



CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

Volume 62

March, 2011

Number 3

The Voice of an Autonomous Lodge of the Polish National Alliance

EASTER HAM RAFFLE

NETWORKING DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY
March 16, 2011
6:00 P.M.

Copernicus Foundation
5216 W. Lawrence Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

RESERVATIONS
BY MARCH 14
TO (847) 823-8747 OR
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org
ARE MANDATORY

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

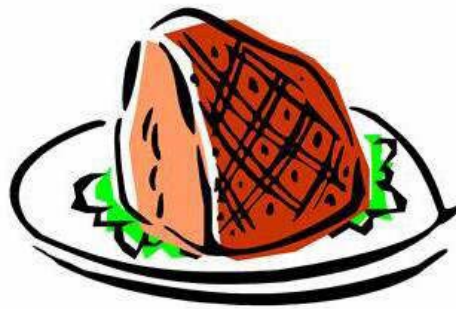
Monday, April 4, 7:00 P.M.
Folak's Lincoln Tavern

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 16—
General Meeting
Copernicus Center, Chicago

Wednesday, April 20—
General Meeting
Location TBD

Saturday May 7—
Pre-Parade Brunch
Hilton Chicago Hotel



The Ham raffle is back!!! We will once again have a Ham Raffle at the April meeting. It will be a revised version of our ham raffles.

It will be fashioned after our Thanksgiving turkey raffle. Brother Cwiakala will be raffling off a dozen 10-12 lb hams. Join us and get ready for Easter. Help make this a great success.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

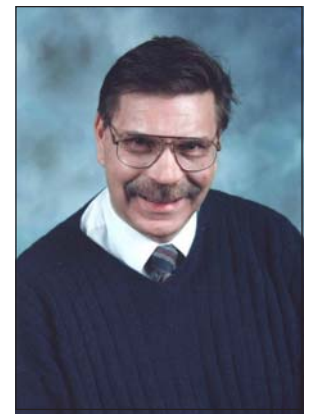
Brothers,

Well, it seems like we just can't seem to get away from the snow. While I am writing this, the weathermen are predicting more snow. We might even set the record for February. So those of you who are into the winter sports, enjoy. Those of you, who are not, well think spring.

Speaking of spring time weather, I would like to welcome back board member Ken Gill from his sunny home in Arizona. He might have been enjoying the sun, but those of us who had attended The Polish Advocates Society celebration on February 17th, experienced the warmth and friendship that those of the Polish culture share so well. Congratulations to all in the Advocate Society on their 80th anniversary and particularly to Brother Groszak on becoming their president. A fun night was also had by many members at the White and Red Ball, and I would like to congratulate the debutantes, their escorts, and families who worked so hard to contribute to the cultural image of Polonia. Our culture was also celebrated at "Cyganska noc" sponsored by the PNA Welfare Association and Women's Divisions 12 & 13. Pulaski day was celebrated by the annual celebration at the Polish Museum of America and the Pulaski day dinner sponsored by the Polish American Congress.

And, in the spirit of continuing not only our culture but also our spiritually, I would like to thank all who attended the Sledz and especially Brother Orwat for organizing yet another great event for the Chicago Society. A great time was had by all, and I am particularly pleased to be able to congratulate Walter Pieciewicz who was chosen as the new St. Joseph.

I hope you all enjoy the celebration of St. Patrick's Day and of course the celebration of St. Joseph's Day. Please join us at the general meeting for a treat from Sawa's. Help us help you. Also, please let me or fellow board members know if there is an activity you would like us to consider or participate in.



Fraternally,
Frank Czaja



CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

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Norbert Barszczewski
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**MAKE YOUR MEETING
RESERVATION NOW**

FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

One of the greatest pleasures of being the Editor is to be able to write about the successes of our brother members. Every month there is an article published under the title Member of the Month. I hope everyone takes a moment to read it. These articles serve a very good purpose. They help us learn more about other members. What a great conversation starter next time you come to the meeting. “*Hey, I ready an article about you in the Forum...*”, or “*I didn’t know you were involved in such an interesting project at your work...*” etc. I hope these articles inspire more interactions, more friendship and better understanding of who we are, where we come from and how we can all help one another.

At times we also have to talk about the more difficult aspects of having an organization like ours. Nothing just happens by itself. Every little aspect of our activities has to be organized by someone. Time, effort and other resources have to be contributed to anything we can call a success at the end of the day. Many of us are very active professionally, we all have busy personal lives and different other things that need our attention. So the true power of us as a group is in the little contributions we all are able to make. Wouldn’t it be nice if we could have more members? Wouldn’t it also be great if we could have more money in our accounts? Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could contribute to many more Polonia initiatives around our community, other than what we already do? But then again, nothing just happens; we need to make it happen. A special Board of Directors meeting has been called to discuss the different ways to boost the membership in our organization. The meeting will take place on March 23. Even though Board meetings are only attended by the officers of the club, everyone can contribute by earlier contacting any one of us with your ideas and suggestions. I put a lot of trust in the collective power of our group. We will only grow stronger, as an organization, if each and every one of us contributes.

And lastly, before I am accused of preaching too much, I would like to share one more experience from the last couple of weeks. I was invited by the Polish American Engineer Association to make a presentation at their monthly general meeting. I am happy to report that I received a very warm reception and attendance was at almost record high. It’s a great thing to be able to contribute to other groups, especially groups that have been around for almost as long as the Chicago Society. I hope we can do more of that and the sense of competition, that sometimes circles around, will be replaced by the sense of unity and strength.



**Norbert Barszczewski at the Polish American
Engineer Association [Photo by Jacek Szostka]**

Fraternally,
Norbert Barszczewski

STAN MUSIAL RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL

Washington, D.C. (PMN)—Stan Musial, 90, spoke with strength and dignity as he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama in the East Room of the White House. Looking on was his wife of over 70 years, Lillian. Musial said emphatically, “I am proud to be a Cardinal.”

It took a grass roots effort of social networking and the campaign blossomed, helping to get Musial the overdue honor. Ron Waterman of the St. Louis Cardinals was the coordinator for the “Stand for Stan” project. Cardinal supporters and Musial admirers were encouraged to take pictures of themselves with the caricature of “Stan-the-Man.”

—Continued on page 5—

AROUND THE SOCIETY

The newer hotel covered over yet blended in with the original rococo elements of the 1929 built private athletic club on Michigan Avenue. It was a new venue for the Installation Dinner of the Advocates Society, 80 years in existence. Guests entered the ornately carved and paneled room for the dinner and program. **Robert Groszek** was inducted as the new president. Judy Baar Topinka received the Award of Honor. Among the Bar Associations and politicians mingling were Dawn Bode, Maria and **Richard Ciesla**, **John Cieslik**, Darlene and **Frank Czaja**, **Mark Dobrzycki**, **Marian Grabowski**, Jennifer Groszek, **Richard Jadcak**, **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert**, **Charles Komosa**, **Mark Kupiec**, Doreen and **Chet Lizak**, **Marek Loza**, **Marilyn Mazewski**, **Thad Makarewicz**, **Conrad Miczko**, **Mario Mikoda**, **Robert Nowaczyk**, **Mark Orwat**, Tim Pikarski, Aurelia Pucinski, Teresa and **Marian Skawski**, **Les Sraga**, Barbara and **Stanley Stawski**, **Ronald Topczewski**, and **John Wojciechowski**. Pictures from the event can be found online at <http://artekphoto.zenfolio.com/p662796007>. The Polonia Ensemble performed with Peter Pacyniak leading the couples in dancing and singing. After the program ended, the in-crowd was invited up to a private suite on the 33rd floor where a thrilling view of the city at night and cocktails awaited them.

Proud grandparents, Maria and **Richard Ciesla**, are thrilled to announce that daughter and son-in-law, Alex and Curtis Cornwell, welcomed their first child, Henry Ray, on January 28th at Prentice Hospital. Henry was born three weeks early and spent two days in

NICU, but he is more than thriving. Henry is the Cieslas' 7th grandchild, who is welcomed and loved by many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Vivat, Henio!!!!

Brother **Walter Piecewicz** tells us that his daughter Stephanie was just awarded her PhD. in biomedical engineering at MIT on her thesis of "Heparin Sulfate Glycosaminoglycan Regulation of Vasculogenesis." That's essentially using stem cells to grow blood vessels and inhibiting growth of cancer blood cells. She'll continue her research and publications in a post doctorate capacity at the Laboratory for Nanomedicine connected with the MIT-Harvard Health Sciences & Technology program and affiliated with Brigham & Womens Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Proud parents **Walter** and his wife, Anna, attended the defense and then celebrated with family and friends in Boston, happily missing the blizzards that came a few days later.

It was good to see 65 men in attendance at the February General Meeting, and it was gratifying to hear that 64 had established contact that they would attend. It was equally good to see in attendance that night **Peter Dykas**, **Chet Lizak**, **Mark Matker**, **Zenon Olejniczak**, **Joe Santoro**, **Jim Lodesky**, and **Ted Wicik**. Ronny Folak served an outstanding Italian inspired meal. **Ron Olech** spoke on the current income tax situation and distributed informational sheets. The presentation was very well received and there were plenty of follow up questions. Although for all of the members who own or are partners in an S type corporation, the news that 60 thousand new IRS agents were hired to keep a closer eye on these types of businesses, was not so great.

Condolences are extended to **Marshall Olech** on the death of his mother, Casmera,

who lived to reach age 102. She was the widow of **Stanley Olech**, President of Chicago Society in 1964 and 1965. Sympathy is also extended to **Ronald Olech** and to **Ronald Olech II** and his siblings.

February meeting raffle winners were: **Don Gutowski**, **Joe Hercik**, **Thad Makarewicz** and **Ron Wolosewicz**.

On February 26, 2011 Brother **Mark Loza** from Loza Law Offices P.C. in cooperation with the Polish National Alliance gave a presentation at the PNA headquarters. The title of the presentation was Legal Solutions for Financially Troubling Times and among the many subjects discussed were: loan modifications, bankruptcy, foreclosure and short sale defense strategies and property tax reduction.

Zygmunt Matynia, Consul General of the Republic of Poland, for his efforts to restore the consulate building to its original grandeur, received an award from the Benjamin Marshall Society at its black-tie gala centennial anniversary of East Lake Shore Drive at the Drake Hotel. **Conrad Miczko** made plans to celebrate with friends there. He also cheered the consul general at Northeastern Illinois University's International Conference of Business in Central and Eastern Europe. Present at the conference were also **Frank Spula** and General Patrick Rae.

Save the date of Saturday, November 12, 2011 for the Polish American Association Benefit Gala at Café La Cave. This organization was created on August 16, 1922 as the Polish Welfare Association by the Who's Who of Polonia, established Polish Americans, members of The Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance. As leading citizens of Chicago, active in politics, government,

—Continued on page 4—

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AROUND (Continued from page 3)

business and education, these men were the doers who routinely made things happen. Most of all, they were the ones who cared, who realized that ignoring the ills of society and of immigrants only intensifies problems.

The receiving line situated itself up the majestic curving marble staircase to the ballroom of the Hilton Hotel, The most prestigious grand salon in Chicago. It was the night of the 72nd annual White and Red Debutante Ball. Teresa Skawski, the president, introduced the Mistress of Ceremonies, Nina Siemaszko. Her career has spanned performances in movies, television, video-games, and book series. Starting with the Boston Bibb & poached pear salad, to the entertaining *Polonaise* and *Bialy Mazur*, to the bowing of the debutantes, to the dancing to the excellent strains of the **Anthony Kawalkowski** Orchestra, to the crowning of the queen, and ending with the early morning buffet snack, the guests had an enjoyable soirée. Jarek Spychalski performed tremendous solos. Recognized at the scene were Mary and Henry Anselmo, Dee and **Edward Blicharski**, Dawn, Jeanette, and **Keith Bode**, Maria and **Richard Ciesla**, Morgan, Lori, and **Hubert Cioromski**, Darlene and **Frank Czaja**, Shirley Dudzinski, Alicia and **Robert Dutka**, Robert Flor and his siblings, **Kenneth Gill**, Katherine and **Christopher Grzadziel**, Joan Trandel and **Edmund Gronkiewicz**, Jennifer and **Robert Groszek**, Lucille and Donald **Gutowski**, Agata and **Charles Komosa**, Wanda Kurek and Joan Kosinski, Alexandra and **Joseph Kuechel**, Chris and **Ro Matuszczak**, Megan Boyle and **Conrad Miczko**, Stanislaw Rawicki, **Marian Skawski**, Patrick Rae and Judy Baar Topinka, and Anne, Marysia, and **Michael Watson**.

Designed in 1916 by the visionary architect Benjamin Marshall, 1530 North Lake Shore Drive, one of the finest surviving examples of the grand mansions which lined Lake Shore Drive at the turn of the last century, beckoned its guests to enter from the fierce winds and snow squalls from the lake. It was a soirée to warm the guests as tangos from Argentina and Poland along with dinner were provided to the patrons attending the Lira Ensemble benefit at the Consulate of the Republic of Poland. Lucyna Migala is Artistic Director of the group with Maria Ciesla, Jeanine Okonek, **Matt Rodriguez**, and Frances Wiet, among others serving on the Board.

Attending were Ron Kaftanski, Camille Kopielski, Chairman of the Board, **Conrad Miczko**, Ellen and **Ron Olech** (who a few months ago attended the wedding of their granddaughter in Connecticut where their eldest daughter lives), and Teresa and **Marian Skawski**.

Officially, delinquency was the reason for its (PAA) existence. "The Jackroller", a book written in 1930 by Dr. Clifford R. Shaw, head of the department of sociology, Illinois Institute of Juvenile Research, profiles the delinquent of the time. In this real life history, Stanley, the son of Polish immigrants, admits to being a runaway, vagrant, beggar, truant, shoplifter, petty thief, railroad thief, burglar and jackroller. As a result of these behaviors from ages 6 to 18, Stanley spends much of his young life in police stations, the Juvenile Detention Home, Chicago Parental School, St. Charles School for Boys, Illinois State Reformatory at Pontiac and the Chicago House of Correction. The Chicago Society members were determined to prevent a proliferation of Stanleys. Today the values and goals of the PAA have shifted to meet the needs of the 20th century population. During the fiscal year 2010, PAA served a record breaking 15,548 individuals. Yet, the need to raise funds continues. Hosting an annual gala is one of the ways to accumulate funds to operate. **Tony Kawalkowski** and his orchestra have been selected to provide dinner and dancing music. **Conrad Miczko** has been named Chairman of the Ball.

Lots of new business connections were made at the quarterly Chicago Business Club Networking Mixer on February 23 held at the RAM Restaurant and Brewery in Schaumburg. Present were Brothers **Norbert Barszczewski**, **Scott Bieniasz**, **Darek Kozlowski** and **Slavek Laskowski**.

Preliminary date has been set for the next Evening at the Polish Museum of America. Last year's two successful fundraising events that gathered over 150 guests each time and brought lots of new members to the Museum were organized by a group of friends and enthusiasts of Polish culture among them Brothers **Andrew Pawlowski**, **Norbert Barszczewski** and **Jacek Szostka**. Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 14 for the next great event at the Museum. Brothers Andrew and Norbert will also be meeting with the President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union

(PRCU) Joseph A. Drobot and the President of the Polish Museum of America Mrs. Maria Ciesla on March 9, to discuss the future of this initiative.

At the second annual fundraiser, on Thursday, April 28, the Chicago Cultural Alliance will once again honor one or more cultural champions from your communities: men and women who have demonstrated their commitment to cultural diversity through their dedicated service to your organization and community in Chicago. The deadline to submit nominations has already passed, and we are looking forward to learn about the winners.

Brother **Chester Lizak** has been recognized as one of the "Top 100 Trial Lawyers in the State of Illinois" by the American Lawyers Association. The American Trial Lawyers Association is a professional organization of America's Top Trial Lawyers. For the past 10 years Brother Lizak has specialized in criminal law.

The Personnel, Director **Kenneth Gill** plans to give anniversary pins and update tags to members at the April 2011 General Meeting. Since this event has not happened for a few years and some initiation dates are missing, Brother Gill is asking members due a pin or a tag to update their pin to call him at 773-852-6757 before April 13, 2011. Member receiving a new pin or tag are to return the current one expect the 25th anniversary pin.

SKLODOWSKA-CURIE FILM

Warsaw (PMN)—Krystyna Janda has been chosen to play the part of revolutionary scientist Maria Sklodowska-Curie in a new motion picture. The Polish-Hungarian co-production will show how an ill-fated romance helped to fire the scientist's resolve, as well as her struggles to triumph over the odds

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MEMBER OF THE MONTH

While you may have seen his face several times over the past few months at various Chicago Society events, Zenon Kurdziel has been active within the Polish community for many years. As this month's featured member of the month, we'll give you some insight into who this relatively new member of our Society is.

Born in Nowy Sacz, Poland, Zenon's family immigrated to Chicago in 1963. He was educated in the local parochial school system, attending St. Romans Grammar School and St. Rita High School. Zenon graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago (formerly Circle campus) with a Bachelor of Architecture and Design in 1979. Since obtaining his



degree, Zenon has quickly moved up the ranks – working for some of the industry's leading architectural firms in the Chicago area.

In 1991, Zenon opened his own architectural firm – Ridgeland Associates, Inc. – and has earned many prestigious awards for his work including The Nicholas Award and Chrysler Motor's Silver Shovel Award. He is licensed to practice architecture in 16 states and Canada. He is also certified with the City of Chicago Department of Buildings Self-Certification process – which allows him to gain building permits within the City of Chicago faster than through the Standard Permit Process. You can see samples of Ridgeland's work on their website at www.ridgelandassociates.com. Under Zenon's leadership, Ridgeland Associates has worked on hundreds of projects ranging from simple residential code violation corrections to nationwide store chain openings.

Married to his lovely wife, Marie-Jeanne, for more than 30 years, Zenon has 2 sons – Brandon and Eric. He offers his assistance to any member of the Society and can be reached by phone at (708) 435-0300 or by email at zenon@ridgelandassociates.com.

POLISH TRIVIA

Who said the following verse and in what movie:

“...Tradycja to dąb, który tysiąc lat rósł w górę. Niech nikt kielka małego z dębem nie przymierza. Tradycja naszych dziejów jest warownym murem, to jest właśnie kolęda, świąteczna wieczerza... To jest ludu śpiewanie, to jest ojców mowa, to jest nasza historia, której się nie zmieni. A to co dookoła powstaje, od nowa, to jest nasza codzienność, w której my żyjemy...”

If you know the answer, please email it to editor@chicagosocietypna.org. First person who emails the correct answer will be featured as the winner in the next Forum.

SUPPORT YOUR BROTHERS

STAN MUSIAL (Continued from page 2)

People encouraged others with their pictures of “Stand for Stan.” “The day we started the project, the team (Cardinals) was in San Diego, and there were fans already in the stadium with “Stand for Stan” posters,” said Watermon. “It took a life of its own and just grew, I am so happy to be here to see this. Everyone in the Cardinal Family got involved, including the players.”

Musial was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in 1969 and the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame (NPASHF) in 1973. He played for the Cardinals as #6 for 22 seasons. The three-time National League MVP had won seven National League batting titles.

Musial helped the growth of Little League baseball in Poland and has acted as an unofficial emissary to the country. The Little League Baseball Training Center in Kutno, Poland is named after him. He was awarded Poland's Cavalier Cross of the Order of Merit.

VOYTEK PUTZ PRESENTS MONUMENT PLANS TO CITY

Chicago (PMN)—A town hall meeting was organized by the City of Chicago, held on February 8, 2011, during which the Chicago Chopin Foundation had an opportunity to present its project involving the proposed Chopin monument in Chicago. The Grand Park Conservancy extended an offer to let the foundation present its vision and plans to build and install an exact replica of the original Chopin's monument from Lazienki Park, Warsaw, in Grant Park in downtown Chicago.

The presentation panel consisted of the Chicago Chopin Foundation Board and a representative of the architectural firm that will present the preliminary proposal. There was also a multimedia presentation, providing the overview of the entire project.

Voytek (Wojciech) Putz, President of the Chicago Chopin Foundation and a member of the Chicago Society, said, “Over the course of the past several years, we were always given words of encouragement and praise for this important cultural project. It is because of this support that we were able to come to this exciting and highly promising opportunity, where we can now present publicly our project



to the Board of the Park District of Chicago.”

He added, “It is also the best time to begin a large-scale campaign promoting the project, even though its ultimate success is still far away. Yet, these

new developments are nevertheless highly encouraging, and the possibility of realizing our dream becomes increasingly less remote.”

The proposed venue will feature an ongoing series of summer concerts in Grant Park under Chopin's monument in its full size and glory, exactly as they have been presented in Chopin's hometown of Warsaw for over a century. It is anticipated as an important addition to the already rich cultural scenery in Chicago, hopefully bringing international recognition.

For information contact Brother Putz at info@ChopinMonumentInChicago.com or visit the Chopin Monument website at <http://www.ChopinMonumentInChicago.com>.

PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following individual has applied for membership in the Chicago Society of the P.N.A. Any member should contact the Personnel Director prior to the next general meeting if he has an objection regarding the admission of a prospective member. 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: Henry Kurzydowski
25 Lake Adalyn Dr
South Barrington, IL 60010
847-381-8844

Occupation: Physician
Paincare Consultants
1450 Busch Parkway, Ste 103
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
847-387-3864

Birth date: November 4, 1955
Birthplace: Chicago, IL
Hobbies: Travel/Reading
Spouse: Michelle
Sponsors: Marian Skawski
Casey Baczynski

Name: Dariusz Budzikowski
3046 N. Haussen Ct.
Chicago, IL 60618
773-427-6979

Occupation: Database Administrator
Pactiv
1900 W. Field Ct.
Lake Forest, IL 60045
847-482-3909

Birth date: September 2, 1957
Birthplace: Poland
Hobbies: none listed
Spouse: single
Sponsors: Marian Skawski
Casey Baczynski

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or rolech4042@aol.com

DEADLINE FOR DUES PAYMENT

The following gentlemen are delinquent in payment of dues. March 1, 2011, was the cutoff date for payment of a member's 2011 dues without being considered delinquent. In accordance with the Chicago Society Constitution and the approval of the Board of Directors, Financial Secretary Richard Jadczyk is required to prepare a list of those who will be removed from the roster unless dues are paid by April 1, 2011.

Gregory Akko	Andrzej Lubelski	Edward Sawa
Kamil Bartoszcze	Theodore Matlak	Sylwester Sipiora
Joseph Bauerly	Mario Mikoda	Jack Skaja Jr.
Keith Bode	Larry Miller	Anthony Slawniak
Andrew Csoke	Patrick Nader	Edward Solecki
Bardia Fard	Michael Niedzinski	Mark Soltan
William Folak	Stanley Nowak	Les Sraga
Victor Forys	Thaddeus Pacyniak	Henryk Stankiewicz
Marian Grabowski	Thomas Pawelko	Milton Steinke
Lawrence Grygiene	Romuald Poplawski	Voytek Strojny
Gregg Kobelinski	Andrew Przybylo	Jacek Szostka
Richard Kolakowski	Edward Ptaszek	Adam Sztejnberg
James Kopka	Wojciech Putz	Robert Tomczyk
Len Krajkiwicz	Robert Radkowski	Erik Weber
Jerome Kujawa	Waldemar Rawicki	John Wojciechowski
Mark Kupiec	Zbigniew Rogalski	William Wojcik
Paul Kusinski	Christopher Rudzinski	Richard Zabelski
Slawek Laskowski	Paul Ryndak	Dan Zolkowski

After April 1, a member must submit a new membership application, current dues and a fee of \$50 to obtain reinstatement. The application must then be approved by the Board of Directors. Dues should be sent immediately to Richard Jadczyk, Financial Secretary, 28761 W. Fox St., Cary, IL 60013, to avoid the foregoing requirements.

MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS

The Chicago Society of the P.N.A. would like to wish the following members, who are celebrating their birthday this month, a greeting of *Sto Lat*.

Joseph N. Bauerle
Lawrence Grygiene
Christopher T. Grzadzziel
Charles A. Komosa
Alfred C. Kotlarz
Theodore L. Lipkowski
Stanley Nowak
Mitchell Pasiewicz
Daniel G. Pikarski
Marek J. Placek
Joseph Santoro
Les Sraga
Milton J. Steinke
Voytek Strojny
Jerry Sufranski
William Sufranski
Les Surowiec
Ted Szywala

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society of the P.N.A. commends the following members, who are celebrating the anniversary of their induction this month, for their many years of membership:

Kazimer Swierz	1961	50 Years
Joseph Kosin	1991	20 Years
Krzysztof Kielczewski	1996	15 Years
Ronald Korajczyk	1996	15 Years
Matthew Kubistant	1996	15 Years
Conrad Miczko	1996	15 Years

VIOLETTA VILLAS RETIRES

Violetta Villas, the Polish singer with a voice that spans four octaves made her final appearance on stage on Valentine's Day, The fifty-year-long career of Violetta Villas (born Elise Cieslak) began in the 1960s. She was famous for her trademark cascade of blonde hair, enormous eyes and Hollywood ball gowns

UNITED OR DIVIDED?

Happy or not, the Chicago 2011 mayoral and aldermanic elections are over. We have the winner, the new mayor of Chicago, and time will only show whether the 55% of eligible voters who supported Rahm Emanuel on February 22 were wrong or right. I have been accused of being an optimist too many times, so I guess one more time won't hurt my feelings. I hope things will change for the better. Sometimes it may seem like they simply couldn't be any worse, but then again, I have underestimated different politicians and official figures before too. I suggest we all wait and see.

There were two significantly visible Polonia candidates in the last aldermanic election, Mrs. Anna Goral and Mrs. Anna Klocek. Unfortunately, none of them won the race, which

reminds me of many such instances before. I realize I am not going to be original with my questions, and whatever I write or say, probably won't change much either, but in the light of recent political developments, or rather lack of them from our community's perspective, I decided to write a series of articles that attempt to explain why we seem to have such a *status quo*. Why in a city that has been built on our shoulders, Polonia candidates have such a hard time winning in more prominent elections? What are the causes, and what are the possible solutions? Perhaps,

as Brother Matt Rodriguez puts it, "*We have some winners, e.g., Roman Pucinski (U.S. Representative 1959-1973), Daniel Rostenkowski (U.S. Representative 1959-1995) or Judge Aurelia Pucinski (Cook County Circuit Court). What do their career successes tell us? Things have to be studied from the grass root levels. Ordinarily, when competency and effectiveness are projected at one level, it leads to the next (with publicity and organization, etc.). One has to really want one level, and the next, and the next....*"

And one more thing, I got smart too. I am not just going to spin my head and write everything by myself. As you can see here and will see more of it in future articles, I put some experienced Brother members to work for me, and I will probably continue to add new contributors to this pool. In the coming months, with the input of members who have had experience in political life, political campaigns and are generally interested in our proper representation at all levels of administration, we will attempt to answer some questions. And the questions are the following:

- What would be the characteristics of a perfect Polonia political candidate, for any office?
- What should a candidate do to gather maximum support and momentum among Polonia leaders, organizations and general community?
- What lessons are we learning from recent failures to get elected? (Aldermanic elections, US Senate elections)
- Why wasn't there a Polonia candidate for the mayoral election of 2011 in Chicago?
- Is relying heavily on Polonia support enough to get elected?
- What and how can we learn from other ethnic groups?

I will also try to reach out to both Mrs. Klocek and Mrs. Goral, who I met personally, for their fresh comments and suggestions. Who else if not those who invested their own time, money and effort to answer these questions? I hope it will be an interesting series of articles. If you feel like you have something to add to the discussion, I am all ears. Proper credit will be given to all contributors. We may not change the *status quo* tomorrow, but at least let's have an educated discussion.

—To Be Continued—



PLANS FOR JOHN PAUL II BEATIFICATION GIVEN

Vatican City (PMN)—Monsignor Guido Marini, Master of Papal Liturgical Celebrations, has stated that "It is very important to make as clear as possible that no tickets are needed, to attend the beatification of John Paul II."

The Prefecture of the Papal Household has issued a draft program for the Beatification of John Paul II, May 1, 2011. Describing it as "a great ecclesial event," the office in charge of organizing audiences and handles ticketing for all papal events at the Vatican, issued a statement February 18, 2011, that began "tickets are not needed to attend the beatification ceremony".

It added that no individual or institution can demand payment for improper deals as has become particularly common on the Internet. It also reaffirms that tickets are always free at papal ceremonies and general audiences.

Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, retired prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, has also confirmed an initial estimate of over 2.5 million pilgrims and faithful, from all over the world, for the ceremony of beatification of John Paul II

The ceremonies for the beatification have been divided into five phases. The first event is an open air vigil of preparation that will take place on the evening of Saturday, April 30, at the Circus Maximus. Organized by the diocese of Rome, it will be led by Cardinal Agostino Vallini, Vicar General for the Diocese of Rome. Pope Benedict XVI will join through a live video link.

The second phase is beatification ceremony itself, Sunday, May 1, in St. Peter's Square. The celebration, which will be presided by the Holy Father, will begin at 10:00 a.m. Immediately after the ceremony, the remains of John Paul II will be placed in front of the High Altar in St. Peter's Basilica, for the veneration by the faithful.

Access to the coffin, suitably embellished, will be allowed to pilgrims for a brief moment of prayer.

On Monday, May 2, Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, will preside at a Mass of Thanksgiving at 10:30 a.m. in St. Peter's Square. Following this Pope John Paul II's remains will be "privately" reinterred in the side chapel of St Sebastian, in St Peter's Basilica.

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