PRCUA District #1 National Director Vacancy

A vacancy exists for the office of PRCUA District #1 National Director. Members are hereby informed that applications to fill the above vacancy are now being accepted. The applicant must be an active member of PRCUA, in good standing for at least five years, and a resident of District #1, which is composed of Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The vacancy shall be acted upon at the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors scheduled for March 10-11, 2017. Applications can be obtained from the office of PRCUA Secretary-Treasurer James Robaczewski, FIC.

Completed application, with a photo, must be filed no later than February 15, 2017 by registered or certified mail, or in person. To obtain an application, please contact:

Secretary-Treasurer James J. Robaczewski
PRCUA
984 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60642-4101
Phone (773) 782-2611 or (800) 772-8632 ext. 2611

The duties of Directors, as defined in the PRCUA Constitution approved by the August 2014 Convention, are to:
- participate in all Board Sessions of the Board of Directors;
- supervise the locations of funds of the UNION;
- approve the bond of the President and all other Officials of whom a bond is required;
- examine and approve all reports and official actions of the respective Officers and be responsible for the safety, development of, and order of the UNION;
- upon the advice and written recommendation of the UNION's actuaries, may make an equitable distribution of surplus by the payment of dividends;
- shall be bound to operate within the budget as approved by the Convention and reviewed annually and adjusted accordingly by the Budget Committee.

In addition to the official duties of a Director of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America as outlined in the Constitution, a Director is encouraged to:
- support membership in the PRCUA by encouraging individuals, both adult and juvenile, to become members of the PRCUA through its life insurance and annuity programs;
- solicit and encourage individuals to represent the PRCUA as licensed agents or fraternal deputies by joining the Sales Department of the PRCUA and promoting PRCUA financial products;
- initiate, cooperate and participate in the local representative district's activities as it relates to the fraternal goals and mission of the PRCUA.

Have you recently reviewed PRCUA’s competitive product portfolio?
- Traditional Whole Life
- Single Pay Whole Life
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- Non-Qualified and Qualified Annuities with 2.0% APY

Call Today!
1-800-772-8632

LAST CHANCE!
PRCUA Christmas Special on pg. 3

Chance to win Apple® iPad Mini!

Naród Polski Celebrates 120th Anniversary!

Masthead on the first page of the first issue of Naród Polski, published under the title of Naród on Friday, January 1, 1897
JANUARY 2017

1  HAPPY NEW YEAR! – PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON JAN 2, 2017.

14  DEARBORN HTS., MI – RYDER CUP BOWLING #162 on Sat., Jan. 14 (Host Society) versus #718 starting with registration at 11:00 a.m. at Cherry Hill Lanes. Afterglow at Randy’s Bar & Grill 25122 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Hts., MI. $40 per person includes bowling, prize money and food. Interested bowlers should contact Bob Hojnacki at hoj606@hotmail.com or 313-384-6255.

15  DEARBORN HTS., MI – ST. STAN’S CORPORATE COMMUNION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS on Sun., Jan. 15. Mass will be held in memory of our deceased members at 11:00 a.m. at St. Linus Church on Hass Street between Telegraph & Beach Daly Rds., south of Warren Ave. Following Mass a complimentary dinner will be served at the Scott VFW Post on Waverly Street, south of W. Warren Rd. and east of Telegraph Rd. After dinner, a short meeting will be held and the election of officers for 2017. For additional information, contact 313-278-5219.

18  LANSING, MI – WHITE EAGLE SOC. #2342 POTLUCK AND MEETING on Wed., Jan 18 (every third Wednesday of each month) from 5:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI. Contact: Veronica Ulrich at 517-484-3311.


FEBRUARY

2  DEARBORN HTS., MI – ST. STAN’S SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE DRAWING on Thurs., Feb 2 at Randy’s Bar & Grill, 25122 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Hts., MI at 8:00 p.m. Everybody is welcome to attend. For more information contact: Jerry Nasiatka at pasiatka@mi.rr.com.

4  STERLING HTS., MI – ZAJACZEK DANCE ENSEMBLE POLISH PARTY on Sat., Feb. 4 at 6:00 p.m. at American Polish Century Club, 33104 Maple Lane, Sterling HTS., MI. Tickets and information: 586-770-7397 or zajaczekevent@yahoo.com. (See details on pg. 4.)

11  WYANDOTTE, MI – SOC. #142 TOPPERMOST BEATLES TRIBUTE DANCE on Sat., Feb 11, at the PRCUA Banques Center, 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte, MI. Doors open at 6 p.m.; music from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Entry: $15 per person, food and cash bar available. Proceeds will benefit the PRCUA #142 Scholarship Fund. For more info contact Chris Zelasko at 734-671-9366.

13  CHICAGO, IL – DISTRICT #7 MEETING & INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS on Mon., Feb. 13 at 7:00 p.m. at PRCUA Social Hall, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL. Contact: Shirley L. Dudzinski, Secretary at 773-763-4069.

14  HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

15  LANSING, MI – WHITE EAGLE SOC. #2342 POTLUCK AND MEETING on Wed., Feb. 14 (every third Wednesday of each month) from 5:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI. Contact: Veronica Ulrich at 517-484-3311.

18  TROY, MI – SHIRLEY ANN GALANTY MICHIGAN STATE BOWL on Sat., Feb. 18 at The San Marino Club, 1685 E. Big Beaver, Troy, MI. More details will be posted in February issue of Narod Polski.

28  WYANDOTTE, MI – SOC. #162 PACZKI DAY BUS TRIP on Tues., Feb 28, 2017. Cost $25. Bus leaves PRCUA Lounge, 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte, MI at 9:00 a.m. Bus will leave Hamtramck at 5:00 p.m. sharp. For more information contact Mike at 734-283-4810.

MADISON, IL – Polish Hall (PRCUA St. Stanislaus Society #1004) will be Celebrating its 100th Anniversary with a Polka Dance open to the public, families, and members. The dance will take place on Sunday, April 30, 2017, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Good Times Band played 400 consecutive Sunday night engagements from 1975 to 1984, over 8 years, at the Polish Hall, 826 Greenwood Street, Madison, IL. This event will feature Dave Hylla’s Good Times Band, as a reunion for all who came to those earlier dances. Admission $2. Ages 12 years & under free. Polish food will be on sale and more is in the works. Celebrate 100 Years (Five Generations) and reminisce with us. Proceeds will go toward the upkeep of the aging building, so that we can carry on for another 100 years. If you have any questions, contact Beverly Bargiel at STANISLA@SBCGLOBAL.NET. Check Facebook: POLISH HALL MADISON.
If you are looking for a way to assist in the education of the youth of Polonia, consider donating to: The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America Education Fund

The PRCUA Education Fund, Inc. is a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of Illinois. It is a 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Service Code. Its purpose is to provide financial assistance to students seeking undergraduate, graduate or professional degrees.

Who is eligible to apply?
Applicants consist of eligible PRCUA members who are sophomores, juniors and seniors enrolled full-time in undergraduate studies or those students enrolled in graduate or professional degree programs. Full-time enrollment shall conform to those guidelines established by the federal financial aid program. (A minimum of twelve (12) credit hours for day students or eight (8) credit hours for evening students.) Part-time graduate or professional students are also eligible. On occasion, assistance could be given to non-PRCUA members.

How can I donate to, or establish a scholarship in my own name, as part of the PRCUA Education Fund, Inc.?
1. You can make a donation in any denomination that will be directed to the PRCUA Education Fund, Inc. and used for educational purposes as directed by the Board.
2. You can make a one-time donation of $1,000 to $24,999 to establish a scholarship(s) in your own name – as your personal legacy or “In Memory of” or “In Honor of” an individual or organization. It will be distributed in one year, or divided over a period of years, to students in the areas of study that you designate.
3. You can establish a PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND in your own name by making a donation of $25,000 or more in capital deposits within a 12 month period. The income generated from this donation will be used to award scholarships to students in a specific area of study as designated by you. A perpetual scholarship can also be established to honor or memorialize someone special.

What kind of donations can be made to the PRCUA Education Fund, Inc.?
Donations can be made in the form of cash, checks, real estate property, stocks and securities, gifts of future interest, insurance, wills, trusts.

Can donations be made “In Memory of” or “In Honor of” an individual or organization?
This program provides an opportunity for you to memorialize or honor a special person or group and make a positive impact in the future of a college bound student. By donating $1,000 or more, you can establish a scholarship in your own name or “In Memory/Honor of” an individual or organization.

What are the criteria used for evaluating applications and awarding scholarships?
If not specified by the donor, selection criteria will include, but not be limited to: scholastic average, involvement in the Polish American community, local community service, individual financial need and availability of funds. Judging will be based upon the information submitted in the student’s completed application.

All articles for the February issue of Naród Polski, must be submitted by Tuesday, January 17, 2017.
We need the current addresses for the following members. If you know the address of anyone on this list, please send it to: James Robaczewski, Secretary-Treasurer, PRCUA, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642-4101 or call 773-782-2600 Ext. 2605 or 1-800-772-8632 Ext. 2605.

From the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer

James J. Robaczewski, FIC

The free 2017 PRCUA calendar is available to PRCUA members. Members can pick up the calendar at the Home Office, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642 or can order it by calling the Marketing Department at 773-782-2632. Orders can also be placed by emailing: marketing@prcua.org.

The theme for the 2017 PRCUA calendar features Faces of Polish History. This calendar highlights Polish figures who have written the pages of our history and shaped our heritage with pride and sacrifice. We hope you enjoy this new calendar!
Chicago, IL - December of 2016 began with the annual Christmas festivities. On Saturday, December 3, District #7 hosted the Annual PRCUA Opłatek at the Lone Tree Manor in Niles, IL.

Arriving guests were warmly welcomed by District #7 National Directors Anna Krysinski and Kevin Kucik and newly elected District #7 Officers: President Mateusz Bomba and Secretary Thomas Tarnowski.

Directors Krysinski and Kucik opened the program and invited PRCUA National Vice Chaplain Rev. Canon Anthony Iwuc to give the Benediction. Before the dinner was served, everyone joined in sharing Oplatki and wishing each other Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

After dinner, the Polonia Dance Ensemble performed a short artistic program. Everyone cheered when the youngest group took the floor. Led by their teacher, Jaclyn Krysinski, and accompanied by Musical Director Mieczyslaw Dzis, on the accordion, “Krasnoludki” twirled around and danced to the Christmas music, jingling little bells and looking adorable in their red-and-green costumes. Next, Polonia presented the dances from the Lowicz region. The program ended with the Ensemble singing popular Polish and American Christmas carols. All of the guests joined in the joyful singing, accompanied by Mieczyslaw Dzis (accordion) and Nicole Kwasny (violin).

Two 50/50 raffles were held at the end of the program, and two lucky winners were very happy to receive extra cash for Christmas shopping.

In attendance were past and present PRCUA Officers and Directors, outgoing District #7 Officers, members of the Adult Culture Group, 2017 PRCUA Cinderella Kayla Leonhard and Prince Charming Kacper Kaczmarczyk, and a group of Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Company members.

Photos: L Kowalewicz
Learn Polish Words - Letter G

Draw a line connecting the correct picture with the word

1. [Image of star] **GWÓŹDŻ**
2. [Image of pot] **GRUSZKA**
3. [Image of star] **GWIAZDA**
4. [Image of snail] **GUZIK**
5. [Image of apple] **GRZYBY**
6. [Image of pot] **GARNEK**

Name These Polish Winter Traditions

1. A Christian Feast Day celebrated on January 6th. On this day, in church, Poles receive in church a small box containing chalk and incense. At home, they inscribe the letters “K+M+B+” with the blessed chalk on the door frame above the main door of the house. The letters, with a cross after each one, stand for the names of the three Wise Men: Kaspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The marks remain above the door all year long.

2. The two days dedicated to the two oldest (usually) members of our families. In 2017 it will be celebrated in Poland on January 21 and 22 respectively. In the U.S., these two occasions are combined into one and celebrated every year on the first Sunday after Labor Day.

3. In Poland, a joyous period of time between Christmas day and Ash Wednesday filled with socializing and entertainment including weddings, balls and masquerades.

4. An old Polish winter tradition of organized sleigh ride parties. In the past, they were especially popular among the Polish aristocracy. A cavalcade of horse-drawn sleighs from one house to another, where they were entertained everywhere with a hearty meal, followed by dancing.

5. A traditional sweet, crisp pastry made out of dough that has been shaped into thin twisted bows, deep-fried and sprinkled with powdered sugar. They are most commonly eaten during Carnival time and especially in the period just before Lent.
Congratulations to PMA Managing Director Malgorzata Kot

Chicago, IL - Polish Museum of America Managing Director Malgorzata Kot was named “The Person of the Year” by Dziennik Zwiazkowy, the largest Polish language daily newspaper in the U.S. This title is awarded to individuals for their outstanding achievements and work for the Polish American community.

The award ceremony was held on Saturday, December 17, 2016 at The Copernicus Center in Chicago, IL.

Guest speakers for the evening were Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago Piotr Janicki and Pastor of St. Constance Parish Rev. Tadeusz Dzieszko.

The award was presented to Malgorzata Kot by Małgorzata Błaszczuk, Dziennik Zwiazkowy Executive Editor and Frank Spula, President of the Polish American Congress, Polish National Alliance and the Publisher of Dziennik Zwiazkowy.

Malgorzata Kot expressed her gratitude for receiving this honor and emphasized that she accepts the award on behalf of the Polish Museum of America. She thanked the PMA Executives, Directors, employees, volunteers, and her family and friends for their continuous support, and invited everyone to become PMA members.

Congratulations were extended by PMA Executive Directors Chairman and PRCUA President Joseph A. Drobot, Jr. Personal tributes to Mrs. Kot were given by Alicja Nawara, a teacher and a Board member of the Polish Teacher Association in America and Halina Misterka, PMA Head Archivist. Both ladies are also Malgorzata’s personal friends.

Congratulations were extended by PMA Executive Directors Chairman and PRCUA President Joseph A. Drobot, Jr. Personal tributes to Mrs. Kot were given by Alicja Nawara, a teacher and a Board member of the Polish Teacher Association in America and Halina Misterka, PMA Head Archivist. Both ladies are also Malgorzata’s personal friends.

Congratulations to Malgorzata Kot on receiving this momentous and much-deserved honor as “The Person of the Year”, and best wishes for success in all of her future endeavors, career, and personal life. Bravo!
Beginning January 15, 2017
the PRCUA wants you to
GROW THE LOVE, SHARE THE WEALTH!

When you open a NEW ANNUITY CERTIFICATE with the PRCUA, you can choose to distribute your points to one of the five non-profit organizations above.

Points will be allocated per $100 contribution to your NEW ANNUITY ($300 minimum)

- **GOLD series** 3 points/$100
- **SILVER series** 2 points/$100
- **BRONZE series** 1 point/$100

If you have an existing annuity, you can earn 1 point for every $100 you add to it as well.

The GROW THE LOVE, SHARE THE WEALTH program runs from **JANUARY 15 THROUGH APRIL 15, 2017.**

All of the above will receive a monetary donation with the top point earner receiving a Grand Prize.

For more information: **1-800-772-8632 ext. 2631, Sales@PRCUA.org** or **PRCUA.org/annuities**

GROW THE LOVE, SHARE THE WEALTH – ANNUITY PROGRAM

Name of Annuitant: 

Select ONE ANNUITY SERIES & enter Amount:  

- **GOLD** $ __________________  
- **SILVER** $ __________________  
- **BRONZE** $ __________________  

Select ONE non-profit organization of your choice:  

- **AMERICAN RED CROSS**  
- **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY**  
- **ST. JUDE CHILDREN’S RESEARCH HOSPITAL**  
- **WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT**  
- **POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA**
PACUA offers Annuity plans to complement our strong portfolio of financial products. Our Annuities play an important part in helping current and prospective members to secure their family’s financial future. The Annuities offered in our portfolio are extremely competitive in today’s market. A PACUA Annuity can be started with as little as $300. Best of all, our annuity products have no service charges.

The following tables provide a comparative summary of our available Annuity plans. All Annual Percentage Yields (APYs) shown are subject to change at any time. For additional information, please contact us at 1-800-772-8632 Ext. 2631, sales@prcua.org, or visit our website at www.PACUA.org/annuities.

### Gold Series

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<th>PLAN</th>
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<th>MIN INITIAL DEPOSIT</th>
<th>APY</th>
<th>SURRENDER CHARGE</th>
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### Bronze Series

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* The APYs could change with market conditions in the future. The APYs are based on our ability to lower our total expenses and still maintain a strong solvency ratio. Please visit www.PACUA.org/annuities for the current annuity APYs.

** This APY is an introductory yield which is guaranteed for the first certificate year. Subsequent years will be credited at the current market yield.
Sterling Hts., MI - On Sunday, October 30, 2016, the PRCUA District #10 Michigan National Directors and Michigan Dance School Directors sponsored the Sixth Annual PRCUA Michigan Cultural Workshop. This year, there were over 110 PRCUA participants between the ages of 8-18 years who registered for the workshop. This was the workshop’s highest attendance to date.

When the students started arriving at 9:00 a.m., they were greeted by Rose Ann Lackey (Tatry Director), Laura Hejza (Halka Director) and Rita Cerankowski (Halka Past Director), who were ready to register and assign the students to their workshop groups.

While the students waited for the classes to begin, Pat Steven (Syrena Director), Maria Jalkiewicz (Polskie Maki Director) and Colleen Bonkowski (Zajaczek Director) served a continental breakfast of juice, fruit, muffins, and other breakfast goodies for their enjoyment.

The first of four workshops that some of the students attended was the cooking class. This class was taught by School Directors Colleen Bonkowski, Pat Steven and Maria Jalkiewicz, assisted by Brian Bonkowski, who handled all the hot areas. They taught the students how make Chrusciki, (Polish Angel Wings), a traditional sweet crisp pastry made out of dough that has been shaped into thin twisted bows then deep-fried and sprinkled with powdered sugar. Each student was taught how the dough was made and how to roll out, cut, and shape it to make the perfect cookie.

While waiting for them to cook, for fun, the students had sugar cookies to decorate with many frostings and sprinkles in a Halloween theme - with Halloween being the next day. Also, the instructors gave the students some little facts about Poland and Polish food. When all the cookies were ready, each student got to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

The next workshop was the Polish BINGO class. The instructors of this class were Kristi Mihalic (Wieliczka Director), Laura Hejza and Tom Lisiecki (Halka and Zakopane Choreographer) who popped in and out between running errands for the workshop. It was so much fun with the students playing traditional BINGO but in place of numbers, over 40 Polish words were used such as: one/jeden, eagle/orzeł, milk/mleko, and uncle/wujek. In each game, the BINGO cards kept switching from English to Polish and I think the students learned a few Polish words to use at home/dom.

When the first part of the workshop was completed, everyone took a lunch break. Thanks to our American Polish Century Club chefs, we feasted on pierogi, smoked kielbasa, fruit, vegetables and bakery cookies. Everyone enjoyed great conversations, not only with each other, but also with our PRCUA National President Joseph Drobot, Jr. and his wife Judy, who told us many stories of the Polish traditions they observe in their own family.

The next class was the dance class. The instructor of this class was Karen Lubiarz (Tatry Choreographer). Each class learned about different Regional and National dances from Poland. The students were taught some upbeat dances from the Lublin region. The most favorite of all of the dances was Mach – a very fast-spinning dance. At the end of the class, Karen had girl’s and boy’s costumes from Lublin to show the students and she showed where this region is located on a map of Poland.

The final class was the craft class. This class was led by Jessica Wendt (Gwiazda Director) with assistance by Beth Thacker (Opole Director) and Michelle Stechschulte (Rogalin Director). The Polish craft activity centered on making traditional Polish Christmas ornaments. Traditionally, Polish ornaments are made out of paper with a varying level of complexity. In the 2016 workshop, the younger children created peacock/pan, rooster/kogut, and pitcher/dzbanek ornaments out of paper. They decorated the designs, cut and pasted them together, then finally, attached a string to hang the ornaments from their own Christmas trees.

The older students created Polish stars/lewzy, often referred to as “Polish Porcupines”. The students cut out tissue paper circles from templates, and used pencils and glue to create the points of the star. When all their circles were complete with points, they strung the pieces together and secured the ornament in place with a piece of sequins and a knot. The students were excited to take their piece of Polish folk art home with them.

When the day ended, each student received a commemorative t-shirt of the event, compliments of the PRCUA Home Office, along with a bag filled with PRCUA goodies, a Target gift card, ear buds, and a certificate of participation.

I would like to thank all of the PRCUA Michigan Dance School Directors for all the work and effort they put into the 2016 PRCUA Michigan Cultural Workshop. Because of them, everyone had a great time learning about Polish culture and their heritage... and even made a few new friends!

A special thank you goes to our photographer Mary Ann Smigiel for all of the wonderful pictures she took.

Submitted by: Tom Lisiecki, PRCUA National Director, District #10
PRCUA MICHIGAN CULTURAL WORKSHOP 2016
12th Annual Zajączek Dance Ensemble Graduate Ball

Sterling Hts., MI - On November 19, 2016, the Zajączek Dance Ensemble proudly held their 12th Annual Graduate Ball for five graduates at the American Polish Century Club in Sterling Heights, MI. The evening consisted of a beautiful display of dances, Polish cuisine and blessings for the future of our graduates.

Before dinner, the dancers and their escorts presented an elegant Polonez. Later, they performed “Here Comes my Baby Polka” and a beautifully choreographed “Parents’ Graduate Waltz”. Music for the evening was provided by Drew Ginther.

The 2017 Zajączek graduates are: Victoria Ann Goodfallow, the daughter of Cynthia Zalewski, sister of 2006 Zajączek graduate Cassandra Mathes-Ott and Ciocia to dancer Kaius Ott. “Tori” is a senior at Rochester High and is dual-enrolled at Oakland Community College (OCC) in Sign Language Interpretation. She has danced for 15 years: 3 years with Mała Polska and 12 years with Zajączek. She is involved in the Rochester Alliance of Theatrical Students building stage sets, has been part of her doctor’s group Raising Rochester, and a Girl Scout for seven years. Tori likes to play folk guitar and ukulele and walk a slackline. She also has played catcher and outfielder for Rochester Little League Softball. Tori plans to continue her Sign Language studies at OCC. Her escort, fellow dancer Caleb Swoszowski.

Jillian Renee Jaczkowski, the daughter of Jeff and Renee Jaczkowski and sister to Abby. As a 15-year dancer, Jill danced with Mała Polska for 3 years and Zajączek for 12 years. At Chippewa Valley High School, she participates in Teen Court, Philosophy Club, and the National Honor Society. Academically, Jillian has been recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction and earned the Commended National Merit Scholar award. Jillian has been a member of the Great Lakes Tritons Swim Team for seven years and for Chippewa’s varsity team for four years, where she served as team captain for the last two years. Jillian plans to swim and study film in college with dreams of creating historical documentaries. Her escort, fellow dancer and friend, Eric Manczyk.

Edmund Joseph Shaheen is the son of Edmund and Helene Shaheen and brother to 2012 Zajączek graduate, Leah, and Kacy, a future 2018 graduate. He has been dancing with PRCUA for 14 years. Edmund is a Varsity member of both Cross Country and Track and Field for Novi High School. He enjoys playing the piano and guitar in his spare time. Edmund placed first at the state level in hotel management in Michigan DECA, a student run business competition. He hopes to attend the national conference in Anaheim for the National DECA competition this spring. Edmund desires to travel the world including studying abroad while attending Florida State University, where he will continue studies in Hotel and Hospitality Management. His escort, friend and fellow dancer, Abby Jaczkowski.

Curtis Jerome Reynolds III is the son of Alicia Nowos-Reynolds and C. J. Reynolds. He is the grandson of Edmund and Claudia Nowos and great-grandson of Sabina and Valentine Nowosiadly. Curtis has danced with PRCUA for 14 years. His mother, Alicia, is also a past graduate. His sisters, Cecilia and Bridget, also dance with Zajączek. At Rochester Adams High School, Curtis is a member of the International Language Club, the Junior Rotary Club, the Debate Club and the Interact Club. He volunteers for the Baldwin Soup Kitchen and is an acolyte for St. John. Curtis is the proud section leader of the saxophones in the Highlander Marching Band. He plans to attend Western Michigan University to study Environmental Science. Curtis’ escort, his sister, Cecilia Reynolds.

Zachary Arnold Beller, the son of Arnold and Christine Beller, and brother of current Zajączek dancer, Jacklyn, and Zajączek graduates Nicole (2013) and Rebecca (2015). He has been performing for 13 years with Mała Polska and Zajączek Dance Ensemble. Zach currently attends Henry Ford II High School where he is active in several clubs and athletics. He is a second year Captain of the Henry Ford II Falcons Varsity Football Team. In his free time, Zach likes to keep active in fitness and weight training. After graduation, Zach plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University, pursuing a career in Business Marketing. Zach’s escort, his sister, Jacklyn Beller.

Submitted by: Rachel Sobolic  
PRCUA Dance Ensemble Officer

PRCUA congratulates the graduates on their commitment to the Zajączek Dance Ensemble and the Polish American community and wishes them every success in their future endeavors.

Zajączek Dance Ensemble graduates and their escorts
May they rest in eternal peace.

Father Paul Martin Kwiatkowski

Passed Away

The Reverend Paul Martin Kwiatkowski, 77, a Catholic priest of the Diocese of Toledo and PRCUA Chaplain (Soc. #719), died at his residence in Toledo on Saturday, December 3, 2016 after an extended illness. He was born October 7, 1939, the son of Ted and Evelyn (Kosmatka) Kwiatkowski. He attended St. Stanislaus and Rosary Cathedral Schools, and was a proud 1957 graduate of Central Catholic High School. He completed his seminary studies at Saint Meinrad Seminary, Indiana, and the Pontifical North American College, Rome.

Father Kwiatkowski was ordained a priest at St. Peter’s Basilica, Rome, on December 16, 1964. Over the course of his 52 years as a priest, his pastoral assignments included serving at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Toledo, St. Joseph Parish, Maumee, Holy Spirit Seminary, Toledo, St. Mary Parish, Bluffton, Saint Hedwig Parish where he was pastor for 10 years, Toledo, St. James Parish, Toledo, and Immaculate Conception Parish, Toledo. Fr. Kwiatkowski received senior status as a priest in 2009. Even during retirement he remained active as a priest, including teaching Latin at Central Catholic High School for a number of years. He was a gifted musician and played violin in the Perrysburg Symphony for 45 years, and with the Echoes of Poland Band for 30 years. He was also involved with the Toledo - Poznan Alliance Dozynki celebration for a number of years.

Father Paul was a very dominant force in the Polish community uniting various Polish groups. He was Past President of the Ohio Div. Polish American Congress. For the Polish Sister City organization, he went to Poznan to have the mayor sign the agreement between the two cities. He was a Catholic War Veterans Chaplain for a number of years. Fr. Paul served as PRCUA Chaplain of Soc. 719 for the past six years and celebrated Mass at St. Hedwig for the PRCUA 2014 Convention. He was instrumental in converting the Ohio Theater into the St. Hedwig Culture Center, and he worked on forming the Lagrange Development Association - a community development organization that later became United North.

If there was something Polish going on, he was there, with his winning smile and a joke for everyone, and ready to do whatever was asked of him. He will be sadly missed by all. May he rest in eternal peace!

PRCUA Member’s Pierogi Recipe Becomes a Social Media Hit

While visiting her parents over Thanksgiving, Emily Rasinski (PRCUA Soc. #977) made a video of a fun approach to making pierogi - a favorite dish of many families of Polish ancestry at Christmas time. Emily’s parents posted the video on social media and received an overwhelming response from people who commented and shared their own family traditions and dishes. Emily, her parents Timothy and Kathy; and their children are a 100% PRCUA family.

For the Rasinski Family it is a Christmas recipe, but who says pierogi can be made only once a year. The video can be found on YouTube simply by searching “bit.do/grandmaspierogies.” In her video, Emily narrates briefly the story of pierogi-making with her Grandma Laura:

“Last week, I was home in Ohio for Thanksgiving. Along with traditional holiday customs, pierogi-making has become a staple at the Rasinski household. My Grandma Laura used to make them on her own, but as our family got bigger and she started to slow down, pierogi-making became a day-long family affair. From peeling potatoes to cranking out the dough, our assembly line would snake from the kitchen to the dining room. By the end of the day, we would have produced about 200 pierogi that would be frozen and then thawed for our Christmas Eve dinner, or Wigilia, the traditional Polish Christmas Eve vigil supper. The meal always includes barszcz, fish, and sauerkraut; however, the highlight of the meal is always the pierogi.

We’ve experimented over the years with the recipe; we even attempted to make dessert pierogi a few years ago, but nothing will ever come close to the classic: potato, potato and cheese or sauerkraut. This recipe belongs to my Grandma.

This was a fun video to make and is a tribute to Laura Rasinski, whom we especially miss at this time of year. Enjoy!”

Grandma Laura’s Pierogi Recipe (makes 18-24)

Filling: 6 potatoes, 1 onion, 4 cups cheddar cheese (add more or less to taste).

Peel and quarter potatoes. Boil until fork tender (about 15 minutes). While potatoes boil, peel, slice, and sauté onions. Drain potatoes and add onions and cheddar cheese to pot. Mash until smooth. Set aside.

Dough: 2 cups flour, 1 egg (or 1 egg white), 2 tablespoons sour cream, 1/3 cup water, pinch of salt.

Mix flour, egg, sour cream, water, and salt into dough ball. Using a dough crimper and fill with 1 tsp. of filling. Wet one side of pierogi and fold through 2 times. Continue this process until done. After boiling, let cool. Freeze on cookie trays. Once frozen, transfer to freezer bags.

To Freeze: After boiling, let cool. Freeze on cookie trays. Once frozen, transfer to freezer bags. On day of party, thaw and sauté in frozen, transfer to freezer bags. On day of party, thaw and sauté in

2017 PRCUA SPORTS TOURNAMENTS

March 18, 2017 - Basketball Tournament - Big Rapids, MI
April 28-30, 2017 - Bowling Tournament - Livonia, MI
July 22, 2017 - Golf Tournament - Romulus, MI
August 18-19, 2017 - Softball Tournament - Warren, MI

For info: Call: 773-782-2601 (Office of the V.P.); Email: vice-president@prcua.org; Read: Naród Polski; Web: www.prcua.org

ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLES ON PG. 6

Winter Maze:
As we stand on the threshold of a New Year, we are full of hope that this year will be better than last year and, with God’s grace, maybe the best year of our lives thus far! I have always looked forward to the New Year as I see it as a time of endless possibilities. The Old Year has passed and the New Year has been sanctified by the birth of Christ and the joy of this Christmas Season of peace.

We begin this year as always, with the great Feast of Our Lady, Mary, Mother of God, which indeed sets this year under her maternal protection. She, who did not hesitate to answer “yes” to Angel Gabriel’s message from God, is always our model for the New Year. Mary is the “New Eve” of the New Testament. What Eve lost by disobedience, Mary restored through her obedience to God’s will in her life. Mary’s ‘Fiat’ still resounds through the ages and beckons us to do the same, no matter what God asks of us this year.

Throughout the course of this New Year, we will celebrate many Marian Feast Days. Each of these days celebrate a unique aspect of Mary’s life or a title that has been bestowed upon her. No other Saint has this unique privilege in the Church. She is the Perfect Disciple of her Divine Son. Her many Feast Days are the Church’s way of reminding us of the importance of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the life of the Church and in our own lives as well. If we follow Mary and celebrate her life each and every year, we shall never be disappointed, for she always and everywhere leads us closer to her Divine Son, our source of Divine Mercy.

I recently came across this beautiful prayer poem written by Sr. Juliemarie McDonald, SND for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God in 2012, which I think sums up beautifully my New Year’s message to all of you. I hope it will be a source of reflection and comfort as we journey together through 2017. May you and your Loved Ones have a very “Mary” New Year!

“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.”

(Luke 2:19)

Everyone has a purpose in life.
Mary became a mother, a wife.
Mother of God, no less!
When asked by God, she said her, “Yes.”
Little did she know what God had in mind;
yet, she trusted and was willing to bind herself to Joseph the just one.
Together they raised the Son of God,
together they pondered “the hows and the whys” of a son so great
and wondered at leaders so filled with hate.
She remembered her promise of long ago.
So, the Mother of God trusted her God at the cross.
Our salvation was her great loss.
Three days she waited as once in the crowd
looking for Jesus the Son of God.
She was the first to see Him arise,
Her heart filled with joy, yet tears filled her eyes.
Mary trusted her God and now understood
His dying and rising is humanity’s good.

Sr. Juliemarie McDonald, SND 2012
Echoes of Poland’s Christmas Party

On December 12, the PRCUA’s Echoes of Poland Folk Song and Dance Ensemble of Toledo, OH, hosted a Christmas party for the entire Ensemble and their families. In attendance, PRCUA District #5 National Director Tom Jesionowski, who distributed gift packages to all of the dancers and calendars to all of the adults present. The attendees were treated to craft-making and singing of Polish Christmas carols - kolędy. Echoes’ Director Paulina Ortyl led the singing of both English and Polish favorites and greeted Santa with a lively version of “Santa Claus is Coming to Town”. The whole party was a fabulous way to start the Christmas season. Our thanks go to the chairpersons: May Pat Antoniuk and Christine Forbes, who spent countless hours arranging and organizing this event. May we take this time to wish you and yours Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku.

Echoes Celebrates Wigilia

On Saturday, December 10, at St. Adalbert Parish in Toledo, Ohio, the Children and Teen Ensembles of The Echoes of Poland Folk Song & Dance Ensemble of the PRCUA participated in their Wigilia celebration to an enthusiastic packed house. In attendance was PRCUA National Director from District #5, Tom Jesionowski.

The Children’s Ensemble performed dances from the regions of: Cieszyn, Lublin, Przepioreczka, and the Krakowiak. Couples in the Children’s and Teen’s Ensembles performed: Polka Podlaska, and Polka Spacerowa. The Ensembles performed to a very enthusiastic crowd. Everyone had a great time. We were so honored and proud to represent the PRCUA and be part of our beautiful Polish culture for all to see.

The Echoes of Poland Dance Group has been under the direction and choreography of Paulina Tul Ortyl for the past 49 years. She is original Director and Choreographer for the group. They have performed at various festivals during the past year.

Toledo Sings

What voices! What music! What food! And, oh, what fun! This was Koleedy (Polish Christmas Carols) at the PRCUA Club on North Detroit Ave. in Toledo, OH on December 9th with Randy Krajewski, and the Three Polish Tenors: Dan Gury, Robert McMahon, and Jim Rutkowski. The men played and sang to a packed house, and no one went away disappointed. In attendance were National Director from District #5, Tom Jesionowski, and about 100 voices all raised in singing Polish kolędy. How could anyone not have had a wonderful time with such music, singing and refreshments?

It was wonderful to hear all these voices singing kolędy together. No one wanted to go home. One of the highlights of the evening was when Randy and Eric played accordion solos that stole the show and brought audience members to their feet, cheering and clapping until their palms hurt. All were sorry to see the night end, leaving the hall with songs in their hearts and internal peace that can only be described as “the glow of Christmas.”

We would like to thank the Officers and Board for all of their hard work putting this together and, especially, all the wonderful cooks and bakers who made the great food that we enjoyed. Most of all we want to thank all who were there to enjoy the evening with us. We hope this will become an annual event for PRCUA Societies #719, #1584, #1617, and #1633.
American youths. Bravo, Janet Vilag! She has definitely had a positive influence on many of our Polish Polish dance, as well as to her beloved students over the decades. The PRCUA congratulates Janet Vilag for a job well done at Wyandotte, MI in her 41st year instructing the Rogalin Dance Troupe. The PRCUA appreciates “It was totally inspiring, watching a couple hundred dancers do the Polka and Oberek for warm-ups across the floor,” said Janet Vilag, “and then learn the entire Trojan in a one-hour period”. She also gave the participants bits and pieces of Polish heritage, such as the names of the national dances, the importance of dance in Poland, and some history of the dances. Janet has high hopes that some students may seek out a PRCUA school in their area, because many girls and boys loved the class. Janet is a member of Society #162 and is currently in her 41st year instructing the Rogalin Dance Troupe. The PRCUA congratulates Janet Vilag for a job well done at the Convention and extends great accolades for her dedication to the events associated with the 44th Annual Noel Night. Gwiazda performed its Krakowiak, Lasowiak, Kaszëbë and Cieszyn suites along with the Helena Polka at the event. Occurring in Mid-Town Detroit, Noel Night is a Cultural Center wide event which featured over 100 participating venues (including the Detroit Public Library, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Michigan Science Center, and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra along with numerous shops and restaurants). In addition to Gwiazda at the International Institute, activities included horse-drawn carriage rides, holiday shopping, and craft activities.

On Monday, December 5, 2016, the Gwiazda Dancers and their families gathered at their practice space at P.L.A.V. General Sikorski Post #10 to celebrate Christmas. The Christmas party featured a potluck meal with foods prepared by the dancers and their families. Grace was led in English by Gwiazda’s 1978 graduate, Megan Nowakowski and in Polish by Max Chabowski. In addition to the meal, the event featured a photo booth complete with props and lots of games, which were coordinated by Kristen Bauer.

As the evening progressed, the dancers received two special visitors. The first visitor was Św. Mikołaj (St Nicholas). He greeted each of the dancers by name, for their yearly visit, and gave them each a present. This year’s presents were T-shirts, new for 2017, to support the Polish National Baseball Team player Ray Wojtala at the Gwiazda Christmas Party. Mr. Wojtala plays on the Polish National Baseball Team. There isn’t a lot of money provided to the Polish National Baseball Team, but will be back at it in January as they compete in the European Cup Tournament this summer in Miejska Gorka, Poland and perhaps at the 2017 Detroit Tigers’ Polish American Night at Comerica Park.

The second visitor, was Ray Wojtala (#30), who came to the party to thank the students for their support. As the evening concluded, goodbyes were said St. Nicholas’ parents and students, and a delightful meal with a photo booth and lots of games, which were coordinated by Kristen Bauer.

As the evening concluded, goodbyes were said with messages of Merry Christmas and Wesołych Świąt. The Gwiazda Dancers will take some time off to recharge over the holidays, but will be back at it in January as they prepare for their annual spring recital in March, 2017.

ST. STAN’S SOCIETY #718 50/50 RAFFLE WINNERS

In 2016, St. Stan’s So. #718 in Detroit, MI, sponsored several 50/50 Raffles that earned $3,000 in prizes and $3,000 for St. Stan’s Tuition Grants and Scholarships program. The winners were:

2016 FEBRUARY
- John Czerwinski, Poway, CA
- Mary Wilson, Dearborn Hts., MI
- Jim Stortz, Dearborn, MI
- Randy Landfair, Dearborn Hts., MI
- Tim Prezkop, Utica, MI

2016 JUNE
- Jim Stortz, Dearborn, MI
- Charlene Romanski, Dearborn Hts., MI
- Antonia Czerwinski, Poway, CA
- Jamie Kuhlman, Dearborn Hts., MI
- Denise Stempien, Livonia, MI

2016 OCTOBER
- Barbara Posky, Wyandotte, MI
- Dan Noyse, Detroit, MI
- Ron Glowski, Allen Park, MI
- Bob Bielenda, Redford, MI
- Ted Klamerus, Dearborn Hts. MI
- Judy Drobott, Chicago, IL

St. Stan’s members and the recipients of the Tuition Grants and Scholarships appreciate your support of this program.
The year 2017 marks the 120th Anniversary of Narod Polski newspaper and 130th anniversary of PRCUA’s official publications in English.

The historical dates are confusing because from 1873 to 1885, the Union’s news was printed in a section of an already-established privately-owned newspaper. Then from 1886 to 1896, it was printed in a privately owned newspaper, which was designated by the Union as its “official” publication. The numbering of the newspaper started in 1886. Finally, the Union established its own newspaper “Narod Polski” in 1896.

The “organ” as it was called, was indispensable in persuading Polish immigrants to: unite, maintain a fervent link to their Catholic faith, become patriotic U.S. citizens, and preserve their Polish traditions and culture.

Our history began when Jan Barzynski, editor of the Polish-language newspaper “Pielegzym” (Pilgrim) in Union, Missouri, recognized that life would be easier for Polish immigrants if they would unite and support each other. In 1873, he used his newspaper to propose the establishment of the “Organization of Poles in America.”

At the Convention in 1886, Rev. Teodor Gieryk, Jan Barzynski and his brother Vincent Barzynski are recognized as the founders of the PRCUA.

“Pielegzym” was designated to publish Union news. Right from the start, a publication was crucial to the development of the Union. Jan Barzynski moved the newspaper from Missouri to Detroit in 1873.

The 2nd Convention was held in Chicago, where the largest number of Polish immigrants had settled. Fr. Gieryk was elected Union President and Jan Barzynski was elected Secretary. Since it was decided that the Union headquarters would be located in Chicago, Barzynski moved the newspaper again, from Detroit to Chicago. Its name was changed to “Gazeta Polska Katolicka” (Polish Catholic newspaper).

The following year, Fr. Gieryk invited all “secular and spiritual Poles” to attend a convention held at St. Adalbert’s Parish on October 3, 1873. Priests and leaders of the Polish American community (Polonia) from several states attended. This meeting led to the establishment of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. Rev. Teodor Gieryk, Jan Barzynski and his brother Vincent Barzynski are recognized as the founders of the PRCUA.

At the Convention in 1886, Smulski was elected Union Secretary. The Union designated the Resurrection Fathers’ new weekly newspaper “Wiara i Ojczyzna,” (Faith and Fatherland) as the official organ of the Union. In 1891, its frequency was changed to twice a week.

At the Convention in 1886, Smulski was elected Union Secretary. The Union designated its “Gazeta Polska Katolicka” as the official weekly organ of the PRCUA.

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Connie. From August 7, 1943 to June 7, 1945 Rudy was stationed in Reykjavik, as reading the newspaper and possessing the natural talent to fix anything. Rudy was always a hard worker, able to read blue prints as easily as reading the newspaper and possessing the natural talent to fix anything.

On June 9, 1941 he was drafted to the U.S. Army. In January of 1942 he married Eva Javorowski. The couple was soon blessed with a daughter Connie. From August 7, 1943 to June 7, 1945 Rudy was stationed in Reykjavik, Iceland where he received training to be a cook.

A board displaying Rudolph’s military memorabilia

Rudolph Majkus celebrating his 100th birthday at the Veterans Home

After he was discharged from active duty, he returned home and for many years worked as a pipefitter. Consistently taking classes and improving his skills, he was promoted to foreman position and retired from that position. An active member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church, together with his family they volunteered at the annual picnic, organizing the three day affair and worked the raffle stand.

In 1991 he survived throat cancer. In October of 2000 his beloved wife of 58 years, Eva, passed away.

Rudy often reminisced about his time in Iceland. In 2002 Rudy, his daughter Connie Grupas and granddaughter, Angela, toured Iceland, taking in the sites of waterfalls, geysers, hundreds of thousands of sheep, and millions of puffins. Another very special trip took place on Veterans’ Day of 2011. Rudy, accompanied by his daughter Connie, experienced the trip of a lifetime - an Honor Flight to Washington, DC, where Rudy joined with other World War II veterans receiving salutes, hugs, and thanks by many.

He lived on his own until the age of 98. In 2014 he moved to the Missouri Veterans Home. He is a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals fan and loves to play Bingo with his Veteran friends and family.

Rudy’s daughter, Connie Grupas taught dancing from 1967 to 1976, at Polish Hall in Madison with Hattie Mulnik.

Another board displaying family photos

A board displaying Rudolph’s military memorabilia

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STYCZEN

1 NOWY ROK! - BIURO ZPRKA BĘDZIE NIECZYNNE 2 STYCZNIA 2017.

14 DEARBORN HTS., MI – TURNIEJ KRĘGŁARSKI TOW. #162 I TOW. #718 - sobota, 14 stycznia. Gospodarzem spotkania jest Tow. #162. Rejestracja o godz. 11:00 w klubie Cherry Hill Lanes. Spotkanie po turnieju w Randy's Bar & Grill, 25122 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Hts., MI. Koszt uczestnictwa - $40 od osoby (w cenę wliczone są: wstęp, nagrody i początkunek). Osoby zainteresowane udziałem powinny się skontaktować z Bobem Hojnackim na adres: hjoj60@hotmail.com lub telefonicznie na numer: 313-384-6255.

22 CHICAGO, IL – JUBILEUSZ OSIEMDZIESIĘCIOLATKOWA MUSEUM POLSKIEGO W AMERYCE, niedziela, 22 stycznia 2017 w godz. 16:00-20:00, Sala Główna MPA im. Sabiny P. Logisz, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL. Szczegóły obok.

LUTY

2 DEARBORN HTS., MI – LOSOWANIE STYPENDIÓW TOW. #718 - czwartek, 2 lutego w Randy's Bar & Grill, 25122 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Hts., MI o godz. 20:00. Wszystkim serdecznie zapraszamy do udziału. Informacje: Jerry Nasiatka: jnasiatka@mi.rr.com.

4 STERLING HTS., MI – ZAWARA TANECZNA ZESPOŁU “ZAJACZEK”, sobota, 4 lutego o godz. 18:00 w American Polish Century Club, 33204 Maple Lane, Sterling Hts., MI. Koszt uczestnictwa - $20 od osoby. DJ, loterie, gry i zabawy, platny bar. Bilety informacje: 586-770-7397 lub zajacezdance@yahoo.com.

8 WYANDOTTE, MI - ZABAWA TANECZNA TOW. #162 TOPPERMOST BEATLES TRIBUTE, sobota, 8 lutego, sala bankietowa ZPRKA, 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte, MI. Drewno otwarte o godz. 18:00 zabawa od 19:00 do 22:00. Wstęp: $15 za osobę, możliwość zakupu jedzenia i beber - za dodatkową opłatą. Dołożyć z zabawy zasiły Fundusz Stypendialny Tow. #162 ZPRKA. Dodatkowe informacje: Chris Zelasko, tel. (734) 671-9366.


14 VALENTINE DAY!

18 DOWNERS GROVE, IL „KRĘGŁE PRZY ŚWIECACH” (CANDYLIGHT BOWL) DYSTRYKTU #8 ZPRKA, sobota, 18 lutego w godzinach od 20:00 do 1:00; Tivoli Bowl, 935 Warren Ave., Downers Grove, IL. Uczestnicy muszą mieć co najmniej 16 lat. Pizza i sałatka o godz. 20:30; rozgrywki rozpoczną się o 21:30. Platny bar i przekąski do zakupienia; loteria pieniężna. $25 od osoby lub $45 za parę. Limitowana liczba miejsc - rezerwacje do soboty, 11 lutego. Prosimy wystawić czeki na PRCUA, Distrikt 8 i przesyłać do: Barbara Rustik, 9007 Hillcrest Ln., Woodridge, IL 60517.

18 TROY, MI – 26. DOROCZYNY BALL IM. SHIRLEY GALANTY W MICHIGAN, sobota, 18 lutego w The San Marino Club, 1685 E. Big Beaver, Troy, MI. Więcej szczegółów w lutym wydanym “Narodę Polskiego”.

20 DZIEŃ PREZYDENTÓW – BIURO ZPRKA NIECZYNNE

21 WYANDOTTE, MI – AUTOKAROWA WYCIECZKA TOW. #162 PO PĄCZKI W TŁUSTY WTÓREK, wtorek, 21 lutego, autobus odjeżdż z PRCUA Lounge przy 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte, MI godzinę 9 rano; w drogę powrotną z Hamtramck punktualność o 17:00. Koszt uczestnictwa $25 od osoby. Dodatkowe informacje: Mike, tel. 734-283-4810.

UWAGA: Artykuły do lutowego wydania “Narodę Polskiego” muszą być nadesłane do redakcji do wtorka, 17 stycznia 2017 r.
Chicago, II. - pracownicy ZPRKA i MPA spotkali się w dniu 20 grudnia 2016 r. na przyjęciu bożonarodzeniowym, zorganizowanym przez zarząd ZPRKA. Przyjazna atmosfera, zabawne gry oraz doskonały posiłek, wprawiły wszystkich w świąteczny nastrój Bożego Narodzenia.

Program prowadziła wiceprezes Micheline Jamiński, modlitwę przed posiłkiem odmówił sekretarz-skarbnik James Robaczewski. Tradycyjnie, na stołach królował opłatek, którym wszyscy się podzielili przed posiłkiem składając sobie życzenia świąteczne i noworoczne.

W dniu tym prezes ZPRKA Joseph A. Drobot, Jr. obchodził swoje urodziny. Z tej okazji odśpiewano Happy Birthday i Sto lat oraz wręczono panu prezesowi prezenty i złożono życzenia. Nie obyło się bez urodzinowego tortu, a dokładnie trzech tortów!

Wiceprezes Jamiński ogłosiła również, że w sobotę, 17 grudnia, dyrektor wykonawczy MPA Małgorzata Kot otrzymała wyróżnienie 2016 Człowieka Roku, przyznane przez chicagowski “Dziennik Związkowy”. Z tej okazji przekazała pani Kot serdeczne życzenia oraz wręczyła drobny upominek.

Wspólnie z pracownikami świętowali żona prezesa, pani Judy Drobot i mąż wiceprezeski, pan Richard Jamiński, który przygotował świąteczną muzykę.

Pracownicy ZPRKA i MPA docenili hojność i trosliwość zarządu ZPRKA i są wdzięczni, że mieli możliwość spędzenia wspólnie czasu poza biurem.

Festiwal zakończył koncert Paderewski Symphony Orchestra, podczas którego zaprezentowane zostały najpopularniejsze utwory świąteczne i melodie, które towarzyszą nam w okresie przygotowań do świąt oraz kolędy w wykonaniu najmłodszych członków „PASO”. Koncert na dobre wprowadził wszystkich w świąteczny klimat.

Podczas trwania festiwalu można było zakupić przepiękne, ręcznie wykonane ozdoby choinkowe, stroiki świąteczne, upominki pod choinkę w postaci obrazów, rzeźb, ubrań i kosmetyków, a także chatki z piernika i inne wypieki świąteczne. Nie zabrakło także tradycyjnych wigilijnych dań, którymi można było się delektować podczas festiwalu. A na najmłodszych czekał oczywiście święty Mikołaj. Każde dziecko mogło usiąść na kolanach u świętego Mikołaja, złożyć zamówienie na prezent i oczywiście zrobić sobie pamiątkowe zdjęcie z nim i jego świtą – aniołkami i elfami.
Składam Wszystkim gorące życzenia pomyślności i zdrowia w 2017 roku! Mam nadzieję, że Wasza świąteczna atmosfera i podzielenie się się opłatka i cieszyliśmy siępieszą, świąteczną atmosferą, podzieleniśmy się znać tego świcie, tą wspaniałą, świąteczną atmosferą, podzieleniśmy się Ze niềmkami, a mówiąc o wypiecie, go przeciwnie, zacrościami i cieszymy się wspaniałą, świąteczną atmosferą, podzieleniśmy się wspaniałą, świąteczną atmosferą, podzieleniśmy się w niebie, które wykroczyło na naszych imprezach ZPRKA. Dzięki, dzięki, dzięki! 9-go grudnia udawałam się do Lemont, IL, na Wigilię Polskiej Kościoła Parafialnego w Chicago, a ZPTL „Wesoły Lud” (R. Jamiński, kier. art. i choreograf) wystąpił na Wielkim świątecznym rodzinnym festiwalu „Betlejem dla Świata” w reżyserii Kingi Modjeskiej w Irish-American Center, w Chicago.

Młodzi artysty z Polskiej Szkoły im. Św. Rafal Kalinowskiego

W tym samym dniu, w uroczystości Wydzieła Kobieta ZPRKA na Stan Michigan, Grupy Tanecznej „Tatry” urządziła „Opłatki” w O’Kelley Banquet Hall, w Dearborn, MI. Prezes ZPRKA Joseph Drobot z małżonką Judy wziął udział w tym spotkaniu. Spotkanie przygotowała i prowadziła dyrektorza tej grupy tanecznej, Rose Ann Lackey.

11 grudnia, ZPTL „Polonia”, (Anna Krysińska, dyrektor) brała udział w kolejnym dorocznym przedstawieniu pt. „Magiczne Święta”, zaprezentowanym w Centrum Kopernikowskim w Chicago, a ZPT „Wesoły Lud” (R. Jamisoni, kier. art. i choreograf) wystąpił na Wielkim świątecznym rodzinnym festiwalu „Betlejem dla Świata” w reżyserii Kingi Modjeskiej w Irish-American Center, w Chicago.

Biletem dla Świata

Patrycja Szyrznia i organizatorzy Agnieszka Wittek i Marek Cisło, załatwili i zaprosieli gołębie, a uczniowie szkoły zaprezentowali Jaselka w reżyserii Wittek. Dzikuję dyr. Dystr. #8 Krystynie Lech, że mogła uczestniczyć w tej imprezie.

Patrycja Szyrznia i organizatorzy Agnieszka Wittek i Marek Cisło, załatwili i zaprosieli gołębie, a uczniowie szkoły zaprezentowali Jaselka w reżyserii Wittek. Dzikuję dyr. Dystr. #8 Krystynie Lech, że mogła uczestniczyć w tej imprezie.

Ludzie z Polskiej Szkoły im. Św. Rafal Kalinowskiego

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Kroplewski, Sylwia Kupiec i Michał Dziadoszowie; asystentami: Stephanie Anhalt, Ania Ciepłucha i Weronika Niedzielska; wolontariuszami: Maks Morawski, Jan Słubowski, Kacper Kaczmarczyk i Alex Labudzki. Na przedstawieniu obecni byli oprócz mnie państwo Drobot oraz dyrektorzy D-8 Krystyna Lech i Janusz Rustik. Swietny występ tanerzy oraz wspaniała zabawa dla wszystkich!

Doroczne przyjęcie bozonarodzeniowe pracowników ZPRKA odbyło się w dniu urodzin prezesa Drobota (20 grudnia). Wspólnie z naszymi pracownikami i gościźmi z MPA, Pierwszą Damę Judy Drobot i moim mężem Ryszardem, miło spędziliśmy św. Mikołaja.

A potem przyszły święta - Wigilia, Boże Narodzenie i Nowy Rok. Była to doskonała okazja, aby spotkać się z rodziną i przyjaciółmi. W tym roku w czasie wymiany prezentów (White Elephant Gift Exchange) wymienialiśmy się ozdobami choinkowymi - pięknymi i fantazjownymi. Specjalny prezent dla prezesa Drobota, przygotowany dzięki pomocy Lindy Kasprzyk (p) i Arianą, no i jednymi z najlepszych w historii naszej rodziny - wspomnienia. Osobiście dla mnie, były one okazją, aby spotkać się z rodziną i przyjaciółmi.

Narodzenie i Nowy Rok. Była to doskonała okazja, aby spotkać się z rodziną i przyjaciółmi. W tym roku w czasie wymiany prezentów (White Elephant Gift Exchange) wymienialiśmy się ozdobami choinkowymi - pięknymi i...
Chicago, IL - W sobotę, 3 grudnia 2016 roku, Dystrykt #7 urządził doroczny Opłatek ZPRKA w Lone Tree Manor w Niles, IL.

Goście byli witani staropolskim zwyczajem przez gospodarzy - krajowych dyrektorów Dystr. #7 Annę Krysiński i Kevina Kucika oraz członków nowo wybranego zarządu Dystryktu: prezesa Mateusza Bombę, wiceprezesa Pawła Truchana i sekretarza Tomasz Tarnowskiego.

Dyrektorzy Krysiński i Kucik rozpoczęli program prosząc krajowego kapelana ZPRKA, ks. kanonika Antoniego Iwucia, o modlitwę przed obiadem. Zanim podano obiad, obecni dzieląc się opłatkami, symbolem pojednania, przebaczenia oraz miłości, życzyli sobie wzajemnie wesołych świąt i szczęśliwego nowego roku.

Po kolacji, tancerze z Zespołu Tanecznego „Polonia” zaprezentowali tańce z regionu Łowicza. Program zakończył się występem zespołu, który zaśpiewał popularne polskie i amerykańskie kolędy przy akompaniamentem Mieczysława Dziś (akordeon) i Nicole Kwasny (skrzypce). Wszyscy obecni na sali ochoczo połączyli swoje głosy we wspólnym śpiewie kolęd.

W tegorocznym Opłaku ZPRKA uczestniczyli obecni i byli członkowie zarządu i dyrekcji ZPRKA i Dystryktu #7, członkowie Grupy Kulturalnej Dorosłych „Kopciuszek i Książę 2017” Karol Kaczmarczyk, oraz liczna grupa tancerzy Zespołu Polskich Tańców Ludowych „Wesoły Lud”.

zdjęcia: L. Kowalewicz