



VOLUME 67

#### JULY 2016

NUMBER 7

# Monthly Networking-Dinner Meeting

WEDNESDAY JULY 20, 2016 6:00 p.m. While Eagle Banquets Niles, Illinois

# RESERVATIONS

by July 18 to meeting@chicagosocietypna.org 847-635-0883

## NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, August 1, 2016 7:00 p.m. PNA Home Office

## **COMING EVENTS**

Friday, July 15, 2016– CS Scholarship Golf Outing Gleneagles Country Club Lemont, IL BBQ Lunch 11:30 a.m./ Golf 12:00p.m.

## Sunday, August 21, 2016–

CS Family & Friends Picnic Busse Grove #31, noon Food, libations, music, raffle & kid's games

# JULY 2016 SPEAKER & DINNER MEETING

Our guest speaker for our July 2016 General Meeting, to be held on Wednesday, July 20, 2016, at the White Eagle, will be Mr. Casey

Smagala. Casey is proud to have grown up in the "Seed Corn Capital of the World," Constantine, Michigan, as one of seven siblings. Casey left his rural upbringing to attend school and play football at North Park University in 2008 and never looked back. While at NPU, Casey was elected president of his student body, captain of his varsity football team, worked as a student ambassador, and studied urban



planning during a semester abroad at the University of Helsinki. This is where the country kid fell in love with all things urban.

Casey currently serves as the Director of Development and Community Engagement for one of the nation's most multicultural social impact organizations, the Albany Park Community Center (APCC). He's responsible for raising unrestricted funds to sustain operations and programs for the 6,000+ ambitious children and motivated families APCC serves each year. Casey is optimistic and enthusiastic about his role at APCC and although he recognizes that his neighborhood has its challenges, he also believes it has kids that could lead the United Nations one day if they have the right examples and exposure. Casey is on the Board of Directors for the North River Commission, was recently elected to the Local School Council at Roosevelt High School, and is an event organizer for the Albany Park World Fest. When he's not working or volunteering in Albany Park, Casey is playing basketball or doing whatever his girlfriend, Nicole Vasguez (Founder of The Shift Chicago) tells him to do. Casey will speak about local school councils and how they work, and his relevant experience since the law established elected school councils.

The July General Meeting not only offers great camaraderie, a featured speaker, but a delicious dinner menu! We are celebrating with a 4th of July Patriotic all American Night dinner menu which includes barbecued ribs & chicken, potato salad, corn, dessert of the day, coffee, and tea. Please call Brother **Ro Matuszczak** for reservations at 847-635-0883 or email <u>meeting@chicagosocietypna.org</u> Chicago Society *F*orum

A monthly news bulletin for the Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications Charles Komosa editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Visit Our Website At www.chicagosocietypna.org

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Phone 773-777-6300 4540-50 W. DIVERSEY AVE. CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60639 Dear Brothers,

A belated Happy Fourth of July to you and your families. Or should I say a

Belated Happy Second of July! The delegates to the Continental Congress voted in favor of Independence on July 2, 1776 but did not have the documents printed until two days later on July 4, 1776, when the delegates adopted it. Or that the Liberty Bell was not rung in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, but was first



rung on July 8, 1776 at the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. And that the Fourth of July was not made a national holiday until 1938. And now you know. In following this theme of governance, I addressed the issue of revising our Constitution and By-Laws in October of last year. Our Constitution and By-Laws Committee recently met to finalize their draft proposal. The committee has taken a hard look at streamlining our governmental structure and their report will be presented to the Board for their approval before it goes to the general membership. The Chicago Society has been in existence for over 100 years and we intend to be around for another 100 years. But like all good managers, we will need to make the necessary changes to keep the Chicago Society a meaningful organization and a vibrant group in these changing times. And how do we do that? By having an active membership in promoting the goals and activities of the Chicago Society. When was the last time you thought of inviting a friend or an associate to attend one of our general membership meetings? Or to attend one of our many events throughout the year? Or to call a brother member to see if he will join you at our monthly meeting? Just asking! All food for thought. The Chicago Society is only as good as its members as a whole and we all need to step up to the plate. We have a busy second half of the year beginning with our Annual Golf Outing on July 15, 2016, at the beautiful Gleneagles Country Club, chaired by Brother Charley Komosa, followed by our Family Picnic in August, our Business Expo in September, and a possible Pheasant Hunt in October. And of course, our Chicago Society elections in November. I am always looking for new ideas and your thoughts and comments, so please email them to me or pull me off to the side at our general membership meeting and let's talk. I've been told I am a good listener.

> Fraternally, Brother Ted Makarewicz



## Dear Brothers,

"The United States of America "~no more powerful words ever written or said. A nation born of revolution and framed and formed by our founding fathers. Meaningful words such as: Freedom, Liberty and Justice still prevail, ringing out loud and clear... as the American symbol of independence, The Liberty Bell did in our founders yesteryear. Lady Liberty stands ever vigilant, high upon her pedestal over-

looking the harbor, adorned in her flowing robe, crown and flaming torch and arm raised aloft in her hand...America, just like our Lady Liberty, has never denied the American dream and gift of asylum to those seeking a better life in this great land, for when it comes Freedom and Liberty, Americans and America will never deny or look the other way, nor bury their heads in the sand. America offers all a refuge and haven to all the oppressed and downtrodden masses of the world for it does not make a difference to this great nation and her people if you're rich or poor, your ethnicity, or language that one speaks or continent you're from, the only thing we ask is your allegiance and love of America as you follow the beam of light that that Lady Liberty shines along the path that leads to her welcoming front door. 227 years ago...on July 4th, 1776. This great nation, the United States of America, in a struggle for what was right and free, was proudly born...May we celebrate that precious freedom for which our forbears fought so bravely...The freedom that is inherent In the Stars and Stripes, our revered flag...Celebrate Freedom This Fourth of July! A poem by Joseph P. Martino. Enjoy family & summer!

#### FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016, CS Scholarship Golf Outing Is Fast Approaching!

The Chicago Society 2016 Annual Scholarship Golf Outing is right around the corner and Chairman Brother **Charles Komosa** is still

keeping this outing at a reasonable price of \$100.00 per golfer with many amenities. Brothers Charles Ko-



mosa and **Mark Orwat**, co-chairmen of the Chicago Society's 2016 Golf Outing, invite all members, business associates, family, and friends to reserve their spots for the Outing. The Chicago Society Golf outing will be held on Friday, July 15, 2016, at Gleneagles Country Club located at 13070 McCarthy Road in Lemont. Illinois. The day will begin with check-in at 11:30 a.m., then a cookout lunch. The Shot-Gun scramble starts at 1:00 p.m. sharp. There will be a fleet of beverage carts patrolling the golf course with free drinks, snacks and other surprises.

The day will conclude with an open bar and appetizers beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the banquet room, with dinner including BBQ ribs, chicken, and side dishes, with a program and prizes following. The cost is only \$100.00 per person, including golf, cart, cookout lunch, beverages, dinner and cocktails, or \$35.00 per person for those interested in only dinner and cocktails. We are planning the world famous grand raffle! Please call Brother Charles Komosa at 773-286-7123 to reserve your golf foursomes (individual golfers also welcome). Please call if you or your company would like to donate raffle prizes. Brother Frank Czaja will again serve as Tee Sign Chairman and for raffle prize donations. The Tee Sign Hole sponsorship is still only \$100.00. Please call Brother Frank Czaja for more information at 312-520-6144. Please see the insert in the May issue of *The Forum* for the Tee Sign contract.

#### HAVE YOU MADE YOUR MEETING RESERVATION? YOU CAN MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY EMAILING

MEETING@CHICAGOSOCIETYPNA.ORG

### **CHICAGO SOCIETY FAMILY & FRIENDS PICNIC**

Come to the Annual Chicago Society Family and Friends Picnic,

which will be held on Sunday, August 21, 2016, rain or shine. Start time is 12:00 noon. The picnic will be held in the Busse Woods West Forest Preserve, Grove #31, located on the north side of Higgins Road (Rte. 72), west of Arlington Heights Road. The area is south of the Northwest Toll Road. This is the same location as the last



three years. The picnic is free for members, their families and friends. We will have brats, kiełbasa, hot dogs, burgers, corn on the cob, watermelon, ice cream and more, along with various beverages-all lunder a covered pavilion. There is ample open space surrounding the pavilion, and everyone is encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and pillows. There are rest room facilities at the site. Games, treats, and a goodie bag will be provided for children. We will have bean bags and horseshoe contests for the adults. We are working on special treats for the ladies and gents. We are seeking volunteers to play a set or two of music on their favorite instrument and also raffle prizes. Please bring your family friends for an afternoon of fun and relaxation. This is a great way to get to know your fellow members. RSVP to padykas@yahoo.com. If you like to donate a prize for the raffle drawing or be a picnic sponsor contact Picnic Chairman Brother Robert Groszek at his office 773-267-7100 or cell 219-743-8001, or email: robert@groszeklaw.com Hope to see you there!

#### **PNA FLAG DAY CEREMONY**

The Polish National Alliance celebrated Flag Day on June 14, 2016, in front



of the PNA Home Office building on a picture perfect morning. A symbol dear to our hearts and importance to our Nation – the Flag of the United States of America. It has been a symbol of our country since 1777.

Brother Charles Komosa, emceed and opened the program by intro-

ducing PNA & PAC President, Brother Frank Spula who remarked about the importance of Flag Day and thanked all that attended. Three veterans raised the American, Polish, and PNA Flags that fly in front of the PNA building. Raising the American Flag was brother Romuald 'Ro" Matuszczak, U.S Marine, WWII, Staff Sergeant, and a moment of silence was given in memories of those who gave their lives defending our country with the playing of the Military Taps. Commemorating the day were Circuit Court of Cook County Clerk Dorothy Brown with Mary Ann Anselmo, Illinois State Senator John Mulroe, Illinois State Representative Michael P. McAuliffe, and Brother Steve Kozicki, candidate for



Attending the Flag Day ceremony: Brothers Steve Kozicki, John Cieslik, Ro Matuszczak, Charles Komosa

Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County. Chris Matuszczak. Brother Komosa closed the program with the guests singing *God Bless America*. All were invited to stay for a delicious grilled kielbasa luncheon reception in the PNA cafeteria catered by Brother **William "Bill" Wojcik**, owner of Laramie Bakeries.

### 2ND PLACE ESSAY — 2016 CHICAGO SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

#### By joanna Bahena

#### What did Solidarność and the fall of communism in Poland mean to you and your family?

September 1980 was the birth of "Solidarnosc," which largely contributed to changes in Poland and Europe. "Niezależny Samorządny Związek Zawodowy" was created to protect the rights of workers and until 1989 was among the main opposing movements against "Polska Ludowa" and Communism.

My family as well as many others were full of hope for a better life. They believed that eventually we will have the right to freedom of speech and that censorship will cease to exist. They were certain that one day they will be able to attain products without "kartki" or ration stamps. They dreamed about being able to obtain a passport and being able to go overseas whenever they wanted to.

Life during communism wasn't easy. Poland depended on the Soviet Union and the country was run by one political party, the Polish United Workers Party with the First Secretary as the head. Presidential functions were taken on by the Polish Council of State out of which the leader was chosen. The Polish economy was rough due to forced supply of raw materials, primarily coal, to the USSR, as well as expenditures for the army and maintaining political coercion groups such as MO, SB, ORMO. Apart from that there were constant repressions of the church, farmers were encouraged to work on farms that were run by the government rather than owning their own land, and factory workers worked for low wages despite being considered "przewodnia sila narodu" (the strength of the nation). Bureaucracy prevented people from starting their own businesses and wasn't supportive of new ideas and inventions, those that did or were hoping to, were threatened and harassed.

The years of change which my mom has told me about was a time period that was also very difficult to live in. The martial law and later state of emergency in Poland lasting until the Polish Round Table Talks was a time of a lot of restrictions and scarcity. Chocolate, sugar, meat were all rationed. Washing machines and household appliances were only available to newlywed couples, otherwise people would wait in line for days - there were long lines for most products and there was never enough of them. There was a lack of anything from toilet paper to cars and apartments. With things being this difficult there was an increasing black market and a lot more barter. Despite the tough situation there were still parades on May 1 (celebrating the working class) as well as other celebrations of events such as the October Revolution, praising the government of the time, Polish United Workers Party and the prosperity of Poland. Polish youth was required to learn Russian, false history as well as putting communism above other political philosophies. Propaganda spread throughout all of Poland, emphasizing the power of the Workers Party and USSR. Everything was monitored, even phonecalls.

Thankfully, I was born in a free Poland, my family and I were able to obtain a passport and received the opportunity to be able to study in some of the best colleges in the world. Despite not having actually lived through communism in Poland, it is still something I feel very strongly about. Reading about those times, and hearing about them from my parents, watching documentaries and films about it... I can feel my heart being squeezed. As a Pole and a patriot it fills me with all kinds of emotion when I read all about the times in which Poland has struggled. Yet despite all of these struggles, and as a country that has been partitioned not once but twice, I believe in the strength of Poland- and the fall of communism is just another example of that strength. To me and my family the fall of communism and the solidarity movement is a winning battle for freedom.



#### JULY BIRTHDAYS

The Chicago Society like to extend to the following brother members celebratied their birthday in July, a warm wish of *Sto Lat!* 

- ety would
- 1 Mark Cwiakala Zenon Kurdziel
- 4 John Wasilewski
- 7 William Drozd
- Krzysztof Zadlo
- 10 Romuald Matuszczak
- 14 Thaddeus Makarewicz Tomasz Pawelko
- 15 John Bobrytzke
- 17 Alexander Tzsanos
- 20 William Wojcik
- 22 Edward Marsalek
- 23 Donald Gutowski
- 24 Jack Skaja
- 27 Edward Sawa

## New Chicago Society Member Inducted

Congratulations to new Brother John Bobrytske who was inducted into the Society at the June General Meeting. A rousing *Sto Lat* was sung to our new member and to honor those celebrating their birthdays or membership anniversaries. Brother Ted Makarewicz asked Brother Frank Gondela to introduce his grandson, Jackson Hecht, who he invited to the meeting as a possible future CS member.

#### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate both Brother Mitchell Pasiewicz and Brother Michael Schneider who are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of their induction into the Chicago Society, and Brother Mark Matker, who is celebrating the 10th Anniversary of his inductions into the Chicago Society.



Congratulations to great grandfather, Brother **Stanley M. Jendzejec**, who announced the birth of his great granddaughter Kayla Jendzejec. Kayla, granddaughter of his son, Mark & Peggy Jendzejec, and daughter of his grandson, Alex & Christina Jendzejec, was born on May 29, 2016. Brother Stanley, a former National vice president and proud member of PNA, has signed up Kayla as an insurance member and represents the 6th generation of PNA membership for the Jendzejec clan!

Sto lat, Surprise, I love you forever! Brother **Mark Pasieka** meticulously planned a surprise 40th Birthday bash for his beloved bride of 10 years, Renata, on Friday, June 24 at Lavilla Restaurant & Banquets in Chicago. The guests exploded with exuberant 40th Birthday wishes to a very surprised and shocked Renata, entering the banquet room with her children, Emma, Angela and Mark Jr. Among the invited guests celebrating with the Pasiekas, enjoying delicious food, libations and dance music, was Brother **Mark Orwat** with fiancé, Janina Burdzy, and Brother **Charles** & Agata **Komosa**.

On Sunday, June 12, attending and celebrating the Polish Arts Club of Chicago's 90th Anniversary & Installation of Officers Luncheon at the classy Café Le Cave Restaurant, were Brothers Ted Makarewicz, who administered the Oath of Office, Ted Wiecek, who was elected as Recording Secretary, Walter and Anne Piecewicz, Don and Lucille Gutowski, Jan Osada with Geraldine Balut Coleman, Marian and Teresa Skawski, James and Czeslawa Kolak, Anthony Kawalkowski, violinist, who provided first class entertainment and strolled among the guests' tables playing favorite melodies upon request, Maria Ciesla, solo at the luncheon because she scheduled Richard for garden duties, Joanne Cook, wife of Ed Cook, and their daughter Carole, Wanda Kalin, widow of John Kalin, and Charles Komosa. Following the gourmet luncheon, a raffle and a Parade of Regional & National Costumes of Poland was presented by Anna Krysinski, General Director of the Polonia Ensemble of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, and enjoyed by the quests. Salvador Dali was spotted eating a bowl of surreal!

Polska! Brother Richard and Maria Ciesla

recently had the opportunity of seeing Poland through the "first visit" eyes of their older daughter, son-in-law, and eldest grandchildren-Elizabeth, Douglas, Madeleine, and Caroline Hodgson-when they all spent a week in central and southern Poland on the "Magic of Poland" Tour. The dream come true was arranged by travel agent extraordinaire, Brother Ro Matuszczak, according to the Ciesla/ Hodgson requests. The family was even able to spend a few hours with Maria's paternal cousins in Śląsk. The itinerary, weather, hotels, restaurants, and guide were amazing, and Poland gets lovelier each time the Cieslas visit. The Englishspeaking tour, with new friends, including ones from New Zealand and Australia, was truly magic-and one highly recommended whether you are first-time or veteran visitors.

Violin Virtuoso Brother **Tony Kawalkowski** and his talented orchestra and singers presented a concert on June 13 as part of the Summer Series of the Schaumburg Public Library. Among the hundreds enjoying the concert on a perfect June evening were Brother Tony's wife, Bozena, Brother **Richard** & Maria **Ciesla**, and several of his Polish American friends. One older guest present told singer Wayne Mesmer that Brother Tony's late uncle, the beloved violinist and orchestra leader, Anthony Kawalkowski Sr. played at his wedding many years ago.

(SING) Buy me some pierogi and Cracker Jack; I don't care if I never get back! Celebrating PNA, PRCUA, & PAPA Polish Heritage Night on Tuesday, June 28 at U.S. Cellular Field with the Chicago White Sox for a night starting with Polish music and dance performed by Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of the PRCUA, followed be a pre-game parade on the playing field led by Brother Frank Czaja riding in a 1964 Polish American squad car sponsored by PAPA followed by Chicago Society members; (wearing their proud Polish colors) Brother **Thomas Sieja**, who invited CS members to join PAPA members at the front of the parade lineup and distributed Chicago White Sox Polish hats to PAPA members, CS members and their children, Brother Ted Makarewicz, Brother Dave & Tasneem Uting with children lan & Ava, Brother Charles & Agata Komosa with children Charley & Alex. Brother Mario Mikoda escorted Polish Boxer Andrzej Fonfara onto the field to throw out the first pitch. During the game, spotted on the White Sox jumbo-tron field scoreboard were Brother **Peter** and Agnieszka **Dykas** with children Mathew & Isabella, dressed in their proud Polish colors. The food vendors even offered Polish style potato pancakes and pierogi for purchase!

Brother **Ron "Topper" Topczewski** and his motor cycle crew, including Dr. Joe Sadowski, Eddie Kopij, and Bruce Beaupric, departed Chicago on a roundtrip motorcycle trip covering a total 2,542 miles, motoring through Champaign/Urbana, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texarkana TX, Louisiana, Kosciusko Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana. Brother Topper and his motorcycle crew had a great trip and ideal riding weather.

Congratulations to Brother **Peter Dykas**'s son, Matthew, who successfully completed his Yellow Belt Test only a week after passing his White Belt Test. Needless to say, Sensi Peter needs to be more "in tune" around his children in their Park Ridge dōjō! Further, Matthew is attending his first kolonia zuchowa, Polish Scout Camp in Crivitz, Wisconsin starting the 4th of July holiday weekend. With his Yellow Belt training, any bears up in the northern woods territory should be scared of him.

Anchors aweigh! Brother Mark Orwat with fiancé Janina Burdzy, Brother Charles Komosa with his sons Charley & Alex, and Chicago Society friend Jessica Jagielnik joined A Gift from the Heart Foundation's (Dar Serca) 5th Annual "Cruisin' for Charity" on Lake Michigan Boat Cruise on Sunday, June 26th benefiting seriously ill children in need of critical medical treatments. The luxurious Spirit of Chicago yacht departed Navy Pier and cruised along Chicago's scenic downtown skyline, had 4 floors including an outdoor floor with sundeck on which quests experienced the hot and steamy 98 degree Chicago weather, but inside enjoyed a delicious buffet, sweet table, open bar, live music, and an opportunity to win raffle prizes.

Celebrating Home Fundraiser! Brother **Robert** and Jennifer **Groszek** are hosting their 3rd Annual Garden Party Fundraiser benefiting the Lydia Home Association/ Safe Families this year on Thursday, July 14, 2016 from 6:00 p.m-8:30pm in their parking lot that they convert into a cool oasis, located at 3601 North Pulaski Road, Chicago, Illinois. The event will include an art auction, live music, wine, spirits, and hors d'oeuvres. For tickets, sponsorships, or more information, please call Jennifer Groszek at 219-743-5977.

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