



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 69

April 2018

NUMBER 4

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

April General Meeting

White Eagle Events &

Convention Center

6:00 pm

RESERVATIONS

by April 16 to

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

or (773) 444-0744 or

<https://www.chicagosocietypna.org>

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Casino Day

White Eagle Events &

Convention Center

1:30pm to midnight

Monday, April 30, 2018

May Board Meeting

PNA Home Office 6:00 pm

FORUM Deadline

Send all articles to

editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Saturday, May 5, 2018

Polish Constitution Day

Pre-Parade Brunch

Grand Ballroom of the Hilton

Chicago - 8:00 am

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Fishing Derby

Winthrop Harbor, Illinois

5:30 am

April 2018 Speaker & Dinner Meeting

Our speaker for the April General Meeting will be our own **Brother Jan Plachta**. He will have a presentation on bridges built in America by Ralph Modjeski.

Jan Plachta was born in Kraków, Poland. In 1961 he moved to Vienna, Austria. In 1966 he graduated from the Technical University of Vienna with the Diplom-Ingenieur degree. In 1967 he immigrated to the United States and in 1972 he was awarded a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. In 1982 he received the Ph.D. degree from the Kraków Technical University. He worked for various consulting firms in the United States, Canada, Saudi Arabia, and for the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Continued on page 4

Polish Constitution Day Parade Brunch Reminder

The Chicago Society's Annual Polish Constitution Day Pre-Parade Brunch will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018, in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Reception will be at 8:00 a.m. with seating at 9:15 a.m. Brunch will be served at 9:30 a.m. Cost of the brunch is \$35.00 per person. Cost of the children's meal is \$20.00. Tickets may be purchased by PayPal at <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/parade-brunch>. Tickets will be held at the door. For additional information please contact Chairman **Ro Matuszczak** at 847-635-0883 or 847-331-8007. This will be Ro's 41st year as Chairman. Co-chairmen for the event are **Adam Konopka** and **Chris Grzadziel**. Also on the committee are Chris Matuszczak and Kasia Grzadziel.

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** in organizing the float and musicians for the parade. There will be space on the float for some persons to ride.





CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

A monthly news bulletin for the Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications
editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Visit Our Website At
www.chicagosocietypna.org

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Dear Brothers,

I hope everyone had a blessed Easter filled with hope and joy and surrounded by loved ones. As we look forward to Divine Mercy Sunday, let's all take a moment to take stock of the tremendous gift we have in the graces our God offers daily. Principal among them is confidence in his boundless mercy. A simple Polish nun - Maria Kowalska, Sister Maria Faustina (now Saint Faustina), shared her revelation with the world almost 80 years ago and it is more relevant now than perhaps at any other time - God's mercy is boundless and can overcome any sin. We should be proud of the strong faith tradition that is interwoven into our Polish culture.

What's that Nietzsche'ism - "Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger"? I suspect you are all tired by now of the controversy and discord sparked by the debate over amending our Constitution to allow women members. The vote on this proposal is scheduled to take place at the April general meeting. The meeting will be at the **White Eagle Banquet and Convention Center on April 18th beginning at 7:00 p.m.** I encourage all members in good standing to attend and vote. Regardless the outcome, the matter will be resolved and we can put the division behind us with new respect for one another for the animating passions demonstrated out of concern for the Chicago Society.

However, before the vote I believe you should be aware of the troubling malaise sweeping the Chicago Society. As of April 1st, our Financial Secretary, Brother **Richard Wiermanski**, reported the suspension of 41 members for non-payment of dues. This number profoundly exceeds the delinquency in 2017. Perhaps the majority of the suspended members will cure their delinquency. That is my hope and for those who have not paid dues, I urge you to mail a check or pay on-line. It has never been easier. But the question I have is why are so many brother members (approximately 28%) not seeing value in membership? How can we increase our relevance and value to these men so that membership renewal becomes a reaffirming experience? I would appreciate your comments on how to improve our value to members. Confidential comments are welcomed to lsr1211@yahoo.com.

We have two upcoming events I invite you to attend. The first is our Constitution Day Parade Brunch. It is always well attended and paints the Chicago Society in a favorable light. If more members attended and spoke laudably of our organization and what we do for members and the community, perhaps some new membership would result. Second, we will be having our Fishing Derby on May 20th. Details on each event are available in this issue of the Forum and I direct you there for more information. I look forward to seeing more of you at these events.

Fraternally yours,

Brother Steven Rakowski

PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE



Petition From the General Membership

Originally printed in the March 2018 Forum:

Subsequent to a petition received from the general membership titled “Petition for the revisiting & voting on amending the Constitution of the Chicago Society PNA Lodge 1450 to allow women to become regular members”, the following ammendment to the Chicago Society Constitution will be voted on during the April General Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2018. As stated in the Chicago Society Constitution, notice of such a vote must be published at least 14 days prior to the vote.

The specific language is as follows.

- Art III, Sec. 3A: Any ~~male~~ **person** of Polish lineage or affinity, over 18 years of age, of good character and reputation, whose acceptance will add to the welfare and progress of the Society and who is a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States residing in Cook County or its contiguous counties may be admitted to membership in the Society at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

The addition of females will necessitate the following changes in various articles throughout the Constitution, as indicated below.:

Article III: Sec. 2: Replace the word “his” with “their.”; Sec. 3 A: Replace the word “male” with the word “person.”; Sec. 3 B: Delete the word “his.”; Sec. 3 C: Delete the additional “C” and replace the phrase “his years” with the phrase “the duration.”; Sec. 3 D: Replace “C” with “D.”; Sec. 4: Delete the word “his” and insert the word “a.”; Sec. 5: Delete the word “his” each place it appears. Sec. 6: Delete the word “his.”

Article IV: Sec. 1: Delete the words “his” and insert instead the word “their.” Further, insert the word “and” after the word “application.”

Article VII: Sec. 9: Delete the last sentence and insert “No person administering the oath of office to the aforesaid officers and board members shall be one of the incoming officers or board members.”

Article VIII: Sec. 1: Delete the semi-colon and the word “he” and insert a period after the word “Directors.” In all other places “he” appears insert the phrase, “the President.”; Sec. 2: Each place appearing delete the words “he” and “his.” In the last sentence delete the words “to him.”; Sec. 3: Delete the word “he” in the first sentence. In the second sentence insert “Said officer” and delete the phrase “to him.” Sec. 4: Delete the word “he” in each place it appears. Delete the phrase “to him.” Sec. 5: Delete the word “he” in each place it appears. Delete the phrase “by him.” Delete the phrase “to him.” Delete “he shall give a bond for the faithful performance of his duties issued by a responsible surety company in an amount as approved by the Board of Directors, the premium for which shall be paid by the Society;”. Replace it with “shall give a bond for faithful duty performance issued by a responsible surety company in an amount as approved by the Board of Directors, the premium for which shall be paid by the Society;” Sec. 6: Delete the word “he” each place it appears. Delete “he shall give a bond for the faithful performance of his duties issued by a responsible surety company in an amount as approved by the Board of Directors, the premium for which shall be paid by the Society;”. Replace it with “shall give a bond for faithful duty performance issued by a responsible surety company in an amount as approved by the Board of Directors, the premium for which shall be paid by the Society;” Sec. 7: Delete the word “his” and insert the word “the.” Delete the phrase “to him.”

Article IX: Sec. 6(E): Delete the phrase “to him.” Sec. 7: Delete the Sec. and insert “Any Director may recommend the creation of such committees and members thereof who shall, under the direction of the President, assist in the performance of the President’s duties.

Do you know a potential new member? Point them to the Chicago Society website for a membership application.

Continued from page 1

April 2018 Speaker & Dinner Meeting

His hobby is the history of American Bridge Building, he is an expert on Ralph Modjeski and his bridges and was instrumental in having a memorial plaque to Ralph Modjeski unveiled at the Copernicus Center in Chicago in 1991, and in 2008, in Bydgoszcz, Poland. He wrote a book titled: „Artist in Concrete and Steel – Bridges of Ralph Modjeski.”

In addition to numerous technical publications in professional journals, he wrote articles in the local Polish press documenting the accomplishments of engineers of Polish heritage. In 1999 he became a Fellow of the American Society of Military Engineers and in 2006 was elected as a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). He is a long time member of the Polish American Engineers Association. Currently he is serving as Recording Secretary of the Polish American Congress, Illinois Division.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at White Eagle Events & Convention Center, 6839 N Milwaukee Ave, Niles, IL 60714. Cocktail hour starts at 6:00 pm with the dinner meeting starting at 7:00 pm. Dinner will consist of chicken florentine soup, tossed salad, chicken paprikash, beef cutlets, mashed potatoes, red cabbage and chef's choice dessert. Please contact Brother **Mario Mikoda** at meeting@chicagosocietypna.org or call (773) 444-0744 for reservations. You can also RSVP by going to the Chicago Society website. Please note: Any guests at the meeting must be prospective new members and you must confirm the reservation with Brother **Mario Mikoda**. No exceptions! All members must be current in their dues to attend the meeting! At each general monthly meeting, we offer and split a 50/50 raffle for the members. Please consider asking your wife or accountant for a few extra dollars to purchase \$5.00 or more in raffle tickets.

2018 Polish Constitution Day Parade

This year's celebration of the Polish Constitution of 1791 will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018. The parade route will be on Columbus Dr starting at Balbo St and continuing to Monroe St. The parade steps off at 11:30 am. This is the 127th annual parade in Chicago and is in honor of the first democratic constitution in Europe and second in the world only to the United States Constitution.

The events for the Polish Constitution Day celebration are as follows. For more information please refer to the parade website, www.may3parade.org.

May 5th

- 9:00 am—The raising of the Polish flag at Daley Plaza
- 9:30 am—Chicago Society Pre-Parade Brunch—Hilton Chicago
- 11:30 am—Parade steps off at Columbus Dr and Balbo St
- 2:00 pm—Constitution Day Concert at the Chopin Gardens, Grant Park
- 7:00 pm—Polish Independence and Constitution Parade Banquet—Lone Tree Manor

May 6th

- 10:30 am—Holy Mass at Holy Trinity Church

Chicago Society April Casino Day

Our next Casino Day will be on April 24th at the White Eagle Events & Convention Center. Volunteers are needed for this event. Shifts are 1:30 - 6:30 and 6:30 - midnight. There is no need to know how to play any of the games. The volunteer work is for administrative functions of the event. If you can give a few hours of your time, please contact co-chairmen Brothers **Chuck Cwiakala** or **Ro Matuszczak** at 847-635-0883 or send an e-mail to casinoday@chicagosocietypna.org.



SPECIAL NOTICE – Suspended Members

As required by our constitution and by-laws, Chicago Society dues are required to be paid by March 1 of each year. The following are now “suspended” as 2018 dues have not been received:

George W Batorski	David H Marutzky
Joseph N Bauerle	Mark Matker
John C Cieslik	Jerome F Mytych
Joseph D. Dondalski	Ronald J Nawrocki
Michael C Dropka	Ronald J Olech
Thomas J Gabryszewski	Christopher Pfannkuche
Dale Ihssen	John J Pikarski, Jr.
Gerhard Kaes	Chester M Przybylo
Mark Kaszubski	Matt L Rodriguez
Walter Kazmierczak	Frank Spula
Chester P Klos	Les Sraga
William Kolodziej	Stanley O Stawski
Gregory M Kosin	John P Teschky
Dariusz Kozlowski	Robert Tomszyk
Len Krajkiwicz	Alexander Tzanos
Mark J Kupiec	Eugene R Urbaszewski
Zenon Kurdziel	John A Wojciechowski
Chester A Lizak	Anthony Zaskowski
Robert Martwick	Dan Zolkowski

If you have paid and are listed in error, please contact Financial Secretary Rick Wiermanski to correct the error and receive an apology. Email: Febaway@comcast.net or 815-222-3472.

Only members in “good standing” are allowed at our meetings. As a “suspended” member, you will be asked to pay your dues immediately or leave the meeting.

We hope you continue to support the Chicago Society and return to active membership. Please pay your dues.

As a reminder, you are able to pay your dues using one of the 3 following ways:

Use PayPal on the website: <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/shop>

Bring your check to a General Meeting

Mail to: Financial Secretary Rick Wiermanski,
1906 Holly Ave., Darien, IL 60561

Meeting Attendance Policy

During the Board of Directors meeting held on April 2, 2018, a new policy was introduced and passed. The policy is as follows: “Only members in good standing are allowed to attend Chicago Society’s General Meetings.” In accordance with the policy, any members that have not paid prior to the April general meeting will be asked to do so or leave.

AROUND THE SOCIETY

Get well wishes go out to **Brother Ronald “Topper” Topczewski** as he recovers from open heart surgery.

The Polish American Police Association of Chicago and Illinois (PAPA) will hold their Annual Awards Banquet and Celebration of Polish Constitution Day on May 4th, 2018. At this event they will be honoring PAPA’s 2018 persons of the year which include our President **Brother Steve Rakowski** and WWII veteran and retired Chicago police officer Edwin Ogonowski. We would like to congratulate both men on this recognition. For information on attending this event please refer to the PAPA website at www.polampolice.org or reach out to Brothers **Robert “Rocky” Nowaczyk** or **Ronald “Topper” Topczewski**.

Bení watch: For those watching “MasterChef Jr”, Bení, daughter of Brother **Mark Ćwiąkała** and granddaughter of Brother **Chuck Ćwiąkała** has made it to the final 16. We wish her the best of luck.

Inducted Into Membership

We welcome Zygmunt Dyrkacz, sponsored by **Brothers Ted Makarewicz and Steve Rakowski**, who was sworn in as a member at our March meeting. *Witamy!!*



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!



Brothers,

Welcome to spring! Well, it is supposed to be spring. The weather will eventually turn for the better.

I hope everyone had a great Easter with family and friends. We have several events over the next couple of months. I hope you have the opportunity to participate in them. The event information is in the Forum pages as well as on the website.

As always, the Forum and website are tools to provide you information on the activities and news of the Chicago Society. I invite all brothers to submit any and all items they would like to share with the membership. This includes life-events, events you have attended, news about other members, anything you feel might be of interest to your fellow members. Send any information to editor@chicagosocietypna.org.

Fraternally,

Brother **Christopher T. Grzadziel**, Editor

- 05 **Matt L Rodriguez**
- 08 **Andrew Przybylo**
- 09 **Chester Konopka**
- 09 **Eugene R Urbaszewski**
- 10 **Peter A Dykas**
- 10 **Joseph D Dondalski**
- 13 **Anthony P Kawalkowski**
- 14 **Richard F Jakubowski**
- 17 **Jerome F Mytych**
- 17 **Frederick E Koziol**
- 24 **Robert J Tomczyk**
- 28 **John A Wojciechowski**
- 28 **Joseph Hercik**
- 30 **William Przybylski**

April Anniversary

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate

Brother Zenon Cebula,

who is celebrating the **15th Anniversary** of his induction into the Chicago Society.

Thank you for your loyal membership & **STO LAT**

Membership Directory Booklet

The membership directory booklet has been published. It is available for purchase for \$8 and will be available at the general meetings. The booklet includes the Chicago Society constitution, bylaws, pledge, and member contact information.

Kulze Scholarship Winners Announced

Jim Kulze, a dedicated Society member and former President, and his wife Lillian, were strongly interested in helping young students be able to afford continuing their education, particularly in this age of rising costs of education and often the need to obtain substantial student loans. Toward that end, they very generously funded on their deaths the James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship Fund, part of the Chicago Society Foundation. The Fund this year provided three \$7,500 scholarship awards to deserving college and graduate school students. Aimed at academically superior students with financial need, these are among the largest available scholarship awards earmarked for Polish American students residing in Illinois.

This year, the awards are being made to Piotr Królikowski, studying medicine at the Jagiellonian University Medical School in Kraków, Poland, Sylwia Osos, a psychology major at Loyola University, and Monica Zawisza, studying finance and management information systems at DePaul. These worthy students were chosen from a highly competitive group of qualified applicants.

The Kulze Scholarship Committee chairman, **Walter Piecewicz**, thanks his fellow committee members, **Mark Orwat**, **Steve Rakowski**, **Ro Matuszczak**, and **Ted Makariewicz**, for their efforts in making the hard selections.

Winners will be invited to attend the Pre-Parade Brunch to be recognized, and the good works of our Chicago Society Foundation acknowledged. Essays prepared by the awardees will be published over the succeeding months in the Forum as space allows.

Golf Outing



It's not too early to think about golf. Chairman **Mark Orwat** and co-chairman **Steve Rakowski** invite you to the Chicago Society/ Charles Komosa Memorial Golf Outing on July 13, 2018 at the swanky Gleneagles Country Club in Lemont. The day will begin with a cookout lunch in the outdoor pavilion followed by a shotgun scramble start. There will be a fleet of beverage carts patrolling the golf course with free drinks and snacks and other surprises. After a great day of golf there will be an open bar, appetizers and dinner followed by awards and raffle. Schedule and costs will be announced in future Forum articles. Reservations and payments will be accepted on the Chicago Society website.

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Fishing Derby

Fishing Derby Chairman **Steve Rakowski** has announced that the 2018 Chicago Society Fishing Derby will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2018. It wouldn't be spring without a trip out on Lake Michigan to take advantage of the famous COHO run. Join fellow fishing enthusiasts for a relaxing outing under the experienced supervision of licensed captains.



The cost will be \$140 per person and our event is limited to the first twenty-five people who deliver their reservation form with a check payable to the Chicago Society. All fisher-persons will also need to purchase a one-day fishing license. Fishing licenses are available on-line at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/lpr/pages/fishinglicensesfees.aspx>.

We will meet at dock AA of North Point Marina in beautiful Winthrop Harbor, Illinois. Meeting time is 5:30 a.m. for check-in and to receive boat assignments. Boats depart the dock at 6:00 a.m.-sharp!

Plenty of free parking will be available. Our boat captains will provide all equipment and clean and package your catch for the drive home. Included in the price is a BBQ lunch. Join us to share pictures and stories of your morning experience. If you'd like to just attend the BBQ, the cost per person is \$35 and we'll start at 1:00 at the Salmon Unlimited Pavilion on the North side of the Marina.

For more information call **Steve Rakowski** at (847) 204-4106. You can also RSVP and pay online at the Chicago Society website at <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/fishing-derby>.

All participants please cut out and fill out this registration form

Chicago Society Fishing Derby 2018

Your name: _____ Preferred fishing partners: _____
 Cell phone: _____
 E-mail address: _____

Participant assumes all liability for loss or injury suffered by Participant while engaging in the Fishing Derby.
 Participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Chicago Society, its officers and agents for and against all claims, charges, or expense suffered by Participant.

 Participant's signature



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