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NARÓD POLSKI *Polish Nation*

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NEWLY ELECTED PRCUA ADMINISTRATION SWORN INTO OFFICE AT THE INAUGURAL MASS



PRCUA National Executive Officers and Directors (front row, l-r): Andrew Lech (D-6), Thomas Jesionowski (D-5), ViktoriaJean Mixon (D-5), Colleen Bonkowski (D-10), Elizabeth Sadus (D-9), Valerie Brumm (D-10), Joanna Cholewinski (D-7), Elizabeth Dynowski (D-8), Myron Cislo (D-8), Kevin Kucik (D-7), Gregory Olma (D-2), Patrick Kosowski (D-4); (back row: flag bearers, Vice President Micheline Jaminski, President James Robaczewski, Chaplain Rev. Canon Walter Ptak, Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastrzyk



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NARÓD POLSKI CONTACT INFORMATION:

(including materials for publications)

Executive Editor:

Lidia Kowalewicz
773-782-2639
Toll-Free: 1-800-772-8632,
Ext. 2639
lidia-kowalewicz@prcu.org

Publisher:

PRCUA President
James J. Robaczewski

Publication Dept. Administrator:

PRCUA Vice President
Micheline I. Jaminski

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

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OCTOBER

POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

1 WYANDOTTE, MI – PRCUA SOCIETY #162 OKTOBERFEST SILENT AUCTION at PRCU Lounge, 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

2 DETROIT, MI – ST. ALBERTUS POLISH MASS FOR DANCE SCHOOLS

3 149TH PRCUA ANNIVERSARY – ESTABLISHED IN 1873.

10 COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVANCE – PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

13 DEARBORN HEIGHTS, MI – PRCUA SOCIETY #718 RAFFLE DRAWING at Randy's Bar & Grille, 25122 W. Warren St., Dearborn Hts., MI. For additional information, contact Jerry Nasiatka at jnasiatka@mi.rr.com.

14-15 SHELBY TOWNSHIP, MI – 5TH PRCUA NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT. Hosted by PRCUA Society #261. For details, see pg. 7.

16 PAINTING CHOPIN at 12 p.m. at the Polish Museum of America. For details, see pg. 18.

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.

POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Polish American Heritage Month is an annual event celebrated in October by Polish American communities. It was first celebrated in 1981 after being organized by Michael Blichasz, President of the Polish American Cultural Center in Philadelphia. Originally it was celebrated in August at various gatherings, travel events, and culturally-significant locations in Pennsylvania. The Polish American Cultural Center and the Polish American Congress lobbied politicians at the state and national level to make August the month for Polish heritage. In 1984, House Joint Resolution 577 passed, making August Polish American Heritage Month. President Ronald Reagan urged all Americans to join in the celebration honoring Polish heritage in the United States. The month was changed to October in 1986 to aid participating schools in organization during the school year, and October holds significance as the month when the first Polish settlers came to Jamestown, Virginia.

Proclamations were made by Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush, but beginning with Bill Clinton, U.S. Presidents have since made proclamations for General Pulaski Memorial Day, and official messages noting Polish American Heritage month. (WIKIPEDIA)

NOVEMBER

1 ALL SAINTS' DAY / WSZYSTKICH ŚWIĘTYCH

2 ALL SOULS' DAY / DZIEŃ ZADUSZNY

11 VETERANS DAY – PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

POLISH INDEPENDENCE DAY / ŚWIĘTO NIEPODLEGŁOŚCI POLSKI

12 TOLEDO, OH – PRCUA'S FALL CRAFT SHOW (SOCIETIES 917, 1617, 1633, 1584) - from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 5255 N. Detroit Ave., Toledo, OH. For details, see pg. 5.

19 PALOS HILLS, IL – 50TH CINDERELLA-PRINCE CHARMING BALL at Belvedere Chateau, 8055 W. 103rd St., Palos Hills, IL. For details, see pg. 5.

20 PRCUA ST. STAN'S #718 SOCIETY CORPORATE COMMUNION/ELECTION MEETING at St. Linus Catholic Church, 6466 N. Evangeline, Dearborn Hts., MI. Mass at 11:00 a.m. For details, see pg. 22.

24 THANKSGIVING DAY – PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 24-25



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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

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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

All applications subject to underwriting and must be postmarked by October 31, 2022.
*Standard non-tobacco rates, include 10% discount.

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November 19, 2022

Belvedere Chateau, 8055 W. 103rd St., Palos Hills, IL

For more information: adultculturegroup@gmail.com
For reservations and tickets: Jola Stanek (708) 227-3580
To become a candidate: Gabriela Zuk (708) 989-2408

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PROMOTING POLISH CULTURE A HISTORY OF PRCUA SCHOOLS AND GROUPS	FREE		FREE SHIPPING FOR FIRST BOOK (ADD'L COPIES CALL FOR SHIPPING COST)	FREE
PRCUA Life FOLK COSTUMES OF POLAND - VOL. II COLORING BOOK	FREE		<div>+</div> <div>\$3 SHIPPING FOR FIRST BOOK</div> <div>+</div> <div>\$1 SHIPPING FOR EACH ADD'L BOOK</div> <div>=</div>	
SHARING OUR BEST – FAVORITE RECIPES OF PRCUA MEMBERS 130TH PRCUA ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK	\$15 EACH	X	<div>+</div> <div>\$2 SHIPPING EACH BOOK</div> <div>=</div>	
PRCUA Life FACE MASKS BLUE OR RED, WHITE & BLUE	\$5 EACH	<div>X</div> <div>BLUE</div> <div>RED WHITE & BLUE</div>	<div>+</div> <div>FREE SHIPPING UP TO 5 MASKS (OVER 5 MASKS CALL FOR SHIPPING COST)</div> <div>=</div>	
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5th PRCUA NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Hosted by Society 261
October 14-15, 2022 • Shelby Township, MI

SPORTS VENUE

Greg Grant Sportsplex
 45300 Mound Rd., Shelby Twp., MI
greggrantbasketball.com

LODGING

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
 45555 Utica Park Blvd., Utica, MI. Reservations: (586) 803-0400 by Oct. 1st.
 PRCUA rate: \$139 plus taxes per night (1 king)

HOSPITALITY GATHERING

Friday, October 14, 7-10 pm
 Holiday Inn Express and Suites

AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, October 15, 6-11 pm
 Greg Grant Sportsplex

TOURNAMENT HOSTS

PRCUA Society 261
 Thomas Lisiecki, Chairperson
 Contact: tommyprcua@yahoo.com

GAME DIVISIONS

Friday, October 14
 Co-ed (6 vs. 6)
 Games start 6 pm
Saturday, October 15
 Men's (6 vs. 6)
 Women's Open (6 vs. 6)
 Opening ceremony and games on Saturday begin at 9 am

TOURNAMENT ENTRY


Entry forms are available with this notice or online at prcua.org/sports. All entries and applications for new members must be completed and returned to the Home Office, together with a \$50.00 entry fee per team, by **Friday, September 30, 2022**. No entries will be accepted after the deadline.

All players must be PRCUA members in good standing. Each player may only sign one roster and must submit a PRCUA Waiver of Liability form for 2022 (one per year) as well as a waiver form for the Greg Grant Sportsplex. Players must agree to abide by the PRCUA rules and regulations of good sportsmanship and fair play on and off the playing fields. MHSAA Volleyball Rules apply, no libero.

Make your check payable to PRCUA Volleyball and mail to PRCUA Fraternal Department, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642 or enter online at www.prcua.org/volleyball and pay online at www.prcua.org/payonline. Additional info: fraternal-department@prcua.org or (773) 782-2601.

Not a PRCUA member?

Call (800) 772-8632 or visit PRCUA.org for membership information.





Polish American Congress calls for passage of House Resolution 664

The Polish American Congress (PAC) is calling on the U.S. House of Representatives to vote for the adoption of House Resolution 664. This legislation reminds all Americans about the truth concerning the outbreak of World War II. The Resolution was introduced by Congressman Thomas R. Suozzi of New York’s 3rd Congressional District. It also emphasizes the critical role Poland currently plays as a vital NATO ally, especially in light of Russia’s unprovoked military invasion of Ukraine.

“The Polish American community wants Congress to formally acknowledge the historical truth concerning the outbreak of World War II, not the lies being told by Vladimir Putin,” said PAC National President Frank Spula. “We expect that Congress will do the right thing and unanimously adopt this Resolution,” he explained.

House Resolution 664 has two elements. First, Russian President Vladimir Putin has recently made numerous false comments, which have received wide publicity, that Poland started World War II. This is false. Prior to the start of the War, Germany and the Soviet Union signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, which called for the partition of Poland between them. This Resolution makes it clear that on September 1, 1939, German armed forces led by Adolf Hitler attacked the Polish Republic.

Without a declaration of war, Adolf Hitler issued the command to invade Poland with orders “to send to their deaths mercilessly and without compassion, men, women, and children of Polish origin and language.” In Poland, a traditionally tolerant country that was home to Europe’s largest Jewish population, German occupying forces established death camps, where millions were murdered.

On September 17, 1939, Soviet forces led by Joseph Stalin attacked Poland. After the surrender of the Modlin Fortress on October 5, Poland was partitioned according to the protocols of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact. Therefore, House Resolution 664 will correct the falsehood propagated by Mr. Putin that Poland started World War II.

The second component of House Resolution 664 is to inform the American public that Poland is a stalwart NATO ally at this moment when NATO front line countries, especially Poland, are threatened by Kremlin aggression. Poland has been a leader in Europe since the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The Polish people have welcomed more than four million Ukrainian refugees into Poland since the start of the invasion. It is estimated that one million Ukrainian children will enroll in Polish schools this fall. This Resolution will further emphasize Poland's role as an ally of the United States and NATO at this perilous moment in history.

“Poland has always been a strong and reliable ally of the United States. And with the unprecedented invasion of Ukraine by Russia, Poland has demonstrated its commitment to European security by accepting six million Ukrainian refugees across its border, explained Spula. “Poland’s support for Ukraine speaks volumes about its value as a trusted ally,” he added.

The Polish American Congress, established in 1944, represents the interests of over ten million Polish Americans. The PAC has divisions in nineteen states. The mission of the PAC is to advocate and campaign for legislation that strengthens the relationship between Poland and the United States and protects the interests of Polish Americans.

The PAC maintains close relationships with members of Congress, as well as legislators in State and Municipal governments. The United States and Poland have been close partners in freedom since the American and Polish revolutions of the late eighteenth century. Our shared commitment to the defense of freedom drives the PAC's policies.

NEWLY ELECTED PRCUA ADMINISTRATION SWORN INTO OFFICE AT THE INAUGURAL MASS

The newly elected PRCUA Executive Officers and National Directors officially began their 2022-2026 term in office. On Sunday, September 11, the Inaugural Mass was celebrated at the historic St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Chicago.

The Mass began with the procession led by the flag bearers (Paul Pawlowski, John Frankowicz and Thomas Robaczewski), and was followed by the PRCUA 2022 Cinderella runner-up Veronika Kaczmarczyk and 2022 Prince Charming Marcel Duda, students from the Illinois and Indiana PRCUA dance and language schools, past and present PRCUA National Executive Officers and Directors, and PRCUA National Chaplain Rev. Canon Walter Ptak, assisted by deacon Kevin Kucik, who is also the National Director of District 7.

The Mass readings were read by Veronika Kaczmarczyk and Marcel Duda, the gospel was read by Kevin Kucik.

The homily was given by Rev. Canon Walter Ptak, who mentioned that St. Stanislaus Kostka holds a vital part in the history of our organization since it was the place of the second PRCUA Convention, during which the name Polish Roman Catholic Union of America was adopted, and the goals of the organization were set. Rev. Ptak reminded everyone that next year, PRCUA will celebrate its 150th anniversary and the newly elected Officers and Directors will take the organization and its members into the 150th year and beyond. He prayed for God's blessings upon those who will lead the PRCUA in the future and expressed great hopes that the best for our organization is yet to come.

After the homily, Rev. Ptak administered the Oath of Office to the PRCUA Executive Officers, President James Robaczewski, Vice President Micheline Jaminski, Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastrzyk, and National Directors: Gregory Olma (D-2), Patrick Kosowski (D-4), Thomas Jesionowski and

ViktoriaJean Mixon (D-5), Andrew Lech (D-6), Joanna Cholewinski and Kevin Kucik (D-7), Myron Cislo and Elizabeth Dynowski (D-8), Elizabeth Sadus (D-9), and Colleen Bonkowski and Valerie Brumm (D-10). District 1 Director Gregory David was unable to attend the inauguration personally.

Following the administration of Oath of Office, students of the PRCUA schools and children of the Executive Officers and Directors read the intentions for the prayers of the faithful, after which the Executive Officers presented the offertory gifts.

The beautiful music during the Mass was provided by Maryna Shutovich.

Before the Mass concluded, President Robaczewski thanked Rev. Anthony Bus, C.R. pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka, for welcoming the PRCUA to his beautiful church, which has been a part of PRCUA history since its beginning, and Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, Paweł Zyzak, for attending the inaugural celebration. He also thanked the young members and future leaders of the PRCUA for their active participation in the Mass, and all who attended for supporting the PRCUA by being members of the Union, and for their presence at this Mass and various events organized by our fraternal.

After the Mass, an inaugural reception was held at the Great Hall of the Polish Museum of America.

Mistress of Ceremonies Elżbieta Sawczuk welcomed everyone to the reception and introduced the new PRCUA administration and the special guests attending the event. Polish and American national anthems and the *Hymn Zjednoczenia* were sang by Alan Krolkowski (alumnus of the PRCUA Maria Konopnicka Polish School), accompanied by violinist Nicole Kwasny (alumna of the PRCUA Polonia Polish Folk Song & Dance Ensemble).

Rev. Canon Walter Ptak offered the invocation, Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastrzyk welcomed everyone to the reception, and Vice President Micheline Jaminski raised a toast to the new administration and the success and prosperity of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, hopefully for another 150 years. President James Robaczewski again thanked all who participated in this special event.

Entertainment during the evening was provided by Alan Krolkowski and Nicole Kwasny.

Photos from the inaugural Mass and reception on pg. 9 and 10



Rev. Canon Walter Ptak celebrating the Inaugural Mass, assisted by Deacon Kevin Kucik



PRCUA National Executives and Directors taking Oath of Office





GWIAZDA DANCERS' LATEST HAPPENINGS

By Nicholas J. Nowakowski
Gwiazda Secretary & 1997 Alumnus

It's been another busy month for the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers. It's hard to believe that Labor Day is behind us and we're now cruising toward October and Halloween.

Like countless other Michiganders, the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers decided to fit one last trip up north before school started and so from August 26 to August 28, they found themselves in Cedar, MI (near Traverse City) for the annual Cedar

Polka Festival. While in Cedar, members of Gwiazda camped at the Polish Heritage Farm, owned by Gwiazda alumna Kathleen Koch and her husband Tom. In addition to the Polish Heritage Farm, Mr. and Ms. Koch run the Polish Heritage Food Truck and the Polish Art Center's Cedar Location (the original location is in Hamtramck, MI and run by Ms. Koch's family).

On Saturday, August 27, Gwiazda participated in the parade at the Cedar Polka Festival and immediately followed the parade with per-

formances under the big tent at the Polka Festival. The performance consisted of dances from Beskid Śląski, Beskid Żywiecki, and Gwiazda's medley of the Krakowiak, the Oberek, and the Polka. Following the performance, Gwiazda members and their families spent the rest of the afternoon taking in the festival and downtown Cedar and capped it off with an ognisko at the Polish Heritage Farm.

On August 30, the Gwiazda Dancers were on hand at Comerica Park in Detroit in an attempt to re-do the Detroit Tigers' Polish Heritage Night, which was rained out earlier in the summer. While the dancers were all lined up in the tunnel and ready to go, because of technical difficulties, the dancers were unable to take the field for their performance. We're already looking forward to next year.

On September 5, the Gwiazda Dancers (along with the PRCUA Polskie Maki Dancers) participated in the Hamtramck Labor Day Parade in Hamtramck, MI. This parade was extra special as it celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the City of Hamtramck.

On Monday, September 12, the Gwiazda Dancers kicked off their 63rd year of Polish Dancing as they returned to their regular practice schedule in order to prepare for their 2023 annual spring recital. It was great to welcome back old, new and returning faces to the group.

The PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers have several upcoming performances and activities within the next few months. You can keep up with Gwiazda and its schedule by liking the group on Facebook or following them on Twitter (@PRCUA_Gwiazda).



Gwiazda at Tigers' Polish Heritage Night at Comerica Park



Gwiazda returns to dance practice



Gwiazda at Cedar Polka Festival



Gwiazda in the Hamtramck Labor Day Parade

NEWS FROM TATRY DANCERS

By Joelle Schade

After a Covid-related postponement earlier this year, the Tatry Dancers of Dearborn Heights, MI celebrated their 50th Anniversary in style with food, drinks and Polish music!! The grand event was held at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus in Livonia, MI and featured the sweet musical stylings of the Polish Muslims. The event was attended by most of the current Tatry parents and many alumni. Attendees won fabulous raffle prizes and all had a great time dancing the night away. We were also treated to a bonus performance from the event organizer and long time Tatry dad (and even longer Tatry choreographer husband.) Jerry Lubiarsz! Congratulations Tatry on this momentous 50th Anniversary. Here's to the next 50!

The Tatry Dancers have spent the summer making up for lost time. After a 2 year hiatus, the dancers were invited to perform at several celebrations and festivals. On July 10, the Tatry Dancers attended St. Albertus' 150th Anniversary Mass and joined with the Halka Dancers to perform at the following parish picnic. The Tatry Dancers really impressed the large crowd, especially considering they learned a new dance to perform with the Halka Dancers just minutes before!

Other performances included festivals at St. Mary's Summer Fair in Milford and Sweetest Heart of Mary's Pierogi Festival in Detroit.

The next Tatry performance was at St. Joseph's Polish Heritage Festival in South Lyon on Sunday, September 11, following the noon Mass. Check out the parish website

<https://www.stjcc.org/events/polish-festival-for-more-details>.

The Tatry Dancers work hard, but we also play hard. The group had its annual celebration picnic on July 30 at Mies Park in Livonia. During the picnic, the dancers enjoyed food and games and received their trophies and medals for the previous year. The trophies were followed by the coveted paper plate awards, which has become a fun tradition over the last few years, with students being awarded titles such as: Most Improved, Sensational Smile, Dancing Queen, and Shining Star.

Finally, and most importantly, the Tatry Dancers are looking to grow our group. We would love to welcome some new dancers this year, both genders ages 3-17. Practices are held on Thursday evenings and began on Thursday, September 7 at the Cherry Hill Community Church on Telegraph Road in Dearborn, MI. Please contact Gail Esker at 248-255-9336 or tatrydancers@gmail.com for information on how to register. Join us!

See more photos in the digital version of the Narod Polski



Tatry and Halka dancers at St. Albertus



Tatry dancers received the trophies at the annual picnic



Tatry's 50th anniversary celebration



Performance at the Sweetest Heart of Mary's Pierogi Festival



Tatry dancers performing at St. Albertus' 150th anniversary



50th anniversary of Tatry Dancers



Tatry dancing at Sweetest Heart of Mary's Pierogi Festival...



Tatry families at the picnic



.. and at St. Mary's Summer Fair



As we flip the PRCUA calendar to the month of October, we see the painting by Patricia Stępniać of the world's largest known natural bridge – the Rainbow Bridge in San Juan County, Utah. Its rich earth tones evoke memories of the changing season with the structure itself, inspiring a deeper connection to culture and ethnicity. How apropos, considering October is Polish American Heritage Month.

So how did October become Polish American Heritage Month? Sources I have researched credit Michael Blichasz, president of the Polish American Cultural Center (ACPC) in Philadelphia with organizing the first celebration in August, 1981 at various locations in Pennsylvania. ACPC, together with the Polish American Congress lobbied politicians at the state and national level to make August the month dedicated to Polish heritage, which happened when House Joint Resolution 577 was passed in 1984. The month was changed to October in 1986 to support schools interested in organizing such events during the school year. The month is also synonymous with the arrival of the first Polish immigrants, including skilled artisans, in Jamestown, Virginia on October 1,

The Open Door Otwarte Drzwi

Micheline "Misia" Jaminski

Vice President | wiceprezes
micheline-jaminski@prcu.org



1608. In 2008, the 400-year anniversary of Polish settlement in the United States was observed and 2019 was heralded as the 400th celebration of the Jamestown strike, considered a fight for civil liberties such as voting rights and equal recognition regardless of ethnicity. The spark and the inspiration resulted in another reason to celebrate being Polish and Proud!

On October 3rd to be exact, the PRCUA will observe its 149th anniversary and honor the memories of its founders, Reverend Vincent Barzyński, C.R. pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Chicago, Illinois; Reverend Teodor Gierzyk of St. Albertus Parish in Detroit, Michigan; and Jan Barzyński, editor of the *Pielgrzym* (The Pilgrim) Polish-language newspaper in Union, Missouri. Others influential in its founding were Reverend Leopold Moczygemba, founder of the first U.S. Polish settlement (Panna Maria, Texas) and Piotr Kiolbassa, a Civil War veteran and politician. These early leaders provided the foundation for countless others to follow, either at the helm or by supporting the mission. PRCUA is the oldest Polish organization in the United States still in existence.

Over lunch on a lovely September afternoon, I was given a refresher course on the subject of Polish organizations in the USA by friend and Polish culture authority, Staś Kmieć. Before I shared his findings with you, I had to do a little research of my own and here is what I found out: Before the mass migration to the USA in the late 19th century for economic opportunities - "za chlebem" (for bread), well-educated political exiles who participated in patriotic actions against the foreign occupiers in partitioned Poland (primarily in 1830-31, 1846-48 and 1863-64) found sanctuary in America, albeit dispersed to such big cities as New York, Chicago, San Francisco, among others. Their mission was to advocate for the freedom and inde-

pendence of Poland and so they founded the first formal organization of Polish Americans in this country in March of 1842, known as the Association of Poles in America (Towarzystwo Polaków w Ameryce). Establishing formal communication among its members and with other political exiles in Europe, it fostered its mission in America. As more Polish exiles arrived, other organizations were founded to accommodate the various philosophies. Thankfully, our founders included in their cause the love of God and Poland, supporting the hard-working immigrants and their communities to live, work, pray and play, as well as provide financial security for their loved ones. We continue this philosophy to this day as we continue ON THE ROAD TO 150 – thanks to all our members!

So, what else will be happening during this 10th month of 2022? I direct your attention first and foremost to our PRCUA calendar of events in this issue of the *Naród Polski* and on our prcu.org website, then highlight the dates of October 2 to celebrate the Blessing of the Dance Schools at St. Albertus Parish (birthplace of the PRCUA) in Detroit, Michigan as well as the 27th Annual Celebration of Polish-American Heritage in the Calumet Region (Gerald Tarka, coordinator); the "ŚLĄSK" Song and Dance Ensemble of Poland is on tour and will be in the Chicago-area on October 8 and 9 (see local listings if the group will be in your area); October 14 and 15 for the PRCUA Volleyball Tournament in Shelby Township, Michigan (if you are unable to play, then come to cheer the players on). On October 23rd, the PRCUA Gwiazda Dance School will be awarded the Central Citizens Committee's Pulaski Award for excellence in maintaining and promoting Polish culture in Hamtramck, MI. (The award banquet will be held on October 23.) For those in the Chicago area, mark October 30 for the Polish American Congress – Illinois Division Heritage Banquet and come join the celebration as our PRCUA President James J. Robaczewski receives the Polish Heritage Award. Jim is a fifth generation Polish American on his father's side, third generation from his mother's side and "became involved, stayed involved and encouraged others to be involved" in the Polish community. Alice would be proud! (Alice Robaczewski worked at

PRCUA for 39 years).

Other "events" in October include Sweetest Day (10/14); Bosses Day (10/17); and All Hallows Eve (10/31). Best wishes to all who celebrate October birthdays, especially past First



Judy Drobot

Lady of PRCUA, Judy Drobot, celebrating the 59th anniversary of her 21st birthday (10/20); my niece Joline (10/15); PRCUA long-time employee Judy Hoffman who will be a Septuagenarian on the 31st. Sto Lat!

Let's recap the events of the end of August and September. Michigan was the site of two parades within a week of each other in which our PRCUA schools participated. The first City of Warren Polish Parade was held on August 27 with the Opole Dancers, Polskie Maki, Wieliczka, Zajaczek dancers and parents proudly participating. The Polish Parade was a part of Warren's Birthday Bash event. The change in locations from Hamtramck after 40 years was explained by parade committee member and PAC-Michigan Division President Ann Bankowski, "We found that more and more, people were on vacation during Labor Day and some of the dance groups and bands that typically participated in the parade were not able to do so. This is kind of an experiment this year so we will see how it goes. Hopefully a lot of people come out to cheer us on." And the crowd did not disappoint.

As for the Hamtramck Labor Day Parade, I found out that Jessica Urban (school director of Gwiazda Dancers) joined the Committee and was named the chairperson that organized the parade. It was called "Hamtramck's 100th Anniversary Parade." As Jessica explained, "I envisioned a truly 'Hamtramck' parade that included the various ethnicities within the city as well as local businesses, and other organizations like the Hamtramck Beautification Committee and Hot Club (a group of musicians that play unique instruments). The ethnicities that were invited were dance groups representing Bosnia, Yemen, Poland, Al-



Polskie Maki dancers attending the parade in Hamtramck

bania, Pakistan and Iraq.” Both PRCUA Gwiazda and Polskie Maki participated. And again, the crowd did not disappoint.

Meanwhile, President Robaczewski attended the performance of Polonia Ensemble during the Taste of Polonia in Chicago, Illinois (9/3) at which its Honorary Artistic Director/Choreographer and Founder, Cecylia Roznowska, posthumously received the Copernicus Foundation Award. The PRCUA congratulates the Ensemble and its leadership, Anna and Jaclyn Krynski at the helm, for this recognition.

September saw a return to school of our PRCUA Polish Language Schools and Dance Groups. On behalf of the officers of the PRCUA, we wish all students and dancers a productive and memorable school year.

This Babcia is thrilled to drive her granddaughters, Ariana and Mila to dancing every Thursday at the Southwest Center of Polish Song and Dance in Orland Park, Illinois and am grateful to their parents for their cooperation. Both girls started in the footsteps of their mom last year. The first dance class was September 8th and since we arrived a little earlier, there was a stop at McDonald's. A little incentive goes a long way and it is a win-win for all concerned.

On September 10, I was invited by the St. Rafael Kalinowski Polish School to attend Mass in honor of the new school year at the Carmelite Fathers Shrine in Munster, Indiana. The president of the School Board is Zofia Buksa and the principal is Yolanta Czosnyka. Director from District 9, Elizabeth Sadus, was in attendance as well.

On September 16, I visited the Holy Cross Polish School in Joliet, Illinois with Principal Barbara Szuba

at the helm. One of our dedicated sales agents, Edward Muszalski, was invited to speak to the parents about PRCUA sales products. Thank you Pani Basia and Mr. Muszalski.

Once the headquarters of the PRCUA, St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish holds a significant place in the history of the PRCUA and it was only fitting that it was the location of the Inaugural Mass on Sunday, September 11. The Mass was celebrated by National Chaplain Reverend Canon Walter J. Ptak, during which he also administered the oath of office to the newly-elected (or re-elected) PRCUA Officers and Directors of the Board of the PRCUA. Current and past officers and directors; friends and family; dancers from Polonia Song and Dance Ensemble, Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company, and Southwest Center of Polish Dancing; students from the Maria Konopnicka and St. Raphael Kalinowski Polish Schools; and young adult representatives from Illinois, Indiana and Michigan joined together in the celebration of Holy Mass. The new Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Paweł Zyzak, honored us with his presence. Special thanks to Reverend Anthony Buś, C.R., pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish for use of his church and to organist and singer Maryna Shutovich for adding to the grandeur of this occasion, as well as to all who attended.

Invited guests were then received at the Great Hall of the Polish Museum of America housed in the PRCUA headquarters. The short program was emceed by Director of Marketing Elzbieta Sawczuk and included blessings by Father Ptak, greetings read by Secretary-Treasurer Bastrzyk, a toast by yours truly, remarks by President Robaczewski and a most amazing artistic program



At the inaugural reception

by vocalist Alan Królikowski and violinist Nicole Kwasny. Alan is a graduate of the Maria Konopnicka Polish High School and Nicole, an alumna of the Polonia Ensemble. The reception was beautifully organized by the President's Executive Assistant, Anna Grabowski, and my chief-of-staff, Conrad Wiecek, returned from Poland just in time to help her out. I want to take this time to thank all our guests, especially my friends and family who always support me, for attending this event.

It seemed to be one party after another as we next celebrated the 20th anniversary of Mary Jane Robles' 50th birthday (9/16) and then my own - first at the "best beach party ever" (9/17) with the family, then with the PRCUA family (9/20) and concluding with dinner with my BFF Teresa Pazdziora (9/21). Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the lovely wishes, beautiful flowers, and very thoughtful gifts. (In last month's issue, I missed wishing one very special birthday girl - Natalia Bastrzyk - a very happy birthday (9/3). May all your wishes come true!)

Days later, President Robaczewski attended the American Fraternal Alliance Executive Summit in Washington, D.C. Together with presidents of other AFA member organizations, President Robaczewski exchanged dialogue about the future of the fraternal (cont. on pg. 18)



My family at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church



President Robaczewski at the AFA Executive Summit in Washington, DC

THE OPEN DOOR (cont. from pg. 17)



Cinderella-Prince Charming orientation luncheon

benefit society and visited with members of Congress.

The month ended with the annual Orientation Luncheon for candidates of the upcoming 50th Cinderella-Prince Charming Ball, which will be held at Belvedere Chateau on November 19, 2022. Richard, as artistic director and choreographer of the Ball, and I attended the luncheon at Camelot Banquets in Hickory Hills, IL. With over 30 possible candidates and their parents in addition to the energetic committee members, it was a wonderful afternoon. The Adult Culture Group (ACG) of the PRCUA, organized in 1969 by the National Vice President and her three lady directors (one of which was the founder of the Ball – Regina Ocwieja), continue to host the beautiful event. This year, the Committee with President Edward Muszalski and District 8 Director/ACG Secretary Elizabeth Dynowski at the helm, welcome the participation of past Cinderellas, Prince Charmings, and Candidates. If you were a former participant of the Ball and have not received your invitation or are interested in attending the Ball, please

contact adulthoodculturegroup@gmail.com or call Vickie Krolewski at (708) 698-1505. Also, please remember that this is a “golden” opportunity for all to place best wishes, congratulations and memories in an extra special commemorative program book. For information, please contact the email above.

Following the luncheon, there was a short committee meeting at which Joanna “Asia” Niedzielski was surprised for her birthday. Pani Asia is not only a member of the ACG, President of the Maria Konopnicka Polish School, and talented seamstress for Wesoły Lud and SWCPSD, but an innovative persona who resembles Pani Jesień – Lady Autumn, a surprise guest at the Konopnicka School last Friday. Happy Birthday, Asia, and Sto Lat!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank three lovely ladies who took on the profound task of judging the PRCUA Scholarships this year. Thank you, Maria Ciesla, Elizabeth Sadus and Elaine Robaczewski!



Maria Ciesla, Elizabeth Sadus and Elaine Robaczewski

On that note, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish for you a lovely October. Enjoy Polish Heritage Month! Enjoy the changing season! Enjoy the moment! (Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner!).



Pani Jesień – Lady Autumn

THANK YOU NOTES FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I would like to take this time to thank you for awarding me the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America Scholarship once again. I am so very humbled and honored to receive such a prestigious award. As I enter my second year of my Occupational Therapy Doctoral studies, the money given will be utilized towards my fall and spring tuitions. I was so grateful to reflect and proudly portray my Catholic religion and strong Polish roots. Once again, thank you for investing in me and my future. It is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Madison Dziuk

Dear Mr. Robaczewski, Mrs. Jaminski, and Mrs. Bastrzyk,

It is with sincere appreciation and gratitude that I write this card as I, Olivia Westphal, am the recipient of the 2022 PRCUA Fraternal Scholarship and the PRCUA Education Scholarship. My goal is to earn my BSN in nursing, and with your financial support I am confident I can accomplish this. I am proud to be a member of such an outstanding organization and I will continue my efforts in promoting my Polish heritage through music, song, and dance. Dziękuję!

Sincerely,
Olivia Westphal

Kids Activity Page!

4. Color the picture.



3. Which way to the haunted house?



2. Find all the words in the puzzle.

punch
bat
moon

pumpkin
beast
witch

wolf
hat

lamp
spider



W	I	T	C	H	G	L	A	M	P
N	Z	G	Z	N	N	Z	G	Z	N
S	N	P	N	M	O	O	N	N	P
P	Z	U	Z	N	N	Z	G	Z	U
I	N	N	N	W	O	L	F	N	M
D	Z	C	Z	N	N	Z	G	Z	P
E	N	H	N	G	G	N	Z	N	K
R	Z	G	Z	H	A	T	G	Z	I
G	N	Z	N	G	G	N	Z	N	N
B	E	A	S	T	N	B	A	T	N



4. Do you know the answers these Polish-American facts?

- Who was the first Pole in America to be named a bishop?
- What was the the oldest permanent Polish settlement in the United States called?
- In what year did the first Polish immigrants come to the Jamestown colony?
- What is the name of the oldest Polish-American Fraternal Organization?
- Who was a Polish-American poet, prose writer, translator, who won the 1980 Nobel Prize in Literature?
- Who was "the father of American cavalry", who fought in the American Revolutionary War and died in the battle of Savannah?
- What is the name of the oldest Polish Catholic church in Detroit?
- Who was the civil engineer and bridge architect, son of the famous Polish theater actress?
- When and where was the oldest Polish museum opened in the U.S.?
- Name the Polish and Lithuanian national hero, general and a leader of 1794 uprising and a fighter in the American Revolutionary War.
- What is the name of the "umbrella" organization of all Polish American organizations and clubs?
- Which famous Polish musician and statesman owned Rancho San Ignacio, near Paso Robles in California?

Answers on pg. 21

SECOND TIME AROUND

By Joann Ozog
Financial Secretary/Treasurer
PRCUA #1593

The 51st Detroit Tigers Polish American Night was not meant to be this year. This event initially was to take place on Friday, May 27. After being cancelled in 2020 due to the coronavirus and being restricted in 2021 with limited participants and fans, everyone was looking forward

to this celebration of our heritage in 2022.

On May 27, the crowd was excited, the dancers were prepared to perform, representatives from various Polish organizations were ready to be introduced and the person selected to throw out the ceremonial first pitch was ready for his shining moment on the field. However, minutes before the program was to go on, the rain came down and the

game was cancelled.

Tiger management along with the coordinators, PRCUA #1593 decided to reschedule the game for Tuesday, August 30. Due to previous commitments, fewer dancers and dignitaries were present but they were more than ready for the show to go on. However, once again it was not meant to be. This time it was because of audio difficulties.

Fifty-six dancers representing the following PRCUA schools: Gwiazda, Polskie Maki, Zajączek, Halka and Wieliczka and PNA Polish Alliance Dancers were very disappointed because they could not perform and show their Polish pride to the fans.

Representatives from organizations could not be introduced on the field: Robert Bielenda, National Vice President Emeritus of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America; James Conrad, Board Chairman of the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame; Leonard Zabawski, Vice President of the Friends of Polish Art; George Kurzatowski, Treasurer of the Polish American Congress of Michigan; and Darryl Onderick, past President of the

American Polish Century Club.

The American national anthem was sung without music by Robert Szczublewski and Ania Toboy. However, due to lack of time (the game was televised nationwide), the Polish national anthem was eliminated.

Prior to the game, polka music by the Steve Drzewicki Band was heard throughout the stadium, the only band present this time.

A representative from the Polish American Federal Credit Union was selected to throw out the ceremonial first pitch. They were selected for their support of many organizations in Polonia and for their generous donation of \$55,750 for the Polish Red Cross to assist the people from Ukraine who resided in Poland. Mark Reaume, Chairman of the Board did the honors.

It is because of all of these dedicated and supportive individuals who made a second trip to the ball park that we still had somewhat of a Polish American Night program and we thank them. We also appreciate the Tigers for continuing this tradition for 51 years. We salute our Tiger representative Lindsey Ray for her hard work in trying to accommodate everyone, as well as her boss Marc Gomez, both new to the program. To our fans, we appreciate your presence and hopefully, next year will be a brighter year without rain and without technical difficulties.

Unfortunately, the Tigers lost to the Mariners and there were no fireworks to brighten up the skies.

More photos on page 23





ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLES ON PG. 19:

2. Which way?:



3. Find all the words:

W	I	C	H	G	L	A	M
N	Z	G	Z	N	Z	G	Z
N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z
N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z
N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z
G	N	Z	N	G	N	Z	N
P	E	A	S	T	N	B	A

4. Do you know the answers: 1. Bishop Paul Peter Rhode; 2. Panna Maria, TX; 3. 1608; 4. Polish Roman Catholic Union of America; 5. Czesław Miłosz; 6. Kazimierz Pułaski; 7. St. Albertus Church; 8. Ralf Modjeski; 9. 1937; 10. Tadeusz Kościuszko; 11. Polish American Congress; 12. Ignacy Jan Paderewski

NEWS FROM PRCUA #1593

By Joann Ozog
Financial Secretary/Treasurer
PRCUA #1593

This year PRCUA #1593 St. John Paul II Society has been very busy with awarding scholarships, raffles, Detroit Tigers Polish American Night, Youth Bowling, Warren's Birthday Bash and the 63rd Quadrennial Convention of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. We have reached out to our members with our fund raising events which promote our fraternal programs. It is because of those who support our society that we are an active society and we thank you.

In August, St. John Paul II Society participated in the 63rd Quadrennial Convention and we are proud to say that we had 15 delegates plus 3 delegates-at-large in attendance. We also are proud to say that we had 5 delegates younger than age 22 attend their first Convention. They were: Ania Toboy, William Cooper, Madison Withers, Grace Ozog and Ryan Ozog. Since this was their first convention, they were asked to answer four questions about the Convention. Three of the five replied to the following questions.

WHAT DID YOU GET OUT OF THE PRCUA CONVENTION?

- I learned a lot about formality and how meetings run in a serious situation.

- I learned how organized the Convention was with the various committees and the salaries of the officers and that the President has lots of power.

- I learned more about the business side of PRCUA and about the company aspect.

WHAT WAS THE BEST PART OF THE CONVENTION?

- The best part was presenting the Young Adult Committees' ideas to everyone and getting involved.

- Breaks
 - Committee members receiving a reimbursement.

WHAT WAS THE WORST PART?

- It was a bit long and travel expense should be more than 62.5 cents per mile.

- It was super long and most of the discussion was just added commentary instead of bringing up concerns.

- The part I did not favor was sometimes we would get off the topic which took more time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT CONVENTION.

- Promote and present the opportunity to more youth to become delegates.

- Votes should be by ballot instead of by hand.

- Make it more organized. It felt like things were all over the place. Do ballot voting when the vote is close.

This was a good experience for these young adults because they learned a lot about PRCUA and how it operates, met the Executive Officers and Directors from the different districts and were able to mingle with members of various societies. Since they are our future, they will hopefully take more interest in the organization and become involved.

At the end of August, we had our Family Raffle in conjunction with Warren's Birthday Bash. We distributed information on PRCUA as well as, complimentary items provided by the Home Office. There were a va-

riety of books about our heritage and the people were very enthusiastic and happy to receive these items. We also had exhibit boards about our society and sold our raffle tickets. Thank you is extended to Celeste Grabowski, Deanna Ozog, Michael Ozog, Wally Ozog and Joann Ozog for volunteering their time at this event.

Volleyball is the next National



ST. STAN'S SOCIETY CORPORATE COMMUNION/ELECTION MEETING

St. Stan's Corporate Communion/Election meeting will be held on Sunday, November 20, at St. Linus Catholic Church located at 6466 N. Evangeline, Dearborn Hts., MI with Mass at 11:00 a.m., in memory of the Society's deceased members.

Following Mass, a complimentary meal will be served at Stitt Post #232 located at 23850 Military Rd. in Dearborn Hts., followed by a short meeting and election of Officers for

the year 2023.

If you haven't attended in the last few years prior to the pandemic, please contact Len & Eileen Nasiatka at 734-331-6698 to add you to list of known attendees.

Looking forward to seeing all our members participating after months of inactivity.

Jerry Nasiatka
 President St. Stan's #718



ZAJĄCZEK DANCE ENSEMBLE NEWS

By Barb Ozog, Secretary
Zajączek Dance Ensemble

Zajączek Dance Ensemble had a few dancers participate in the Polish American Congress of Michigan Polish Parade at City Hall in Warren, MI on Saturday August 27th. Evalyn Frederick, Charlotte Stokan, Evelyn Davidson, Natalya Bonkowski, and Claire Mazurkiewicz represented Zajączek Dance Ensemble and walked the parade with other Polish groups and dance groups.

Polish American Night at Comerica was postponed back in May because of dangerous weather. The make-up date was Tuesday, August 30th. Two dancers were able to make the new date, Natalya Bonkowski and Mary Lawrence. Sadly, the dancers were not able to dance on the field before the game due to technical difficulties.

The new dance season will begin



Natalya Bonkowski, Mary Lawrence and Dir. Bonkowski at the Polish American Night

in mid-September. Zajączek Dance enrolls children 2.5 – 18. Ms. Colleen, Ms. Donna, Ms. Rachel, and Ms. Tricia can't wait to welcome new and returning students! For more information on how to join this group, contact Colleen Bonkowski, Director at zajaczekdance@yahoo.com.



Zajączek at the Polish American Congress of Michigan Polish Parade

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO PRESIDENT ROBACZEWSKI AND VICE PRESIDENT JAMINSKI

Happy Birthday and Sto Lat were sung recently at the Home Office on the occasion of two special birthdays of two PRCUA leaders - President James Robaczewski and Vice President Micheline Jaminski.

Both Officers treated the PRCUA and PMA employees with delicious lunches and desserts. The employees

showered Mr. Robaczewski and Mrs. Jaminski with many wishes of good health, happiness and prosperity, and presented them with flowers and gifts.

Two special guests also joined in at Mrs. Jaminski's celebration: her husband Richard Jaminski and District #7 Director Joanna Cholewinski.



LEADERS OF THE POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA

JÓZEF (JOSEPH) KANIA

Compiled by Lidia Kowalewicz
Editor

Józef Kania was born at 3 a.m. on April 17, 1897 r. in Tarnowiec, a village in the Subcarpathian Voivodeship, in

southeastern Poland. He was the first child of Kazimierz and Anna (née Grochowska). He was baptized the same day by the pastor of the local church, his godparents were Anna Jarecka and Tomasz Klekot.

In 1901, Józef's father left for America. He arrived in Baltimore and then went to Philadelphia, where he stayed with his sister (who emigrated in 1890s and got married there.) Life in Philadelphia was not easy. Polish immigrants were not welcomed, therefore, Kazimierz moved to Detroit where he was one of the founders of St. Hedwig Parish. He decided to stay in Detroit. In 1902, Kazimierz brought his wife and two sons to Detroit - Józef (5 years old) and Jakub (3 years old).



The family moved back to Philadelphia but returned to Detroit in 1905. Six more children were born to the Kania: Zofia, Marianna, Michał, Stefania, Kazimiera and Jadwiga.

Józef Kania started his education in Philadelphia where he attended the first grade at St. John Cantius Parochial School, then, from 1905 to 1911, he attended St. Hedwig Parochial School in Detroit. At school, he organized a Drama Circle and was a director of historical and biblical productions: dramas and comedies. He was also the founder of the Youth Club, an altar boy, parish marshal, and a member of the parish choir.

Józef graduated from school in 1911, and as the eldest son, he had to find a job and help support the family financially. For a few years he worked in different factories, and in the years 1918-1920, as conductor of a tram. He was continuing his education and earning extra qualifications in the evenings. In 1920, he quit his job and became an inspector at the Timken Axle Co. plant.

On May 2, 1921 Józef Kania married Zofia Solowska, daughter of Jan and Aniela (née Matusik) Solowski. They had seven children: Józefa, Elżbieta, Klara, Kazimierz, Rajmund, Marianna and Zofia.

On June 4, 1921, Józef was hired as a bank accountant and soon became a cashier. From April 1926 to



Cardinal Stritch with Joseph Kania and his family at PRCUA Headquarters; October 1949

April 1931, he was a branch manager of Michigan State Bank of Detroit. For the next two years, he worked at Guardian National Bank of Commerce. On May 31, 1933, he left his job at the bank to take up a position at the office of Wayne County Treasurer in Michigan.

He was active in Polish organizations and in politics in Detroit, and later, in Chicago. He was the president of PNA St. Andrew Society, founder and president of the St. Hedwig's Progressive Voters Club, member of the Citizens Club of City of Detroit, and the president of the Polish Political Confederation, Lighting Commissioner in the City of Detroit (1930-34).

From a young age, Józef was also a member of the PRCUA. He was the president of the PRCUA St. Stanislaus Kostka Society, and from 1925 to

1928, he was the president of the PRCUA Osada in Detroit.

Józef became a first time delegate to the PRCUA 39th National Convention held in Buffalo, NY in 1928. At the same Convention, he was elected the Vice President of the PRCUA. In fulfilling his responsibilities, he demonstrated outstanding administrative and financial capacity. He was reelected as Vice President at the next Convention in Detroit, MI in 1931.

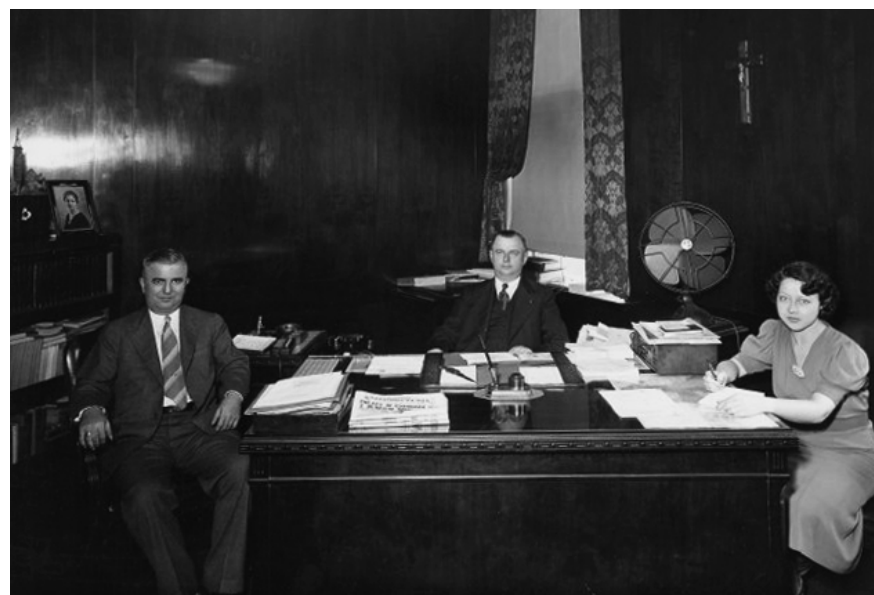
Between 1929 and 1939, the world's economy was hit with the Great Depression. Unemployment in the U.S. reached 23%. Heavy industry, construction, and farming suffered the most.

The Great Depression also affected the PRCUA.

(The article will continue in the November issue of the Naród Polski)



The Youth Club at St. Hedwig Parish (Kania in the center), c. 1919; photo: W. Jakubowski



Joseph L. Kania, President of the PRCUA with his secretaries: Julian Groszewski and Harriet Cendrowska

POLISH NEWS BYTES

Robert Strybel,
Warsaw Correspondent

Priestly vocations declining in Poland – During the 2021/2022 academic year, 356 candidates were studying for the priesthood in all of Poland's seminaries. That was a nearly 20% drop below last year's level when 441 were enrolled. According to Poland's Catholic Information Agency, so far the most candidates (14 each) have enrolled in the seminaries of Tarnów, Poznań and Opole. Multiple reasons are given for the decline including pedophile-scandal cover-ups, the two-year pandemic lockdown and overall secularization of culture and public life. Among the contributing factors Poznań Archbishop Stanisław Gądecki mentions the spread of non-matrimonial cohabitation, unwed motherhood, the crisis of fatherhood and the promotion of LGBT/gender ideology. He specifically referred to Netflix, a movie channel which routinely vilifies the clergy, sidelines traditional families and heroizes deviant lifestyles.

Poland's army expands and upgrades weaponry to deter aggressors – Poland is well on its way to commanding one of NATO's top three armed forces to more effectively deter potential aggressors. Under the leadership of its governing conservative Law and Justice party, the country plans to double its current troop strength (about 150,000) within a few years to 300,000. That would make it NATO's third largest army, trailing directly behind the U.S. (nearly 1.4 million) and Turkey (445,000). Polish forces have been systematically upgrading their armaments to include high-tech weaponry imported largely from the U.S. but also from Britain, Turkey and most recently South Korea. Polish-produced Krab (Crab) self-propelled howitzers and Piorun (Thunderbolt) man-held anti-aircraft missile systems have also proven their worth on Ukraine's battlefields.

6.3 million Ukrainian refugees have crossed into Poland – According to the Polish Border Guard Agency, 6.3 million Ukrainians have crossed into Poland since Russia invaded their

country on February 24th. Under special legislation, they were given the right to work, free education and healthcare as well as social benefits like those Polish citizens enjoy. A recent survey has shown that 81% of Poles favor accepting Ukrainian war refugees. Currently, 1.3 million refugees are still based in Poland, others have sought residence in other countries or have returned to Ukraine. Most of the returnees avoid combat zones, preferring the relative safety of western Ukraine which has been the least affected by the conflict.

Camp Kościuszko – first permanent U.S. military base in Poland - The US Army's V Corps Forward Operating Station Poznań (FOS Poznań), also known as V Corps Headquarters (Forward), is the first permanent American military base in Poland. Its creation was announced in June by President Biden as the eastern flank of the NATO alliance. At a ceremony attended by Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Błaszczak, on 30 July 2022 FOS Poznań was officially renamed Camp Kościuszko in honor of Polish military leader and American Revolutionary War hero Tadeusz Kościuszko. Up until now, the U.S. had had only rotating military bases in Poland so as not to antagonize Moscow. Putin's aggression against Ukraine changed that mindset.

Poland boasts lowest unemployment rate in 32 years - According to the latest figures from Eurostat, the European Union's statistical unit, Poland is a country with one of the bloc's lowest unemployment rates in the EU. Its jobless level, calculated according to Eurostat's accepted criteria, amounted to 2.7% in Poland in May 2022, when compared to the EU average of 6.1% and 6.6% in the euro-zone countries. Poland ranked second after the Czech Republic (2.5%). Rather than taking jobs away from Poles, the more than two million Ukrainian refugees currently in Poland have helped alleviate Poland's labor shortage.

Poland, U.S. have no better friends — Speaking in a video message released by the U.S. Consulate General in the southern Polish city of Kra-

ków, Erin Nickerson, America's new Consul General there said: "America has no better friend and partner than the people of Poland. And "Poland has no better friend and partner than the people of the United States. Together, there is nothing that we cannot accomplish." She made the statement after taking over the Kraków Consul General's post from her predecessor, Polish American Patrick Słowiński.

Polish town unveils monument listing 12,000 of its Holocaust victims – An unveiling ceremony took place

recently in the town of Nowy Sącz in southern Poland's Tatra Mountains in the presence of almost 100 descendants of Nowy Sącz Jews from around the world. Also in attendance were Polish officials, clergy of various denominations, Israeli, U.S. and German diplomats as well as local residents. The memorial lists the names of 12,000 of the Nowy Sącz. Its Jews who were murdered by Poland's German invaders. The unveiling took place on the 80th anniversary of the last transport of Jews from the town's ghetto to the German death camp in Belżec.

DR. JOHN RADZIŁOWSKI RECEIVED ACPC AWARD

On Friday, July 29, the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) awarded Dr. John Radzilowski the 2022 Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his leadership and scholarly research in Polish and Polish American history. Radzilowski has served as the Director of the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at the Orchard Lake Schools, one of the most prominent Polish organizations in the United States, since June 1, 2022.

"The ACPC Distinguished Service Award brings attention to the Polish Institute and encourages the scholarship that can be done here," said Radzilowski. "People can come here to learn and research. I want to build on this here. My father, Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, was former president of St. Mary's College on the campus of the Orchard Lake Schools and also received this honor in 1996 when he was president of St. Mary's College. It was the same year the ACPC held its annual convention in metro Detroit, and several events took place right here on campus."

Radzilowski wants to give back to benefit others and the people who have helped him along the way. He was born in Ann Arbor, MI, and moved with his family to Marshall, MN at an early age. "My dad was a great storyteller, and I was always fascinated by the Polish and American history he shared," added Radzilowski. "It fueled my curiosity and passion for history and writing, especially in my early career when I was a newspaper reporter and editor."

The past president of the Polish

American Cultural Institute of Minnesota, historian, professor, and author of numerous books and articles largely focusing on the modern history of Poland and Polish-Americans, was nominated for the ACPC award by his Minnesota associates who are also affiliate members of the organization. "I did not know they nominated me until I was notified of this tremendous honor by the ACPC," he said. "I'm truly humbled."

He also shared that the ACPC is highly supportive of his writings, scholarships, and lifelong work. "This organization is a national nonprofit that serves as a network for other Polish American cultural institutions throughout the U.S.," he said. "We look forward to working together to sponsor the art and culture around the country and to work with member groups like Friends of Polish Art here in Michigan."

The Polish Institute of Culture & Research (PICR) team is working hard to bring a lot of highlights to the community this fall, including Polish Sundays, a fine art show and sale called Art on the Lake (Oct. 1-2), and the completion of the second phase of the renovation of the Galeria. Visit www.orchardlakeschools.com and check out the Polish Institute on Facebook or on its website <https://picrol.org/> for the latest information.

John Radzilowski is the author of the book *The Eagle & The Cross: A History of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America*.



With St. John Paul II and Mary in October

By Fr. Eric Orzech,
St. Stanislaus Parish
& St. Casimir Parish,
Cleveland, OH

As I write this, I am sitting in the Office of Fr. Andrzej Dobrzynski, Director of the Center for Documentation of the John Paul II Foundation in Rome. He was kind enough to lend me a computer so that I could try to compose something and get it in to the editor in time for publication in this month's issue.

Along with many others, we are gathered in the Eternal City for the first time since the pandemic to celebrate significant anniversaries and events regarding the foundation which had to be previously postponed. It's my first day – as I arrived ahead of some of the others – yet it has already been so good to see so many familiar faces. People in large numbers from all over the world will be joining us as we reflect upon the significance of the reign of St. John Paul II and the profundity of his magisterium, hopefully returning home recharged to carry this important message with us.

Some of these dignitaries are well known to you. Cardinals Stanisław Dziwisz and Stanislaus Rylko will be with us along with Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski of Kraków and our coordinator extraordinaire, Fr. Christopher Wieliczko, the foundation's administrative secretary. Some are less well known outside of our circle, but their work is important and of great value to all of Polonia, as well as beyond.

Upon completion of the events in Rome, God willing, a few days in Poland await us including a stop at my home away from home, Jasna Góra, where I spent many years as a seminarian before my ordination assisting my good friend, Fr. Simon Stefanowicz, in giving tours to English speaking pilgrims.

All of this comes together beautifully to form a common theme for our reflection this month of October, which is the month of the Holy Rosary and St. John Paul II and his great love for our blessed Mother, Mary.

We should all know of his great devotion to our lady and how the Rosary was his favorite prayer. In this regard, he was joined by millions of others who find in this simple offering of the beads what he himself referred to as *the rhythm of human experience*.

As a prayer made up of prayers, it offers us the chance to meditate upon the mysteries of salvation and, if we let it, can offer us a cure for our mental distractions during prayers if we only loosen up a bit.

Often, our minds can wander as we finger the beads. Because we're being distracted during our prayers, we try to put such thoughts aside but they always find a way of popping up again. Did you ever consider that the majority of time, what your mind is wandering about is really a petition in disguise...in other words...something we should actually be praying for but because it doesn't fit into our idea of formal prayer, we don't recognize it. So next time, instead of trying to put it down and out of the way, LIFT IT UP to the Lord in prayer, instead. Hold your finger on that one bead and say something on the order of...*And you know, Lord, about Joe...he's going in for surgery. Help everything to work out well and bless his family, too.* You'll find that once you make a distraction a prayer and lift it up, it doesn't tend to come back and bother you any more...it's been taken care of in the best way possible. Then you continue with the Rosary until the next opportunity in disguise comes around. It may take a little longer to pray, but it will be so much more fruitful.

Make good use of the opportunity this month of October gives us to renew and refresh our appreciation for the Rosary in our life. See if your parish will have any communal recitations of the Rosary and join in. Make a commitment to pray the Rosary on your own or along with the broadcast of it on television or the radio. Follow the advice of the great Rosary Priest, Fr. Patrick Peyton: *The family that prays together, stays together* and pray the Rosary as a family at home. Make this effort and I can promise you one thing: if you do, you'll be glad you did.

DEARLY DEPARTED

PRCUA BROTHERS AND SISTERS



Member	Society	State	Member	Society	State
Angst, Cecilia	2001	NJ	Jager, Donald C.	878	IL
Babinski, Eugene B.	1111	MI	Jelinski, Anastasia	156	CANADA
Barr, Mary A.	2015	PA	Karpinski, Diane	2144	OH
Bartkowiak, Walter	2303	CA	Kasper, Kirsten	2220	OH
Bartuzik, Carol Ann	693	IN	Kosakowski, Emilia V.	425	NY
Batorski, Marysia	31	IL	Lipinski, Philip	849	IL
Beck, Joan M.	322	PA	Makowski, Thomas	261	MI
Bernas, Cecylia	36	OH	McPherson, Theresa A.	861	NY
Bialczak, Hedwig	72	MO	Metler, Rita L.	540	NY
Biega, Aloysius	213	WV	Miegoc, Christine M.	78	MI
Bielak, Cecilia	20	NJ	Misiolek, Eleonora	896	RI
Bonek, Chester	1545	NY	Muszynski, Geraldine	2320	WI
Boone, Patricia	105	KS	Niznik, Sophie	445	MN
Borowicz, Theodore H.	162	MI	Oginski, Donald	1111	MI
Brejer, Roman	2109	FL	Pietraszek, Joanna	1219	IL
Bular, Stanley	1580	PA	Pillar, Thomas J.	1583	MI
Coley, Kimberly	934	PA	Pitchko, Joan	549	MA
Cygan, Anna	28	NY	Plunkett, Bruce	384	PA
Cyganiewicz, Stephanie	896	RI	Procanik, Dolores	1407	NJ
Dalbo, Stella	531	PA	Sanocki, Daniel V.	1111	MI
Dominik, Rosalie	337	IN	Soltysiak, Helena	1626	IL
Drewniak, Helena	87	MI	Stachowski, Stephen J.	540	IL
Eskra, Victoria	29	PA	Stanek, Dorothy M.	237	PA
Filip, Frances J.	359	MA	Stoj, Felicia	2059	NJ
Fisher, Bernice C.	2001	PA	Strzyzewski, Joseph	2320	MI
Garbowski, Charlotte	20	NJ	Sufak, George	237	PA
Gonsiorek, Richard J.	1228	IL	Tanalski, Ingeborg	1593	MI
Gorman, Anna	1004	MO	Tenney, Kenneth	2342	MI
Haller, Kayla M.	2220	OH	Thomas, Josephine	1492	FL
Hepner, Leonard	356	MI	Townsend, Theresa A.	1437	IL
Hodges, Joan	1612	AZ	Zwolski, Eugene	408 & 1627	IL
Jachim, Dorothy	631	NY			

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@prcu.org and we will publish them in the *Naród Polski*.

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90 PLACÓWKA SWAP WSPIERA MUZEUM POLSKIE W AMERYCE

Współpraca MPA z 90 Placówką SWAP trwa od dawna. Nabrała tempa, gdy Muzeum prezentowało wystawę „Polonia rusza do boju. 100 lat Niepodległości – Polonia Goes to War - 100 Years of Poland's Independence” w 2018 roku.

12 listopada 2021, z okazji rocznicy założenia Stowarzyszenia Weteranów Armii Polskiej w Ameryce (SWAP) została otwarta w MPA wystawa, która szczególnie zainteresowała komendanta 90 Placówki SWAP, Andrzeja Janczaka oraz zaowocowała przekazaniem darów w marcu i maju 2022. MPA otrzymało akta, protokoły, korespondencję, zdjęcia, listę członkowską, sztandary, mundury oraz wybór książek skatalogowane w bazie Past-Perfect pod numerem 2022 – 049 oraz w katalogach bibliotecznym i archiwalnym.

Podczas uroczystości w dniu 29 sierpnia czek z darem o wysokości 20.000 \$ przekazali MPA: Andrzej Janczak, komendant 90 Placówki

SWAP; Tomasz Dąbrowski, wicekomendant i sekretarz finansowy 90 Placówki SWAP; Bogdan Strumiński, członek wspierający 90 Placówki SWAP.

Muzeum na uroczystości reprezentowali: Ryszard Owsiany, prezes; James Robaczewski, przewodniczący Rady Dyrektorów MPA, Micheline Jaminski, wiceprzewodnicząca Rady Dyrektorów MPA, Małgorzata Kot, dyrektor zarządzająca; Małgorzata Palka, członkini Rady Dyrektorów MPA oraz pracownicy i wolontariusze placówki.

Komendant Andrzej Janczak, w imieniu członków Placówki 90, przekazał MPA fundusze, które mają posłużyć upowszechnianiu wiedzy na temat SWAP oraz wesprzeć MPA. Prezes Ryszard Owsiany zapewnił o pamięci o SWAP i potwierdził, że MPA wykorzysta te środki na realizację założonego celu.

CECYLIA ROŻNOWSKA – LAUREATKĄ HONOROWEJ NAGRODY FUNDACJI KOPERNIKOWSKIEJ

Dorota Romek

W niedzielę 4 tego września na scenie teatru w Copernicus Center w Chicago została pośmiertnie nagrodzona Honorową Nagrodą Fundacji Kopernikowskiej pedagog, etnograf, wybitny choreograf oraz wychowawca wielu pokoleń dzieci i młodzieży - Cecylia Rożnowska. Nagrodę przyznano laureatce za prawdziwy partytyzm, wsparcie i wielki wkład w kontynuację kulturalno-społecznej misji Fundacji Kopernikowskiej. Nagrodę z wielkim honorem przyjmowały wnuki Janusz i Jaclyn Krysińscy w imieniu zmarłej w 2021 roku babci.

Nagroda jest znaczącym wyróżnieniem wśród polskiej społeczności w Chicago i przyznawana jest już od 1981 roku osobom, organizacjom lub firmom, które nieustannie wspierały kontynuację działalności centrum kulturalno-społecznego Fundacji Kopernikowskiej i jego misji. W poczet laureatów zaliczają się między innymi: senator Dan Rostenkowski, Legion Młodych Polek, Polish Women's Civic Club, Roman Puciński czy Chester Sawko, którzy w różny lecz wybitnie znaczący sposób przyczynili się do urzeczywi-

stniania celów fundacji.

Laureatka 24-go zaszczytnego nadania nagrody pani Cecylia Rożnowska całe swoje życie poświęciła pasji, która stała się mottem jej kariery zawodowej. Będąc pedagogiem z wykształcenia została mentorem młodych ludzi, wpajając im, oprócz umiłowania do polskiej kultury, wartości, zasady i priorytety swojego wyboistego życia - Bóg, Honor, Ojczyzna.

Jej artystyczna dusza, miłość do ojczyzny, do dzieci i młodzieży i do tradycyjnej sztuki potrafiła oczarować młodych ludzi polskim folklorem, urzekła uwielbieniem tańca i ludowej muzyki. Przez ponad pół wieku z dumą i wielkim autorytetem podbijała setki roztańczonych serc i tysiące rozśpiewanych dusz, osiągając sceniczne, intelektualne, jak i wychowawcze sukcesy, spełniając siebie i swoje życiowe marzenia. Poświęcała każdy moment na arystokratyczne ciekawostki, folklorystyczne legendy i historyczne opowieści, obrazując młodzieży całe bogactwo polskiej etnografii, nie tylko taniec. Jej wychowankowie poznali polskie obrzędy i obyczaje, całą złożoną mozaikę polskiego folkloru i dworskiego kunsztu, ich czar,

unikalne formy i siłę wyrazu, ze szczególnym naciskiem na zachowanie autentyzmu etnograficznego oraz historycznego.

Otrzymanie nagrody Fundacji Kopernikowskiej uwieńczyło 35. lat profesjonalnych i zespołowych sukcesów Cecyli Rożnowskiej w Chicago. Lecz to setki wychowanków kilku generacji są rzeczywistym wskaźnikiem jej życiowych sukcesów i warunkiem istnienia zespołu. W ciągu prawie siedemdziesięciu lat swojej całej kariery zawodowej (w Polsce i USA), wpisała się na zawsze w serca i wspomnienia tysięcy dorastających, młodych ludzi, którzy dzięki niej odeszli w świat krokami oberka, walca i poloneza, słuchając rytmów pianina i dźwięków zaczarowanego akordeonu p. Miecia (dyrektora muzycznego zespołu „Polonia”), ubierając swoje losy oczami barwnej, haftowanej fantazji, o zapachu świeżej, suszonej wiatrem bawełny z ludową melodią na ustach... Mocą patriotycznej perswazji pani Cecylia, spełniając swoje marzenia, została symbolem dobrych manier, ostoją wiedzy i anielskiej cierpliwości – taką będą ją wszyscy pamiętać.

Ceremonię wręczenia nagrody prezentowali członkowie zarządu Fundacji Kopernikowskiej prezes Hubert Cioromski, Robert Groszek i Mario Mikoda. Głos zabrali również senator RP Maria Koc odczytując list od premiera Mateusza Morawieckiego, prezes PRCUA James Robaczewski oraz kandydat na burmistrza Chicago

Willie Wilson. Na sali obecni byli m.in.: Agata Grabowska, wicekonsul RP w Chicago, Zdzisław Torba proboszcz parafii św. Jana Brebeauf; Mirosław Niedziński, prezes Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej na stan Illinois; Ewa Jabłońska i Barbara Gawrońska, reprezentantki Zrzeszenia Nauczycieli Polskich; Katarzyna Leśna, prezes Legionu Młodych Polek; Ryszard Owsiany, prezes Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce oraz przedstawiciele Chicago Society. Media reprezentowali Andrzej Baraniak, Andrzej Brach i Artur Partyka, oraz Mieczysław Herba.

Po uroczystościach nominacyjnych na scenie teatru Copernicus Center odbył się koncert założonego i prowadzonego przez panią Cecylię przez 35 lat Zespołu Pieśni i Tańca „Polonia” działającego pod patronatem PRCUA. Dzieci i młodzież przedstawili program artystyczny w oryginalnej wersji choreograficznej założycielki, z jej ulubioną suitą tańców warmińskich.

Wszystkie grupy zespołu potwierdziły najlepszy poziom i profesjonalizm wykonywanych utworów. Różnorodność repertuaru, rytmiczne umiejętności i barwna autentyczność ludowych kostiumów dodały tancerzom powagi, dumy i szyku - triumfalnie, w światłach reflektorów, prezentując nauki swojej wychowawczyni na kopernikowskiej scenie. Tego dnia widzowie mogli również podziwiać występy zespołu „Dolina Polish Folk Dancers” ze stanu Minnesota, który gościnnie koncertował (kont. na stronach 30-31)



Jaclyn, Janusz i Anna Krysińscy



Zespół „Polonia” w strojach biłgorajskich



**CECYLIA ROŻNOWSKA –
LAUREATKĄ HONOROWEJ
NAGRODY NAGRODY
FUNDACJI KOPERNIKOWSKIEJ**
(dokończenie ze str. 29)

podczas festiwalu „Taste of Polonia”.
Dzisiaj pokłonimy czoła, dziękując pani Celinie za roztańczone 35 lat

w Chicago, za mądrość, wytrwałość w dążeniu do celu, kunszt taneczny i patriotyczną postawę dydaktyka, którego treścią życia był przekaz wiedzy w każdym wymiarze i kolorze, gdy zwracała do młodzieży: „Bądźcie w tym kraju elitą kulturalną..., dbajcie o swoje wykształcenie..., sięgajcie wyżyn...”.
Papież Jan Paweł II, którego pani

Cecylia uwielbiała, kiedyś powiedział: „Człowiek jest wielki, nie przez to co posiada, lecz przez to kim jest, nie przez to co ma, lecz przez to czym dzieli się z innymi”.

Niech polskość, sztuka i ludowy taniec łączy nas wszystkich na emigracji i przybliży nam ojczyznę – Polskę. Nie wstydzmy się prostej, barwnej, polskiej ludowości, to nasz

największy skarb narodowy, a pani Cecylia Rożnowska zawsze była tego najlepszym przykładem i wzorem do naśladowania.

Zapraszamy w nasze szeregi. Informacje: Anna Krysiński, kierownik ZPiT „Polonia”, tel. (847) 529-2555. : www.poloniaensemble.com, Facebook: Polonia Polish Folk Song & Dance Ensemble

UBEZPIECZENIA BEZ TAJEMNIC

Robert Sobczak
Specjalista ds. ubezpieczeń

Jak przygotować się do wizyty z agentem odnośnie Medicare?

Coroczny okres zapisowy (AEP) rozpocznie się już dosłownie za parę dni. Data **15 października** pozwoli Państwu na wybór i zapisanie się na plan uzupełniający do Medicare, który wystartuje z datą 1 stycznia 2022. Okres zapisowy pozwala każdemu posiadaczowi Medicare na dopasowanie pokrycia do nowych, obecnych potrzeb na najbliższy rok kalendarzowy. W poniższym artykule chcę zająć się tematem - **Jak przygotować się do wizyty z agentem właśnie w tym okresie i jak wybrać odpowiedniego agenta?**

Zdaję sobie sprawę, że osoby powyżej 65 roku życia oraz młodszy posiadacz Medicare, w ostatnich tygodniach zalewani są informacjami dotyczącymi nowej oferty firm ubezpieczeniowych na 2022 rok. Państwa skrzynki pocztowe i emailowe pękają w szwach. Wszystkie rozwiązania i oferty wyglądają interesująco i skonstruowane są w sposób mający na celu zwrócenia Państwa uwagi na załączoną ofertę. Wiemy dobrze, że reklama jest dźwignią handlu, ale w formie małej reklamówki firmy ubezpieczeniowe fizycznie nie są w stanie przedstawić wszystkiego dokładnie. Prezentują tylko zarys, zwracają uwagę na niektóre szczegóły wyróżniające dany plan.

Co wybrać?

Jak sprawdzić, czy plan posiadany przez nas nadal będzie dobrze funkcjonował w przyszłym roku?

Czy mamy inne rozwiązania, inne opcje?

Czy są one lepsze, gorsze? Czy warto zmieniać?

Z tymi pytaniami zmagamy się co roku.

Rozwiązaniem może być spotkanie z agentem ubezpieczeniowym specjalizującym się w ubezpieczeniach na zdrowie i Medicare.

Jak wybrać odpowiedniego agenta? Jak upewnić się, że podejdziesz do sprawy obiektywnie, a nie przez pryzmat własnych korzyści?

Poniżej podamy parę porad jak wybrać odpowiednią osobę do spotkania i jak się do tego spotkania przygotować.

Po pierwsze, agent ubezpieczeniowy agentowi ubezpieczeniowemu nie równy. Jak w każdej branży istnieją specjaliści w każdej dziedzinie. Branża ubezpieczeniowa jest rozległa. Na co dzień słyszycie Państwo o ubezpieczeniach na samochody, domy, motocykle, workers compensation itp. Ubezpieczenia na zdrowie są jedną z najbardziej dynamicznie zmieniających się dziedzin w branży. Trzeba być na co dzień w kontakcie z firmami ubezpieczeniowymi, śledzić najnowsze regulacje prawne zarówno po stronie federalnej, jak i po stronie stanowej. Przepisy dotyczące produktów, ich dostępności, pokrycia i zasięgu zmieniają się średnio parę razy do roku. Agenci zajmujący się wszystkimi dziedzinami ubezpieczeń, fizycznie nie są w stanie nadażyć za powyższymi zmianami. Tym bardziej jeśli dotyczą one paru firm, a nie tylko jednej. **Szukajmy więc agenta specjalizującego się na co dzień w ubezpieczeniach na zdrowie, a nie oferującego pełną gamę ubezpieczeń na wszystko.**

Po drugie, Medicare jest specyficzną grupą ubezpieczeń na zdrowie wymagającą specjalnych corocznych szkoleń, licencji i certyfikatów. Nie każdy agent ubezpieczeniowy, specjalizujący się w ubezpieczeniach na zdrowie je posiada. Jest to kwestia zaangażowania, czasu i specjalizacji w danej dziedzinie. Najważniejszą licencją upoważniającą nas do oferowania całej gamy ubezpieczeń dedykowanych posiadaczom Medicare jest **AHIP**. Aby agent mógł legalnie oferować plany zniżkowe na leki na receptę (PDP – Part D Medicare) oraz plany typu Medicare Advantage (MA – Part C) nie tylko **musi posiadać i odnawiać co roku powyższą licencję, ale również odpowiedzialny jest za specjalistyczne szkolenie dotyczące powyższych produktów, z każdą firmą ubezpieczeniową, z którą ma kontrakt** ich dotyczący i której produkty chce mieć w swojej ofercie.

Jak widzicie Państwo sami nie jest to takie proste.

Po trzecie, warto rozmawiać z agentem **posiadającym obiektywne podejście do obecnej oferty rynkowej, czyli mówiąc krótko oferujący produkty co najmniej paru firm na danym terenie**. Agenci oferujący produkty tylko jednej firmy nie mogą być obiektywni i nie mogą w pełni dostosować odpowiedniego produktu do Państwa potrzeb. Nie ma na tym rynku firmy najlepszej dla wszystkich. Każda z firm i jej ofert przeznaczona jest do specyficznej grupy odbiorców nie jest w stanie zadowolić każdego.

Po czwarte, agenci płaceni są bezpośrednio z firmy ubezpieczeniowych lub brokera/agencji zrzeszającej grupę agentów. Każda z firm oferujących produkty Part D i Part C Medicare płaci dokładnie taką samą, ustaloną każdego roku przez urząd

federalny stawkę za te produkt. Agent więc nie powinien stronnictwo kierować klienta tylko w stronę jednej firmy, ale by móc to zrobić i rzetelnie dostosować plan do potrzeb klienta **musi mieć kontrakt z co najmniej 3-4 firmami ubezpieczeniowymi**. Inaczej obiektywność nie istnieje!

Umawiając się z agentem możecie Państwo zawsze zapytać o posiadane licencje i jakie firmy ubezpieczeniowe reprezentuje. To pozwoli Państwu spędzić czas z osobą kompetentną, mającą możliwość dobrania dodatków do Waszych potrzeb.

Po piąte, wielu agentów aktywuje swoją działalność tylko na czas Corocznego Okresu Zapisowego. Potem jest bardzo trudno się z nimi skontaktować. Szukajcie Państwo agenta, którego biuro otwarte jest przez cały rok.

Ideą naszej agencji **Medicare po polsku®** zawsze było motto: „Nie sztuką jest sprzedać polisę, sztuką jest pomóc posiadaczowi w korzystaniu ze wspólnie wybranej polisy, tak by udowodnić dobry wybór”.

Idąc na spotkanie z agentem pamiętajcie Państwo o zabraniu **listy leków**, które zażywacie na codzień po to by dobrać odpowiednią i najtańszą ofertę z planów zniżkowych na leki na receptę. Weźcie też **OBOWIĄZKOWO nową kartę Medicare**. Stare karty (z numerem social security) niestety nie będą już umożliwiały dokonania zapisów od roku 2021. Oczywiście **dokumenty potwierdzające Waszą tożsamość i forma płatności** (książeczka czekowa) będą również niezbędne.

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