



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 74

February 2022

NUMBER 2

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, February 16th

General Meeting

The Great Escape

9450 W. Irving Park Rd.

7:00 pm Call-to-Order

RSVP to Chuck Cwiakala:

cecwiakala@aol.com

847-204-8747 (cell)

847-823-8747 (home)

Monday, February 28th

Board Meeting- 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 7th

Polish Constitution Day Brunch

Friday, July 8th

Annual Golf Outing

Saturday, December 10th

Deserving Children's

Christmas Party

Brothers and friends,

I must start by saying thank you to **Br. Grzadziel and his wife Kasia** for all of their help in organizing and running our Evening of Elegance at the Park Ridge Country Club. Great appreciation also goes out to our **Br. Tony Kowalkowski** who donated his own time in providing top notch musical entertainment throughout the evening and **Mr. Bogdan Bosak** for his efforts in allowing us to host the event at such a great venue. Finally, thanks to all attendees and sponsors for making the night special and memorable.

As I mentioned in my speech after taking the oath of office, it is a great honor to serve as President of this organization and I am honored to be on and work with the 110th iteration of its Board as we carry our traditions and goals into the future. There are still vacancies to be filled and if you are interested in joining the Board in any capacity, please let me know. At our most recent Board meeting I nominated a Constitutional Committee to review the makeup of the Board and our current/future processes. They are in the process of compiling their recommendations for Constitutional changes to allow us to function efficiently and appropriately in 2022 and beyond. Please direct any suggestions to the committee members **Br. Dykas** and **Br. Grzadziel**. We welcome all input.

I am happy to report that our **pre-parade brunch will take place on May 7th at the Chicago Hilton Hotel** and our **golf outing is scheduled for July 8th at Gleneagles Country Club**. Details to follow but now is a great time to volunteer

your time or services so that these events can be as successful as possible. Please reach out to **Br. Zenon Kurdziel (Pre-Parade Brunch Chair)** or **myself (Golf Outing Chair)** if you wish to help or sponsor.

Thanks also to the audit committee (**Br. Robert Michalak, Br. William Marutzky, Br. Marian Skawski and Br. Rick Wiermanski**) for volunteering your time and efforts in conducting our 2021 audit. Your efforts are appreciated.

Adam Konopka President, Chicago Society PNA



CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

Board of Directors

President:

Adam Konopka

1st Vice President:

Chris Grzadziel

2nd Vice President:

Chuck Cwiakala

Secretary:

Andy Haszlakiewicz

Financial Secretary:

Richard Ciesla-Interim

Treasurer:

Jan Plachta

Advocate:

Ed Wasilewski

Senior Director:

Peter Dykas

Social Activities Director:

Zenon Kurdziel

Director of Outreach:

Ro Matuszczak

Director of Personnel:

(Position Available)

Director of Publications:

Ted Kozelka—Interim

February Forum Highlights:

- ◆ The nominating committee is accepting nominations for positions as outlined in Article VII – Section 4 of the Constitution. As of today the Board continues to have vacancies in the offices of **Financial Secretary, Director of Personnel and Director of Publications.**
- ◆ The Board approved my nomination for the committee as follows:
 - ◆ Robert Michalak (Chairman)
 - ◆ William Marutzky
 - ◆ Marian Skawski
 - ◆ Rick Wiermanski (Alternate)
- ◆ CS Foundation scholarship apps are available. Applications are due March 1st. Need to be of Polonian descent, a U.S. Citizen and enrolled as an undergraduate sophomore or graduate student in the U.S. (4 scholarships total, two for \$7,500 and two for \$5,000.)

Dues Reminder:

Thank you to all the members who have paid their dues. **Thirty more members need to complete their membership by sending in payment.** Remember those in arrears will be printed in the March Forum and if dues are not paid by April 1st, you will be suspended from membership. Mail your dues today to the mail box at Chicago Society PNA, 6348 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60646-3728 or better still attend the meeting on February 16th at the Great Escape in Franklin Park (Don't forget to call in your reservation.), or mail to my home at 1808 Weeg Way, Park Ridge, IL 60068-1230. **So, avoid the hassle of requesting reinstatement or a second mailing, send in your dues NOW.**

If you pay by PayPal you can send any missing or corrected info to me directly at my email address: rciesla@sbcglobal.net.

EVENING OF ELEGANCE 2022

The Chicago Society 2022 Evening of Elegance was held on January 29th at the Park Ridge Country Club, Park Ridge, IL. This year we were honoring Martin Obrecki, past president of the Polish American Police Association. The committee members for the this events was Chris Grzadziel (Chairman), Adam Konopka, Ted Makarewicz and Peter Dykas.

The event started at 6 pm with cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres. Prior to dinner, the program started with the playing of the national anthem of the Republic of Poland and the United States of America. After a welcome speech by the EoE chairman, Chris Grzadziel, 2019 Chicago Society St Joseph, provided the invocation. Dinner started with Wild Mushroom Bisque and Tossed Salad. Guests then had an entree option of Grilled Petite Filet & Chicken Francaise, Grilled Chicken Piccata & Salmon, or Pappardelle Pasta Primavera – Vegetarian. The entree included Duchess Potato and Green Bean Amandine. For dessert, guests were served Lava Cake with Raspberry Sauce, Fresh Berries and Vanilla Ice Cream.

After dinner, Mr. Jacek Bryniak, Consulate of the Republic of Poland spoke to the guests. The program continued with Brother Adam Konopka introducing the 2022 honoree, Martin Obrecki and presented the honoree plaque. The Chicago Society presented a \$1000 donation to the PAPA scholarship program in the name of Martin Obrecki. Martin spoke to the guests after accepting he plaque and donation. The program continued with the induction of the 2022 officers and directors. Presiding over the induction was the Honorable John A. Wasilewski. After the induction, Brother Adam Konopka, 2022 President, spoke to the guests. The Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra provided wonderful dancing music for the rest of the evening.

The program book for the 2022 Evening of Elegance can be viewed on the Chicago Society website at:

<https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/2022-evening-of-elegance-prog>. Pictures can be view on the Chicago society website as well as the Chicago Society Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoSocietyPNA>.

Thank you to all who attended. This year the Evening of Elegance drew 71 guests. A great thank you to Tony Kawalkowski for donating his time for both dinner and dancing music. Thank you to all for all their help in planning, preparing and executing for this event.

Chris Grzadziel 2022 EoE Chairman



Tony doing what Tony does best! The Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra.

EVENING OF ELEGANCE 2022



Swearing in of the 2022 President and Board Members of the Chicago Society



This year's 2022 Evening of Elegance, held at the Park Ridge Country Club, was an absolute pleasure to attend. Special thanks must be sent out to event chairman and 1st Vice President Brother Chris Grzadziel!

Not only did this event get planned and executed amidst the era of (unspecified virus of unknown origin), Chris got the job done while nursing a broken leg. Great job! Hope to see lots more of you next year.

The event honored the Polish American Polish Association (see next page for more) with guest speaker Martin Obrecki. Members of many other Chicagoland Polonia organizations were also in attendance, including guests from the Polish Consulate.



Fine Dining

EVENING OF ELEGANCE 2022



Ladies of the LYPW.



President Konopka shares a few words.



EVENING OF ELEGANCE 2022-HONORED GUEST

Martin, Marcin Obrecki, has been a Chicago Police Officer since 1998 and has worked as a patrol officer, tactical officer, gang enforcement officer, and has worked in many specialized units. His current assignment is a Gang Investigations Officer and Terrorism Liaison Officer. He is the immediate past president of the Polish American Police Association, also known as PAPA, for the past 7 years.

Martin has received numerous accolades from the Chicago Police department including Honorable Mentions, Complimentary Letters, and many department awards and certificates. He obtained his Business degree and Communications degree from Elmhurst College. Over the past seven years as president of PAPA, Martin has engaged with the Polish community in Illinois and the law enforcement community as well. Some of his accomplishments include Martin having started a registration, question, and answer day for the Chicago Police Department’s application process. This was held at the Polish Museum of America. Martin and PAPA have also provided over \$25,000 in educational scholarships, over \$21,000 in officer assistance and charitable donations to organizations supporting first responders, over \$5000 in monetary contributions in addition to thousands of collected toys for “Toys for Tots” and organized an annual coat drive for veterans resulting in hundreds of donations.



Martin Obrecki (left) accepting a donation from the Chicago Society from President Adam Konopka (center) and 1st Vice President Chris Grzadziel (right).



President Adam Konopka (right) with representatives from the Polish Consulate of Chicago.

Prior to Covid-19 pandemic, PAPA reached a total of 500 members nationally. Martin is always looking for a way to better the Polish community, and the Police community as well. Martin can also be heard doing many interviews on Polish radio and television. Martin is proud of his Polish heritage and his first responder career, and proud of making PAPA a big voice in the Polish communities throughout the Chicagoland area.



EVENING OF ELEGANCE 2022—SPONSORS

A special thanks to all our sponsors at the Evening Of Elegance:

- ◇ The Polish National Alliance and President Frank Spula
- ◇ The Polish American Polish Association (Papa)
- ◇ Past Society President Thaddeus J. Makarewicz
- ◇ 41st Ward Alterman Anthony Napolitano
- ◇ The Copernicus Center
- ◇ Mr. & Mrs. Andy and Bozenna Haszlakiewicz
- ◇ Dowd & Dowd—Attorneys at Law
- ◇ Mr. Jan S. Placta—Featuring Bridges of Concrete and Steel by Ralph Modjeski
- ◇ Mr. Walter Piecewicz—Remembering Mrs. Anna Piecewicz
- ◇ Judge (ret.) & Mrs. John and Patricia Wasilewski
- ◇ Brustin & Lundblad, Ltd—Chicago Personal Injury Attorneys
- ◇ The Polish American Congress, Illinois Division
- ◇ The Legion of Young Polish Women
- ◇ Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego—Polish Scouting Organization of Illinois
- ◇ Society 1st Vice President and Mrs. Chris and Kasia Grzadziel
- ◇ Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation (PACCF)
- ◇ Troy Companies
- ◇ The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America
- ◇ The Topczewski Family
- ◇ Mr. Casey Chlebek—US Senate Candidate
- ◇ The Polish Museum of America
- ◇ Mr. Tony Zaskowski—kwOne Chicago Realtors
- ◇ In memory of Mr. Jerome F. Mytych (1948-2020)
- ◇ The Ciesla Family
- ◇ 20th District State Representative Brad Stephens
- ◇ Mr. Robert W. Fioretti
- ◇ Mrs. Barbara Chalko
- ◇ The Polish and Slavic Center

Board of Directors February Meeting Minutes:

Chicago Society, P.N.A.
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Held on February 7, 2022
At D’Agostino’s restaurant, 7530 W. Oakton

Call to Order: President Konopka called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Roll Call of Officers and Directors: Brs. Konopka, Grzadziel, Cwiakala, Haszlakiewicz, Ciesla(interm), Plachta, Wasilewski, Dykas, Kurdziel, Absent: Brs. Kozelka, Matuszczak. Quorum achieved.

Correspondence & Bills: Correspondence & Bills: Thank you letters from Polish Museum of America; Polish American Congress; Christmas greeting from the Copernicus Center– it was moved to file these by Br. Kurdziel and seconded by Br Dykas. Motion passed. Delegate and fraternal activities request from District 13, PNA was moved to be filed by Br. Grzadziel, seconded by Br Kurdziel. Motion passed. Request for donation from Jawory to be forwarded to Dir. of Outreach for review. Motion made by Br. Dykas, seconded By Br. Cwiakala. Motion passed. Br. Dykas moved to buy two tickets (\$380) to the White & Red Ball for President Konopka and guest to attend, February 26, 2022. Seconded by Br. Cwiakala. Motion passed. Bills: SFI for January Forum (\$118.62), meeting dinner. Motion to pay made by Br. Dykas seconded by Br. Cwiakala. Motion passed.

Directors and Officers Reports:

1st Vice-President: Br. Chris Grzadziel – Possible speaker for Feb. or Mar. meeting is Bill Marutzky (tax issues). Motion to accept report made by Br. Dykas, seconded by Br. Wasilewski. Passed.

2nd Vice-President: Br. Chuck Cwiakala – Feb. general meeting to be at Great Escape. Looking for Polish venues. Discussion about catered meetings at Copernicus Center, PNA building or other locales. Motion to accept report made by Br. Grzadziel, seconded by Br. Wasilweski. Passed. Br. Cwiakala was given permission to exceed the established dinner budget for the February general meeting.

Secretary: Br. Haszlakiewicz – No report. Br. Haszlakiewicz was asked to forward the 2021 board meeting minutes to the audit committee.

Financial Secretary (interm): Br. Ciesla - report was emailed to board prior to meeting. We received a 1099 for our PayPal account for 2021. Payments made to us are considered as income (\$11,208). To be passed on to our tax accountant. Motion to approve Br. Zapalski’s request for Senior Membership made by Br. Cwiakala, seconded by Br. Wasilewski. Passed.

Treasurer: Br. Plachta – report emailed to board prior to meeting. Current balance is \$57,685.16. Br. Grzadziel mentioned a check number discrepancy to be corrected. Br. Ciesla questioned why the PayPal and checking accounts are still with Br. Wiermanki’s address. To be checked and corrected. Br, Konopka will ask Br. Pieciewicz to do our taxes again this year. All tax related items should be sent to Br. Walter. Motion to accept report made by Br. Grzadziel, seconded by Br. Wasilewski. Passed.

Advocate: Br. Wasilewski – No report.

Director of Publications(Interm): Br. Kozelka (absent) – please send any news worthy items for inclusion in the Forum to Br. Ted.

Director of Outreach: Br. Matuszczak (absent)– Br. Ro proposed sponsoring 4 children to attend the Yorkville summer camp at \$450 each. The children to be identified at a future date. Br. Cwiakala moved to approve this proposal, seconded by Br. Grzadziel. Motion passed. Br. Dykas suggested paying annual dues for needy Polish Boy Scouts since there may not be a summer camp this year. No action taken on this matter.

Senior Director: Br. Dykas – no report.

Social Activities Director: Br. Kurdziel – The Chicago Hilton is prepared to host our pre-parade breakfast on May 7th. Minimum cost for the event is \$5,500 + tax, which is \$26.50 + tax per person (207 people). The hotel wants a \$500 non-refundable deposit. Br. Dykas moved to pay the deposit, seconded by Br. Grzadziel. Discussion: Contract should include clause for full refund if COVID 19 protocols force event cancellation. The hotel is requiring the minimum be paid prior to the event. The charge per person should be what it was in 2019 plus \$5.00 (\$35 or \$40). Many politicians are expected with primaries in June. Br. Matuszczak will assist with the event agenda and the Alliance of Polish Clubs is ready to publicize the event. Motion to approve the deposit and for Br. Kurdziel to proceed with the planning passed. Br. Grzadziel: Evening of Elegance report was handed out. 71 guests in attendance, generated income was \$12,735.00. Expenses were 10,528.51 with a profit of \$2,206.49. \$551.62 was moved to the Youth Fund. Br. Ciesla accepted all the cash and checks to be deposited and all receipts to be recorded. The general consensus was that the evening turned out great and we should have it at the same place (Park Ridge Country Club) next year. Many thanks to Br. Chris (and wife, Kate) for an awesome job. Br. Wasilewski moved to accept the E of E report, second by Br. Dykas. Passed.

Golf Outing has been set for July 8, 2022 at the Glen Eagles CC. Br. Konopka asked for \$500 to secure the date. So moved by Br. Grzadziel, second by Br. Dykas. Approved. Br. Dykas reviewed the Deserving Children Christmas Party report which was emailed to the board. Donation amounted to \$1,486.96, expenses were \$835.44 which resulted in a surplus of \$651.52 (PNA did not charge us for the room). Br. Peter asked to be reimbursed for the expenses. The year-end balance for the Deserving Children Fund is \$3,427.25 pending the resolution of the fund balance at the start of 2021. Motion to accept Br. Dykas' report and reimbursing him \$835.44 made by Br. Kurdziel, seconded by Br. Plachta. Passed.

Director of Personnel: Vacant.

Social Media Committee: Br. Grzadziel – FaceBook was updated with pictures from E of E. The Polish Consulate is requesting photos with permission to publish.

Custodial Committee: Br. Wasilewski - took possession of items used during E of E.

Foundation: Br. Ciesla - meeting on Feb 14. Still looking for more scholarship applications. Deadline is March 1.

Motion to accept the last three reports made by Br. Dykas, second by Br. Grzadziel. Passed.

Old Business: Moving of mail box is still being discussed with the C.S. Foundation.

New Business: Br. Konopka nominated: William Marutsky, Robert Michalak and Marian Skawski for the Audit Committee. Br. Michalak to be chairman and Rick Wiermanski as alternate. Motion to approve the nomination made by Br. Cwiakala, seconded by Br. Wasilewski. Passed. Br. Konopka asked that all pertinent materials be sent the Audit Committee as soon as possible.

Br. Konopka reminded the board that three positions are still to be filled – Financial Secretary, Dir. of Personnel and Dir. of Publications. Since it's been difficult to find volunteers, a Constitutional Committee is being formed to review the open board positions and the constitution in general for relevance as we look to the future. Nominated for this committee are: Br. Dykas and Br. Grzadziel. The motion to approve the creation of the Constitutional Committee and the two nominees was made by Br. Kurdziel, second by Br. Plachta. Passed.

Good of the Order: Congratulations to Br. Kurdziel – First time Grandfather!

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Br. Dykas and was seconded by Br. Grzadziel. There being no other business, Br. Konopka adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Andrew Hasz Sakiewicz

Secretary

February History: The Polish-Soviet War

The Polish–Soviet War (late autumn 1918– 18 March 1921) was fought primarily between the Second Polish Republic and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic in the aftermath of World War I, on territories formerly held by the Russian Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

On 13 November 1918, after the collapse of the Central Powers and the Armistice of 11 November 1918, Vladimir Lenin's Russia annulled the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (which it had signed with the Central Powers in March 1918) and soon started slowly moving forces in the western direction to recover and secure the lands vacated by the German forces that the Russian state had lost under the treaty. Lenin saw the newly independent Poland (formed in October–November 1918) as the bridge which his Red Army would have to cross to assist other communist movements and to bring about more European revolutions. At the same time, leading Polish politicians of different orientations pursued the general expectation of restoring the country's pre-1772 borders. Motivated by that idea, Polish Chief of State Józef Piłsudski (in office from 14 November 1918) began moving troops east.

In 1919, while the Soviet Red Army was still preoccupied with the Russian Civil War of 1917–1922, the Polish Army took most of Lithuania and Belarus. By July 1919, Polish forces had taken control of much of Western Ukraine and had emerged victorious from the Polish–Ukrainian War of November 1918 to July 1919. Meanwhile, in the eastern part of Ukraine bordering on Russia, Symon Petliura tried to defend the Ukrainian People's Republic, but as the Bolsheviks gained the upper hand in the Russian Civil War, they advanced westward towards the disputed Ukrainian lands and made Petliura's forces retreat. Reduced to a small amount of territory in the west, Petliura was compelled to seek an alliance with Piłsudski, officially concluded in April 1920.

Piłsudski believed that the best way for Poland to secure favorable borders was by military action and that he could easily defeat the Red Army forces. His Kiev Offensive, considered to have begun the Polish–Soviet War *sensu stricto*, commenced in late April 1920 and resulted in the takeover of Kiev by the Polish and allied Ukrainian forces on 7 May. The Soviet armies in the area, which were weaker, had not been defeated, as they avoided major confrontations and withdrew.

The Red Army responded to the Polish offensive with successful counterattacks: from 5 June on the southern Ukrainian front and from 4 July on the northern front.

The Soviet operation pushed the Polish forces back westward all the way to Warsaw, the Polish capital, while the Directorate of Ukraine fled to Western Europe. Fears of Soviet troops arriving at the German borders increased the interest and involvement of the Western powers in the war. In mid-summer the fall of Warsaw seemed certain, but in mid-August the tide had turned again after the Polish forces achieved an unexpected and decisive victory at the Battle of Warsaw (12 to 25 August 1920). In the wake of the eastward Polish advance that followed, the Soviets sued for peace, and the war ended with a ceasefire on 18 October 1920.

The Peace of Riga, signed on 18 March 1921, divided the disputed territories between Poland and Soviet Russia. The war and the treaty negotiations determined the Soviet–Polish border for the rest of the interwar period. Poland's eastern border was established at about 200 km east of the Curzon Line (a 1920 British proposal for Poland's border, previously approved by the Entente leaders as the limit of Poland's expansion in the eastern direction). Ukraine and Belarus became divided between Poland and Soviet Russia, which established the respective Soviet republics in its areas of the territory.

The peace negotiations – on the Polish side conducted chiefly by Piłsudski's opponents and against his will – ended with the official recognition of the two Soviet republics, which became parties to the treaty. This outcome and the new border agreed on precluded any possibility of the formation of the Intermarium Polish-led federation of states that Piłsudski had envisaged or of meeting his other eastern-policy goals. The Soviet Union, established in December 1922, later used the Ukrainian Soviet Republic and the Byelorussian Soviet Republic to claim their unification with parts of the Kresy territories where East Slavic people outnumbered ethnic Poles and had remained, after the Peace of Riga, on the Polish side of the border, lacking any form of autonomy.

(Article and picture from Wikipedia.com)





SUPER BOWL TICKETS

Late notice, but the grandson of one of our members has two tickets for the upcoming Super Bowl game at SOFI stadium on February 13th. **These are box seats with a face value of \$4,500 each.** Package includes transportation from the airport, open bar, and a pass into the winning team’s locker room.

The tickets were purchased 1 year ago and unfortunately our member’s grandson is now scheduled to be married on the same day! If anyone is or knows someone who would be interested, the service is scheduled for 3pm at Holy Name Cathedral. Her name is Kasia. She is a wonderful cook and enjoys travel.



www.taxpol.net

CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

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Chicago, IL 60646-3728

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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SKAJA TERRACE FUNERAL HOME

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