Bilingual Publication of the **Polish Roman Catholic Union of America**
A Fraternal Benefit Society Safeguarding Your Future with Life Insurance & Annuities

April | **Kwiecień 2026** No 4 – Vol. CXLI

E-NARÓD POLSKI Polish Nation

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HAPPY Easter
HE IS RISEN

At Easter we rejoice because Christ did not remain in the tomb, his body did not see corruption; he belongs to the world of the living, not to the world of the dead; we rejoice because he is the Alpha and also the Omega, as we proclaim in the rite of the Paschal Candle; he lives not only yesterday, but today and for eternity (cf. Heb 13:8).

- Pope Benedict XVI

The joy of the resurrection renews the whole world! Christ is risen, Truly He is risen, Alleluia! As the late Pope Benedict XVI reminds us above, the Lord of the Living gives us new hope in an ever-changing world. We rejoice that His love for us has conquered sin and death. We have every reason to bask in the light of the His resurrection. Be not afraid, rejoice again I say rejoice!

Wishing you and yours and all of Polonia,
a blessed and hope filled Easter season!
Wesołego Alleluja!

Very Rev. Canon Walter J. Ptak
National Chaplain

2026 PRCUA STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE - PG. 5

PRCUALife™ Life Insurance & Annuities
Member Benefits
...protecting Life through all its stages!
PRCUA.ORG

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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**.

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. 14 for details.

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.

MAY

2 **DETROIT, MI – POLISH HERITAGE CELEBRATION.** Ranges vs. Tigers. PRCUA dance groups will participate.

CHICAGO, IL – POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PARADE – PRCUA schools will participate.

POLISH DIASPORA DAY / DZIEŃ POLONII

3 POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY (PL) / DZIEŃ KONSTYTUCJI 3 MAJA

10 MOTHER'S DAY / DZIEŃ MATKI (U.S.)

WYANDOTTE, MI – PRCUA SOCIETY 162 MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST BUFFET, 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte, MI, from 8 a.m. until 12 noon (or sold out).

17 **WYANDOTTE, MI – PRCUA SOCIETY 162 GENERAL MEETING,** 1 p.m., PRCU 162 Lounge, 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte, MI. Election of delegates for PRCUA 2026 Convention.

25 MEMORIAL DAY – **PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**

26 MOTHER'S DAY (POLAND) / DZIEŃ MATKI



We are looking for a few good women and men too...

to become

PRCUA licensed life insurance agents



Become a PRCUA*Life* Partner today

PRCUA*Life* is a member-owned non-profit fraternal organization that is ranked among the leading fraternal benefit societies operating in the US. Established in 1873, PRCUALife has a long-standing reputation for quality life insurance and annuity products as well as customer care. Today we have 41,000+ members and counting.

Why PRCUA*Life* is an excellent choice:

- ☑ We offer a wide array of competitive life insurance and annuity products
- ☑ Licensed in 27 states
- ☑ Support staff to assist agent and client needs
- ☑ Ease of payment collections via credit card and Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT)

Agent Benefits

- ☑ Easy to use quoting software
- ☑ DocuSign technology, which allows for flexibility to sign clients up via the phone or in person
- ☑ Structured support system
- ☑ Competitive commission rates
- ☑ Unlimited earning potential
- ☑ Frequent commission pay schedule
- ☑ Branded and customized marketing materials

ARE YOU READY TO JOIN OUR TEAM?



Contact our Sales Department

Marge Grzeszczuk, *Sales Coordinator*
(773) 782-2644 | marge-grzeszczuk@prcua.org

202303-NP-AR

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.

Be Worry Free at 70!

- Fixed premiums
- Builds cash value
- Dividend participating*
- Lifelong financial protection
- Tax-free benefits to beneficiaries
- Premiums paid through to age 70
- Guaranteed minimum death benefit**

LIMITED PAYMENT WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE — PAID UP AT 70

* Dividends are not guaranteed
** When premiums are paid and there are no outstanding loan balances

Monthly Standard Non-Tobacco Rates*
Coverage amount - $25,000

	Male	Female
35	$35.42	$32.29
40	$42.80	$38.90
45	$53.21	$48.42
50	$69.03	$62.98
55	$95.21	$87.17
60	$147.35	$134.93
65	$300.38	$276.32

* Subject to underwriting review



Other plans and coverage amounts are available
Call the PRCUA Sales Department for Details: (800)772-8632 EXT. 2755

Limited Time Offer! Available now through April 30, 2026

EARN MORE MONEY

PRCUALife™ ANNUITIES

MAXIMIZE YOUR TAX REFUND

BOOST YOUR RETIREMENT INCOME

7 YEAR ANNUITY

ALL PLANS ARE **ISSUE AGES 0-90**

10% ANNUAL FREE WITHDRAWAL

	TIER 1 $100,000 AND ABOVE	TIER 2 $50,000 TO $99,999	TIER 3 $5,000 TO $49,999	SURRENDER CHARGE
YEAR 1	5.50% GUAR.	5.25% GUAR.	5.00% GUAR.	10%
YEAR 2	5.50% GUAR.	5.25% GUAR.	5.00% GUAR.	9%
YEAR 3	4.50% GUAR.	4.25% GUAR.	4.00% GUAR.	8%
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%

2.4% MINIMUM GUARANTEED APY

ALL PRCUALife ANNUITY CERTIFICATES ARE SECURED BY LEGALLY MANDATED RESERVES.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND APY CREDITS: in order to be eligible for receiving interest for the month, contributions must be received at the PRCUA home office by the 15th calendar day, interest is credited as of the last calendar day of each month.

Annuity rates are subject to change with market conditions. For current rates, offers and additional information, please visit www.prcua.org. PRCUALife products are not available in all states.

For more information contact:

Marge Grzeszczuk, ALMI
Sales Coordinator

Joanna Blach, ALMI
Sales Associate

(800) 772-8632 EXT. 2755
sales@prcua.org

PRCUA.ORG

202601-7YA-EN-NP

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

$8,000 for individuals at age 50 and *over*

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

PRCUALife Life Insurance & Annuities Member Benefits

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR MEMBER REFERRAL PROGRAM

You know you love us, your friends will too

Refer a non-PRCUA member and earn up to $25 in gift cards for every life insurance referral that is approved and issued.



Earn a $25 Gift Card
for every Life Insurance certificate issued at $25,000 and up

Earn a $10 Gift Card
for every Life Insurance certificate issued at $10,000-$24,999

A valid referral meets the following requirements:

1. All necessary contact information has been accurately filled out on the form.
2. Referral must be for a new PRCUA member.
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:

202502-MRP-NP

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**

2026 STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE:
A Strategic Plan for Financial Strength and Growth

Fellow Members,

For generations, the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America has existed to protect our members, support our families, and strengthen our communities. That mission continues to guide us, especially at a time when focus, discipline, and precision are essential.



Agnieszka Bastrzyk
National President

Financial Performance & Accountability

I want to speak with you directly about our current financial position, with the clear assurance that your funds are safe. Our enduring heritage remains strong, and PRCUA continues to meet all obligations to its members and across its product portfolio.

That said, this past year has presented challenges. Our financial results fell short of expectations. While we remain stable, decisive action was necessary to reinforce our fiscal strength and restore consistent contributions to our surplus.

On a normalized basis, our operations have run at an average net loss of approximately $1.3 million. This is not sustainable and rapid institutional change has been executed. With the introduction of a new actuary, a detailed financial review revealed inconsistent reporting for life insurance reserves of approximately $550,000. This issue is now corrected, and rigorous new financial controls and oversight measures are now in place to prevent recurrence.

A comprehensive review conducted by our leadership team and Board of Directors, together with our actuary and our asset manager, has guided the recent changes implemented across the organization.

- ✓ Our objectives are clear:
- ✓ Eliminate our annual loss
- ✓ Restore consistent contributions to surplus
- Rebuild our capital strength

New Opportunities for Members

Portfolio growth is accomplished with sales and reinvestment. Toward the end of the second quarter, we will introduce a new product designed with market-leading rates to attract new funds and maximize member returns. I encourage you to consider this opportunity. Your participation fuels the programs, scholarships, and community support that define who we are.

Operational Efficiency & Modernization

We have not simply "patched the leak" – we are rebuilding the enterprise. We have taken meaningful steps to reduce expenses and improve efficiency. Non-essential spending has been curtailed, discretionary programs eliminated, vendor contracts renegotiated, and meetings - including our Board of Directors and upcoming Convention - transitioned into virtual formats.

While a virtual Convention may seem like a formidable undertaking, a member climate survey - primarily among delegates to the 2022 Convention - indicated support for this cost-saving measure. Each delegate will receive the training and resources needed to participate and vote seamlessly through a dedicated delegate portal. While we value the tradition of meeting in person, this shift enables broader, more inclusive participation, allowing over 400 delegates to take part and ensuring every voice is heard -compared with only about a quarter of delegates able to attend recent Conventions.

Complementary to the dedication from members is our beloved staff. Across all departments, our associates have worked tirelessly to support this transformation while continuing to meet members' daily needs.

We are also realizing the benefits of our investment in a new policy administration system. Our IT team has successfully implemented the Oracle Insurance Policy Administration system. This platform streamlines processes, increasing efficiency, and enhancing the service we provide to you - our members.

Our Fraternal Commitment

As we take these necessary steps, we must also be clear about something fundamental to who we are. **Our passion for the PRCUA and our deep commitment to fraternalism - our desire to see it supported, strengthened, and grow for future generations - must serve our business and help guide our decisions.** Fraternal purpose and financial discipline are complementary and should function in harmony. Only a strong and sustainable organization can fulfill its mission.

In that spirit, the Executive Committee has reduced reimbursable expenses and, in many cases, declined or limited pay increases. Members of the Board of Directors have also foregone stipends and reimbursements. This is not a sign of weakness, but of strength - demonstrating a shared commitment to the future of our Union.

This is our organization. Its strength depends not only on leadership, but on the engagement and commitment of every member. We must remember not to grow weary in doing good; by acting faithfully and with integrity, we will reap the benefits for our members and our fraternal mission.

We ask that you actively support the PRCUA by making deposits into our competitive portfolio. Your contributions help grow your own assets while also strengthening the PRCUA.

Your money is safe, and it plays a vital role in sustaining and expanding our fraternal impact.

I encourage each of you to stay engaged with your local societies and districts, support our programs, and share the value of fraternal membership with others. Together, through active participation and support, we can grow stronger and ensure the long-term stability of the PRCUA.

Moving Forward

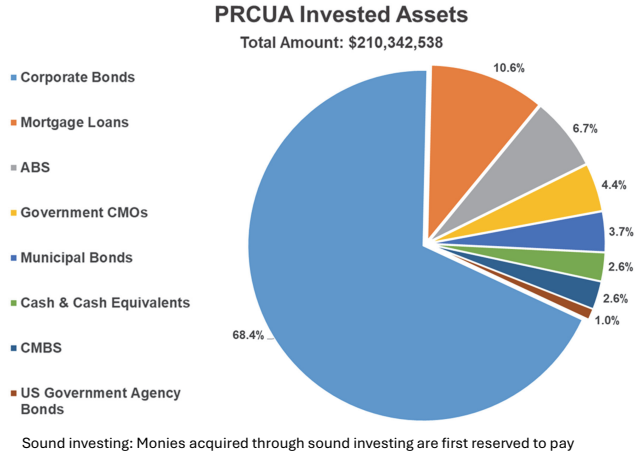
We remain committed to open communication and transparency. I invite you to reach out to me, members of the Executive Committee, or the Board of Directors with any questions. Your engagement is valued and your trust is deeply appreciated.

By the time of our upcoming Convention, we expect to share further updates and demonstrate meaningful progress in strengthening our financial position and rebuilding our surplus.

Our history shows that we are capable of meeting challenges directly - and emerging stronger. I am confident that the steps we are taking now will position the Polish Roman Catholic Union of Ameri-ca for a more stable, sustainable, and vibrant future.

It is a privilege to serve, and I am honored to lead our organization.

Thank you for your continued trust, your commitment, and your belief in our shared mission.



Sound investing: Monies acquired through sound investing are first reserved to pay members' certificate obligations and any remainder is channeled back to our members.

Agnieszka J. Bastrzyk, President

★ 2026 CONVENTION UPDATE ★

AUGUST 8-9 NOW VIRTUAL

— 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 By-Laws, 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 BY-LAWS

All PRCUA*Life* members are encouraged to submit proposed changes to our Constitution and By-Laws 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*Life*. 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.

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

Email proposed changes to Constitution-Proposals@prcua.org or mail to:

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

All proposed changes must be postmarked or emailed by **June 1, 2026.**

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*Life*, you have a voice in the rules that guide our society. The PRCUA Budget and Grievance Committee invites any PRCUA*Life* 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 UPDATE ★

AUGUST 8-9 NOW VIRTUAL

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 Executive 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

ANNUAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025
OF THE POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA
984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60642

ASSETS	
Bonds	$183,463,733
Stocks...(Preferred $5,131,309 - Common $ 383,800)	5,515,109
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate	21,514,959
Real Estate Owned including Contract Sales	3,288,840
Certificate Loans	564,522
Other Invested Assets	979,896
Cash on Hand and On Deposit	1,552,563
Short Term Investment	4,335,034
Electronic Data Processing Equipment	220,219
Premiums Actually Collected by Subordinate Lodges Not Yet Remitted to Home Office	40,899
Investment Income Due and Accrued	1,935,196
TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS	**$223,410,970**
LIABILITIES, SPECIAL RESERVES AND UNASSIGNED FUNDS	
Aggregate Reserve For Life Certificates and Contracts	$214,163,768
Deposit – Type Contracts	0
Certificate and Contract Claims	899,571
Provisions For Refund Payable in Following Calendar Year	0
Life Premiums Received in Advance	268,549
Surrender Values on Canceled Certificates	35,400
Interest Maintenance Reserve	189,141
Commission to Field Workers Due or Accrued	0
General Expenses Due or Accrued	76,078
Taxes, Licenses and Fees Due or Accrued	6,270
Unearned Investment Income	0
Amounts Withheld or Retained by Society as Agent or Trustee	31,286
Liability for Benefits for Employees and Fieldworkers	0
Assets Valuation Reserve	3,065,948
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**$218,754,011**
Special Bonus Dividend Payable in Following Year	0
Unassigned Funds	$ 4,656,959
TOTAL	**4,656,959**
TOTAL	**$223,410,970**
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS	
(Excluding Unrealized Capital Gains and Losses)	
Life and Annuity Premiums	$14,894,090
Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies	900,982
Net Investment Income	10,927,700
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	-31,876
Reimbursement for Educational Stipends	96,435
Removal of Pension Liabilities into a Trust	0
TOTAL INCOME	**$26,787,349**
DEDUCT:	
Death Benefits	$2,127,406
Matured Endowments	194,750
Annuity Benefits	4,119,047
Disability Benefits	191
Surrender Benefits	15,690,369
Interest on Certificates or Contract Funds	0
Supplementary Contracts with Life Contingencies	735,573
Supplementary Contracts without Life Contingencies	0
Increase in Aggregate Reserve for Certificates and Contracts with Life Contingencies	695,359
Commission on Premiums	216,947
Contributions for Employees Benefits	0
General Insurance Expense and Fraternal Payments	4,417,873
Taxes, Licenses and Fees	274,685
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$28,472,200**
Net Gain From Operations Before Refunds to Members and Excluding Realized Capital Gains and Losses	($1,684,851)
Refund to Members	163,872
Net Gain From Operations After Refunds to Members	($1,684,851)
Net Realized Capital Gains	0
NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	**($1,848,723)**

UNASSIGNED FUNDS AND SPECIAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS

Unassigned Funds 12/31/24	$7,340,682	Unassigned Funds 12/31/25	$4,656,959
		Change in non-admitted assets	42,540
		Net loss from operation	1,848,723
		Change in unrealized gains	537,152
		Change in reserve	255,308
		Increase Liabilities for Pension	0
TOTALS	**$7,340,682**		**$7,340,682**

SUMMARY OF VALUATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR OF 2024

Number of Life Certificates	Amount of Insurance	Total Reserve
38,816	$360,962,778	$214,163,768

Expected Mortality on Gross Amounts at Risk	$2,016,199
Net Death Losses Incurred in 2025 Less Reserve Released	924,342
Ratio Per Cent of Actual to Expected Mortality on Gross Amounts at Risk During 2025	45.85%
Net Investment Income	$10,927,700

RATE OF NET INVESTMENT INCOME TO MEAN ASSETS

2021 - 4.78% 2022 - 5.03% 2023 - 5.34%

2024 - 4.81% 2025 - 4.89%

RATIO OF ASSETS TO LIABILITIES

2021 - 104.84% 022 - 104.09% 2023 - 103.72%

2024 - 103.37% 2025 - 102.13%

The Society's valuation indicates that on the basis of the American Experience of 1941, 1958, 1980, 2001 and 2017 Commissioner's Standard Ordinary Table of Mortality with interest at 2.5% through 5.5%. The future assessments at the rates now collected together with the invested assets are sufficient to meet all certificates as they mature by their terms with a margin of safety of $4,656,959 over the above statutory standard.

Respectfully submitted,
Agnieszka J. Bastrzyk, FICF, ALMI, ACS, President
Micheline I. Jaminski, ALMI, Vice President
Julie Roszak-Prado, ALMI, ACS, Secretary-Treasurer
Matthew M. Kaspar, Controller
Miller & Newberg Consulting Actuaries, FSA, MAAA, Actuary

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ALL PLANS ARE ISSUE AGES 0-90

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4.50%* APY

3 YEAR GUARANTEE

$10,000 MINIMUM DEPOSIT

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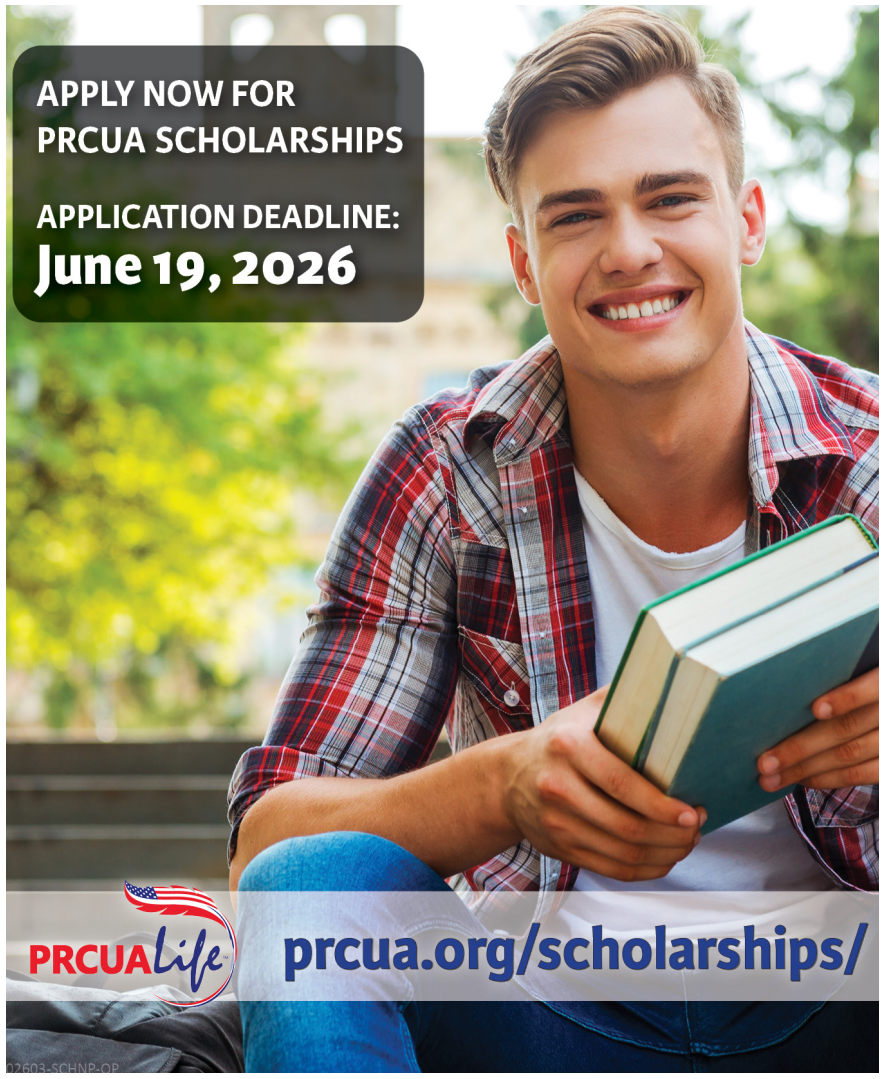
Marge Grzeszczuk, ALMI
Sales Coordinator

Joanna Blach, ALMI
Sales Associate

(800) 772-8632 EXT. 2755
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IT'S MORE THAN LIFE INSURANCE

BY MARGE GRZESZCZUK, ALMI
SALES COORDINATOR

"…In the joy of the season, we find our renewal, Spring cleaning awakens the love that we knew." (from *Spring's Embrace*)

Happy Spring! Happy April! Our new Actuary felt it was time for "Spring cleaning" of our product portfolio and after some sprucing up, it was out with the old and in with the new, and here is what we have in store for YOU - our clients, our members, our friends – and your future!

Topping the list before your taxes are due is the PRCUA's 7 YR Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity (FPDA) which is available only through April 30, 2026. By opening up this annuity and setting up manageable monthly contributions, you can start building a retirement nest egg to lessen future anxiety over retirement income.

REMEMBER this 7YR Annuity is a LIMITED TIME OFFER, SO ACT NOW!

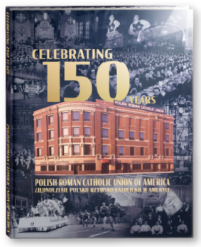
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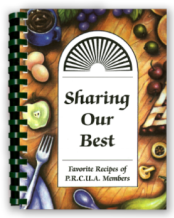
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- Tax-deferred growth
- No maintenance or administrative fees
- A simple, easy application process

Contact your local PRCUA Sales Representative or the PRCUA Sales Department directly to get started: email me at sales@prcua.org or call (800) 772-8632 Ext. 2755.

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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. 

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3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 

	ITEM	QUANTITY		PRICE		TOTAL
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				$_____

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PHONE | EMAIL

2025 CHRISTMAS SPECIAL LOTTERY WINNERS

By Marge Grzeszczuk
Sales Coordinator

The magic of the season may be over, but the joy continues!

The 2025 Christmas Special promotion officially wrapped up on January 31, 2026, and PRCUA is delighted to welcome our newest members into the PRCUA family. A heartfelt thank you to all parents and grandparents who participated – you made this holiday tradition another wonderful success.

This year's promotion brought plenty of holiday cheer, including a 2025 PRCUA commemorative Christmas ornament, a cozy PRCUA-Life fleece blanket, and a chance to win one of three exciting prizes.

But the greatest gift of all? Our newest members received a meaningful financial head start – something that will continue to grow long after the holiday season has passed.

This year's winners of a 10-inch Android 15 tablet are:

- Grady Jones (DE)
- Phoebe White (FL)
- Mason Wright (MI)

Congratulations to our lucky winners!

Thank you again to everyone who helped make this season so special. We're already looking forward to spreading even more holiday cheer with next the next Christmas Special Promotion!





POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA

ANNUAL

SACRED HEART MASS

Hosted by District 9

Sunday, June 14, 2026

12:00PM

St. Maria Goretti Parish

500 Northgate Drive
Dyer, IN 46311

A luncheon will be held in Goretti Hall (south entrance) following the Holy Mass

Adults: $50.00 Children 10 & under: $25.00

Info and reservations:
Elizabeth Sadus (708) 481-6796 • sadusea@aol.com

Kids Activity Page!



1. Find 10 differences.



2. Color the picture.



1. Unscramble the words associated with Easter.

NYNBU _____
NBTNEO _____
REEATS _____
NHUT _____
GSEG _____
PADREA _____
ALRIP _____
CSRSO _____
OLYH _____
OCCAOTHEL _____
ABSTKE _____
KIHCC _____
NELT _____
ALPM YASUDN _____

4. Find the words in the puzzle, and discover the hidden word. Words can be written in broken lines.



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

BASKET
BIRD
BIRDHOUSE
BUG
BUMBLEBEE
BUNNY
BUTTERFLY
CARROT
CHICK
CLOUD
EGG
HEN
HOUSE
LEAF
NEST
SUN
TULIP
TREE
WORM

HIDDEN WORD: _____

Answers on pg. 19

PULASKI DAY CELEBRATION AT THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA



Celebration hosts: Presidents Agnieszka Bastrzyk and Richard Owsiany



Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza and Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs

On the first Monday of March, Illinois celebrates Pulaski Day, in recognition of to Revolutionary War hero Casimir Pulaski. This year, the annual virtual celebration of Pulaski Day took place on March 2 in the Great Hall of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. The event, coordinated by the Polish Museum of America and the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, was officiated by PMA President Richard Owsiany and PRCUA President and PMA Chairman of the Board Agnieszka Bastrzyk, who welcomed all attending guests and all who joined the event virtually.

Program opened with the Tadeusz Kościuszko Polish Lancers Society presentation of colors, Ewa Kowcz-Fair, accompanied by Kamil Bundyra on the piano, singing Polish and American national anthems, followed by an invocation delivered by Rev. Robert Będziński, Holy Trinity Polish Mission Director.

Attending the celebration were distinguished figures from national, state, county, and city administrations, along with leaders of Polish organizations and institutions.

After the welcome, President Owsiany and President Bastrzyk introduced the speaker guests: State of Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago Regina Jurkowska, City of Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, President of Polish National Alliance Frank Spula, State of Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza, U.S. Representative for Illinois's 5th Congressional District Mike Quigley, Illinois First District Appellate Court Justice Aurelia Pucinski, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas, President of the Polish American Congress Hubert Cioromski, Illinois State Senator Robert Martwick, Cook County Assessor Frederick Kaegi, PRCUA Vice President and PMA Vice Chair Micheline Jaminski, Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union Director and member of the PMA's Board of Directors Bogdan Ogórek and PNC Bank Senior



Consul General Regina Jurkowska



Mayor Brandon Johnson



U.S. Representative Mike Quigley



Senator Robert Martwick



U.S. Representative Nikki Budzinski made her remarks through a video



Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas



Cook County Assessor Frederick Kaegi



Judge Aurelia Pucinski



PAC President Hubert Cioromski



PRCUA VP Micheline Jaminski



PNA President Frank Spula



Wreath laying ceremony at *Pulaski at Savanah* painting

Vice President & Regional Manager Jakub Nowak. In addition, U.S. Representative Nikki Budzinski shared her greetings and remarks through a video message, which was played live for the audience.

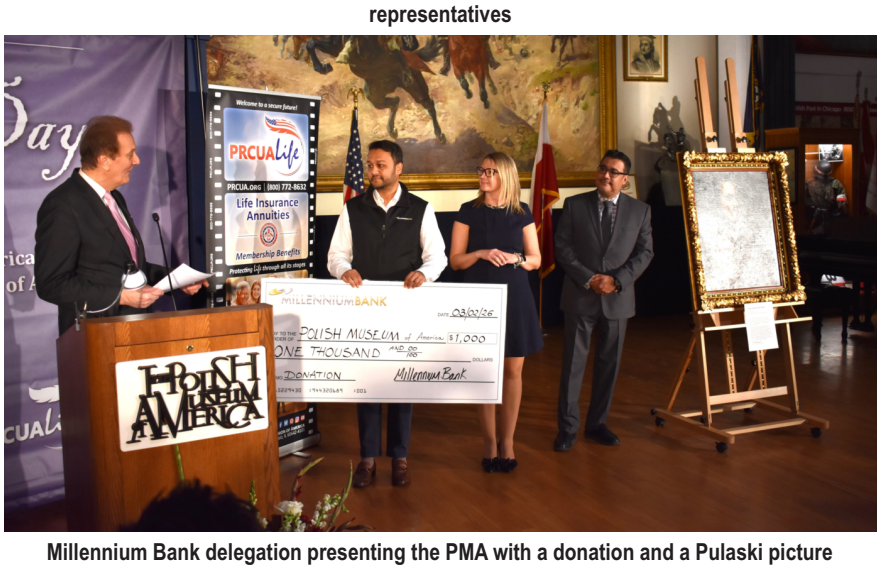




PRCUA Wesoły Lud



Recipients of the Pulaski medal with Polish American Veterans Association Post 90 representatives



Millennium Bank delegation presenting the PMA with a donation and a Pulaski picture

Speeches focused on the heroism of General Pułaski and his extraordinary legacy for all who fought for freedom, as well as on the countless contributions of the Polish-American community—whose talents, moral values, hard work and dedication are recognized in Chicago and all over the United States. The speakers also called upon the Polish-American community to participate in voting, to actively engage in municipal, county, and state offices, and to represent the Polish diaspora at both the local and national levels.

In an unprecedented act of leadership and solidarity, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas organized a special initiative, personally securing $1,000 contributions from Susana Mendoza, Michael Frerichs, Robert Martwick, Mike Quigley, Joe Holberg, Ja'Mal Green, Diann K. Marsalek, Fritz Kaegi, and Holly Kim, raising a total of $10,000 in support of the Polish Museum of America.

Representatives of Millennium Bank presented a donation of $1,000 to the PMA and also placed on deposit with the museum—for a temporary exhibition—a 19th-century painting depicting General Kazimierz Pułaski. This artwork previously belonged to Pulaski Savings Bank, which merged with Millennium Bank.

During the program, representatives of the Polish American Veterans Association Post 90 decorated Consul General Regina Jurkowska, PMA President Richard Owsiany, Managing Director Małgorzata Kot and Head Archivist Halina Misterka with the Pulaski Medal, created to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of General Pulaski, in recognition of the Museum's steadfast dedication to preserving and promoting Polish heritage.

The program also featured performances by the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company of PRCUA who presented the *polonez* and dances and songs from the region of Łowicz and a video recording of the past Pulaski Day observances.

The program concluded with the traditional wreath-laying ceremony at Stanislaw Batowski's painting "Pulaski at Savannah", benediction by the pastor of St. John Brebeuf Rev. Zdzisław Torba and singing of "God Bless America".



Easter Recipes

MEAT PÂTÉ (*pasztet*)
2.2 lb pork shoulder
1.1 lb raw bacon (not smoked)
10.5 oz beef or veal
10.5 oz chicken livers
2 stale Kaiser rolls
3 eggs
2 onions
3 carrots
1 parsley root
about 4–5 celery root
salt and pepper to taste
3 bay leaves
3–4 allspice berries
1/2 - 3/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Cut all the meats (except the liver) into small cubes. Place them in a large pot, add the vegetables, bay leaves, and allspice. Add enough water to just cover the meat. Simmer on low heat until tender, about 1½–2 hours. During the last 10 minutes of cooking, add the chicken livers. Remove the meat and vegetables from the broth and let them cool. Soak the rolls in the hot broth. Let it cool. Grind the meat, vegetables, and squeezed-out rolls in a meat grinder twice using a fine plate. Add the eggs, nutmeg, and black pepper. Mix thoroughly adding up to ½ cup broth if needed, until the mixture is soft and pliable. Line a loaf pan with parchment paper, fill it about ¾ full with the mixture. Bake at 350°F for 60–70 minutes, until the top is nicely browned. For best results, slice the pâté only after it has completely cooled—ideally after chilling overnight in the refrigerator.

SAVORY EASTER MUFFINS (*wytrawne babeczki wielkanocne*)
2 eggs
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 cup milk
1/2 cup vegetable oil
about 3.5 oz ham
3.5 oz cheese (cheddar or similar)
fresh parsley and chives
12 quail eggs
salt, pepper and sweet paprika

Place the quail eggs in boiling salted water. Cook for (*Cont. on pg. 19*)

PRCUA #162 Sacred Heart of Jesus Society

Presents

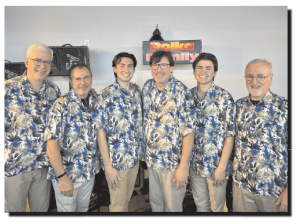
The 8th Annual

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

EASTER BREAKFAST IN POLAND

A traditional Polish Easter breakfast, known as *śniadanie wielkanocne*, is a cherished meal celebrating family, spring, renewal, and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Preparations begin on Holy Saturday, as families adorn tables with embroidered cloths, fresh flowers, and pussy willow branches or green twigs to symbolize nature's renewal. Colorful Easter eggs, called *pisanki*, are a central decoration, representing new life and resurrection.

Families also prepare baskets filled with symbolic foods, each carrying religious or cultural meaning. Eggs signify new life; bread represents Christ and sustenance; salt stands for purification; sausage or ham symbolizes abundance; and sugar, cake or butter lamb, represents Jesus as the "Lamb of God." The baskets, decorated with ribbons and greenery, are brought to church to be blessed with holy water—a ritual that unites families, celebrates faith, and passes traditions to younger generations. The blessed foods are then shared at the Easter breakfast, marking the end of Lent and the joy of the Resurrection.

The Sunday meal combines sweet and savory dishes. Sweet staples include *babka wielkanocna*, a tall yeast cake, and *mazurek*, a flat cake decorated with nuts, dried fruits, and icing. Savory foods feature cold cuts like ham, *kiełbasa*, and cured meats, along with cheese, butter, and horseradish. A highlight is *żurek* or white borscht, a sour rye soup served in hollowed bread with sausage and hard-boiled eggs, symbolizing rebirth and the circle of life.

Eggs appear in many forms: hard-boiled or as *jajka faszerowane* (stuffed eggs), each symbolizing hope, life, and new beginnings. The meal is enjoyed slowly, with families sharing stories, blessings, and togetherness.

Polish Easter breakfast is more than a meal—it is a meaningful ritual honoring religious traditions, celebrating renewal, and uniting families. Through its symbolic foods, decorative elements, and festive dishes, it embodies the spirit of Easter in a uniquely Polish way.

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

ST. STAN'S SOCIETY #718 JERRY NASIATKA ONE GAME KNOCKOUT

By Ed and Janet Rys

On March 7, St. Stan's #718 hosted its Annual One Game Knockout (1GKO) Bowling Tournament—now known as the Jerry Nasiatka One Game Knockout—at Mayflower Lanes in Redford, Michigan. The event, which included both the tournament and a dinner, saw participation from members of various societies as well as their family and friends.

We were proud to have the largest number of participants in the history of the event. The excitement began even before the first ball was rolled, as a group of enthusiastic tailgaters gathered in the parking lot to kick off the day. It was a great start to a fun-filled event that brought our community together for friendly competition, good food, and great camaraderie.

The men's division culminated in an intense championship battle during the fifth and final round, where Joe Grysiewicz triumphed over Blake Kapanowski and Joe Bush. Steve Shively was the winner of the consolation bracket. For the women's division, Maureen O'Reilly emerged as the champion, with Barb Cassedy finishing second and Cassandra Jackson securing the consolation bracket.

In addition to the tournament, participants had the opportunity to take part in the "Blackjack (21 Pin)" challenge. Each bowler, except those in the final 2 rounds, had three chances to knock down exactly 21 pins. Five bowlers who successfully hit 21 pins competed in a roll-off for the prize, with Stan Filipowski ultimately coming out on top.

A special thank you goes to Kathy Bondar, Donna Gdowski, Diane Mack, Tina Bak, Amanda Bullock, Rita Nasiatka, Larry O'Reilly, and Frank Nasiatka for their assistance with the 50/50 raffles, Lucky Strike, bowler card collections and organization, and "Blackjack". Our amazing volunteers help the day run smoothly, and without them, this event would not be the success that it is.

Mark your calendars for next year's event, which will take place on March 6, 2027. We look forward to seeing everyone again. Family and friends are always welcome, so be sure to spread the word that a great time was had by all!



Winners: Joe Grysiewicz, Blake Kapanowski, Maureen O'Reilly; not pictured: Barb Cassedy, Steve Shively, Cassandra Jackson



Blackjack: Stan Filipowski, Ed Kapanowski Jr., Drew Kapanowski, Kyle Filipowski; not pictured: Kim Branch



Volunteers: Frank Nasiatka, Kathy Bondar, Tina Bak, Janet Rys, Ed Rys, Amanda Bullock, Larry O'Reilly, Donna Gdowski, Diane Mack; not pictured: Rita Nasiatka



Tailgating



Full alley

PACCF COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

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
6645 North Oliphant Avenue, Suite A | Chicago, IL 60631

The PACCF is a 501(C) 3 Tax Exempt Organization.



APRIL

April's soft whisper, a gentle hush,
Nature awakens with a subtle blush.
From winter's grasp, the earth does flee,
Embracing warmth, the world feels free.

Petals, bloom, the colors they spill,
On every meadow, valley and hill.
The skies so blue, the clouds so frail,
April's song, a springtime tale.

Morning dew on the grass so green,
A tranquil scene, so pure, unseen.
April, you bring a world so bright,
Banishing darkness, embracing light.

By Maya Anthony

Hello April. Hello Friends. Welcome to the start of a new month and another fresh start to those New Year resolutions! Here is a little spark of wisdom from OurMindfulLife.com: Always keep moving forward, pushing your limits, and remember, each obstacle is a chance to grow, to learn from the past and thrive.

The most significant holy day of our Christian faith is just around the corner, bringing with it a refreshed sense of hope. Over the past 40 days, we have engaged in prayer and abstinence, preparing our hearts and minds for the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Easter, the foundation of Christianity, highlights God's triumph over death and offers believers the promise of forgiveness, grace, and everlasting life. As we come together with family and friends at this year's *Święconka* table, let us take a moment to contemplate the love and sacrifices of those who have made our lives possible. Our holidays are filled with nostalgia as we look back on past Easter celebrations and observe how traditions adjust ever-so-slightly with each new generation. Wishing you all a peaceful, joyful, and unforgettable Easter.

The myriad of PRCUA Dance School Recitals continues in April beginning with the Rogalin Dance Troupe (4/19) at Lincoln High School, Lincoln Park, Michigan – this year celebrating the 50th anniversary of Dance Instructor Janet Vilag (Lisa Brandt, director; Basia Toboy, dance instructor) and the 70th Anniversary of the Wieliczka Dance Group (director and dance instructor, Kristi Mihalic at St. Robert Bellarmine, Redford, Michigan). The Southwest Center of Polish Song & Dance Recital (Anna Winkler, manager; Richard Jaminski, artistic director and choreographer and teaching staff) will complete the month (4/26) with a two hour concert and special performance by the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company (Richard Jaminski, artistic director and choreographer; Danielle Kroplewski, assistant).

April will also bring the PRCUA National Bowling Tournament to the Chicagoland area! District 8 is most excited to host our PRCUA bowlers to some southwest side "Chicagoland" hospitality. April 17 and 18 are the dates.

Looking a little further ahead to the coming months – you might want to jot these upcoming events down:

The PRCUA will once again march in the May 3rd Constitution Day Parade, to be held in downtown Chicago on May 2. Details regarding the order of the march will be available a few days before the parade. We hope you can join us at the parade!

For many years, PRCUA members have attended the Polish Heritage Night with the Chicago White Sox. This year's event will be held on June 23. Once again, the PRCUA Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company will present a pregame performance. Tickets are available through the PRCUA and can be purchased by contacting fraternalevents@prcua.org. Included in this year's ticket price of $30 is a commemorative jersey – supplies are limited, so get your tickets asap.

Hosted by Society 162, this year's PRCUA National Golf Tournament will be held in New Boston, Michigan on July 25. Details can be found online: 73rd PRCUA National Golf Tournament 2026 - PRCUALife or on p. 14.

How exciting that the upcoming 2026 PRCUA Convention (August 8-9) will be VIRTUAL – making it possible for over 400 delegates to participate! The updates will be forthcoming, so stay connected to the PRCUA.

April 2026 will mark a very special birthday of our PRCUA President – Agnieszka Bastrzyk – on April 13th! Make sure you wish her a very happy RUBY birthday! Our first woman president is an inspiration to all, possessing the knowledge, motivation, resolution, and perseverance to lead the PRCUA into the future. Happy birthday, Madam President, and Sto Lat!

Other April birthday babies include former President Edward G. Dykla who will celebrate his 93rd birthday (4/13), IT Director Kevin Ryba (4/29) and on a personal note, Benjamin Pearson (4/2), Maggie Panozzo (4/14), daughter Alina (4/15), Marcia Pilkiewicz (4/17) and best friend Teresa Pazdziora (4/27) and her daughter Monica Reiser (4/30). STO LAT TO ALL! (My Mom would have been 95 on 4/4 and Tata 100 on 4/27). Where did the time go?

Speaking of time, let us recap the events of March, starting with the Pulaski Day celebration at the Polish Museum of America at the headquarters of the PRCUA (3/2). PMA



L-r: Diane Cortesi, Micheline Jaminski, Mary Brzezniak, Liz Dynowski and Ed Muszalski



President Agnieszka Bastrzyk modeling



Adult Culture Group 50th Fashion Show



Left: Tommy Lisiecki - 35 years as Halka choreographer

Right: Jessica Urban - 15 years as Gwiazda director





Gwiazda recital

President Richard Owsiany and PRCUA/PMA Chairman of the Board Agnieszka Bastrzyk welcomed those in attendance and emceed the annual event. Among the attendees were state and local dignitaries including Treasurer Mike Frerichs, State Comptroller Susana Mendoza, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas, Mayor of the City of Chicago Brandon Johnson, as well as leaders of Polish American organizations including PAC President Hubert Cioromski and PNA President Frank Spula. Polish national dances, the Polonaise and the *Oberek* with *Kujawiak* were performed by the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company. Bravo to PMA Managing Director Małgorzata Kot and her amazing staff for a job well done. An article with details and photos are found on p. 12-13.



Malbork & Instructor Michelle Marcinowski - 10 year anniversary

International Women's Day (3/8) was celebrated in style – at the 50th Anniversary Fashion Show hosted by the Adult Culture Group of PRCUA. Bravo to the entire committee headed by Chair Nathalie Skowyra and ACG President/Choreographer Liz Dynowski. The 2026 Royal Couple – Ruby Konopacki and Piotr Tumiel, together with the Runners-up, candidates, parents, siblings and even our own PRCUA President Agnieszka Bastrzyk (as Aleksander's mother) participated in this parade of fashions from many local boutiques. Look forward to the full scoop on who wore what at this very well attended nod to couture. Congratulations Adult Culture Group on another successful event.

The PRCUA Polish Folk Dance Recital season was (pardon the pun) in full bloom from March 14th beginning with the dance extravaganza by the ZAJĄCZEK Dancers under the direction of Colleen Bonkowski and Instructors Tricia Dennis and Rachael Kasperek. On the 15th, the HALKA Dancers with Laura Hejza at the helm took center stage to celebrate their choreographer/instructor of 35 years – Tom Lisiecki. Congratulations Tom – what better gift than a great recital from your dancers could there be! Saturday, March 21st was buzzing with "Polish Dance Fever" as GWIAZDA, MALBORK, OPOLE and TATRY all presented their recitals in different areas of Michigan and celebrated a few different anniversaries. Jessica Urban celebrated her 15th year as director of the GWIAZDA Dancers; Basia Nowakowski is the instructor. The MALBORK Dancers together with their instructor, Michelle Marcinowski, celebrated their 10th anniversary; Natalia Szczygiel is the director. Donna Skurski has been a mainstay in the Michigan Polish Folk Dance community for 55 years – in addition to the Wawel Folk Ensemble and others, she has been the choreographer with the PRCUA first for five years with the Gwiazda Dancers, but then for the last 50 years with the Opole Dancers (Golden blessings Donna), Beth Thacker is the director. The TATRY Dancers celebrated their 55th Anniversary at this year's recital – Mary Skurnit is the director and Karen Lubiarz, instructor. The month ended with the Golden Anniversary Recital of the POLSKIE MAKI Dancers – Maria Jalkiewicz is the director and Kelly Malinowski, the instructor. My deepest and sincerest congratulations to each and every one of you for your love of Polish folk dancing, your commitment to your passion, and for all the successes you and your dancers have achieved and will continue to achieve! On behalf of the Officers, Directors, and Members of the PRCUA – thank you for what you do for the Polish American Community, for the dance culture of our forefathers, and for the PRCUA!

On March 15th, the 23rd Anniversary Blessing of the Polish Dance Schools was held at St. Hyacinth Church in Detroit, Michigan, officiated by Rev. Edward Traczyk, SCHR. Over 100 dancers from 10 Polish dance ensembles across Metro Detroit participated, adorned in the beautiful traditional costumes of Poland. PRCUA Director D10 Colleen Bonkowski was proud to report that seven of these Polish Dance ensembles were our PRCUA dance schools: Zakopane, Zajączek, Tatry, Rogalin, Polskie Maki, Opole and Gwiazda. In the midst of the chaos of recital season, you were blessed with this special event. The (*Continued on pg. 18*)



Malbork 10th Anniversary Recital

THE OPEN DOOR (*Continued from page 17*)



Opole recital



Opole Program honoring Donna Skurski



Donna Skurski - 55 years (Gwiazda 5 + Opole 50)



Tatry Dancers - 55th anniversary



Polskie Maki - 50th anniversary

PRCUA is proud of all the participants and thank you for your attendance.

As we come together with our loved ones on Easter Sunday, let us keep in our hearts the families of two remarkable PRCUA Fraternalists who have recently departed. PRCUA President Emeritus Wallace M. Ozog, who exemplified the essence of fraternalism through dance, sports, and community. A passionate advocate for these activities, he served as a lifetime leader for PRCUA and Polonia in America. Walter J. Szarowicz who was not only the President of PRCUA District 7 for over 25 years but was also the initiator of the District's Annual PRCUA Fishing Derby and Corned Beef and Cabbage Luncheon. Both of these men were married for over 60 years to their soulmates – Joann Ozog and the former PRCUA Secretary-Treasurer, Josephine Szarowicz – and left a legacy to be modeled. Eternal rest grant unto them, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

"Dear Lord, Help me to tell of Your wondrous power and mighty acts to those generations that come after me. May I not let the season pass by without pondering the real meaning of Easter. In Jesus' name, Amen."

KAREN EHMAN



Blessing of the Polish dance schools Mass



Ozog Family



Walter Szarowicz and Micheline Jaminski

THE STORY OF POLAND IN POSTERS

The Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake, Michigan is proud to present *The Story of Poland in Posters*, a compelling exhibition exploring the rich legacy of Polish poster art from the late nineteenth century through the modern era. Curated by Elijah Majeski, Galeria Manager, and Dr. John Radzilowski, Director of the Polish Institute of Culture & Research, the exhibition on view in the Galeria on the campus of the Orchard Lake Schools through Sunday, May 24, 2026, offers a vivid visual narrative of Poland's cultural, artistic, and historical evolution.

Widely regarded as one of Poland's most distinctive artistic contributions, poster art transcended its commercial origins to become a powerful medium of expression. Particularly during the communist period, artists used posters to communicate layered meanings, often navigating censorship with symbolism, abstraction, and striking visual language. This exhibition traces that evolution, from early lithographic works to the internationally celebrated Polish School of Posters and beyond.

Featuring works by renowned artists such as Jan Styka, Stefan Norblin, Waldemar Świerzy, Józef Mroszczak, Rafał Olbiński, and others, the collection highlights key moments in Polish history, from national identity and religious devotion to theater, film, and everyday life. Visitors will encounter posters that are not only visually compelling but deeply rooted in the Polish experience.

"This exhibition invites our community to experience Poland's history not only through words, but through powerful imagery," said Ania Bieciuk, Associate Director for Polonia Affairs. "Each poster tells a story of resilience, creativity, and identity, reflecting the enduring spirit of Polish culture that we are honored to preserve and share."

The exhibition may be experienced during scheduled events at the Galeria. Visitors are encouraged to view the Institute's event calendar online for public access opportunities. Private appointments may also be arranged by contacting: info@picrol.org or 248-836-1284. For more information, including event listings and directions, please visit: www.picrol.org.

Easter Recipes

(*Continued from pg. 13*)

1 minute. Then drain the ham into small cubes. Grate the cheese using a medium grater. Rinse, dry, and finely chop the parsley and chives.

Sift the flour into a bowl, add the baking powder, and mix together.

In a separate bowl, crack in the 2 eggs and add the milk. Whisk vigorously with a fork. Then add the flour mixture and stir until combined. Finally, add the ham, cheese, and herbs. Season with salt, pepper, and sweet paprika. Mix everything together.

Line a muffin tin with paper liners. Fill each cup halfway with batter.

Peel the quail eggs and place one egg into each muffin. Divide the remaining batter evenly on top.

Bake in a preheated oven at 350°F for about 25 minutes, until golden brown.

CROQUETTES STUFFED WITH EASTER FILLING (*wielkanocne krokiety*)

Crepes:

3 eggs
2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
2 ½ cups milk
½ teaspoon salt

Filling:

4 parboiled white sausages
6 hard-boiled eggs
7 oz cheese (such as cheddar or gouda)
1 bunch chives, finely chopped
1 bunch fresh parsley, finely chopped
salt and pepper to taste
1 teaspoon sweet paprika
2 teaspoons marjoram
granulated garlic
oil for frying

Breading:

2 eggs
4 tablespoons breadcrumbs

Crepes: In a bowl, mix the eggs, alternating adding milk and flour, and mix in the salt. Once the batter is smooth, let it rest for about 30 minutes. Fry thin crepes in a medium-sized frying pan (this recipe yields approx. 12 crepes).

Filling: Remove the casings from the sausages and dice them into small cubes. Sauté in a frying pan with a little oil, then season with marjoram, sweet paprika, and granulated garlic to taste. Set aside to cool.

Hard-boil the eggs, cool them down, peel, and dice into small cubes. Grate the cheese using a coarse grater. Finely chop the parsley and chives.

In a bowl, combine the diced eggs, cooled sausage, grated cheese, parsley, and chives. Season to taste with salt, and pepper.

Place 2–3 tablespoons of the filling onto each crepe. Fold the sides inward and roll up tightly like traditional croquettes. In a deep bowl, whisk 2 eggs; place the breadcrumbs in a second bowl. Dip each croquette first in the egg, then coat in breadcrumbs. Fry in oil over medium heat on both sides until golden brown.

Serve with sour rye soup (*żurek*).

HORSERADISH WITH APPLE (*chrzan z jabłkiem*)

7 oz grated fresh horseradish root
1 tart apple (preferably a Granny Smith–type)
3/4 cup heavy cream
juice of 1/2 lemon
2 tablespoons dry white wine
a pinch of salt and sugar to taste
chopped fresh dill for garnish

Place the grated fresh horseradish in a glass bowl. Wash the apple, peel, core and grate it using a coarse grater. Drizzle the apple with lemon juice to prevent browning. Mix the grated horseradish with the grated apple. Add the heavy cream and white wine. Mix everything together and season with salt and sugar to taste. Sprinkle with chopped fresh dill before serving.

EASTER NO-BAKE CAKE WITH LADYFINGERS (*ciasto wielkanocne na biszkoptach*)

3 cups milk (divided)
1 package (about 2.8 oz) chocolate pudding mix (cook-and-serve, not instant)
tablespoons sugar
18 oz mascarpone
1 2/3 cups heavy cream
14 oz ladyfinger cookies
3.5 oz walnuts, finely chopped
1 milk chocolate bar (about 3.5 oz)
sliced almonds for decoration

Base: Lightly dip half of the ladyfingers in milk and arrange them in the bottom of a springform pan.

Pudding mixture: Bring 2 cups of milk to a boil. In a separate cup, mix the remaining 1 cup milk with the pudding mix and sugar. Pour into the boiling milk, stirring constantly to prevent lumps. Let the pudding cool completely.

Cream filling: Beat the cooled pudding with mascarpone until smooth. Add finely chopped walnuts and mix. In a separate bowl, whip about 1 1/3 cups heavy cream until stiff peaks form. Gently fold the whipped cream into the pudding mixture.

Spread the cream mixture over the layer of ladyfingers. Pour half of the mixture over the cookies, arrange a second layer of cookies, and then pour the remaining mixture on top. Chill in the refrigerator for a while.

Break the chocolate into small pieces. Heat it in a saucepan with the remaining heavy cream until melted and smooth. Pour the chocolate topping over the cake. Decorate with sliced almonds. Refrigerate for about 2 hours before serving.

ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLES ON PG. 11:

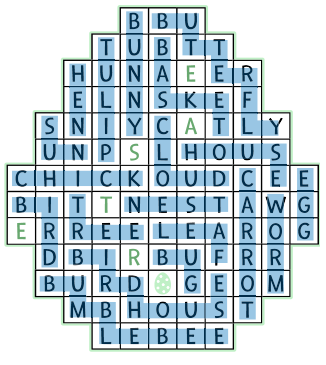
1. Find 10 differences:



2. Unscramble the words:

BUNNY, BONNET, EASTER, HUNT, EGGS, PARADE, APRIL, CROSS, HOLY, CHOCOLATE, BASKET, CHICK, LENT, PALM SUNDAY

4. Find all the words in the



DIANE A. SYNAKOWSKI OBITUARY



Diane Synakowski, 81, of Vero Beach, Florida formerly of Syracuse, passed away peacefully on Friday, February 20, 2026.

She graduated from Sacred Heart Academy and attended LeMoyne College, with career aspirations in the medical field. Diane decided to focus on her family life and raised her four children selflessly with the utmost care. During this time, she successfully pursued many artistic projects including drawing, painting, and crocheting. She loved to cook feasts for her family and extended family. She would not hesitate to give you everything she had if she thought it would make you happy. She always had a happy song in her heart. As the children grew, Diane began working for the 1980 Census and then Onondaga Community College where she worked in the Counseling Center, Computer Center, (*Cont. on pg. 18*) and the Math Department. After more than 19 years with the college, she was called to begin caring full-time for her father with the help of her sister Regina Bandru.

Diane was predeceased by her parents, George and Regina Przepiora, and sister, Regina Bandru. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Louis Synakowski Sr., her children, Robert, Stephen, Louis Jr (Kelly), and Patricia Lanter (Jared), her cherished grandchildren Alexander, Karyna, Nathaniel, Evan, and Hayley, her sister-in-law Rosalyn Synakowski, her Aunt Maxine Bienkowski, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

After moving to Vero Beach, Florida with Lou, she volunteered with the Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach, Respect Life of St. Helen's Catholic Church, and at the Dodgers spring training camp in Vero Beach. She will be remembered for her devotion to her family and joyful care of others, including the preborn, the most vulnerable of all.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, March 13 at Sacred Heart Basilica in Syracuse, New York, followed by a burial at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Town of Geddes.

Diane Synakowski was the former PRCUA National Director of District #2 (from 1992 to 2002) 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.

PRCUA extends sincere condolences to Mr. Louis Synakowski and his family on the death of Diane Synakowski.

WALTER SZAROWICZ PASSED AWAY



Walter Szarowicz passed away on March 5, 2026, in Naples, Florida. He was the husband of Josephine "Joyce" Szarowicz, former PRCUA Secretary-Treasurer.

Walter was born on January 29, 1939, in Mount Prospect, Illinois. He was the father of Joy and Walter Szarowicz.

Mr. Szarowicz was a long-time member of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. He belonged to PRCUA Societies 475 and 347 and served as District #7 President for over 25 years (1989-2016).

He was actively involved in PRCUA events, including the annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner and the District #7 Fishing Derby for Youngsters, which he helped organize and promote.

In 2016, PRCUA recognized his leadership role in the derby, thanking him, along with District Vice President Stephan DeLonka, for their years of support in keeping the event a tradition. The derby was open to PRCUA youth (ages 1–15) as well as non-members.

He also served as chairman of the PRCUA Night at the Races, organized annually by District #7 during the 1980s at Sportsman's Park in Cicero, Illinois.

Walter was the #1 supporter of his wife, former Secretary-Treasurer Josephine Szarowicz, serving as a delegate at PRCUA National Conventions, participating in the PRCUA sports tournaments, and attending the PMA Summer Balls, and the Polish Seminary at Orchard Lake fundraisers.

Mr. Szarowicz's involvement in PRCUA activities spanned decades, reflecting his commitment to the organization's cultural and community programs.

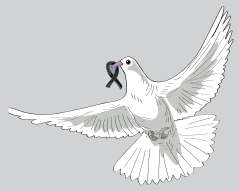
Visitation services for Mr. Szarowicz were held on Monday, March 9, 2026, at Naples Funeral Home in Naples, Florida.

May he rest in eternal peace.

Please remember Walter Szarowicz and his family in your prayers.

PRCUA extends heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Szarowicz and her family on the passing of Mr. Szarowicz. On behalf of everyone at PRCUA, we share in your sorrow and keep you in our thoughts during this difficult time.

DEARLY DEPARTED PRCUA BROTHERS AND SISTERS



Member	Society	State	Member	Society	State
Bondy, Kathleen N.	2308	MI	Mathies, Zelda	527	MD
Butkin, Sandra	87	MI	Michalski, Theodore	132	NY
Ceryak, Donna	531	PA	Moscynski, Leonard A.	162	MI
Cole, Judith	162	MI	Oloughlin, Kathleen	1580	NY
Cooper, Michael	1492	NC	Oskiera, Stella	2015	PA
Copeland, Ronald	162	MI	Ozog, Rita A.	531	PA
Dudac, Marianne C	463	CT	Pope, Thomas	1617	OH
Edwards, Scott L.	122	IL	Rojko, Michael P.	549	NE
Finiki, Kathlen	750	NY	Rzeppa, John	162	MI
Ginger, Kathleen Mary	1543	IL	Slomski, Mark A.	240	PA
Goossen, Josephine	2308	WI	Stefanski, Joseph	294	FL
Grabowski, Frances	2220	OH	Stepien, Joanna	419	NY
Indelicato, Elaine	539	M0	Valla, Frank	2319	PA
Kazmierczak, Theresa	2015	PA	Webb, Doreen	1031	IN
Lunchar, Victoria	2291	OH	Woytus, Thomas	539	MO
Macek, Robert S.	87	MI	Zwolinski, Irena A.	1371	CT

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*.

Oferta ważna do 30 kwietnia 2026 r.

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ROK 3	4.50% GWAR.	4.25% GWAR.	4.00% GWAR.	8%
ROK 4	4.50% GWAR.	4.25% GWAR.	4.00% GWAR.	7%
ROK 5	NIEGWARANTOWANE	NIEGWARANTOWANE	NIEGWARANTOWANE	6%
ROK 6	NIEGWARANTOWANE	NIEGWARANTOWANE	NIEGWARANTOWANE	5%
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UBEZPIECZENIA BEZ TAJEMNIC

Robert Sobczak
Specjalista ds. ubezpieczeń

Low Income Subsidy – Extra Help na 2026

Większość z nas wie, że osoby posiadające Medicare powinny zapisać się na plany zniżkowe na lekarstwa, tzw. **część D Medicare**. Niestety nie każdy zdaje sobie sprawę, że wieku beneficjentów **Medicare**, ze względu na niskie dochody, mimo wszystko przekraczające poziom kwalifikacji na Medicaid, może zakwalifikować się na Dodatkową Pomoc Federalną (Extra Help) w kosztach planu na leki tzw. **Low Income Subsidy (LIS)**.

Pomoc ta dotyczy między innymi:
- kosztów związanych z miesięcznymi opłatami za plan tzw. **premium**;
- kosztów udziału własnego – **deductible**;
- kosztów leków - **co-pays**.

Suma pomocy w tym programie w 2026 roku może osiągnąć około $6,200.00 w skali rocznej.

Wiele osób, które mogą kwalifikować się na tę pomoc nawet o tym nie wie lub nie zdaje sobie z tego sprawy.

Żeby się kwalifikować, urząd Social Security musi zweryfikować **dochody i zasoby** osoby lub osób aplikujących o pomoc. Od 2024 roku, po raz pierwszy program zaoferowany został w pełnym wymiarze dla posiadaczy Medicare z dochodami do 150% federalnego poziomu ubóstwa.

Limity:

Aby kwalifikować się na pomoc w roku 2026 dochody indywidulane nie mogą być wyższe niż $23,475 ($2,015 miesięcznie) lub $31,725 ($2,725 miesięcznie) na małżeństwo mieszkające razem.

Jednocześnie sprawdzany jest również poziom zasobów. W 2026 roku nie może przekraczać on $16,590 na osobę indywidualnie lub $33,100 na małżeństwo w 2026 roku. Dla osób, które zadeklarowały, że zamierzają wykorzystać część zasobów w celach pokrycia własnych kosztów pogrzebu, poziom zasobów na 2026 nie może przekraczać on $18,090 indywidualnie lub $36,100 na małżeństwo.

Przykładowe **zasoby brane** pod uwagę:
- Nieruchomości (nie rezydencyjne);
- Konta bankowe (czekowe, oszczędnościowe, CD);
- Akcje;
- Obligacje;
- Lokaty;
- Plany emerytalne (IRA, 401K, 403B, itp.);
- Gotówka;
- Oszczędności na pogrzeb i pochówek.

Przykładowe **zasoby nie brane** pod uwagę:
- Dom rezydencyjny;
- Rzeczy osobiste;
- Samochody;
- Ubezpieczenia na życie;
- Odszkodowania.

Przykładowe **dochody nie brane** pod uwagę:
- Kartki na żywność - Food Stamp;
- Pomoc w kosztach utrzymania domu;
- Pomoc w kosztach energii;
- Pomoc katastroficzna;
- Kredyty podatkowe - Tax credits;
- Odszkodowania;
- Stypendia.

W jaki sposób można składać aplikację na **Low Income Subsidy**:
- Online: www.socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp;
- Zadzwonić do Social Security pod numer 1-800-772-1213 (TYY 1-800-325-0778);
- Można wypełnić podanie osobiście. Każda osoba wchodząca w Medicare otrzymuje automatycznie formę pocztą;
- **Można przyjść do naszego biura** i jeden z naszych licencjonowanych agentów pomoże wypełnić aplikacje (pomoc ta jest **bezpłatna**).

Po złożeniu podania, oficer Social Security przejrzy formę i zdecyduje, czy kwalifikujemy się na dodatkową pomoc. Jeśli tak i jeśli posiadamy **Medicare** od dłuższego czasu, to przysługuje nam jednorazowa możliwość dostosowania części D lub części C z pokryciem na leki do naszej nowej „rzeczywistości". (*kont. na str.* __)

Jeśli w przyszłości będziemy zmienić plan (części D lub części C z pokryciem na leki) zniżka **Low Income Subsidy** zostanie automatycznie dołączona do nowego planu, tak długo jak będzie nam nadal przysługiwała.

Kilka dodatkowych ciekawostek na temat **Low Income Subsidy**:
- **Extra Help** jest jednym z niewielu sposobów na zniesienie kary za niewykupienie planu zniżkowego na leki – **część D** na czas. Przypominamy, że kara za nieposiadanie **części D Medicare** stanowi 1% średniej krajowej ceny planu zniżkowego na leki na receptę pomnożoną o każdy miesiąc nieposiadania owego planu od momentu otrzymania benefitów **Medicare**. Kara jest naliczana dożywotnio;
- Weryfikacja dokonywana jest co roku przez urząd Social Security na podstawie informacji dostarczonych przez urząd IRS;
- Aplikacje o **Low Income Subsidy** możemy składać wielokrotnie, za każdym razem, gdy nasze dochody lub zasoby ulegną zmianie;
- **Część D** na leki możemy zmieniać przynajmniej raz w roku (w trakcie Corocznego Okresu Zapisowego - Annual Enrollment Period, który trwa co roku między 15 października, a 7 grudnia) by dostosowywać go do naszych aktualnych potrzeb;
- Otrzymanie lub utrata benefitów programu LIS upoważnia nas jednorazowo do dodatkowej możliwości weryfikacji i/lub zmiany planu na leki **części D Medicare** lub planu Medicare Advantage z planem na leki, czyli **części C Medicare**.

medicare po polsku
844.654.5185
www.medicarepopolsku.com



NOWINKI ZE SZKOŁY JĘZYKA I KULTURY POLSKIEJ IM. ZBIGNIEWA HERBERTA

„Uczymy się uczyć się”

W okresie od 1 października 2025 roku do 28 lutego 2026 roku 22 uczniów klasy 0 Szkoły Języka i Kultury Polskiej im. Zbigniewa Herberta w Palos Heights, Illinois wraz z wychowawcą panią Anną Majchrowicz i asystentką panią Olivią Woźniak wzięło udział w Ogólnopolskim Projekcie Edukacyjnym „Uczę się uczyć się”, którego celem było poznanie i rozwijanie skutecznych metod uczenia się oraz kształtowanie umiejętności planowania nauki i organizacji własnej pracy.

Dzięki udziałowi naszych uczniów projekt stał się projektem międzynarodowym. Nasi najmłodsi uczniowie udowodnili również, że zgodnie z mottem szkoły, które brzmi: „Nauka to podróż, która trwa przez całe życie”, nigdy nie jest za wcześnie, by dowiedzieć się, jak skutecznie się uczyć. Ciekawostką jest bowiem fakt, że do udziału w projekcie przystąpili uczniowie najmłodsi – uczniowie klasy 0 w wieku 5-6 lat, mimo że projekt autorstwa pani Justyny Gajdziszewskiej i pani Katarzyny Suwalskiej początkowo przewidziany był dla starszej grupy wiekowej.

Dzięki projektowi uczniowie poznali zasady planowania nauki, radzenia sobie z natłokiem zadań, nauczyli się porządkować informacje, tworzyć mapy myśli i lapbooki, korzystać z fiszek. Już teraz wiedzą także, jak ważne jest dobieranie strategii uczenia się, a także poznawanie swoich mocnych stron i kreowanie własnych metod nauki, by osiągnąć sukces.

Uczniowie w ramach sobotnich zajęć w szkole zrealizowali 10 z 12 zaplanowanych w projekcie lekcji, czym wypełnili wymagania regulaminowe. Sukces okazał się znakomity. Certyfikaty za udział w projekcie otrzymała pani Anna Majchrowicz, jej asystentka pani Olivia Woźniak oraz szkoła. Autorki projektu nie zapomniały także o uczniach, którym również przesłały specjalne certyfikaty.

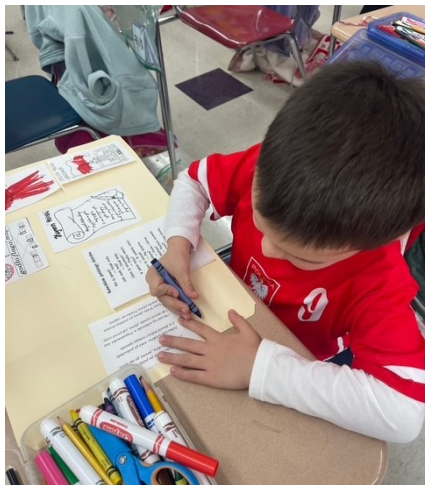
Anna Majchrowicz
asystentka dyrektora i nauczyciel kl. 0



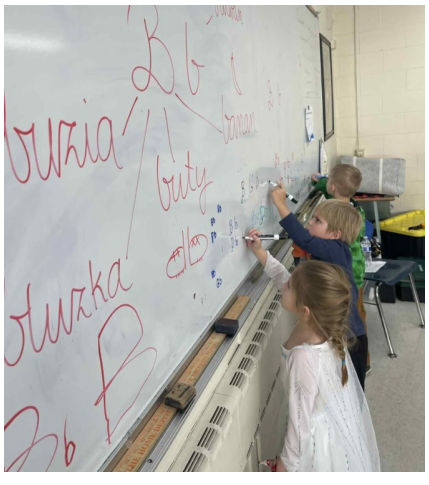




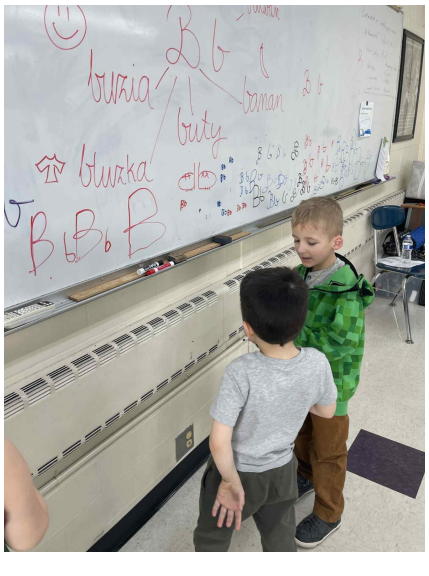














(*Dok. na str. 24*)

NOWINKI ZE SZKOŁY Z. HERBERTA *(dok. ze str. 23)*





Matury 2026

14 marca odbył się w naszej szkole ustny, egzamin maturalny. Maturzyści zaprezentowali przed komisją swoje prace z wcześniej wybranych tematów z zakresu języka polskiego, historii i geografii. Komisja w składzie: Irena Woźniak - dyrektor szkoły, Jacek Langowski - prezes zarządu, Kinga Pierwoła-Truta - wychowawca klasy, pełniąca funkcję z-cy dyrektora szkoły i Dorota Wilmanowicz-Rumińska - nauczycielka, miała ogromną przyjemność obejrzeć i wysłuchać poszczególnych, ciekawych prezentacji.

21 marca uczniowie klasy XI przystąpili do maturalnego, egzaminu pisemnego. Już od sześciu lat egzamin pisemny jest przeprowadzany na podstawie stanowego testu biegłości językowej STAMP 4S.

W tym roku komisja reprezentowana była w następującym składzie: koordynator testu - Irena Woźniak, dyrektor szkoły; koordynator techniczny (network IP coordinator), Olivia Woźniak, absolwentka szkoły oraz osoby cenzurujące (proctors): Kinga Pierwoła-Truta, wychowawczyni klasy, pełniąca funkcję zastępcy dyrektora szkoły i Dorota Wilmanowicz- Rumińska, nauczyciel.

Do testu przystąpiło 14 maturzystów. Pozytywnie zaliczony test daje możliwość uzyskania Pieczęci Dwujęzyczności (Seal of Biliteracy) w macierzystych szkołach średnich, na świadectwie ukończenia liceum.

Nasza szkoła na podstawie zdanego testu występuje również o certyfikaty i medale do Global Seal of Biliteracy. Certyfikaty potwierdzają znajomość języka polskiego jako obcego. Są jednocześnie uhonorowaniem wieloletniej nauki w polonijnej szkole.

Jesteśmy dumni z faktu, że już po raz szósty organizujemy test z korzyścią dla naszych maturzystów.

Matura to ważne wydarzenie w szkole nie tylko dla klasy maturalnej ale także dla całej społeczności szkolnej. W naszej szkole, w ponad dziesięcioletniej działalności, kolejni uczniowie opuszczają nasze szkolne mury. Po raz szósty oprócz świadectw ukończenia polonijnej szkoły średniej otrzymają certyfikaty poświadczające znajomość języka polskiego jako obcego.

Gratulacje!

Irena Woźniak
Dyrektor szkoły























LUDOWE ZWYCZAJE WIELKANOCNE W POLSCE

„Bziuki" i „przywołówki" to wyjątkowe, ludowe tradycje wielkanocne do dziś kultywowane w niektórych regionach Polski.

„Bziuki" to zwyczaj polegający na widowiskowym wydmuchiwaniu płomieni przez strażaków ochotników. Odbywa się on w Wielką Sobotę wieczorem i ma charakter zarówno obrzędowy, jak i pokazowy. Uczestnicy nabierają do ust nafty i wydmuchują ją w stronę ognia, tworząc efektowne słupy płomieni. Tradycja ta ma symbolizować oczyszczenie, ochronę przed złymi duchami oraz zapewnienie urodzaju.

Z kolei z Kujaw pochodzi tradycja „przywołówek", zapoczątkowana w XIX wieku w Szymborzu (dziś dzielnica Inowrocławia). Polega on na publicznym ogłaszaniu przez kawalerów imion panien z okolicy oraz przypisywaniu im żartobliwych komentarzy. Dawniej odbywało się to z wieży kościelnej, drzewa lub dachu, a dziś ze specjalnej konstrukcji, tzw. „szubienicy". Kończy się obietnicą ile wody zostanie na przywołaną pannę wylane w lany poniedziałek. Na koniec podaje się nazwisko kawalera, który ma wykupić pannę.

Oba zwyczaje zostały wpisane na Krajową Listę Niematerialnego Dziedzictwa Kulturowego UNESCO („bziuki" w 2021 r., a „przywołówki"w 2016 r.).

Do dziś zwyczaje te traktowane są jako cenne dziedzictwo kulturowe, przyciągające turystów i podtrzymujące lokalną tożsamość. Choć ich forma nieco się zmieniła, nadal pełnią ważną rolę w integracji lokalnej społeczności.



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