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A Fraternal Benefit Society Safeguarding Your Future with Life Insurance & Annuities

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NARÓD POLSKI Polish Nation

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ANNUAL ŚWIĘCONKA CELEBRATION RETURNED TO PRCUA

After two long years, PRCUA members were overjoyed to meet again at the annual Święconka. This year's event was hosted by PRCUA District #9 and was held on Sunday, April 24 at Balagio Restaurant in Homewood, IL.

Program began with the District #9 National Director Elizabeth Sadus welcoming everyone to the event and introducint the guests, including: PRCUA President James Robaczewski and his wife Elaine, Secretary Treasurer Agnes Bastrzyk and her husband Daniel, District 7 Director Ewa Cholewinski, District 8 Directors Elizabeth Dynowski and Myron Cislo with his wife Elizabeth, *Naród Polski* editor Lidia Kowalewicz, marketing director Ela Sawczuk, fraternal coordinator Conrad Wiecek, Past District 9 Director Ted Pawlowski, District 9 President Paul Pawlowski, 2022 Cinderella and Prince Charming Natalia Bafia and Marcel Duda, members of the Adult Culture Group with President Edward Muszalski, PNA National Treasurer & President PAC Indiana Chapter Steve Tokarski, former Indiana State President of the Polish-Women's Alliance Evelyn Lisek, Secretary Treasurer



(*cont. on page 8*)



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Polish Nation

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PRCUA CONTACT INFORMATION:
Due to COVID-19,
the PRCUA Home Office will operate
on a modified schedule
until further notice.
Appointments are preferred
for in-person visits.

Temporary Hours of Operation:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
and Friday – 8:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Closed on Wednesdays.

Telephone: 773-782-2600
Toll-Free: 1-800-772-8632
Fax: 773-278-4595
prcua.org

MAY

1 CHICAGO, IL – ANNIVERSARY CONCERT OF SOUTHWEST CENTER OF POLISH SONG & DANCE (35) AND WESOŁY LUD (45) at 1:30 p.m. at Mother McCauley Theater, Chicago, IL.

POLSKIE MAKI DANCE SCHOOL RECITAL

MUNSTER, IN – ST. RAPHAEL KALINOWSKI POLISH LANGUAGE AND DANCE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

2 POLISH DIASPORA DAY

3 POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY

7 CHICAGO, IL – POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PARADE IN CHICAGO.

8 MOTHER'S DAY (U.S.)

12 CHICAGO, IL – PRCUA SOCIETIES #943 (ŚW. CECYLIA), #957 (WHITE EAGLES), #84 (POLEK ŚW. JADWIGI), #1559 (ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI), #1219 (CARDINAL HLOND) MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE PRCUA CONVENTION at 4:30 p.m. in the PRCUA Social Hall, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL.

21 LIVONIA, MI – TATRY 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY at Knights of Columbus Monaghan Counci #2690 in Livonia, MI, from 7 p.m. to midnight. For details, see pg. 15.

ROCKFORD, MI – RYDER CUP GOLF - Society #162 vs Society #718 at Lake Erie Metro Park in Rockford, MI. For additional information, contact Bob Hojnacki at 313-384-6255.

26 MOTHER'S DAY (POLAND)

27 DETROIT, MI – 51ST ANNUAL DETROIT TIGERS POLISH AMERICAN NIGHT, coordinated by PRCUA #1593 St. John Paul Society at Comerica Park, 2100 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI.For details, see pg. 15.

30 MEMORIAL DAY – PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

For updates on any of the PRCUA events, please contact your local PRCUA districts, societies and schools, and check *Naród Polski,* PRCUA social media platforms and www.prcua.org.



JUNE

ANNUITY AWARENESS MONTH

1 DEADLINE FOR PRCUA SCHOLARSHIPS

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY

4 ROSEVILLE, MI – PRCUA SOCIETY #1593 30TH ANNUAL YOUTH BOWLING from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m at AMF Rose Bowl Lanes, 28001 Groesbeck Hwy., Roseville, MI. For details, see pg. 12.

5 GLEN ELLYN, IL – POLONIA POLISH FOLK SONG & DANCE ENSEMBLE 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT at 4 p.m. at McAninch Arts Center - College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL. For details, see pg. 22 (Pol).

8 CHICAGO, IL – POLISH NIGHT WITH THE WHITE SOX - Chicago White Sox vs Los Angeles Dodgers. For details, see pg. 21

9 DEARBORN HEIGHTS, MI – PRCUA SOCIETY #718 GRANT/SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE at 8 p.m. at Randy's Bar & Grille, 25122 W. Warren St., Dearborn Hts., MI. For additional information, contact Jerry Nasiatka at jnasiatka@mi.rr.com.

12 PRCUA SACRED HEART MASS hosted by District #8

14 FLAG DAY

19 FATHER'S DAY (U.S.)

20 JUNETEENTH – PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

23 FATHER'S DAY (POLAND)

If you are a member in good standing belonging to one of the Societies below and would like to represent your society at the 63rd PRCUA Convention, please contact Julie Prado at 800-772-8632 ext. 2626.

57	California District 6	951	New York District 2
72	Missouri District 6	977	Ohio District 5
120	New Jersey District 4	997	Wisconsin District 6
124	Ohio District 5	1005	Wisconsin District 6
158	Ohio District 5	1024	Pennsylvania District 3
227	Ohio District 5	1124	Michigan District 10
239	Illinois District 7	1187	New York District 2
247	Ohio District 5	1202	Wisconsin District 6
353	New York District 2	1253	Wisconsin District 6
359	Massachusetts District 1	1413	Michigan District 10
389	Connecticut District 1	1437	Delaware District 4
407	Illinois District 7	1472	Pennsylvania District 3
435	Texas District 6	1497	Illinois District 7
450	Missouri District 6	1538	Pennsylvania District 3
475	Illinois District 7	1587	Michigan District 10
509	Illinois District 9	1591	Ohio District 5
527	Maryland District 4	1611	Illinois District 8
750	New York District 2	2019	New Jersey District 4
861	West Virginia District 5	2108	Ohio District 5
864	Pennsylvania District 3	2148	Ohio District 5
868	New York District 2	2293	Pennsylvania District 3
878	Illinois District 7	2315	Wisconsin District 6
893	Minnesota District 6	2320	Wisconsin District 6
896	Rhode Island District 1	2342	Michigan District 10
934	Pennsylvania District 3		

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35	$127.50	$205.00	$428.00	$786.50
45	$171.75	$293.50	$643.50	$1,206.50
55	$277.10	$504.20	$1,157.25	$2,207.50
65	$791.15	$1,532.30	$3,663.25	$7,091.00

Sample Rates for Males

Age	$5,000	$10,000	$25,000	$50,000
25	$108.60	$167.20	$335.50	$606.50
35	$135.35	$220.70	$466.00	$861.00
45	$183.60	$317.20	$701.25	$1,319.00
55	$296.80	$543.60	$1,253.25	$2,395.00
65	$848.35	$1,646.70	$3,942.00	$7,634.50

Annual standard non-tobacco rates shown. Rates subject to underwriting review.

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- Available until October 31, 2022

Welcome gift with purchase!

Rates for 5-Year Limited Pay Whole Life Insurance

$10,000 Coverage Annual Premium			$20,000 Coverage Annual Premium			$30,000 Coverage Annual Premium		
Age	Male	Female	Age	Male	Female	Age	Male	Female
0	$296.64	$269.28	0	$548.28	$493.56	0	$781.02	$701.10
1	$303.48	$275.31	1	$561.96	$505.62	1	$801.00	$718.65
2	$310.59	$281.61	2	$576.18	$518.22	2	$821.79	$737.01
3	$317.97	$288.18	3	$590.94	$531.36	3	$843.39	$756.45
4	$325.62	$295.02	4	$606.24	$545.04	4	$865.80	$776.16
5	$333.45	$301.95	5	$621.90	$558.90	5	$888.75	$796.68
6	$341.55	$309.15	6	$638.10	$573.30	6	$912.51	$817.74
7	$349.92	$316.62	7	$654.84	$588.24	7	$937.08	$839.34
8	$358.56	$324.27	8	$672.12	$603.54	8	$962.19	$861.75
9	$367.47	$332.10	9	$689.94	$619.20	9	$988.38	$884.70
10	$376.65	$340.20	10	$708.30	$635.40	10	$1,015.11	$908.46
11	$386.10	$348.57	11	$727.20	$652.14	11	$1,042.65	$933.03
12	$395.73	$357.21	12	$746.46	$669.42	12	$1,071.00	$958.14
13	$405.63	$366.03	13	$766.26	$687.06	13	$1,099.89	$984.06
14	$415.71	$375.12	14	$786.42	$705.24	14	$1,129.32	$1,010.79
15	$425.88	$384.39	15	$806.76	$723.78	15	$1,159.02	$1,037.52
16	$436.05	$393.66	16	$827.10	$742.32	16	$1,188.72	$1,064.79
17	$446.04	$403.20	17	$847.08	$761.40	17	$1,218.15	$1,092.60
18	$456.21	$412.92	18	$867.42	$780.84	18	$1,247.85	$1,121.22

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*Standard non-tobacco rates, include 10% discount.

For more information, please contact your local PRCUA Sales Representative or the Home Office: Marge Grzeszczuk
(773) 782-2644 • sales@prcua.org

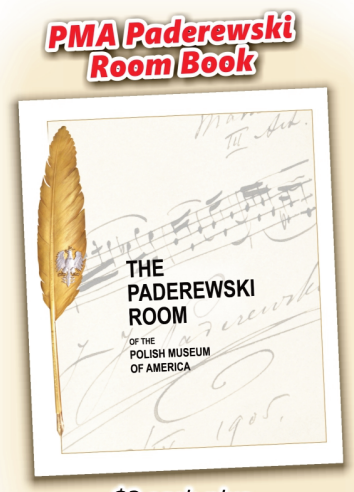
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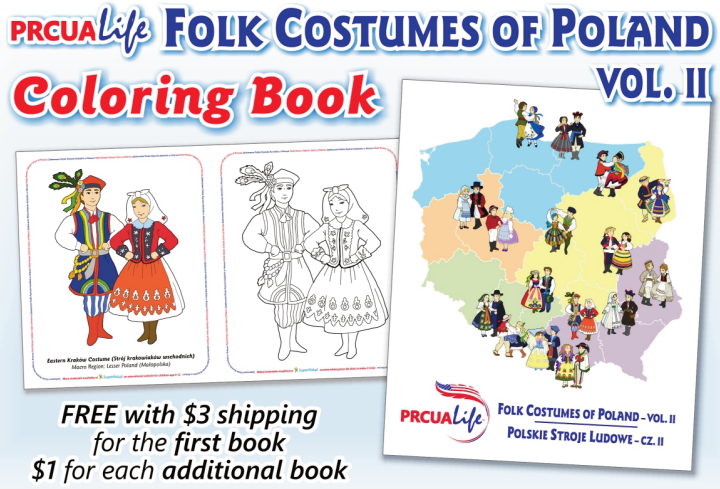


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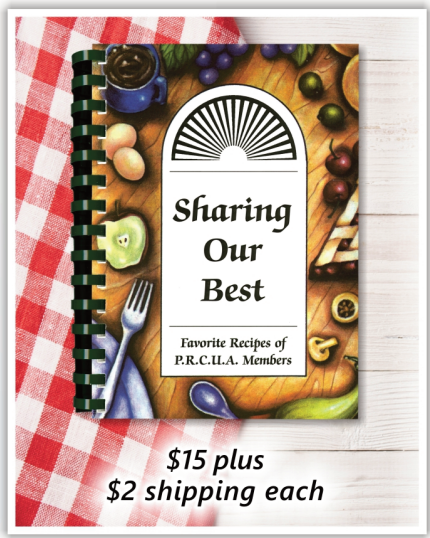




FREE to PRCUA members
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FREE with $3 shipping
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$1 for each **additional book**



$15 plus
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To order, contact the PRCUA Marketing Department with your order information: **(773) 782-2630** – *OR* – **marketing@prcua.org** – *OR* – **pay online** at **PRCUA.org** (scroll down on main page) – *OR* – complete the form below and mail (with your check payable to PRCUA) to:
PRCUA Marketing Dept., 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QUANTITY	SHIPPING COST *CALL FOR ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES*	TOTAL COST *PRICE x QTY + SHIPPING*
2022 PRCUA CALENDAR ***POLISH AND AMERICAN TREASURES OF NATURE***	FREE		FREE SHIPPING UP TO **5 COPIES** *(OVER 5 COPIES CALL FOR SHIPPING COST)*	FREE
THE PADEREWSKI ROOM ***OF THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA*** *BOOK*	**$3** EACH X		+ **$3** SHIPPING FOR **FIRST BOOK** **$1** SHIPPING FOR EACH **ADD'L BOOK** =	
PROMOTING POLISH CULTURE ***A HISTORY OF PRCUA SCHOOLS AND GROUPS***	FREE		FREE SHIPPING FOR **FIRST BOOK** *(ADD'L COPIES CALL FOR SHIPPING COST)*	FREE
PRCUALife FOLK COSTUMES OF POLAND - VOL. II ***COLORING BOOK***	FREE		+ **$3** SHIPPING FOR **FIRST BOOK** **$1** SHIPPING FOR EACH **ADD'L BOOK** =	
SHARING OUR BEST *– FAVORITE RECIPES OF PRCUA MEMBERS* ***130TH PRCUA ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK***	**$15** EACH X		+ **$2** SHIPPING **EACH BOOK** =	
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63RD PRCUA QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PRCUA CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The Constitution Committee is accepting proposed changes to the PRCUA Constitution and By-Laws. Any PRCUA member, Society, Circuit or District in good standing has the right to propose changes to the PRCUA Constitution and By-Laws. These changes must be submitted IN WRITING to the Constitution Committee by June 1, 2022 for consideration. Please follow the format below when submitting proposed changes. The Committee will accept proposed changes until June 1, 2022.

Proposal to the Constitution Committee

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: (___)_____ E-mail: _____

Your PRCUA Society Number _____

Changes proposed to these articles:

Chapter _____ Article _____ Page(s) _____

Title of Article _____

_____

_____

Reason for proposed change: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Proposed wording: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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_____

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_____

Send proposed changes by June 1, 2022 to:
PRCUA Constitution Committee
Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastrzyk
984 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60642-4101

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES SEEKING PRCUA NATIONAL OFFICES

The Candidates Qualifications Committee has announced that all candidates seeking to run for election to a national office in the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America must contact the Secretary-Treasurer for an application. All applications must be submitted to the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer and postmarked by May 30, 2022.

Candidates must meet the following requirements as set forth by the PRCUA Constitution. Although the Constitution uses masculine terminology, the information applies to males and females equally.

Article 03K Nomination of Officers and Directors

1. Only a Delegate meeting the following requirements shall be nominated for the position of Officer or Director for the UNION and may be a candidate for that office in the UNION:
   a. the Delegates must personally be present and registered at the Convention within the timeframe of the first session on the second day of the Convention;
   b. must have been a member of the UNION for at least five (5) years;
   c. is a citizen of the United States of America;
   d. has indicated his desire to aspire for the specified office or his name and qualifications have heretofore been presented by a Society or a Circuit with the consent of the candidate. Such an announcement must be forwarded to the Candidates Qualifications Committee and postmarked by May 30 of the Convention year. Once approved by the Candidates Qualifications Committee, the names and qualifications of all qualified candidates for each office must be published in an issue of the official publication of the UNION and provided to all voting members at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention.
   e. has met the qualifications of either a Bachelor's degree, Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), or a minimum of five (5) years of experience in financial planning, business administration, and/or managerial/organizational leadership;
   f. resides in, and is a member of a Society, located in the District in which he wishes to represent.
2. No two members of a family, either by birth or by marriage, shall be permitted during the whole or any part of the same term to be Executive Officers. Members of a family shall include spouses, children, stepchildren, parents, grandparents, siblings and the children of siblings.
3. No two members of a nuclear family shall be permitted during the whole or any part of the same term to be a director. Nuclear family shall mean familial relationships only including husband and wife, parent and child and brother and sister. If and in the event that two or more members of a nuclear family shall, at a Convention, run for and receive enough votes to be entitled to be a member of the Board of Directors, then only that member of the nuclear family who has received the most votes from the Delegates at the Convention shall be entitled to take the oath and serve the term of office provided for the position for which that member sought election. 5

Please refer to page 7 for additional qualifications for the President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and National Directors as approved by the 62nd PRCUA Quadrennial Convention.

Please request an application in person or by telephoning the Secretary-Treasurer's Office at 773-782-2600 ext. 2605 or toll-free at 1-800-772-8632 ext. 2605. Or send your request for an application by REGISTERED MAIL to:

Agnieszka Bastrzyk, ALMI, FICF, ACS
Secretary-Treasurer
PRCUA
984 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL 60642-4101

63RD PRCUA QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES SEEKING THE ELECTED POSITIONS OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY-TREASURER, AND NATIONAL DIRECTOR

To all members of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America in anticipation of the 63rd Quadrennial Convention of the PRCUA to be held in August 2022:

The following recommendations regarding additional qualifications beyond those identified in the Constitution for candidates seeking the elected positions of President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and National Director, were approved by the 62nd PRCUA Quadrennial Convention.

For the elected positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer:

- Bachelor's degree required
- Postgraduate degree preferred
- Minimum of five (5) years as a member of PRCUA and in good standing
- Minimum five (5) years of experience in financial planning, business administration and/or managerial/organizational leadership
- PRCUA Board Certification Training must be completed within six (6) months of installation into office
- Possession or completion of courses for ALMI (Associate Life Management Institute) designation within twenty four (24) months of installation into office.

For the elected position of National Director:

- Bachelor's degree or a minimum of four (4) years of demonstrated life experience or a minimum of five (5) years demonstrated experience in fraternal activities
- Minimum of five (5) years as a member of PRCUA and in good standing
- PRCUA Board certification training must be completed within six (6) months of installation into office

In addition to the duties of elected positions as stated in the PRCUA Constitution, candidates for each office must consider responsibilities specified below:

Responsibilities of the President:

- Participates in the investing of funds of the organization
- Represents the PRCUA at national and local events
- Develops and implements the Business Plan
- Oversees Compliance, Investments, Human Resources, and General Counsel

Responsibilities of the Vice President:

- Oversees Sales, Marketing, Fraternal and Publications Departments
- Represents the PRCUA at national and local events

Responsibilities of the Secretary-Treasurer:

- Oversees Information Technologies, Member Services, Risk Management, Auditing, Treasury, Underwriting, and Building and Property Management
- Represents the PRCUA at national and local events

Responsibilities of the National Director:

- Required to participate in all scheduled Board meetings
- Monitors fiduciary activities of PRCUA and Executive Committee
- Main contact in resolving issues between Home Office and local Districts
- Actively promotes and/or organizes local organization functions
- Promotes and solicits membership
- Represents the organization at local and national events

NOTE: Board certification and all ALMI course costs are paid for by the PRCUA.

If there is no qualified candidate for an Executive Officer or Board of Director position, the Board of Directors reserves the right to solicit and elect an individual for the position.

If an Officer or Director fails to pass the LOMA, ALMI or Insurance Producer's license within the designated time, the Board of Directors will declare a vacancy.

NOTICE TO SOCIETY OFFICERS ON CONVENTION REPRESENTATION

The 63rd Quadrennial Convention of the PRCUA is quickly approaching. The Secretary-Treasurer reminds all officers of PRCUA Societies of a very important provision in the Constitution and By-Laws governing the representation of Societies at the Convention.

Section Three, Article 03E, Delegates to the Convention, Paragraph 6

"A Society delinquent to the UNION more than two (2) months in its assessments loses its rights to representation at the Convention."

The accounts of a majority of Societies are current, therefore this notice does not apply to them. However, any Society which is delinquent is encouraged to bring their accounts up to date immediately so that your Society will meet the qualifications of the Constitution for representation at the Convention, the most important gathering of our fraternal organization.

Agnieszka Bastrzyk, Secretary-Treasurer

BUDGET & GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE NOTICE

The PRCUA Budget and Grievance Committee has announced that any PRCUA member who has a complaint, suggestion or grievance should file it - in writing - with the Budget and Grievance Committee. It should be postmarked by May 30, 2022. The PRCUA Convention will only accept complaints, suggestions and grievances that have been officially filed with this Committee.

A meeting of the Budget and Grievance Committee will be held after receipt of responses from the membership.

Send your complaints, suggestions and/or grievances to:

Budget and Grievance Committee
PRCUA
984 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL 60642-4101

ANNUAL ŚWIĘCONKA

(*cont. from page 1*)

of PNA Council Number 127 Nancy Teller, Vice President of The Pulaski Citizens Club of Hammond, IN Joseph Pusz, Calumet City Treasurer and Co-Chairperson of the Polish Heritage Committee, Gerry Tarka, City of Hammond, IN First District Councilperson and Co-Chairperson of the Polish Heritage Committee Mark Kalwinski, Polish American Community Fair President John Parzygnot, proprietors of the Caviler Inn in Hammond, IN Walter and Nora Kasprzycki, St. Rapheal Kalinowski Parents Club President Monika Otworowski.

Director Sadus invited everyone to enjoy the short program presented by the students of St. Raphael Kalinowski Polish School and Mała Polska Ensemble, which began with the singing of the Polish and American national anthems. The program included dances from the Kurpie region performed by the middle group, Łowicz dances performed by the the oldest group and the daces from Kraków by youngest group, presentation of the *Gaik* (a wooden stick decorated with colorful ribbons and flowers and green branches), and other traditional customs, Polish folk songs, and recitations of poems.

After the artistic program PRCUA President James Robaczewski thanked the talented young artists for a beautiful program and their teachers for all the effort they put into passing on the tradition to the young generation of the Polish Americans, and all in attendance for supporting the PRCUA. He then said the prayer before meal, asking God for blessings all the members and friends of the PRCUA.

Conrad Wiecek presented a donation on behalf of the Fraternal Department and VP Micheline Jaminski to the Mała Polska Dancers to help fund their upcoming guest performance in Minneapolis, where the dancers will present a short program at the May 3rd Polish Constitution Day celebration.

After the lunch, a raffle was held, and beautiful baskets filled with valuable items were presented to the lucky winners who purchased the lottery tickets. Names of the winners were drawn by Natalia, Karol and Aleksander Bastrzyk. The proceeds from the raffle and sale of chocolates will be allocated to the needs of the St. Raphael Kalinowski School and Mała Polska Dancers.

Thank you to District 9 for a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon!








photos: Jola Orban








photos: Lidia Kowalewicz































HALKA WRAPS UP ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR

By Laura Hejza

On March 27, the PRCUA Halka Dancers of Detroit celebrated their 53rd year with a spring recital filled with smiles and excitement. It was a year since Halka's first Covid edition recital and everyone was thankful to gather again for a spectacular show with full costume changes and no mask mandates.

As the children were presented on stage for the Polish national anthem, 2022 Halka graduate Skyler Siecinski beautifully lead the singing of the American national anthem. Halka director Laura Hejza welcomed the audience and took a moment to reflect on the current situation in Europe. Each dancer wore a blue and gold ribbon sewn together with a button heart as a sign of support, that the Halka families stand with Ukraine for peace in the country. As a group, Halka took a collection to offer aid to Poland as they provide safety and comfort to the Ukrainian refugees. The sale of garden Polish flags at the recital was then added for a total donation of $250 to support the campaign of the Polish American Congress.



Halka 2022 graduates and their escorts

The recital continued with teacher and choreographer Tom Lisiecki announcing the five national dances of Poland that were performed. 2022 PRCUA Halka graduates Tessa McKnee, Lauren Palencik, and Skyler Siecinski were then escorted on stage by their parents to be presented while their impressive resumes were read. A beautiful graduate waltz followed with escorts Andrew Bartkiewicz (2021 Halka graduate), Christian Palencik (future Halka graduate 2023) and Kian Desmon (2022 Zajączek graduate) leading the girls. All three Halka graduates were honored at the PRCUA Shirley Ann Galanty Michigan State Ball in February with the support of their families and fellow Halka dancers.

The first half of the recital closed with novelty dances themed "Out of This World" which included the songs *E.T. Phone Home*, *Men in Black*, *Space Jam*, and *Aquarius*!

Lively polkas from the band Polka Music Sound of Davison, MI kicked off the second half of the show. The dances of Poland section included suites from the regions of Sieradz, Śląsk, and Rzeszów, with the grand finale featuring dances from the mountains of Żywiec.

The 2022 Halka recital was the debut of first-year dancers Samantha Ozimek, Jeremiah Sikula and Otto Sikula. Audrey Amsden and Matilda Halatsis each earned a 5-year Halka trophy, Dakota and Isabella Litnianski each received a 10-year Halka trophy, and Catherine Krass was Halka's 15-year recipient this year. Also celebrating milestone recitals within the PRCUA dance schools of Halka and Zajączek were Mailee McKnee (10 years), and Lauren Bartkiewicz and Tessa McKnee (15 years).

The teaching talents of Tom Lisiecki, the artistic direction of Laura Hejza and the commitment of the Halka Dancers truly shone this day in this expertly executed show. The Halka families' support throughout this school year once again added to the success of our recital!

Now come the fun post-recital events and Halka is set to participate in Join Hands Day at St. Albertus, the Polish Soccer Night at DCFC, Polish Dance School Blessing Mass, and Polish Night at Comerica Park with the Detroit Tigers - and that's just what's on the schedule for the month of May!! Check us out on Facebook to see what else we are up to this summer!



Group 1 in Sieradz costumes



Group 2 in Śląsk costumes



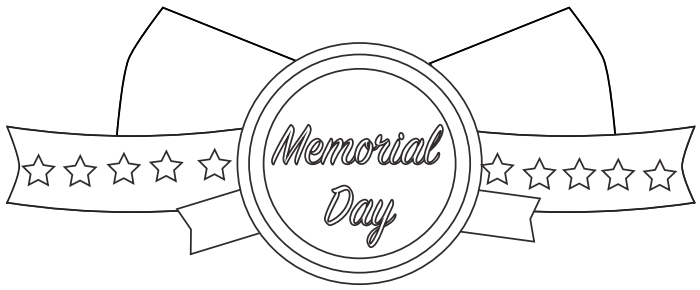
Group 3 in Rzeszów costumes



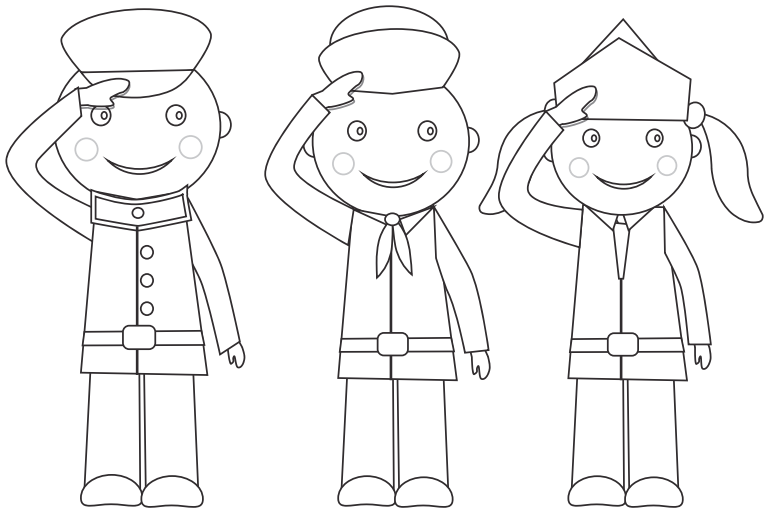
Group 4 in Żywiec costumes

Kids  Activity Page!

1. Color the picture.



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



2. Polish history quiz

1. What holiday is celebrated in Poland on May 3rd?

2. What are the colors of the Polish flag?

3. What do the colors of Polish flag symbolize?

4. What is the Polish national anthem called?

5. Who was the author of the Polish national anthem?

6. When was the Polish Constitution declared?

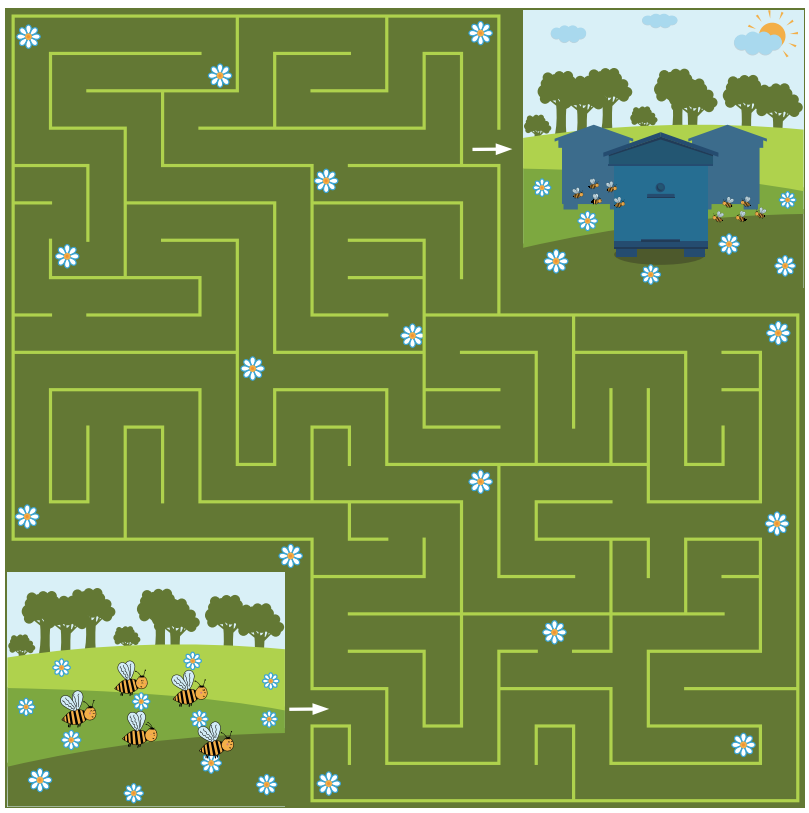
7. Where was the constitution declared?

8. How many other written constitutions existed in the world in 1791?

9. Which Polish king was the principal author of the Constitution of May 3rd, 1791?

10. What was Poland's official name at the time?

3. Help the little bees find their way to the hive.



4. Find words in the puzzle.



Answers on pg. 13

ST. STAN'S SOCIETY #718 ONE GAME KNOCKOUT (1GKO)

By Ed & Janet Rys

Redford, MI – On March 5, PRCUA St. Stan's Society #718 held its annual One Game Knockout (1GKO) Bowling Tournament at Mayflower Lanes in Redford, MI. The tournament and dinner were attended by members from various societies as well as family and friends of members. We would like to thank all who participated in one of our most attended 1GKO events ever.

The men's fifth and final round saw Kevin Bak, Kyle Filipowski and Paul Godin Jr. fighting for the championship. Kyle Filipowski was the victor with Paul Godin Jr. following in second place. For the women, Emily Bondar, Alyssa Leiffers and Michelle Small fought for the title. Emily Bondar was the champion with Alyssa Leiffers in second place.

In addition to the bracket play, there was an opportunity for someone to win a *Blackjack (21 Pin)* challenge. Each participant was given the chance to knock down exactly 21 pins in 3 balls. Every bowler, except those in the 2 final rounds, was able to attempt a *Blackjack.* Six bowlers who hit 21 pins participated in a roll off for the win. Allison Filipowski was the ultimate winner after 2 roll-off rounds. A big thank you to Ultra Aluminum for sponsoring the *Blackjack* challenge.

Thanks go out to Barbara Bak, Donna Gdowski, Diane Mack, Amanda Polly, Frank Nasiatka and Gary Ewald for handling the 50/50 raffles, Lucky Strike, and "Blackjack", but mostly for their help in keeping the day running smoothly. Also, thank you to those volunteers who jumped in and helped in any other way.

We hope to see everyone again next year. Remember that all family and friends are invited as well, so spread the word that a great time was had by all!



Winners: Alyssa Leiffers, Emily Bondar, Paul Godin Jr, Kyle Filipowski, Allison Filipowski





Volunteers: Diane Mack, Janet Rys, Donna Gdowski, Amanda Polly, Barbara Bak



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PRCUA SECRETARY-TREASURER AGNIESZKA BASTRZYK!

PRCUA and PMA employees sang Happy Birthday and *Sto Lat* to PRCUA Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastrzyk on Monday, April 11. The employees surprised her with flowers and gifts and wished her lots of health, happiness and success.

Mrs. Bastrzyk treated everyone to a delicious pizza and sweets at lunchtime.



Executive assistants Mary Jane Robles, Conrad Wiecek and Anna Grabowski wishing Mrs. Bastrzyk a very happy birthday



Agnieszka Bastrzyk receiving flowers from the PMA staff

ZAJĄCZEK DANCE ENSEMBLE NEWS

By Barb Ozog, Secretary
Zajączek Dance Ensemble

Zajączek Dance Ensemble of Sterling Heights, MI celebrated its 17th Annual Recital at Warren Woods Middle School Auditorium on Saturday, March 19. The program began with a warm welcome from school director Colleen Bonkowski, followed by the ensemble singing the American and Polish national anthems.

Tricia Dennis and Rachael Kasperek, the ensemble choreographers, were the narrators for the afternoon. The dancing began with the Young Adult group performing a dance from the region of Lublin. The first half of the recital ended with our graduates and their escorts dancing to *Old Fashion Polish Ways*.

After intermission, the 2022 graduates were presented with their parents. They then danced a waltz - *Loyal, Brave, True* with their escorts. Zajączek had four graduates this year: Kian Desmond, Kalina Barth, Jessica Saunders and Robert Lawrence.

During intermission, raffle baskets as well as a *Share the Wealth* raffle were available. The dance school officers called the winning ticket numbers before the final dance. Congratulations to all the winners!

The end of our program had the whole ensemble dancing the finale to *Polish Pop Party*. The 2022 graduates extended a special thank you to our dance ensemble drector Colleen Bonkowski, our choreographers Tricia Dennis and Rachael Kasperek, and our costume director Donna Jaczkowski. Great job, dancers!

Throughout the recital, donations were being collected for the people of Ukraine. Zajączek Dance Ensemble was able to donate over $1,200 and multiple boxes of medical supplies. Colleen Bonkowski delivered these items to Maryann Gruda, principal of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic School, who will be delivering them to the people of Ukraine.

You can see our dancers again at Polish Night at Comerica Park on May 27, performing before the game. If you are interested in joining our group for the next dance season, contact Colleen Bonkowski at zajaczekdance@yahoo.com.



Małe Zajączki



Group 1



Group 2



Group 3



Zajączek graduates



Group 4



Group 5

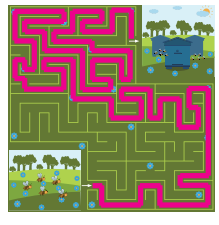


Group 6

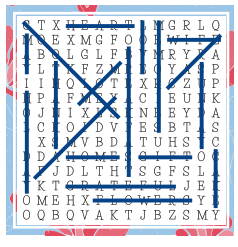
ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLES ON PG. 11:

2. Polish history quiz: 1. May 3rd Constitution Day; **2.** The Polish flag consists of two horizontal stripes: white on the top half and red on the bottom 3. White symbolizes the hope for peace for all Polish people; red represents the blood shed by Polish people in the many struggles for freedom over the centuries; **4.** *Mazurek Dąbrowskiego* ("Dąbrowski's Mazurka"); **5.** Józef Wybicki; **6.** May 3, 1791; **7.** Warsaw; **8.** The Polish May 3rd Constitution was Europe's first and the world's second modern written national constitution, after the United States Constitution of 1789; **9.** King Stanisław August Poniatowski; **10.** Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth

3. Help little bees to find their way:



4. Find the words:



PRCUA 2022-2023 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Economic conditions in the United States and throughout the world, as well as an ever competitive job market, have made the need for an undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree a virtual necessity for today's student. At the same time, the higher costs of education pose a serious and challenging barrier to students and their families to bear. The PRCUA recognizes the necessity of assistance for students of the Polish American community and has developed several financial vehicles to aid in the pursuit of undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the PRCUA will offer two types of scholarships. The **PRCUA Education Scholarship** is open to all who apply, whereas the **PRCUA Fraternal Scholarship** is open exclusively to members of the PRCUA. Students can apply for each scholarship once annually, but they may receive only three awards of each scholarship during their lifetime. Scholarships are specific to the school and educational program named in the application. The deadline for submitting applications is **June 1, 2022**.

PRCUA Education Scholarships totaling $25,000 are awarded to students based on the number of applications submitted and are available to all students, even those who are not members of the PRCUA. Scholarships will be awarded in amounts ranging from $1,000-$2,000.

1. Applicants must have successfully completed their freshman year of undergraduate studies before the deadline for filing an application. An official transcript or other documentation from the applicant's school must be sent directly by the educational institution by mail or electronically to the PRCUA on or before the deadline of June 1.
2. Eligible applicants include sophomores, juniors, and seniors enrolled full-time in undergraduate studies or those students enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program. Full-time enrollment shall conform to those guidelines established by the federal financial aid program: a minimum of twelve credit hours for day students or eight credit hours for evening students. Part-time graduate students are also eligible.
3. Applicants must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale or 4.0 or better on a 5.0 scale.
4. All applicants must be either citizens or permanent residents of the United States.

The PRCUA Fraternal Scholarship is available to eligible PRCUA members. For the 2022-2023 school year, the PRCUA will award scholarships totaling $25,000, in amounts ranging from $1,000-$3,000. These scholarships are open to all current PRCUA members. Applicants must fulfill all the requirements listed above AND be a member of the PRCUA for a minimum of five years AND have an active certificate of a minimum of $5,000 (and must be current with its payments).

The following options are available to applicants who do NOT fulfill the above five-year requirement:

- Three-year membership with the PRCUA holding a $25,000 certificate, or
- Four-year membership with the PRCUA holding a $15,000 certificate.

Note: Applicants must have active certificates and be current with their payments for five years after receipt of the final scholarship.

Selection of award amounts and recipients will be made by an independent committee of jurors. For both scholarships, awards will be granted to applicants based on the highest number of points earned, including an essay (in English).

The PRCUA acknowledges that continuing one's education is important to get ahead in life. Everyone is invited and encouraged to take advantage of our scholarships. Scholarships from the PRCUA are but one of its many member benefits.

For more information and applications, please visit: www.prcua.org/scholarships.



MAPLE LANE GOLF COURSE
33203 Maple Lane Dr.
Sterling Heights, MI 48312
www.maplelanegolf.com

LODGING
Holiday Inn & Suites
30000 Van Dyke Ave.
Warren, MI 48093
Reservations: 586-573-7600 by **June 21st**
Special PRCUA Rate: $119/night plus taxes

WELCOME GATHERING
July 22, 6:00-11:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn & Suites
30000 Van Dyke Ave.
Warren, MI 48093
Mona Lisa Room
Free beer and appetizers included

NETWORKING & AWARDS BANQUET
Maple Lane Golf Course
33203 Maple Lane Dr.
Sterling Heights, MI 48312
Banquet is free for all attendees.
Tournament winners will be announced. Dinner served at 7 p.m.
Open Bar (beer & wine)

GOLF TOURNAMENT
~ Shotgun Start: 1 p.m.
~ Four-Person Scramble
~ Contests: Closest to the pin, longest drive
~ Categories:
- Ladies' 4-person teams
- Men's 4-person teams
- Mixed (2 men, 2 women)
- Seniors, 70 and over (men, women, mixed)

~ Lunch provided for all golfers

TOURNAMENT SCRAMBLE RULES
On every hole, each team member may hit a tee shot. The team determines the best shot and then all team members hit from that location. This procedure is repeated until the ball is holed out. A team score is recorded and the team moves to the next hole.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY
Entry forms are available online at prcua.org/sports. Registration fee (non-refundable) is $50 for members, $100 for non-members. Entries must be submitted **by July 1, 2022**. No entries will be accepted after the deadline.

WWW.PRCUA.ORG/SPORTS

TATRY 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY FEATURING...

THE POLISH MUSLIMS

Saturday May 21, 2022
Knights of Columbus Monaghan Council #2690
19801 Farmington Rd, Livonia 48152

7:00 pm – Midnight
Band Plays from 8:30 pm – 11:30 pm

$40 Ticket Includes:
Open Bar / Snacks / Pizza @ 10:00 pm

50 / 50 & Basket Raffles
Tatry 50th Anniversary Apparel Available for Sale

Tickets in Advance Only - Venmo & PayPal Accepted

For Tickets, Call or Text:
Gail (248) 255-9336
Jerry (586) 536-8163

PayPal venmo

51st ANNUAL DETROIT TIGERS
Polish American Night

(Coordinated by PRCUA #1593 St. John Paul II Society)

Friday, May 27, 2022
Detroit Tigers vs Cleveland Guardians
Pre-Game Ceremonies are at 6:30 p.m. with Dancers on the playing field.
The Detroit Tiger Game will start at 7:10 p.m.

The **price of tickets** is as follows which also includes an awesome **jersey.** $5.00 per jersey will be donated to the PRCUA #1593 scholarship fund.
Lower Baseline Box-$49.00
Upper Box Infield-$44.00
Upper Reserve Infield-$40.00

For **information or tickets**, contact Wally Ozog at wozog@wowway.com or (586-519-3775). Make checks payable to: **PRCUA #1593** and send to: **30214 Woodhouse Dr., Warren, Michigan 48092.**



POLISH NEWS BYTES

Robert Strybel,
Warsaw Correspondent

Poland's March 2022 inflation highest since 2000 - Inflation in Poland in March increased by 10.9% year on year, according to a flash estimate by Statistics Poland. The highest increase was reported for automotive fuel which grew by 33.5%. Prices of electricity, gas and other fuels has gone up by 23.9%, whereas cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages was 9.2% higher. According to a flash estimate by Statistics Poland, the consumer price index in March has increased by 3.2% compared to the previous month.

Penderecki posthumously honored at state funeral - Poland's cultural community and many ordinary music-lovers recently paid tribute to Krzysztof Penderecki at a state funeral ceremony, held in Kraków two years after his death. Ranked among the world's leading composers of the 20th and 21st centuries, he specialized in monumental compositions and left a legacy operas, symphonies, oratorios and concertos. His major work was The Passion of Jesus Christ according to St Luke. In his eulogy, Polish President Andrzej Duda said Penderecki "had carved out a special place for himself in the hearts of music-lovers and a lasting place in the history of world culture." The urn containing his ashes was enshrined in Kraków's National Pantheon, the final resting place of Poland's leading luminaries of culture and learning.

Thousands of Catholic clergy and religious remain on duty in Ukraine - Over 6,000 Catholic priests and nuns, many of them from Poland, have stayed in Ukraine to provide shelter and food, treat the wounded, provide spiritual support and administer the sacraments. Some people have gone to confession for the first time, to be prepared for death. Some have come to be baptized and make their First Holy Communion before going to war. Thousands have taken refuge on seminary grounds. Nearly a thousand convents and nuns' houses in Poland and 98 in Ukraine help those displaced by the war. "During the daytime and at night explosions and shelling can be heard. In recent days the occupiers have concentrated mainly on residential buildings in which there are civilians. One shell hit the residence of the Bishop of Kharkiv, but no one was injured," Fr. Wojciech Stasiewicz from Lublin remarked. Assigned to the Diocese of Kharkiv, he added: "As long as I live, I will never forget Russia's attack on Ukraine."

Pope Francis praises Poles for displaying true humanity - While en route to Malta on his latest papal pilgrimage, Pope Francis praised the Polish nation for taking in more Ukrainian war refugees than any other country and extending their hospitality to victims of Russian aggression. "I wish to express my admiration and gratitude to the people of Poland for putting their humanity into practice." the Pontiff told a Polish TV reporter while aloft. When he spoke, Poland had welcomed some 2.5 million refugees from neighboring, war-torn Ukraine in five weeks' time. Malta is a tiny Mediterranean island state measuring only 122 square miles and having a population of just over half a million. It stands out as Europe's most Catholic country, with Poland in second place.

Poland's Iga Świątek moves up into WTA's No. 1 slot - Iga Świątek, the youngest player in the top ten of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) rankings, achieved a career-high ranking of No. 2 in the world. With the retirement of the previous No. One, Ashleigh Barty, Świątek became the first Pole of either sex to ascend to the top spot in singles. In 2020 she became the first Pole to win the Grand Slam singles in Paris, and the tennis world took notice. Iga entered the top ten of the WTA rankings for the first time in May 2021. Her latest feat: a singles triumph at the Miami Open. Her Polish male counterpart Herbert Hurkacz, 25, paired up with American John Isner to, win the doubles in Miami. Both idols are helping popularize tennis amongst Poland's youngsters.

Germany to buy oil from Poland, decrease reliance on Russia - Gazprom's abrupt halt of gas supplies to Poland and Bulgaria seems to have jolted Germany into rethinking its traditional reliance on Moscow. It has signed a deal to buy oil from Poland in an effort to shake off its dependence on Russian energy supplies, Poland's *Niezależna* news site reported. Earlier this year, Warsaw began importing crude oil from Saudi Arabia and is now able to sell any surplus it does not need. Up till now, Germany had ignored Poland's repeated warnings about the dangers of total reliance on Russian fuels and the need to diversify energy sources.

TATRY DANCERS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF POLISH DANCE

By Joelle Schade

After delaying one year due to the pandemic, the Tatry Dancers of Dearborn Heights, MI finally got the chance to celebrate their 50th anniversary recital on Saturday, April 2. This year's theme was "Happiness Is…." to coincide with the joy of 50 years of Tatry dancing. The groups danced to *Good to Be Alive*, *Best Day of My Life*, *Walking on Sunshine*, and *It's a Beautiful Day*.

The Tatry Dancers have a tradition of inviting all alumni back every 5 years to dance in the recital and this year's group did not disappoint! Over 30 alums returned to show off their Polish dance skills—they've got it! The most challenging part of rehearsing seemed to be finding their costumes.

Another highlight of every recital is a Tatry staple—*Polish Soul*! Traditionally performed by the year's graduates/most experienced dancers, the dance was so popular this year that it was performed 3 times to allow for the graduates and all of the alumni to participate.

Most importantly, the Tatry recital is a time to honor our graduates. The amount of time and heart that each of these young people have dedicated to learning and sharing their Polish culture is truly a cause for celebration. All three graduates—Leah Esker, Erin DelCotto, and Joseph O'Neill—have spent 14+ years as a cherished part of the Tatry family and they will be sorely missed next year!

Finally, we would be remiss if we did not recognize the women that make this all happen—Gail Esker and Karen Lubiarz! Karen has been the group's choreographer for 30+ years and always produces the most beautiful dances and dancers! And of course, none of this would be possible without the amazing leadership of our director Gail Esker! Gail took over the job from the esteemed RoseAnn Lackey right at the beginning of the pandemic, so this was her first (*cont. on pg. 17*)



Finale



It's a Beautiful Day



2022 Tatry graduates and escorts



Group 2



Polish Soul



Góralski



Lubelski



Alumni



Kaszuby

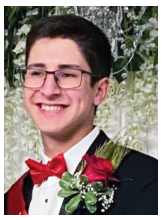
official stage recital and she led the Tatry group as if she had been doing it for years! These ladies have incredibly difficult tasks and make them look easy! We are truly grateful for all they do to keep the Tatry Dancers alive.



Erin DelCotto is the 17-year-old daughter of Kevin and Jennifer DelCotto. She has been dancing with Tatry for 14 years. Erin is a senior at Cabrini High School, where she maintains a 4.0 GPA. She is the captain of the varsity volleyball team and a member of other clubs like the Ambassadors and National Honor Society. Erin is also a cast member in her high school's play. Erin plans to attend Michigan State University in the fall to study psychology. If that doesn't work, education is her back-up plan.



Leah Esker is the 17-year-old daughter of Mike and Gail Esker. She has been riding/driving from Commerce Twp. to Dearborn every week (sometimes twice a week) for 14 years. Leah is a senior at Walled Lake Northern, where she has maintained over a 3.5 GPA. Leah has been involved in band since 6th grade. She started on flute, then switched to baritone saxophone. She is currently in symphony band and jazz band. She has been in color guard since 7th grade. For her senior year, she was awarded section leader. She has also gained her letter in varsity bowling for the past 4 years. She is 95% sure she will be attending University of Oregon to possibly study environmental science, pharmacy or whatever the world may open up to her.



Joseph O'Neill is the 18-year-old son of Robert and Lisa O'Neill. He has been dancing with Tatry for 15 years following the lead of both his sister and mother, who are both Tatry alumni. Joseph is a senior in the math, science, and computers accelerated program at Churchill High School, where he has maintained a 4.3 grade point average. Joseph is a member of rhe National Honor Society, Spanish NHS, Science NHS, and the Key Club. He is the captain of the varsity tennis team and the varsity golf team. Recently, Joseph decided to get a job at Carl's Golfland. Joseph plans on attending Purdue University next fall to study aerospace engineering.

Next up for Tatry:

50th Anniversary Party—Saturday, May 21 at the Knights of Columbus, 19801 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI featuring the Polish Muslims (call Jerry at 586-536-8163 for details/tickets).

Polish American Night at Comerica Park—Friday, May 27.

St. Albertus Detroit 150th Anniversary Picnic—Sunday, July 10—Tatry will be performing!

THE FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH AT THE PRCUA OFFICE

The feast of St. Joseph fell on Saturday this year, therefore PRCUA and PMA staff celebrated the annual tradition of Saint Joseph's Day (also called Solemnity of Saint Joseph) on Monday, March 21. The holiday is more common in Europe than America, but it has been celebrated at the PRCUA office for many years. Because it takes place during Lent, a time of fasting, it traditionally consists of a meatless feast preceded by a prayer to St. Joseph.

Pastor of the Holy Trinity Polish Mission and PMA Chaplain Fr. Andrzej Totzke stopped by to offer a prayer before the lunch on this solemn day.



Fr. Andrzej Totzke and PRCUA Officers



PRCUA and PMA employees praying together at St. Joseph Day

PRCUA BOARD MEMBERS RECOGNIZE THE HOME OFFICE EMPLOYEES

On March 11, the employees of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America were treated by the National Directors to lunch in the PRCUA Social Hall. Present at lunch were: National Chaplain Rev. Walter Ptak, PRCUA General Counsel John J. Chitkowski, and National PRCUA Directors: Anna Krysinski (D-7), Myron Cislo and Elizabeth Dynowski (D-8), and Valerie Brumm (D-10).

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, Director Cislo thanked the employees for their hard work and professionalism, and their dedication to the PRCUA and its members. Rev. Ptak blessed the workers and said the prayer before the meal.

Employees were very grateful for being recognized for all their efforts and for the celebration.



President James Robaczewski, Director Myron Cislo and Rev. Walter Ptak at the appreciation lunch for the PRCUA employes

CORRECTION

We apologize to Aleksandra Wozniak and her family for printing incorrect information in the April issue of the *Naród Polski*, stating: Aleksandra Wozniak, a member of PRCUA and a student at the Maria Konopnicka Polish School placed 2nd in the Polish Daily News "2021 in 365 Words" Writing Contest. Aleksandra is the 1st place winner in the contest.

We are sincerely sorry for this error.

GO GREEN! GO PAPERLESS!

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THE 46TH ANNUAL SPRING FASHION SHOW

Elizabeth Dynowski
District #8 Director

In 1975, the Adult Culture Group of the PRCUA, in an effort to raise funds for scholarships given to the candidates in the Cinderella-Prince Charming Ball, hosted its 1st Spring Fashion Show. Forty six years later the PRCUA Adult Culture Group continues this honored tradition. The talents of Cinderella, Prince Charming, Ball candidates, and parents of the candidates participating in the Cinderella-Prince Charming Ball, were showcased in the 46th Annual Spring Fashion Show.

The Adult Culture Group was so happy to hold this year's Fashion Show, as we realized how much we missed celebrating as a fraternal organization for two years. The 46th Annual Spring Fashion Show was held on March 6 at the Glendora House in Chicago Ridge, IL. This year's event, chaired by Liz Dynowski, and hosted by the Adult Culture Group, celebrated a "Broadway Fashion Brunch." Liz Dynowski welcomed everyone to the event, introduced honored guests including PRCUA President James Robaczewski and wife, Elaine; Vice President Micheline Jaminski and her husband, Richard; Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastrzyk and family; Anna Sokolowska, past Resident VP of the PRCUA; and Richard Turkiewicz, past National Director, District 4.

After lunch, the commentators, Wieslawa Wildhirt and Andy Sacinski, welcomed everyone to the Fashion Show. These commen- tators presented model runs from the following participating stores: *Generation Bliss*, *Giuseppa Collections*, *Irena's Boutique*, *La Butik*, *Niki Fashions*, *No + Zo Kids Fashions*, *Sew Lovely*, *Streets of Europe*, and *Vivi Lu Atelier*. They also thanked *Atelier Make-up Chicago* for doing our models' make-up and for *Josef Karkoszka Photography* for taking beautiful pictures.

The Broadway Fashion Show opened with the 1977 Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *Annie*. Natalie Bafia, Lily Cislo, Natalia Hatala, Weronicka Kaczmarczyk, Tanya Sacinski, and Julia Skowyra, showcased their fashions from *ViVi Lu Atelier* sharing with the audience that "You Are Never Fully Dressed Without A Smile." These girls which included Cinderella, Natalia Bafia and runner up, Weronika Kaczmarczyk were presented by this year's prince charming Marcel Duda and Runner up Jakub Niedzielski. Following this opening number, we had a guest performance from HHPD company dancers Aryanna Elizondo, Madison Sise, and Olivia Schauer who performed a "Charlie's Angels Mix," reminiscing aboug the Broadway episode when Sabrina, Elena and Jane were "Angels in the Wings." Their dance was choreographed by Liz Dynowski and these three dancers will be performing with the rest of their team at the Walt Disney World's 50th Anniversary celebration this summer. Our first parent model run, "My Strongest Suit" from Brodway's *Aida*, showcased fashion from *Generation Bliss* by Elizabeth Cislo, Ivona Gal, Nathalie Skowyra and Aneta Walkosz. Then all the girls that modeled in this fashion show welcomed fashions from a new boutique, *Sew Lovely*. Natalia Bafia, Daniela Gal, Weronika Kaczmar-czyk, Paulina Karkoszka, Emilia Kroplewski, Ola Little, Liliana Skwirut, and Isabella Stanek were escorted by Marcel Duda, Dominic Karkoszka, Jakub Niedzielski, Eric Wildhirt. Seeing the candidates with Cinderella and Prince Charming model to their "Favorite Things" made us all realize the Fashion Show is alive with the Sound of Music. Our entertainment for this event continued with a boys dance number from *Newsies* "King of New York," followed by our next guest performers, Dominika Gornikowski and Jakub Niedzielski of the Wesoły Lud Folk Dance Company (choreography by Richard Jaminski), who had us all jumping up and dancing the polka with them. We also had a model run of moms from *Sew Lovely* Beata Bafia, Ivona Gal, Diane Little, Donna Skwirut. Stating that even working 9 to 5 doesn't keep these moms from looking beautiful. Another wonderful newcomer joining us this year *Guiseppa Collections*, located on Michigan Ave showcased moms with the boys. Jola and Marcel Duda, Renata and Dominic Karkoszka, Asia and Jakub Niedzielski, Agnieszka and Kevin Wenc, Ania Tolztman and Eric Wildhirt. Our fashion show would not be complete without a performance from future Cinderella and Prince Charming candidates. This year, in "Do you want to build a snowman?", Alexandra Kroplewski, Kaya Marek, Beatka Stasinski, Arianna Turkiewicz, Mila Turkiewicz, Lyli Wenc Antoni Kropewski, Joseph Kroplewski, Felix Rafacz, Erik Rafacz, and Nolan Malczewski all modeled around the life-sized snowman, Dominic Karkoszka. The sweetness of those children modeling fashions by *No +Zo* melted the hearts of everyone in the room. Our next guest performers performed a high energy *oberek-kujawiak*. The dancers that performed this number were Anna Cieplucha, Weronika Niedzielski, Mitchell Gajda, Bartosz Morawski, all members of the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company. The choreography (*cont. on pg. 19*)









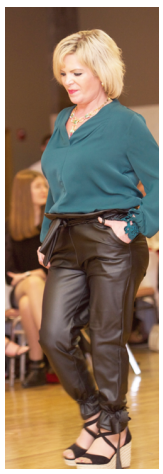


by Richard Jaminski had the audience in awe of their energy and talent. For the finale, all the girls had an opportunity to feel like a princess in their evening wear for the final numbers. We were excited to see the evening dresses from *Irena's Boutique*. Our Prince Charming, Marcel Duda, with his Cinderella, Natalia Bafia, along with the runner-ups Weronika Kaczmarczyk and Jakub Niedzielski, centered this model run surrounded by Liliana Cislo, Daniela Gal, Natalia Hatala, Paulina Karkoszka, Emilia Kroplewski, Ola Little, Tanya Sacinski, Julia Skowyra, Liliana Skwirut, Isabelle Stanek, Veronica Walkosz, Dominic Karkoszka, and Eric Wildhirt.

Edward Muszalski, president of the Adult Culture Group, thanked everyone for making the evening a huge success. He appreciated all the hard work done by all committee members. Committee members included: Liz Dynowski, chairwoman; model coordinators: Danuta Stypula and Gabby Zuk; program coordinators: Danuta Stypula, Gabby Zuk, Natalie Skowyra, Marzena Staron and Desiree Sacinski; decorations: Joanna Niedzielski and Magda Ciszewska; reservations: Walter and Liz Dynowski with Stanley Dron and Angie Muszalski at the door; raffles: Mary Brzezniak, Magda Ciszewska, Diane Cortesi, John Frankowicz, Vickie Kroplewski, Krystyna Lech, Marzena Staron, Danuta Stypula and Gabriela Zuk; program book: Nathalie Skowyra and Liz Dynowski; Wesoły Lud choreographer Richard Jaminski. This show would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of so many volunteers. Thank you for all your hard work. It is greatly appreciated, and the Adult Culture Group is looking forward to many more Fashion Shows in the future.

After the conclusion of "Broadway Brunch," there was more excitement as audience members won gala prizes and money raffles. Gala prizes were donated by many organizations, businesses, and PRCUA members. As in the past, the money raised in this fashion show will be given in scholarships to the candidates of the 50th Cinderella and Prince Charming Ball, which will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2022 at Belvedere Chateau. For more information regarding the ball please contact Edward Muszalski at (708) 937-3812. Given that this is the 50th anniversary of the Cinderella and Prince Charming Ball we are in search of all past Cinderellas and Prince Charmings, as well as former candidates from 50 years of celebrating the momentous occasion of the Cinderella Prince Charming Ball. Please contact Liz Dynowski at adultculturegroup@gmail.com.















LEADERS OF THE POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA

NIKODEM PIOTROWSKI

Compiled by Lidia Kowalewicz
Editor



Nikodem Piotrowski was born in 1863 in Bnin near Poznań (then part of the Kingdom of Prussia, created from territories annexed by Prussia after the Partitions of Poland). He was the son of Szymon Piotrowski.

Nikodem received an elementary education in the local schools and then studied in Berlin, Germany.

At 19 years of age, he came to the United States on a visit, but decided to stay in the U.S. and study.

He first attended St. Mary's College in St. Mary, KY, and then the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. Later, he studied law at the University of Valparaiso (IN), and was admitted to law practice in Indiana in 1889. For two years (1889-1890), he was also a Professor of Physics and Chemistry at St. Thomas College, St. Paul, MN.

In 1891 he began practicing law in Detroit, MI.

Piotrowski came to Chicago in 1892 and opened his own law practice.

Shortly after arriving in Chicago, in addition to his professional work, he became active in the PRCUA, where he was a member of St. Feliks Society #644, in the Polish community and in Chicago politics.

In 1894, he became one of the signatories of the proclamation convening a rally to establish the Polish League (*Liga Polska*). In April 1894, the draft statute of the League was announced; Piotrowski was one of its authors. On May 9, 1894, the Polish League was established, the statute was adopted and the delegates decided to create a National Treasury (*Skarb Narodowy*). Piotrowski was elected one of its directors.

Soon after, the League established the Department of Education, the first institution of its kind among the Polish diaspora which set itself the goal of establishing libraries, arranging lectures and collecting funds for school scholarships. Piotrowski became one of its board members.

From 1897 to 1902, Piotrowski was an assistant corporate attorney in the city of Chicago.

In 1904, he was elected by third Polish-Catholic Congress as vice chairman of the committee to erect Tadeusz Kościuszko's monument in Washington, D.C.

In 1906, Piotrowski was the Democratic Party nominee for State Treasurer. The same year, he was a member of the committee to establish St. Hedwig's orphanage in Niles, IL.

At the 30th PRCUA National Convention in 1907, Piotrowski ran for the office of president but lost to Leon Szopiński.

In 1911, he was appointed city attorney and served in this capacity until 1915. The same year, Piotrowski led a case against the former PRCUA treasurer, T. Ostrowski, who was accused, together with L. Szopiński and T. Królik, of embezzlement of PRCUA's assets, but strongly believed that Ostrowski had been a victim of circumstances.

At the 32nd Convention in 1911 in Syracuse, NY, Piotrowski was elected PRCUA's legal advisor. He was one of the keynote speakers at the cornerstone dedication ceremony for the construction of the PRCUA Home Office on November 3, 1912. He was also a member of the committee to purchase books for the PRCUA library that was to be opened in the new building.

He was appointed and sent as a delegate to President Taft regarding the protest of the Polish community against the law closing the immigration of illiterate people to the United States, which was introduced in the U.S. Senate. He was also a member of the committee in charge of the project of the constitution for ogranization Union of Unity (*Związek Jedności*) chaired by Bishop Paul Rhode.

In 1913, at a meeting of Catholic Polish organizations, the Polish National Council (*Polska Rada Narodowa*) was established, which split away from the National Defense Committee (*Komitet Obrony Narodowej*), founded in 1912. The Polish National Council was to undertake actions aimed at restoring Poland's political independence and conduct social and cultural activities among the Polish diaspora in the U.S. Piotrowski was one of the signatories of the act of establishing the National Council.

In the first weeks after the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Polish organizations established the Polish Central Rescue Committee.

In 1915, Piotrowski resigned from his position as a City Attorney when he was appointed by the Chicago Herald newspaper as a special correspondent to Europe, where he investigated conditions of the people in war-devastated Poland and visited other countries. A farewell dinner was held for Piotrowski at the Hotel LaSalle by his friends at which the editor of the Herald said: "Mr. Piotrowski is going to Poland to write what I hope will be the prelude to a new history of Poland."

Piotrowski visited Poland, England, France, Italy, Russia, Austria and the Balkan states. During his travels, he conducted interviews with the most prominent personalities: Prime Minister of Russia Ivan Goremykin, Prime Minister of France Aristide Briand, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in England Lord Robert Cecil, and others. In Switzerland, he conferred with Henryk Sienkiewicz and members of the Polish National Committee (*Polski Komitet Narodowy*). His articles were published in the American press and informed the American public about Polish issues.

On February 13, 1916, the PRCUA Board held a big rally in its headquarters, where 2,000 people attended a meeting with Piotrowski. After Piotrowski reported on the situation in Poland, a resolution was passed asking the U.S. government for its influence regarding the blockade of food transport to Poland and for future U.S. support for Poland regaining independence. Polish organizations issued a proclamation on Poland which was presented personally by the delegates (including Piotrowski) of these organizations to President Wilson on July 12, 1916.

Nikodem L. Piotrowski was elected PRCUA President at the 35th Convention which opened on October 8, 1917 in Schenectady, NY. A resolution presented by Piotrowski was adopted by the convention to impose 50 cents as a one-time tax on each PRCUA member that was to be allocated to cover death benefit for members who died in military service.

PRCUA under the leadership of Piotrowski spared no efforts to collect funds to help Poland and to work in the Polish National Council (*Polska Rada Narodowa*), the Polish Central Rescue Committee (*Polski Centralny Komitet Ratunkowy*) and the National Department (*Wydział Narodowy*).

At its first convention held in Detroit on August 26-30, 1918, the National Department resolved to organize a fundraiser of $10 million. Piotrowski was elected the treasurer of the National Department and chairman of the fundraising campaign. The $10 million goal was never reached, mainly because the war was over, but the PRCUA raised over a million dollars for this purpose.

On November 22, 1918, Piotrowski presented Igancy Jan Paderewski with an honorary PRCUA membership.

On February 24, 1919, a Polish American delegation led by Piotrowski, welcomed President Wilson in Boston when he returned from the peace conference held in Paris.

Piotrowski was reelected PRCUA president at the 36th Convention held in September 1919 in Passaic, NJ. During his second term in office, he carried out a number of financial reforms at the PRCUA.

Piotrowski was heavily criticized for a short deficit in PRCUA assets, financial reforms that he carried out especially during his second term as president of the PRCUA. Referring to the harsh and sometimes unfair criticism, the *Naród Polski* (*cont. on pg. 21*)

wrote after his death: "He stood above criticism, he knew how to fulfill his task, he went towards a clear goal, no matter what his political enemies said. He was a great restorer of the financial foundations of PRCUA".

After Poland regained independence in 1918, the further existence of the National Department and the Polish National Council was questioned. In December 1919, Piotrowski, as the president of the Polish National Council, proposed the incorporation of the Council into the PRCUA. Although its work was extensive, the Council ceased to exist soon after. By the end of 1919, the Council raised over a million dollars to help Poland, and was also a pioneer of the scouting movement among the Polish community (about 10,000 scouts).

Nikodem Piotrowski was the initiator of the ending of the quarrel that had existed for many years between the PRCUA and the Polish National Alliance (PNA). He attended the 23rd PNA Convention in Toledo in 1921 and assured the PRCUA's friendship towards the PNA. A year later, PNA President Kazimierz Żychlinski participated in the PRCUA convention. The two largest Polish fraternal organizations shook hands in the name of unity and harmony, and participation of the delegations of organizations to conventions became a custom from that time.

In 1920, as the Bolsheviks approached Warsaw, Polish organizations in the U.S. formed the American Committee for the Defense of Poland (*Amerykański Komitet dla Obrony Polski*), divided into two headquarters - Piotrowski was elected as one of the treasurers. PRCUA helped Polish refugees financially, soldiers of the Blue Army returning from the war and supported the Polish uprisings in Upper Silesia. On November 29, 1921, participants of the uprising decorated the PRCUA banner with the Silesian Cross.

On June 15, 1921, Piotrowski welcomed Maria Curie-Skłodowska to the PRCUA headquarters.

On September 22, 1921, during Piotrowski's tenure as PRCUA president, a new editorial office and printshop were blessed and the first issue of *Dziennik Zjednoczenia* was published.

Piotrowski was a professor of the law at Loyola University, member of Chicago and Illinois State Bar Association, the Chicago Law Institute, Lawyers' Association, Art Institute, the Iroquois Club, the City Club, the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Order of Foresters, and other organizations. From 1906 to 1923, he was the president of the *Dziennik Chicagoski*.

For his work for the Polish National Council and work in collecting war funds, he was decorated with the Commander Cross of Polonia Restituta.

At the time of his death, he was president of the Polish Daily News Publishing Company and president of the Great Lakes Life Insurance Company (which he founded).

Nikodem Piotrowski died on February 6, 1932 at the Billings Memorial Hospital following a surgery.

A solemn requiem Mass was held for Nikodem on February 9, 1932 at Immaculate Heart of Mary church in Chicago. *Wigilie* (songs before the Mass) were sung by Rev. Tomasz Bona, Rev. Kazimierz Sztuczko, Rev. Szczepan Kowalski, Rev. Rajmund Płoszyński, Rev. Edward Przybylski, Rev. Jan Peterson, and Rev. Celestyn Wiśniowski, assisted by organist Stanisław Mrozowski. Celebrants of the Mass were Rev. Płoszyński, Rev. Przybylski and Rev. Peterson. The funeral was attended by PRCUA executives and board members, representatives of many PRCUA Societies, delegations of Polish organizations, lawyers, and politicians.

The Mass was followed by interment at St. Adalbert Cemetery in Niles, IL. He was survived by wife Theresa R. (née Maag) Piotrowski, daughter Angela C. Lang and four grandchildren: Betty, Celeste, Nicholas, Angela, and sister Leokadja Ledzianowska. His wife and daughter were also PRCUA members. The couple also had a son who died in childhood.

SOURCES: *Zjednoczenie Polskie Rzymsko-Katolickie w Ameryce* by Mieczysław Haiman; *Dzieje Zjednoczenia* P.R.K. w Ameryce by Karol Wachtel; *Dziennik Zjednoczenia*, Feb. 8, 1932; *Chicago Evening News*, Feb., 8, 1932; Chicago *Daily Journal - Notable Men of Illinois*, 1912; *Monitor* (Cleveland), Feb. 9, 1932; *The Chicago City Manua*l by Chicago (Ill.), Bureau of Statistics;

The biographies of the earliest PRCUA Presidents are presented in order the information becomes available instead of chronological order.

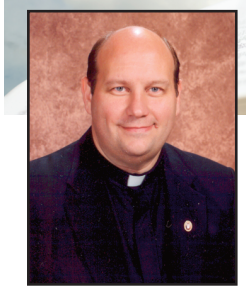




The *Open Door* column will return to the *Naród Polski* in June.







MARY: MOTHER AND ROLE MODEL OF FAITH

By Rev. Canon Walter J. Ptak National Chaplain, PRCUA

The month of May brings us to our annual celebration of the greatness of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This entire month is dedicated to her honor as the perfect disciple of her son, our savior, Jesus Christ. This month falls during the joyful Easter season, when our hearts our full of the love of Christ, risen as He said.

Within this month, here in the United States and in Poland, we also celebrate Mother's Day. Our celebration of Mother's Day is always on the second Sunday of May, while in Poland, it is celebrated on the 26th of May. These annual celebrations remind us of the love that our mothers give to us and the role model they have in the person of the Blessed Mother, Mary.

What better role model can there be for moms and women than to follow the example of Mary in sacred scripture and in tradition? Let's take a deeper look at Mary. Mary shows herself to be a woman of faith, with her complete trust in God. No matter what she is asked to do by God, her answer is immediate and without hesitation. When the angel Gabriel sent by God appeared to her and asked her to become the Mother of the Lord, her answer was yes, "be it done unto me according to Thy word". This 'fiat' or yes resounds down through the ages. Mary completely gave her life to the God, whom she loved and allowed to work in and through her.

I am not sure we often think about how extraordinary her response was to the message of the angel Gabriel. At a moment's notice, she changed course in her life. She already had a plan, a life with her beloved Joseph. They were engaged but not yet married. That indeed is a pretty definite plan. Without hesitation, because of her strong faith in God, she placed her life in His hands. I am sure there were many thoughts running through her mind: such as what about Joseph, what about her parents. What about her friends and relatives, what would they say and think?

Again, without hesitation, she said yes and so began an extraordinary journey of faith that contained many joys and sorrows that would fill her life, lived out for the Lord.

As we celebrate this month of Mary, I hope that we will take the time to ponder her role in the history of salvation during this, her month. She trusted and believed without having all the facts in front of her. She didn't know what the rest of the journey would be, but her strong Jewish faith and belief in God saw her through. She is 'blessed among women' and the perfect role model for all, female and male alike, as we try to do as she has done. I leave you with this beautiful prayer which you may know well, the Angelus. It is a prayer mirroring Mary's 'fiat' or yes to God. I hope you will pray it often. I try to pray it at least once each day as I find that it helps me to remember to be open to God's will every day.

Traditionally, it is prayed three times a day, at 6:00 a.m., 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m.

May it help us to be more like Mary and say yes to God throughout the course of our lives.

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to thy word.
Hail Mary …

And the Word was made Flesh: And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary …

Pray for us, O Most Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:
Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, thy son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Until next time, a Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers, living and deceased, and may Mary remain with us on our journey through life.

DEARLY DEPARTED PRCUA BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Member	Society	State
Balog, Paulette	531	PA
Bandyk, Robert J.	308	IL
Boderek, Bruno	308	IL
Brinker, Delores F.	1004	IL
Cuprys, Stella	2002	PA
Czarnecki, John A.	943	IN
Doyle, Lisa R.	861	NC
Driscoll, Carol Ann	540	NY
Fuks, Stanislaw	1575	IL
Garcia King, Marina	435	TX
Gemza, Sophia	227	OH
Jesensky, Janice J.	36	OH
Johnson, Carolyn	450	MO
Johnson, Edward	1552	MI
Krupko, Constance	345	PA
Kurpiel, Sophia	2021	PA
Lewczak, Jeanna	1000	IL
Ludtke, Edwin J.	122	IL
Lysik, Raymond J.	1611	il
Madon, Reginald	957	CT
Maduzia, Therese	308	IL
Maynard, Barbara J.	1641	NC
Midura, Delphine M	718	CO
Mikula, Edward R.	1593	MI
Milewski, Beverly F.	549	MA
Morek, Rita	186	IL
Ochmanowicz, MaryAnn	2022	PA
Orie, Lorraine	1497	IL
Paniak, Edward	308	IL
Robinson, Mary	120	NJ
Rosato, Jean	345	PA
Rutkowski, Patricia	2220	OH
Rybinski, Victor J.	261	MI
Sakowski, Helen	401	NY
Siran, Dolores	593	CO
Siuda, Sylvia	203	NY
Slabowski, Theresa	1486	NY
Slota, Frederick V.	896	RI
Soulis, Genevieve	1598	MO
Southhard, Janice M.	539	IL
Stasiak, Stanley R.	247	OH
Szczepaniak, Dorothy	880	IL
Terk, Walter	111	NY
Uryga, Mary J.	1593	MI
Walczak, Richard	1584	MI
Watson, irene	1124	MI
Widmar, Joseph	2100	OH
Witkowski, Judith	2293	PA
Wojtowicz, Lorraine	356	MI
Wywialowski, Elaine T.	1486	IL
Zbigniew, Ziarno	1000	IL

May they rest in eternal peace.

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US!

Did you become proud parents or grandparents? Did someone in your family graduate, get engaged or married, receive an award or accomplish something significant? Share your story with our PRCUA family.

Submit your news and photos to: **lidia-kowalewicz@prcua.org** and we will publish them in the *Naród Polski*.

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55	$277.10	$504.20	$1,157.25	$2,207.50
65	$791.15	$1,532.30	$3,663.25	$7,091.00

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25	$108.60	$167.20	$335.50	$606.50
35	$135.35	$220.70	$466.00	$861.00
45	$183.60	$317.20	$701.25	$1,319.00
55	$296.80	$543.60	$1,253.25	$2,395.00
65	$848.35	$1,646.70	$3,942.00	$7,634.50

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UBEZPIECZENIA BEZ TAJEMNIC

Robert Sobczak
Specjalista ds. ubezpieczeń

CZY PRZEJŚCIE NA EMERYTURĘ WIĄŻE SIĘ Z WEJŚCIEM W MEDICARE?

Powyższe pytanie pada w naszym biurze przeciętnie kilka razy w tygodniu. Po przekroczeniu 60 roku życia wielu z nas zastanawia się jak w rozsądny sposób zaplanować przyszłość dotyczącą świadczeń federalnych. Tym bardziej mylnym jest fakt, że większość świadczeń dotyczących emerytury i Medicare załatwia się w tym samym biurze - Social Security Administration. W poniższym artykule postanowiliśmy usystematyzować daty dotyczące wejścia w Medicare w porównaniu z datami przejścia na emeryturę.

MEDICARE – daty dotyczące tego tematu są bardziej stabilne i nie podlegają zmianom w zależności od rocznika beneficjentów. Przypominamy ponownie, że wiek osiągnięcia wieku emerytalnego nie ma nic wspólnego z wiekiem otrzymania świadczeń Medicare.

Medicare należy się osobom wchodzącym w 65–ty rok życia z legalnym statusem lub osobom z rentą inwalidzką (disability) posiadającym ją przez co najmniej 24 miesiące. Wyjątkiem są tu:

- osoby w końcowym stadium niewydolności nerek (ESRD), podlegające dializom nerek, które otrzymują Medicare zazwyczaj już po 4-ech miesiącach od rozpoczęcia dializ, niezależnie od ich wieku.
- osoby zdiagnozowane na stwardnienie zanikowe boczne (ALS), otrzymują Medicare w momencie rozpoczęcia świadczeń z Social Security.

Osoby otrzymujące Medicare, w związku z wejściem w 65-ty rok życia rozpoczynają swoje świadczenia Medicare zazwyczaj w pierwszym dniu miesiąca, w którym obchodzą 65-te urodziny. Wyjątek stanowią osoby urodzone 1-go dnia miesiąca, które wchodzą w Medicare pierwszego dnia miesiąca poprzedzającego ich 65-te urodziny.

Brzmi to skomplikowanie, ale zasady są tu relatywnie przejrzyste.

Niestety nie można tego powiedzieć o zasadach **osiągniecia wieku emerytalnego**. Większość z nas zdaje sobie sprawę z możliwości rozpoczęcia wcześniejszej emerytury już w 62-tym roku życia, ale czy jesteśmy świadomi, ile stracimy ze stawki pełnego świadczenia rozpoczynając je wcześniej? Tu wszystko zależy od naszego wieku. W załączonej tabelce prezentujemy wiek wymagany do osiągniecia pełnego świadczenia emerytalnego:

Rok urodzenia	Full Retirement Age
1943-1954	66
1955	66 and 2 months
1956	66 and 4 months
1957	66 and 6 months
1958	66 and 8 months
1959	66 and 10 months
1960	67

Żródło: SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Jak sami Państwo widzą różnica osiągnięcia pełnego wieku emerytalnego między osobą z rocznika 1954, a osobą z rocznika 1960 będzie wynosiła cały rok. Należy podkreślić fakt, że osoby urodzone w roku 1960, startujące emeryturę w wieku 62 lat będą traciły o 10% więcej ze swojego pełnego świadczenia, niż osoby z rocznika 1954.

W związku z kryzysem związanym ze środkami na Social Security należy się poważnie zastanowić, kiedy zacząć korzystać z emerytury, bo skutki złej decyzji mogą być bardzo poważne finansowo i ciągnąć się za nami do końca życia.

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ZESPÓŁ „MAŁA POLSKA” PREZENTUJE NOWE STROJE

W otaczającej nas dziś rzeczywistości poczucie własnej tożsamości staje się czymś niezwykle znaczącym i ważnym. Współcześnie wykorzystywane stroje ludowe przypominają i nawiązują do piękna i kunsztu twórczości i tradycji ludowej. Są narzędziem do prezentacji lokalnego folkloru, zwyczajów i obrzędów ludowych.

O nowe stroje z regionu kurpiowskiego Puszczy Zielonej wzbogacił się zespół „Mała Polska”, działający obecnie już 5 lat przy Polskiej Szkole im. Sw. Rafała Kalinowskiego. Dzięki wsparciu finansowemu zakupiono materiały, pasmanterię potrzebną do uszycia 6 zestawów męskich i 6 zestawów damskich.

Amatorski projekt powstał dzięki zaangażowaniu pani Barbary Golko wychowawczyni kl. 3 i 4 oraz pomocy pani Agaty Wilgocki choreografa tańca ludowego. Składamy serdeczne podziękowania za wkład pracy, poświęcony czas, cierpliwość i rzetelne wykonanie.



PRZEKAZYWANIE TRADYCJI TO NASZ OBOWIĄZEK

Tancerze „Polonii" święcili palmy i koszyczki

Swięta Wielkanocne charakteryzują się nie tylko znakomitym i obfitym menu, ale także pięknymi zwyczajami i ludowymi obrzędami. Do najbardziej popularnych w Polsce i kontynuowanym wśród Polaków w Ameryce należą Niedziela Palmowa i święcenie pokarmów. Zespół Pieśni i Tańca „Polonia" działający pod patronatem PRCUA, od 35 lat kultywuje te przepiekne, staropolskie tradycje.

Dyrekcja zespołu i nauczyciele zawsze dbają o to, aby każdy tancerz znał symbolikę i znaczenie poszczególnych składników koszyczka wielkanocnego.

Procesja na zewnatrz kościoła w ciepłą, słoneczną pogodę w dniu 10 kwietnia z udziałem wiernych i tancerzy zespołu „Polonia" nadała okrasy i prawdziwego wyrazu religijnego tego wielkiego święta Niedzieli Palmowej. Dziękujemy księdzu proboszczowi parafii Św. Jana Brebeuf w Niles, IL, ks. Zdzisławowi Torbie za inicjatywę włączenia zespołu w procesję.

W Wielką Sobotę, 16 kwietnia, dzieci i młodzież ze wszystkich grup ZPiT „Polonia" oraz najmłodsze „Krasnoludki", ubrani w kolorowe stroje z różnych regionów Polski, z pięknie przystrojonymi i wypełnionymi po brzegi koszyczkami wielkanocnymi, wzięli udział w ceremonii święcenia pokarmów w kosciele Św. Jana Brebeuf.





Tancerze „Polonii" niosą palmy w procesji do kościoła



Ks. Torba z dyrketor Anną Krysińską, instruktor Jaclyn Krysińską i tancerzami

Obficie mokrego błogosławieństwa pokarmów udzielił im ks. proboszcz Torba. Jak co roku, podkreślił ważność kultywowania przez dzieci i młodzież tej pięknej tradycji w Ameryce i podziekował wszystkim za przybycie.

Zespół Pieśni i Tańca „Polonia" zaprasza w swoje szeregi oraz na Koncert Jubileuszowy 35-lecia działalności artystycznej, który odbędzie się w niedzielę 5 czerwca w College of Du Page.



Ks. Torba święci koszyczki



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