



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA
Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 68

APRIL 2017

NUMBER 4

MONTHLY NETWORKING DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 19, 2017
6:00 p.m.
White Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS
by April 17 to
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org
847-823-8747

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, May 1, 2017
7:00 p.m.
PNA Home Office

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Apr. 19, 2017—
Dinner Meeting & Speaker
White Eagle Banquets
Cocktails 6:00 p.m.; Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 6, 2017—
Pre-Parade Brunch
Hilton Chicago Hotel

Wednesday, May 17, 2017—
Dinner Meeting & Speaker
White Eagle Banquets
Cocktails 6:00 p.m.; Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 20, 2017—
Fishing Derby
Wiinthrop Harbo.

APRIL 2017 SPEAKERS & DINNER MEETING

Our speakers at the April General Meeting will be Mr. Jerzy "Jerry" Krawczyk, President, and Mr. Bogdan Olejniczak, President Emeritus of the Polish Fishing & Hunting Club. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at the White Eagle, starting with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. and dinner & meeting at 7:00 p.m. The Polish Fishing & Hunting Club was established in 1982 and Mr. Bogdan Olejniczak was elected President in 1997. He organized the Children's Fishing Tournament, which usually takes place in the first week



of June. Over the years, more than 1,500 children and young people have participated in the competition. For 15 years, he headed the Polish Fishing & Hunting Club with great success. In 2014, Mr. Bogdan Olejniczak was named President Emeritus by the Club.

The Club's mission is to instill a sense of responsibility for our environment in children as well as teaching them self-worth. The Club accomplishes this by hosting an Annual Fishing Derby event involving the entire family especially children. Through hands-on activities and mentoring, the children discover the world of nature. Fishing provides an excellent opportunity to teach kids about their environment and life's virtues. All children at the Annual Fishing Derby become winners regardless of whether or not they catch any fish. On June 11, 2017, the Polish Fishing and Hunting Club will sponsor its Annual Fishing Derby angling tournament at Wood Dale Grove. This is now the 20th anniversary of the Club's Annual Fishing Derby. Last year over 116 children ranging in ages from three to fourteen participated and the Club is expecting more children this year. The Club's motto for young anglers is "Say No to Drugs!"

The April General Meeting not only offers great camaraderie, a featured speaker, but a delicious dinner menu! Our post Easter dinner menu includes Chicken Florentine French style soup, a individual tossed salad with choice of creamy house Italian or Ranch dressing, a bread basket, a family style dinner with Chicken Paprikash with a sweet pepper sauce, Chopped Beef Cutlets with onions and peppers, mashed potatoes, and red cabbage, dessert of the day, coffee, or tea. Please contact Brother **Chuck Cwiakala** at meeting@chicagosocietypna.org or call 847-823-8747 for reservations. Please note: Any guests at the meeting must be prospective new members and you must confirm their reservation with Brother Chuck. No exceptions! At each general monthly meeting, we offer and split a 50/50 raffle for the members. Please consider purchasing \$5.00 or more in raffle tickets because you can win one of several cash prizes.



CHICAGO SOCIETY Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications
Ted Wiecek

editor@chicagosocietypna.org

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www.chicagosocietypna.org
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Dear Brothers,

I hope this message is received on as nice a day as when it was written. Welcome Spring!



Like the weather things, are heating up at the Chicago Society. I have many great points of progress to report to you. First, we have a grand marshal for this year's Constitution Day Parade. She is none other than Hon. Diann Marsalek-daughter of our long-time member Judge Edward H. Marsalek (Ret.). Judge Diann Marsalek made a preeminently qualified candidate and received more than twice the votes as her nearest competitor. Congratulations Judge Diann Marsalek.

Speaking of the parade, Chicago Society will again be hosting its brunch on Saturday, May 6 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the luxurious Hilton Chicago. Bring your family and friends and join us for this wonderful event. It is a great way to show your Polish pride.

I will be out and about representing the Chicago Society at a number of upcoming events. The newly appointed Polish Ambassador to the United States, Piotr Wilczek, will be the guest at a reception hosted by the Consul General for the Republic of Poland, Piotr Janicki. I was invited and will offer him our congratulations and offer of support. The Polish Arts Club of Chicago will be hosting its 80th Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture Opening on June 22nd at the Polish Museum of America. I will also be appearing on behalf of our organization. And, I will be joining the Polish American Police Association for its awards banquet on May 5.

At our general meeting on April 19 the members of the Constitution Committee will be presenting for consideration of brother members the approved amendments to our Constitution. The proposed changes are the culmination of many hours of work by the committee and are greatly needed to reflect the policies and procedures of a more modern Chicago Society. Copies of the changes were mailed on April 5 to all members in accordance with the Constitution. Please take some time to review the packet when you receive it. Your preparation for the meeting will help us be efficient in our review of the approved amendments prior to the vote at the meeting.

Finally, I wish you and your families a heartfelt *Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych*.

Fraternally yours,

Brother Steve Rakowski



Dear Brothers,

At the next General Meeting, you will be asked to approve amendments to our Constitution. The most significant amendment is a new Mission of the Society. The new Mission calls us to "spread our wings," to share a leadership role in being an agent of service to improve the life of the Polish community. Following lengthy reflection and discussion at its recent retreat, the Board concluded that this revised Mission is still in keeping with the ideals of the Society's founders, yet reflects the needs and realities of the current community. I hope all of you agree with the Board's decisions and vote favorably on these amendments.

The May 3rd celebrations are quickly coming. This is Polonia's time to shine. Please join the Society on our float. Bring your wives, your children (in costume, if they have one). Let us show Polonia and Chicago that the Chicago Society is a vibrant, thriving organization! See you all at the Parade.

Serdeczne życzenia Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych wszystkim członkom i ich rodzinom

POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PRE-PARADE BRUNCH

The Chicago Society's Annual Polish Constitution Day Pre-Parade Brunch will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017, in the Continental Room of the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. We are back at the Hilton because the parade this year will be on Columbus Drive starting at Balbo Drive.

Reception will be at 8:30 a.m. with seating at 9:30 a.m. when a plated brunch will be served. Cost of the brunch is \$35.00 per person. Tickets may be purchased by PayPal at <http://chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html>. Tickets will be held at the door. For additional information, please contact Chairman **Ro Matuszczak** at 847-635-0883 or 847-331-8007. Please make your reservations early! This will be Ro's 40th year as Chairman of the event. Co-chairmen are Brothers **Charles Komosa** and **Ted Makarewicz**.

The Chicago Society will again have a float in the parade with music supplied by Brother **Tony Kawalkowski**. There will be space for persons to sit. Those members who will not attend the brunch but will march may contact Ro Matuszczak as to our place in the parade or should ask any Parade Marshal. Preferred attire for the marchers is gray slacks, dark jacket, red tie and white shirt. A business suit is certainly acceptable. Our thanks to past president **Frank Czaja** for organizing the float and the musician.



POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY EVENTS

Grand Marshal: Honorable Diann Marsalek

Vice Marshals: Bożysława Andersohn & Father Paweł Kosinski, SJ

Friend of Polonia: Alderman Ariel Reboyras

Parade Motto: Tadeusz Kościuszko - Hero of Poland and the United States

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017

Wreath Laying Ceremony, 8:00 a.m. at the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Monument, Lake Shore Dr. and Solidarity Dr.

Raising of the Polish Flag, 9:00 a.m., Daley Plaza, 50 West Washington

Brunch, 9:30 a.m., Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

PARADE, 11:30 a.m., start at Columbus and Balbo Streets

Dinner Dance, Reception 6:00 p.m., Jolly Inn Banquets, 6501 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago

Polish Constitution Day Parade



2017 CS CANDIDATES' ANNUAL CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

On Thursday, March 30, 2017, the Chicago Society held its Annual Candidates' Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner at the AAC Eagles Club in Chicago. Brother **Mark**



Orwat and Brother **Charles Komosa** co-chaired a very successful event with 85 guests, elected officials and candidates. Tremendous help came from Brother **Chuck Cwiakala**, Brother **Ro Matuszczak** and Brother President **Steve Rakowski** and Agata Komosa. All enjoyed a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner provided by Harrington's World Famous Corned Beef. Brother Charles Komosa opened the program and greeted all the guests. He then introduced co chair Brother Mark Orwat and CS President Steve Rakowski to greet the guests.

After an outstanding Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner served by Harrington's experienced and professional servers, President Steve Rakowski introduced the elected officials and candidates for office. Among those in attendance were, Brother Hon. **Robert Martwick**, State Representative 19th District, who purchased a table but was unable to attend, Brother Hon. **Andrew Przybylo**, Mayor of the Village of Niles, with Ms. Iwona Filipiak, Director of the Polish American Chamber of Commerce, who initiated and read an Illinois House Bill naming a portion of Milwaukee Avenue in Niles along St. Adalbert's Cemetery in honor of General Władysław Anders (11 August 1892–12 May 1970) General of the Polish Government-in-Exile and Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces. Also attending were Hon. Judge Diann Marsalek, Hon. Judge Clare Quish, Hon. Judge Gerald Cleary, Hon. Judge Mike Forti, Hon. Joseph Berrios, Cook County Assessor,

➤ continued on p. 5

INDUCTED TO MEMBERSHIP

We welcome **Kenneth J. Kogut**, sponsored by Brothers **Ted Makarewicz** and **John Wasilewski**, who was sworn in as a member at our last meeting. *Witamy!!*



YEAR OF KOŚCIUSZKO

To honor the 200th anniversary of his death, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland declared 2017 to be the "Year of Kościuszko," honoring a national hero of both Poland and the United States. UNESCO has made the same declaration, acknowledging his activity for the sake of independence, peace and equality for all.



Gen. Thaddeus Kościuszko was a national hero in Poland and the United States, freedom fighter and military leader, ardent advocate for the rights of European serfs, African Slaves, Native American Indians, women and all other disenfranchised social groups on two continents; engineer and creator of West Point. Kościuszko was a precursor of the development of national awareness in its modern sense, embodiment of the principle of tolerance, called by Thomas Jefferson "the purest son of liberty I have ever known."

For information about events in Poland commemorating this anniversary, visit <http://www.thenews.pl/1/11/Artykul/299566,Events-around-Poland-mark-Kosciuszko-anniversary>. For events sponsored by the Kosciuszko Foundation, go to <https://www.thekf.org/kf/events/2017-year-of-kosciuszko/>.

Please take time to learn about his life and principles, and make sure your children and grandchildren know about this hero of two countries.

Do you know a potential member?

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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



- 5 Matt Rodriguez
- 8 Andrew Przybylo
- 9 Eugene Urbaszewski
- 10 Joseph Dondalski
- Peter Dykas
- 13 Anthony Kawalkowski
- 14 Richard Jakubowski
- 17 Frederick Koziol
- Jerome Mytych
- 28 John Wojciechowski
- Jospeh Hercik
- 30 William Przybylski

APRIL ANNIVERSARY

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate Brother **Tomaz Pawelko**, who is celebrating the 10th Anniversary of his induction into the Chicago Society.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING PAYMENT OF CHICAGO SOCIETY DUES

We were going to publish names of brother members who have not paid their dues by now in *The Forum* as delinquent. However, brother members are still sending in their due in dribs and drabs. If you still have not paid your dues—and you know who you are—use your tax refund and pay up!

The preferred method of paying your dues is via PayPal. It's easy, convenient, and, best of all, free (my favorite 4-letter word). Simply go to chicagosocietypna.org/payments. click-click-click, you're done!

Those of you who opt to pay the "old-fashioned" way—by check—we ask that you send your payments to our mailing address:

Chicago Society PNA
6348 N. Milwaukee Ave. #360
Chicago, IL 60646

Any questions, please direct them to Brother Ted Wiecek, twiecek@hotmail.com or 773-539-9491. Thank you for your cooperation and your patience in this matter.

Please Note: Only members who have paid their dues will be permitted to vote on the proposed amendments to the Constitution at the April General Meeting.

PAY DUES ON-LINE

Advertise with Us!

We are now offering non-members the opportunity to advertise their business in *The Forum*. Please contact ads@chicagosocietypna.org for more information.



SURPRISE! SURPRISE!

On Friday, March 17, 2017, Brother **Frank Gondela** was surprised by his family and friends to celebrate his goth birthday.

It was held at the Fisher House on the Hines VA campus. There were close to fifty persons present which included fellow students from Frank's school days at Steinmetz High School and his Alma Mater, Drake University and a few friends from as far away as Grand Rapids, Michigan. Attending were Brother **Ro** and Chris **Matuszczak** and Brother **Robert Mance**. Brother Frank has been a volunteer at the Hines Hospital for over thirteen years, seven at the Fisher House which caters to Veteran families. The Fisher House has thirteen homes throughout the United States and internationally.



An added surprise was that Frank was the sole honoree from all Fisher Homes for his service and named Volunteer of the Year. He will attend a special presentation at the three-day meeting in Houston, Texas. He was selected from all the locations for his volunteer work. Congratulations to Frank for all his work for the veterans. He certainly deserves the honor.

Easter is the most important day in the Christian calendar. Easter is a prominent celebration in Poland which reflects her rich cultural heritage. While religious ceremonies follow the rituals of the Christian church, Easter celebrations have integrated elements of native Polish culture. There are many traditions that seem to be the blending of the Polish and Christian cultures.

Święconka, the "blessing basket," is a unique Easter tradition in Poland and one of the most enduring and beloved. On Holy Saturday people take decorated baskets containing a sampling of traditional food to churches to be blessed: hard-boiled eggs, ham, sausage, salt, horseradish, fruits, bread and cake. Prominently displayed among these is the Easter lamb, usually molded from butter or sugar, and colorful pisanki.

On Easter morning, a special Resurrection Mass *Rezurekcja* is celebrated in every church in Poland. At this Mass, a procession of priests, altar boys and the people circles the church three times while the church bells peal and the organ is played for the first time since they had been silenced on Good Friday. Following the Mass, people return home to eat the food blessed the day before.

The family breakfast on Easter Sunday morning is an important part of the Polish Easter celebration. The Easter breakfast begins with sharing blessed eggs with the members of the family and wishing each other good health and happiness for the rest of the year (very similar to breaking Opłatek at Wigilia). The Easter table is covered with a white tablecloth, indicative of the white swaddling cloth with which Our Lord was wrapped when he was placed in the Holy Sepulcher. On the table will be colored eggs, cold meats, coils of sausages, ham, yeast cakes, poppy-seed cakes, and a lamb made of sugar. Polish Easter soup called Żurek or White Barszcz is also served, garnished with the hard-boiled eggs and sausage.

A popular tradition is Śmigus-Dingus, or Lany poniedziałek, celebrated on the Monday after Easter. On this day boys roam around the neighborhood to sprinkle girls with water. The custom of pouring water is an ancient spring rite of cleansing, purification, and fertility. Śmigus-Dingus has been associated with the baptism of Prince Mieszko I. Tradition states that Prince Mieszko I along with his court were baptized on Easter Monday in 966 A.D. Thus, Śmigus-Dingus and its rites of sprinkling with water have become a folk celebration in thanksgiving for the fact that the first king of Poland was baptized into Christianity, bringing Catholicism to Poland.

←continued from p. 3

CORNERED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

Steve Kozicki, candidate for Circuit Court Judge, 10th Sub circuit, Former Village of Norridge Trustee with friend Former Harwood Heights Trustee Robert Pawelko, Brother member Hon. Michael Dropka, Chairman of the Riverside Township Regular Republican Organization Inc., Hon. Judge James Pieczonka, Mrs. Barbara Piltaver, Mayor of Schiller Park, Hon. Nick Caifa, Leyden Township Trustee and candidate for Mayor of Schiller Park with Brother Mario Mikoda, Campaign advisor on Ethnic Affairs, Moses Diaz, Trustee, Village of Schiller Park, Mrs. Rosa Jos, Candidate for Schiller Park Village Clerk, Mrs. Joan Golembiewski, Candidate for Village of Schiller Park Trustee, Mr. Tom Deegan, Candidate for Village of Schiller Park Trustee, and Mr. Hubert Cioromski, Campaign Manager for Mr. Lucas Fuksa, candidate for Mayor of Park Ridge, who spoke glowingly on Mr. Fuksa's behalf due to illness. The evening ended with the traditional Executive Raffle for various gifts. All of the guests had a great fraternal evening!

POLISH EASTER TRADITIONS



Cut this out and tape it to your refrigerator

Thursday, March 30, 2016
Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Saturday, May 6, 2017
Pre-Parade Brunch, Hilton Chicago

Saturday, May 20, 2017
Fishing Derby

Friday, July 14, 2017
Golf Outing

Sunday, August 21, 2017
Family & Friends Picnic

Thursday, October 26, 2017
Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

Saturday, November 18, 2017
Hunting Outing

Saturday, December 16, 2017
Deserving Children's Christmas Party

Friday, July 14, 2017
Scholarship Golf Outing

General Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.



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