



# The Forum

## of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Now in Our Second Century of Service

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NUMBER 6

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21**  
[First Day of Summer!]

**General Meeting**

**Jolly Inn Restaurant**  
6501 W. Irving Park Rd.,  
Chicago, IL

**Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.**

**Reservations:**

**Andy Haszlakiewicz**  
andyh9946@gmail.com  
or call: 847-341-1068

**(Reservations needed  
by Monday, June 19)**

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**Next Officers' Meeting:**  
**Monday, June 26, 7 p.m.**  
**D'Agostino's**  
**Oakton Street at**  
**Milwaukee Ave., Niles**

Dear Chicago Society Members and Friends:

Welcome to June! As we enter summer, I wish you all safe travels to wherever you may be going. The Chicago Society has had a very busy first half of the year—and there is still more planned for the rest of 2023.

I was honored to represent the Chicago Society at the Polish Museum of America's Summer Ball at Allegra Banquets on Friday, June 9. There were several other Chicago Society members also in attendance, and the music for the evening was also provided by our very own Tony Kawalkowski. The Chicago Society Foundation also made a contribution at the "Pink Poppy" level for this year's event.

Our next event is our annual Golf Outing, at the Bridges of Poplar Creek in Hoffman Estates on Friday, July 28. It is a new venue for us this year—but as usual, the day will include 18 holes of golf, lunch, dinner and a raffle. This event is being chaired by Adam Konopka. It requires a lot of work—and any help from our members would be welcome!

Again, we still have two open positions on our board—one for Secretary, the other for Director of Social Activities. Anyone who is interested in either position should reach out to me, or to any other board member.

*Chris Grzadziel* President, Chicago Society PNA

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## Chicago Society Gives \$1,000 Each to Boys', Girls' Scout Groups

The Chicago Society PNA is helping to ensure the continuation of Polish Scouting programs for local boys and girls this year by providing \$1,000 each to these organizations for this summer. The boys and girls have separate two-week camping ventures in the north woods near Crivitz, Wisconsin, north of Green Bay.

In the case of the boys' camp, coordinator David Ciesla's request was for new tools that the boys will use in building a rustic campsite, including hatchets, axes, bow saws, hammers and mallet hammers. These tools will replace older tools that have already been in use at the camp for several decades.



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## June Forum Highlights

- ◆ Golf Outing in Hoffman Estates on July 28
- ◆ Sawa's Planning Tour of Poland in 2024!
- ◆ Kulze Scholarship Recipient Tells of His Plans to Work in a Medical Specialty

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Remember the Chicago Society's address:

**Chicago Society PNA, Lodge #1450  
333 Busse Highway, #973  
Park Ridge, IL 60068-3285**

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**If you can serve either as Board Secretary, or as Director of Social Activities, for the rest of 2023, please let us know—your help will definitely be appreciated!**

## Sawa's Old Warsaw Plans 2024 Trip to Poland

For those interested in taking a week-long tour of Poland next year, Sawa's Old Warsaw Restaurant in Brookfield is planning a tour from May 7-13, 2024. The itinerary starts in Gdansk, then heads to Warsaw, Czestochowa and Krakow. The sightseeing tour of Gdansk will provide the chance to learn more about the life of Solidarity founder and former Polish President Lech Walesa. From there, the tour will continue to the famous Malbork Castle.

The tour then continues on to Warsaw, Czestochowa and Krakow, the latter city containing such sites as Wawel Castle, Jagiellonian University and other sites connected with the life of Pope St. John Paul II. For information on costs and other details, contact Mayflower Cruises and Tours at 1-800-728-0724, ext. 201; or email: [kayla@mayflowercruisesandtours.com](mailto:kayla@mayflowercruisesandtours.com). Be sure to mention Sawa's Old Warsaw Restaurant when making reservations!

## There's Still Time to Sign Up for Golf Outing at Bridges of Poplar Creek on July 28

The Chicago Society PNA's annual Golf Outing is fast approaching—but there is still time to sign up either to play golf, provide a sponsorship, or both! The event will be held on Friday, July 28 at the Bridges of Poplar Creek, 1400 Poplar Creek Drive, in Hoffman Estates. (This is just northeast of the intersection of Golf and Barrington Roads.) Registration is at 12 noon, with the Shotgun Start at 1 p.m. (with lunch and beer provided on the course), and dinner at 6:30 p.m. The cost for 18 holes of golf and dinner is \$165 per golfer, or \$660 per foursome. For those unable to golf in the afternoon, but wanting to come only for dinner (and an open bar), the cost is \$65 each.

There are four levels of sponsorship available: \$1,500 for a Host Sponsor gets golf for a foursome with VIP hospitality bags, tee box signage, name and logo on the registration and dinner table, and a banner at the registration sign in the VIP Sponsor Area. \$750 for an Event Sponsor gets a tee sign at the hole, name and logo on registration and dinner table, and a sign in the VIP Sponsor area. \$500 for a Beverage Cart Sponsor gets tee box signage, and beverage cart and beer station signage. All three of these levels of sponsorship also get a name and logo on the Chicago Society PNA, and on the Website for June and July. A \$100 Hole Sponsor gets tee box signage only. Cash or raffle prize donations are also welcome.

Deadline for registration and payment is Monday, July 17. For more information, contact event chairman Adam Konopka at (773) 220-1891, or email: [akonopka@chartwellllaw.com](mailto:akonopka@chartwellllaw.com). Checks and registration forms can also be mailed to Adam at: 10 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 875, Chicago, IL 60606.



## 2023 Kulze Scholarships:

### Another Recipient Explains How He Plans to Enter a Medical Specialty

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *For the second straight month, we take pride in presenting an essay by one of four local young Polish-American students who recently became a recipient of the Chicago Society PNA's Kulze Scholarships—and who hopes to enter a medical specialty as a result. Here, Nat Nicholas Lysik explains how he became interested in the field of respiratory therapy. (The remaining two essays will appear in future Forums.)*

*I am working towards a Master of Science degree in Respiratory Care at Rush University in Chicago. The scope of practice that a respiratory therapist has includes evaluating, managing and utilizing rehabilitative care of the cardiopulmonary system—as well as educating patients about pulmonary services. Depending upon the setting of employment, there will be a variety of duties that the respiratory therapist has. For example, some institutions have respiratory therapists intubating patients, while others do not. During a “Code Blue” in the ICU, the respiratory therapist usually has the job of providing ventilation to the patients, and protecting their airway. On the general floor, some of the responsibilities include giving nebulizers to the patients, using mucus-clearing devices with them, such as the high-frequency oscillating vest, and teaching them how to use incentive spirometers for lung expansion after surgery. Those who work in home care will have to set up home ventilators, and CPAP/BIPAP and trach collars.*

*Before beginning my graduate education, I had the chance to speak to a faculty member about the profession—and what this degree can do for me. I was informed that if my goal was to work in a clinical setting, then an Associate Degree is all that is necessary. There are only three programs in the country that offer a Master's Degree in respiratory care. The reason someone would get a graduate-level degree for this profession is if that individual was interested in going above and beyond being a respiratory therapist in a clinical setting. Obtaining roles such as a manager, a clinical specialist for an equipment company, an educator or researcher are what the faculty expect of graduates from this program. They hope that once we obtain some clinical experience, we move on to leading roles in the profession. I was told by all my professors that upon graduation from the program, it would be wise to complete at least two or three years of clinical work experience—since I do not currently have any experience that pertains to this field.*

*The clinical experience I will receive from rotations at this program will not suffice in terms of work experience, because I cannot be held responsible for anything I do during my rotations; I am always supervised. Actual employment will mean I will really have to think for myself, and I will not always have someone looking over my shoulder, to correct any possible mistakes.*

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## 2023 Kulze Scholarships—

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*I still want to weigh my options in terms of employers, but many graduates and faculty of this program recommend starting off the career here at Rush. This company gives more training time compared to other hospitals, because it holds respiratory therapists to a higher standard. Clinicians here must pass yearly competencies to continue working, and tend to have more duties compared to other hospitals. I was told, once you become a good respiratory therapist at Rush, the skills you gain make you ready to work at any other site. After obtaining a decent amount of real-life experience at bedside, my current goal would be to either become a clinical specialist, or to have a job in research, such as a project manager. Research can help benefit society by learning more about a disease process, or by finding which methods of treatment work better for a condition. This way, I can help more people—present and future patients.*

*Research can be difficult to get into, because sometimes you need a team and participants. My colleague's research project involves a participant laying down for five hours. It is difficult to get random participants to agree to do something like this, since it is deemed unethical to pay them a decent sum for being involved as a participant. Most people are unwilling to work for \$5 an hour, so he must try to convince our other colleagues and other people he knows to participate, so he can compile his research. But not all research needs participants. For my project, I will be sending out surveys inquiring about skin breakdown protocols to department managers, analyzing the data to see if there are trends. By the end of the program, I may be able to publish my research.*

*Once I spend a few years helping people directly, if I can't find any research projects to join, I would be interested in being a clinical specialist who helps sell equipment to hospitals. Companies need a respiratory therapist on board in order to explain why a specific ventilator is better than others, to the well-knowledge hospitals and employees, compared to a sales representative with no clinical background. Understanding how ventilators work is a little bit harder than one would imagine—and someone who has not taken classes on them would not know how to adequately explain how the different models function, compared to one another.*

*No matter who I work for, I plan on staying in Chicago. So far in my clinical rotation, I have come across two patients in the ICU who spoke only Polish. It felt good being able to talk to those patients, when they could not understand most of the clinicians there without having to call in an interpreter. The city of Chicago and the surrounding suburbs have a huge population of Polish speakers. If I stay here, I can better serve the Polish community.*

*I have been involved in the Polish community here since I was young. I was born here in the U.S., but my parents didn't teach me English—so I had to take ESL classes starting in first grade. All of my parents' acquaintances are Polish, so all holidays were celebrated in a Polish fashion. I completed Polish Saturday School in my junior year in high school, and I attended a Polish Independence [Constitution Day] May 3rd parade once in middle school. I also support Polish-owned businesses, like grocery stores, and the credit union of which I am a member.*





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