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

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E-NARÓD POLSKI Polish Nation

IN THIS ISSUE:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
page 2

BUSINESS pages 3-8

CULTURE pages 8-18
Kids' Activity - 10

MEMBER NEWS
page 18

POLISH SECTION
pages 19-25
VP Column - 20-22

A CALL TO CONVENE: THE 64TH QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

On Friday, August 7, 2026, delegates from across the country will gather in Rosemont, Illinois for an important and energizing moment in the life of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA): our 64th Quadrennial Convention.

Every four years, this Convention brings together dedicated members who care deeply about the future of our Union. Over the course of three days - August 7–9, 2026 - delegates will collaborate, exchange ideas, and make key decisions that will guide our organization forward. Together, we will review budgets, consider constitutional updates, discuss long-range initiatives, and elect the Executive Officers and Board members who will serve for the next four years.

At this time, the Convention is planned as a live, in-person event. If circumstances require us to pivot to a virtual format, delegates will be informed promptly and provided with the tools and training needed to fully participate.

In accordance with Section 3, Article 03A, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Constitution of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America: "Therefore, with the authority vested upon me by the Constitution of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, as the President of the PRCUA, I hereby proclaim the 64th Quadrennial Convention to convene on Friday, August 7, 2026."

Business sessions will be held at: Hilton Rosemont/Chicago O'Hare, 5550 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois

In the coming months, a detailed schedule of events will be published in Naród Polski and posted on the Convention page of our website.

I encourage every eligible member to consider becoming a delegate. This is more than a meeting - it is your opportunity to have a meaningful voice in the direction of our Union. Your ideas, your experience, and your (*Continued on pg. 5*)

REMEMBERING THE LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY OF PRESIDENT EMERITUS WALLACE M. OZOG

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing PRCUA President Emeritus Wallace M. Ozog who died on February 28, 2025 in Warren, Michigan.

Wallace Michael Ozog was born on September 27, 1940 in Detroit, Michigan to Polish immigrant parents Joseph and Mary (née Szczypek) Ozog. His family emigrated from the Rzeszów region of Poland in 1915. The ninth of thirteen children, he was preceded in death by his siblings Frank, Stanley, Thaddeus, Stella, Ann, Anthony, Lottie, John, Joan, Eugene, and Dorothy. He is survived by his brother, Joseph (Nina) Ozog Jr.



Wallace M. Ozog

On August 12, 1966, Wallace married Joann Shirley Kushel, and together they shared 59 years of marriage. He is survived by his children Michael (Deanna), Mark, and Christopher (Barb); grandchildren Ryan, Grace, Olivia, Cassidy, Ian, Jack (Ashley), Jonathan, Taylor (Michael), and Madison; great-grandchildren Bjorn and Primrose; sister-in-law Camille Ozog; brother-in-law Dr. Thomas Carson; and many nieces and nephews.

Wallace earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from the Detroit Institute of Technology and spent 32 years with the (*Continued on pg. 8*)

ANNUAL PRCUA STATE OF THE UNION & THE ANNUAL PRCUA FINANCIAL STATEMENT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH-APRIL EDITION OF THE *NARÓD POLSKI*

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Hours of Operation:
Monday through Friday
8-5 p.m.

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

MARCH

2 **CASIMIR PULASKI DAY – PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**

8 **LEMONT, IL – 50TH ADULT CULTURE GROUP FASHION SHOW LUNCHEON PRESENTED BY THE ADULT CULTURE GROUP OF PRCUA.** Entry - 11 a.m.; luncheon - 12 pm. Crystal Grand Banquests, 12416 S. Archer Ave., Lemont. See pg. 11 for details.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY / MIĘDZYNARODOWY DZIEŃ KOBIET

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS / ZMIANA CZASU NA LETNI

13 **TOLEDO, OH – THE ECHOES OF POLAND PIEROGI DINNER, 4-8 p.m., PRCUA Hall, 5255 N. Detroit, Toledo. See pg. 11 for details.**

14 **ZAJĄCZEK DANCE ENSEMBLE ANNUAL RECITAL**

15 **DETROIT, MI – BLESSING OF POLISH DANCE SCHOOLS**

HALKA DANCERS SPRING RECITAL

17 **ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

19 **ST. JOSEPH'S DAY**

20 **SPRING BEGINS / POCZĄTEK WIOSNY**

21 **MALBORK DANCE GROUP RECITAL**

OPOLE DANCE RECITAL

TATRY DANCERS RECITAL

22 **CHICAGO, IL – PRCUA DISTRICT 7 CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE**, PRCUA Social Hall, 984 N Milwaukee Ave., Chicago; cocktails at 1 p.m., dinner at 2 p.m. See pg. 11 for details

27 **TOLEDO, OH – THE ECHOES OF POLAND PIEROGI DOZEN SALE,** 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., PRCUA Hall, 5255 N. Detroit, Toledo. See pg. 11 for details.

29 **POLSKIE MAKI DANCE SCHOOL RECITAL**

APRIL

2 **HOLY THURSDAY / WIELKI CZWARTEK**

3 **HOLY FRIDAY / WIELKI PIĄTEK**

4 **HOLY SATURDAY / WIELKA SOBOTA**

5 **EASTER / WIELKANOC**

6 **EASTER MONDAY / PONIEDZIAŁEK WIELKANOCNY - ŚMIGUS-DYNGUS**

15 **TAX DAY**

17-18 **LOCKPORT, IL – PRCUA NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT**. See pg. 9 for details.

19 **ROGALIN DANCE TROUPE ANNUAL RECITAL**

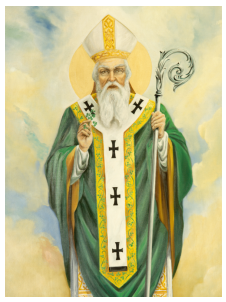
SOUTHWEST CENTER OF POLISH SONG AND DANCE RECITAL

25 **WYANDOTTE, MI – POLKA BENEFIT DANCE PRESENTED BY PRCUA SOCIETY #162**, PRCUA Hall, 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte, MI. Doors open at 5 p.m.; music from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. See pg. 11 for details.

26 **POLONIA ENSEMBLE 40TH ANNIVERSARY RECITAL**

28 **PRCUA ST. JOHN PAUL II SOCIETY #1593 MEETING FOR ELECTION OF SOCIETY DELEGATES TO CONVENTION**. Contact Christopher Ozog at prcua1593@gmail.com for location of meeting or virtual meeting invite. Meeting will start at 7 p.m.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND ST. JOSEPH'S DAY



March 17



March 19

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

Do you want to keep receiving the *Naród Polski?*

PRCUA is updating our records. To continue receiving print copies of the *Naród Polski*, all members will need to resubscribe. Be on the lookout for information in our next print and digital issues.

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YEAR 4	4.50% GUAR.	4.25% GUAR.	4.00% GUAR.	7%
YEAR 5	NON-GUAR.	NON-GUAR.	NON-GUAR.	6%
YEAR 6	NON-GUAR.	NON-GUAR.	NON-GUAR.	5%
YEAR 7	NON-GUAR.	NON-GUAR.	NON-GUAR.	4%

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For more information contact:

Marge Grzeszczuk, ALMI
Sales Coordinator

Joanna Blach, ALMI
Sales Associate

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sales@prcua.org

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MAXIMIZE YOUR TAX SAVINGS AND CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL IRA RETIREMENT ACCOUNT



The Tax Filing Deadline is APRIL 15, 2026

2025 IRA combined annual contribution limits for both traditional and Roth IRAs:

$7,000 for individuals *under* the age of 50

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*Disclaimer: Some contributions to traditional and Roth IRAs are subject to income limits and other eligibility requirements. Please consult with your Financial Advisor.

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1. All necessary contact information has been accurately filled out on the form.
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3. The prospective member's Life Insurance certificate must be approved and issued.

*Limitations and restrictions apply. Program subject to change without notice. PRCUA employees, directors and sales agents are not eligible to participate in the member referral program.

REFERRING MEMBER'S NAME: (ACTIVE PRCUA MEMBERS ONLY)

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

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Completed forms can be mailed to the **PRCUA Sales Department**
984 N Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60642 or submitted online at **PRCUA.org/referral-program**

A CALL TO CONVENE: THE 64TH QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION (*Continued from pg. 1*)

commitment matter. By stepping forward, you help ensure that the PRCUA continues to grow, adapt, and serve future generations.

As previously announced (see pages 4-5), elections for delegates and alternates must take place between April 15 and May 20, 2026. Delegate packets will be mailed to Financial Secretaries in mid-April and must be returned by mail or email no later than May 30, 2026.

Reach out to an officer of your Society to learn how you can participate. As information and tools are available for our Delegates, we will be publishing updates on process improvements and planned technology improvements we plan to utilize.

This Convention carries special meaning. As we embark on a new chapter of leadership - and as the first woman President in our proud history - I am especially mindful that our strength has always come from engaged, capable members willing to step forward. Serving as a delegate or in an open leadership role requires not only dedication but also professional insight: the ability to understand and act thoughtfully on complex matters related to governance, finance, legal obligations, insurance products, and the evolving fraternal landscape. I encourage those with business experience, strategic vision, and a purposeful mindset to consider this opportunity. Your informed participation ensures that our Union remains strong, relevant, and sustainable for generations to come, while safeguarding the integrity and future of the PRCUA.

Please contact your Society officers for delegate applications and review the Convention information page for details regarding open positions and procedures.

Together, we will honor our legacy while shaping our future.

I look forward to gathering with you in Rosemont in August 2026 - listening, collaborating, and working side by side as we write the next chapter of PRCUA's history.

Fraternally,
Agnieszka Bastrzyk, ALMI, FICF, ACS
National President

PACCF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE

The Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation is proud to announce that the 2026/2027 period to apply for scholarships is now open.

We are again offering the Richard C. Gorecki Scholarships and the Majer & Lakowski Families Memorial Scholarships.

Please go to our website at www.paccf.org under the "Scholarship" tab for the requirements, application, media release form and applicable deadlines. If you have any questions, please email us at paccf@paccf.org.

Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation
Website: www.paccf.org | Email: paccf@paccf.org | 773.763.9942
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★ 2026 CONVENTION ★

August 7-9, 2026 · Rosemont/Chicago, Illinois

— 64TH PRCUA QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENTS —

ENSURE YOUR SOCIETY'S VOICE IS HEARD: ELECT YOUR CONVENTION DELEGATES

As members of PRCUA*Life*, every Society plays a vital role in shaping the future of our organization. In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, elections for delegates and alternates to the upcoming Convention must take place between **April 15 and May 20, 2026**.

If your Society's meeting date is not listed in the PRCUA Calendar of Events, please contact your society representative for information. We also ask that all Societies email their meeting information to the Home Office by March 15, 2026, so we can ensure accurate scheduling and representation.

Delegate packets will be mailed to financial secretaries in mid-April and must be returned by mail or email no later than **May 30, 2026**. Timely submission ensures that your delegates are fully registered and ready to participate in shaping the direction of PRCUA*Life*.

MAKE YOUR SOCIETY'S VOICE COUNT! YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FUTURE OF OUR PRCUA FRATERNAL FAMILY.

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF PRCUA*LIFE*: SUBMIT PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

All PRCUA members are encouraged to submit proposed changes to our Constitution and Bylaws and help ensure that our governance reflects the needs and values of our membership.

Your ideas can strengthen our fraternal foundation, preserve our traditions, and support the continued growth and impact of PRCUA. Every thoughtful suggestion is an opportunity to improve how we serve our members and communities.

Changes must be submitted in writing to the Constitution Committee for consideration. Please follow the format below when submitting changes.

Proposals to the Constitution Committee should include the following information:

- Name
- Address
- Phone
- Email
- Society number
- Section number
- Article number
- Page(s)
- Title of Article
- Reason for proposed change
- Proposed wording

Send proposed changes by **June 1, 2026** to:

PRCUA Constitution Committee
Secretary-Treasurer Julie Prado
984 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60642-4101

or email to constitution-proposals@prcua.org

WHY OUR LEADERS SERVE

"I am deeply humbled and proud to serve as the first woman president in PRCUA's 150+ year history, driven by a belief in the power of the fraternal model to unite modern financial strategies with our core mission, ensuring our life insurance and annuity portfolios provide the financial protection our families rely on while strengthening our community support for generations to come."
President Agnieszka Bastrzyk

"Inspired by the PRCUA's significant 50-year impact on my life across cultural, artistic, and professional domains, I am driven to reciprocate by serving the organization. My goal has been to leverage my business experience to promote its mission, ensure its continuity, nurture its strengths, and mitigate its weaknesses."
Vice President Micheline Jaminski

"As a past employee, manager, and now appointed officer, I take pride in knowing that my work makes a real difference - strengthening PRCUA's fiscal foundation, promoting our mission and insurance business, and helping build a secure, meaningful future for our members, their families, and generations to come."
Secretary-Treasurer Julie Prado

HELP PRCUA*LIFE* IMPROVE: SUBMIT YOUR GRIEVANCES OR SUGGESTIONS

As members of PRCUA, you have a voice in the rules that guide our society. The PRCUA Budget and Grievance Committee invites any PRCUA member who has a suggestion or grievance to file it **by mail or email** with the Budget and Grievance Committee. It should be postmarked by **May 30, 2026**. The PRCUA Convention will only accept 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 suggestions and/or grievances to:

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

or email to budget-grievance-committee@prcua.org

STEP UP. SPEAK OUT.
BE PART OF SHAPING PRCUA FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

★ 2026 CONVENTION ★

August 7-9, 2026 ▪ Rosemont/Chicago, Illinois

Step Forward ▪ Serve with Purpose ▪ Lead the Future of PRCUA

The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America has always been strongest when members step forward to serve. Since our founding, member leadership has been the heart of who we are: protecting families, strengthening communities, and preserving our fraternal values.

We encourage and invite you to consider running for a PRCUA Board of Directors or officer position and help guide the future of an organization built on protection, service, and mutual support.

Leadership in a fraternal benefit society is more than governance. It is a commitment to our shared mission, our members' families, and the generations who will depend on PRCUA tomorrow. By serving, you bring your voice, experience, and values to decisions that strengthen our financial stability, honor our traditions, and expand our impact in the communities we serve.

If you believe in what PRCUA stands for, care deeply about our members, and are ready to give back in a meaningful way, this is your opportunity to lead with purpose. Your willingness to serve can make a lasting difference.

CONSIDER RUNNING. CONSIDER SERVING.
CONSIDER SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PRCUA*LIFE*, TOGETHER.

The Role of the Board and Executive Officers

The PRCUA Board of Directors is the decision-making body that safeguards our mission, represents the best interests of our members, and steers the long-term future of our society. We are seeking candidates who are ready to step in with integrity, vision, and commitment.

As a Board member, you will:

- Help guide long-term strategy and organizational direction
- Oversee responsible stewardship of member assets
- Ensure PRCUA remains strong, member-focused, and fraternal at its core

If you value service, community, and thoughtful leadership—and understand the balance between strategy and stewardship—we encourage you to consider this important role.

As an executive officer, you will:

- Oversee the implementation of strategic initiatives set by the Board of Directors
- Manage the operations, programs, and services that protect and support our members
- Provide leadership to the society's staff, ensuring excellence in administration and member services
- Maintain financial stewardship and operational accountability while preserving our fraternal values
- Serve as an ambassador for PRCUA, fostering relationships with members, communities, and partners

Effective executive officers balance operational management with long-term strategic thinking, ensuring the society continues to grow, remain financially strong, and uphold its fraternal mission. If you value service, integrity, and visionary leadership and want to make a lasting impact on PRCUA, this is a unique opportunity to guide the society at the highest level.

As PRCUA*Life* continues to grow and evolve, strong leadership will ensure we keep building momentum, expanding opportunities for members and strengthening our impact on the communities we proudly serve.

Who Should Consider Running?

PRCUA is seeking dynamic candidates with:

- A history of community involvement aligned with PRCUA's mission and values
- Strategic thinking and sound judgment
- Willingness to commit the time and energy necessary to help execute long-term strategies
- A member and mission-focused mindset

Candidates must also meet the requirements set by the Constitution according to Article 03K Nomination of Officers and Directors.

READY TO MAKE YOUR MARK?
STEP UP. SPEAK OUT. HELP BUILD WHAT'S NEXT.

How to Apply?

There are nine directors-at-large positions that need to be filled and three national officer positions: president, vice president and secretary-treasurer.

If you feel you fit the qualifications and have a calling to serve the PRCUA and help it continue to grow and flourish, please complete the application for national office.

- Go to our website: **www.PRCUA.org**
- Click on the blue "2026 Convention" button
- Review the PRCUA Constitution and By-Laws for qualifications and eligibility
- Click on "Application Packet"
- Complete the application and all required documents

Email all completed and signed documents to PRCUANationalOffice@prcua.org or mail to: Candidate Qualifications Committee
c/o Julie Prado, Secretary-Treasurer
984 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60642

All applications must be postmarked or emailed to the Candidate Qualifications Committee via the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer by **May 30, 2026**.

EVERY PRCUA DELEGATE WILL HAVE A VOICE
IN SHAPING THE FUTURE LEADERSHIP OF PRCUA
AT THE 64TH QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION





PRCUA PRODUCT ORDER FORM

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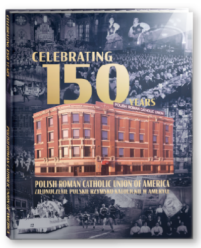
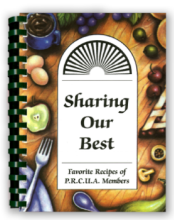
Pay online at PRCUA.org/payonline or complete the form below and mail **(with your check payable to PRCUA)** to:
PRCUA Marketing Department, 984 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60642

1. 

2. 

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1.	PRCUA 150TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE BOOK	×	$20.00	= $_____
2.	SHARING OUR BEST - 130TH ANNIVERSARY COOK BOOK	×	$17.00	= $_____
3.	COATS OF ARMS OF POLAND COLORING BOOK - VOL. I	×	$2.00	= $_____
4.	COATS OF ARMS OF POLAND COLORING BOOK - VOL. II	×	$2.00	= $_____
5.	OUR POLISH ANCESTORS COLORING BOOK	×	$2.00	= $_____
6.	PROMOTING POLISH CULTURE - A HISTORY OF PRCUA SCHOOLS & GROUPS	*LIMIT 1*	FREE	$ 0.00
NAME			TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	$_____

ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
PHONE	EMAIL		

REMEMBERING PRESIDENT EMERITUS WALLACE M. OZOG'S LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY (*Continued from pg. 1*)

Michigan Department of Social Services as an analyst and consultant, retiring in 1998. Shortly after retiring, he became National President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), following 12 years of service as National Non-Resident Vice President. From 1998 to 2010, he and Joann lived in Chicago while maintaining their home in Warren, Michigan.

Wallace's dedication to PRCUA began at age 18 and continued throughout his life. His involvement spanned sports programs, cultural initiatives, Polish language and dance schools, and membership growth. A lifelong promoter of Polish culture, he proudly represented the organization and met numerous dignitaries, including Pope John Paul II, Polish President Lech Wałęsa, various U.S. Presidents, Cardinal Józef Glemp, and other religious leaders.

He was a longtime member of PRCUA Societies Fr. Al's (1493) and St. John Paul (1593), where he organized sporting tournaments, fundraising events, and community activities. Wallace brought joy to gatherings with his humor, warmth, and genuine positivity. He remained deeply involved in his sons' lives, attending their activities and offering steadfast support. He and Joann worked as true partners throughout their marriage.

Wallace was also a member of Friends of the Cardinal, Michigan FICs, Lifetime member and Chairman of the Polish Museum of America, Lifetime member of Polish American Cultural Center, PAC Scholarship President, Ambassador and on the Board of Regents at Orchard Lake St. Mary and oversaw the Detroit Polish Festival and Detroit Tigers Polish American Night for many years.

Wallace passed away peacefully from pulmonary fibrosis under hospice care and the compassionate support of Teresa Budnik.

The funeral Mass for Mr. Ozog will be held on Monday, March 9 at St. Anne Church in Warren, Michigan, followed by internment.

Wallace M. Ozog's life stands as a remarkable testament to perseverance, leadership, faith, and unwavering dedication to the Polish-American community. As the 26th President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, he served three consecutive four-year terms, guiding one of the nation's oldest and highly respected Polish fraternal organizations into the 21st century with vision and integrity.

Ozog also played a transformative role as Chairman of the Board of the Polish Museum of America (PMA) in Chicago. Under his leadership, the Museum experienced a remarkable revival and major renovations were completed. Through tireless fundraising efforts, more than one million dollars was raised to restore and modernize the institution, ensuring that future generations could experience and appreciate Poland's cultural legacy.

His numerous honors—including the Heritage Award from the Polish American Congress and the bronze Gloria Artis Medal for Merit to Culture—recognized decades of faithful service.

Above all, Wallace M. Ozog's accomplishments reflect servant leadership grounded in faith, heritage, and community. He will be deeply missed withing the Polish community in Illinois and Michigan and by all, who had the honor to work under his leadership.

Please remember Mr. Ozog and his family in your prayers. May peace be upon his soul.

[Mr. Wallace M. Ozog.'s full biography can be read in the May, June and July 2024 digital issues of *Naród Polski*.]



Our deepest condolences

On behalf of the entire PRCUA, we extend our deepest sympathies to Mrs. Joann Ozog and the Ozog family during this difficult time.

We honor Mr. Wallace Ozog's remarkable legacy and the countless contributions he made to our organization and Polish American community. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

87th NATIONAL PRCUA BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Hosted by PRCUA D8

April 17-18, 2026 Lockport, IL

SPORTS VENUE

Strike N Spare II (815) 838-2450
811 Northern Dr., Lockport, IL 60441
strikeandspare2.net

LODGING

Hampton Inn by Hilton (708) 206-3048
16176 LaGrange Rd., Orland Park, IL 60467

- PRCUA rate: $169 plus taxes per night (2 queen beds)
- Use code PRC when booking
- Group rate reservation deadline is **March 13**
- Includes hot breakfast daily

Link to reservations: https://group.hamptoninn.com/u2mao0

HOSPITALITY

Details will be announced at a later date

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Squad Times (one squad per day)

- Doubles/Singles - Friday, April 17 at 11:00am
- Team Event - Saturday, April 18 at 11:30am

(Opening ceremony will be at 11:00am)

Send in your completed entry form (along with the appropriate entry fees) by the deadline. Please be sure to fill in all information on your entry form, including average information. The deadline for submitting entries is **Friday, March 20.**

A secured room for overnight bowling ball storage will be available. There is a tournament office located at the bowling alley; details will be provided at the facility upon arrival.

The host society will offer jackpots and other raffles.

AWARDS CEREMONY

American Legion Post #18
15052 S. Archer Ave., Lockport, IL 60441
Doors open at 5pm
Light snacks provided; cash bar
No charge for bowlers; guests pay $15

TOURNAMENT HOST

PRCUA District 8

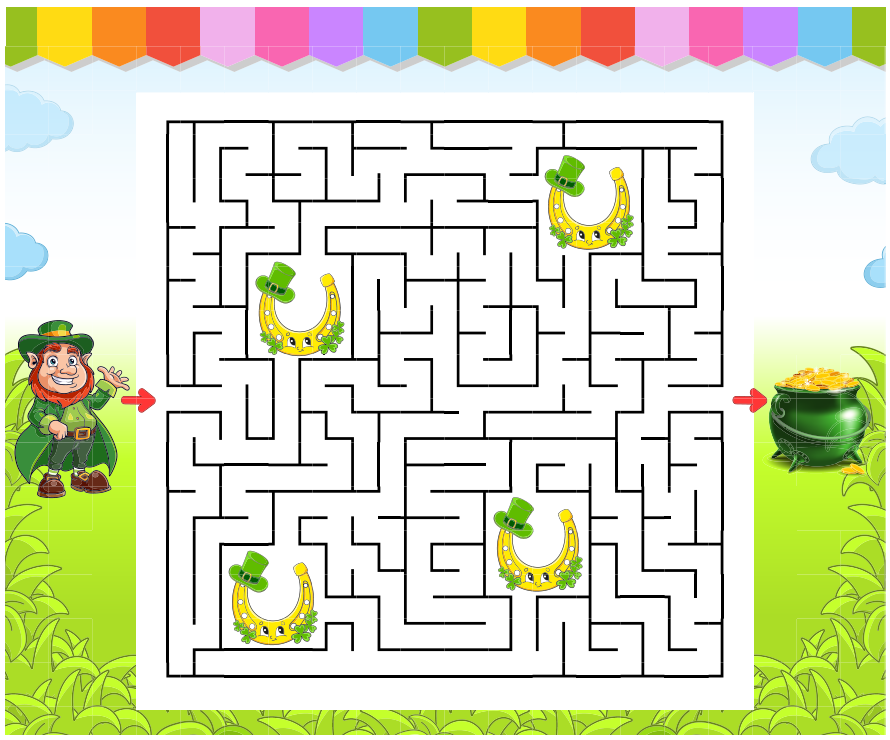
TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

Brian Brumm, Bowling Coordinator
Conrad Wiecek, PRCUA Fraternal Coordinator

Additional information available at www.PRCUA.org/bowling

Kids  Activity Page!

1. Which way to the pot of gold? The leprechaun must collect all four horseshoes.



2. Find all the words in the puzzle.



3. Find 10 differences.



4. Color the picture for St. Joseph's Day.



Answers on pg. 20

JOIN US for the
50th FASHION SHOW LUNCHEON

Presented by the
Adult Culture Group
of PRCUA

March 8, 2026
at Crystal Grand Banquets
12416 S. Archer Ave, Lemont , IL
Entry 11:00 a.m. - Luncheon 12:00
Donation $60.00

For tickets contact
Liz Dynowski at (708) 532-1541



TO JUŻ ZŁOTE GODY - NASZEJ MODY

To inquire about participating
as a vendor, email us at:
adultculturegroup@gmail.com

PRCUA #162 Sacred Heart of Jesus Society
Presents
The 8th Annual
POLKA BENEFIT DANCE
Proceeds Benefit The American Heart Association
Featuring Music by
Polka Family & John Gora & Gorale





Admission: $25
Saturday, April 25, 2026
Doors open at 5:00 p.m.
Music from 6:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
PRCUA Hall
1430 Oak Street Wyandotte, MI 48192
Share the Wealth Raffles
Polish Kitchen - Cash Bar - No B.Y.O.B.
Hotel Info: Comfort Inn & Suites (734) 287-9200
For Additional Information Contact:
Staś Pasko (313) 815-5230
John Zelasko Sr. (734) 558-9457

The Echoes of Poland Pierogi Dinner

March 13, 2026
4 to 8 p.m.

PRCUA Hall, 5255 N. Detroit, Toledo, OH

Adults $13 - Children $6

Menu: 4 pierogi, vegetable, salad, bread/butter, dessert, coffee/punch

Dozens available - $13.00: cheese, potato, mixed (no kraut dozens)

Call or text: 419-304-7430

Electronic payments available

P.R.C.U.A.

The Echoes of Poland Pierogi Dozen Sale

P.R.C.U.A.

March 27, 2026
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

PRCUA Hall, 5255 N. Detroit, Toledo OH

$13.00 per dozen: cheese, potato, mixed (no kraut dozens)

Call or text: 419-304-7430

Order by March 18, 2026

Electronic payments available



MILITARY OFFICIALS AND POLISH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER VISIT THE PMA AND THE PRCUA

In early February, the Polish Museum of America and the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America hosted two Polish delegations.

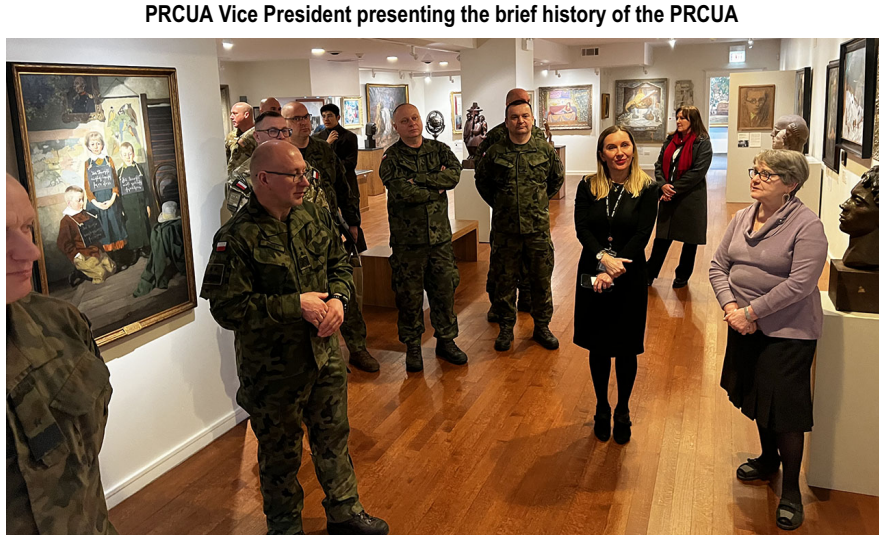
On February 3, the PMA and PRCUA were visited by a delegation from the Polish Territorial Defence Forces (WOT), accompanied by representatives of the U.S. Army: MG Dr Krzysztof Stańczyk – Commander of the Territorial Defence Forces; BG Mieczysław Gurgielewicz – Commander of the 1st Podlaska Territorial Defense Brigade; Col. Zbigniew Krzyszczuk – Commander of the 2nd Lubelska Territorial Defence Brigade;



Welcome in the PRCUA/PMA building lobby



PRCUA Vice President presenting the brief history of the PRCUA



Guests touring the PMA gallery with curator Julita Siegel and tour guide Barbara Kożuchowska



Archivist Halina Misterka presenting the history of the Paderewski Room

Col. Zbigniew Targoński – Chief of Staff, Territorial Defense Forces Command; Col. Marcin Madej – Head of International Military Cooperation, TDF Command; Col. Radosław Gwiazda – International Military Cooperation Officer; Sgt. Maj. Piotr Łączyński – Aide-de-camp to the Commander; Maj. Kyle J. Ullmark, U.S. Army – Bilateral Affairs Officer, U.S. Military Group Poland; Maj. Andrew Ducker, U.S. Army.

After an official welcome in the lobby by PRCUA board members: Vice President Micheline Jaminski, Secretary-Treasurer Julie Prado, PMA Managing Director Małgorzata Kot, and the museum staff, guests proceeded to the PRCUA offices, where they learned about the PRCUA history.

They then toured the collections of the Polish Museum of America, where, under the guidance of museum staff, they toured the Paderewski Room, the Main Hall, the Transportation Room and Gallery, the Costume Room, and the Archives.

The visit concluded with an entry in the visitors' book and the presentation of small gifts.

The delegation was accompanied by Consul Renata Lalik-Gałan and her husband, Sławomir Gałan.

On February 6, the Polish Museum of America and the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America had the honor of welcoming Radosław Sikorski, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, who visited the Museum together with an official delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation included: Agnieszka Homańska, Head of the Political Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs; Filip Jasiński, Deputy Director, Head of the Department of America, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Łukasz Pawłowski, Deputy Director, Head of the Department of Strategy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Szymon Szaran, Deputy Director, Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs; Magdalena Pszczółkowska, Head of the



Deputy Prime Minister Radosław Sikorski with PRCUA Executives: Julie Prado, Agnieszka Bastrzyk and Micheline Jaminski



L-r: Mr. Sikorski, PMA President Richard Owsiany, PAC President Hubert Cioromski



Mr. Sikorski with PRCUA National Director of District #7, Ewa Cholewinski



Mr. Sikorski answering questions at the press conference in the Paderewski Room



Honorable guest admiring the Paderewski memorabilia



Mr. Sikorski (r) answering the questions during an interview conducted by Łukasz Dutka (l)



Tour of the PMA Art Gallery (l-r): Małgorzata Kot, Richard Owsiany, Julita Siegel, Mr. Sikorski



Leaders of the Polish American diaspora with Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland

Economic Promotion Section, Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Piotr Drzewiecki, First Secretary, Department of America, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Kamil Borowski, Media Relations Office, photographer. The Consulate General of the Republic of Poland was represented by Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago Regina Jurkowska, Vice Consul Agata Grochowska, Consul Grzegorz Kacprzyński, Vice Consul Bernadetta Pałka-Maciejewska, Eliza Kasjan-Górecka, Sławomir Gałan, and Adam Sosiński.

Mr. Sikorski was welcomed by PRCUA Executive Officers: President Agnieszka Bastrzyk, Vice President Micheline Jaminski and Secretary-Treasurer Julie Prado, PMA President Richard Owsiany, Managing Director Małgorzata Kot and the PMA staff.

The delegation visited the PRCUA offices where they met with Polish American Congress President Hubert Cioromski and representatives of local state and municipal offices.

Deputy Prime Minister Sikorski met with the leaders of the Polish American diaspora in the Great Hall of the PMA. The distinguished guest was welcomed and introduced by Ricahrd Owsiany, President of the PMA, and Agnieszka Bastrzyk, President of the PRCUA and Chairwoman of the PMA Board. Mr. Sikorski sat down for an interview moderated by Łukasz Dutka, Director General of "Dziennik Związkowy," addressed the audience and answered several questions from the audience.

The meeting with the Polish American community concluded with a group photo, after which Deputy Prime Minister Sikorski went to a press conference held in the Paderewski Room.

After the program, Mr. Sikorski and had an opportunity to tour the Polish Museum of America.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides continuous support to the PMA, including grants that have enabled the implementation of modernization and conservation work at the Museum.

PĄCZKI DAY IN THE DOTTE AT PRCUA WYANDOTTE

By Stan Pasko
President #162

So, what a better place than PRCU 162 – Wyandotte.

The morning started with the lounge opening at 8:30 a.m. and some great Bloody Marys poured by Kristi our bartender as well some morning shenanigans from the die-hards who used to be on the bus at one time to Hamtramck. Slowly the lounge was filling up in preparation for the big celebration starting at 12 noon in the hall. For mere $5 admission got you in for all the festivities where over 425 people came to enjoy the day. Polka music playing in the hall from noon till 4 p.m. Mike and Phyllis Izbicki provided a great selection of Polish food in the kitchen including your choice of delicious *pączki*! Mike Halberstadt and Rob Tyrybon geared up all the bartenders, Erin and AJ, and stocked up the bar in the hall for everyone to enjoy. Wyandotte's local brewery The Wyandotte Beer Company, provided us a keg of special made *Supa Dupa Pączki* flavored beer, and it was good! Then at 4 p.m. we welcomed the live sounds of the Holy Toledo Jam Band until 8 p.m. Joe Zalewski, Bobby Earl, Jack Beachly, Chase Mackiewicz, Chris Hendrich and Jimmy Mackiewicz Jr., kept everyone dancing and singing throughout the night.

It turned out to be a great day, enjoyed by everyone. Seems Wyandotte's very own Pączki Day celebration continues to grow!

Photos: John Drozdowski.


































CELEBRATING GEN. CASIMIR PULASKI



Casimir Pulaski (Kazimierz Pułaski) was a Polish nobleman and military commander whose life bridged two nations struggling for independence in the eighteenth century. Born on March 4, 1745 in Warsaw to an influential family within the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, Pulaski grew up during a period of political instability and foreign interference. From an early age, he was exposed to ideas of liberty and national sovereignty, values that would shape his military career and ultimately define his legacy in both Poland and the United States.

Pulaski first gained prominence as a leading figure in the Bar Confederation (1768–1772), a movement formed by Polish nobles who opposed Russian domination and sought to defend the independence of the Commonwealth. As a cavalry commander, he became known for his bold tactics, mobility, and determination. Despite his courage and several tactical successes, the confederation ultimately failed, and Poland's political situation deteriorated further. Pulaski was forced into exile after the conflict, wandering across Europe in search of support for Poland's cause. Though his efforts did not immediately restore Polish sovereignty, his resistance symbolized the enduring desire for national self-determination that would later inspire future generations of Poles.

Pulaski's life took a decisive turn when he traveled to North America in 1777 during the American Revolutionary War. Recommended by prominent figures such as Benjamin Franklin, he offered his military expertise to General George Washington. Pulaski quickly proved his value. At the Battle of Brandywine in September 1777, he recognized a critical British maneuver that threatened to overwhelm Washington's forces. Acting decisively, he organized a cavalry charge that helped cover the American retreat and prevented a complete disaster. His bravery and tactical awareness earned him recognition, and he was soon appointed a Brigadier General in the Continental Army.

Understanding the importance of cavalry in modern warfare, Pulaski advocated for the creation of a more organized and professional mounted force. He later formed "Pulaski's Legion," a mixed cavalry and infantry unit that trained soldiers in European-style discipline and maneuvering. This unit played a vital role in several engagements in the southern theater of the war. Pulaski's emphasis on speed, reconnaissance, and coordinated attacks contributed to the development of American cavalry traditions, earning him the title "Father of the American Cavalry."

Pulaski's commitment to liberty ultimately cost him his life. In 1779, (*Continued on pg. 17*)

ZAJĄCZEK DANCE ENSEMBLE NEWS

By Barb Ozog, Secretary
Zajączek Dance Ensemble

The annual *Polska Zabawa* fundraiser supporting the Zajączek Dance Ensemble was held on Saturday, January 31, at the American Polish Century Club in Sterling Heights, Michigan. The theme this year was the 80's. Many people came dressed in their best 80's outfits with many fanny packs in the crowd! Centerpieces were made up of candies and drinks from the 80's as well as a few small games. Glow sticks were available to every guest for later in the evening.

Raffle baskets filled multiple tables. Superbowl Squares, Share the Wealth tickets, beads for the Bead Dance and the Walls of Envelopes were also being sold. A cornhole tournament took place while the Bead Dance and Musical Chairs were being played.



Colleen Bonkowski and DJ Tommy



Best dressed winners



Zabawa'26 Board



Richard Simmons lookalike



Musical chairs winner

Tommy Lisiecki once again provided music for the evening, playing a variety of 80's music. Polish nachos, sliders, *kiełbasa*, and *pierogi* were served and enjoyed by all the guests. Desserts were many different cakes donated by Sweet Dreams Bakery located in Warren, Michigan and different cookies. Door prize tickets were used to give away centerpieces; raffle baskets were called, and many guests left with some great prizes.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this fundraiser, your support is greatly appreciated! Save the date for next year's *Zabawa* which will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2027. Our recital will be held on Saturday, March 14 at 2:30 p.m. at Warren Woods Auditorium in Warren. Admission is $10. Contact Colleen Bonkowski at (586) 219-1982 or at zajaczekschool@yahoo.com for more information.



Cobra Kai

POLISH EGG DECORATING WORKSHOP AT THE PMA

Celebrate Easter by learning the traditional art of *Pisanki*, Polish egg decorating! The Polish Museum of America invites participants to a hands-on workshop on Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The workshop will be led by Christine Frankowicz-Burd, who will guide participants step by step through traditional wax-resist techniques using classic tools. The workshop is open to participants ages 10 and up (children must be accompanied by an adult). Space is limited to 40 participants.

Location: PRCUA Social Hall, First Floor, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

Cost: $25 (includes stylus and wax).

What to bring: 3–4 raw or hard-boiled eggs

Registration includes: free museum admission for the day; complimentary parking

2026 *Pisanki* workshop is co-sponsored by the Edward T. & Ellen K. Dryer Charitable Foundation.

73rd PRCUA National Golf Tournament

Saturday, July 25, 2026

GOLF COURSE

Willow Metropark Golf Course (734) 753-4040
22900 Huron River Dr., New Boston, MI 48164

LODGING

Comfort Suites (734) 287-9200
18950 Northline Rd., Southgate, MI 48195
Reservation deadline: July 10
$119.99/night plus taxes for one King bed or two Queen beds
Code: PRCUA Golf

WELCOME GATHERING

July 24, 6:00-9:00PM
PRCUA Society 162 Lounge
1430 Oak St., Wyandotte, MI 48192
Free beer and appetizers included

DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY

PRCUA Society 162 Hall
1430 Oak St., Wyandotte, MI 48192
Tournament winners will be announced
Banquet is free for all golfers, additional guests pay $20
Lounge opens at 2:00PM, Dinner at 6:00PM, open bar (beer & wine)

GOLF TOURNAMENT

* Shotgun Start: 7:30AM and 1:00PM
* Four-Person Scramble
Lunch provided for all golfers

TOURNAMENT ENTRY

Entry forms are available online at prcua.org/sports. Non-refundable registration fee is $125 for PRCUA members. **Entries must be submitted by June 27, 2026. No entries will be accepted after the deadline.**

TOURNAMENT SCRAMBLE RULES

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

FOURSOME CATEGORIES

Men – 4 Men under 70 years of age
Women – 4 Women under 70 years of age
Mixed – 2 Men & 2 Women under 70 years of age.
Senior – 70 years of age and over. This group can be all men, all women or mixed.

CONTESTS

PAR 3 CLOSEST TO THE PIN

There will be 2 par 3 holes designated for the closest to the pin contest. Categories include men's, women's and senior (age 70+). Men will use the white tees, women will use the green tees, and seniors will use the yellow tees. The tee shot closest to the hole wins.

LONGEST DRIVE

The winner is the player who hits their tee shot the farthest while keeping the ball in the fairway. This contest will have the same 3 categories as the closest to the pin contest.

TOURNAMENT HOSTS

PRCUA Society 162
Stan Pasko, President

Additional information available at www.prcua.org/golf

CELEBRATING GEN. CASIMIR PULASKI (*Continued from pg. 16*)

during the Siege of Savannah (also known as the Second Battle of Savannah) in Georgia, he was mortally wounded while leading a cavalry charge against British defenses. He died shortly afterward, far from his homeland, but firmly dedicated to the cause of American independence. His sacrifice cemented his reputation as a hero in the United States.

Today, Pulaski is remembered as a transatlantic champion of freedom. In Poland, he stands as a symbol of resistance against foreign domination and a defender of national dignity. In the United States, he is honored as a Revolutionary War hero whose leadership and sacrifice strengthened the fight for independence. Monuments, counties, and annual commemorations in his name reflect the enduring respect both nations hold for him. Casimir Pulaski's life illustrates how the struggle for liberty can transcend borders, uniting people across continents in a shared pursuit of freedom.

On the first Monday of March, Chicago and Cook County observe Pulaski Day, honoring the Polish-born American Revolutionary War hero Casimir Pulaski.

The holiday is observed on the first Monday of March each year, falling around Pulaski's birthday. This date was established in 1977 by Illinois law. The bill was introduced by State Senator Norbert A. Kosinski, a Democrat from Chicago, and signed by Thomas Hynes, President of the Senate, on June 26, 1977.

The first Casimir Pulaski Day was celebrated in 1978.

In 1879, Savannah, Georgia, commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Siege of Savannah (September 16 to October 18, 1779) with a grand public celebration organized by the Jasper Monument Association. The event was a major civic and historical occasion, drawing attention to the Revolutionary War's southern theater and honoring key figures and sites from the campaign.

The festivities included: a grand parade through Savannah streets, showcasing military units; historical reenactments and displays of Revolutionary War-era equipment; monuments and memorials, including the Pulaski Monument dedicated to Casimir Pulaski; marching bands and public processions, reflecting the era's tradition of civic pageantry.

On October 9, 1879, The Pulaski March, composed by Henri Schoeller was performed by all the bands in attendance.

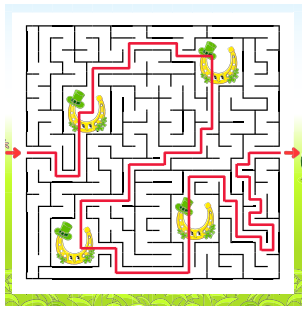
Henri Schoeller was an American composer active primarily in the late 19th century, with works published between about 1863 and 1892. He is known for a range of popular songs, marches, and other light music, often in the parlour song and minstrel traditions of the era.



Cover page of the Pulaski March music by Henry Schoelle
(Copy of the music pamphlet - the Polish Museum of America collection)

ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLES ON PG. 10:

1. Which way to the pot of gold?:



2. Find all the words in the puzzle:



3. Find 10 differences:



KENNY GERMAIN RECEIVES AN AWARD





St. Stan's PRCUA Society #718 member Kenny Germain received the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association "Assistant Coach of the Year 2025" Award. Kenny is the assistant coach for Divine Child High School in Dearborn Michigan. Pictured with his mother Jane Katsaros also a member of St. Stan's #718.

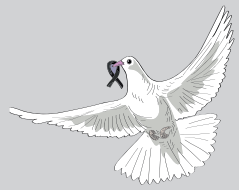
As a 2024 graduate of Madonna University, he learned that speed training and footwork drills were always a huge part of training and building athleticism. Kenny loved analytics and looked forward to using it any way he can. His coaching strategy was to create a spreadsheet, spreadsheets that included the team and individual statistics which highlighted comparisons. The spreadsheet showed the team in living color, how hard their work and commitment had enabled them to drastically improve their results from the previous season. He tracked each player's score for every match, listed their records and opponents and calculated their results, and did a team comparison with their results in the year prior. This easily paid off for the players and how much their hard work paid off. Divine Child Tennis team made the playoffs for the first time in their school's history, evidenced by his spreadsheets. Coaches are valuable in that they provide a needed guidance with regard to the sheer number of kids who now play tennis for their high schools. Kenny feels that teaching these kids and giving them a good time leave a positive impact on them is like none other.

Our sincere condolences

PRCUA extends sincere condolences to Mr. Louis Synakowski and his family on the death of his wife, Diane A. Synakowski (82) of Vero Beach, FL. Diane Synakowski was the former PRCUA National Director (1992 - 2002) of District #2 and member of St. Cecilia Society #631.

Eternal rest, grant unto her, O Lord. May her soul rest in peace. Please remember Diane Synakowski and her family in your prayers.

DEARLY DEPARTED PRCUA BROTHERS AND SISTERS



Member	Society	State
Archibeque, Sherry	1617	OH
Ban, Gerard C	1593	TN
Bartoszek, Christopher	1575	IL
Blackmore, Kevin L.	162	Mi
Ciarkowski, Bernard	1593	MI
Conley, Orastean	701	CA
Corcoran, Rosemary	354	IL
Crevar, Deborah	709	OH
Druzak Jr., David D.	531	PA
Ejzak, Theresa	237	PA
Ficek, Richard	347	IL
Gonet, Joseph	604	MA
Grant, Alfreda	604	MA
Hajdu, Francis	463	CT
Haton, Gloria	290	IL
Hudak, Andrew	2109	OH
Kadzielawski, Leonard	795	IL
Kaplon, Bernice	247	OH
Kasprzycki, Michael C.	463	CT
Konecki, Fred	957	IL
Koziol, Julia S.	471	IL
Kutza, Thomas	2015	PA
Lapoint, Kathleen	1633	MI
Lawver, Lillian	1000	IL

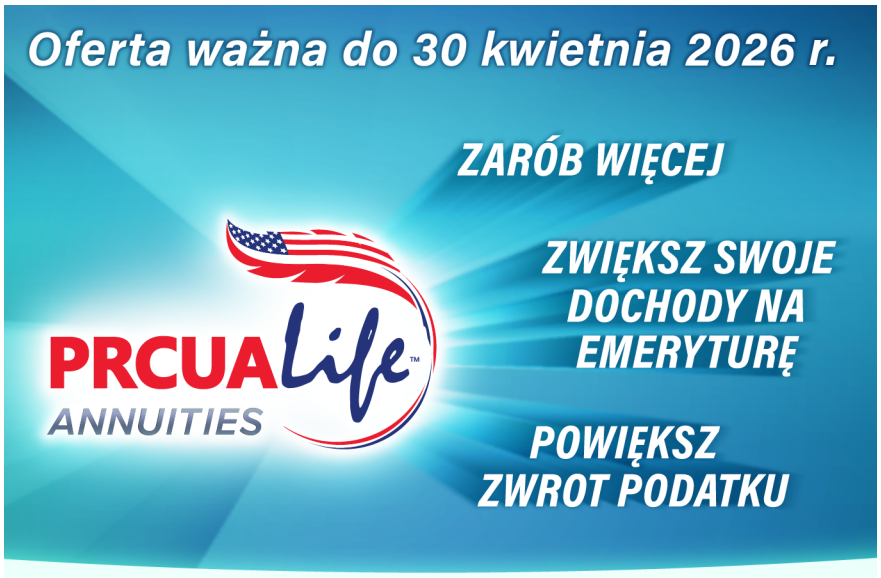
Member	Society	State
Lewandowski, George	308	IL
Lewis, James	1492	FL
Lysiak, Theodore E.	1617	OH
Macek, Richard F.	718	MI
Murzin, Christopher	718	TX
Musial, Alvin J.	957	IL
Nasal, Marion M.	385	NY
Orr, Redia	1640	GA
Pastron, Irene	36	OH
Ptaszek, Theresa	880	IL
Rakus, Helen	540	NY
Riggs, Barry L.	2303	WI
Rzepa, Emily V.	1027	NY
Schubert, Herbert	283	WI
Serwan, Lorraine	540	NY
Sliwinski, Joseph	308	IL
Slubowski, Frank	162	Mi
Staranowicz, Frederick	1486	IL
Stary, Robert P.	517	NJ
Suski, Gregory J.	718	MI
Topolski, Anthony J. Jr.	540	NY
Zacharias, Margaret	1593	MI
Zak, Rev. Stanislaw	1000	IL
Zuber, Christine T.	2031	PA

PRCUA extends deepest condolences to the families of our members who departed recently. May eternal light shine upon them. Please remember our deceased members and their families in your prayers.

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*.



UBEZPIECZENIA BEZ TAJEMNIC

Robert Sobczak
Specjalista ds. ubezpieczeń

SNP (Special Needs Plan) – Plany dla osób w wyjątkowych sytuacjach

W dzisiejszym artykule przybliżymy Państwu specyfikę planów SNP, czyli planów dla osób będących w wyjątkowych sytuacjach oraz o specyficznych potrzebach. Zanim przejdziemy do szczegółów przypominamy, że plany typu SNP są planami z rodziny planów Medicare Advantage i generalnie podlegają zasadom oraz regulacjom tego rodzaju planów. Aby można było zapisać się na plany typu Medicare Advantage beneficjent musi mieć aktywną część A i B Medicare oraz mieszkać na terenie działania danego planu Medicare Advantage. Dodatkowo ważnym jest przypomnienie, że beneficjent nadal odpowiada za koszt części B Medicare jak również za możliwe miesięczne koszty planu Medicare Advantage.

Firma ubezpieczeniowa oferująca dany plan Medicare Advantage ma obowiązek przyjąć wszystkich aplikantów bez względu na ich stan zdrowia.

SNP (Special Needs Plans) ograniczają przyjęcie nowych klientów tylko i wyłącznie do osób spełniających specjalne wymagania ustalone przez Medicare.

Rodzaje planów typu SNP:

- Chronic - (C-SNPs)
  Plan ogranicza aplikantów tylko i wyłącznie do osób zdiagnozowanych ze specyficzną, chroniczną lub przewlekłą chorobą;

- Dual Eligible – (D-SNPs)
  Plan ogranicza aplikantów tylko i wyłącznie do osób posiadających jednocześnie program Medicare i Medicaid;

- Institutional - (I-SNPs)
  Plan ogranicza aplikantów tylko i wyłącznie do osób przewidujących pobyt w Long Term Skilled Nursing Facility (LTC), Nursing Facility (NF) i Intermediate Care Facility for Mentaly Retarded (ICF/MR) lub w szpitalu psychiatrycznym przez co najmniej 90 dni.

Planom typu SNP przysługują specjalne okresy zapisowe pozwalające osobom w specyficznej kategorii na zapisanie się lub zmianę planu typu SNP w specyficznych, wyjątkowych sytuacjach.

Tak na przykład w sytuacji gdy rozchorujemy się na cukrzycę lub zachorujemy na chorobę związaną z układem krążenia przysługuje nam specjalny okres zapisowy (SEP) przewidziany dla osób z przewlekłymi chorobami. Okres ten trwa tak długo jak osoba leczy się na określoną chorobę i zamyka się w momencie, w którym zapisujemy się na plan typu Medicare Advantage typy C-SNAP.

Jeśli natomiast chodzi o osoby Dual-Eligible to ze względu na przynależność do obu systemów (Medicare i Medicaid) mają one możliwość zmiany swojego planu raz na miesiąc.

Osobom kwalifikującym się na I-SNAP przysługuje tzw. OEPI (Open Enrollment Period for Instutitionalized Individuals) czyli otwarty okres zapisowy dla osób przebywających w ośrodkach specjalistycznych wspomnianych powyżej.

Cechą charakterystyczną OEPI jest to, że jest to ciągły otwarty okres zapisowy przeznaczony dla osób wprowadzających się do, przebywających oraz opuszczających ośrodki typu skilled nursing facility, nursing facility lub szpitala.

OEPI zaczyna się w momencie przyjęcia do ośrodka i kończy się dwa miesiące po jego opuszczeniu.

Osoby, którym przysługuje OEPI maja prawo do:

- nielimitowanej ilości zmian planów typu Medicare Advantage oraz do wypisania się z niego;
- zapisania się na indywidualną cześć D Medicare;
- powrotu do pokrycia oryginalnego Medicare.

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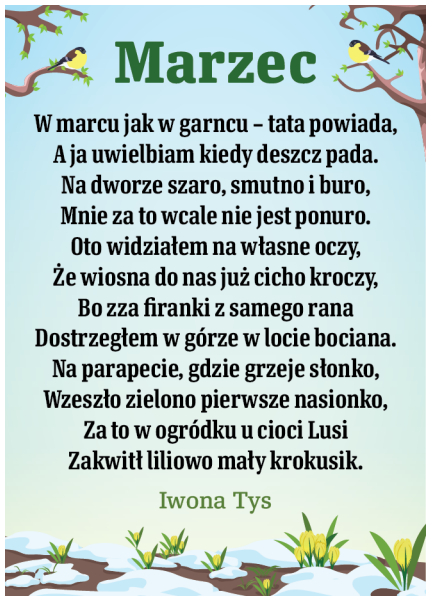


Witając marzec, z niecierpliwością czekamy na początek wiosny (20.03) i cały jej splendor: Dzień kobiet na całym świecie (08.03), radość Dnia Świętego Patryka (17.03) i wkrótce potem Dnia Świętego Józefa (19.03) oraz, oczywiście, jako dumni Polacy, urodziny generała Kazimierza Pułaskiego – bohatera dwóch krajów (4.03). [Jako bardzo dumna babcia, 4 marca to również 10. urodziny mojej wnuczki Ariany – nostalgia ściska serce, gdy czas szybko mija].

Marzec oznacza również początek wiosennego sezonu recitali szkół tańca PRCUA w Michigan: ZAJĄCZEK – Colleen Bonkowski, dyrektorka oraz Tricia Dennis i Rachael Kasperek, instruktorki (14.03); HALKA – Laura Hejza, dyrektorka i Tom Lisiecki, który świętuje 35-lecie jako instruktor (15.03); GWIAZDA – Jessica Urban, świętująca 15-lecie pracy na stanowisku dyrektora; Basia Nowakowski, instruktorka (21.03); MALBORK i instruktorka Michelle Marcinowski świętują 10-lecie – Natalia Szczygieł, dyrektorka; OPOLE – Beth Thacker, dyrektorka oraz Donna Skurski świętująca 50 lat pracy w OPOLU i 5 lat pracy w GWIEŹDZIE, co daje łącznie 55 lat; TATRY obchodzące 55. lecie – Mary Skurnit, dyrektorka i Karen Lubiarz, instruktorka; oraz recital z okazji 50. rocznicy zespołu POLSKIE MAKI – Maria Jalkiewicz, dyrektorka i Kelly Malinowski, instruktorka (29.03).

Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce we współpracy z PRCUA zorganizuje wirtualne obchody Dnia Pułaskiego w Wielkiej Sali w poniedziałek, 2 marca, które będą transmitowane na żywo na stronie www.polishmuseumofamerica.org od godziny 10. Wśród gości znajdą się nasi lokalni liderzy oraz liderzy Polonii. Występy taneczne zapewni Zespół Polskiego Tańca Ludowego „Wesoły Lud" z PRCUA. Relacja i zdjęcia z wydarzenia zostaną opublikowane w kolejnym numerze „Narodu Polskiego".

W dniu obchodów Międzynarodowego Dnia Kobiet, 8 marca, Grupa Kulturalna Dorosłych PRCUA zorganizuje swój 50. pokaz mody. Kopciuszek i Książę 2026, ich zastępcy oraz kandydaci ostatniego balu wystąpią jako modelki i modele lokalnych butików. Lokalni sprzedawcy udostępnią również tymczasowe sklepy, w których goście będą mogli zrobić zakupy. Nie zapomnijmy o licznych koszach z nagrodami, w których można spróbować szczęścia. Cały dochód zostanie przeznaczony na stypendia dla uczestników kolejnego Balu Kopciuszka i Księcia. Więcej inforamacji o pokazie mody znajduje się w angielskojęzycznej sekcji „Narodu Polskiego".

Życzymy członkini PRCUA, Poli Kozikowski, powodzenia w staraniach o tytuł Królowej Parady Polskiej 3 Maja w Chicago – wybory odbędą się 14 marca. Pola jest bardzo aktywna w życiu społeczności polonijnej jako m.in.: tancerka w Zespole Pieśni i Tańca „Polonia" PRCUA, kandydatka na Bal Kopciuszka i Księcia (2022 i 2025) oraz debiutantka na Balu Amarantowym.

22 marca w świetlicy PRCUA odbędzie się ponownie popularny obiad Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, organizowany przez Dystrykt #7. Specjalne podziękowania dla przewodniczącego Dystryktu #7 Mateusza Bomby i jego komitetu za zorganizowanie tej imprezy. Szczegóły znajdują się również na str. 11.

Poza codziennymi działaniami związanymi z branżą ubezpieczeniową i tradycyjnym w przedpościu karnawałowym sezonem zabaw i występów szkolnych, luty obfitował w kilka ważnych wydarzeń. 6 lutego MPA i PRCUA gościły Radosława Sikorskiego, Wicepremiera i Ministra Spraw Zagranicznych RP. Szczegółowe informacje i zdjęcia z tego wyjątkowego wydarzenia można znaleźć na stronie 12 (ang) i 23 (pol). Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce jest ważnym ośrodkiem polskiej kultury i historii, przyciągającym gości z całego świata. To dla mnie zaszczyt móc spotkać się i porozmawiać z licznymi osobistościami z Polski w siedzibie PRCUA, dzięki wsparciu MPA. Pragnę wyrazić wdzięczność dyrektor zarządzającej Małgorzacie Kot i jej zespołowi za ich zaangażowanie w ochronę przeszłości, jednocześnie kształtując przyszłość.

Prezeska Agnieszka Bastrzyk i sekretarz-skarbnik Julie Prado były obecne na kwartalnym zebraniu Dystryktu #8 w środę, 11 lutego, gdzie spotkały się z delegatami na Sejm PRCUA w 2022 r. z tego Dystryktu. Prezeska Krystyna Lech i jej zarząd serdecznie powitali naszych nowo mianowanych członków zarządu. Rozmowa koncentrowała się na zmianach w Zjednoczeniu, zbliżającym się Sejmie 2026 oraz modernizacji w zarządzaniu PRCUA. Mój mąż i ja mieliśmy zaszczyt być gospodarzami tego udanego wydarzenia. Dziękujemy wszystkim za obecność.

35. Bal Stanowy im. Shirley Ann Galanty w Michigan odbył się w sobotę 21 lutego w Crystal Gardens Banquet Center w Southgate w stanie Michigan. W tym roku szkoły tańca PRCUA z Michigan z dumą świętowały ukończenie szkoły przez 13 absolwentów: Ninę Anielę El-Ayali (Gwiazda Dancers, Hamtramck); Bailey Rosemarie Sayle (Halka Dancers, Detroit); Autumn Nicole Marcinowski (Malbork Dancers, Grand Rapids); Hannah Anastazia Palion (Opole Dancers, Warren); Alexę Jade Chiu, Kylie Grace Digna i Sophię Grace Lenard (Rogalin Dance Troupe, Wyandotte); Avę Ritarose Lackey, Dane'a Thomasa Lackey'a i Camden'a Rose Walters (Tatry Dancers, Dearborn Hts.); Vanessę Kinsey (Wieliczka Dance Ensemble, Redford); Amandę Jane Hess i Jennę Ellę Jablonski (Zajączek Dance Ensemble, Sterling Hts.). Kelly Malinowski podtrzymuje dziedzictwo swojej matki, Shirley Ann Galanty, pełniąc funkcję koordynatorki i choreografki balu, z pomocą córki Holly i dyrektorki ze szkoły Polskie Maki Dance School, Marii Jalkiewicz, a także wszystkich dyrektorów szkół tańca w stanie Michigan: Kristi Mihalic (Wieliczka), Mary Skurnit (Tatry), Lisy Brandt (Rogalin), Beth Thacker (Opole), Natalii Szczygiel (Malbork), Laury Hejzy (Halka), Jessiki Urban (Gwiazda) oraz dyrektorki krajowej Dystryktu #10 Colleen Bonkowski (Zajączek i Zakopane). Kapelan krajowy PRCUA, ks. kanonik Władysław J. Ptak, udzielił błogosławieństwa absolwentom i ich rodzinom, a także wszystkim obecnym oraz pobłogosławił poczęstunek. Były dyrektor krajowy Tom Lisiecki, który jest również choreografem



Absolwenci szkół tańca PRCUA z Michigan



Obchodząca 50. lecie pracy Janet Vilag

Halki i Zajączka, pełnił funkcję mistrza ceremonii. Dystrykt #10 reprezentowała dyrektorka krajowa Valerie Brumm wraz z mężem Brianem oraz Celeste Grabowski. Janet Vilag otrzymała wyróżnienie za 50 lat pracy jako instruktorka tańca w Rogalinie. Gratulacje, Janet, dziękuję za Twoje poświęcenie dla tańca! Ponieważ był to mój ostatni Bal Stanowy w Michigan w roli wiceprezeski PRCUA, pragnę wyrazić wdzięczność komitetowi balowemu za uhonorowanie mnie tytułem „Wróżki Chrzestnej". Jestem głęboko wzruszona i wdzięczna za miłe słowa wygłoszone w moim imieniu, wyrazy wdzięczności, ale przede wszystkim za przyjaźnie i Wasze nieustające zaangażowanie na rzecz PRCUA i jego członków, a także w zachowanie polskiej kultury tańca ludowego wśród polskiej społeczności. Gratuluję 35. rocznicy! Oby takich sukcesów było więcej! Brawo dla absolwentów za ich wyjątkowy występ i życzę Wam dalszych sukcesów na Waszej drodze życia!

Podczas pobytu

(Kont. na str. 22)



Dyrektorzy i instruktorzy szkół w Michigan z członkami zarządu PRCUA



Gwiazda



Rogalin

Członkowie zarządu PRCUA, ks. kapelan Władysław Ptak, dyrektor Colleen Bonkowski, Celeste Grabowski i Brian Brumm





Halka



Malbork





Absolwenci na parkiecie



Opole



Polskie Maki

OTWARTE DRZWI

(Kont. ze str. 21)

w Michigan, członkowie zarządu PRCUA odwiedzili państwa Wally'ego i Joann Ozog. Cieszyliśmy się, że mogliśmy spędzić z nimi trochę czasu, wspominając wspaniałe chwile, które spędzili z rodziną, przyjaciółmi i PRCUA.

W dniu 1 marca otrzymaliśmy smutną wiadomość, że pan Wallace Ozog zmarł pod długiej chorobie w dniu 28 lutego, otoczony najbliższą rodziną. Niech odpoczywa w pokoju wiecznym na wieki wieków, Amen.



Wieliczka

Składam moje najszczersze kondolencje w tym trudnym czasie Joann Ozog, ich synom i całej rodzinie pogrążonej w żałobie. Niech Bóg im błogosławi i da im siłę w nadchodzących dniach.

[Na pierwszej stornie tego wydania zamieszczamy nekrolog śp. Wallace Ozoga.]



Tatry

Frank J. Spula, prezes Związku Narodowego Polskiego (ZNP), został doceniony przez „Dziennik Związkowy" za dwudziestoletnią służbę na stanowisku prezesa Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej, otrzymując tytuł „Człowieka Roku" w czwartek, 26 lutego, w Konsulacie RP w Chicago. W wydarzeniu wzięli udział wybitni liderzy Polonii chicagowskiej, a także jego przyjaciele i współpracownicy, a Frank otrzymał liczne nagrody. Mam przy-jemność znać Franka Spulę od wielu lat i często wspominam nasze po-czątki – czy wiecie, że rozpoczął swoją przygodę w Szkole nr 1 PRCUA i był wyjątkowym akor-deonistą? Moi rodzice byli głęboko zaangażowani w ZNP, co zapocząt-kowało moją własną podróż z orga-nizacjami polonijnymi. Każdy z nas odkrył drogę,



Zajączek

którą wyznaczył nam Bóg. Ta uroczystość na cześć Franka Spuli wykracza poza jego 20-letnie doświadczenie jako prezesa ZNP lub PAC; był on niezłomnym orędownikiem Polonii amerykańskiej, a jego nazwisko jest znane każdemu Amerykaninowi polskiego pochodzenia. Gratulacje, Franku, za Twój niezwykły wkład w rozwój Polonii przez całe życie!

Luty zakończył się Balem – a dokładniej 86. Dorocznym Balem Amarantowym, organizowanym przez Legion Młodych Polek w hotelu Hilton w Chicago. Wśród tegorocznych debiutantek znalazły się dwie członkinie PRCUA: Julia Kalinowski i Paula Kowalczyk. Z wielką radością pragnę poinformować, że Paula Layla Kowalczyk została wybrana Królową 86. Balu Amarantowego. Paula, gratulujemy Ci tego wielkiego wyróżnienia, życzymy Ci wielu wspaniałych doświadczeń w nadchodzącym roku oraz wielu sukcesów w przyszłości. Jesteśmy z Ciebie dumni!

Wszystkim świętującym marcowe urodziny i rocznice ślubu, STO LAT! Wiosna tuż za rogiem – bawcie się dobrze! Do następnego razu…



Paula Layla Kowalczyk
- Królowa Balu Amarantowego

WIZYTA OFICERÓW WOJSKOWYCH I WICEPREMIERA RP W PRCUA I MPA

W pierwszych dniach lutego, Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce i Zjednoczenie Polskie Rzymsko-Katolickie w Ameryce gościły dwie polskie delegacje.

3 lutego Dom Zjednoczenia odwiedziła delegacja Wojsk Obrony Terytorialnej (WOT) w osobach: gen. dyw. Dr Krzysztof Stańczyk – Dowódca Wojsk Obrony Terytorialnej, gen. bryg. Mieczysław Gurgielewicz – dowódca 1. Podlaskiej Brygady OT, płk Zbigniew Krzyszczuk – dowódca 2. Lubelskiej Brygady OT, płk Zbigniew Targoński – szef Sztabu Dowództwa WOT, płk Marcin Madej – szef Oddziału Współpracy Międzynarodowej DWOT, płk Radosław





Wizyta delegacji WOT w siedzibie Zjednoczenia i MPA



Goście w Pokoju Paderewskiego

Gwiazda – oficer OWM DWOT, st. chor. Piotr Łączyński – adiutant dowódcy. Polskim wojskowym towarzyszyło dwóch żołnierzy armii amerykańskiej: mjr Kyle J. Ullmark, U.S. Army – Bilateral Affairs Officer, U.S. Military Group Poland i mjr Andrew Ducker, U.S. Army.

Po oficjalnym przywitaniu w lobby przez członków zarządu ZPRKA w osobach: prezes Agnieszki Bastrzyk, wiceprezes Micheline Jaminski i sekretarza-skarbnika Julie Prado; dyrektor zarządzającej MPA Małgorzaty Kot oraz pracowników muzeum goście udali się do biur ZPRKA, gdzie zapoznali się z historią Zjednoczenia.

Następnie zapoznali się ze zbiorami Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce, gdzie oprowedzani przez pracowników muzeum zwiedzili Pokój Paderewskiego, Salę Główną, Pokój Transportowy i Galerię, Pokój Kostiumowy oraz Archiwum.

Wizyta zakończyła się wpisem do księgi pamiątkowej oraz wręczeniem drobnych upominków.

Delegacji towarzyszyła konsul Renata Lalik-Gałan wraz z mężem Sławomirem Gałanem.



Przywitanie Wicepremiera w budynku ZPRKA/MPA (l-r): Julie Prado, Micheline Jaminski, Małgorzata Kot, Agnieszka Bastrzyk, konsul Regina Jurkowska, Wicepremier Radosław Sikorski, Richard Owsiany

6 lutego złożył wizytę w siedzibie ZPRKA i MPA Wiceprezes Rady Ministrów oraz Minister Spraw Zagranicznych Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej Radosław Sikorski, który odwiedził Muzeum wraz z oficjalną delegacją Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych.

W skład delegacji weszli: Agnieszka Homańska – szefowa Gabinetu Politycznego Ministra Spraw Zagranicznych, Filip Jasiński – zastępca dyrektora, kierujący Departamentem Ameryki Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych, Łukasz Pawłowski – zastępca dyrektora, kierujący Departamentem Strategii Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych, Szymon Szaran – zastępca dyrektora, Biuro Ministra Spraw Zagranicznych, Magdalena Pszczółkowska – kierownik Referatu Promocji Gospodarczej, Departament Współpracy Ekonomicznej Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych, Piotr Drzewiecki – I sekretarz, Departament Ameryki Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych, Kamil Borowski – Biuro Współpracy z Mediami, fotograf.

Konsulat Generalny Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej reprezentowali: Konsul Generalna RP w Chicago Regina Jurkowska, Wicekonsul Agata Grochowska, Konsul Grzegorz Kacprzyński, Wicekonsul Bernadetta Pałka-Maciejewska, Eliza Kasjan-Górecka, Sławomir Gałan oraz Adam Sosiński.

Wicepremier Sikorski spotkał się z członkami zarządu Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego w Ameryce i Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce, prezesem Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej Hubertem Cioromskim, przedstawicielami lokalnych urzędów stanowych i miejskich.

W Sali Głównej MPA dostojny gość przemówił do zaproszonych przedstawicieli Polonii, przeprowadził rozmowę z Dyrektorem Generalnym „Dziennika Związkowego" Łukaszem Dutką oraz odpowiadał na pytania uczestników spotkania.

Na zakończenie odbyła się w Pokoju Paderewskiego konferencja prasowa z udziałem dziennikarzy polonnijnych.

Wicepremier Sikorski zwiedził również Pokój Paderewskiego, Salę Główną, Archiwum i Galerię oraz złożył wpis do księgi pamiątkowej MPA.

Ministerstwo Spraw Zagranicznych udziela stałego wsparcia Muzeum Polskiemu w Ameryce, poprzez przyznanie grantów, które umożliwiły realizację prac modernizacyjnych i konserwatorskich w muzeum.



W Sali Głównej MPA gości powitali Ryszard Owsiany i Agnieszka Bastrzyk



Wicepremier Sikorski w Archiwum MPA

WARSZTATY DEKOROWANIA PISANEK W MUZEUM POLSKIM W AMERYCE



Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce serdecznie zaprasza do udziału w warsztatach poświęconych tradycyjnej sztuce dekorowania pisanek. Zajęcia odbędą się w sobotę, 28 marca 2026 roku, w godzinach 10:00–12:00.

Warsztaty poprowadzi Chri-stine Frankowicz-Burd, która krok po kroku zaprezentuje techniki zdobienia jajek przy użyciu tradycyjnych narzędzi oraz metody woskowej.

Miejsce: Sala ZPRKA (PRCUA Social Hall), 984 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, Illinois, pierwsze piętro

Koszt: $25 (w cenie rysik i wosk)

Co przynieść: 3–4 surowe lub ugotowane jajka

W ramach rejestracji: bezpłatny wstęp do muzeum w dniu warsztatów; darmowy parking

Warsztaty są przeznaczone dla osób w wieku 10 lat i starszych (dzieci muszą pozostawać pod opieką osoby dorosłej). Liczba miejsc jest ograniczona do 40 uczestników.

NOWINKI ZE SZKOŁY SZKOŁY JĘZYKA I KULTURY POLSKIEJ IM. Z. HERBERTA

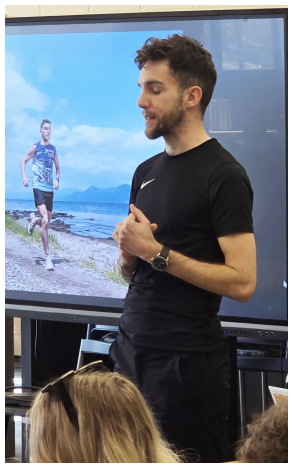
Irena Woźniak
Dyrektor szkoły

Spotkanie z Tomaszem Sobanią - biegaczem ekstremalnym

20 stycznia gościem w Polskiej Szkole Języka i Kultury Polskiej im. Zbigniewa Herberta był Tomasz Sobania. Spotkał się z uczniami klas starszych. Jego prelekcja o sobie, o swoich osiągnięciach i pasji, wzbudziła ogromne zainteresowanie wśród uczniów. Opowiadał o swoich maratonach udokumentowując to pięknymi zdjęciami, wyświetlanymi na monitorze. Była to ciekawa lekcja, która pokazała jak ciężką pracą, zaangażowaniem i pasją dochodzi się do sukcesu.

Tomasz Sobania ma za sobą wiele maratonów. Opowiadał uczniom jak biegł do Barcelony, a uwieńczeniem tego biegu było spotkanie i wspólny bieg po Barcelonie z Robertem Lewandowskimi o biegu z Częstochowy do Rzymu i spotkaniu z papieżem. Największym jego dotyczasowym osiągnięciem był bieg przez całe Stany Zjednoczone - z Nowego Jorku do Kalifornii. Zajęło to mu 139 dni, przebiegł 5250 km, czyli dystans 125 maratonów.

Tomasz Sobania opowiedział jak zaczął i rozwijał swoją pasję: „...zacząłem biegać, tylko dlatego, że kiedyś, jak jeździłem do liceum w Gliwicach, to za każdym razem zawsze wychodziłem za późno i tak jest do tej pory. Bieg był dla mnie synonimem wolności. Biegnę, nic mnie nie ogranicza, o niczym nie muszę myśleć" - mówił











Na koniec spotkania było wiele pytań, m.in.: Jakie ma rady dla początkujących biegaczy? Jakie ma wsparcie i jak wspierają go rodzice? Skąd pomysł, aby poprzez swoją pasję pomagać najbardziej potrzebującym (poprzez swoje bieganie Tomasz Sobania nagłaśnia również charytatywne zbiórki)?

Na koniec były wspólne zdjęcia, podpisywanie zdjęć z jego wizerunkiem i wspólny bieg na korytarzach szkolnych.



Spotkanie było bardzo interesujące i pokazało naszym uczniom, że warto rozwijać swoje pasje, że ciężka praca przynosi zamierzone efekty.

W trakcie spotkania była obecna pani Grażyna Pikul z PSFCU w lokalizacji Bridgeview, która ufundowała naszym uczniom dwie, oryginalne koszulki Tomasza Sobani, z przeznaczeniem jako nagrodę w konkursach szkolnych.









Pasowanie na ucznia

20 stycznia 35 uczniów klasy 1a, pani Marzeny Zaryckiej i klasy 1b, pani Iwony Borowicz wzięło udział w uroczystej akademii „Pasowania na ucznia". Prezentacji pierwszoklasistów dokonali uczniowie klasy jedenastej - Maja Tyrała i Jan Kapołka. W poczcie sztandarowym zaprezentowali się Maciej Truty, Zuzanna Borowicz i Alexandra Langowski. Hymn odśpiewały Magdalena Łukaszczyk, uczennica klasy 5b i Julia Czerw, uczennica klasy 5b.

Gościem uroczystość była pani Grażyna Pikul, przedstawicielka PSFCU w lokalizacji Bridgeview, która ufundowała naszym uczniom certyfikaty pieniężne.

Pasowanie to ważne i wyjątkowe wydarzenie w życiu naszej szkoły. Po uroczystym ślubowaniu, uczniowie zostali przyjęci w poczet uczniów naszej szkoły.

Podczas akademii uczniowie przygotowali krótki program artystyczny, w trakcie którego zaprezentowali się również indywidualnie.

Uroczystość przebiegła w podniosłej, radosnej atmosferze. Zakończona była wręczeniem dyplomów, wspólnymi zdjęciami i skromnym poczęstunkiem.

Uczniom, życzymy, żeby w naszej szkole znaleźli właściwe miejsce na poznawanie świata, zdobywanie wiedzy i koleżeńskie przyjaźnie. Oby każdy dzień przynosił nowe ciekawe wyzwania i umacniał wiarę w siebie i swoje możliwości.































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