



The Forum

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

VOLUME 68

MARCH 2017

NUMBER 3

MONTHLY NETWORKING

DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 15, 2017

6:00 p.m.

White Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS

by March 13 to
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org
847-823-8747

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, April 3, 2017
7:00 p.m.
PNA Home Office

COMING EVENTS

- Wednesday, Mar. 15, 2017—
Dinner Meeting & Speaker
White Eagle Banquets
Cocktails 6:00 p.m.; Dinner 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 30, 2017—
Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
AAC Eagles Hall
Open Bar 6:00 p.m.; Dinner 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 19, 2017—
Dinner Meeting & Speaker
White Eagle Banquets
Cocktails 6:00 p.m.; Dinner 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 6, 2017—
Pre-Parade Brunch
Hilton Hotel
- Saturday, May 20, 2017—
Fishing Derby
Winthrop Harbor.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING & FEATURED SPEAKER

Mary Wisniewski will be our featured speaker for the March General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2017, at the White Eagle. Ms. Wisniewski is a transportation reporter and "Getting Around" columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*. She joined the *Tribune* in 2016 after a number of years as a Reuters' investigative reporter covering Midwest crime, politics, natural disasters, schools, and health issues. Additionally, Ms. Wisniewski spent a number of years as a reporter for the *Chicago Sun-Times* as a transportation and business reporter, writing the popular weekly column "The Ride." She has won numerous journalism awards, including the prestigious Lisagor Award for a story on the city's cab business.



A Chicago-area native, Ms. Wisniewski has taught creative writing and published literary reviews. She is an active participant on the Nelson Algren Committee, is past president of the Chicago Headline Club, and appears frequently on local television and radio. She is a frequent panelist on "Chicago Tonight, The Week in Review with Joel Weisman" on WTTW, Channel 11. Her biography of writer Nelson Algren, *Algren, A Life*, has received glowing reviews by the Chicago Review Press and the *New York Times*. Ms. Wisniewski is a graduate of Southern Illinois University, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Ms. Wisniewski's book *Algren, A Life* will be available for sale at the General Meeting. The cost of the book is only \$30.00 and Ms. Wisniewski will personally inscribe her new book for you. Please have cash or a check made out to Mary Wisniewski for \$30.00.

The March General Meeting not only offers great camaraderie, a featured speaker, but a delicious dinner menu! The dinner menu includes Potato Leek soup, house salad with choice of dressing, freshly baked sticky bread, corned beef with braised cabbage, boiled red potatoes, horseradish sauce, chef's choice dessert, coffee, and or tea. Please contact Brother **Chuck Cwiakala** at meeting@chicagosocietypna.org or call 847- 823-8747 for reservations. Please note: Any guests at the meeting must be prospective new members and you must confirm the reservation with Brother Chuck. No exceptions!

(Article contributor - Geraldine Balut Coleman, Photo courtesy of Newberry.org)

2017 CHICAGO SOCIETY'S ANNUAL ŚLEDŹ A HUGE SUCCESS!

Over 60 guests enjoyed the Annual Chicago Society Annual Śledź Dinner and Pageant, held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017, at LaVilla Restaurant & Banquets. Following a welcome from Śledź Chairman Brother **Mark Orwat** and President Brother **Steve Rakowski**, who introduced our 2017 St. Joseph John Cieslik to give the invocation, asking for God's blessings on those gathered as we enter Lent. A delicious dinner, starting with the traditional śledzie followed by a dinner with selections of chicken or fish, including minestrone soup and other accompaniments, was graciously served by the LaVilla staff. After dinner, co chairman



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CHICAGO
SOCIETY
Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications

Ted Wiecek

editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Visit Our Website At

www.chicagosocietypna.org

CHICAGO SOCIETY P.N.A.

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vacancy

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Dear Brothers,

What an exciting last couple of weeks. Much is happening in our organization that demonstrates the vitality of our group and the commitment of our devoted Brother officers and directors. You will be seeing in this edition of *The Forum* a number of announcements for events and opportunities for all of you to find something to pique your interest and maybe inspire your participation. We have too many members who do not participate and I want to make sure this organization provides something of interest for all of you. If you have an idea for an activity or a worthy cause to be supported. I want to hear from you. Please call me at -847-204-4106 or send me an e-mail to steve@kandrfamilylaw.com.



Last week we celebrated our Śledź at LaVilla Restaurant. Over fifty people came out to participate in our Mardi Gras and prepare for the coming of Lent. Brother Mark Orwat was our devil this year. He had a hard time getting into character because he is such a genuinely nice person. Thanks to all our Brother-members who participated in the pageant. You helped make the event enjoyable for all of our guests. Congratulations to our new St. Joseph, Brother Ted Makarewicz.

For at least three years our Constitution Committee has been working on updating and improving our Constitution and By-laws to more accurately reflect how our organization operates and modernize our Mission. The original documents are outdated. At our last board meeting the exhaustive efforts of our Constitution Committee came to fruition when the board voted to approve many amendments to our constitution, which will allow the Society to operate more efficiently and, more importantly, focus its efforts on improving the community in collaboration with similar organizations. Stay tuned for next month's *Forum* and the text of those amendments, which will be submitted to the general membership for ratification. Efforts remain toward approval of proposed changes to the By-laws. Know that your board of directors is working hard to update and streamline the administration and direction of our organization.

Our new Membership Director, Christopher Grzadziel, is finished updating a membership directory. An electronic copy will be disseminated shortly. Then, once there is final action on the proposed amendments to our Constitution and By-laws, the updated versions of those documents will be published into a booklet containing the membership directory and copies will be made available to all members. Thank you to Brother Chris for all his hard work.

Please take note of a change in our calendar of events. The fishing outing will be held on Saturday, May 20 and not May 7 as originally planned. You will find a flier in this *Forum* providing you all of the details of the event. In the past all who participated in this event enjoyed the experience and camaraderie. Consider making this one of the Chicago Society events you patronize this year. I promise you will be hooked on the company and will land some wonderful memories.

In attending to my duties as president I am making a genuine effort since installation to participate in as many events and supporting as many Polish organizations as possible. During the last month I attended a fund raiser for Nicolas Copernicus Polish School, joined the Polish American Police Association; kicked up my heels at the White and Red Ball of the Legion of Young Polish Women; joined the Polish American Association Board in welcoming Governor Bruce Rauner to the PAA offices in observance of Fat Thursday; purchased and distributed ten dozen pączki; enjoyed a wonderful dinner with Counsel General Piotr Janicki discussing plans for a possible judicial exchange with Poland in 2018; was interviewed about Chicago Society activities by Malgorzata Ptaszynska on Polskie Radio; and attended the Pulaski Day celebrations at the Polish Museum of America and the Copernicus Center Annex hosted by the Polish American Congress. It has been a full schedule but I am enjoying every minute and working on my goal of developing new memberships to the Chicago Society. I encourage all of you to join me in this goal. If everyone in the Chicago Society convinced one new business acquaintance or family member to join in 2017 we would experience a revitalization worthy of the efforts of our founders.

Our new Advocate Brother Adam Konopka is chairing our scholarship committee this year and is doing a great job. We will again be offering \$6,000.00 in scholarships to three worthy students. An application is posted on our web site. Share the word with your friends and family. The scholarships will be awarded at the Brunch in May.

Our next general meeting will be held at the White Eagle on Wednesday, March 15. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting. Until then, I remain...

Fraternally yours,
Brother Steve Rakowski



FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

Witaj wiosno! Welcome, spring. So what happened to winter? Remember in the fall they were predicting a terrible winter in Chicago? I swear, if we did our jobs as well as the weather forecasters do theirs, we'd all be out of a job. Spring is coming, and with it nature is waking up from its winter rest. Soon, leaves will be sprouting and flowers will be blooming. And with this new life, it is time for each of us to reflect on the direction of our lives and our involvement in the lives of those around us. How much am I involved in the Chicago Society? What more can I do? Which friends and colleagues can I get to join and become involved? How can I use the power of the network of the Society to build or enhance my own network? What can I contribute to this network? The network that is the Chicago Society is only as strong as its members and their involvement, and it's up to each of us members to work to strengthen this network, not only for our own personal benefit, but for the benefit of Polonia at large.

◀ *continued from p. 1*

ŚLEDŹ

Brother **Charles Komosa** introduced the elected officials, candidates and special guests enjoying the event, including candidates from the "Schiller Park First" Party: Mrs. Rosa Jos, Candidate for Schiller Park Village Clerk & husband Mr. Mario Jos; Mrs. Joan Golembiewski, Trustee, Village of Schiller Park; Mr. Thomas Deegan, Candidate with the "Norridge First Party" for Village of Schiller Park Trustee; Mr. Oscar Slusarczyk, Candidate for Trustee for the Village of Norridge; Cook County Circuit Court Judge Honorable Brother **Ed Marsalek**, retired, Cook County Circuit Court Judge Honorable Diann Marsalek and the Chicago Society's official nominee for Grand Marshal of the 123rd Annual Polish May 3rd Constitution Day Parade; and Circuit Court Judge Honorable Claire Quish, Honorable Ms. Marta Bednarz, Vice Consul of the Legal Section of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago; Ms. Wanda Juda, District XIII Commissioner of the Polish National Alliance.

A revised and energetic Śledź pageant was narrated by Brother Charles Komosa, in a Mardi gras costume, who spoke of the traditions incorporated in the pageant. These traditions stem from the Middle Ages, when people feasted prior to the fasting required of Lent. Singers traveled from house to house, with much frivolity, presenting a variety of plays and pantomimes. Our pageant included a number of "characters": the Angel (Brother **Robert Groszek**), symbolizing all that is good; the Devil (Brother **Mark Orwat**), tempting us to break our Lenten fast, Father Time (Brother **Romuald "Ro" Matuszczak**), the reaper of all, and the six Śledź pallbearers (Brothers **Ronald "Topper" Topczewski**, **Steve Rakowski**, **Harold Brown**, **Anthony Kawalkowski**, **Robert "Rocky" Nowaczyk**, and **Charles "Chuck" Cwiakala**) carrying the Śledź. Ruling over the festivities were the King and Queen of the pageant, Brother **Jan** and **Basia Plachta**. Finally, our current St. Joseph Brother **John Cieslik** anointed Brother **Ted Makarewicz** as the Chicago Society's St. Joseph for 2017.

In keeping with the tradition of Pączki Day, the guests enjoyed delicious pączki after the Śledź Pageant, donated by Brother **William Wojcik**, manager of Laramie Bakery. Brother President Steve Rakowski and Śledź Chairman Brother Mark Orwat conducted the Executive raffle for the guests who won fantastic liquor gifts. Brother Charles Komosa thanked all the guests for another successful Śledź Dinner and Pageant. Finally, DJ Rick "Elvis" Cada dressed and superbly performed songs as an Elvis Presley impersonator.

The Śledź co chairman would like to extend a very special thank you to Brother **Romuald "Ro" Matuszczak** and Brother **Richard Ciesla** for their raffle gift donations, Brother **Ted Wiecek** for serving as the Chicago Society's event photographer and Beata Orwat (sister of Brother Mark Orwat) owner of Dahlia Blooms Floral Shop located 5858 W Irving Park Rd, Chicago, IL., for donating all of the decorative Mardi gras bead necklaces for the guests.

(Article written by Brother Charles Komosa, photo by Brother Ted Wiecek.)

2017 CANDIDATES' CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

The Chicago Society Annual Candidates' Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2017, at the AAC Eagles Club located at 5844 N. Milwaukee in Chicago. As usual, all members and their guests are welcome to join us and network, break bread and have a great evening! The very low priced ticket of \$40.00 per person includes open bar with premium liquor starting at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner featuring Harrington's famous corned beef with, cabbage, boiled potatoes, pumpernickel bread, and apple pie and coffee for dessert. After dinner we will have the ever popular Executive Raffle and continue to network! Please call co-chairmen Brother **Charles Komosa** at 773-286-7123, or Brother **Mark Orwat** at 773-502-6969, if you would like to attend or for information. Tables of ten are available. Please make your reservations early because tickets will not be sold at the door. You can pay online using PayPal via our website at www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html



2017 PULASKI DAY CELEBRATION

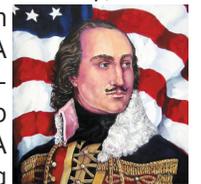
The State of Illinois Annual Pulaski Day Celebration was held on Monday, March 6, 2017, at the Polish Museum of America. A pre-ceremony reception was held at 9:00 a.m. in the PRCUA Board Room, offering guests scrumptious delights including pierogi, kanapki, salads, deviled eggs and much more, provided by Kasia's Polish Deli & Catering.

Chicago Society brothers were in full force including **Richard** and **Maria Ciesla**, President **Steven Rakowski**, and lady friend **Iwona**, **Romuald "Ro"** and **Chris Matuszczak**, **Scott Cizek**, **Dan Pikarski**, **Henryk Marciniak**, **Ted Makarewicz**, **Donald Versen**, **Peter Dykas**, **John Wojciechowski**, **Hon. Robert Martwick**, **Mario Mikoda**, **Martin Obrecki**, and **Charles Komosa**.

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Brother Ted Makarewicz is crowned St. Joseph



PROPOSED FOR CHICAGO SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The following gentlemen have applied for membership in the Chicago Society of the PNA. If any member has an objection regarding the admission of either of these prospective members, 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 to introduce him to the Personnel Director and to others before the Induction Ceremony.

Name: David B. Cooper
 Address: 2446 Ridge Rd
 Highland Park, IL 60035
 Phone: 847-4932-7753
 Occupation: Funeral Director
 Birth date: July 29, 1969
 Birthplace: Chicago, IL
 Education: AAS
 Sponsors: Brothers Thomas Sieja, Frank Czajai

Name: Lucas M. Fuksa
 Address: 108 N Grace Ave.
 Park Ridge, IL 60068
 Phone: 847-722-5569
 Occupation: Attorney, Fuksa, Khorshid, LLC.
 Birth date: Jan. 25, 1978
 Birthplace: Poland
 Education: B.A. Finance, J.J.D.
 Sponsors: Brothers Mark Kupiec, Ted Wiecek

Do you know a potential member?

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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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



- 2 Les Sraga
- 9 Joseph Bauerle
- 10 Edmund Nowak Jr.
Charles Komosa
- 12 William Marutzky
- 18 Jerry Sufanski
- 20 Paul Koontz
- 21 Dale Ihssen
- 22 Alfred Kotlarz
- 23 Daniel Pikarski
Christopher Grzadziel
- 24 William Sufanski
- 24 Mitchell Pasiewicz

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate Brother **Joseph Dondalski**, who is celebrating the 5th Anniversary of his induction into the Chicago Society, and Brother **Joseph Kuechel**, who is celebrating the 20th Anniversary of his induction into the Chicago Society,.

Have you made your reservation?



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IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING PAYMENT OF CHICAGO SOCIETY DUES

We normally publish names of brother members who have not paid their dues by March in *The Forum* as delinquent. However, due to the death of Brother Jadcza, we are still going through his records and reconciling payments. In the next few days, we will be notifying those brother members for whom we don't have a record of payment. Don't panic; we are discovering minor issues in payments we which we are attempting to clear up. We ask for your patience and understanding during this period of transition.

The preferred method of paying your dues is via PayPal. It's easy, convenient, and, best of all, free (my favorite 4-letter word). Simply go to chicagosocietypna.org/payments. click-click-click, you're done!

Those of you who opt to pay the "old-fashioned" way—by check—we ask that you send your payments to our mailing address:

Chicago Society PNA
 6348 N. Milwaukee Ave. #360
 Chicago, IL 60646

Any questions, please direct them to me. Brother Ted Wiecek, twiecek@hotmail.com or 773-539-9491. Thank you for your cooperation and your patience in this matter.

PAY DUES ON-LINE

Advertise with Us!

We are now offering non-members the opportunity to advertise their business in *The Forum*. Please contact editor@chicagosocietypna.org for more information.



At the December 13, 2017, meeting of the Polish American Businessmen's Club, Brother **Tom Laskowski** received an Award of Appreciation for his many years of service to the organization. At the January 10, 2017, meeting, Brother **Ro Matuszczak** received an Appreciation Award for his continuous (thirteen) years as President and many thanks from the members.

Andy and Pam **Batorski** have been enjoying the sunny, warm winter in Mesa, Arizona. They will return home mid-May refreshed and ready to enjoy the festivities leading up to their daughter Christina's wedding in October.

What a Beautiful Sunday it was!! On Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017, Brother **Tom Laskowski** and his wife Christine, became proud Grandparents for the very first time. Their daughter Claudia Laskowski Howell, and husband Jason Howell, became parents of twin girls at Resurrection Hospital. Gwyneth Christine Howell weighed 5 lb.15 oz. born at 3:23 am and twin sister, Vivian Margery Howell weighed 5 lb. 11oz. born at 4:40am. They are both healthy and beautiful little angels according to Grandpa Tom and Grandma Christine. These are the first Great Grandchildren of Virginia and the late Brother **Casey Laskowski**.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 8, 2017

We are proud to announce the availability of scholarships for qualified students of Polish descent. The scholarship committee has been working to publicize the opportunity throughout Polonia. Please pass the opportunity on to your respective organizations and contacts so that we may find those students that truly deserve recognition. The scholarships will help Polish youth fund their undergraduate education.

Applications, which include an application questionnaire and essay, are due on April 8, 2017. Winners will be awarded their scholarships at the upcoming Pre-parade Brunch on May 6, 2017. The application is available at chicagosocietypna.org/scholarship. Please direct any questions to scholarship chair, Brother **Adam Konopka**.

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After the pre-ceremony reception, the guests and elected officials proceeded to the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall to join over two hundred guests for the opening of the official program with welcoming remarks by Malgorzata Kot, Managing Director of the PMA, followed by the singing of the Polish and American National Anthems by Miroslawa Sojka-Topor, accompanied by Marta Pasek. Following the invocation by the Most Reverend Bishop Andrew Wypych and an introduction by Jan Lorys, Historian and PMA Director Emeritus, Joseph Drobot, Master of Ceremony and PRCUA President offered greetings and introduced elected officials representing the Federal, State, County, and City levels including Governor Hon. Bruce Rauner, U.S. Senator Hon. Richard Durbin, U.S. Congressman Hon. Michael Quigley, Justice Hon. Aurelia Pucinski, Illinois State Treasurer Hon. Michael Frerichs, Illinois State Comptroller Hon. Susan Mendoza, Illinois State Representative Hon. Brother Robert Martwick, Jr., Illinois State Senator Hon. John Mulroe, Cook County Board President Hon. Toni Preckwinkle, Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County Hon. Timothy Evans, City of Chicago Aldermen Hon. John Arena and Hon. Ariel Reboyras, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago Hon. Piotr Janicki, President of the Polish National Alliance and Polish American Congress Brother **Frank Spula**, and many more dignitaries offered remarks.

The 2017 Pulaski Day Celebration ended with a Wreath Laying Ceremony accompanied by trumpeter Slawomir Maciejczyk, benediction, and singing of *God Bless America* by all the guests. The Pulaski Day Celebration was a major success for the Polish American Community and was heavily covered by the Polish and American television, print, internet and radio media.

Article and photo submitted by Charles Komosa



PNA and PAC President Brother Frank Spula speaks at Pulaski Day Celebration



Cut this out and tape it to your refrigerator

- Thursday, March 30, 2016**
Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
- Saturday, May 6, 2017**
Pre-Parade Brunch, Chicago Hilton
- Saturday, May 20, 2017**
Fishing Derby
- Friday, July 14, 2017**
Golf Outing
- Sunday, August 21, 2017**
Family & Friends Picnic
- Thursday, October 26, 2017**
Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
- Saturday, November 18, 2017**
Hunting Outing
- Saturday, December 16, 2017**
Deserving Children's Christmas Party
- General Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.**

2017 CHICAGO SOCIETY INAUGURAL WRAP-UP

The Inaugural Ball was held on Saturday, February 4, 2017, at Café la Cave. As stated in a previous article, it was a gala evening enjoyed by all. The oath to the officers and directors was administered by the Honorable John A. Wasilewski, Cook County Judge, Retired.

Among the dignitaries present were Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios; National Secretary of the Polish National Alliance Marian Grabowski; Mayor of Franklin Park Barrett Pedersen; Cook County Tax Review Board Dan Patlak, candidate for the office of Mayor of Park Ridge Lucas Fuksa; President of the Legion of Young Polish Women Bozena Hasztrakiewicz; representing Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners Brother **Scott Cisek**; National Secretary of the Polish National Alliance Co-Chair **Charles Komosa**; and Judges James Pieczonka, Thaddeus Machnik, and Steven Kozicki.

Chairperson Ro Matuszczak gives grateful thanks to his wife Chris for her immense help. Also to Co-Chairs **Ted Makarewicz** and Charles Komosa for their yeoman work, as well as to Agata Komosa for her help on the committee. A big thank you to all! Last but not least, to Brother **Ted Wiecek** for taking pictures that evening.

It was the effort of all that made for a successful and enjoyable event.



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