



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Group 1450 PNA

Celebrating 100 Years of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 63

MAY 2012

NUMBER 5

DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

WEDNESDAY

May 16, 2012

6:00 P.M.

**White Eagle Banquets
6839 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Niles, Illinois**

RESERVATIONS

BY MAY 14

**TO 847-635-0883 OR
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org**

ARE MANDATORY

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

**Monday, June 4, 7:00 P.M.
Folak's Lincoln Tavern**

COMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, May 16—
General Dinner Meeting
White Eagle Banquets, Niles**

**Wednesday, June 20—
General Dinner Meeting
White Eagle Banquets, Niles**

**Friday, July 6—
Golf Outing
Carriage Greens CC, Darien**

MARK KUPIEC TO SPEAK ABOUT YOUR REAL ESTATE TAXES

Brother **Mark Kupiec** will be the speaker at the May General Meeting. Brother Mark is an attorney who has concentrated his practice in Zoning Law and related issues in Chicago for over 20 years.

He will talk on the real estate tax assessment process including: real estate tax computation, the assessment process, the triennial assessment cycle, Chicago 2012, assessment appeals, Board of Review, tax bills, exemptions, and answer any questions you may have. (Please see article elsewhere in this issue for more information.)

GARY KENZER, PRESIDENT OF PAA, SPEAKS AT APRIL MEETING

Our speaker at the April meeting was Brother **Gary Kenzer**, president of the Polish American Association. He began his talk by stating that the Polish Welfare Association was founded 90 years ago by the Chicago Society. It was originally founded to try to fight delinquency, which was prevalent among Polish youth at that time. Life was harsh for Polonians at that time in other areas as well, including alcoholism, poverty. As Brother Kenzer said in his talk, in a quote from Merrill F. Krughoff, a graduate student at the University of Chicago, "It was generally agreed that the problem of juvenile delinquency must be attacked early and in the home—a task which could be accomplished with a measure of success only by a Polish agency." A comment by T. J. Szmergalski, Secretary of the Polish Welfare Association at that time, is appropriate still now: "By working quietly, cautiously and effectively we hope to win the confidence of the English and Polish public, and hope thereby to have the results achieved speak for us."

The Stock Market Crash of 1929 brought a new set of problems, not only for Polonians, but for society at-large. PWA services, although still desperately needed, were drastically curtailed. However, service was never eliminated. The focus of the PWA at that time turned to a variety of areas. First and most important was casework service. Second was the interpretive service by which family welfare and other agencies are aided in their work with the Polish group. Third, various kinds of educational and public city work. Fourth, the Association helped promote a high grade of recreational and group work.

World War II and its aftermath "had a tremendous effect on Polish Americans. At the same time it brought a renewed immigration that pumped fresh blood into the struggling ethnic consciousness and rejuvenated Polish neighborhoods, at least for a short while. Change was on the way, and in the already established tradition, PWA was ready to embrace that change. Freedom has been a rallying cry for Poles throughout history."

The Polish Welfare Association, as it was known since 1955, was chartered as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1976. Its name was changed to "The Polish American Association" in 1996. Today, the PAA has a budget of \$5.3 million; its work is divided in a number of divisions: social services, supportive services, employment, education, education, and housing. Brother Kenzer ended his talk by addressing a fundamental question about the PAA's future: "How do we meet the challenges of tomorrow while having diminishing financial resources?" The PAA is currently looking at various ways to ensure its future in serving the needs of Chicago's Polonia.

Following his talk, Brother Kenzer was inducted as a member of the Chicago Society, dedicating himself to the welfare of his fellow men. This he is already fulfilling.



CHICAGO
SOCIETY
Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?

PRESIDENT' MESSAGE

Gentlemen,

I would like to thank everyone who attended our April meeting and helped celebrate our 100th anniversary by sharing in the cake and song and brotherhood. If you do not already know, our official "birthday" is April 19. Kudos to Brother **Ted Wiecek** for discovering this information. Thank you to House Director Brother **Matuszczak** for supplying us with a beautiful cake for the occasion. Also, I hope everyone enjoyed our meeting at the House of the White Eagle. This will be our main meeting place for the time being. Thank you to Brother **Andy Przybylo** for accommodating us. I hope everyone is enjoying our unusually nice spring.

Now it is May, and, as they say, all the April rain will brighten up the days with the May flowers. I know this was certainly true for Polish Constitution Day. I would like to thank all the brother members and their families and friends who joined us for a wonderful pre-parade brunch at the Conrad Hilton. A great time and a wonderful experience was had by all. Not only did our members attend the event but also dignitaries and politicians as well as representatives of many other Polish organizations. Thanks to everyone for their support. I would especially like to thank Brother **Ro Matuszczak** and his charming wife Chris along with their committee for all the hard work to make this possible. I would like to give a big thank you to all those who marched in the parade and rode on the float and enjoyed the day with the music by the Polka Generations, who entertained both us and the crowd. Thank you for letting everyone know that we are The Chicago Society P.N.A.

I would like to congratulate the 2011 winners of The Chicago Society of the P.N.A. scholarship essay contest. The First Place winner was Mark Pawlas, the Second Place winner was Christopher Thomas Kozlowski, and the Third Place winner was Brittany Kowalski. We certainly all give our thanks to Brother **Ken Gill** along with his committee for all of the time and hard work in making this possible.

Now it is time to start looking forward to the summer months and some good outdoor fun and companionship. So, gentlemen, start your engines (golf carts that is) and head out for the shotgun start at our annual golf outing. Whether your golf game is good, bad or other, get your foursomes together and join us for a day of fun. Help our scholarship fund while you enjoy a day out. Let us be the best we can be, in this, our second hundred years as The Chicago Society of the P.N.A.

"The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May." (Edwin Way Teale).

Fraternally,
Frank Czaja



Sto lat! On April 19, 2012, the Chicago Society turned 100 years old. We observed this milestone at the April General Meeting with a birthday cake. Your editor trusts that the readers have been following "From the Annals of the Chicago Society," a feature which has been appearing—

and will continue to appear—every month of this, our Jubilee Year. As you read the history of the Society—your Society—is important to understand the social and economic conditions that existed when the Society was formed and thrived. As you continue to read the history over the next months, your editor hopes the members understand and appreciate how influential the Society has been over the past 100 years, offering aid and support to the needy of Polonia: orphans, delinquent youth, homeless, veterans, and a host of charities. Certainly, Polonia, and society as a whole, have changed dramatically in the past 100 years. The needs of our community haven't gone; rather, they too have changed. Our service to our community is still needed, as much as—if not more than—before. It is incumbent on us members to continue this rich tradition of commitment to brotherhood and service that is the Chicago Society.

CHICAGO SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

2ND PLACE WINNER – CHRISTOPHER THOMAS KOZLOWSKI

How would you persuade a person of Polish descent to get involved in Polonia Organizations?

Every day around my campus I am faced with the task of representing myself and the organizations I am a part of to potential new members. I am a member of a social fraternity and also a member of the Honors College at my university. There are always opportunities to persuade my peers to join these organizations and I believe that I am successful in doing so. If I was trying to persuade a person of Polish descent to get involved in Polonia Organizations I would use some of the same tactics that I use for my other organizations.

First, I would point out the professional benefits of getting involved in a Polonia organization. I would talk about how there are many professional business connections that can be made through joining. There are countless successful people in these organizations and developing a professional relationship with them can only increase one's odds of being successful. These organizations are a great way to network with other people in the area and make reliable connections for the future. Those who are heavily involved in Polonia organizations will always want to help other people of Polish descent in any way possible.

Next, I would talk about the social and traditional aspects of being a part of Polonia organizations. Aside from developing professional relationships through these organizations there are opportunities to develop lifelong friendships with other Polish people. Everyone likes to have a good time, especially with people who share the same beliefs and have similar backgrounds. Joining a Polish organization would add that traditional Polish heritage to one's life and help create a tighter knit group of Polish-Americans.

All in all I would talk about the professional and relational benefits of being part of an organization of people with so much pride in where they came from. There is really no downside to joining a Polonia Organization and I hope it would be evident to any Polish-American who is looking to connect with other people of Polish descent.



Christopher Kozlowski and Frank Czaja
at the Pre-Parade Brunch

POLISH TRIVIA

Who is the highest-ranking official of the Federal government to ever participate in Chicago's Constitution Day observances?

Answer to April's question: Mike Krukow, starting pitcher for the Cubs, was known as "The Polish Prince." Congratulations to Brother **Marian Skawski** (an avid Cubs fan) for submitting the correct answer.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- June 2..... Polish American Day,
Six Flags Great America
- June 8..... Polish Museum of America
Summer Ball, Rosewood Banquets
- June 21..... Chicago Society
"Texas Hold 'em", Przybylo's
- July 3.. Polish American Night, US Cellular
Field
- July 6 Chicago Society Golf Outing,
Carriage Greens Country Club
- Aug. 19 Chicago Society "Family and
Friends" picnic, Busse Woods
- Oct. 6 Chicago Society
100th Anniversary Banquet, Przybylo's

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE 2012 ELECTIONS

Yes it is only May; however, it is time to think about the nominating committee for the 2012 elections. According to the Constitution, "at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors in August, the President with the approval of the Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee of five members and two alternates, all members in good standing, none of whom shall be a current officer or director. No member shall be eligible to serve on the nominating committee who has served in that capacity for the previous two consecutive years." Therefore, anyone interested in being on this committee please see President **Czaja** after the May meeting or email him. Also, if you would be interested in being the head of the committee let him know. We are entering our second one hundred years so this committee is an important step in helping us guide our future.

POLAND GOING GREEN

A massive number of sustainable, green developments are currently underway in Eastern Central Europe, according to a new report from agency Jones Lang LaSalle. Warsaw has by far the largest number of properties among countries in the region, with around 4.3 million square feet of green building space under construction.



National Volunteer Week was celebrated in April as a national civic tradition. Hines Veterans Hospital observed this week with a special banquet at Crystal Sky in McCook, Illinois. Brother **Frank Gondela** received an award at this banquet in recognition of the many years of service he has given. Congratulations Brother Frank!

Three of our members were recently elected to positions with the Polish American Congress. Brother **Ken Gill** was elected Corresponding Secretary, Brother **Marian Skawski** was elected a National Director, and Brother **Walter Zarnecki** was elected a Vice-president. Our congratulations to all and we wish them success in these positions.

Brother **Hubert Cioromski** is running for director of the Polish-Slavic Credit Union. If he wins he would be the first from Chicago. Please support our Brother. It would be very beneficial to our community to have a director on their board. Note: you must be a depositor or customer of the Credit Union to vote for him.

President Brother **Frank Czaja** (at right) along with his wife Darlene attended the opening reception of "Art of Association: Modern Polish Posters" at the Polish Museum of America, Chicago on Friday April 13, 2012. The wonderful poster art produced by Polish artists was truly impressive. Also attending was Brother **Andy Pawlowski**, representing the Museum.

Tie bar found! A Brother member left a tie bar on the table at the April meet-

FROM THE ANNALS OF THE CHICAGO SOCIETY

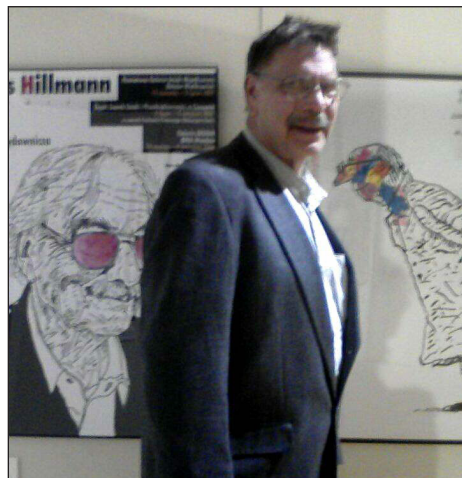
The Society began functioning with twenty-nine Charter Members, but its growth has been steady, until now [1925] it boasts of a membership of 500 wide-awake young men. They are mainly professionals and business men. Here you will find doctors, lawyers, engineers, merchants, managers, printers, dentists, bankers, salesmen, realtors, etc. The presidents of the Society have been: Frank A. Osuch, Michael Kitkowski, Marion G. Kudlick, Leo S. Malick, and the present incumbent Leon C. Nyka. The Society has been the first to hold a joint Lincoln-Kościuszko Celebration in February, which has been a wonderful factor in disseminating the seeds of patriotism and emphasizing the kinship of ideals between the great American Emancipator and the Polish battler for freedom.

For its own benefit and pleasure it arranges numerous dances, picnics, parties, luncheons, dinner dances, card and bunco parties, stags, entertainments with professional and home talent, which are delightfully enjoyed by the member and their friends. One of our presidents has sophistically stated in the Sept. 1922 issue of the Chicago Society News, viz: "We, as an organization, could claim very little credit as we were only arranging affairs for our own benefit and pleasure." The Chicago Society has consequently done more than simply minister to pleasures of its members. It has arranged for an annual Orphan Children's Automobile Outing and Picnic, Orphan Children's Halloween Party, and Annual Charity Ball. In this noble work of helping the needy, the Chicago Society, among the Polish-American units, has taken the initiative and inspired others to do the same. It has heartily supported the endeavors of the "Polish Welfare Association for the Care of Polish Delinquent Youth," the aim of which is to look out after the numerous juvenile cases among our nationality in regard to humanitarian and delinquent tendencies



FRANK A. OSUCH
First President of
the Chicago Society

.Excerpted from *Chicago Society News* from 1925 (forerunner of *The Forum*)



ing (I hope that's all he took off). It has a round blue emblem. If you are the owner, please contact Ted at editor@chicagosociety.pna.org or call him at 773-562-8006.

Brother members, please remember to ...

... **donate your cell phones** and charger to the "Cell Phones for Soldiers: program.

... **bring your old, unusable flags**, USA or any other national flag, for proper disposal

**DID YOU MAKE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?**



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WITAJ, MAJOWA JUTRZENKO!

For the 121st consecutive year, Chicago's Polonia celebrated the Polish Constitution of 1791 with a massive parade on Chicago's lakefront on Saturday, May 5. Despite the dreary weather, close to 100 units participated in the Parade, spanning many generations—from the veterans to the children. There were units from as far away as Milwaukee and Minneapolis. There was even a contingent from Poland, representing *Towarzystwo kujawsko-pomorskie* from north-central Poland, sponsored by *Towarzystwo „Wspólnota Polska.”* There were units representing every aspect of life in Polonia: veterans' groups, professional societies, fraternal organizations, hometown clubs, social service agencies, student groups. The *Podhalani* (mountaineers) were, as always, especially impressive. It is amazing how strongly they keep their unique culture alive, ensuring that the younger generations carry on their traditions. It was so heartwarming to see so many children and youth marching, from the Saturday schools, dance ensembles, Harcerstwo, and other youth groups, enthusiastically showing their pride in the White and Red, which the veterans so gallantly fought to defend. Smiling children from thirty Polish schools were in the Parade, ranging from Wauconda to Joliet and Munster, Indiana. The smiles on all those youngsters brought the sunshine that was missing to all those watching. And, among the participants was the Chicago Society, as it has been every year since its founding 100 years ago.



The celebrations continued throughout the weekend with the *3-Majówka* Festival at the Copernicus Center. The “unfriendly” weather didn't prevent the crowds from coming to show their Polish Pride. The focus of the Festival this year was the culture of the *górale* (Polish mountaineers), with the cooperation of *Fundacja Kultury Tatrzańskiej*. The *górale* have their own distinct dialect, music, and traditions, which they have kept alive in Poland to this day. A number of musical groups performed, ranging from traditional *góralskie* music to jazz and reggae. Saturday's headliner was the group “Trebuie-Tutti,” who came directly from a 2-week tour of China, where they were received with critical acclaim. They performed *góralskie* music with a contemporary twist. Next to the “traditional” instruments—strings, *róg*, and *dudy*—they used an electric bass guitar and percussion. It was fun to hear reggae and even Chopin performed *po góralsku*. The *górale* demonstrated many of their folk handicrafts, including wood-carving and making *oscypek* (cheese made from sheep's milk). A number of folk dance groups performed traditional Polish folk dances and songs. There were activities specifically for children: dance programs, face-painting, even a magician.

Sunday's torrential rains—and the threat of even more rain in the late afternoon—forced the festivities to be moved inside. Of course, the rain threatened in the afternoon never materialized. And, of course, the spirits of the guests were never dampened. The “Polonia” Ensemble, together with a number of local actors, presented a superb multimedia dramatization of the events surrounding the ratification of the Constitution of 1791, with dances, songs, and dramatic readings from that period. “Trebuie-Tutti” performed again. At the end of their performance they were joined by “Rebel Roots,” a Jamaican reggae group. The two groups did a joint *góralsko*-reggae jam session. Amazing! Only in America! The headliner on Sunday was “DAAB,” a legendary Polish reggae band from Poland, popular throughout the world, but on their first trip to the United States. And, of course, the obligatory Polish food and Polish beer were readily available. Everyone in attendance clearly had a good time.

The theme of this year's Parade was “One Voice, a united Polonia.” Columbus Drive was emblazoned in White and Red. Polish homes, shops, churches, and even cars were all proudly showing their colors. Despite our diversity, despite any political differences we may have, we all share the same heritage and roots. There is so much more that joins us than separates us. Chopin's music, Sienkiewicz's writings, those before us that waged so many battles for Poland's freedom—these are all elements of our culture and history that join us. We all stand united under the White and Red. *Bo wszyscy Polacy to jedna rodzina, starszy czy młodzi, chłopak czy dziewczyna.* (All Poles form one family, young or old, boy or girl).

PROPERTY TAXES

WEIGHING YOU DOWN?

Brothers John Pikarski and Daniel Pikarski wish to remind all property owners that their real estate holdings in Chicago are currently being reassessed. Members are cautioned that it is vital to pay close attention to your real estate taxes. Such taxes are generally one of the largest costs of operating your business. Based upon research and recent trends, it is expected that the 2014 triennial reassessment will result in an increase in the value of commercial property of between 30 and 50%. This new value to your property will remain in effect for the next three years, unless the valuation is challenged. It is wise to file a valuation objection during the first year of the triennial period so as to obtain the maximum dollar amount of tax relief during this assessment period. A number of our brother members specialize in real estate taxes. Please feel free to contact the attorney of your choice regarding your taxes.

NEWS FROM POLAND

Polonia Media Network

Poland's first restaurant to receive Michelin's Rising Star award, Atelier, guides its guests through a modern and modest version of Poland's culinary traditions. Its top chef and owner, Wojciech Amaro, created his restaurant after 20 years of searching for tastes, ideas and exquisite products all over Europe. Amaro said his adventure with cooking began when, as a student, he went to London to learn better English and got a job in a restaurant. The first Rising Star chef in the European Union's largest eastern member aimed to create Polish cuisine from scratch.

Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski said in mid-April that he wants the country to create a museum devoted to the crimes of communism. According to the President, Poland is the only central and eastern European country without such a museum.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

- 3 Wojciech Putz
- 9 James Kulze
- 11 Anthony Szplit
- 14 John Domagalski
- 18 Ted Wiecek
- 24 Frederick Poska
- 26 Gerhard Kaes
- 31 Zenon Cebula

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following brother members, who are celebrating the anniversary of their induction in May.

Charles E. Cwiakala	1962	50 years
Edward H. Marsalek	1962	50 years
Kenneth P. Gill	1992	20 years
Marian Skawski	1997	15 years
Anthony Zaskowski	1997	15 Years
James Kopka	2007	5 Years
Richard Kula	2007	5 Years

CASINO DAYS SCHEDULED

Texas Hold 'em Casino Days to benefit the Chicago Society have been scheduled for the remainder of 2012. They will be held on Thursday, June 21; Thursday, Sept. 27; Thursday, Oct. 25; and Wednesday, Nov. 28. All will be held at Przybylo's House of the White Eagle.



Volunteers are need for these events. You don't need to know how to deal, only how to smile. Shifts are 1:30—6:30 and 6:30—midnight. If you can give a few hours of your time on any of those dates, please contact Brother **Ro Matuszczak**.

**SEE THE GOLF OUTING
INSERT IN THIS ISSUE
AND MAKE YOUR
RESERVATION NOW**

POLISH TRADITIONS IN MAY

May is the month of weddings in Poland since the month of May is devoted to Mary, the patron of wives. A wedding is one of the most important family celebrations. First there is the engagement period called *Oświadczyzny*, *Zaręczyny* or *Zrękowiny*. The engagement is usually marked by a celebration in the home of the parents of either the groom or the bride. This may be the first time the in-laws meet each other.

Before the church ceremony everyone gathers at the home of the bride to accompany the bridal couple to the church, but also to witness the blessing and symbolic farewells of the bride with her parents, relatives, and friends. Traditionally the mother of the bride gives the blessing to the bride and groom. They hold hands as they kneel in front of their parents. The mother then sprinkles the couple with Holy Water, and make the Sign of the Cross. She then gives them the crucifix to kiss. The father of the bride may utter a blessing of his own or simply sprinkle the couple with Holy Water. The bridegroom's parents also give their blessing. Others, such as grandparents, or godparents may also bless the couple.



After the blessing, the bride and groom thank, hug and kiss their parents and the wedding party prepares to leave for church. If one of the parents is deceased, the wedding party stops at the cemetery and the groom or bride ask for a blessing from the deceased parent. As the couple leaves the church, coins are thrown at the couple.

The Bread and Salt Blessing is an old and very popular Polish tradition. At the wedding reception, the parents of the bride and groom greet the newly married couple with bread, which is lightly sprinkled with salt, and a goblet of wine. With the bread, the parents wish that their children will never hunger or be in need. With the salt, they are reminding the couple that their life may be difficult at times, and they must learn to cope with life's struggles. It is believed that salt also has the power to heal and cleanse and drive away evil spirits. The wine symbolizes the desire that the couple will never go thirsty, and that their lives will be filled with health and happiness. After the bride and groom each taste a piece of bread, they break the plate and glass for good luck. The parents then kiss the bride and groom as a sign of welcome, unity, and love.

The tradition of *oczepiny* is still the mainstay of many Polish brides, representing a rite of passage from young woman to married woman. All single ladies circle the bride as the maid or matron of honor stands behind the bride and removes the veil (*welon*) from the bride's head as music is played. A married woman is given the responsibility of pinning the cap (*czepek*) on the bride as all married women circle around the bride. At this moment, the bride is officially considered a married woman. Sometimes, after the "unveiling," the bride will toss the veil rather than the bouquet to one of the single women or give the veil to the maid of honor.

The day after wedding, there is a follow-up party (*poprawiny*). This is held at the home of one of the newlyweds' parents, to finish off the food and drink left over from the previous day's festivities.

Juwenalia is an annual students' holiday in Poland, celebrated in late May, before final exams. *Juwenalia* is a tradition celebrated all over Poland. *Juwenalia* celebrates a city's students. It is a time for students to let loose, take over the city, and have fun. Parades mark the occasion and people in wild costumes roam the streets. The most famous *Juwenalia* celebrations occur in Kraków. Students are also given the keys to the city, a tradition that dates back to medieval Kraków.

Did you know? May in Polish is *maj*, which comes from the goddess Mai, mother of the god Mercury. *Ciepły kwiecień, mokry maj—będzie zboże jako gaj* (A warm April, a wet May—the wheat will fill the grove).

INDUCTED TO MEMBERSHIP

We welcome **Gary Kenzer**, sponsored by Brothers **Marian Skawski** and **Casey Baczynski**, who was sworn in as a member at our last meeting. Witamy!

POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PRE-PARADE BRUNCH – MAY 5, 2012

On Saturday, May 5, 2012, the Chicago Society held its Annual Pre-Parade Brunch celebrating the Polish Constitution at the Hilton Chicago. Chairman Brother **Ro Matuszczak** introduced President Brother **Frank Czaja** who welcomed the guests. This was followed by Co-Chair Brother **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert** leading the participants in the Pledge of Allegiance. His Excellency Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago Andrew Wypych gave the invocation. President Czaja then presented the Chicago Society scholarships to Mark Pawlas - \$3,000.00, Christopher Kozlowski - \$2,000.00, and Brittney Kowalski - \$1,000.00.

Speakers during the brunch were: Ted Czajkowski, President of the Alliance of Polish Clubs and the Parade Chairman; Zygmunt

Matynia, Consul General of the Republic of Poland; President Brother **Frank Spula** of the Polish National Alliance and Polish American Congress; Joseph Drobot, Jr., President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union; Illinois State Treasurer Mark Rutherford; Illinois State Senator Dan Kotowski; Cook County Assessor Joe Berrios; Alderman John Arena of the 45th Ward; Alderman Bob Fioretti of the 2nd Ward and Alderman Ariel Reboyras of the 30th Ward. Brother **Andrew Przybylo** gave greetings from Cook County Board President Teri Preckwinkle. Greetings from Mark Kirk and Judy Baar Topinka were given by **Ro Matuszczak**. Seven representatives from the Kujawy-Pomorskie Region of Poland were present, as well as Auxiliary Bishop Wiesław Lechowicz from Tarnów.

Other notables and guests were as follows: Anna Sokolowski, Vice-president and James Robaczynski, Secretary Treasurer of the Polish Roman Catholic Union; Dan Patlak, Board of Tax Review; Aurelia Pucinski, Judge of the Appellate Court; Robert Martwick, candidate for Illinois State Representative; Maria

Ciesla, President of the Polish Museum of America; Lester Szlendak and Jim Mougolias, Trustees of Harwood Heights; Antoinette Trella, Secretary/Treasurer of the Polish Women's Alliance; Marysia Szpindor-Watson, President Loyola Polish Student Alliance; Brother **Don Gutowski**, Chairman Emeritus of the Copernicus Foundation; and Brother **John Wojciechowski**, Vice-president of the Copernicus Foundation; Mary Anselmo, President of the Illinois Division, Polish American Congress; Brother **Ted Makarewicz**, last year's Grand Marshal; President Dorota Malachowski and Board Members of Dar Serca (Gift From The Heart Foundation); Teresa Skawski, President of the Legion of Young Polish Women; Irina Cholewinski-Horwath, Queen of the

White and Red Ball; First Runner-up Joasia Anne Gwizdz; Second Runner-up Melanie Jean Tomal; Illinois State Representative Maria "Toni" Berrios; Representing the Polish Women's Civic Club, Lucille Gutowski; from the Advocates Society, President Regina Ruthnow and Vice-president Michelle Hendricksen; Queen of the Parade Committee Arleta Gromek and her court, Karolina Krawczyk and Sylvia Bukowska; from Poland, Margaret Karwowska, Mayor of Monki; Halina Bielowicz of the Maine Township GOP organization; from the Polish National Alliance,

Theresa Abick, Vice-president; Marian Grabowski, National Treasurer and Charles Komosa, National Secretary; also from Poland Józef Zawadzki from Katowice and Sławomir Zielinski, Assistant Director of TVP Polonia; and Cinderella Sylvia Kupiec, Prince Charming Pawel Cwyl, Cinderella Runner-up Kimberly Skrzypiec and Prince Charming Runner-up Tim Eckert.

This was Chairman **Ro Matuszczak's** thirty-fifth year of involvement with the brunch. Thanks to Co-chairs **Charles Komosa** and **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert**. Also thanks to Chris Matuszczak, wife of Ro Matuszczak, and Agata Komosa, wife of Charles Komosa, who were responsible for the reception table.



Members marched with our banner



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SUMMER DRESS CODE NOW IN EFFECT

Starting with the May meeting and through September, the Summer Dress Code is in effect for all general meetings of the Society. Gentlemen are permitted to dress "casually;" suits/sport coats are no longer required. However, jeans, shorts, and gym shoes are NOT permitted.



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