



The Forum

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

VOLUME 66

FEBRUARY 2015

NUMBER 2

DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2015
6:00 P.M.

Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS
by February 16 to
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org
or 847-331-8007

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, March 2, 7:00 P.M.
PNA Home Office

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, February 17, 2015—
Chicago Society Śledź
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

Wednesday, February 18, 2015—
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

Wednesday, March 18, 2015—
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

Wednesday, April 15, 2015
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

THE CHICAGO SOCIETY'S ŚLEDŹ MARDI GRAS PARTY

This year's annual Chicago Society Śledź will take place at the White Eagle Restaurant and Banquets, 6839 North Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, IL 60714 on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. The festivities will begin with a social hour (cash bar) at 6:00 p.m. followed by a fine dinner at 7:00 p.m. of herring in cream sauce, chubs, rye bread, *biały* (white) *barszcz* soup, potatoes, *pierogi*, *kiełbasa*, *kapusta*, Polish style chicken *de volaille*, green beans almondine, coffee or tea, ice cream, and *pączki*. This festive event is open to members, non-members, family, relatives, singles, and guests. Dinner will start with *śledź* (herring) as an appetizer.

After dinner, the traditional pageant representing Śledź will be held followed by the crowning of St. Joseph for 2015. The gentleman selected acts as our chaplain at Chicago Society meetings and at special occasions, leading those present in an appropriate prayer. The celebration of Śledź is the Chicago Society's version of Christian and Polish traditions that date back centuries. It is a celebration of carnival, or *Mardi Gras*—the period immediately preceding Lent. Following our unique pageant will be an open bar and raffle with prizes. The cost is \$40.00 per person.

For reservations or information call Brother Frank Czaja at (312) 520-6144 or (708) 425-6144 or purchase your tickets online through PayPal at <http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html>.

FEBRUARY MEETING SPEAKER (H2O)

Brother Charles Komosa has arranged for Ms. Mariyana Spyropoulos, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, to be our featured speaker at the February General meeting. She was appointed to her post in 2009 and was elected in 2010. She was elected as Chairman of Finance in January, 2013, and Board President in January, 2015. President Spyropoulos serves as Chairman of three committees: Judiciary, Real Estate Development, and Pension, Human Resources and Civil Service. She also serves as a Trustee on the Pension Board. In January, 2011, the Board of Commissioners appointed her to the Public Building Commission.

President Spyropoulos received her law degree from The John Marshall Law School and her MBA from Loyola University Chicago. She also completed graduate work in American government at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. With her attorney experience, she brings a unique legal and business perspective combined with environmental activism. She has spoken to many community groups on environmental and water issues.

She is an attorney with the Law Offices of Mariyana Spyropoulos & Associates. Prior to opening her own law office, President Spyropoulos worked as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and then as a Hearing Officer for the State of Illinois. Before law school, she lived in London, England, where she worked at Nomura Research Institute. Her work focused on privatization efforts in Eastern European countries.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago covers 883 square

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CHICAGO
SOCIETY
Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

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Brothers

I would like to thank everyone who attended this year's Inaugural Ball and especially Brother **Ro** and Chris **Matuszczak** for organizing such a special event. We had over 200 people in attendance, which is one of our larger inaugural balls in recent memory. In attendance for dinner we had Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, Assessor Joseph Berrios, Commissioner Dan Patlak of the Cook County Board of Review, Alderman and Vice Mayor Ray Suarez of the 31st Ward, Alderman Ariel Reboyras of the 30th Ward, Alderman John Arena of the 45th Ward, Skip Saviano, President of Elmwood Park, and Arlene Jazierny, Mayor of Harwood Heights. The judiciary was also well represented by our Brother **James P. Pieczonka**, Judge Diann Marsalak and her father retired Judge **Edward Marsalak**. And a special thank you to my fellow law school classmate, retired Judge John Wasilewski who administered the oath of office to the officers and directors. John and his son Ed have recently submitted their applications for membership.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Persons of the Year Award to Brother **Frank Spula**, President of the Polish National Alliance and President of the Polish American Congress, and Brother **Andrew Przybylo**, the Mayor of Niles and co-owner of the White Eagle Banquets and Restaurant.

And finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank my pastor, Fr. Robert Fedek of Our Lady of Victory Church who gave the invocation before the meal. Fr. Robert had a business background in Poland before coming to the United States and becoming a priest. I believe Father Robert would make a good member and possible spiritual advisor.

The theme of my remarks addressed the need for participation by all of our members. The Chicago Society is only as good as the total sum of its members. I am proposing the formation of an Under 40 group to bring in younger members with new ideas. I will be calling upon our members throughout the year to ask them for their time, talent and participation in the Society's activities.

With that being said, our next annual event is the traditional *Śledź* festivities and dinner to be held on February 17, 2015, at the White Eagle Banquets and Restaurant. It should be a fun evening with a pre-Lenten Mardi Gras pageant and the naming of our St. Joseph.

But, just as exciting, come and see who will be this year's Devil and Father Time! Buckle up and put on your helmets, the ride maybe a little bumpy at times, but we are going to have an exciting year of activities for all our members and their families.

Again, this is your Society, and I'm always willing to hear your concerns. My phone number is 847-456-0717 and my email is hogski@hotmail.com.

Fraternally,

Brother Ted Makarewicz

AVOID THE 2015 DELINQUENT MEMBER PUBLICATION!

February is the last month to pay your 2015 Chicago Society dues to avoid having your name published in the March Forum as being delinquent. Pursuant to the Chicago Society By-Laws, names of members who have not paid their current year's membership dues will be considered delinquent and have their names published in the March *Forum*, and membership will be suspended until reinstated. Please contact Chicago Society Financial Secretary Brother **Ryszard Jadczyk** if you feel your name was listed in error or for payment arrangements at (847) 639-2327, or you can pay via the Chicago Society PayPal account at <http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html> with no convenience fee.

FYI –Two dues payment notices for 2015 were mailed to each member.



DID YOU MAKE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?

DON'T MISS THE ŚLEDŹ ON FEBRUARY 17



Dear Brothers,

I will remain as the editor of the Chicago Society *Forum* for another year, as I resigned my position as Civic Vice President in charge of arranging the general meeting speakers. Brother **Robert Groszek** was appointed as Civic Vice President by President **Ted Makarewicz** and unanimously approved by the Chicago Society Board at our February board meeting. Great to have new members on the board like Brother **Peter Dykas**, Director of Personnel, Brother **Mark Pasiaka**, Director of Public Relations, and Brother **Andrew Zapalski**, Director of Finance. Brother **Ted Makarewicz** is planning several new ideas for the Chicago Society in the upcoming months.

Please remember that Monday, March 2, 2015, is the official State of Illinois observance of General Casimir Pulaski Day. The Polish Museum of America will have its annual Celebration of the Pulaski Day from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. the same day at the museum. Eat and offer your loved ones *paćzki* especially on Fat Thursday, February 12, and Fat Tuesday, February 17, 2015! Preorder your *paćzki* from our brother member **William "Bill" Wojcik**, owner of **Laramie Bakery** at (847) 404-8806. I usually order about 100 of his gourmet chocolate, strawberry cheese cake, or many of the other *paćzki* his bakery makes, and give them to my family and friends. They all rave and want to know where I get the over sized *paćzki*.

Happy Valentine's Day to all the wonderful wives, girlfriends, and/or companions of brother members. Also - Special Valentine's Day wishes to my wife Agata - for marrying me on February 14, 2003, and giving us the precious gifts of Charley & Alex!

Fraternally, Brother Charles Komosa

FEBRUARY SPEAKER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

miles and provides wholesale wastewater treatment for over five million residents in Cook County, Illinois. The District operates seven wastewater treatment plants which treat one billion gallons per day. The District also provides regional storm water services. To understand the challenges involved in managing storm water and wastewater for five million Cook County residents, it is important to have an understanding of how the combined sewer system works. The entire Chicago land region developed on a flat marshland. In the past, water could gradually soak into the ground in open areas that are now covered with driveways, streets, parking lots, and buildings. Today, an estimated 42% of Cook County is impervious surface, so water cannot be absorbed. With more frequent 100 year storms happening, flooding is a major issue throughout Chicago land. Ms. Spyropoulos will give a PowerPoint presentation to help us better understand how the combined sewer system operates and discuss the work the District has underway to help reduce basement backups.

The February general meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at the White Eagle. The dinner menu for the evening includes Cream of Chicken soup, Pepper Steak and Roast Chicken, Mostaccioli, a garden variety of vegetables and *kolaczki* for dessert. The social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. and dinner is at 7:00 p.m. Please call Brother **Ro Matuszczak** at (847) 635-0883 or send e-mail to meeting@chicagosocietypna.org for reservations.

CHICAGO SOCIETY FOUNDATION REPORT

On Monday, January 26, 2015, the members of the Chicago Society Foundation Board of Directors met at La Villa Restaurant for the 1st quarter meeting of 2015. Brother **Charles Komosa**, Foundation president, greeted and welcomed new foundation board member Brother **Ted Makarewicz**, newly elected president of the Chicago Society.

2015 elections were held and elected were Brother **Charles Komosa**, president. Brother **Don Gutowski**, vice president, Brother **Stanley Sawa**, treasurer and Brother **Mark Orwat**, secretary. Brother **Komosa** then nominated, with unanimous board approval, Brother **Robert Groszek** to serve as Foundation Advocate, a nonvoting position, to fill the vacancy of Brother **Ted Makarewicz** as he transitioned to a Foundation Board member. Brother **Komosa** then nominated Brother **Ron Olech** to continue to serve as the Foundation's accountant. The Foundation's Finance Committee members are Brother **Don Gutowski**, Brother **Frank Gondela**, Brother Richard Ciesla, and new member and committee chairman Brother **Walter Pieciewicz**. Brother Don is stepping down as chairman after several years of successful investing with measurable earnings for the Foundation. Brother **Don** has graciously agreed to serve on the committee as a member and advisor during the transition.

The board reviewed several grant requests but none were approved due to lack of documentation or for other reasons. After the meeting, the board members surprised Brother **Walter Pieciewicz** with a birthday cup cake and sang *Sto Lat* to him. The next meeting of the Chicago Society Foundation will be held on April 27, 2015. If you need information on grant requests, please contact Brother **Mark Orwat**, Foundation secretary, at any hour, day or night, seven days a week, at (773) 502-6969

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PROPOSED FOR CHICAGO SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The following gentlemen have applied for membership in the Chicago Society of the PNA. If any member has an objection regarding the admission of either of these prospective members, he should contact the Personnel Director prior to the next general meeting. Sponsors are to attend the general meeting in which the new member will be inducted and to introduce him to the Personnel Director and to others before the Induction ceremony.

Name: Paul Pacini
Address: 4228 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60641
Phone: (312) 810-8894
Occupation: Executive for Property Management
Birth date: September 13, 1965
Birthplace: Chicago, IL
Education: Loyola University,
Sponsors: Brothers Mark Orwat
and Robert Groszek

Name: John Wasilewski
Address: 7534 W. Pottawatomie Dr.
Palos Heights, IL 60463
Phone: (708) 267-7547
Occupation: Retired Circuit Court Judge
Birth date: July 4, 1952
Birthplace: Oak Park, IL
Education: B.A. DePaul University (74),
J.D. Northern IL Univ. (78)
Sponsors: Brothers Ted Makarewicz
and Romuald Matuszczak

Name: Edward Wasilewski
Address: 7534 W. Pottawatomie Dr.
Palos Heights, IL 60463
Phone: (312) 603-6434
Occupation: Cook County Assistant
State's Attorney
Birth date: November 22, 1988

Birthplace: Evergreen Park, IL
Education: B.S. Western Illinois (2011),
J.D. John Marshall LS (2014)
Sponsors: Brothers Ted Makarewicz
and Romuald Matuszczak

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

- 1 Francis Gembala
James Kopka
- 3 Richard W. Wiermanski
- 4 Wictor Drapszo
Edmund Gronkiewicz
Jon Osada
- 7 Raymond Golenia
- 13 Henryk Marciniak
- 23 Terrance Przybylski
- 26 Gregory Kosin
- 28 Robert Martwick
William Sawicki

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following brother member, who is celebrating the anniversary of his induction in February. Brother **William Drozd**, was inducted in February, 2005 (10 years).

CHICAGO SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Chairman Brother **Robert Groszek** and his committee have prepared the 2015 Scholarship Application. The topic of the essay scholarship: "Tell a factual story about how your relative(s), friend(s), or resident(s) of a city or village in Poland survived World War II." The 2015 Scholarship Application is now available at our website. Please submit essays and application to Brother **Robert Groszek** by March 9, 2015.

INDUCTION CEREMONY OF NEW MEMBERS

At the January 2015 General Meeting, brother **Peter Dykas**, CS Director of Personnel, administered the oath of new membership to the following news members: Brother **Fred Lebed**, an executive for construction and government relations, Brother **Paul Koontz**, who recently graduated law school and passed the Illinois State Bar Exam, and Brother **Christopher Zadlo**, executive of the **Invenergy Corp.** After the oath, the entire membership sang *Sto Lat* in honor of our new members with a champagne toast. Congratulations to the newest members of the Chicago Society!



HUBERT J. CIOROMSKI
President

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2015 INAUGURAL BALL RECAP

The Chicago Society's Annual Inaugural Ball and Installation of Officers was held on Saturday, January 31, 2015, at The Elmcrest located in Elmwood Park, Illinois. The evening was beautiful and one to enjoy the warmth of camaraderie. Upon entering the Elmcrest, over 190 guests were offered flutes of champagne and gourmet hors d'oeuvres served by a gracious staff.

The festivities began with Alexandra Podowska leading the guests in the National Anthems of the United States of America and the Republic of Poland. Ball Chairman **Ro Matuszczak** welcomed the guests and then introduced Father Robert Fedek, pastor of Our Lady of Victory Church, who gave the invocation. A group of the Wici Dancers put on a special dance during dinner. Brother President **Thaddeus Makarewicz** was called on to present the Persons of the Year Award to our honorees, **Frank Spula**, President of the Polish National Alliance and President of the Polish American Congress, and **Andrew Przybylo**, Mayor of Niles and businessman.

The Booster Award, given to the member who signed up the most inductees for the year, was presented to Frank Czaja. Outgoing President **Mark Orwat** gave a short talk which was followed by the Induction of Officers by the Honorable John A. Wasilewski, Cook County Judge, Retired. Incoming president's remarks were made by **Thaddeus Makarewicz**. Dancing immediately followed to the music of The Music Company.

In the President's Column, there is a listing of the dignitaries present. We would like to add the following: Besides the Marsalek Judges, there were Judge Bill Rainer; Judge Alexandra Gillespie, and Judge Anne Loftus. Also present were Andrew Hock, Deputy Police Chief of Elmwood Park; Vice President of the Polish National Alliance, **Paul Odrobina**; Barrett Pedersen, Mayor of Franklin Park; our Brother Member **Steve Rakowski**, President of the Advocates Society; Marlene Victorine, City Clerk of Niles and Irene Moskal Del Giudice, President of the Illinois Division, Polish American Congress.

A variety of musical numbers from traditional to contemporary, from polkas and waltzes to romantic melodies by The Music Company was enjoyed by the guests.

Special thanks to Chairman **Ro Matuszczak**, his wife, Chris, who truly extended herself, to **Charles Komosa**, National Secretary of the Polish National Alliance, and **T. Ronald Jasinski Herbert**, co-chairpersons of the Inaugural. It was the effort of the above named that made for a successful and enjoyable event.

ART DECO POLAND 2 TRIP MAY 2015

POLAND! Home to 13 UNESCO World Heritage Sites! Imposing Castles! Lovely Scenery! Quaint Villages! Forest and Mountains! Folklore! History! Art Deco??? Yes! Poland adopted the style after a successful participation at the 1925 Paris Exposition.

In 1926 the port of Gdynia was opened. Construction of districts and individual structures were found in various cities. Polish artists created works that are still admired. Polish posters of the inter-war period were on the cutting edge. You can discover this aspect of Polish culture on the Art Deco Poland 2, May 09- 24, 2015 trip. This trip is a follow up from the success of the first trip in 2010 when Deco devotees (4 from Australia, 6 from Canada and 16 from the USA) visited six cities in Poland, highlighting their Art Deco sites.

Poland is still a bargain in Europe. The trip is scheduled for mid-May 2015, before the tourist high season, but still in pleasant travelling weather. Package tour prices are based on double occupancy, but single supplement is available. The land trip price includes: hotel accommodations in 4 and 5 star hotels, buffet breakfast daily, 6 dinners, air-conditioned motor coach, English-speaking tour escort, English-speaking guides in each city and admission to all attractions in the program.

Because of the various locations that people come from and their ability to use air mileage, travel to and from Poland is on your own. A certain amount of seats from Chicago will be reserved. Please contact tour organizer Jan Lorys who is Polish bilingual and bicultural. He is an avid historian and traveler who has organized group tours to Poland since 2001. For further information on pricing and itinerary e-mail janlorys@yahoo.com or call (773) 763-4300.

NEWS BRIEFS

Prepared and Distributed by the
Polonia Media Network

The Museum of Polish Vodka is set to open in 2017 in Praga, a trendy location in the Polish capital, in two buildings left over from the former Koneser Distillery. Visitors will immerse themselves in the history of Poland's favorite spirit in five galleries. The development of the area will also include new cafes, boutiques, a gallery and apartments.

Poland's population growth rate was positive in 2014, according to the latest data of the Central Statistical Office (GUS) data. According to recent estimates, Poland will record some 380,000 births, up from 360,400 forecast by GUS back in October and 370,000 deaths, down from 384,000 previously forecast by GUS. Experts ascribe greater birth rate to recently introduced one-year-long paid parental leaves.

Polish movie theaters sold a record high 40 million tickets in 2014, helped by strong presentations of Polish films. The sector sold 38 million tickets in eleven months and the latest part of the Hobbit franchise helped boost sales to beat the 2009 record of 39.2 million tickets. The year was marked by strong sales of tickets for Polish films, which constituted some 35% of total sales.

Poland has announced plans to wage war on its quickly growing wild boar population after numbers of the feral animal increased by 150% in just 10 years. Foraging boars have become such a familiar sight in city suburbs as they target garbage cans for food that experts have warned they now pose a danger to the public. The Polish Hunting Association estimates that boar numbers have now reached 300,000, and without check the number will carry on growing. In response the government is preparing to relax hunting restrictions in an attempt to take a chunk out of the boar population. Polish boars have enjoyed a bonanza owing to a series of mild winters and increasing numbers of farmers growing more corn, a favorite boar snack, which has allowed them to fatten, breed and flourish.

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