



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Group 1450 PNA
Celebrating 100 Years of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 63

SEPTEMBER 2012

NUMBER 9

DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

WEDNESDAY

September 19, 2012

6:00 P.M.

Przybylo's White Eagle
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS
BY SEPTEMBER 17
TO 847-635-0883 OR
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org
ARE MANDATORY

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, October 1, 7:00 P.M.
Folak's Lincoln Tavern

COMING EVENTS

Friday, September 14—
Polish Beer Tasting
Copernicus Center

Wednesday, September 19—
General Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle

Saturday, October 6—
100th Anniversary Banquet
Przybylo's White Eagle

Wednesday, October 17—
General Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle

CHICAGO SOCIETY BUSINESS EXPO

At our September meeting, the Chicago Society will showcase our brother members with a Business Expo. The Expo will be held on September 19 at Przybylo's White Eagle in Niles. The purpose of the Expo is to give our brother members an opportunity to promote their businesses, and to encourage our own brother members to support them! Attorneys, roofers, plumbers, real estate agents, insurance agents, doctors, musicians, electricians, and all other professions are welcome. Let your brother members know what your business is and get new referrals. If you would like to promote your business at this Expo, please inform Brother **John Cieslik** at 312-859-5404 or Brother **Ro Matuszczak** 847-635-0883. The cost is FREE and tables will be available for marketing your materials and your business cards.

Please bring a guest to that meeting. It will be a one-of-a-kind opportunity to showcase our organization and the talents of our members.

Bring a Friend!! The Business Expo is a perfect opportunity to introduce potential members to the Society. You are encouraged to invite a friend, associate or colleague to come and see what the Society has to offer. If you wish to bring a guest, he must meet the qualifications of membership, and inform brother Ro.

CHICAGO SOCIETY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF BROTHERHOOD AND SERVICE

On April 19, 1912, a group of young Polish men met "with a view toward realizing the aims of the progressive young element in Chicago." And thus 100 years ago The Chicago Society was formed. Very few Polonia organizations can boast such a rich and long tradition.

A gala banquet is planned to honor this milestone. This celebration will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2012, at Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets. The evening will begin with a reception with open bar at 6:00 pm., followed by a gourmet dinner served at 7:00 pm. Following French onion soup and a garden salad, guests will enjoy their choice of filet of sirloin of beef marinated in burgundy wine or Pacific salmon grilled and served with fresh dill buerre blanc sauce, accompanied by twice baked potato and vegetable Francaise, capped off with sundae Polonaise and a giant birthday cake. The bar will remain open throughout the evening. Each guest will receive a patriotic keepsake of the event.

After a brief program, Dan Mateja and The Downtown Sound will provide music for everyone's dancing enjoyment. All brother members are strongly urged to attend and bring their friends, business associates, and colleagues to join us in the historic celebration.





CHICAGO SOCIETY Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications
Ted Wiecek

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?

Gentlemen,

Well, it looks like we have a slight reprieve in the weather. Summer has come to an end, and we are approaching the fall season. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and vacations; for those taking fall vacations: enjoy. We now get ready for fall activities like football, last minute fishing and admiring the changing colors of the leaves. Let us all enjoy the season.

I would like to thank Brother **Bivens** and **Kopka** for another outstanding picnic. The food was outstanding, the drinks were plentiful, and the preparation was phenomenal. I appreciate all of the work from the Bivens' children. The weather was ideal. Everyone in attendance, without a doubt, enjoyed themselves. In all, it was a great day. Thanks to Brother **Matuszczak** and his charming wife Chris for running the raffle and arranging for and distributing the ice cream. Thanks to my wife Darlene for preparing the gifts and prizes and supervising the games for the children. And, special thanks all who attended.

Join us in September for our business expo meeting. Take a table, show off your business. Let other brother members know what your business is all about. We can better support you, our fellow brothers, if we have a clearer understanding of your business. Also join us for our second annual Polish beer tasting Festival. A great way to enjoy the beers you already like and try new ones. Bring your friends and make it a night of fun and camaraderie.

I especially would like to call upon all brother members to participate in our one hundred year celebration, especially to plan to join us at our gala celebration on October 6, 2012. This is something very few organizations are proud to celebrate. So mark your calendars and plan to attend. Help with the ad book even if you take out one yourself. Let's make this a celebration to remember.

Help spread the word about the Chicago Society to other organizations. Everyone I am sure has a friend or two or relative that they think would be a good member. Remember our motto this year: "one member one inductee." Let us follow our past members and help make the Society stronger and survive another one hundred years.

Fraternally, Frank Czaja



Sto Lat! May you live 100 years! This song is sung at birthdays, imieniny, and other celebrations, wishing the person being honored that s/he live a hundred years. Of course, many people don't reach that milestone. However, The Chicago Society has! The Chicago Society was founded by a group of young progressive Polish-American men on April 19, 1912, and for 100 years has lived up to its purpose of "to form a more perfect union of Polish American men, to promote more effectually a high regard for the principles of American citizenship, to ensure them a proper moral, intellectual development and to foster the language traditions and culture of Poland." Very few Polonia organizations can boast to be one hundred years old, making the Society one of the oldest organizations in Chicago's Polonia.

All Chicago Society members and friends should have received their invitations by now. All members are encouraged to invite their friends, families, business associates, colleagues to join in this gala celebration. Anyone who has participated and enjoyed any of our various social events throughout the year should be encouraged to join us: the Inaugural Ball, the *Śledź*, the Pre-Parade Brunch, the Golf Outing, the Business Expo, the Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner, The Deserving Children's Christmas Party, or any of the many activities the Society has sponsored in the past. The Society and its Foundation has financially supported many endeavors over the years, both personal and organizational. Those who have benefitted from our generosity should certainly join us in this celebration as well. The Banquet Committee has worked hard to ensure a delicious gourmet meal and an enjoyable evening at a very reasonable cost, so this should not be a hindrance to participating.

As the Chicago Society celebrates this milestone, let us celebrate the past, but also look at building the future, so that future generations of Polonia can benefit from the good works of the Chicago Society.





◊ Brother **Ro Matuszczak** was recently elected President of the Advisory Board of the Des Plaines VFW Post 2992. He also was elected Chaplain of the Post. *Semper Fi!*

◊ Brother **Ro Matuszczak** was chosen to do the coin toss for the football game between Maine West High School and Urban Prep Bronzeville on Friday, August 25, 2012. The occasion was a military salute to the Veterans of World War II, Korea and Viet Nam given by Maine West High School. Ro was asked to do the "toss" as a World War II veteran. The Maine West team won the game!

◊ An opening reception for this year's "Quo Vadis" conference was held on Aug. 24 at Jerzy Kenar's Wooden Gallery. Among the participants in the conference were Brothers **Kamil Bartoszcze** and **Marcin Krempa**. Among the guests at the reception were Brother President **Frank Czaja** and his wife Darlene, Brothers **Robert Groszek**, **Mark Kupiec**, **Mark Orwat** and **Ted Wiecek**. We hope Brothers Kamil and Marcin gained some knowledge which they can share to strengthen the Society.

◊ An exhibit of photographs by Zbigniew Bzdak, a photojournalist with the Chicago Tribune, entitled "Pilgrims" opened on Sept. 7 at the Polish Museum of America. Among the guests at the opening reception enjoying the exhibit were brothers **Andrew Pawlowski** and his wife Ania, Brothers **Ken Gill**, **Wojtek Putz** and

Ted Wiecek. This splendid exhibit runs through Oct. 14.

◊ Brother **Charles Komosa** hosted a birthday celebration for his wife Agata on Aug. 25. Among the well-wishers were Brothers **Robert Groszek**, **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert**, **Stanley Jendzejec**, **Mark Orwat**, **Tom Pawelko** and **Ted Wiecek**.

◊ **Tie bar found!** A Brother member left a tie bar on the table at the April meeting (I hope that's all he took off). It has a round blue emblem. If you are the owner, please contact Ted at editor@chicagosocietypn.org or call him at 773-562-8006.

◊ Brother members, please remember to ...

... donate your cell phones and chargers to the "Cell Phones for Soldiers" program.

... bring your old, unusable flags, USA or any other national flag, for proper disposal.

NA ZDROWIE!

POLISH BEER TASTING

Do you like Polish beer? Come to the Polish Beer Tasting, co-sponsored by the Chicago Society and the Copernicus Foundation. If you don't know the difference between Warka and Heweliusz, this is a perfect opportunity to sample a variety of Polish beers and compare your favorite with others. The Tasting will be held on Friday, September 14 at the Copernicus Center from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Tickets are \$15 pre-sale, \$20 at the door, \$5 for a designated driver or non-beer drinker. Food, wine, and mixed drinks will also be available for purchase. You can purchase your tickets online at chicagosocietypn.org/payments. Come and enjoy! *Do dna!*



QUO VADIS

The speaker at our August meeting was Agnieszka Ptasznik, one of the organizers of the "Quo Vadis" conference which was held for the first time in Chicago on Aug. 24—26. The conference is designed to be a forum for Polish young professionals to strengthen their leadership skills, and then use those skills to strengthen Polonia. The first such forum was held in Poland as a seminar on Polish leadership with peers in Poland. Following that first conference, subsequent conferences were held in Canada, and this year is being held in Chicago.

The title of the conference "Quo Vadis" is the question "Where are we going?" The challenge of the conference, then, is to explore direction for young Americans and Canadians of Polish descent. The theme of this year's conference is "Modern Leaders: Own your own Identity." It is meant to provide a venue for young Polonians to form a network of support, to exchange ideas, and share projects. Participants will also explore the questions "What do we want to show? How are we going to show it?"

A variety of highly positioned speakers addressed the conference, both from Poland and from the United States, giving the participants background information and a number of hands-on skills, meant to improve the leadership skills of the participants, thereby giving them a greater voice in building Polonia in their home towns. When asked her definition of leadership, Ms. Ptasznik replied: "place others' needs before your own, listen, find that delicate balance, be diplomatic, be patient, be positive." At the conclusion of her talk, Ms. Ptasznik thanked The Chicago Society foundation for its generous grant to support the conference.

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PLEASE SHARE YOUR MEMORIES OF THE SOCIETY

The gala banquet celebrating the Chicago Society's 100th Anniversary will be held soon. In conjunction with that event, we are publishing and distributing a Centennial Program Book, highlighting the history and accomplishments of the Society over the past century.

In this Program Book we wish to include memories from our members. We are asking you to share any poignant memories you may have of the Society. These may include thoughts such as:

- o Why I belong to the Society
- o What the Society has done for me
- o What I hope the future will bring
- o any personal historical vignettes
- o any memorable event(s)

We are especially looking for, from our veteran members, any memories of the Clubhouse at 2222 N Kedzie. You, its members, are the Chicago Society. The Society could not have lived this long without the strength of its members. Please share that strength with our guests and our future 100 years. You can send your memories to adbook@chicagosocietypna.org or mail them to Chicago Society, ATTN: Program Book Editor, 6348 N Milwaukee Ave. #360, Chicago IL 60646.

HONOR FOR CHICAGO SOCIETY

The Council of Educators in Polonia will present the 15th Annual Polish Heritage Celebration on Friday, Oct. 26, 2012, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis in Chicago. A number of awards and scholarship will be awarded at this event. The Distinguished Organization Award will be presented to **The Chicago Society PNA**. Individual awards will be presented to:

- Jan Aaftink—Special Award
- Danuta Schnieder (wife of Brother **Michael Schneider**)—Educator of the Year
- Brother **James Kolak**—Community Service Award
- Joanne Les—Alumni in Education

All brother members and their guests are invited. Reservations are required by calling Dr. Filius at Northeastern 773-442-5784. This event was started 15 years ago by the late Marlene Gill and her husband Brother **Kenneth Gill**.

FROM THE ANNALS OF THE CHICAGO SOCIETY

Our organization was well nurtured under the able leadership of Bro. Frank Osuch during the four years of his term. The World War coming on and taking away so many of our brothers gave our then chairman, Brother Michal Kitkowski, many anxious members, but he built too well. And when our boys came back from the front he had the proud honor, before giving up his duties, of presenting to our community not a military organization, but a fraternal society, which out of every three members had one who was a soldier of Uncle Sam and one out of every three soldiers was an American Army Officer.

The Society built well because its original organizers saw that it has fit material to build well. It grew in membership, finance and activity and our intense interest for doing things for others as well as for ourselves became the most important reason of our existence, and through this the seven or eight hundred orphaned youngsters at St. Hedwig's Orphanage at Niles, Illinois, and the membership of the Polish Welfare Association stand in the front ranks of the Society's friends.

The ideals of the Chicago Society have spread to Detroit, Milwaukee, Buffalo, Cleveland and Grand Rapids, and will continue to grow, with the moral support of the agencies that should be most anxious and solicitous of its growth. The Detroit Society, although functioning only a few years, set a splendid example during the latter part of 1924 and the first part of 1925 in subscribing \$25,000 for its Scholarship and Education Fund. This compels every town where our societies exist to set a new and much higher mark on its activity and endeavor. And so we, in order to fulfill the obligation of our altruistic work, are giving our entire membership the privilege of working to make the Polish Day Festival, which is our endeavor this year and maybe the endeavor for the entire season of our community in the future, as definite success.

Let us continue to build well as an inspiration for others to build, and especially for those who lay the solid, unselfish, high idealed foundation to build upon. We have yet so much to do in order to impress properly on all Americans of our community that our people's morals are high, their endeavors are right, and aspirations not selfish, but that they are simply looking for a place under the sun to show the best that is in them. We are trying to build well.

Excerpted from *Chicago Society News* from 1925 (forerunner of *The Forum*)

CHICAGO SOCIETY ON THE AIR

President **Frank Czaja** and Executive VP **Don Gutowski** were interviewed at WCEV radio station (1450 AM) by Lucyna Migala. The interview was about the Chicago Society celebrating its one hundredth anniversary. They were asked a number of questions about the Society and its history. The interview will be aired on Sept. 21 at 12–8 pm, Sept. 23 at 12–2:30 pm and at 5:35 pm, and Sept. 24 12–8 pm. If you get a chance, tune in.



**HAVE YOU PLACED AN
AD IN OUR CENTENNIAL
PROGRAM BOOK?**



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Richard W. Wiermanski and Frank Czaja take a break from the Golf Outing's heat as the young lady gets them a soft drink



Slavik Laskowski (left), Ron "Topper" Topczewski (standing) and Dave Uting (center) with friends at the Golf Outing



Mark Orwat appears happy that Tomek Pawelko won a case of beer donated by Stanley Stawski. Maybe they'll share.



Richard Bivins, Kathy Kopka, Jim Kopka, Fred Koziol and Andrew Zapalski, cooks and consumers at the 2012 Picnic



Darlene Czaja, wife of our President, kept the kids entertained at the Family and Friends Picnic



Ro and Chris Matuszczak, Charles Komosa and Frank Gondela enjoyed conversation at this year's picnic

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

- 3 Chester Klos
Edward Matuga
- 10 John Teschky
Richard Zabelski
- 11 Ronald Osioł
- 13 Paul Posch
- 15 Marian Skawski
- 18 Warren Dulski
- 19 Andrew Batorski
Walter Zarnecki
- 20 Mark Kaszubski
- 23 David Uting
- 24 Richard Gladziszewski
- 25 Kenneth Walczak
Dan Zolkowski
- 28 Richard M. Wiermanski
- 29 Chester Lizak
Aloysius Mazewski
Andrew Pawlowski

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following brother member, who is celebrating the anniversary of his induction in September:

Joseph E. Kizior Sept. 1977 45 Years

2013 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee for the Chicago Society of the PNA's election of 2013 officers and directors has been chosen and approved. The Nominating Committee is composed of: chairman **Walter Pieciewicz**, **Andrew Zapalski**, **Mario Mikoda**, **Marian Skawski**, **Zenon Kurdziel**; alternates: **Jim Kolak** and **Raymond Golonia**. If anyone is interested in running for a position on the board, either as an officer or director-at-large, please contact the Chairman or another member of nominating committee to find out the procedure and qualifications. You must contact them as soon as possible because they will announce the slate at the October meeting.

RULES FOR VOTING AND RUNNING FOR OFFICE IF NOT SLATED

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee informs members that any member may run against a slated candidate for a particular office. The rules and procedures for doing such are stated in the Constitution, Article VII: Election of Officers and Directors.

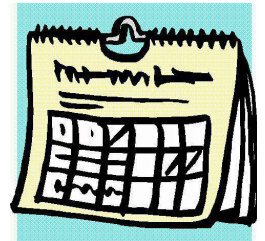
The Nominating Committee shall select at least one candidate for each elective position who shall be required to sign an acceptance of nomination. At the October meeting, the chairman of the Nominating Committee will announce the slate of candidates that has been selected.

At the regular meeting in October the Nominating Committee shall accept for nomination such additional lists of candidates for the respective offices as may be submitted by the petitions of ten or more members, provided however that the signed acceptance of each candidate is attached to each such petition. The adjournment of the meeting shall close the nominations in the absence of a motion for that purpose. Immediately thereafter, the nominating committee shall submit a list containing all of the names of the candidates to the Recording Secretary who shall cause the publicizing of such list to all members in good standing at least ten days prior to the date of the November election meeting.

The President shall appoint five Judges of Election, if necessary, who shall prepare a ballot, have charge of the polls of election, canvass the votes and certify the results to the Recording Secretary. Only members in good standing shall be eligible to be elected, to sign petitions or to vote. No member admitted to membership in the Society within five days of election shall be eligible to vote at the election.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Sept. 12 | PNA Seniors meeting, PNA Building |
| Sept. 14 | Polish Beer Tasting, Copernicus Center |
| Sept. 16 | PAC III. Division training on Robert's Rules, Copernicus Center |
| Sept. 19 | District XII PNA Golf Outing, Village Greens |
| Sept. 24 | PAC III. Division General Meeting, PNA Building |
| Oct. 6 | Chicago Society 100th Anniversary Banquet, Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets |
| Oct. 19 | PAC III. Division Heritage Award Banquet, Przybylo's |
| Oct. 20 | 1 st Annual PNA Chess Tournament, Holiday Inn Skokie (see below) |
| Oct. 22—28 | "Art for Heart", Polish Museum of America |
| Oct. 26 | Council of Educators Polish Heritage Celebration, Northeastern Ill. Univ. |
| Nov. 1 | Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner and Candidates' Forum, Eagles Club |
| Nov. 10 | Polish American Ass'n. 90 th Anniversary Annual Gala, The Drake Hotel |
| Nov. 18 | "Night at the Races", Maywood Park |



POLISH TRIVIA

Now that schools have opened, here's a school-related question. Name the Chicago public schools which are named after Poles.

Answer to August's question: renowned composer and musician Wojciech Kilar was born July 17, 1932.



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POLISH TRADITIONS IN SEPTEMBER „PLON NIESIEMY, PLON”

Dożynki (Harvest Festival) has been practiced throughout Poland for centuries, even to this day. This rite was originally related to the cult of plants and trees, later with agriculture. As farming manors prospered in the sixteenth century *dożynki* were held at the estates. These festivals were held for farmhands and employees as a reward for the work done with the harvest.

Traditionally, *dożynki* were celebrated on the first day of autumn and were dedicated to the current year's harvest in thanking the gods for the harvest, and asking for even better the following year. They were a relic of ancient magical practices, to ensure good harvest for the coming year.

The *wieniec* (wreath) is a focal point of the celebrations: The farmhands make a wreath of grain from the field, with bunches of red rowanberries (*jarzębina*), nuts, fruits, flowers and colored ribbons. Harvest wreaths had the shape of a large crown. The wreath was also called *plon* (yield) because it embodied all that was harvested. The *przodownica* (the oldest female harvester) carried it on her head or in her outstretched hands, sometimes with the help of laborers and other reapers. Behind the procession were festively dressed reapers, carrying on their shoulders cleaned scythes and sickles decorated with flowers. The *wieniec* was carried to the church to be blessed, and then in a grand procession was carried to the court or to the house of the host of the festival. She presented the wreath to the squire who hung it up in a place of honor in his home. He then poured himself and the *przodownik* (the oldest male harvester) a glass of vodka and toasted the entire company. The squire then invited all present to a feast. The *wieniec* was stored in the barn for the next year, for the next planting.

Long tables were set up in the squire's front yard. The priest blessed the food and the feasting would begin. Although the squire and his family and household staff joined the harvesters at the feast, the food was traditional, hearty peasant fare. This might include rye bread (baked from the newly milled grain), cold roast bacon, head cheese, jellied pig's feet, *kiszka*, cabbage and sausage, noodles and cheese, buckwheat pie, plus brined dill pickles, tomatoes and cucumbers in sour cream. Beer was served to wash it all down. A *kołacz* (round yeast-raised cake) or *placek* (coffee cake) and fresh fruit (cherries, apples, pears, plums) set out in bowls were typical desserts. After the meal, the squire dances the first dance with the *przodownica*, and his wife dances with the *przodownik*. Afterwards all are invited to join in the merriment.

In the late nineteenth century, following the model of the harvest festival of the manor houses, rich farmers organized their own *dożynki* for their household, family, and farmhands. Currently, this largest traditional holiday of the season, *dożynki* are held on a Sunday sometime after the harvest.

Did you know? September in Polish is *wrzesień*, from the word *wrząs* (heather) which blooms in September.

Gdy wrzesień bez deszczów będzie, w zimie wiatrów pełno wszędzie. (If there is no rain in September, there will be plenty of wind in the winter.)



OUR PICNIC WAS A DAY OF FUN ... AND SUN

The threat of rain did not stop the Annual Chicago Society Picnic, which was held on Sunday, August 19, 2012, at Busse Woods. There were over 120 adults and children present. The weather was great. Chairman Brother **Richard Bivins** and Co-Chair Brother **Jim Kopka** did their usual yeoman's job, ensuring no detail was overlooked—*zapięte na ostatni guzik*—even the weather was “taken care of.” Brother Richard and Jim were the “cookers.” Richard took care of the food and refreshments, which were ample and tasty. Ice cream was also provided for all the children and adult children as well! Special thanks to Richard Bivins and his family for the work they did in preparing a most successful picnic. Also to Jim Kopka and his daughter, Kathy, for their help.



Huge thanks to Brother **Stanley Stawski** and his wife Barbara for generously donating beer and liquor for the picnic. A hearty “Thank you” also goes to Brother **Bill Wojcik** of Laramie Bakery and Deli for his donations and discount for the food. Brother **Jack Rohner** and his wife Helen donated beer for both the Chicago Society golf outing and picnic.

Brother **Ro Matuszczak** and his wife Chris chaired the raffle as they have in the past years. There were 45 winners! This was one of the best raffles to date, thanks to the following who donated gifts: **Bill Powell**, **John Wojciechowski**, **Chris and Ro Matuszczak**, **Teresa and Chuck Cwiakala**, **Irene and Joe Santoro**, **Fred Koziol**, **Mark Orwat**, **Richard Bivins**, **Agata and Charles Komosa**, **Beverly and Frank Gondela**, **Teresa Sokolowski**, **Cecylia and Richard Jadczyk**, **Ted Wiecek** and **Ken Gill**. President **Frank Czaja** and his wife Darlene kept the children busy and happy with the games and prizes they coordinated.

A successful event is one that a person puts his heart and soul into. It was a day full of fun—and sun!

CORRECTIONS

That printer's gremlin caused a few items in the August Forum to be corrected.

- The PAC workshop on Robert's Rules will be held on Sept. 15.
- One of the alternate members on the nominating committee is Brother **Jim Kolak**.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE YOUR
100TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET RESERVATIONS**

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