



The Forum

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

VOLUME 67

JUNE 2016

NUMBER 6

MONTHLY NETWORKING- DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 15, 2016

6:00 p.m.

White Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS

by June 13 to

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

847-635-0883

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, June 27, 2016

7:00 p.m.

PNA Home Office

COMING EVENTS

Friday, July 15, 2016—
CS Scholarship Golf Outing
Gleneagles Country Club
Lemont, IL
BBQ Lunch 10:30 a.m./
Golf 12:00p.m.

Sunday, August 21, 2016—
CS Family & Friends Picnic
Busse Grove #31, 12:00p.m.
Food, libations, music,
raffle & kid's games

JUNE 2016 SPEAKER & DINNER MEETING

Our very own Brother member **Frank Spula**, National President of the Polish National Alliance and the Polish American Congress, will be our guest speaker for the June 2016 General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at the White Eagle. Brother Frank will provide an overview of the financial strength of the PNA and the company's important business and social media changes, and highlight his trials, tribulations, and poignant observations concerning several "hot topics" in Polonia.



The June General Meeting not only offers great camaraderie, a featured speaker, but a delicious dinner menu! We are celebrating with a Polish Night dinner menu which includes gourmet mushroom soup, a European bread basket, Krakovia goulash, gołąbki, Polish sausage & sauerkraut, kopytka (potato fingers), dessert of the day, coffee, and or tea. For reservations call Brother **Ro Matuszczak** at 847-635-0883 or email meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

CHICAGO SOCIETY FAMILY & FRIENDS PICNIC

Come to the Annual Chicago Society Family and Friends Picnic, which will be held on Sunday, August 21, 2016, rain or shine. The picnic will be held in the Busse Woods West Forest Preserve, Grove #31, located on the north side of Higgins Road (Rte. 72), west of Arlington Heights Road. The area is south of the Northwest Toll Road. This is the same location as the last three years. The picnic is free for members, their families and friends. We will have brats, kiełbasa, hot dogs, burgers, corn on the cob, watermelon, ice cream and more, along with various beverages—all under a covered pavilion. There is ample open space surrounding the pavilion, and everyone is encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and pillows. There are rest room facilities at the site.



►continued on p 3.



CHICAGO SOCIETY Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications
Charles Komosa

editor@chicagosocietypna.org

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www.chicagosocietypna.org

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Dear Brothers,

The month of June allows our members a chance to catch their breath before we move into the second half of our busy yearly activities. But I would like to acknowledge Flag Day on June 14, 2016. Since we are a patriotic organization, I would encourage all our members to make an effort to proudly display "Old Glory" at your residence or business. Sometimes we take this observance for granted, but it allows us to specifically honor the flag as the symbol of our freedom and the lives that were given to allow us to fly the "Stars and Stripes."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The other celebration of note in June is Father's Day. Therefore, I would like to extend to all the fathers a Happy Father's Day. This would also be a good time to remind your family that the Chicago Society has its upcoming Golf Outing at Gleneagles County Club on July 15, 2016, and you could use a new set of clubs or a couple dozen of golf balls. Brother **Charles Komosa** will chair the event with Brother **Mark Orwat**, and Brother **Frank Czaja** as our sign chairman. This is one of the Chicago Society's premiere events and would be a good opportunity to invite your friends and business associates for a relaxing afternoon of good conversation and golf.

I would like to thank Brother **Steve Rakowski** for chairing the recent fish outing in very adverse conditions. We had 15 hearty souls who braved the elements of the cold weather and high waves. We always remember the more difficult times as opposed to the warm day and calm weather we had at our last fish outing. We will definitely remember this outing! I believe everyone took home some fish and there were plenty of burgers and brats, potato salad and beer for everyone who attended the picnic immediately thereafter.

Finally, I would remind our members, if you know of someone who you believe would be an interesting speaker at our general membership meeting, please contact Brother **Robert Groszek**, our Civic Vice President, or myself. I hope you are enjoying this warm summer weather and please remind your fellow brothers to join you at the upcoming general membership meeting. See you there.

Fraternally,
Brother Ted Makarewicz

Dear Brothers,

FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

I have returned as editor of the Chicago Society Forum after a 5 month sabbatical. First of all, on Friday, July 15, 2016, we are having the Chicago Society Annual Scholarship Golf Outing at Gleneagles Country Club in Lemont, Illinois. Please join us for golf or dinner, or at least consider sponsoring a tee sign for \$100.00. The tee sign proceeds were included in \$6,000.00 in scholarships awarded to three students at Chicago Society's Annual Pre Polish Constitution Day Parade Brunch. On behalf of PNA, I am chairing a Flag Day Ceremony on Tuesday, June 14, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. on our grounds located at 6100 N. Cicero Ave. The ceremony lasts for approximately thirty minutes and lunch will be served after in our cafeteria. Please call Mary Srodon, Polish National Alliance Fraternal Activities Coordinator at 773-286-0500 if you would like to attend. Please remember that Sunday, June 19, 2016 is Father's Day. For those of you fortunate enough to still have your fathers – be thankful!

Fraternally,
Brother Charles Komosa, Editor

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016, CS SCHOLARSHIP GOLF OUTING IS FAST APPROACHING!

The Chicago Society 2016 Annual Scholarship Golf Outing is right around the corner and Chairman Brother **Charles Komosa** is still keeping this outing at a reasonable price of \$100.00 per golfer with many amenities. Brothers **Charles Komosa** and **Mark Orwat**, co-chairmen of the Chicago Society's 2016 Golf Outing, invite all members, business associates, family, and friends to reserve their spots for the Outing. The Chicago Society Golf outing will be held on Friday, July 15, 2016, at Gleneagles Country Club located at 13070 McCarthy Road in Lemont, Illinois. The day will begin with check-in at 11:30 a.m., then a cookout lunch. The Shot-Gun scramble starts at 1:00 p.m. sharp. There will be a fleet of beverage carts patrolling the golf course with free drinks, snacks and other surprises.



The day will conclude with an open bar and appetizers beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the banquet room, with dinner including BBQ ribs, chicken, and side dishes, with a program and prizes following. 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. We are planning the world famous grand raffle! Please call Brother Charles Komosa at 773-286-7123 to reserve your golf foursomes (individual golfers also welcome). Please call if you or your company would like to donate raffle prizes. Brother **Frank Czaja** will again serve as Tee Sign Chairman and for raffle prize donations. The Tee Sign Hole sponsorship is still only \$100.00. Please call Brother Frank Czaja for more information at 312-520-6144. Please see the insert in the issue of *The Forum* for the Tee Sign contract.

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MEETING RESERVATION?
YOU CAN MAKE YOUR
RESERVATION BY EMAILING**

MEETING@CHICAGOSOCIETYPNA.ORG

CS ANNUAL FISHING OUTING

Brother Steve Rakowski, CS Fishing Outing chairman, reports that this year's fishing outing was a great success. Especially appreciated was the participation of our friends from the Polish Fishing & Hunting Club and its president, Jerzy Krawczyk. Our participants braved difficult conditions including strong winds and tricky footing due to persistent waves. The morning begun with a Northwest wind at about 15 mph but by the time boats were leaving the harbor the speeds increased to 20-25. Wave height responded accordingly. But, our boat captains handled the challenge, finding the most comfortable trolling directions and they did a fabulous job minimizing line tangles. And everyone caught fish!



This year we had two cash prizes: \$20 for biggest Coho and \$40 for biggest fish of any species. Our President, Brother **Ted Makarewicz**, won the prize for biggest Coho at 24 inches (word is that he purchased the large Coho at Whole Foods and put it in his cooler prior to the event). **Szczepan Zaleski** won the prize for largest fish with a 12 lb. steelhead trout. **Szczepan's** fish was hooked twice. The first time it broke the line. The second, the line from the first rig got tangled in the line of a second rig he was reeling in. Everyone was happy to recover the fish, especially the captain who thought his tackle was lost. After fishing we sought shelter of the BBQ pavilion and some great camaraderie. Thanks to brother members **Wojtek Putz**, **Robert Groszek**, **Peter Dykas**, **Ted Makarewicz**, and **Fred Koziol** for participating in the event. Your support is greatly appreciated. Let's strive for an even greater participation next year. Until then, may your seas be smooth sailing.

*Submitted by
Brother Steve Rakowski*

◀continued from p. 1

CHICAGO SOCIETY FAMILY & FRIENDS PICNIC

Games, treats, and a goodie bag will be provided for children. We will have bean bags and horseshoe contests for the adults. We are working on special treats for the ladies and gents. We are seeking volunteers to play a set or two of music on their favorite instrument and also raffle prizes. Please bring your family friends for an afternoon of fun and relaxation. This is a great way to get to know your fellow members. RSVP to padykas@yahoo.com. If you like to donate a prize for the raffle drawing or be a picnic sponsor contact Picnic Chairman Brother **Robert Groszek** at his office 773-267-7100 or cell 219-743-8001, or email: robert@groszeklaw.com Hope to see you there!

PNA & PRCUA POLISH HERITAGE NIGHT AT CELLULAR FIELD

Show your Polish Pride on Tuesday, June 28th at U.S. Cellular Field. Back by popular demand is Polish Heritage Night at the ballpark. Bring out your grandchildren, children, family, and friends and enjoy a night of Polish entertainment and watch the Chicago White Sox vs. Minnesota Twins live baseball on Tuesday, June 28, 2016. In addition to specially priced tickets, you will have the opportunity to participate in a pregame parade on the field! You must arrive by 6:15 pm at Gate 1 on the south side of the stadium to be able to participate. Make sure to request parade passes when you purchase your tickets. We have negotiated for lower box seats at a discounted price of \$27.00 ticket (normally \$42.00). Game starts at 7:10p.m. Please contact Mary Srodon, Polish National Alliance (PNA) Fraternal Activities Coordinator at 773 286-0500.

FREE CONCERT IN THE PARK BY

TONY KAWALKOWSKI

Join the Tony Kawalkowski Orchestra for an outdoor concert of fun with music.



The concert will be held on Monday, June 13, at the Schaumburg Township Library, 130 Roselle Rd., Schaumburg, IL. 6:45 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. Admission is free. Bring a lawn chair.

Rain date is Tuesday, June 14. We look forward to seeing you there.

1ST PLACE ESSAY — 2016 CHICAGO SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

BY DANIELA KAPUSTA

What did Solidarność and the fall of communism in Poland mean to you and your family?

All four of my grandparents were born in Poland, and faced significant personal hardships under communism and during the Second World War. They worked hard to help their respective families survive and start a new life. Throughout all of this, they saw the promise of an American way of life. Each of them followed a unique path to Chicago, including detours through Siberia, Egypt, and England. Once in Chicago, they established stable home lives and started families. My parents are the result of that stability, being born as first-generation Americans, who continue to proudly recognize their Polish roots through active participation in numerous social and philanthropic organizations in Chicago's Polonia. My parents have personally experienced the birth of Solidarność and fall of communism on numerous trips to visit family members who still live in Poland. They have witnessed long lines for rationed basic necessities, and tell stories of relatives buying luxuries on the underground, black market, at significant markup.

By the time I traveled to Poland for my first time, communism had fallen and the overall economic and political situation had begun to improve. However, even at a very young age, I was able to notice minor differences from how I had grown up and what I was used to. For example, family members did not even have a microwave or mobile phone. Some family members did not even have a home telephone line. It felt like I had stepped backwards in time. Credit cards were not yet widely accepted, and home loans were still a foreign concept. On a visit several years later, Poland began to feel more like America, but with a deeper heritage. There were many more opportunities for lower and middle class families. Younger family members, who would have historically been only expected to be farmers or factory workers, were now pursuing higher education and professional roles. Elimination of communism resulted in relaxed government control, allowing some family members to open businesses. Everyone shopped at big malls and Hypermarkets, with many globally recognizable goods and brands. They were buying houses and using credit cards. Borders were opened for travel throughout the European Union, which resulted in increased cultural experiences.

My grandparents were forced to change due to war, but Solidarność helped initiate change again, but now in a primarily non-violent approach through strikes and protests. This new approach and peaceful diligence led to the downfall of communism, and a better quality of life for my family members still living in Poland. Solidarność has allowed them to live a Western life, with many opportunities, all without having to abandon their homeland and heritage. So much so, that my maternal grandparents even moved back to Poland for their retirement.

Dear Chicago Society PNA,

thank
you!

Thank you for selecting me as one of your 2016 Scholarship recipients. I am honored to have received the first place prize.

Being involved in the Polish Community is very important to me, and I am happy that I was fortunate to attend the Polish Constitution Day Pre-Parade Brunch to meet many board members. Thank you for all that you do for the Polish Community in Chicago.

Sincerely, Daniela Kapusta.

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**Do You Know A
Prospective Member?**

PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

Name: Christopher E.K. Pfannkuche

Address: 7220 West Greenleaf Avenue

Chicago, IL 60031

Phone: (312) 213-6951

Occupation: Attorney,

Law Offices of Christopher E.K.
Pfannkuche

Birth date: May 1, 1955

Birthplace: Chicago, IL

Education: J.D., B.S. Education, B.A. Political Science.

Sponsors: Brothers Frank Czaja & Thomas Sieja

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

The Chicago Society would like to extend to the following brother members celebrated their birthday in June, a warm wish of Sto Lat!



- 4 Jan Plachta
- 6 William Kolodziej
- 10 Casey Baczynski
- 16 Adam Augustynski
Stanley Jendziejec
- 17 Krzysztof Kielczewski
- 20 Bernard Pacyniak
- 25 Michael Dropka
- 28 Donald Versen, Sr.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate Brother **Casey Baczynski** who is celebrating the 20th Anniversary of his induction into the Chicago Society,

Brother **Victor Drapszo** and Brother **Andrew Przybylo**, who are both celebrating the 10th Anniversary of their inductions into the Chicago Society,

and Brother **Dale Ihssen** who is celebrating the 5th Anniversary of his induction into the Chicago Society.



Proud grandparents Brother **John** & Jean **Cieslik** recently celebrated their granddaughter's 1st Birthday-Baby Lenna Tzanos, daughter of Brother **Alex** & Lauren **Tzanos**. Brother John said that the parents had a house full of relatives and friends for this special event, and the food was great and the Pinot Noir was very tasty! Sto lat Lenna!!!

Congratulations to Brother **Romuald "Rom" Poplawski** on his recent election as president of the Illinois Division of the Polish American Congress at an election meeting held in a jammed packed Copernicus Annex. Likewise, congratulations to Brother **Jan Plachta**, elected as recording secretary.

Brother **Peter** & Agnieszka **Dykas'** son Mathew recently celebrated his First Holy Communion with beautiful weather on the same day as the May 3rd Polish Constitution Day Parade. Mathew will also be traveling by himself this summer to the northern woods of Wisconsin for the Polish Boy Scouts kolonia (camp). Brother Peter's & Agnieszka's daughter, Isabella, will be graduating preschool and attending kindergarten in the fall. The Dykas Family spent Memorial Day weekend by traveling to Elkhorn, Wisconsin for a day of fishing on Saturday, attending Boże Ciało (Corpus Christi) a Catholic feast celebrated as a holiday in Poland, at Holy Trinity Church in Chicago on Sunday, and then having an overnight camp out in their backyard.

Brother **Mark** & Renata **Pasieka** spent Memorial Day on beautiful Lake Michigan swimming and relaxing with their children Angela, Emma, MJ, and feisty German Sheppard dog, Mika.

Brother **Ro Matuszczak** gave the closing prayer at the Des Plaines Memorial Day Commemoration remembering America's entry into World War II 75 years ago. VFW Post 2992, of which Brother Ro is Chaplain, helped in organizing the event. BTW-U.S. military casualties in WWII: Army & Army Air Force-killed 318,274, wounded 565,861; Navy-killed 62,614, wounded 37,778; Marines-killed 24,511, wounded 68,207;

Coast Guard-killed 1,817, wounded unknown. Totals: killed 407,316; wounded 671,278. Our Veterans gave their tomorrows for our todays!

Brother **Richard** & Maria **Ciesla** spent part of the Memorial Day weekend in Urbandale, Iowa, celebrating the 16th birthday of their eldest granddaughter, Madeleine. Maddie will be a Junior in AP and Honors classes at Dowling Catholic High School, and is looking forward to her presentation at the White and Red Ball in March 2017. Maddie will be the 3rd generation of White and Red Ball debs, following her grandmother, mother and aunt! She is the daughter of proud parents Elizabeth & Douglas Hodgson.

Brother **Steve Rakowski** has taken up hiking as his new hobby and recently spent several days in the harsh but beautiful terrain of Tucson, Arizona. After a long day hiking, Brother Steve replenished his body with mineral water martinis-go figure!

Brother **Ted Makarewicz** is currently on a spiritual retreat in Philadelphia to unplug from all activities and experience the true benefit of reflection and solitude. Prior to the retreat, Brother Ted, as a member of Rolling Thunder, Illinois Chapter 1, rode out to Washington, DC over the Memorial Day holiday on his Harley Davidson motorcycle to participate in the Rolling Thunder POW-MIA Parade, with an estimated 750,000 to one million bikers in attendance, which was staged in the Pentagon parking lot. Brother Ted was on the road for seven days and put on 2,000 miles; he is the Marlon Brando of the Chicago Society!

On June 3, Brother **Ted Wiecek** & Brother **Andrew Zapalski** represented the Chicago Society at the Polish Museum of America's 36th Summer Ball at the swanky Café La Cave in Des Plaines, IL. Brothers Ted and Andy enjoyed a fantastic evening of gourmet dining, hot dancing to the music by Brother **Anthony Kawalkowski's** Orchestra, and the presentation of the 2016 Polish Spirit Award to the Polish American Chamber of Commerce. Brother **Richard** & Maria **Ciesla**, former PMA President, perennial gala guests enjoyed the evening as well. Also on the scene were Brother **Donald Gutowski** with wife Lucille, Brother **Jan Osada**, Brother **Robert Radkowski**, and Brother **Robert Groszek**. All proceeds of the gala benefit the PMA.

Brother **Chuck Cwiakala** spent ten days on a business trip in New York City, in the evening he tore up the Big Apple dining at various hot spots and had the opportunity to connect and network with his son Brother **Mark Cwiakala**. Unofficial reports from the New York City Chamber of Commerce state that the Big Apple has been reduced to a core after the Cwiakala boys' visit!


Brother **Mark Orwat** and fiancée Gina are traveling in Poland to attend her cousin's good ole fashioned Polish wedding in Wroclaw. Hmmm, I wonder if it is going to be a double wedding!

Brother **Mario Mikoda**, international businessman & good guy, has been spotted traveling around Israel with a delegation. Don't ask!

Brother **Roman "Pete"** & Mary **Piotrowski** have moved and their new address is: Roman "Pete" Piotrowski, c/o Brookdale Senior Living, Apt. 211, 10 E. Hawthorne Pkwy. Vernon Hills IL 60061. Tel. 847-729-2391. Brother Pete & Mary felt it was time to downsize because taking care of their large home and yard became too much to handle. Time for Las Vegas and relaxing!

Celebrating Home Fundraiser! Brother **Robert** & Jennifer **Groszek** are hosting their 3rd Annual Garden Party Fundraiser benefiting the Lydia Home Association/ Safe Families on Thursday, July 14, 2016, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm in their parking lot that they convert into a cool oasis, located at 3601 North Pulaski, Chicago. The event will include an art auction, live music, wine, spirits, and hors d'oeuvres. For tickets, sponsorships, or more information, please call Jennifer Groszek at 219-743-5977.

Dear friend of Polonia and personal friend of many Chicago Society members, Mrs. Kasia Bober passed away on Friday, June 3, 2016, at the age of 80. Kasia, known for her full service deli, Kasia's Deli, built an empire as the "Pierogi Queen of Chicago" offering twelve delicious varieties of the Polish staple. Kasia was hard working, very generous, a philanthropist, and a warm and genuine person. Kasia was an avid supporter of Chicago Society events, especially she enjoyed attending the Inaugural Ball, annually sponsored a tee sign for the Scholarship Golf Outing, and catered many of our General meetings at the Copernicus Center. Spoczywaj w Pokoju, Pani Kasiu!



HUBERT J. CIOROMSKI
President

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