



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 74

January 2022

NUMBER 1

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 19th

General Meeting

The Great Escape

9450 W. Irving Park Rd.

6:00 pm "Happy Hour"

7:00 pm Call-to-Order

RSVP to Chuck Cwiakala:

cecwiakala@aol.com

847-204-8747 (cell)

847-823-8747 (home)

Monday, February 7th

Board Meeting- 7:00 pm

Saturday, January 29th

Evening of Elegance

Park Ridge Country Club

636 N. Prospect Road

Brothers and friends,

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2022 to all!

The Society enjoyed a great end to the year with the Deserving Children's Christmas Party, chaired by our Past-President Peter Dykas, being a resounding success and our December General Meeting bringing us and our guests together for a great meal in a festive atmosphere. Thanks to all members, volunteers, donators and attendees for making that possible.

The Evening of Elegance, chaired by our 1st Vice-President Chris Grzadziel, is scheduled to take place at the Park Ridge Country Club on January 29th. Invitations have been issued and information on how to attend or sponsor are available on our website (<https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/inaugural-ball>). Please sign up to attend or sponsor and encourage your friends and colleagues to do the same.

While we prepare for the 2022 Board to take its oath of office I want to thank each and every member of the 2021 Board for their service to the Society and Polonia. Under less than ideal conditions they

endeavored to advance our initiatives in fulfillment of their obligations and in the spirit of service. Thank you all!

Congratulations and thanks is also due to the 2022 Board for their commitment to the organization and its future. I look forward to, and appreciate, the opportunity to work with all of you in 2022.

There remain three openings on the 2022 Board - Director of Publications, Financial Secretary and Director of Personnel. If you are able to serve and interested, please contact me or anyone on the Board to learn more.

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

January 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.**
- ◆ 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:

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year to all. The dues notices have been mailed to all members in the past two weeks. Included is the information that will be used for the Directory. I would ask you to review your write-up and correct any errors and also add any missing info such as email addresses, cell phone numbers, and zip code + four. Just update on the dues notice sheet and return with your check. If you pay by PayPal you can send any missing or corrected info to me directly at my email address: rciesla@sbcglobal.net.

January Birthdays:

Gregory Ciesla
Frank Gondela
James Kolak
Carlton Marcyan
Walter Piecewicz
Robert Radowski
Frank Spula



January Anniversaries:

Adam Augustynski
Edmund Boduch
Mariusz Folta
Frank Gondela
Jackson Haack
Richard Jakubowski
Chester Konopka
Robert Mance
Mario Mikoda
Jan Plachta
Chester Slonina
Frank Spula
Kenneth Walczak
Krzysztof Zadlo

EVENING OF ELEGANCE 2022

Chairman Brother Chris Grzadziel along with committee members Brothers Peter Dykas and Adam Konopka invite you to the 2022 Evening of Elegance and Installation of Officers and Directors. The event will be held on January 29, 2022. We will be at the elegant Park Ridge Country Club, Park Ridge, Illinois. This year we are honoring the Polish American Police Association and out going 10 year president of PAPA, Martin Obrecki. A donation to the PAPA scholarship fund will be made in the name of Martin Obrecki.



The evening will start at 6:00 pm with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Music will be provided by our own Brother Anthony Kawalkowski and his Orchestra. Tickets for this event will be \$125 per person which will include a dinner choice of Petite Filet & Chicken Francaise, Chicken Piccata & Salmon, Vegetarian. Black-tie is optional for this event but always welcome. The invitations have been mailed. You can RSVP by mail or by visiting our website <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org>.

We will also have a program book for this event. The program book will allow you to demonstrate your support for the Chicago Society and PAPA by placing a congratulatory message or advertisement. Full page ads are \$100, half page are \$60 and quarter page are \$40. Inside front and back as well as outside back covers are also available on a first come first serve basis. This information can also be found on our website at www.chicagosocietypna.org/ball-ad-contract. Please contact Chris Grzadziel with any questions — cgrzadziel@gmail.com or 847-630-2863. Please join us on January 29, 2022

Park Ridge Country Club

636 N Prospect Ave, Park Ridge, IL 60068

6:00 pm - Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres

7:00 pm - Dinner

8:30 pm - Program

Board of Directors January Meeting Minutes:

**Chicago Society, P.N.A.
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Held on January 3, 2022
At D'Agostino's, 7530 W. Oakton Street.**

Call to Order: President Konopka called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

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

Correspondence: Save the date for Maria Pappas person of the year at Allegra Banquets. Motion to table made by Br. Grzadziel, seconded by Br. Kurdziel. Motion passed.

Bills: Bills provided for domain and hosting totaling \$384.39 – Br. Grzadziel asking for reimbursement for paying same. SFI bill provided for forum totaling \$116.82. Motion to pay presented bills including bill for dinner made by Br. Kozelka, seconded by Br. Kurdziel. Motion passed.

Directors and Officers Reports:

President: Bro. Konopka - The annual president's report will be given at the January General Meeting.

1st Vice-President: Br. Chris Grzadziel – No speaker lined up for general meetings due to complications with Covid. Br. Dykas mentioned Br. Marutzky had offered to speak on tax issues. Br. Grzadziel will reach out to Br. Marutzky to coordinate. Motion to accept report made by Br. Ciesla, seconded by Br. Dykas. Motion passed.

2nd Vice-President: Br. Chuck Cwiakala –The January general meeting on the 19th will be at the Great Escape. Efforts continue to find another venue but there continues to be difficulty with suitable choices. Any suggestions or leads are welcome. Motion to accept report made by Br. Wasilewski, seconded by Br. Dykas. Motion passed.

Secretary: Br. Haszlakiewicz – Absent, no report.

Financial Secretary: Br. Ciesla - Wiecek repayment has a balance of (14+ more payments). Deposits total. As of now we have 97 members broken up per the December 31, 2021 report. Br. Skaja requested senior membership and qualifies for it. Br. Ciesla to provide deposit receipts to Br. Haszlakiewicz for scanning and storage. Motion to accept report and provide senior membership status to Br. Skaja made by Br. Cwiakala, seconded by Br. Kozelka. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Br. Plachta – Reported total assets of. Br. Plachta will work to collect and prepare financial documents for audit prior to next month and all officers/directors/members are instructed to finalize all reports and accountings and provide relevant documents to him. Audit committee to be presented by next month and provided documents for audit shortly thereafter. Motion to accept report made by Br. Grzadziel, seconded by Br. Ciesla. Motion passed.

Advocate: No Report.

Director of Publications: Br. Kozelka – requests to please send content for Forum as soon as possible. Motion to approve report made by Br. Wasilewski, seconded by Br. Dykas. Motion carried.

Director of Outreach: Despite being unable to attend in person, Br. Ro provided an emailed report advising he is conducting outreach activities from home and welcomes any comments or suggestions.

Senior Director: Br. Dykas – no report.

Social Activities Director: Br. Kurdziel – Spoke with Br. Ro regarding the parade and attended the meeting of Alliance of Polish Clubs. Their next meeting is scheduled for January 13th which Br. Kurdziel will attend and report on. At that time we expect to have more clarity on the parade and can take appropriate action regarding our brunch and participation. The plan is to apply for a parade application which would allow us to march with our banner. Br. Kurdziel voiced concerns over attendance and being able to walk the distance and suggested we start to enlist walkers early.

Deserving Children Christmas Party report was provided by Br. Dykas but he is still receiving invoices and will provide a final amended report prior to the next Board meeting.

Evening of Elegance/Inaugural Ball: Br. Grzadziel confirmed the event will take place at the Park Ridge Country Club on Saturday January 29th. Despite Covid concerns and limitations, the evening will move forward as we have no guaranteed attendee number to hit. All Covid protocols will be followed and enforced and we will update the attendees on what those are closer to the event. Invoice from SFI for printing invitations totaling \$519.20 and reimbursement request from Br. Grzadziel for stamps totaling \$332.92 presented.

Br. Wasilewski moved to accept the Social Activities report and approve the payment to SFI and reimbursement of Br. Grzadziel, seconded by Br. Dykas. Motion passed.

Director of Personnel: Br. Kogut – despite being unable to attend in person, Br. Kogut provided a list of birthdays and anniversaries for publication in the forum.

Social Media Committee: Br. Grzadziel – Posts about the scholarship, Christmas Dinner meeting, the Deserving Children’s Christmas Party and Evening of Elegance to are being posted on Facebook. The committee is also in possession of various old photographs and will use them in a social media campaign to entice engagement.

Custodial Committee: Br. Wasilewski was informed that the raffle wheel remains in Br. Grzadziel’s possession and will be provided to Br. Cwiakala at the next general meeting. Br. Konopka also informed that he is in custody of the cash register, mugs for new members, brochures obtained from Mr. Wiecek and other documents received from Br. Ro which he continues to review.

Foundation: Br. Ciesla – There is meeting coming up at the end of January. Scholarship applications are available on the website.

Motion to approve reports of the Social Media Committee, Custodial Committee and Foundation made by Br. Kurdziel, seconded by Br. Wasilewski. Motion carried.

Old Business: Br. Ciesla went to the Park Ridge Post Office to see what cost would be saved by switching mailboxes. As savings would be significant the suggestion was made to switch mailboxes in May or so to allow for time to get the address out as there is no refund available for our current box if we terminate that agreement early. Plan is to present the new mailbox option to the Foundation for review as the cost is currently split with them.

New Business: Brs. Kogut, Ciesla and Kozelka were thanked for their service in the past year and Brs. Ciesla and Kozelka were further commended for their agreement to stay on as “interim” Board Members until replacements are installed. Returning Board members were thanked for their continued service and recited the oath. Br. Konopka suggested the Board continue its search to fill vacancies and replace the “interim” members and/or consider restructuring the composition of the Board to consolidate it, which would require a constitutional amendment.

Good of the Order: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Br. Ciesla and was seconded by Br. Wasilewski. There being no other business, Br. Konopka adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Konopka - President

(filling in as Secretary)

Polish History: The January Uprising

The January Uprising (Polish: powstanie styczniowe) was an insurrection principally in Russia's Kingdom of Poland aimed at the restoration of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth. It began on 22 January 1863 and continued until the last insurgents were captured by the Russian forces in 1864.

It was the longest lasting insurgency in post-partition Poland. The conflict engaged all levels of society, and arguably had profound repercussions on contemporary international relations and ultimately provoked a social and ideological paradigm shift in national events that went on to have a decisive influence on the subsequent development of Polish society.

A confluence of factors rendered the uprising inevitable in early 1863. The Polish nobility and urban bourgeois circles longed for the semi-autonomous status they had enjoyed in Congress Poland before the previous insurgency, a generation earlier in 1830, while youth encouraged by the success of the Italian independence movement urgently desired the same outcome. Russia had been weakened by its Crimean adventure



and had introduced a more liberal attitude in its internal politics which encouraged Poland's underground National Government to plan an organised strike against their Russian occupiers no earlier than the Spring of 1863.

They had not reckoned with Aleksander Wielopolski, the pro-Russian arch-conservative head of the civil administration in the Russian partition, who got wind of the plans. Wielopolski was aware that his fellow countrymen's fervent desire for independence was coming to a head, something he wanted to avoid at all costs. In an attempt to derail the Polish national movement, he brought forward to January

the conscription of young Polish activists into

the Imperial Russian Army (for 20-year service). That decision is what triggered the January Uprising of 1863, the very outcome Wielopolski had wanted to avoid.

The rebellion by young Polish conscripts was soon joined by high-ranking Polish-Lithuanian officers and members of the political class. The insurrectionists, as yet ill-organised, were severely outnumbered and lacking sufficient foreign support, and were forced into hazardous guerrilla tactics. Reprisals were swift and ruthless. Public executions and deportations to Siberia eventually persuaded many Poles to abandon armed struggle. In addition, Tsar Alexander II hit the landed gentry hard, and as a result the whole economy, with a sudden decision in 1864 to finally abolish serfdom in Poland. The ensuing break-up of estates and destitution of many peasants convinced educated Poles to turn instead to the idea of "organic work", economic and cultural self-improvement. ***(Article and picture from Wikipedia.com)***

2021 Deserving Children's Christmas Party!

On December 11th, 2021 The Chicago Society PNA hosted their annual Deserving Children's Christmas party for 74 children at the Polish National Alliance. The children, who came from the Polish American Association and Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church, were treated to a pizza luncheon, chorales, and a magic show provided by KidzMagic by Andrew, a former member of the organization. The highlight of the event was getting a surprise gift from Santa.

The event was made possible by the generous donations and gifts from members of Chicago Society PNA. Special THANKS go out to members Ray Golenia, Adam Konopka, Dee Blicharski, Zenon Kurdziel, Jan Plachta, John Wasilewski, and Chris and Kathy Grzadziel. Also a BIG THANK YOU to the friends of Chicago Society PNA: the Polish Slavik Federal Credit Union, The Copernicus Foundation, The Polish National Alliance for the room rental, KidzMagic by Andrew for his magic show, the Polish Scouting Organization for donating refreshments and Lowells International Foods for their generous gift bag of snacks and chocolates that each child was able to take home.

And last but not least a BIG Thank YOU goes out to the volunteers who came out to help: Zenon Kurdziel, Andy Haszlakiewicz with his grandkids, Jan Plachta, Peter and Agnes Dykas with their children, Kathy Grzadziel and Santa (Chris Grzadziel). Job WELL DONE!!

The Chicago Society PNA has been hosting this event for at least the past 65 years helping children get a chance to enjoy the holidays who normally wouldn't be able to. To check out pictures see the website at <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org>





www.taxpol.net



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Jack Skaja and John Skaja
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**SKAJA TERRACE FUNERAL
HOME**

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Niles, Illinois 60714

CHCAGO SOCIETY FORUM

6348 N. Milwaukee Avenue, #360
Chicago, IL 60646-3728

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

