



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 69

JANUARY 2018

NUMBER 1

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

January General Meeting
White Eagle Banquets 6:00 pm

RESERVATIONS

by January 15 to

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

or at

<https://www.chicagosocietypna.org>

Monday, January 22, 2018

CS Foundation Quarterly
Board Meeting
Colletti's Restaurant 6:00 pm

Saturday, January 27, 2018

2018 Inaugural Ball
Victoria in the Park Banquet
Facility in Mt. Prospect, Illinois
6:30 pm

Monday, February 5, 2018

February Board Meeting
PNA Home Office 6:00 pm
FORUM Deadline
Send all articles to
editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Tuesday February 13, 2018

Śledź Mardi Gras
Dinner & Pageant
More info to come

JANUARY 2018 SPEAKER & DINNER MEETING

Our speaker for the January General Meeting will be our own **Brother Anthony "Tony" Kawalkowski**, Director of The Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra (AKO). The meeting will be held on Wednesday January 17, 2018 at the White Eagle in Niles. Cocktail hour starts at 6:00 pm with the dinner meeting starting at 7:00 pm. From the day he was born,



Tony's destiny was to play the violin. Tony was named after his uncle, a renowned musician in the Chicago-land area. In 1966, Tony began to study the violin with his uncle. His studies continued with Herb Miska, the concertmaster of The Wayne King Orchestra. In 1975, he began advanced studies with George Perlman and attended the American Conservatory of Music where he earned a Bachelor of music degree.

Tony performs music from Bach to pop in many different venues across the country. His ensembles vary from violin and piano to a thirty-six piece orchestra. Past engagements include performances for national and international leaders, radio, television, corporations, formal balls, concerts, and entertaining for many years in one of Chicago's finest hotels, The Palmer House. Among those in Tony's audience have been Pope John Paul II, Cardinal Bernadine, Cardinal Francis George, Lech Kaczynski (the president of Poland), Michel Le Grand, Jenny Mancini, Arnold Palmer, and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Tony has released 2 albums, *Playing from the Heart* and *Timeless Romance* and has appeared on local radio and television programs. The Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra (AKO) is comprised of some of Chicago's finest and "in demand" musicians and vocalists, featuring full string and swinging brass sections, rhythm section and vocals.

Please contact Brother Mario at meeting@chicagosocietypna.org for reservations. You can also RSVP by going to the Chicago Society website. Please note: Any guests at the meeting must be prospective new members and you must confirm the reservation with Brother Mario. No exceptions! All members must be current in their dues to attend the meeting! At each general monthly meeting, we offer and split a 50/50 raffle for the members. Please consider asking your wife or accountant for a few extra dollars to purchase \$5.00 or more in raffle tickets.



CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications
editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Visit Our Website At
www.chicagosocietypna.org

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Charles A. Komosa (1967-2017)

CHARLES A. KOMOSA – Known to most as Charley. A husband, a father, a family man. He loved his wife Agata and their two children, Charles and Alexander. Did you know that Charlie worked for thirteen years as an aide to Illinois Treasurer, and then Illinois Comptroller, Judy Topinka? That he became very active with the Polish National Alliance of America and was elected as General Secretary?



Charley was a member of many organizations, but one of which he was very proud was the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance. He was Past President of the Chicago Society, PNA and Past President of the Chicago Society Foundation.

Charley co-chaired the Chicago Society Polish Constitution Day Pre-Parade Brunch as well as the Chicago Society Inaugural. For a few years he chaired the Annual Chicago Society Golf Outing as well as the Candidates Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner.

Charley was a friend to many, and many were his friends!

I feel very fortunate to have been considered one of the family. His father Ed, an attorney and mother Judge Marilyn were close friends of mine. Charley many times referred to me as 'Papa'. Yes, we were close.

I'll miss his bi-weekly phone calls. I'm sure if the phone rings in the early morning, I'll think it is Charley.

Rest in peace my friend - - you will always be in my thoughts.

Ro Matuszczak

THE 2018 INAUGURAL BALL IS JUST AHEAD!

The Annual Inaugural Ball of the Chicago Society will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at the elegant Lake In The Park Banquet facility. Ball Chairman **Ro Matuszczak** ensures that the evening will meet the high standards of the Chicago Society with great food, premium drinks and quality entertainment.

The reception starts at 6:30 p.m. featuring cocktails, a champagne table with strawberries and hors d'oeuvres. Dinner will be at 7:00 p.m. starting with chicken Florentine French style soup; a house special tossed salad, choice of entrée, Filet Mignon, Filet of Salmon, Chicken Breast De Jonghe or Vegetarian En Crouete. All accompanied with mushroom style potatoes, and grilled asparagus. Dessert will be a black chocolate mousse garnished with fresh strawberries. Wine will be served with dinner. Entertainment will be provided by the Polonia Dance Ensemble.

Continued on page 4

Dear Brothers,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this message. I still cannot understand how God thought it was a good idea to call home Brother Charlie. He was much too young and had much still to give. But our faith assures us that our trust in His providence will be rewarded. And so, we trust. I saw many of you at his wake and funeral and I thank you on behalf of the family for your prayers and support. As a whole I know the outreach of the Chicago Society to Agata and the boys was appreciated. For those of you who could not make the funeral, please take time to say a prayer or two for Charlie and his family.



In this month's Forum you will see an article that chronicles some of Brother Charlie's many life accomplishments. Please take a minute to reacquaint yourself with him. He was a charismatic man who loved Polonia and the legacy of its institutions. That's why he devoted so much of himself to the Chicago Society and its causes. He leaves behind enormous shoes we can never fill.

In my small way I want to carry on the ethic of selfless giving Brother Charlie exhibited. My way is going to be to continue to push policies I believe are going to strengthen and revitalize the Chicago Society. For those of you who were present at the November general meeting you heard me speak about the need of our organization for more dues revenue, new ideas, and additional man-hours contributed. I believed, and still believe, that amending our Constitution to allow women members would instantly accomplish each of these goals.

However, following the vote in November our members chose to retain the 105-year-old policy. I resigned myself to the fact that we would then need to accomplish my revitalization goal by other means. At that same meeting I explained how meeting costs exceeded annual dues; How our events were in jeopardy of discontinuation due to lack of volunteers to run them; and, how we were experiencing board vacancies for lack of participation. I asked everyone in attendance-especially those who voted "NO" to the female member proposition-to bring in to Chicago Society one new member in 2018. Since now is the season of resolutions, I renew my request that each member resolve to seek, recruit and sponsor at least one new member this coming year. If everyone contributes, we can experience a revitalization not seen for many years.

If you feel that you previously served admirably and now it's time for the younger members to step up or, if you feel that Chicago Society will soldier through this challenging time-as it always has, I assure you changes will need to be instituted this year. Cuts will be forthcoming in the number and quality of the meetings, the number and scope of our activities, and the type and frequency of Chicago Society communications.

Each of you need to ask yourself whether you feel Brother Charlie's efforts were a waste of time; whether, he was misguided in his dedications; and, whether his time would have been better spent on another cause. I hope each of you internalize Brother Charlie's dedication as inspiration to give more to the Chicago Society in 2018. My assurance to you is that you will get out of it exactly what you put into it.

On behalf of the executives and directors of the newly constituted board, I wish you and your families a healthy and inspired new year.

Sincerely, Brother Steve Rakowski



Our sympathy to **Jim** and Czeslawa **Kolak** on the passing of Czeslawa's mother, Aniela Kardas. The funeral was held on Saturday, December 30, 2017. May she rest in peace.

Brother Peter Dykas is co-hosting „Wiecór Kolęd” with AMOPOD on January 14th at the Sheridan Shore Yacht Club. Contact him for more information.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



02 Gregory R Ciesla
08 Zenon Olejniczak
13 Frank M Gondela
15 Joseph P Kotlarz
23 James Kolak
24 Robert Radkowski
26 Frank Spula
27 Walter M Pieciewicz
27 Carlton R Marcyan

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate **Brother Kenneth Walczak**, who is celebrating the **10th Anniversary** of his induction into the Chicago Society.

Thank you for your loyal membership & **STO LAT!**

Dues letters have been sent via E-mail or S-mail. Payment is due by March 1, 2018. You can mail your check or bring it to the next meeting or pay online at the CS Website.

2018 Casino Days

Casino days have been scheduled for 2/20, 3/20, 4/24 and 5/22 at the White Eagle. Volunteers are needed for these events. Shifts are 1:30 - 6:30 and 6:30 - midnight. If you can give a few hours of your time on these days, please contact co chairmen Brothers Chuck Cwiakala or Ro Matuszczak at 847-635-0883.



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THE 2018 INAUGURAL BALL IS JUST AHEAD!

Our Honoree this year is Chicago Society member **Ted Makarewicz**. He has been most active in Polonia – a member of various organizations and supporter of Polish Culture. Please join us to celebrate this year's honoree.

Music will be provided by The **Anthony Kawalkowski** Orchestra. The cost of the Inaugural Ball is \$130.00 per person. Black tie is optional but this is a good opportunity to dress up. For reservations and information, contact Chairman **Ro Matuszczak** at 847-635-0883. To make reservations easily and conveniently via PayPal using your credit card or checking account simply go to <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/inaugural-ball>. Remember to list your choice of the entrée or mail in your reservation card.

2018 Chicago Society Inaugural Ball Ad Book

Please show your support for our well deserving honoree **Brother Thaddeus J. Makarewicz, Esq.**, by attending the Ball and placing an ad in our program book. The Inaugural Ball is always an elegant affair especially being held this year at Victoria in the Park Banquet Facility. The rates are full page \$100.00, half page (1/2) \$60.00, and quarter page (1/4) \$35.00. Please call **President Steve Rakowski** for special pricing for inside front cover, back inside cover, and back cover. Please complete an ad contract and make all checks payable to the: Chicago Society, PNA, or fill out the Ad contract at <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/ball-ad-contract>. Please call **Brother Steve Rakowski** at 847-204-4106 or email him at steve@kandrfamilylaw.com with ads for the program book or questions.

Chicago Society Christmas Meeting

A few reflections on the Chicago Society Christmas meeting held on Wednesday, December 20, 2017. Forty-eight persons attended which included wives and widows of our members. Before dinner there was the traditional "Opłatek" (wafer) shared by those present. The invocation was then given by our St. Joseph, **Ted Makarewicz**. While dessert was being served, the Polonia Dance Ensemble presented a Christmas program consisting of small children singing carols in English and in Polish and also dancing. This was followed by an older group also dancing and singing.

After the presentation there was the traditional raffle with gifts given by **Ro** and Chris **Matuszczak**; **Walter** and Ann **Pieciewicz**; Yvona Filipiak; **Ken Kogut**; **Frank** and Beverly **Gondela** and **Mitch Pasiewicz**.

It was a pleasant evening.

2018 Chicago Society Event Calendar

Mark your calendars. Here is the full list of events for 2018. Cut out this section and post on your fridge. You can also visit the [calendar](#) page of the Chicago Society web page. There you will see the full list which includes links to add the items to your calendar. (.ics file which can be imported into calendars such as Outlook, Google, Apple)

2018 CHICAGO SOCIETY CALENDAR

January

02—Board Meeting
17—General Meeting
22—CS Foundation Meeting
27—2018 Inaugural Ball

February

05—Board Meeting
13—Śledź Mardi Gras
Dinner & Pageant
20—Casino Night
21—General Meeting (South side)

March

05—Board Meeting
16—Candidates Corned
Beef Dinner
20—Casino Night
21—General Meeting

April

02—Board Meeting
18—General Meeting
24—Casino Night
30—May Board Meeting

May

05—Pre-parade Brunch
16—General Meeting
22—Casino Night
26—Fishing Derby

June

04—Board Meeting
20—General Meeting

July

02—Board Meeting
13—Golf Outing
18—General Meeting
30—August Board Meeting

August

15—General Meeting

September

04—Board Meeting
19—General Meeting (South side)

October

01—Board Meeting
17—General Meeting
25—Candidates Corned Beef Dinner

November

05—Board Meeting
17—Pheasant Hunting Outing
21—General Meeting

December

03—Board Meeting
08—Deserving Children's
Christmas Party
19—Christmas Meeting Dinner

James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship

The Chicago Society Foundation, affiliated with the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance, Lodge 1450 of the PNA, announces that it will be funding up to three \$7500.00 scholarships annually through its James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship Fund. These scholarship awards are available to Illinois residents of Polish descent with financial need who are pursuing academic studies in college, graduate, or professional school.

Initial applications will be accepted through January 22, 2018. Selections will be made in April 2018 for the subsequent fall academic term. Forms, dates, and other information regarding selection criteria and requirements can be found on the Chicago Society's website, www.chicagosocietypna.org. Please email **Brother Walter M. Pieciewicz** for further information at wpieciewicz@immaculaw.com.

Chicago Society Foundation's 1st Quarter Meeting 2018

The Chicago Society Foundation (CSF) will have its 1st quarter meeting on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 6:00p.m. at Colletti's Restaurant in Chicago. This meeting also serves as the 2018 election meeting. The Board is made up off all Chicago Society past presidents and current Chicago Society president. Currently serving on the Chicago Society Foundation Board are **Brothers Ro Matuszczak, Donald Gutowski, Frank Gondela, Richard Ciesla, Stanley Sawa, Walter Pieciewicz, Frank Czaja, Mark Orwat, Thaddeus Makarewicz, & L. Steven Rakowski.**

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