holds a number of certifications in the energy field, is an active instructor in the energy field, received a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree and a Master of Engineering degree from the University of Detroit, and has also received a Ph.D. from Lacrosse University in Engineering

*Continued on page 5*

## Chicago Society Golf Outing



Please join us for our annual golf outing on Friday, July 12, 2019 at the Carriage Greens Country Club located at 8700 Carriage Greens Drive, Darien, IL 60561.

Registration and check-in starts at 11:30 am with the Shotgun scramble starting at 1:00 pm sharp. Lunch will be provided and supplemented with a fleet of beverage carts patrolling the golf course, and other surprises. Please join us after golf for open bar and dinner.

We are planning for the world-famous grand raffle with a possibility to win Bears pre-season tickets and a 50/50 raffle! Any prize donations would be greatly appreciated. Closest to the pin, longest drive and a few other goodies are planned for golfers.

**All for the low cost of \$125 per golfer or \$50 for only dinner/open bar**

To reserve your golf foursomes please contact Brother **Adam Konopka**, Event Chairman and 1st Vice President at [akonopka@dowdanddowd.com](mailto:akonopka@dowdanddowd.com) or 312-762-9540 or register online at the Chicago Society website at <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/golf-outing>. Individual golfers also welcome. Payment can be made via check or PayPal.

There are several sponsorships available for this year's event.

*Continued on page 8*



## CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

A monthly news bulletin for the Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications  
[editor@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:editor@chicagosocietypna.org)

Visit Our Website At  
[www.chicagosocietypna.org](http://www.chicagosocietypna.org)

### CHICAGO SOCIETY P.N.A. 2019 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

**Directors of Outreach:**

Zenon Kurdziel

**Director of Personnel:**

Charles Cwiakala

**Director of Publications:**

Christopher Grzadziel

Dear Brothers,

HAPPY SUMMER!!

We have officially made it into June. Now I hope that the warmth of Summer will finally come up North. That said, many of us will be going on vacations, so I wish all Safe and happy travels. We had an excellent turn out for our May meeting which featured our own brother member **Ro Matuszczak** who spoke to us, and even brought a rifle, about his experience in the U.S. Marine Corp fighting overseas. To Brother Ro, to all our current and past Brother members, and to the sons and daughters who are serving and have served in the Military, we say THANK YOU once again for your bravery. Hope all of us had a chance to lay a flag or two on a Veterans grave and said a prayer for them. I took my family to Maryhill Cemetery to join the Polish Scouts in a remembrance of those soldiers and to show them what the true meaning of Memorial Day is all about.



And now we approach our Summer months, which typically are our quite months but Brother **Tony Kawalkowski** has some events planned for us. First is our Golf Outing, which is Chaired by Brother **Adam Konopka** with help from Brother **Rick Wiermanski**. It's planned for July 12th at Carriage Greens in Darien. Back to our familiar site and where we had great events and fun. I hope we can get a great turnout from our Brother members and I hope each of us can bring a friend or 2. Tickets are at a low cost of \$125/person which is pretty cheap compared to other outings. Also we are looking for hole sponsorships as well as bar cart sponsorships. I heard that Brother Konopka has a few surprises for us this year. Our other event planned for end of July is a Chicago Cubs outing. This is being Chaired by Brother Kawalkowski and tickets are limited. This event is just to hang out with friends, enjoy a baseball game, and have a good time. Don't wait too long as tickets will sell fast.

So please be safe in your travels near or far. Let our publisher know where you were and get us an article so that we may enjoy your stories. See you soon.

Sincerely, Brother **Peter Dykas**



## KULZE SCHOLARSHIP

As most of our membership is aware, former Chicago Society President, now deceased, Jim Kulze, and his wife, Lillian, generously endowed a scholarship fund as part of the Chicago Society Foundation that would be available for meaningful scholarships to worthy college and graduate school candidates with financial need. The Committee selected Emily Bienasz, attending Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts, Veronica Materna and Karolina Truskowska, both attending Loyola University in Chicago, as the 2019 Kulze Scholars. Each will receive \$7,500. Their essays are being printed in several Forums.

### This month is the essay from Emily Bienasz.

For as long as I can remember, it has always been a goal of mine to find a way to make a positive impact on the lives of many. The opportunity to connect with people struggling through dark times and helping guide them back towards a light of hope is what inspires me to work in the medical field. I knew by the age of 14 that I had the compassion, work ethic, and integrity needed to someday be a leader in the field as a physician assistant. The fire of desire to become an advanced practice provider and give back to people has not demised but continues to grow furiously as I continue to immerse myself into a profession filled with great humbleness.

People have always characterized me as a grateful, driven, and empathetic individual, qualities that seem to come naturally to me. However, I cannot take credit for these traits without recognizing my background and role models who instilled me with these values. Growing up, I was surrounded by selflessness, perseverance and sacrifice. My parents were very young when they decided to leave behind everything and everyone they knew during a time of economic hardships in Poland. They came to America seeking for a new life of freedom and opportunity. Their success in America was not simply given to them; they had to work long and hard so that my family could live the comfortable lifestyle we live today.

My education has always been a priority to my parents, parents who overworked themselves to make sure my siblings and I were given the opportunity to do anything our hearts desired. My parents' emphasis on perseverance has helped me through all my years in school, even when I was set back in high school by a debilitating disease. The uncertainty my future held after the diagnosis of the chronic illness was not a worry any teenage child would want to have on her mind. However, with time, I was able to understand the role this illness played in my life. Rather than pushing me back, I was able to move forward and use the experience to better understand the medical field. It was then that I knew I wanted to become a physician assistant. As a patient, I understood the frustration and fear that races through a patient's head. At 14, I knew what type of providers were needed in healthcare. I wanted to utilize these experiences and work to better the emotional care of others. My experiences drove me to volunteer in the field and work hard to earn a spot in the top 1% of my class. It was difficult balancing volunteer hours, academics and sports on top of taking care of my health. However, the perseverance and sacrifice my parents taught me made me realize that it would be better in time, and they were right. All the hard work paid off with my acceptance into a prestigious direct entry physician assistant program at my top school choice, Springfield College.

Academically, I have always pushed myself to be the best and work to understand the material. Pushing myself to double minor in Chemistry and Nutrition and work over 1,000 patient care hours, I believed that I was a well-rounded student. My passion for medicine used to make me gravitate toward courses and activities that were science oriented. I had no desire to expand past my comfort zone to learn about other topics, such as art and history. I did not realize that I had been slowly isolating myself from the world outside of science and medicine. I made it a goal to change that mindset when I realized how limited my time was as an undergraduate student. At my college, there are a wide range of academic opportunities that allow me to

### June Birthdays

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



- 04 Jan S Plachta
- 10 Casey Baczynski
- 16 Stanley M Jendzjec
- 16 Adam J Augustynski
- 20 Bernard L Pacyniak
- 28 Donald V Versen Sr.

### June Anniversaries

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following Brothers on their anniversary of being inducted into the Chicago Society.

Brother **Jon Osada** is celebrating his **5th Anniversary**.

Brother **Stuart A Sawa** is celebrating his **35th Anniversary**.

Thank you for your loyal membership & **STO LAT!**

### Summer Dress Code

Summer dress code is in effect from May to September for the General Meetings. Summer dress code includes casual shirt and slacks. Suits/sport coats are no longer required. Shorts, jeans and gym shoes are NOT permitted.

### Inducted Into Membership

During the May general meeting three gentlemen were inducted into membership. Inducted into membership were Theodore Kozelka, Andrew Noyszewski and James Robaczewski. *Witamy!!*



### Foundation Donates to PAA

During the May General Meeting, the Chicago Society Foundation presented a check for \$10,000 to the Polish American Association. Accepting the donation was Magdalena Dolas. The PAA was founded by the Chicago Society in 1922. The PAA is the nation's only human services organization providing a comprehensive range of bilingual and bicultural services to the Polish community and others in need.



### AROUND THE SOCIETY

Brother **Voytek Putz** and the Chicago Chopin Foundation once again presented the “Wielki Koncert Konstytucyjny” at the future site of the Chopin Gardens. The concert followed the Polish Constitution Day parade. Year over year the concert is becoming more popular and well attended. Congratulations!

Deepest sympathies to Brother **Ron Osioł** on the passing of his wife Rita. The funeral mass was held on May 6th. May she rest in peace.

Please keep Brother **Francis Gembala** in your prayers as he goes through chemo therapy treatments for cancer.

Brother **Mario Mikoda** is looking for volunteer bartenders for Taste of Polonia over the Labor Day weekend. The following slots are open: 8/31 (12pm-5pm, 5pm-10:30pm), 9/1 (12pm-5pm, 5pm-10:30pm), 9/2 (12pm-5pm, 5pm-9:30pm). If you are interested, please contact Kamila Sumelka at [kamila.s@copernicuscenter.org](mailto:kamila.s@copernicuscenter.org).

*Continued from page 3*

## KULZE SCHOLARSHIP

utilize resources to access field outside my studies that I may not be able to pursue after graduation. In effort to become a more versatile student, I decided to take advantage of these resources. This Spring semester, I will be studying abroad in Poland.

Although I am someone who is proud of my Polish heritage, I only know of the Poland my parents would tell me about. I have been to Poland a fair number of times, a few times with my family and another time on a Polish School field trip. However, I never felt truly connected with my history. Given the opportunity to study abroad, I will be able to go to Poland not only for a family vacation, but for six months where I will be privileged to study at one of the most reputable universities. Most importantly, I will be immersed in the culture of my ancestry and truly understand what it means to be Polish. This opportunity to go abroad and study history, art, and culture is a chance to step outside of my comfort zone and develop my personality. I will be able to find new interests, expose myself to difference experiences, and connect with my past. All of these possibilities will continue to help me develop the skills needed to become a well rounded individual.

I am blessed to have the opportunity to get my bachelor's in Health Science / Pre Physician Assistant Studies and be guaranteed a seat in graduate school. The diligence and genuineness that I have adapted from my parents' personalities will help me achieve the academic success I need to someday become a professional and reliable physician assistant. As a physician assistant, I have the opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of many. Medicine is as much of an art as it is a science when practiced well. I do not want to be a physician assistant to treat an illness or a chart, I want to be a physician assistant who is needed to treat a sick human being who is looking for warmth, sympathy, and understanding. I hope to never stop caring for others with empathy and devotion. Ultimately, my goal as a physician assistant is to continue longing for the experience of joy that I get in healing those who seek my help.

## June 2019 Meeting and Speaker

*Continued from page 1*

Management. In addition to his educational and professional achievements, he also served in the military, in the U.S. Naval Reserves (USNR).

When not in a classroom or working, Brother Ken enjoys golf, wine, and fine dining, along with professional, social, and community activities. His personal interests include history related readings, along with readings associated with individuals involved with contributions to science, engineering, world activities, and personal endeavors.

Brother Kogut has graciously accepted our invitation to speak about the book and his inspiration in writing it. He will have copies with him for purchase and autograph following the presentation. Please join me in supporting our brother member at the June meeting!

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at White Eagle Events & Convention Center, 6839 N Milwaukee Ave, Niles, IL 60714. Cocktail hour starts at 6:00 pm with the dinner meeting starting at 7:00 pm. Please contact Brother **Ro Matuszczak** at [meeting@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:meeting@chicagosocietypna.org) or call (847) 635-0883 for reservations. You can also RSVP by going to the Chicago Society website. All members must be current in their dues to attend the meeting! At each general monthly meeting, we offer and split a 50/50 raffle for the members. Please consider asking your wife or accountant for a few extra dollars to purchase \$5.00 or more in raffle tickets. Based on a resolution voted in by the Officers and Directors, all proceeds from the raffles will be placed into a special Youth Fund.

## Polish Constitution Day Pre-Parade Brunch Round-Up

The Chicago Society held its Annual Pre-Parade Brunch on Saturday, May 4, 2019, celebrating the Polish Constitution at the Chicago Hilton. Chairman Ro Matuszczak opened the brunch and welcomed the guests. He then introduced his Co-Chair Zenon Kurdziel, Chicago Society Director of Outreach. Walter Piecewicz, Chicago Society Advocate and Chicago Society Foundation Scholarship Chairman, presented a Scholarship to Veronica Materna with a check for \$7,500.00. He also mentioned the two other scholarship winners Emily Bienasz and Karolina Truszkowska who each received a check for \$7,500.00.

Brother Stanley Sawa, a U. S. Army Veteran, who served from 1967 to 1969, said the Pledge of Allegiance. His Excellency Andrew Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago was called on to say the Invocation. During the brunch, introduction of persons present was made. Called upon to speak were the following: Jan Kopec, Parade Committee Chairman and President of the Alliance of Polish Clubs; Grand Marshal Jozef Cikowski, President of the Polish Highlanders, and introduced were Vice Marshal Andrew Przybylo, Mayor of Niles, and Dominic Pacyga, Professor Emeritus at Columbia College of Chicago. Also called to speak: James Robaczewski, President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America; Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs; Maria Pappas, Cook County Treasurer and Friend of Polonia for 2019; Consul General of Poland Piotr Janicki, and Polish Vice Consul Piotr Semeniuk, Section for the Cooperation with the Polish Community.

There were numerous guests present: Diann Marsalek, Supervisory Judge of the Traffic Section Circuit Court of Cook County; the following judges: Hon. Lynn Weaver Boyle, Hon. Steven Kozicki, Hon. Daniel Kubasiak, Hon. Kerrie Maloney Laytin, Hon. James Pieczonka, Hon. Ursula Walewski and Hon. Dan Tiernan; Marta Almodovar, Office of Accessibility and Education Outreach for the Office of the Chief Judge; Robert Radkowski, Vice President, Head of the Midwest District of the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union; the following Aldermen were present: Ariel Reboyras, 30th Ward; 2017 Friend of Polonia, Gilbert Villegas, 36th Ward; Felix Cardona, 31st Ward and Chris Taliaferro, 29th Ward. Also present Arthur Zadrozny, Alderman of the 4th Ward from Des Plaines, Illinois; Michael Niedzinski, President Illinois Division, Polish American Congress; from the Polish Roman Catholic Union Misia Jaminski, Vice President and Daniel Bastrzyk, Secretary/Treasurer; Justice of the Appellate Court, Aurelia Pucinski; President of the Polish American Medical Society, Dr. Marek Rudnicki; Jolanta K. Waltos of Radio Station SOHO; Dorota Malachowska, President of the Gift From The Heart Organization/Dar Serca; Waldemar Czerpak, President of the Polish American Contractors and Builders Association; Halina Bielowicz, Chairman, Polish American Women's Action Committee; Dan Patlak, Commissioner Cook County Board of Review; Camille Kopielski, Chairman Lira Ensemble; Margaret Ptaszynska of Polvision and Polish radio; from LOT Polish Airlines; Rafal Milczarski, Chief Operating Officer; Stanley Koczen, President Polish American Chamber of Commerce; Robert Groszek representing the Copernicus Foundation; Bogdan Puksza, Executive Director, Polish American Chamber of Commerce; representing the Polish National Alliance, Mary Srodon, Director of Sports Activities – President Frank Spula was in Poland; last year's Grand Marshal Tom Startek, CEO of Startech Glass, Inc.; Parade Queen Zameta Marcinik, 1st Runner-Up Natalia Salamon, Miss Congeniality Alina Bosak; Polish Highlander Queen Dorota Mniszak; President of the Adult Cultural Club; PRCU Edward Muszaliki, sponsors of the Cinderella Ball: this year's Cinderella Klaudia Widur and Prince Charming, Aleksander Sacinski, Runners Up were Krystyna Burdzy and Artur Rykala; Tomasz and Anna Wojdyla, owners of Lone Tee Manor; Bogdan Dola, President Polish American Foundation as well as Woytek Putz, President of the Chicago Chopin Foundation.

The Chicago Society marchers were Stan Sawa, Terry Przybylski, Zenon Kurdziel, Stanley Skoczen, Fred Koziol, Mark Kupiec and Andrew Haszlakiewicz. This was Ro Matuszczak's 42nd year as Charman of the event. Special thanks to Chris Matuszczak, who again assisted Ro in the preparation of the event as well as Marie Jeanne Kurdziel, wife of Co-Chair Zenon Kurdziel, in assisting Chris at the reception deck. Weather for the day was great. The day was a success!

## Pictures From the Brunch and Parade



Continued from page 1

### Chicago Society Golf Outing

**\$550 — Event Sponsor** - Includes tee box sponsor signage and name/logo at registration table and on scorecards

**\$350 — Beverage Cart Sponsor** - Includes Tee Box Signage and Beverage Cart Signage

**\$100 — Hole Sponsor** - Includes sign with name/logo displayed at tee box

Tee box signs will be 11"x17". A portion of all proceeds will be used to directly support the Youth of Polonia! The deadline for registration, payment and tee sign logos is July 1st.

Thank you to those that have already pledged to sponsor the event and a special thank you to our 1<sup>st</sup> Event Sponsor – Hart Dental!

The golf outing flyer can be downloaded at

[https://  
www.chicagosocietypna.org/golf-outing-flyer](https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/golf-outing-flyer).

#### RONALD J. OLECH

Certified Public Accountants

Tax Preparation and Planning for:  
Individuals

Accounting Tax and Business Planning for:  
Small Businesses, "Start-Up" Businesses,

Cottage Industry, Computer Counseling  
Ronald J. Olech, CPA

3939 N. Lawndale Ave., Chicago, IL 60618

Tel: (773) 267-0560

Fax: (773) 267-2420

E-mail: rolechcpa@aol.com

or rolech4042@aol.com



### THE SKAJA FAMILY

Family owned and  
operated  
Serving out community  
for 84 years

Jack Skaja and John Skaja  
Members

#### SKAJA TERRACE FUNERAL HOME

7812 N Milwaukee Avenue  
Niles, Illinois 60714  
847-966-7302

#### SKAJA BACHMANN FUNERAL HOME

7715 W. Route 14  
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60012  
815-455-2233

### CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

6348 N. Milwaukee Avenue, #360  
Chicago, IL 60646-3728

#### ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



FIRST CLASS MAIL