



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 70

March 2019

NUMBER 3

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

March General Meeting
White Eagle Events &
Convention Center
6:00 pm

RESERVATIONS

by March 18 to

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

or (847) 635-0883 or

<https://www.chicagosocietypna.org>

Monday, April 1, 2019

April Board Meeting
Location TBA
6:00 pm

FORUM Deadline

Send all articles to

editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Polish Constitution Day
Pre-Parade Brunch
Hilton Chicago
8:00 am

Friday, July 12, 2019

Annual Golf Outing
Carriage Green Country Club
Darien, IL
12:00 pm

March 2019 Meeting and Speaker

We are happy to announce that our speakers for the upcoming general meeting on March 20, 2019 will be representatives of the Polish Scouting Organization in Chicago. The Polish Scouts have been active in Chicago since 1949 and stem from a scouting movement that pre-dates World War I. From then to present, the organization has dedicated itself to honoring the memory, sacrifice and bravery of Polonia, particularly the youth, through some of the most trying times in history. They do so by teaching and passing down history and traditions to Polish youth around the world. The organization has served as a place where sons and daughters of Polish immigrants could gather to learn about and be proud of their culture and heritage. Please join us to

Continued on page 5

Polish Constitution Day Parade

Chairman, Brother **Ro Matuszczak** and co-chairman Brother **Zenon Kurdziel** invite you to Chicago Society's Annual Polish Constitution Day Pre-Parade Brunch. It will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Reception will be at 8:00 a.m. with seating at 9:15 a.m. Brunch will be served at 9:30 a.m. Cost of the brunch is \$35.00 per person. Cost of the children's meal, 5 to 11 years old, is \$20.00. Tickets may be purchased by PayPal at www.chicagosocietypna.org. Tickets will be held at the door. For additional information please contact Chairman **Ro Matuszczak** at 847-635-0883 or 847-331-8007. This will be Ro's 42nd year as Chairman. After brunch, Chicago Society will march in the parade. Please make your reservations early!





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

CHICAGO SOCIETY P.N.A. 2019 Board of Directors

President:

Peter A. Dykas

1st Vice-President:

Adam Konopka

2nd Vice-President:

Romuald Matuszczak

Secretary:

Jan S. Plachta

Financial Secretary:

Richard Ciesla

Treasurer:

Richard Wiermanski

Advocate:

Walter Piecewicz

Senior Director

Mario Mikoda

Social Activities Director:

Anthony P. Kawalkowski

Directors of Outreach:

Zenon Kurdziel

Director of Personnel:

Charles Cwiakala

Director of Publications:

Christopher Grzadziel

Dear Brothers,

HAPPY MARCH!! Is Spring ever going to get here?

I hope it does because I am tired of this cold weather. Hope I am not alone. March is the first month of meteorological Spring. That means flowers are to be growing and the grass is to be getting greener. All things are beginning to grow with new life. As is Chicago Society...our annual Śledź Dinner is an example. Brothers **Ted Makarewicz** and **Tony Kawalkowski** put together an amazing event that we have been running for a very long time with new ideas. If you missed it, it was really fun. We had nearly 100 people in attendance, some brought their children. Most of them dressed up in Mardi Gras costumes. We even had decorations donated by a new member candidate Andrew Noyszewski. 'It was really fun' said one of the attendees who came all the way from Wisconsin Dells to give us support in our causes. We even had a couple who came straight from Jamaica off the plane in shorts so they would not miss a thing while attending their first Śledź ever. That shows that we have something good going.

With all the excitement we had generated, I still was sort of disappointed that we did not have more attendees. More from the membership and from other organizations. What is going on? Brothers... I ask to keep your ears peeled to find out what is going on! We need to have the Society as the premier organization as it used to be. Let's put all of our differences aside. Let's find a common ground solution. Things are what they are for now and we may change things at a later date, but hopefully not when it's too late. Rumors are flying around that we are being boycotted because we don't allow women to join. If it's true...HOGWASH!! To put it mildly. We are doing things to HELP POLONIA, not our own egos. We are raising money for THE YOUTH PROGRAMS we have created. If it means having fun and doing this on our own, we'll do it without their help. PASS THE WORD ALONG! Someday, they will be coming to us for help and we know who has helped us out in the past. Thank you and I apologize for the outburst but this needed to be said ...

The events, the meetings, and the membership counts all should be much higher. And so I plead with all. If you have not paid your dues yet please do so soon! Please continue to be a member of Chicago Society. Please tell a friend about us. We started the year off nicely, getting one new candidate last year and now potentially adding 5 more in the next month or two. If you know of anyone who was a member within the last 5 years and has not paid up, let us know and I will call them personally.

Keep an eye out for the calendar of events and for the announcement of our speakers. Brother **Adam Konopka** and I are working to attract high



2019 Śledź Recap

The Chicago Society held its annual Śledź celebration on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at Lone Tree Manor in Niles, Illinois. Normally this event is held on the Tuesday prior to ash Wednesday. This year the event was held on the Saturday prior to ash Wednesday to bring together the polish tradition of Tłusty Czwartek (Fat Thursday) and Mardi Gras. The chairman this year was Brother **Ted Makarewicz** and the co-chair was Brother **Tony Kawalkowski**.

The evening started with cocktails followed by a delicious family style dinner. Dinner included Herring, Jellied Chicken, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Spring Greens Salad with strawberries, cheese and walnuts, Barbeque Ribs, Baked Herb Fish Filets, Polish Style Beef Roll Ups, Fresh Boiled Potatoes with dill and butter and Pierogi. Dessert included various pastries and of course an ample amount of Pączki. During dinner there was a quartet jazz band providing festive dinner music.

The highlight of the evening was the Śledź pageant performed by Chicago Society. The pageant started with the Angel, played by past president Steve Rakowski, passing out candy to all those present. The Devil, Brother **Peter Dykas**, came in next dressed in all red with a menacing red mask with green eyes and pitch fork prodding all in attendance to break their upcoming Lenten fast. Father Time (Brother **Frank Gondela**) dressed in a white gown, long white hair and carrying a large clock, the reaper of us all, follows the



Devil to remind us that we are here for only a short time. Then comes the somber Pallbearers with top hats and white gloves escorting the “Śledź” to be presented to the audience. And finally, we have the entrance of the King and Queen of the Pageant (Brother **Frank** and Darlene **Czaja**) giving their royal wave to their subjects and making royal proclamations to all.

Another tradition of the Śledź, is to anoint the incoming St. Joseph of the Chicago Society whose duty is to give a prayer throughout the year at the beginning of each general meeting. This year the St. Joseph is Brother **Chris Grzadziel**.



After the pageant a winner was picked for best costume and the raffle winners were picked. After dinner music was provided by Bubula. The wonderful decorations and picture backdrop were provided by future member and recent speaker, Andrew Noyszewski.

There were about one hundred in attendance coming from near and far and all had a great time.

Mark your calendar for next year for our revamped Śledź event.

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!

- 02 Les Sraga
- 09 Joseph N Bauerle
- 10 Edmund A Nowak Jr.
- 12 William G Marutzky
- 16 David H Marutzky
- 18 Jerry Sufanski
- 22 Alfred C Kotlarz
- 23 Daniel G Pikarski
- 23 Christopher T Grzadziel
- 24 William Sufanski
- 24 Mitchell Pasiewicz

March Anniversaries

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following Brothers on their anniversary of being inducted into the Chicago Society.

Brother **Terrance L Przybylski** is celebrating his **15th Anniversary.**

Brother **Les Sraga** is celebrating his **25th Anniversary.**

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

Winter Dress Code

Winter dress code is in effect from October to April for the General Meetings. Winter dress code is Business Casual — suit or slacks, sports coat and business shirt; tie optional.

Chairpersons needed for upcoming events

Social Activities Director, Brother **Tony Kawalkowski**, has requested volunteers to chair upcoming Chicago Society events. These include our annual golf outing and picnic. The golf outing is tentatively scheduled for Friday July, 12. A date for the picnic is not set but it is normally scheduled for mid to late August.

If you are interested in chairing either of these events, please contact **Tony Kawalkowski** at a.kawalkowski@comcast.net.

Both of these events have been long staples of the Society and are very fun events. Unfortunately if a chairperson is not found, these events may be cancelled.

Bring your ideas and enthusiasm and help make these events bigger and better than ever.

Easter Ham Raffle

Our Annual Easter Ham Raffle on April 17, 2019 is off and running. Tickets were distributed at our last meeting to those in attendance. All other members have been sent tickets vis U. S. mail. Tickets were also sent to our supporters.

The first to respond from the meeting was Stuart Sawa. The first to respond from our supporters was Mrs. Jeanine Okonek.

Hopefully the response will be good as all proceeds go to support our children fund and our Deserving Children's Christmas Party in December.

You may bring in your stubs, check and donations to our March 20th meeting and save the postage.

Chairman, Don Gutowski

Proposed for Chicago Society 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 to introduce him to the Personnel Director and to others before the Induction Ceremony.

Andrew Haszlakiewicz

Address: 638 Lacrosse Ave, Wilmette, IL 60091

Phone: 847-341-1068 **Occupation:** Retired, Biochemist

Birth Date: September 9 **Birthplace:** Germany

Education: Bachelor of Science, Biology, UIC

Hobbies: Photography, Tennis, Motorcycle Riding, Traveling

Sponsors: Brothers Rich Ciesla and Jon Asada

2019 Dues Notices

Dues reminder: Per the by-laws of the Chicago Society, dues are to be paid by March 1, 2019. Members in arrears will be printed in the March Forum. If dues are not paid by April 1, the member in arrears will be suspended. The following members can pay their dues by Paypal or mailing a check to the Financial Secretary, **Richard Ciesla** at 1808 Weeg Way, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Better yet, bring your check to the March 20th General meeting. If you need to know the amount email rciesla@sbcglobal.net. This list is of March 8, 2019 so if you sent a check or paid by Paypal after that date, you are paid.

Adam J Augustynski
Joseph N Bauerle
Brian A Bernardoni
David B Cooper
Andrew Csoke
Charles E Cwiakala
Mark Cwiakala
John J Domagalski
William B Drozd
Zygmunt Dyrkacz
Francis Gembala
Robert P Groszek
Walter Kazmierczak
Marek Kowalczyk

Len Krajewicz
Joseph A Kuechel
Richard Kula
Mark J Kupiec
Slawomir Lapinski
David H Marutsky
William G Marutsky
Mark Matker
Robert A Michalik
Martin A Obrecki
Ronald J Olech
Ron Osiol
Mark Orwat
Bernard Pacyniak

Mitchell Pasiewicz
John J Pikarski, Jr.
Frederick J Poska
Wojciech Putz
Matt Rodriguez
Thomas A Sieja
Wojtek V Skonieczny
Paul Stolarczuk
Jerry Sufranski
Edward J Wasilewski
William Wojcik
Anthony Zaskowski
Dan Zolkowski

2019 Inaugural Ball Post Mortem Survey

Thank you to those that have already provided feedback. As you may be aware, the attendance at this year's Inaugural Ball was very poor. We had 67 total attendees but of all of our current members, only 21 attended. In the past this event had well over 120 attendees. This event requires tremendous amount of work and personal time from many different individuals. So that we can better plan this event in the future, we are conducting a post mortem survey of the event. The survey can be downloaded from the website at: <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/survey>. Copies of the survey will also be distributed at the March meeting. You can e-mail the completed survey to inauguralball@chicagosocietypna.org or if you prefer to stay anonymous, a drop box will be available at the March meeting. Please take a few minutes to fill this out and let us know what you think.

Continued from page 1

March 2019 Meeting and Speaker

learn more about the organization and its goals, accomplishments and needs at our upcoming meeting.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at White Eagle Events & Convention Center, 6839 N Milwaukee Ave, Niles, IL 60714. Cocktail hour starts at 6:00 pm with the dinner meeting starting at 7:00 pm. Please contact Brother **Ro Matuszczak** at meeting@chicagosocietypna.org or call (847) 635-0883 for reservations. You can also RSVP by going to the Chicago Society website. 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. Based on a resolution voted in by the Officers and Directors, all proceeds from the raffles will be placed into a special Youth Fund.

Continued from page 2 - President's Message

profile speakers to come and speak, but we need to have strong support in attendance from our members. Our calendar has the ham raffle coming up, which everyone should have gotten tickets from Brother **Don Gutowski**, the May 3rd Polish Day Brunch and parade, and our golf outing on July 12th. Things are shaping up to be an exciting year with a lot of fun.

Thank you!

Peter Dykas

Your Chicago Society President



THE SKAJA FAMILY

Family owned and operated
Serving out community for 84 years

Jack Skaja and John Skaja
Members

**SKAJA TERRACE
FUNERAL HOME**

7812 N Milwaukee Avenue
Niles, Illinois 60714
847-966-7302

**SKAJA BACHMANN
FUNERAL HOME**

7715 W. Route 14
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60012
815-455-2233

RONALD J. OLECH

Certified Public Accountants

Tax Preparation and Planning for:
Individuals

Accounting Tax and Business Planning for:
Small Businesses, "Start-Up" Businesses,

Cottage Industry, Computer Counseling
Ronald J. Olech, CPA

3939 N. Lawndale Ave., Chicago, IL 60618

Tel: (773) 267-0560

Fax: (773) 267-2420

E-mail: rolechcpa@aol.com

or rolech4042@aol.com

**Do you know a
potential new member?
Point them to the
Chicago Society website
for a membership
application.**

CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

6348 N. Milwaukee Avenue, # 360
Chicago, IL 60646-3728

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



FIRST CLASS MAIL