



### Volume 68

#### MAY 2017

NUMBER 5

# MONTHLY NETWORKING

## DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY MAY 17, 2017 6:00 p.m. While Eagle Banquets Niles, Illinois

## RESERVATIONS

by May 15 to meeting@chicagosocietypna.org 847-823-8747

# NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, June 5, 2017 7:00 p.m. PNA Home Office

## **COMING EVENTS**

Wednesday, May 17, 2017— Dinner Meeting & Speaker White Eagle Banquets Cocktails 6:00 p.m; Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 21, 2017— Dinner Meeting & Speaker White Eagle Banquets Cocktails 6:00 p.m; Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 20 2017-

Fishing Derby Wiinthrop Harbor

Friday, July 14, 2017-

Golf Outing Gleaneagles CC.

#### MAY 2017 SPEAKER & DINNER MEETING

Our speaker at the May General Meeting will be John L. Borling Major General United States Air Force USAF (ret). The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017,

at the White Eagle, starting with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. and dinner & meeting at 7:00 p.m. General Borling chairs the Business Board of Synthonics (www.synthonicsinc.com), a pharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, developmet, and liscensing of drugs that incorporate thier proprietary metal coordination chemistry. His book *Taps on the Walls* (www. tapsonthewalls.com) received national attention. He is a political and military commentator for the former Touch Vision TV. As narrator and executive producer for the just released



CD "Old War Poems" featuring selected Walt Whitman verse, he strives to be a force for the creative good of the nation. General Borling founded and chairs SOS America (Service Over Self) www.sosamerica.org, an organization advocating military service for America's young men age 18-26. As CEO of Chicago's United Way he is credited with a rebound of interest and annual campaign exceeding 95 million dollars.

His military career spanned 37 years. Gen. Borling is a graduate of the Air Force Academy, The National War College and completed executive education at the JFK and Business Schools at Harvard. A highly decorated officer, his many awards include: the Silver Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, three Bronze Stars with V for Valor, and two Purple Hearts. During the Vietnam War, he was shot down by ground fire. Seriously injured and captured while trying to evade the enemy, he spent 6½ years as a POW in Hanoi. He was Head of Operations for Strategic Air Command (SAC) in Omaha. In that position, he directed SAC's support of hostilities in the first Gulf War and was charged with execution responsibilities for the nation's nuclear war plan. At the Pentagon, he led CHECKMATE, a think tank, and was Director of Air Force Operational Requirements, helping initiate a new family of guided weapons. In Germany, he commanded the largest fighter and support base outside the United States and later served at NATO's Supreme Headquarters in Belgium, working directly for the Supreme Commander and Chief of Staff. He was central to the creation of HQ North in Norway and served as Chief of Staff of that integrated NATO/National command.

He currently occupies leadersip positions in multiple civic and business organizations. He is married to Myrna, his high school sweetheart. They live in Rockford, Illinois. NOTE: Gen. Borling will have his book *Taps on the Walls* available for sale at the Meeting. The cost of the book is \$25 and Gen. Borling will personally inscribe his book to you.

The May General Meeting not only offers great camaraderie, a featured speaker, but a delicious dinner menu! The dinner menu includes a house tossed salad with choice of dressing, breaded chicken cutlet, pork chops, roasted red potatoes, vegetable of the day, chef's choice dessert, coffee, or tea. Please contact Brother **Chuck Cwiakala** at meeting@chicagosocietypna.org or call 847-823-8747 for reservations. Please note: Any guests at the meeting must be prospective new members and you must confirm their reservation with Brother Chuck. All members must be current in their dues to attend the meeting! At each monthly meeting we offer 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. *NOTE: Brother Komosa would like to acknowledge the assistance of Brother Kenneth Kogut, friend and neighbor of General Borling, in securing him as the meeting speaker*.



Chicago Society Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications Ted Wiecek editor@chicagosocietypna.org

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Brothers,

Another busy month is behind us. Having attended several events sponsored by Polish organizations (pictures on next page reflect but a few) recently I had a chance to observe how



the membership of these organizations participate in the events they sponsor. Some garner more member participation than others. But none few of them boast the history and reputation of the Chicago Society.

On Saturday, May 6 our organization hosted a brunch prior to the Constitution Day Parade. I was curious to see how many members would attend. To my dismay, it turned out that we had only nine members attend and only seven members march in the parade. The brunch is annually the preeminent event for gathering the four-corners of Polonia and an opportunity for our members to reach out to prospective new members. Unfortunately, we missed a great opportunity.

Presently we are down to 127 members. We are losing more members on an annual basis than we are replacing. We cannot sustain this trajectory. I am grateful for the executives and board members who currently serve our group. I wish to take nothing away from their efforts, but they cannot—and should not— be the primary recruitment arm for our group.

I ask that every member make an effort to bring in one new member this year. Thank you to the few of you who already have done so. But the rest of us have at least one friend or business acquaintance we could approach. If each member did that we would enjoy a revitalization desperately needed. If we do not do so, we will continue to decline in relevance and other options for growing membership will need to be explored.

Please Brothers, in the next couple of weeks take a moment to consider the value of our Society to you personally. Think about the benefits of camaraderie and business development offered by it. I'm confident you will find the inspiration to talk us up to prospective members.

I invite all of your suggestions on how to make our brotherhood more relevant and engaging to you and other members.

Fraternally, Brother Steve



My head is still spinning from the sweet insanity of the observances of the 226th Anniversary of Poland's May 3rd Constitution. Upholding the Spirit of T. Ron, I did not attend the early-morning events on Saturday; my day began with the pre-parade Brunch at the Hilton Chicago, which has been superbly organized for 40 years by "Mr. Chicago Society" Ro Matuszczak. This gave everyone a chance to

become energized for the highlight of the weekend's festivities, the 126th Chicago Parade commemorating Poland's Constitution of 1791. Over 100 units participated In the Parade, spanning many generations-from the veterans to the children. There were units representing every aspect of life In Polonia: veterans. groups, professional societies, fraternal organizations, hometown clubs, social service agencies, student groups. The Podhalani (mountaineers) were, as always, especially Impressive. It Is amazing how strongly they keep their unique culture alive, ensuring that the younger generations carry on their traditions. It was so heartwarming to see so many children and youth marching, from the Saturday schools, dance ensembles, Harcerstwo, and other youth groups, enthusiastically showing their pride in the White and Red, which the veterans so gallantly fought to defend. Smiling children from over thirty Polish schools were in the Parade, ranging from Wauconda to Joliet and Munster, Indiana. And, among the participants was the Chicago Society, as it has been every year since its founding 100 years ago.

Immediately following the Parade, I went over the Chopin Garden in Grant Park for the "Constitutional Concert," presented by the Chicago Chopin Foundation, headed by our Brother **Wojtek Putz**, with Brother **Zenon Kurdziel** also on the Foundation Board. The program began with a reenactment of the proclamation of the signing of the Constitution, followed by the dancing of the polonez. Seeing over 80 couples dance the polonez in Grant Park was certainly a sight to behold! That evening, I attended the banquet celebrating the Constitution at Lone Tree Manor, where I enjoyed the company of Brothers **Ro Matuszcak** and **Charlie Komosa**. Among the many other guests were Brothers **Frank Spula, Zenon Kurdziel, Jan Plachta** and his wife Barbara, Hon. **Edward Marsalek** and his wife Ann, and **Wojtek Putz**.

#### Polish Constitution Day Pre-Parade Brunch Round-Up



The Chicago Society held its Annual Pre-Parade Brunch celebrating the Polish Constitution at the Hilton Chicago on May 6, 2107. Brother Ro Matuszczak opened the brunch and introduced our President, Steve Rakowski, who welcomed the guests. Brother Ro then introduced Scholarship Chairman Brother Adam Konopka, Advocate, for the presentation of scholarships. Recipients of Chicago Society Scholarships for 2017 were Barbara Folga, Malgorzata Medricka, and Kristian Zadlo. More information about the winners can be found elsewhere in *The Forium*. This followed with Brother **John** Wojciechowski, President of the Copernicus Foundation, leading the guests in the Pledge of Allegiance. His Excellency

Andrew Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago was called on to say the Invocation. During the brunch, Jan Kopec, Chairman of the Parade Committee and President of the Alliance of Polish Clubs, received an award from the Chicago Society in recognition of his leadership and dedication in chairing the Polish Constitution Day Parade Committee for many years. Grand Marshal Diann Marsalek spoke, and introduced co-marshals Reverend Pawel Kosinski and Mrs. Bożysława Andersohn. Also speaking were Brother Frank Spula, President of the Polish National Alliance a nd Polish American Congress; Michalina Jaminski, Vice President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America;



Piotr Janicki Consul General of the Republic of Poland; Hon. Dan Lipinski, Representative to Congress; Diana Rauner, First Lady of Illinois, representing Governor Rauner; Hon. Michael Frerichs, Illinois State Treasurer; Hon. Susana Mendoza, Illinois State Comptroller; Evelyn Sanguinetti, Lt. Governor; Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County; Hon. Society



Timothy Evans, Chief Judge Circuit Court of Cook County; and Colonel Rodney Boyd, 108th Sustainment Brigade Commander.

Hon, Diann Mar Marshal

salek, Parade Grand There were numerous quests present: U.S. Ambassador to Poland, Paul Jones; quests from Poland: Senator Anna Maria Anders, Secretary of State at the Chancellory of the Prime Minister of Poland; Adam Bielan, Deputy Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Poland; Bogdan Romaniuk, Vice Marshal of Rzeszów (Podkarpacki Region); five additional officials from the same region; additional from the Polish Consulate: Malgorzata Bak-Guzik; Deputy Consul General Konrad Zielinski; Marian Grabowski, National Treasurer of the Polish National Alliance; Cinderella of 2017 and her court, Kayla Alexandra Leonhard; Prince Charming Kasper Kaczmarczyk; Cinderella Runner-up Sabina Marie Slubowski and Prince Charming runner up Maksymilian Morawski; Hon. Dan Patlak, Commissioner Cook County Board of Review; Parade Queen Julia Szumny, First Runner up Kasia Kolanko, Second Runner-up, Alicya Kwiatkowska; Mayor of Wilmette Robert Bielinski; Tom Startek, Polish American Chamber of Commerce; Bozenna Haszlakiewicz, President of the Legion of Young Polish Women, White and Red Ball Queen, Lianna Wineski, First Runner-up Madelene Hodgson, and Second Runner-up Julia Stokowski; Alderman Ariel Reboyras, 30th Ward, who was named Friend of Polonia; Aldermen Gilbert Villagas, 36th Ward, Ricardo Munoz, 22nd Ward, and Nick Sposato, 38th Ward; Aurelia Pucinski, Justice of the Appellate Court, Polish Highlanders represented by its President Jozef Cikowski, and Queen of the Highlanders, Sylvia Kozielec; Andrew Przybylo, Mayor of Niles; Joe Berrios, Cook County Assessor; Kinga Aleksandrowicz, Outreach Coordinator Office of Governor Bruce Rauner, Robert Martwick, Jr. Illinois State Representative.

Anna Wegrecki and Joan Golembiewski, Harwood Heights Trustees; Anna Oerke, President Polish Arts Club; Brother Robert Radkowski, Vice President Head of the Midwest District for the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union and representatives from New York: Hon. Tom Begningo, Deputy Secretary of State; Anna Morzy, Past President Polish American Chamber of Commerce, President Stanley Skoczen and Director, Iwanka Filipiak; Halina Bielowicz, Chairman Polish American Women's Action Committee; Bogdan Dola, President Polish American Foundation; Marta Almodovar Administrator Cook County Judicial Circuit Court; Camille Kopielski, Chairman Lira Ensemble; Margaret Ptaszynska of Polvision and host of Polish Radio 1030 AM; Polish American Congress-Illinois Division President Michael Nidzinski; Gift from the Heart Foundation (Dar Serca) President Dorothy Malachowski; James Robaczewski, Secretary/Treasurer of the Polish Roman Catholic Union; President Advocates Society, Marta Zaborska; Maria Ciesla, Past President of the Polish Museum of America; many judges and Rafal Milczarski, LOT Polish Airlines CEO from Poland. This was Brother Ro Matuszczak's fortieth year as Chairman of the event. Special thanks to Civic Vice President and Co-chair Charles Komosa and to Chris Matuszczak, who again aided Ro in the preparation of the event. Thanks to President Steve Rakowski for his help as well as to our photographer, Ted Wiecek.

The Chicago Society entry in the parade was a float with Brother Tony Kawalkowski and his musicians playing for the spectators..





**OUR PRESIDENT'S BUSY WEEKEND** 



With PAPA person of the year Marilyn Mazewski and PAPA Pres. Marty Obrecki



at reception for sen. Maria Anders, daughter of gen. Władysław Anders



with Advocates Society Pres. Marta Zaborska and 2nd VP Allison Pawlicki

#### THE CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM



Scholarship Committee Chairman Adam Konopka takes pleasure in announcing the following winners of the 2017 Chicago Society Scholarship Awards. 1<sup>st</sup> place—\$3,000: **Barbara Folga (**Chicago born residing in Niles, IL now) is a Junior at Loyola University double majoring in Biology and Chemistry.

2<sup>nd</sup> place—\$2,000: **Kristian Zadlo** (Chicago born, residing in River Forest, IL now) is a high school senior at Oak Park and River Forest High School. He will be attending Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, majoring in Computer Engineering in the fall. He was allstate in track and field this year and is an active member and leader of the Polish Scouting Organization.

3<sup>rd</sup> place—\$1,000: **Malgorzata Medrecki** (Chicago born and resident) is a sophomore at Loyola University majoring in Chemistry. L-R: B. F She is a member of the Lajkonik Polish folk group with whom she K. Zadlo, will be traveling to Poland to perform this summer.



L-R: B. Fogal, M. Medrecki, K. Zadlo,

#### Prince Mieszko I was baptized in 966 AD, introducing Christianity to the people of Poland. Discuss how over 1,050 years of Catholicism has impacted Poland and Polish-Americans, as well as how it has influenced your life.

#### 3RD PLACE ESSAY – MALGORZATA MEDRECKI

Over the long course of Poland's history, Catholicism has been at the forefront, playing a role in its founding, growth, and resilience. Although Poland's roots can be traced back to 6th century AD, the baptism of both Prince Mieszko I and Poland in 966 AD helped legitimize the previously pagan country within the Holy Roman Empire. This strategic step was political, but simultaneously began the firm belief of Catholicism as a crucial element of the Polish identity.

Soon after 966 AD, Polish Catholics had to showcase their strength within their faith when faced with persecution. In the 11th century, the bishop of Krakow, St. Stanislaus, highly criticized King Boleslaw II, for cruelty and sexual impurity. After excommunicating the king for his immorality, St. Stanislaus was martyred by Boleslaw II for treason. This first encounter in defending Catholicism served as an example to the people of Poland to honor, preserve and defend their faith in times of oppression. In 1683, King Jan III Sobieski defended Poland against the Turks to prevent the invasion of Islam. This strong dedication to Catholicism enhanced a deep pride and devotion to Poland's national identity. For example, in the 18th to 19th century, secret underground schools continued to teach Polish language during the Polish partitions.

Regimes took note that the faith and commitment Poles had to the Catholic church gave the nation strength. Poland could not be defeated while placing such high value on their faith. It is for this reason that the Nazi regime tried to exterminate the Polish Catholic clergy during World War II. More than half of the clergy, men and women, were sent to concentration camp or murdered because of their vocation. They fought this cruelty and many are still remembered and revered St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan friar, has become a symbol for these clergy members, since he sacrificed his life to save the life of a fellow inmate in Auschwitz.

Unfortunately, the end of World War II did not end the persecution of the Catholic church and its members. When the Communist regime took over Poland, they strategically fought the Catholic church. To this part of history, I bring personal insight through my mother's experience. My mother grew up in "Nowa Huta," a district in Krakow built by the Communists to encourage factory work. This regime provided housing and jobs for young people, coercing them to settle there. The government built restaurants, movie theaters, and, many schools. But, it refused to develop any churches. For hundreds of new families, there was only one church and one chapel. To compensate, they built a large cross where they would gather to pray. Soon, these people began protesting the government and asking for permission to build another church. In response, the communist party announced a new motto for 1966: "a thousand schools for the I,oooth anniversary of Poland." It is naive to celebrate the I,o5oth anniversary without acknowledging the milestone 50 years prior. Exactly 1,000 years after the baptism of Poland, the Communist party refused to build a religious space and, instead, built another unneeded school.

While the people of Nowa Huta continued to relentlessly demand the Communist party build another church, hundreds of Poles began showing up at the small chapel in Bienczyc. With their own donations, they were able to build an outdoor altar and would attend mass regardless of the weather. It was at this altar that, Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, future St. Pope John Paul II, would often hold Christmas mass in the cold. Through the effort from Cardinal Wontly, Primate Wyszynski, and the people of Nowa Huta, the Communist government allowed the construction of a church. Children like my mother, brought stones to decorate thechurch and Cardinal Wojtyla was one of the first to place a stone onto the church. The church, Arka Pana, stands to this day and is where I always attend mass with my mom when we travel to Poland together.

Unlike my mom, I do not have stories of conflicts endured to defend my Catholic faith. I am fortunate enough to grow up within a community and parish that has given me countless opportunities. When Polish immigrants settled in the United States, the first step was finding a church to belong to. Today, dozens of Polish churches fill the Chicagoan landscape. They were, and continue to be, the locations of Polish schools, cultural organizations, classes and activities. In Poland, nearly 90% of the population is Polish Roman Catholic, while in the U.S this group is a minority. Thus, Polish immigrants had a difficult transition period upon their arrival to the U.S. For example, their trades abroad did not translate to careers in the U.S. They did not know the language, which hindered their success. However, these Polish Catholic communities gave immigrants support, a place to call home and helped with the transition of a life in the U.S.

My identity as a Polish-American could not have been formed without Holy Trinity Polish Mission in Chicago. There, I graduated top of my class from Polish school which gave me an affinity to learn new languages. Holy Trinity sponsors my dance ensemble: Lajkonik, which has not only taught me Polish culture through dance, song, and workshops but also fostered my closest friendships. It has inspired me to continue growing as a Polish Catholic, which led me to joining "Wieczernik" a Polish Catholic Theatrical group that performs the Passion of the Christ every weekend during Lent. I have also extended Catholicism into my education, by choosing to attend Loyola University, a Jesuit institution, for my undergraduate degree.

Without Catholicism, Poland today would cease to exist. The line between Polish culture and the Catholic church is nearly indistinguishable. Furthermore, the trajectory of my life would have completely changed. Polish Catholicism is the root of my pride in my heritage, my friendships, and education. Without it, I would be lost in my identity as a Polish-American.

## < continued from p. 3 FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN</pre>

Sunday I had the pleasure of attending an emotional event, although not directly related to the Constitution. A portion of Milwaukee Avenue, between Dempster and Main Streets in Niles, was named "Gen. Wladyslaw Anders Way." Gen. Anders was a founding father of Poland in 1918 serving as a general in the Polish Army. He was later forced into the former Soviet Army, fought the Nazis and, escaping Communist imprisonment, formed his own Polish armed force in exile. It was the II Polish Corps under his command that was able to seize Monte Cassino in a decisive battle in 1944 that turned the tide in favor of the allies. There are close to 10,000 Poles loving in Niles, and many Polish veterans burled at Maryhill, especially in the Veteran's Sector. At the suggestion of my dear friend Michal Niemkiewicz, mayor of Niles Brother Andrew Przybylo spearheaded the effort to have a joint Illinois House and Senate resolution adopted to make this designation. Our President Brother Steve Rakowski was on the organizing committee of this event. Also attending was Brother Andrew Zapalski. The quest of honor at Sunday's dedication ceremony was sen. Anna Maria Anders, daughter of the late gen. Anders. Sen. Anders is currently a Senator and a Minister of the Republic of Poland. She Is Secretary of State in the government of Poland's Prime Minister where she is the Plenipotentiary for International Dialogue. Two very special quests at Sunday's ceremony were Zofia Biernadska and Teofilia Musialowicz, two soldiers who fought In gen. Anders' army at Monte Cassino. Imagine how emotional Its must have been for these two brave women to meet the daughter of their commander from over 70 years ago!! The afternoon ceremony ended with the singing of "Czerwone maki pod Monte Cassino" ("Red poppies on Monte Cassino"), a patriotic song written at the conclusion of that fateful battle by Feliks Konarski "Ref-Ren," who coincidentally (or perhaps not) is buried in the Veterans' Sector. I'm sure there was not a dry eye in the audience. Certainly a weekend with a roller coaster of emotions, bursting with Polish pride

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### CS Scholarship Golf Outing Is Soon Approaching! Friday, July 14, 2017

The Chicago Society 2017 Annual Scholarship Golf Outing is right around the corner and Chairman Brother Charles Komosa is still keeping this outstanding outing at a reasonable price of \$100.00 per golfer with many amenities. Brothers Charles Komosa and Mark Orwat, co-chairmen of the Chicago Society's 2017 Golf Outing, invite all members, business associates, family, and friends to reserve their spots for the Chicago Society Golf Outing, which will take place at the swanky Gleneagles Country Club in Lemont on Friday, July 14, 2017, The day will begin with a cookout lunch including with brats, Italian sausage, chips and draft beer in the outdoor pavilion along with check-in at 12:00 p.m. The Shot-Gun scramble starts at 1:30 p.m. sharp. There will be a fleet of beverage carts patrolling the golf course with free drinks and snacks and other surprises. An open bar and appetizers will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the banguet room, with dinner including BBQ ribs, chicken, and side dishes, and program following. The cost is only \$100.00 per person, including golf, cart, cookout lunch, beverages, dinner and cocktails, or \$40.00 per person for those interested in only dinner and premium cocktails. Yes, we are planning for the world famous grand raffle! Please call Brother Charles Komosa at 773-286-7123 to reserve your golf foursomes (individual golfers also welcome). Please call if you or your company would like to donate raffle prizes. Brother Frank Czaja has graciously accepted to serve as Tee Sign Sponsorship Chairman for the Chicago Society and raffle prize donations. The Tee Sign Hole sponsorship is still only \$100.00. Please call Brother Frank Czaja for more information at 312-520-6144.



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### **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

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



- 1 OF Sto Lat!
  - 1 Christopher Pfannkuche
  - 3 Wojciech Putz
  - 9 Walter Kazmierczak
- 1 Anthony Szplit Adam Konopka
- 14 John Domagalski
- 18 Ted Wiecek
- 18 Len Krajkiewicz
- 24 Frederick Poska
- 26 Gerhard Kaes
- 31 Zenon Cebula

### **MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following brother members, who are celebrating the anniversary of their induction In May.

Charles Cwiakala	50 years
Edward Marsalek	50 years
Marian Skawski	20 years
Anthony Zaskowski	20 Years
Richard Kula	10 Years

## SUSPENSIONS FOR

#### **NON-PAYMENT OF DUES**

The gentlemen listed below have been suspended from membership in the Chicago Society for non-payment of dues, in accordance with the Constitution. Please contact Financial Secretary Richard Wiemanski at 815-222-3472 regarding reinstatement

Adam Grabowski Krzysztof Kielczewski Henryk Marciniak Conrad Nowak, Jr.

Paul Posch Matt Rodriguez Martin Vogel

# SUMMER DRESS CODE

Starting with the May meeting and through September, the Summer Dress Code is in effect for all general meeting of the Society.

Gentlemen are permitted to dress "casually," suit/sport coats are no longer required. However, jeans, shorts, and gym shoes are NOT permitted.

### INDUCTED TO MEMBERSHIP

We welcome **David B. Cooper,** sponsored by Brothers



Thomas Sieja and Frank Czaja, who was sworn in as a member at our last meeting. *Witamy*!!

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