



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Group 1450 PNA
Celebrating 100 Years of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 63

JUNE 2012

NUMBER 6

DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

WEDNESDAY

June 20, 2012, 6:00 P.M.
Przybylo's House of the
White Eagle
6839 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS BY JUNE 18

TO 847-635-0883 OR
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org
ARE MANDATORY

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, July 2, 7:00 P.M.
Folak's Lincoln Tavern

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 20—
General Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's, Niles

Thursday, June 21—
"Texas Hold 'em"
Przybylo's, Niles

Friday, July 5—
Chicago Society Golf Outing
Carriage Greens Country Club

Wednesday, July 18—
General Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's, Niles

FORE!

The Society's Annual Golf Outing will take place on Friday, July 6 at Carriage Greens Country Club in Darien. The day will begin with a cookout lunch in the outdoor pavilion along with check-in at 10:30 a.m. The Shot-Gun scramble starts at noon sharp. There will be a fleet of beverage carts patrolling the golf course with free drinks and snacks and other surprises. An open bar and appetizers will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the banquet room, and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

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. Yes, we are planning for the world famous grand raffle!

Please call Brother **Charles Komosa** at 773-286-7123 or Brother **Mark Orwat** at 773-502-6969 to reserve your golf foursomes (Individual golfers also welcome). Please call if you or your company would like to donate raffle prizes.

See map and directions on page 6.



MAKE SOCIAL NETWORKING WORK FOR YOU!



Our speaker at the June event will be Monika Rydz (Rydzewski), founder of Connect.Inspire.Grow. Monika helps businesses create a powerful presence online using the latest powerful social platforms. With over 7 years of marketing experience and her own entrepreneurial background she knows what companies must do to separate themselves from the competition. The *Chicago Tribune* refers to her as a video marketing expert; she has worked on CBS lots where she helped put together market plans for major motion pictures. She was recently featured in *TCW* magazine for making a positive difference in Chicago, and *Chicago Now* featured her as one of the top 12 people to watch for in 2012. She will be sharing with you powerful social marketing tips on what it REALLY takes to

STAND OUT from clutter and competition. You can't afford not to know the latest strategies to help you increase your online presence.

The June meeting will again be held at Przybylo's White Eagle. We will be served a delicious Polish feast, so make sure you make your reservation and join us. *Smacznego!*

CASINO DAYS SCHEDULED

Texas Hold 'em Casino Days to benefit the Chicago Society have been scheduled for the remainder of 2012. They will be held on Thursday, June 21; Thursday, Sept. 27; Thursday, Oct. 25; and Wednesday, Nov. 28. All will be held at Przybylo's House of the White Eagle.

Volunteers are need for these events. You don't need to know how to deal, only how to smile. Shifts are 1:30—6:30 and 6:30—midnight. If you can give a few hours of your time on any of those dates, please contact Brother **Ro Matuszczak**.





CHICAGO
SOCIETY
Forum

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?

Brothers,

May was a fantastic month with the celebrations of Poland's Constitution Day, the many First Communions and graduations. We celebrated Memorial Day, honoring our veterans who sacrificed so that we can enjoy our freedom. Keep them in your memory and prayers. Now we can look forward to June.

June brings with it the beginning of summer vacations, school graduations, the official beginning of summer, picnics and barbeques, and a plethora of outdoor activities. I hope everyone enjoys the summer days and their vacations.

As you enjoy the days of June, plan for the days of July. Celebrate our Independence Day with friends and family whether you are going to a sponsored fireworks display or just hanging around home with a barbeque. Just stay safe and enjoy the day. Then be sure to make plans for the next big event in July which is our annual golf outing. Save the date, July 6, 2012. Brothers **Orwat** and **Komosa** are putting together another great event. Come and join us. Bring family and friends for a great day out. Even if you don't golf, join us.

Help support your brother members and the Chicago Society. Let us know if there is a project you would like to see us undertake or co-sponsor a charity event. Also for 2012, help celebrate our 100 yrs and remember one member-one inductee.

Have a happy and safe Fourth of July holiday.

Fraternally Yours

Frank Czaja



A "community" is defined as "a group of people with a common background or with shared interests within society." Its Polish equivalent, *wspólnota*, has much stronger connotations. Sociologists have found that the Anglo culture has a weak understanding of the concept, and it is used primarily in reference to a physical attribute. However, the concept of *wspólnota* connotes permanence, tradition, exclusivity—strong emotional ties. In the Anglo culture, many view the "ties that bind us" as constraining or limiting, preventing us from developing strong relationships with each other or even our own identities in our community.

I have often heard that "In England, you're either British, or you're not." And the "nots" use that distinction to their advantage, joining together to form their own identity. In the mosaic that is the American culture it is important for our *wspólnota* to develop and nurture our identity for the benefit of all members. We are more than a group of people who live in the same neighborhood or share the same interests. We are a *wspólnota* „z tej samej matki" (from the same mother).

Up until 1989, Polonia had a common goal: to defeat communism and end its negative impact on our Motherland and its people. The people of Poland have enjoyed freedom now for a whole generation, the same freedoms we enjoy: freedom to choose one's government, one's religion, one's lifestyle, without any outside influence. Since the fall of Communism, many in our community turned their attention to other causes, often looking at how to better their own lives. The goal of our *wspólnota* needs to be the betterment of all. We need to use our skills, knowledge, and talents for the betterment of others; only then will we better ourselves. And only then will our *wspólnota* be strong.

THANK YOU!

...to Brother **Bill Powell** for donating his raffle winnings of \$60 to the Chicago Society Scholarship Fund.

...to Mrs. Alice Tondryk for her generous donation of \$100 to help defray costs of *The Forum*.





POLISH TRADITIONS IN JUNE

Noc Świętojańska (St. John's Night) is celebrated on the night of June 23/24, the eve of the feast of St. John the Baptist. However, this tradition has its roots in pagan times, when it was known as *Sobótki*, *Noc Kupaty*, or *Kupalnockska*. *Kupata* is the Slavonic goddess of herbs, sorcery, sex, and midsummer. She is also the Water Mother, associated with trees, herbs, and flowers. Her celebration falls upon the Summer solstice in June. The customs celebrate the summer solstice—the shortest night of the year—as a celebration of water, fire, fertility, and purification. It is a night full of magic and ancient rituals.



Girls make wreaths of flowers and herbs (*wianki*) lit with candles and float them on the river. In Slavic tradition the *wianek* is a symbol of unmarried state—maidenhood. Young men attempt to capture the wreaths, in the hope of capturing the interest of the young lady who floated the wreath. It is believed that the young man who captures a wreath and the woman who floated the wreath will be wed within the year.

There is an ancient belief that this is the only time of the year when ferns bloom. Prosperity, luck, love and power would befall on whomever finds a fern flower—*kwiat paproci*. Village folks would roam through the forests in search of herbs and especially the elusive *kwiat paproci*, which is believed to be full of magic and to bring its finder wealth, strength, and intelligence. Traditionally, unmarried women, signified by the garlands in their hair, would be the first to enter the forests. They are followed by young men. Finding the *kwiat paproci* may be the start of relationships between pairs of men and women in the forest. If you find the *kwiat paproci*, all your wishes of life may be fulfilled. The lucky man returning with the flower would wear the flowered wreath of his engaged on his head.

The culminating ritual of this magical night is the bonfire, made only of ash and birch, with herbs thrown in by the maidens. The young men jump over the fire as a test of their bravery and faith. People sing and dance around the fire—with stacks of sausages and cases of alcohol—until well into the night, often through the next day. This is believed to prevent harm and bring beauty and fertility. The night ends at daybreak, with the partygoers bathing in the river as a rite of purification and healing. Modern-day celebrations often include a concert and fireworks. It is believed that those who participate in the *Sobótki* rituals will have a year full of luck and abundance.

Children's Day is celebrated in Poland—and other countries—on June 1. This coincides with the end of school and the start of summer. Special programs and activities pertaining to the festival are organized for the kids in schools. Some of them include outdoor plays and field trips. Different festivities for the kids are held throughout the first week of June.

Did you know? June in Polish is *czerwiec*, from *czerw* meaning the red larvae of a bee or moth. In this month people picked the larvae, dried them in the sun, and then made from it a red or purple dye (pigment).

Od czerwca dużo zależy, czy żniwa będą jak należy. (June will determine if the harvest will be plentiful.)

♦ Brother **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert** recently added a few more hats. He was elected president of the Polish Arts Club and was appointed National Director of the Polish American Congress. We hope his head is big enough for all those hats.

♦ In addition, Brother **Hubert Cioromski** and Brother **Romuald Poplawski** were appointed National Directors of the Polish American Congress. Congratulations, gentlemen, on your appointments.

♦ The Legion of Young Polish Women is holding its Annual Fashion Show on Sunday, June 24, 2012. Many of our members' wives, daughters, and granddaughters will be participating. Treat your wife/girlfriend/housekeeper to an enjoyable afternoon, and support the Legion.

♦ Tie bar found! A Brother member left a tie bar on the table at the April meeting (I hope that's all he took off). It has a round blue emblem. If you are the owner, please contact Ted at editor@chicagosocietyp-na.org or call him at 773-562-8006.

♦ Brother members, please remember to ... donate your cell phones and chargers to the "Cell Phones for Soldiers" program. ... bring your old, unusable flags, USA or any other national flag, for proper disposal.

**HAVE AN ENJOYABLE AFTERNOON-
COME TO THE GOLF OUTING!!**

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MARK KUPIEC TALKS ABOUT OUR TAXES

The speaker at our May meeting was Brother **Mark Kupiec**, an attorney specializing in zoning laws and property taxes. Property taxes are a hot topic right now since many parts of the city, especially neighborhoods on the Northwest side, have recently been reassessed as part of the triennial reassessment. Property taxes are based on the fair-market value plus the classification of the property (not to be confused with the assessed value). Property owners are receiving letters notifying them of the assessed value of their property for 2012. Property owners should review these notices carefully and determine if the assessed value is fair, i.e. about 10% of the fair market value.

Property owners can appeal an assessment. If the property is a residence, this appeal is rather straight-forward. The owner should look at "uniform value," comparing the assessment to similar properties in the area. The owner should also look at the market value and see if it's too high. This can be appealed, but with appropriate documentation, i.e. an assessment by an assessor who will look at factors such as the actual appraisal, rental potential, income and others. If the property is commercial, then the owner should use an attorney, as this appeal can be rather complicated.

An owner has 30 days from receipt of the notification to file an appeal. If this deadline is missed, the owner has a second chance and can file with the Board of Review. According to Brother Kupiec, it's definitely worth filing an appeal, as it is good throughout the three-year cycle.

SOCCER AT WRIGLEY FIELD

Chicago (PMN)–Soccer will return to Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs baseball team, for the first time since 1984 when Italy's AS Roma and Poland's Zagłębie Lubin play a friendly on July 22, 2012. The playing field will run from the third-base line to right field.

Zagłębie Lubin forwards Szymon Pawłowski and Arkadiusz Woźniak, midfielder Maciej Małkowski and defender Marcin Kowalczyk play for the Polish national team.

CHICAGO SOCIETY FOUNDATION GIVES GRANT TO CHOPIN FOUNDATION

The Chicago Society Foundation at its last meeting approved a grant to the Chicago Chopin Foundation in the amount of \$1,000 plus \$4,000 in matching funds. This grant was presented to the Chicago Chopin Foundation at the Chicago Society's last General Meeting on May 16. Accepting the grant on behalf of the Chicago Chopin Foundation were President Brother **Voytek Putz**, Brother **Zenon Kurdziel** and **Alexander Danel**. Brother Kurdziel read the following letter of thanks.

Dear Directors and Chicago Society PNA Brothers:

Chopin never set foot in America but he's coming to Chicago.

On behalf of the Chicago Chopin Foundation, I would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000 and additional \$4,000 in matching funds. Your commitment to helping our project to raise the necessary funds is sincerely appreciated.

With your support, we have come closer to achieving our goal. The goal of Chicago Chopin Foundation is to erect the Chopin Monument and Chopin Garden in Grant Park. We can give the City of Chicago the greatest and lasting value, the place where Chopin's music, our biggest cultural treasure, can be performed. We believe the perception of Poles and Polish Americans after the completion of this project will soar into the Chicago sky line. This project creates an immense opportunity for Polish ethnicity to leave a lasting cultural and architectural imprint in Chicago. Chopin Gardens will flourish with musical sounds for years to come.

With the help of donations from supporters such as your organization, we will continue to see improvements towards our project.

I am proud to be a member of the Chicago Society PNA. I believe in the values that this club represents.

Thanks again for your generous support of our efforts

As a token of our appreciation we would like to present the Chicago Society PNA a miniature statue of Fryderyk Chopin.

With Kindest Regards,
Voytek Putz, President
Chicago Chopin Foundation

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY GEE APOLOGIZES FOR HIS COMMENTS

A few months ago, the president of Ohio State University E. Gordon Gee made a disparaging comment about the Polish Army. Brother **Edward Blicharski** sent a letter to President Gee, citing numerous example of the gallantry and heroism of the Polish Army during World War II. This letter was also published in *The Post Eagle* (Clifton, NJ). Below is President Gee's response.

Dear Mr. Blicharski:

Thank you for your letter and materials regarding Polish servicemen. I found them very informative and greatly appreciate your taking the time to share them with me.

Please know I have since apologized for my comments. I have the greatest respect for members of the Polish Army, and I would never mean to diminish their service or bravery. And, I am working with the University's faculty in our Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures to explore the possibility of hosting an academic forum on Polish history for our students and others within the University. The intent is to make my mistake into a positive opportunity for learning.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write.

Best wishes
E. Gordon Gee
President

YOU CAN'T HIDE THAT POLISH PRIDE

POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PARADE PARTICIPANTS

The following Chicago Society brothers participated in our entry in the Polish Constitution Day Parade on May 5, 2012:

Richard Bivins, Frank Czaja, Joseph Dondalski, Ken Gill, Richard Jadcak, T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, Fred Koziol, Richard Kula, Mark Matker, Ro Matuszczak, Zenon Olejniczak, Mark Orwat, Walter Pieciewicz, Terrance Przybylski, Marian Skawski, Andrew Zapalski and Robert Groszek with his family. To all the participants, a big thank you. Our apologies if anyone was missed.

Many of those in the above list are pictured at right.

The photo below is from the Pre-Parade Brunch.



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 14-Flag Day Ceremony, PNA Building

June 15-Opening of Exhibit commemorating the 75th Anniversary of The Polish Museum of America

June 21-Chicago Society "Texas Hold 'em", Przybylo's

June 24-Legion of Young Polish Women Fashion Show, Przybylo's

June 28-Free Concert by Anthony Kawalkowski & Orchestra, Central Park in Oakbrook

July 3-Polish American Night, US Cellular Field

July 6-Chicago Society Golf Outing, Carriage Greens Country Club

July 11-Westmoreland Rebekah Lodge #607 Annual Penny Social, PNA Building

Aug. 19-Chicago Society "Family and Friends" picnic, Busse Woods

Oct. 6-Chicago Society 100th Anniversary Banquet, Przybylo's

BILL "MOOSE" SKOWRON DIES

Bill "Moose" Skowron, a former member of the Chicago Society, died on April 27, 1981, after a series of illnesses. According to his obituary in the Chicago Tribune, "Moose" was a professional baseball player who played in eight World Series. He was an eight-time All-Star first baseman. He played with the White Sox from 1964-67. Most recently, he worked as a White Sox community ambassador. He periodically called bingo games in the team's patio area—in Polish. The Chicago Tribune called him "a Chicagoan through and through." He was a personal friend of many Chicago Society members, and will be missed.

Thanks to Brother Frank Gondela for providing this information.

**HAVE YOU MADE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?**



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JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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

- 1 Daniel Starr
- 5 Nicholas Innocenzi
- 6 Gregg Kobelinski
William Kolodziej
- 7 Joseph Kizior
- 8 Hubert Cioromski
- 10 Casey Baczynski
- 16 Adam Augustynski
Stanley Jendziejec
- 17 Krzysztof Kielczewski
- 20 Bernard Pacyniak
- 22 Lukasz Wrobel
- 26 Carl Soska
- 28 Walter Sojka
Donald Versen, Sr.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following brother members, who are celebrating the anniversary of their induction in June:

William Powell	1947	65 Years
T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert	1972	40 Years
Donald Versen, Sr.	1977	35 Years

FROM THE ANNALS OF THE CHICAGO SOCIETY

It was during the late World War [World War I] that the Pole demonstrated his loyalty, his undying love for this country. Long before the draft became effective he rallied around the American Flag in great numbers; he joined the American army and navy, ready to die for the principles of Democracy and of freedom. With the termination of the war, however, the American citizen of Polish birth or extraction has begun to direct his attention to such vital questions as naturalization, the social betterment of his own kith and kin. He has directed his attention inwardly and observed that in his own community there is much distress, poverty, and misery, and that it is this solemn duty to take care of his own. In other words, while his activity formerly was nationalistic, that is concerned with political resuscitation of Poland, now he is becoming social-minded, he is looking about him and trying to relieve the distressed through humanitarian agencies similar to those possessed by other nationalities.

It must be noted that in promoting this spirit of self-help, of social welfare, or charitable enterprise, the **Chicago Society** has been a potent factor for good. It has arranged numerous benefits for the various Polish charitable institutions. It has inspired the formation of a "Ladies' Auxiliary" [now the Polish Women's Civic Club], who do charitable work among the poor, distribute baskets with food and milk during the Christmas season, and relieve the destitute throughout the year. It has further sponsored the "Polish Welfare Association" [now the Polish American Association], which strives to systematize and coordinate the humanitarian work of various charitable units and aids in the care and prevention of delinquency among Polish youth.

Excerpted from *Chicago Society News* from 1925 (forerunner of *The Forum*)

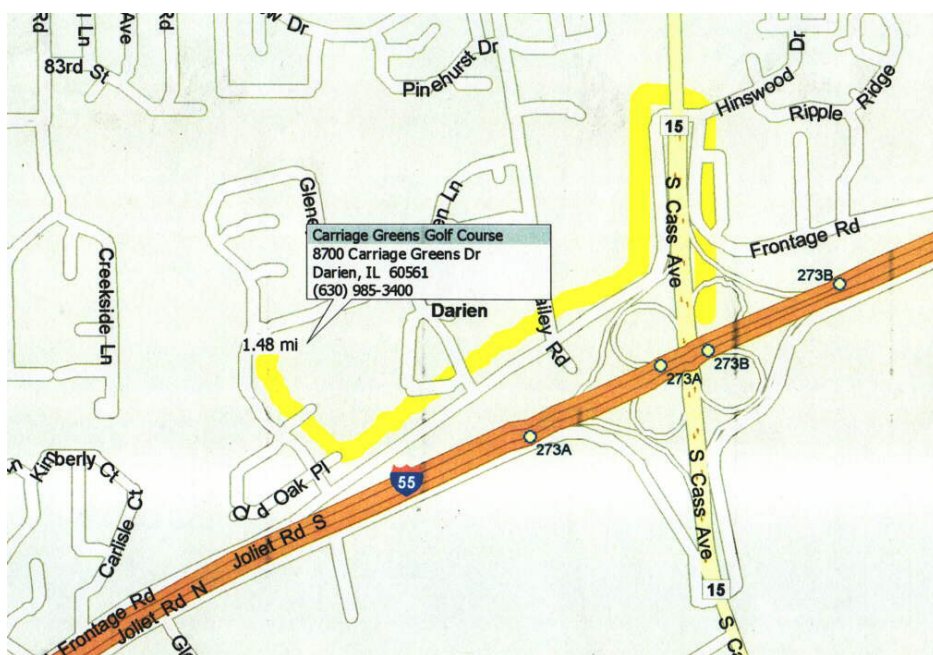
INDUCTED TO MEMBERSHIP

We welcome **Lukasz Wrobel**, sponsored by Brothers **Frank Czaja** and **Kamil Bartoszczke**, who was sworn in as a member at our last meeting. *Witamy!*

CONDOLENCES

Casmira Odrobina, mother of PNA National Vice-president Brother **Paul Odrobina** passed away on May 2, 2012. Our condolences to Paul and his family.

CARRIAGE GREENS COUNTRY CLUB, DARIEN, ILLINOIS



Directions: Take I-55 (either direction), exit Cass Ave. N, turn left on Frontage Rd, follow to Carriage Greens Dr., which leads to the Country Club



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CHICAGO SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

1ST PLACE WINNER – MARK PAWLAS*How I Would Persuade a Person of Polish Descent to Get Involved in Polonia Organizations*

People join organizations for many different reasons. In order to persuade a person of Polish descent to get involved in Polish organizations, my approach would be to try multiple avenues of persuasion. I would start as a role model, becoming an active member in the Polish club I wanted to promote. A strong belief in the cause of the organization is one of the biggest motivators behind a person's decision to get involved, so I would familiarize myself with the history of the club and study the underlying cause for the organization. I would want to know and understand the organization, its mission and its goals. I would become active in the organization and join as many committees that I could to help out. I would try to meet all the members of the organization and try to get to know them on a first-name basis. Armed with this information, I would be able to clearly articulate this information to prospective new members in order to familiarize them with the club's mission and goals and introduce them to other members of the club.

The next step would be to identify as many people as possible who might want to get involved in the organization and invite them to attend a meeting. I would identify a target area in our community, such as Jefferson Park, where the population consists predominantly of people of Polish ancestry. I would spread the word about the organization by going door to door, discussing with potential members the club's purpose and activities. I would hand out pamphlets and fliers and I would invite them to come to a meeting to see what the club can offer them. I would show pictures of past events and let them know how they can also become a part of a great organization.

A special meeting could also be scheduled to welcome the new people and orient them into the group. The organization's goals and objectives would be discussed. The new perspective members could use this meeting to further learn how their involvement in the organization can benefit them individually and Polonia. I try would get to know the new people and make them feel special and a vital part of the group. I would face any objections, reluctance and fear of new people with a positive outlook and address any concern head on. I would offer encouragement and support to ease them into the idea of joining the organization.

I would also communicate to potential new members the advantages of joining a Polish organization. To name a few, there are social events, art exhibits, concerts, Christmas parties, excursions to Poland, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities. There is opportunity for leadership and recognition combined with a chance to exercise decision making and problem solving in many situations that will affect Polonia's future.

People decide to join a Polish group because of shared interests in Polish heritage and future Polish events. They share a feeling of support and belonging with people of their own Polish ancestry. New members join camaraderie of determined Polish people all working toward common goals. The act of joining a new Polish organization results in its members learning new skills while having fun doing it.

Also, recruiting could be accomplished through other Polish organizations. I would find out who the contact or key people were of each targeted organization and write to them to see if I

could address one of their meetings or set up recruitment tables at their events. Recruitment tables could also set up at various festivals such as Taste of Polonia, where I could easily talk and explain the club's goals and advantages. The table would have fliers announcing the club's next events, pamphlets, pictures, and cards or pens embossed with a phone number to call if they decide to join. Names of potential members would be taken and follow-up calls would be made to check if the new contact decided to join.

And, as a final push for new members, I would suggest to all members to receive four referral cards that are personalized with their name and member number in an acknowledgement package when they join or renew each year. Each member (including new members) would be encouraged to submit four referral cards of candidates for new membership. Incentive gifts or "Get a Member" award would be presented to each member who refers a new person and that person actually does become a member.

I feel each of the above approaches would prove successful in persuading a person of Polish descent to get involved in Polonia organizations. Many people are not aware of Polonia's many worthwhile clubs and organizations and there is a need to get the word out. The existing members must band together and seek new avenues to stimulate new membership.



Mark Pawlas and Frank Czaja

POLISH TRIVIA

The Polish Museum of America is observing its 75th Anniversary this year. Part of its permanent collection is a sleigh carved out of a single piece of wood in the shape of a powerful fish with open jaws. The sleigh was a Christmas present from a man to his daughter, Maria, who became the wife of Louis XV, King of France. Who was this man? (Hint: he was a king of Poland).

Answer to May's question. Many high-ranking federal officials have participated in Chicago's observances of the May 3rd Constitution over the years: Attorney General Robert Kennedy (1961), then-Vice President Lyndon Johnson (1963), Postmaster General John Gronouski (1964), V.P. Hubert Humphrey (1965), Sec. of Transportation John Volpe (1969).

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