



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 74

October 2022

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday October 19th

General Meeting

The Great Escape

9450 W. Irving Park Rd.

7:00 pm Call-to-Order

RSVP to Chuck Cwiakala:

cecwiakala@aol.com

847-204-8747 (cell)

847-823-8747 (home)

Monday, February 28th

Board Meeting- 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 7th

Polish Constitution Day Brunch

Friday, July 8th

Annual Golf Outing

Saturday, December 10th

Deserving Children's

Christmas Party

Brothers and friends,

The Chicago Society's Board has been actively working to join in the efforts to help the refugees and those assisting them along the Polish-Ukrainian border. We should all be proud of our Society donating \$1,000 to the cause through the WPNA 103.1 radiothon. Thank you to Brothers Dykas, Plachta and Haszlakiewicz for delivering the donation personally and taking part in the radiothon. The Board is continuing to monitor the situation and invites other opportunities to contribute.

Please join me in congratulating Brother Ro Matuszczak on being named Honorary Marshall of the Parade! Join us at the Pre-Parade brunch and march with us after. Contact Brother Zenon Kurdziel for details and information on how to help.

I am happy to report the Board also agreed to sponsor four children to go to a youth camp (totaling \$1,800) and provided a \$500 donation to General Anders Polish School for help providing school supplies to the children. As always we welcome any recommendations or ideas on how to further help Polonia and specifically the youth.

The rest of the forum is packed with activities and opportunities for service and I hope you read on and partake in whatever you can!

Adam Konopka President, Chicago Society PNA



CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

Board of Directors

President:

Adam Konopka

1st Vice President:

Chris Grzadziel

2nd Vice President:

Chuck Cwiakala

Secretary:

Andy Haszlakiewicz

Financial Secretary:

Richard Ciesla-Interim

Treasurer:

Jan Plachta

Advocate:

Ed Wasilewski

Senior Director:

Peter Dykas

Social Activities Director:

Zenon Kurdziel

Director of Outreach:

Ro Matuszczak

Director of Personnel:

(Position Available)

Director of Publications:

(Position to be eliminated)

October Forum Highlights

- ◆ Pre-Parade Brunch is a go!
- ◆ Brother Ro Matuszczak, representing the Chicago Society, has been named an Honorary Marshall of the Parade – announcement on page 4.
- ◆ Save the Date for Golf Outing at Gleneagles on July 8th.
- ◆ Board Approved the sponsorship of 4 children totaling \$1,800.
- ◆ Updates from the Chicago Society Foundation—page 5.
- ◆ Board Approved a \$500 donation to General Anders Polish School in response to their request for aid to continue their efforts to run a Polish School. This donation is from our general fund.
- ◆ We would also like our members to Support PAPA’s awards banquet, installation of officers and celebration of Polish Constitution Day. Our very own Br. Tom Sieja will be installed as president, replacing our Br. Marty Obrecki – the Evening of Elegance honoree. Our departed Brother David Rucci will also be posthumously honored at the event and we encourage anyone that can attend to do so (information attached, page 6-7)
- ◆ There are 8 members who have not paid dues and their names to be put in the forum—page 13.
- ◆ The Board approved \$1,000 to help the Ukraine crises and we are in the midst of deciding the best way to distribute that.
- ◆ The Chicago Society has a new address:

Chicago Society, PNA, Lodge 1450

333 Busse Highway, #973

Park Ridge, IL 60068-3285

POLISH CONSTITUTION PARADE

Brother Ro Matuszczak was nominated as Honorary Marshal for this year's Polish Constitution Day Parade. The committee stated Romuald Matuszczak chaired the Chicago Society Brunch for 43 years as well as serving as Financial Secretary of the Parade Committee for 31 years, that it is with thanks and gratitude for his many years of service on the Parade Committee.

Because of his many contributions to Polonia and the Parade Committee, the parade was a viable event celebrating the Polish Constitution.

The Parade will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2022, starting at 11:30 a.m. from Balboa and Columbus Drives. The Chicago Society Brunch with Brother Chairman Zenon Kurdziel, will take place at the Hilton Hotel prior to the Parade as in the past.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Polish Constitution Day Parade



Komunikat Komitetu Parady Dnia Konstytucji 3-go Maja # 5

Przypominamy, że tegoroczna parada odbędzie się w sobotę, 7. maja 2022 r. Początek parady godz. 11:30 w centrum Chicago. Parada maszerować będzie ulicą Columbus Drive.

Pragniemy poinformować, że **Honorowy Patronat** nad Paradą przyjęła Pani Marszałek Sejmu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej **Elżbieta Witek**.

Na zebraniu 24 lutego 2022 r. Komitet Parady wybrał **Marszałka** Parady, którym został **Alan Krashesky**, dziennikarz ABC 7 News, przez wiele lat pełnił funkcje prezentera Parady 3 Maja podczas transmisji na kanale ABC 7.

Tytułem **Wicemarszałka** Komitet uhonorował **Służby Medyczne** - lekarzy, pielęgniarki, pracowników szpitali, domów opieki i innych instytucji medycznych w podziękowaniu za bohaterską postawę podczas pandemii covid-19.

Honorowymi Marszałkami Parady zostali: **Romuald Matuszczak**, reprezentujący Chicago Society, organizator tradycyjnego „Pre-parade Brunch”, a który przez 31 lat pełnił funkcje sekretarza finansowego parady oraz **Jego Ekscelencja Ksiądz Arcybiskup Józef Guzdek**, Metropolita Białostocki.

Tytuł „**Przyjaciela Polonii**” (Friend of Polonia) został przyznany Panu **David Adams**, który z ramienia władz miasta Chicago od wielu współpracuje i wspiera Komitet Parady.

Hasło tegorocznej parady: „**Wolność i pokój dla świata**”.

Jednocześnie przypominamy, że termin nadsyłania zgłoszeń uczestnictwa w paradzie upływa 1 kwietnia 2022 r. Zgłoszenia można nadsyłać drogą internetową lub pocztową. Jak każdego roku potrzebujemy wolontariuszy do pomocy w dniu parady. Zgłoszenia info@polishparade.org.

Wszystkie informacje oraz formularze dostępne są na naszej stronie internetowej: www.polishparade.org oraz w siedzibie Związku Klubów Polskich, 5835 W. Diversey Ave., Chicago, IL 60639, tel. 773-992-0857 fax. # 773-745-7278. Dodatkowy kontakt: Prezes dr Łucja Mirowska - Kopeć tel. 773-396-9242 lub zkppresident@gmail.com.

Iwona Wolska

info@polishparade.org

773-992-0857

Rzecznik Prasowy Komitetu Parady

24 lutego 2022 r.

CHICAGO SOCIETY FOUNDATION NEWS

Chicago, IL The Foundation members met on February 21st and approved the following grants:

Ms. Irene Connolly requested help with reaching her goal of raising \$11,000 to help publish story books for children of Polish descent. She has worked with the support of St. Hyacinth Basilica, who included a letter of recommendation, supporting her request. The letter indicates she had raised \$5,000 and suggest she was seeking an additional \$6,000. The Chicago Society Foundation granted \$1,000 to help reach her goal.

The Polish Scouting Organization of Illinois requested for continued support for their 2021-2022 scholarships. The CS Foundation granted \$1,000 to the Scouts but can increase the amount if more documentation can be provided.

The Way Back Inn requested \$5,000 to help support personalized treatment for Polish-speaking individuals with substance and/or gambling use disorders. All requirements were met and the Foundation granted them \$5,000.

Election of Officers and Appointment of Committee Chairs:

President --- Peter Dykas

Vice President --- Frank Gondela

Treasurer --- Stan Sawa

Secretary --- Adam Konopka

Finance Committee Chairman --- Walter Pieciewicz as Finance Committee Chairman,

Kulze Scholarship Committee Chairman --- Walter Pieciewicz

Congratulations to the newly elected Officers and Committee Chairs. May they continue to help Polonia through their grants and offering of scholarships to the youth of Polonia nationwide.

The Kulze Scholarship deadline was on March 1st and an impressive number of applications came in to the committee. Applications came from all over the country including the West Coast which is a first. These Scholarships are receiving nationwide attention from many students. The winners will be announced at the Chicago Society's May 3rd Pre Parade Brunch on May 7th. Good luck to all applications.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Dear Supporter:

As the incoming President of the Polish American Police Association, I would like to take this opportunity to not only introduce myself, but to also extend my heartfelt thanks for all of the support that you have given to our organization. On behalf of myself and the new board, 'Thank You'.

On Friday, May 6, 2022, we will be hosting the 56th Annual Polish American Police Association Awards Banquet, Installation of Officers and Celebration of Polish Constitution Day. The honor of your presence is requested to join us for an eloquent evening of cocktails, dinner and celebration. We will be honoring civilian co-persons of the year as well as multiple law enforcement persons of the year.

Your continued support of the Polish American Police Association can be displayed by purchasing an advertisement in our program book. A purchased advertisement is a great way to offer your congratulations to the new board, while advertising your business or organization.

A ticket purchasing form, as well as an advertisement contract detailing the fees for the various options of advertisements, is enclosed in this mailing. Our program books are printed with an excess of one hundred different well wishes and advertisements. These books are distributed throughout the Polish and Police communities in the Chicago metropolitan area; thus reaching thousands of people.

In closing, I look forward to hearing from you soon and seeing you on the evening of May 6, 2022.

Best Regards,

Thomas A. Sieja

Thomas A. Sieja
President

UPCOMING EVENTS



*The honor of your presence is requested to attend the
56th Annual
Polish American Police Association Awards Banquet,
Installation of Officers and Celebration of Polish Constitution Day*

Friday, May 6, 2022

Cocktails: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

White Eagle Banquets and Restaurant
6839 North Milwaukee Avenue
Niles, Illinois

2022 LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONS OF THE YEAR

Police Officer John Cebulski- *Aurora Police Department*
Police Officer Steven Kotlewski- *Bensenville Police Department*
Police Officer Kenneth Tworek- *Oak Park Police Department*
Police Officer Michael Kocerka- *Chicago Police Department*
Detective Adam Wazny - *Chicago Police Department*
Sergeant David Rucci, Posthumously - *Chicago Police Department*

2022 CIVILIAN PERSONS OF THE YEAR

Richard Owsiany - *President of the Polish Museum of America*
Malgorzata Kot - *Managing Director of the Polish Museum of America*

For more information, email: events@polampolice.org

General Meeting February Meeting Minutes:

**Chicago Society, P.N.A.
Minutes of General Meeting
February 16, 2022
The Great Escape Restaurant**

1. Call to Order: President Brother Konopka called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
2. Roll Call of Officers and Directors present: Brs., Konopka, Cwiakala, Wasilewski, Kurdziel, Dykas, Ciesla. Absent were: Brs. Grzadziel, Plachta, Haszlakiewicz, Kozelka and Matuszczak. Quorum achieved.
3. Chicago Society Pledge to the Allegiance & Prayer: Br. Les Sraga conducted the Pledge to the Allegiance ceremony, and prayer was offered by Br. Przybylski.
4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Minutes of the previous Board and general meetings were provided in the latest Forum edition. Motion made by Br. Sraga to dispense with the reading of the meeting minutes and approve them as presented. It was seconded by Br. Seija. Motion passed.
5. Directors and Officers Reports:

President: Br. Konopka stated that he is looking to fill the following positions: Director of Personnel, Director of Publications and Director of Financial Secretary.

1st Vice-President: Br. Grzadziel absent due to fractured foot while dancing. Always looking for speakers for future meetings.

2nd Vice-President: Br. Cwiakala no report. PLEASE be sure to RSVP the meetings in a timely manner (not the day before or the day of).

Secretary: Br. Haszlakiewicz absent-- no report.

Financial Secretary (interim): Br. Ciesla said that about 30 members have still to pay their dues. A reminder letter will be going out soon. Please pay dues before March 1.

Treasurer: Br. Plachta absent -- no report.

Advocate: Br. Wasilewski --no report.

Senior Director: Br. Dykas – no report.

Director of Social Activities: Br. Kurdziel mentioned that plans for the May 3rd Pre-Parade brunch at the Hilton are in the works. The event will be on Saturday May 7th, 2022 at the Chicago Hilton in the Hilton Continental Room.

The Evening of Elegance was a very nice event with 70 attendees. Brother Obrecki, who was the past President of PAPA was honored at the event. The Chicago Society President Adam Konopka presented a check in the amount of \$1000 from the youth fund to the PAPA for their scholarship fund.

Save the date for the Golf Outing on July 8th, 2022 at the Glen Eagle Country Club

Director of Personnel: This is a vacant position in need of being filled. Please contact Br. Konopka if interested.

Director of Publications (interim): Br. Kozelka – Please send topics of interest to be published in the Forum, such as newly discovered restaurants or notable activities you took part in or unusual photos... anything to make the Forum more interesting to our members.

Director of Outreach: Br. Matuszczak – absent.

Social Media Committee: Events are being posted on Facebook. Please acknowledge them with “likes” and “shares” to spread the word.

Foundation: Br. Pieciewicz reminded everyone that four scholarships are available and urged any students with Polish roots to apply by March 1. Please spread the word amongst your families and friends.

Motion to accept all reports as presented made by Br. Wasilewski, seconded by Br. Makarewicz. Motion passed.

Old Business: Openings on the Board. Anyone interested, please contact the President.

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

Br. Dykas reminded everyone that the White and Red Ball will be held at the Hilton Hotel on February 26, 2022. Brother Ciesla’s granddaughter is a debutant. Go to: www.lypw.org for info & tickets.

6. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Br. Seija and seconded by Br. Sraga. Motion passed at 7:22. Dinner was served.

Respectfully submitted

Peter Dykas,

Fill in

March Board Meeting Minutes:

**Chicago Society, P.N.A.
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Held on March 7, 2022
At D'Agostino's restaurant, 7530 W. Oakton**

1. Call to Order: President Konopka called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

2. Roll Call of Officers and Directors present: Brs. Konopka, Grzadziel, Cwiakala, Haszlakiewicz, Plachta, Wasilewski, Dykas, Matuszczak. Absent: Brs. Ciesla, Kurdziel, Kozelka. Quorum achieved.

3. Correspondence & Bills: PAPA- 56th Polish-American Police awards banquet on May 6. It was moved by Br. Matuszczak and seconded by Br. Dykas to purchase 2 tickets at \$100 each and a full page color ad at \$175. Motion passed. Invitation to the Person of the year award banquet on March 23 at the Allegra— no charge. Br. Haszlakiewicz (and wife) agreed to represent Chicago Society. Letter from Polish Cooking Show on PBS asking for donation – forwarded to the C.S. Foundation. Notice for PAC membership. Motion to renew for \$100 made by Br. Grzadziel, Seconded by Br. Matuszczak (contingent on the presentation of the proper form by Br. Plachta). Motion passed. Bills: Motion to pay for tonight's dinner made by Br. Dykas, seconded by Br. Matuszczak. Motion passed.

4. Directors and Officers Reports:

1st Vice-President: Br. Chris Grzadziel – Checking with Br. Marutsky or another CPA to speak at next general meeting. Also checking with the Polish Cooking Show to come give a talk. Motion to accept report made by Br. Wasilewski, seconded by Br. Dykas. Motion passed.

2nd Vice-President: Br. Chuck Cwiakala – This month's general meeting will be at The Great Escape. Looking to have April meeting at Sawa's. Motion to approve report made by Br. Wasilewski, seconded by Br. Grzadziel. Motion passed.

Secretary: Br. Haszlakiewicz – no report. Members, be sure to email any and all pertinent documents for electronic filing.

Financial Secretary: - report was emailed to board prior to meeting. Deposits to date: 98 current members, 22 still owe dues. Motion to accept Br. Skawski's request for Senior Membership and the listing, in the next Forum, of the 22 unpaid members made by Br. Grzadziel, seconded by Br. Matuszczak. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Br. Plachta – report emailed to board prior to meeting. No corrections. Note, that PSFCU membership dues increased from \$10 to \$20. Motion to accept report made by Br. Wasilewski, seconded by Br. Dykas. Motion passed.

Advocate: Br. Wasilewski – No report.

Director of Publications: – please send content to Br. Kozelka for the Forum.

Director of Outreach: Br. Matuszczak – Yorkville youth camp fees have gone up, but we negotiated to keep last year's fee. Motion to give four \$450 grants (total \$1,800) made by Br. Grzadziel, seconded by Br. Dykas. Request for a donation from the Jawory Dance group was rejected by motion from Br. Grzadziel, seconded by Br. Cwiakala. Motion passed. Request from Gen. Anders Polish School for financial help with relocation expenses. Motion to approve \$500 donation to the Anders P.S. made by Br. Matuszczak, seconded by Br. Wasilewski. Motion passed. This donation is to come out of the general fund as determined by the board.

Senior Director: Br. Dykas – no report.

Social Activities Director: – Golf outing on July 8 is on track. Pre-parade brunch on May 7 will be at the Hilton. Cost is yet to be determined. Br. Matuszczak has been selected as Honorary Parade Marshall by the Parade committee. Br. Kurdziel will be sending out the invitations to the brunch. Br. Matuszczak gave a brief overview of the Constitution Day Parade. All members are invited to march in the parade. Br. Konopka is attempting to secure a car for our spot in the parade. Br. Grzadziel offered an amendment to the Evening of Elegance report due to an extra donation of \$100 received. Motion to accept report made by Br. Wasilewski, seconded by Br. Grzadziel. Motion passed.

Director of Personnel: – Position open.

Social Media Committee: Br. Grzadziel – no report.

Custodial Committee: Br. Wasilewski - no report

Foundation: – Congratulations to Br. Peter Dykas as new president of the C.S. Foundation! Many applications for scholarships have been received. The awards will be handed out at the Pre-parade brunch. A number of grants have also been given out. Details will be listed in the Forum. Motion to accept report made by Br. Grzadziel, seconded by Br. Wasilewski. Motion passed.

Constitutional committee : Committee members Brs. Dykas and Grzadziel reported on the proposed changes which were emailed to the board. Duties of president remain unchanged. 1st Vice president will assume duties of the Director of Outreach and the Dir. of Outreach would be eliminated. 2nd Vice president will assume duties of the Director of Personnel and the Dir. of Personnel would be eliminated. Position of Advocate to be eliminated and a volunteer to be appointed on as needed basis by the Board. Title of Director of Publications would change to “Editor” and this person would be non-voting and not have to be a paid PNA member. Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Social Activities and Senior Director would remain unchanged. The stipulation directing general meetings to be held on the third Wednesday of each month change to: General meetings are to be held monthly. These proposed changes would reduce the number of board members from 12 to 8. No action taken. Board members are asked to review proposed changes for further discussion at the next board meeting.

Old Business: Audit committee is continuing their work. They will be requesting extra documentation as needed. All board members are asked to cooperate with their requests. The Foundation agreed to share one P.O. Box with us. We will start using the Park Ridge Post office Box in June or July and plan to phase out the current address by the end of this year. The cost will be share equally by both organizations. Br. Konopka reported that he used an older blank check but is still in possession of a newer blank check.

New Business: How to help with the Ukrainian crisis? - Many options were discussed. Br. Matuszczak moved to donate \$1000 and seconded by Br. Cwiakala. Motion passed. It was agreed that the donation be identified as coming from The Chicago Society and Br. Konopka will contact the Polish Consulate to determine its proper distribution. To expedite the process the board will use email to make the final decision within 2 or 3 days.

Good of the Order: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Br Matuszczak and was seconded by Br. Wasilewski. There being no other business, Br. Konopka adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Andrew Hasklakiewicz, Secretary

Current Events:

March 21, 2022

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Committee on Education and Labor

Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee

2176 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515-6100

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Honorable Members Mr. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, Ranking Member Mr. Burgess Owens, Ms. Jahana Hayes, Mr. Raúl M. Grijalva, Ms. Frederica S. Wilson, Mr. Mark DeSaulnier, Mr. Joseph D. Morelle, Ms. Lucy McBath, Mr. Andy Levin, Ms. Kathy E. Manning, Mr. Jamaal Bowman, Mr. Glenn Grothman, Mr. Rick W. Allen, Mr. Fred Keller, Ms. Mary E. Miller, Mr. Madison Cawthorn, Ms. Michelle Steel, Ms. Julia Letlow.

Dear Chairman Sablan and Subcommittee Members:

As a coalition of Polish American organizations nationwide, we wish to inform you of our position on the comic book MAUS, which the McMinn County School Board in Tennessee recently removed from its curriculum because of violence, inappropriate language, and nudity. We applaud the decision; however, we wish to point out five additional, essential reasons that justify the book's removal from school curricula in the United States.

First, the book is not ethically suitable for educational instruction. Ethical writing requires accurate and unbiased accounts; however, MAUS is a historically inaccurate expression of the author's prejudice against Poles as a nation. In *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, editors Jerome Klinkowitz and Patricia B. Wallace describe Spiegelman's representation of Poles as pigs as "a calculated insult" against Poles. Pigs in popular culture are viewed as disgusting, filthy animals, while in Jewish culture, pigs and pork are unclean in a way that other animals are not. MAUS employs the same imagery of Poles found in Nazi propaganda, where they were routinely referred to as "Polish pigs." The highly offensive depiction of Poles as "pigs", with all the derisive and racist connotations, forms a mental image that cannot be easily erased from the impressionable minds of young students whose knowledge of World War II history and the genocide perpetrated against Poles by the German and Soviet occupiers is minimal at best.

Second, the book is not suitable as a historical account because it falsifies the facts through distortions and material omissions. Poles are portrayed as Nazi sympathizers, which was never the case. Civil resistance among Poles was universal and the underground Home Army fought the Germans at every turn. Unlike other German-occupied and Axis-allied countries, Poles never formed a collaborationist government, never formed a militia to round up or execute Jews, and never formed SS units.

Spiegelman portrays all Auschwitz kapos as Poles, which is complete fiction as there are many eyewitness testimonies by Auschwitz Jews who detail the cruelties inflicted on them by Jewish kapos. He omits the fact that only in Poland those helping Jews, in any way, faced the death penalty together with immediate family. Instead, Poles helping Jews are depicted as greedy and deceitful. Spiegelman also omits the fact that the Germans often relied on Jewish Gestapo agents to hunt down Jewish ghetto escapees. This role is assigned exclusively to Poles, which is egregiously false.

Third, the book is not suitable from an educational perspective because few readers, especially elementary and high school students, have enough historical knowledge to recognize the falsified depiction of Poles. To have educational value, the treatment of historical context must strive for accuracy and objectivity. Hitler's attempted destruction of Europe's Jews is a historical event that is rightly considered an important historical topic. However, it is essential that other national groups who were subjected to German genocidal policies are presented fairly. Although Hitler's policy for European Jews was comprehensive genocide, his policy for Poles was also comprehensive genocide but over a longer time period. As historian Richard C. Lukas describes in his book *Forgotten Holocaust*, the secret protocol in the 1939 German-Soviet nonaggression pact prescribed the destruction of the Polish people and the annihilation of the Polish state. Polish deaths during World War II were proportionately by far the greatest of any nation participating in the war. For Poland, the deaths of Poles and Polish Jews was a double genocide.

Fourth, MAUS does not teach students about the complexities of the Holocaust but instead falsifies and oversimplifies them. The reality is that neither students nor their teachers possess the necessary tools to assess the book's flaws properly. For example, the portrayal of Poles contains serious falsehoods and misrepresentations regarding their alleged role in the Holocaust. Such rewriting of history is deplorable and unacceptable by any standard. The notion that teachers can and will expose the author's biases and misrepresentations is doubtful. Since there is a choice of educational materials that may be used to teach a factual history of World War II and the Holocaust, it is imperative to choose books that are historically accurate and respectful of all the victims of Hitler's genocidal policies. By contrast, MAUS clearly cannot be treated as an accurate historical record. Nevertheless, after Pulitzer Prize jurors designated the book in 1992 as nonfiction and gave it the Special Award in Letters, it wrongly continues to be considered as such.

Fifth, school children of Polish background who are required to study this book justifiably feel that their identity and cultural heritage has been diminished and are understandably humiliated by this experience. One should be aware that grandparents of these children may have been inmates of German concentration and death camps. Their family members may have been tortured, executed, forced to work as slave laborers, or subjected to medical experiments. Portraying Poles as a nation of pigs is egregiously offensive and constitutes willful harm to the memory of millions of Poles who died at the hands of the Germans. The victims of the Germans' premeditated genocide included many: Jews, Poles, Russians and Roma. Choosing a book that addresses Hitler's genocidal policies and respects the memory of all those who perished is necessary for advancing students' knowledge and understanding of this important historical subject. The purpose of education is not to distort the facts and cause distress and division among students.

Current Events: (continued)

Based on reasons outlined above, we consider MAUS to be highly defamatory, a form of hate speech against Poles and, therefore, unsuitable, and unacceptable as a teaching material. Spiegelman's comic book falsifies history and deeply offends on many levels. No book in any school curriculum targets another group for derision in this way; it is abusive and psychologically damaging. The bigoted stereotype of Poles should have no place in education. Spiegelman's Polonophobic slurs, falsely considered a work of historical nonfiction, should be promptly and permanently removed from school curricula and school libraries. No child should be forced to study a book that treats his or her national group or community in the dishonest and prejudiced way that Poles are portrayed in MAUS.

Depiction of the entire Polish ethnic group as pigs offends the people of Polish descent and is racist in its nature. Title VI, 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq., prohibits discrimination based on race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. The use of MAUS – a prime example of anti-Polish hate speech – as educational material constitutes discrimination and abuse of Polish American students. It forces them not only to study biased educational materials but also imposes on them a bigoted stereotype of brutish, primitive, and dishonest "Polaks". Such treatment causes great pain and suffering to the youth of Polish descent and also subjects them to bullying. For many Polish American students forced to study MAUS, the psychological impact is traumatizing and, at a minimum, adversely affects their self-confidence and academic performance. Furthermore, the exclusion of materials that truthfully present all the victims of Hitler's genocidal policies is discriminatory and violates states' educational standards of historical accuracy.

We respectfully ask the Subcommittee to instruct the Department of Education and Department of Justice to send "Dear Colleague" letters to state directors of public education requiring them to instruct their local school districts that the use of MAUS should be promptly discontinued. We further ask that the letters recommend using World War II educational materials that are historically accurate and address all victims of Hitler's genocidal policies.

The Chicago Society Board unanimously voted to add the Chicago Society-PNA as a signatory to this letter; joining over 122 Polish-American organizations.

Dues Reminder:

As of March 12, 2022, dues have not been received from the members listed below. The By-Laws require members to be printed in the March *FORUM* as a reminder. If dues are not received by April 1, 2022, you will be suspended. So, I would encourage our members who have not paid to submit their dues payments as quickly as possible.

Please mail checks to: Chicago Society, PNA, 333 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068-3285 or pay on Paypal.

Edmund Boduch

Robert Mance

Carlton Marcyan

Mario Mikoda

Mark Orwat

Wojciech Putz

Benjamin Sipiora

George Tolczyk

Thank you,

Rich Tiesla, Appointed Financial Secretary



Marianne Kozelka, Br. Ted Kozelka, Izabela Kozelka, Br. Rick Wiermanski, and Cindy Wiermanski held another Chicago Society South meeting last week in Sarasota, Florida. The coconut-crusted shrimp were excellent.

Note from the Director of Publications:

Dear Brother and Friends,

March will be my last Forum as the Director of Publications. I've very much enjoyed working to support the Society; as I hope all of you have enjoyed the updates, Polish history, Tasting Room reviews, and occasional bad jokes.

Unfortunately I am no longer able to continue at this time. I hope the Board will be able to find a replacement quickly to ensure continued publication.

For any volunteers, I am more than happy to assist in demonstrating how the Forum is created and published.

Best,

Ted Kozelka



www.taxpol.net



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

CHCAGO SOCIETY FORUM

333 Busse Highway, #973
Park Ridge, IL 60068-3285

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

