

# NARÓD POLSKI Polish Nation

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## SPECIAL VISITORS AT THE PRCUA HEADQUARTERS



Director Kot showing Mr. Lowell and his family around the PRCUA office

Chicago, IL - The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and the Polish Museum of America had the pleasure of welcoming some special visitors to their headquarters.

On Tuesday, January 21, Conrad Lowell, his wife Iwona, and his sister and brother-in-law who were visiting from Poland, called on PMA Managing Director Małgorzata Kot, who recently invited them for a visit to the Museum. Mr. Lowell is a well-known businessman, President & CEO of Lowell International Company, an importer of Polish products to the United States. On January 15, Mr. Lowell received *Dziennik Związkowy* Polish Daily's *Person of the Year* award.

They were welcomed by Director Kot, who first accompanied them to the PRCUA offices to show them around the main



Lowell family with Director Kot and President Robaczewski in the Paderewski Room

office and the PRCUA Board Room. They also had a chance to briefly meet with PRCUA President James Robaczewski. Guests proceeded to the Paderewski Room, Main Hall and other PMA rooms, where Director Kot treated them to a private tour.



PRCUA officers James Robaczewski and Agnieszka Bastrzyk and PMA Director Małgorzata Kot welcoming Commissioner Degnen (center) and Rebecca Gonzalez-Horrigths (l)

On Friday, January 24, Bridget Degnen, Cook County Commissioner in District 12, accompanied by Constituent and Community Outreach Coordinator Rebecca Gonzalez-Horrigths, also paid a visit to the PRCUA and the PMA. First, they met with PRCUA President James Robaczewski and Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastrzyk, and toured the main office. They were then given a tour of the Polish Museum of America by Director Kot



Bridget Degen viewing Paderewski memorabilia

and PMA staff. Commissioner Degnen also inquired about potential assistance that PRCUA and PMA could provide in the future to her Polish constituents.

Mr. Lowell and his family and Commissioner Degnen were equally impressed with the history of Polonia, the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and the Polish Museum of America, and complimented the PRCUA and the PMA on the preservation of the historic building and all of the artifacts safeguarded in the museum.



...protecting *Life* through all its stages!

PRCUA.ORG |     

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## FEBRUARY | LUTY

**1 STERLING HTS., MI – ZAJĄCZEK DANCE ENSEMBLE “POLSKA ZABAWA”** on Sat., Feb. 1 at 6:00 p.m. at American Polish Century Club, 33204 Maple Lane., Sterling Hts., MI.

**2 HICKORY HILLS, IL – PRCUA DISTRICT 8 LUNCHEON “IT’S POLKA TIME”**, on Sun. Feb. 2 at Janosik Banquets, 9126 S. Roberts Rd., Hickory Hills, IL. \$35 adults, \$22 children. Reservations and information: Danielle Kroplewski at 312-718-0169.

**6 DEARBORN HTS., MI – ST. STAN’S SOC. #718 SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE DRAWING** on Thurs., Feb. 6 at Randy’s Bar & Grille, 25122 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Hts., MI. Complimentary snacks. Drawing at 8:00 p.m.

**8 MUNSTER, IN – ST. R. KALINOWSKI POLISH SCHOOL CARNIVAL DANCE** on Sat., Feb. 8 at Carmelite Fathers Banquet Hall, 1628 Ridge Rd., Munster, IN. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. \$40.00 adults, \$20.00 children ages 5-12. Reservations and information: Monika at 630-276-6764 or Ania at 219-671-3903.

**BRIDGEVIEW, IL – M. KONOPNICKA POLISH SCHOOL “ZABAWA KARNAWAŁOWA”** on Sat., Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Paradise Elegant Banquets, 9220 S. Harlem Ave., Bridgeview, IL. \$60 per person. Reservations: 312-718-0169 or 708-691-4348.

**DETROIT, MI – POLISH HERITAGE NIGHTS** on Sat., Feb. 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Little Caesar’s Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI. For more information, see page 18.

**10 CHICAGO, IL – PRCUA DISTRICT 7 MEETING** on Mon., Feb., 10 at 7:00 p.m. at PRCUA Social Hall, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL.

**15 LAPORTE, IN – PRCUA LODGE 1031 VALENTINE’S DANCE** on Sat., Feb. 15, from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. at PRCUA 1031 Lodge, 620 Bach St., LaPorte, IN. For more information, see page 16.

**16 LEMONT, IL – 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL POLISH DAY** on Sun., Feb. 16. Mass at 1:30 p.m. at SSCM Church, 608 Sobieski St., Lemont, IL, followed by the celebration in the school building at 3:00 p.m. For more information, see page 17.

**17 PRESIDENTS’ DAY – PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**

**ORLAND PARK, IL – PRCUA DISTRICT #8 QUARTERLY MEETING** on Mon., Feb. 7 at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Woods, 10731 W. 131st St., Orland Park, IL.

**19 LANSING, MI – WHITE EAGLE SOC. #2342 POTLUCK AND MEETING** on Wed., Feb. 19 at the Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI. Contact: Veronica Ulrich at 517-484-3311.

**22 TROY, MI – 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHIRLEY ANN GALANTY MICHIGAN STATE BALL** on Sat., Feb. 22 at San Marino Club, 1685 E. Big Beaver, Troy, MI. Cocktails at 5:15 p.m., promenade at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. For more information, see page 18.

**LEMONT, IL – ST. JOHN PAUL II POLISH SCHOOL 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND POLANIE DANCERS 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY** on Sat., Feb. 22 at 6:00 p.m. at Crystal Grand Banquet, 12416 S. Archer Ave., Lemont, IL. For more information, see page 18.

**MT. PROSPECT, IL – POLONIA ENSEMBLE BALL** on Sat., Feb. 22 at 6:00 p.m. at Crystal Palace Banquets, 1070 S. Elmhurst Rd., Mt. Prospect, IL. \$80 adults (open bar), \$40 12-20 years old, \$35 children 3 to 11. Information and reservations: 847-529-2555.

**23 LAPORTE, IN – 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL PRCUA LODGE 1031 CHILI COOK OFF** on Sun., Feb. 23 at 12:00 p.m. at PRCUA Lodge, 620 Bach St., LaPorte, IN. For more information, see page 16.

**25 WARREN, MI – ST. JOHN PAUL II SOC. #1593 MEETING** on Tues., Feb. 25 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Anne Jr. H.S. (back building), 36000 Mound Rd., Warren, MI. Contact: Valerie Brumm at 248-622-8949 or valerie.brumm@gmail.com.



## MARCH | MARZEC

**2 PULASKI DAY ANNUAL CELEBRATION** on Mon., March 2 at 10:00 a.m. at the PMA Great Hall, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL. For more information, see page 5. **THE PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.**

**7 REDFORD, MI – ST. STAN’S SOC. 718 ONE GAME BOWLING KNOCK-OUT** on Sat., March 7 at Mayflower Lanes, 26600 Plymouth Rd., Redford, MI. Registration at 11:15 a.m., games start at 12:00 p.m. Dinner and open bar to follow at the Stitt VFW Post, 23850 Military Rd., Dearborn Hts., MI. \$30 bowlers, \$25 non-bowlers. For information, contact Ed and Janet Rys at 734-459-9517. Note: Ladies may start a little later.

**MUSKEGON, MI – 86<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL PRCUA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT** on Sat., March 7 in Muskegon, MI. For detailed information, see page 9.

**8 BRIDGEVIEW, IL – ADULT CULTURE GROUP FASHION SHOW** on Sun., March 8 at Paradise Banquets, 9220 S. Harlem Ave., Bridgeview, IL. Doors open at 11:00 a.m., luncheon at 12:00 p.m. For more information, see page 17.

**DETROIT, MI – POLISH HERITAGE NIGHT WITH DETROIT RED WINGS - DETROIT RED WINGS VS. TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING** on Sun., March 8 at 5:00 p.m. For more information, see page 16.

**13 WYANDOTTE, MI – ROGALIN DANCE TROUPE BOWLING FUNDRAISER** on Fri., March 13 at Indian Lanes, Wyandotte, MI. Check in 7:30 p.m., bowling starts at 8:00 p.m. \$25 per person includes 3 games, mystery, shoes & pizza. Contact Lisa Brandt to register 734-775-7987.

**15 CHICAGO, IL – PRCUA DISTRICT 7 CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER** on Sun., March 15 at PRCUA Social Hall, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL. For more information, see page 17.

**18 LANSING, MI – WHITE EAGLE SOC. #2342 POTLUCK AND MEETING** on Wed., March 18 at the Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI. Contact: Veronica Ulrich at 517-484-3311.

**21 DEARBORN HTS., MI – PRCUA TATRY DANCERS EUCHRE TOURNAMENT** on Sat., March 21 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Hall, 26123 McDonald Dearborn Hts., MI. \$25. Cash prizes, cash bar. For more information, see page 16.

**22 CHICAGO, IL – SOUTHWEST CENTER OF POLISH SONG AND DANCE 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY RECITAL** on Sun., March 22 at 2:00 p.m. at Mother McAuley Theater, 3737 W. 99th St., Chicago, IL.

**ANNUAL BLESSING OF MICHIGAN POLISH DANCE SCHOOLS**

**24 WARREN, MI – ST. JOHN PAUL II SOC. #1593 MEETING** on Tues., March 24 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Anne Jr. H.S. (back building), 36000 Mound Rd., Warren, MI. Contact: Valerie Brumm at 248-622-8949 or valerie.brumm@gmail.com.

**28 MALBORK DANCE GROUP RECITAL**

**29 HALKA DANCERS 51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL RECITAL** on Sun., March 29 at 3:00 p.m. at Van Dyke Community Auditorium/Lincoln High School, 22500 Federal, Warren MI. \$7 per person. Contact Laura Hejza at 586-291-4486 for more information.

**WARREN, MI – GWIAZDA DANCERS 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPRING RECITAL** on Sun., March 29 at 3:00 p.m. at Fitzgerald HS Auditorium, 23200 Ryan Rd., Warren MI. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Recital at 3:00 p.m. \$10.00 adult, \$5.00 children 3-11, free 2 and under. For more information, see pg. 17 or call 313-682-3031 or 313-433-4929.

**WIELICZKA DANCE ENSEMBLE RECITAL**



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### Insurance Checklist for the New Year — Are You Prepared for 2020?

Make a resolution to review your coverage and beneficiaries!



The start of a new year is a great time to re-evaluate your life insurance coverage. A change in circumstances may lead to different insurance needs. Did you get married or have a baby? Purchase a new home or car? If so, you'll want to check whether you have the right fit in policy protection.

Take some time to talk with your **PRCUALife** Sales Representative and review your certificates to see if they meet your current needs. Even if you haven't experienced a life changing event, you could be eligible for discounts or new insurance products that may better serve your needs.

#### Impact on Life Insurance and Annuities

Changes—such as a birth, divorce, remarriage or even a new mortgage or new job—are indicators that you might need to make changes to your life insurance, or at the very least, that you should review your coverage.

Read your policy carefully and answer these questions:

- What is your current amount of coverage? Is this sufficient to protect your loved ones if something were to happen to you?
- Do premiums or benefits vary from year to year?
- Is there cash value? If so, how does it grow?
- Can the certificate be converted into another form of insurance or annuity?
- Are the beneficiary designations on your life insurance or annuities current?

In the case of the birth of a child or a new marriage, you might want to consider increasing your death benefit.

Alternatively, events like paying off your mortgage, retirement or children finishing college might mean that you can lower your life insurance coverage and premiums. Your life insurance company may be able to offer "conversion privileges" from your current term life insurance policy to a new whole life insurance policy without a medical exam. You may also be able to expand your death benefits so they can be used while you are still living. Ask your **PRCUALife** Sales Representative about these options.

Remain current on product specials and offers – read the **NARÓD POLSKI** and check our website and social media pages.

**For more information, contact PRCUALife today!**

201912ICNP

# PRCUA OFFERS 2020-2021 SCHOLARSHIPS

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

During the 2020-2021 school year, the PRCUA will offer two types of scholarships. The PRCUA Education Scholarship is open to all who apply, whereby the PRCUA Fraternal Scholarship is open exclusively to members of the PRCUA. Students can apply for each scholarship once annually, but they may receive only three awards of each scholarship during their lifetime. Scholarships are specific to the school and educational program named in the application. The deadline for submitting applications is June 1, 2020.

PRCUA Education Scholarships are awarded to students based on the number of applications submitted and are available to all students, even those who are not members of the PRCUA.

1. Applicants must have successfully completed their freshman year of undergraduate studies before the deadline for filing an application. An official transcript or other documentation from the applicant's school must be attached to the completed application form or sent directly by the educational institution to the PRCUA on or before the deadline of June 1.
2. Eligible applicants include sophomores, juniors, and seniors enrolled full-time in undergraduate studies or those students enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program. Full-time enrollment shall conform to those guidelines established by the federal financial aid program: a minimum of twelve credit hours for day students or eight credit hours for evening students. Part-time graduate students are also eligible.
3. Applicants must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale or 3.5 or better on a 5.0 scale.
4. All applicants must be either citizens or permanent residents of the United States.

The PRCUA Fraternal Scholarship is available to eligible PRCUA members. For the 2020-2021 school year, the PRCUA will award scholarships

totaling \$30,000, to be broken down as follows: ten scholarships of \$2,000 and ten scholarships of \$1,000. These scholarships are open to all current PRCUA members. Applicants must fulfill all the requirements listed above AND be a member of the PRCUA for a minimum of five years AND have an active certificate of a minimum of \$5,000 (and must be current with its payments).

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

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

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

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

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

For more information and applications, please visit: [www.prcua.org/scholarships](http://www.prcua.org/scholarships).

## Announcing the NEW PRCUA Tournament Special

The **Tournament Special** is a **2 YEAR LEVEL TERM LIFE INSURANCE PLAN** requiring a one-time premium payment of \$100, without distinction for gender or tobacco usage. This is an introductory offer and only available for new members. The plan does not feature cash value or dividends.

Depending on your age, \$100 will purchase \$2,000, \$1,000 or \$500 of term coverage:

| Age   | Premium | Amount of insurance |
|-------|---------|---------------------|
| 16-50 | \$100   | \$2,000             |
| 51-65 | \$100   | \$1,000             |
| 66-75 | \$100   | \$500               |

### Frequently Asked Questions

- Can I participate in a sports tournament if I purchase the Tournament Special?
- When does my term insurance coverage expire if I buy the Tournament Special?
- What will happen in the event of my death within the two years of my purchasing a Tournament Special certificate?
- In addition to being able to participate in tournaments, what other PRCUA benefits can I take advantage of?

Find all the answers to these questions & more information on this product at: [www.prcua.org/tournament-special](http://www.prcua.org/tournament-special) or contact Mateusz Bomba at: 1-800-772-8632 ext. 2636; [mateusz-bomba@prcua.org](mailto:mateusz-bomba@prcua.org) or your local PRCUA Sales Representative.

\*Applications subject to underwriting. Limit one certificate per insured. Non-convertible. Non-renewable.



# SURPRISE! BARBARA PAWLOWSKI IS 90!

By Elzbieta Grabowski

On January 17, Barbara Pawlowski (a long time PRCUA member, activist and supervisor) celebrated her ninetieth birthday at the Carmelite Fathers Hall in Munster, IN, where the party was organized by Barbara's friends under the pretext of a "PRCUA meeting."

Barbara was welcomed by a large crowd who awaited her arrival. Guests included her devoted friends and acquaintances, family members, PRCUA representation in the persons of Elizabeth Sadus, District #9 Director and Paul Pawlowski, Barbara's son and the President of District #9 along with St. Raphael Kalinowski Polish School former and present teachers, students and the Parent Committee lead by Anna Dudzik.

The St. Raphael Kalinowski School was founded by Barbara in 1967. At present, the school is growing beautifully, offering children Polish language classes and teaching them Polish traditions and culture, which for Barbara were always very important.

In addition to showering Barbara with flowers and well-wishes, guest could also sign a commemorative book especially prepared for the occasion. Everyone enjoed a delicious dinner, which was followed by a wonderful birthday cake and toast.

There was no end to the singing of Happy Birthday and "Sto Lat" which was accompanied by Michał Gibson, who played the accordion. Everyone had a great time enjoying the party and recalling the old times.

We will remember this day for a long time and hope to celebrate Barbara's 100th birthday in the same group.

Barbara, we wish you many more years of life in good health and happiness. Stay cheerful and smiling and let all the good you have done to others, and your generosity, return to you twice.



Barbara with school children and other guests



Barbara Pawlowski enjoying her birthday party



Barbara (c) with Grace Biestek (l) and Elzbieta Grabowski (r)

## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Agnieszka J. Bastrzyk, ALMI, FICF, ACS



We need the current addresses for the following members. If you know the address of anyone on this list, please send it to: Agnieszka Bastrzyk, Secretary-Treasurer, PRCUA, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642-4101 or call 773-782-2600 Ext. 2604 or 1-800-772-8632 Ext. 2604.

| SOC. | NAME           | LAST KNOWN ADDRESS                     |
|------|----------------|--|
| 262  | Jozefa Szerjko | 30 S. Governor St., Hartford, CT 06114 |
| 463  | Stanley Majkut | 60 Clark St., New Haven, CT 06511      |
| 1593 | Steve Schultz  | 23372 Teppert, Eastpointe, MI 48021    |

## DEARLY DEPARTED PRCUA BROTHERS AND SISTERS



| Member                 | Society | State | Member                    | Society | State |
|------------------------|---------|-------|---------------------------|---------|-------|
| Adamchak, Clara        | 2001    | PA    | Mandiak, Rita             | 385     | NY    |
| Cisek, Sharon          | 308     | IL    | Melusky, Helen            | 2003    | PA    |
| Cooper, Carol Lynn     | 709     | OH    | Myers, Alex               | 1593    | MI    |
| Dettloff, Dorothy      | 31      | IL    | Nadolny, Edward           | 2320    | WI    |
| Didier, Michael A.     | 1598    | IL    | Nagy, Heather             | 227     | OH    |
| Ewald, Rosemarie T.    | 997     | WI    | Nebus Jr., Bernard        | 294     | NJ    |
| Falkowski, Edward      | 124     | OH    | Nedza Kubiniec, Anna M.   | 1228    | IL    |
| Flemen, Brenda M.      | 78      | MI    | Niegowski, Olive          | 36      | OH    |
| Gates, Frances         | 1486    | NY    | Olejniczak, Jacqueline A. | 162     | MI    |
| Jasienski, Janice      | 1580    | CT    | Pietrowicz, James         | 160     | NY    |
| Juda, Lorraine         | 317     | IL    | Sheesley, Lori            | 2319    | PA    |
| Kasos, Sophie          | 186     | IL    | Spraggin, Arthur          | 1493    | MI    |
| Kolano, John           | 479     | OH    | Stemm, Casimir            | 2320    | WI    |
| Kondyra, Frances M.    | 2021    | PA    | Tillman, Mary Ann         | 654     | NY    |
| Kowalski, Kenneth K.   | 2308    | WI    | Tucholski, Edward         | 1492    | FL    |
| Kreszowski, David      | 1000    | OH    | Wyszkowski, Bertha        | 1407    | NJ    |
| Lamont, Michaelleen A. | 418     | IN    | Zajdel, Joan M.           | 2011    | NC    |
| Lis, Chester           | 471     | IL    | Zuraski, Antonette        | 2013    | PA    |
| Lupinetti, Ronald J    | 384     | PA    |                           |         |       |



The State of Illinois Celebration of  
**Pulaski Day**  
Monday, March 2, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall  
Polish Museum of America  
984 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, IL

Program includes speeches by political leaders, Polish and Polish-American dignitaries and wreath laying ceremony.

The public and members of the media are invited to attend the observance in honor of the great Polish and American hero. Following the ceremony, refreshments will be served in the PRCUA Social Hall on the first floor.



## SPOTLIGHT ON A FEW TATRY 2020 GRADUATES

By Gail Esker

Please join us in congratulating some of our 2020 Graduates. All of these young ladies have been dancing with Tatry for many years! We are very proud of them.

**Emma DelCotto** is the 17-year-old daughter of Jennifer and Kevin DelCotto. She has danced with Tatry for 11 years. Emma is a senior at St. Frances Cabrini High School in Allen Park MI. She plays volleyball, basketball, and softball for Cabrini. She also plays travel softball for Livonia Wild. She plans to attend Michigan State University to pursue a career in engineering or a doctor of chiropractic.



**Lauren Grawburg** is the 17-year-old daughter of John and Patty Grawburg of Dearborn and has been a Tatry dancer for fourteen years. Her siblings include her brother, Michael and sisters, Emily and Sarah, both of whom are Tatry alumni. She is a senior

at Divine Child High School, where she is on the Honor Roll. She has been a member of the varsity volleyball, tennis & forensics teams and is currently the vice president of the pro-life club. Lauren plans to attend Michigan State University to pursue a career in hospitality business.

**Elizabeth Orozco** is a senior at Divine Child High School in Dearborn. She is a member of PRCUA Society 1413 and has been a member of the Tatry Dancers for 16 years.



*Congratulations!*

## ECHOES OF POLAND NEWS

By Teresa A. Gibala

### Echoes Christmas Party

On December 1, the Echoes of Poland Folk Song and Dance Ensemble of the PRCUA hosted a Christmas party for the entire ensemble and their families. The attendees were treated to gifts, craft making, and *kolędy*. Paulina Ortyl (ensemble director and choreographer) led the singing in both English and Polish favorites and greeted Santa with a lively version of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." The party was a fabulous way to start the Christmas season. Our thanks go to the chairpersons. May Pat Antoniuk spent countless hours arranging and organizing this event.

### Echoes Celebrates Wigilia

On Saturday, December 14, at PRCUA Hall in Toledo, OH, the children and teen ensemble of The Echoes of Poland participated in the parish of St. Adalbert and Hedwig Wigilia celebration. The children's ensemble performed dances from the

regions of Cieszyn, Lublin, including *Przepióreczka*, and *Krakowiak*. The teen's ensemble performed the *Kujawiak*, and *Trojak Śląski*. Couples in the children's and teen's ensembles performed the *Polka Podlaska* and *Polka Spacerowa*. The ensembles performed to a very enthusiastic packed house. 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.



*Join the Adult Culture Group dancers!*

*Practices held each Monday  
in Homer Glen, IL.*

*Newcomers invited!*

*Contact Mirek Cislo for more information:  
708-927-8510*



# CHRISTMAS CARDS AND SMILES

By Karrie Westphal, Secretary  
Zajęc Dance Ensemble

On Sunday, December 22, 2019, a very special visit was made to The Arbor Inn Assisted Living Facility in Warren, MI by Lucas and Max Welch.

Both of these young men entered the dwelling with one goal in mind.....to lift the spirits of the lovely people who call Arbor Inn "home," especially their great-grandmother. The atmosphere quickly changed as these young members of Zajęc Dance Ensemble distributed the Christmas cards made by members of their dance group.

"It brought so much joy to the residents of Arbor Inn and even a tear to my eye," stated Shelly Welch, mother to Lucas and Max. Dancers worked diligently on this Christmas card project for several weeks, with the hope of making Christmas a little more special for some people who truly deserve it. Great job, Welch family!

The Welch family dances with Zajęc Dance Ensemble from Sterling Heights, MI.



Max and Lucas Welch



Handing out Christmas cards and chatting with the residents of the Arbor Inn Facility

# PRCUA GWIAZDA DANCERS' LATEST HAPPENINGS

By Nicholas J. Nowakowski,  
Gwiazda Secretary & 1997 Alumnus

It might have been the holidays, but there was no holiday break for the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers.

On December 15, 2019, the Gwiazda Dancers attended the annual "Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams" event sponsored by Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, MI. Attendees say good night to sick children using flashlights. The event is well attended over the holidays and has been featured frequently in metro-Detroit media.

On December 16, the ensemble celebrated Christmas at PLAV Post 10 with a potluck dinner, Christmas crafts, kolędy, opłatek and a visit from St. Nicholas. This year each dancer received a stocking hat featuring the Gwiazda logo.

On January 3, 2020, members of the ensemble headed to Cass Community Social Services in Detroit to paint "empty bowls," which will be auctioned off at their annual Empty Bowls fundraiser in March.

On January 11, members of the ensemble spent their morning volunteering at the Cass Community Social Services Soup Kitchen.

The Gwiazda Dancers have several performances and appearances already booked in 2020. The ensemble will also celebrate their 60th Anniversary in 2020. To stay up to date with the ensemble's latest activities, we invite you to follow us on Twitter (@PRCUA\_Gwiazda) or like us on Facebook.



Gwiazda Dancers volunteer at Cass Community Social Services Soup Kitchen



Gwiazda Dancers at Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams



Gwiazda Dancers with St. Nicholas at their annual Christmas party



Gwiazda Dancers with their empty bowls



# SZCZĘŚLIWEGO NOWEGO ROKU FROM SOUTHWEST CENTER OF POLISH SONG & DANCE

By Anna Kraszewski-Winkler

Beautiful, talented dancers from the Southwest Center of Polish Song & Dance and the *Wesoły Lud* Polish Folk Dance Company, Polish folk dancing, and Polish Christmas carols = the perfect combination for a heart warming Christmas season.

The SWCPD children worked hard and practiced every week so they could present their families and friends with an amazing show on December 15, 2019. And we were just getting warmed up for our big 35th anniversary concert on March 22, 2020. We hope to see you at our celebration.

Thank you to all the PRCUA support. I would like to thank Vice President Micheline Jaminski, Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastrzyk, and District 8 Directors Elizabeth Dynowski and Myron Cislo for coming to our show. Also, thank you to President Jim Robaczewski for your warm message delivered by Mrs. Bastrzyk.





## Higher Perspectives



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

## Lenten Journey, 2020

Believe it or not, at the end of this month, on February 26th, we will begin the Holy Season of Lent. In Polish, it is called *Wielki Post*, which is translated as the "Great Fast" as it is the most important fast of the year. Lent runs from Ash Wednesday until the beginning of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. In order to make this Lent more meaningful, it might be helpful to review the basics of Lent proposed to us by the Church.

Traditionally, there are three disciplines that are associated with Lent: **Prayer, Fasting and Giving Alms**. These three disciplines cause us to look beyond ourselves to a greater good. Prayer deepens our relationship with the Lord. Fasting helps us to focus our attention away from our own wants and desires. Giving alms reminds us that others are in need and as followers of Christ; we are to show them His love and compassion.

These disciplines can be a very practical guide for us during the season of Lent. Many times, we may not even think about practicing all three disciplines during Lent, as it seems so many of us get caught in the trap of thinking about fasting, the "**what can I give up**" frenzy that often becomes associated with Lent. While fasting or abstaining from something we really like during Lent can be helpful in our growth in holiness, prayer and giving alms, which includes giving of ourselves can be equally or even more important for our spiritual growth. Sometimes prayer and alms-giving can be harder for us than anything we may have chosen to give up.

Here are some practical examples for putting into practice these disciplines. In the area of prayer, consider praying the Stations of the Cross at your parish or at home or attending a daily Mass. In the area of fasting, abstain from snacking between meals during the entire season of Lent, or if that seems too daunting, pick a specific day of the week to do so. In the area of giving alms, write a check to your favorite charity, especially if that charity serves the poor or make a visit to someone who is in a nursing home or hospital.

The Church offers us these three disciplines in Her wisdom and Her concern for our spiritual growth. I am inclined to think that these three disciplines work together in harmony to help us on not only our Lenten journey but also our journey toward genuine holiness.

During this season of Lent, let us pray for each other that we grow in holiness by prayer, fasting and giving alms, returning to the basics of the Lenten Season, as we prepare to ascend the Holy Mountain of Easter with great joy. Praying that this Lent is a time of renewal and spiritual growth for all of you! God Speed!

N.B. Once again, I will be leading a trip to Poland this summer, July 6th - 19th. If you are interested in joining me, please email me at [wjmptak@gmail.com](mailto:wjmptak@gmail.com) for more information, I will be happy to have you join me for this pilgrimage of faith.



# LENT

## 86th PRCUA National Basketball Tournament

Saturday, March 7, 2020 - MUSKEGON, MI

The 86th PRCUA National Basketball Tournament will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020 in Muskegon, MI, hosted by St. Michael's Society #78. The committee, chaired by Andrew Dodge, has finalized the events as follows:

### HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS:

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Muskegon Norton Shores  
1520 E. Mt. Garfield Rd.  
Muskegon, MI 49444  
King or Double Queen: \$109\*  
Reservations: (231) 799-0100

*\*Room rates per night, plus tax, include complimentary breakfast. Make sure to mention **PRCUA Basketball** for discounted rate. All reservations need to be made by February 6, 2020.*

### SPORTS VENUE:

Muskegon Catholic Central High School  
1145 W. Laketon Ave.  
Muskegon, MI 49441

*Complimentary lunch available for all players at PRCUA 78 Lounge, 1890 Henry St., Muskegon, MI.*

### GAME DIVISIONS:

Men's Open  
Women's (3 on 3)  
Men's Over 50 (3 on 3, Must be over age 50)

### HOSPITALITY GATHERING:

Friday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m.  
Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Muskegon Norton Shores  
1520 E. Mt. Garfield Rd.  
Muskegon, MI 49444  
*Complimentary food & drinks*

AWARDS BANQUET: Saturday, March 7. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.  
PRCUA 78 Lounge  
1890 Henry St., Muskegon, MI 49441  
*Polish dinner, live music, 50/50 raffle. Awards Presentation after Dinner.*

### MASS:

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church - 451 S. Getty St., Muskegon, MI – Mass:  
Sat. 4 p.m. & Sun. 9 a.m.  
St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church - 2929 Mc Cracken St., Norton Shores, MI – Mass: Sat. 5 p.m. & Sun. 11 a.m.

The Entry Form and Adult Waiver/Release of Liability (available online), which must be completed by every player participating in the tournament, has to be returned to the Home Office, together with the \$50.00 entry fee per team. All players must be PRCUA members in good standing. Each player may only sign one roster. Players must agree to abide by the PRCUA rules and regulations of good sportsmanship and fair play on and off the court. Make your check payable to PRCUA Basketball or use the Online Payment option at [www.prcua.org/payonline](http://www.prcua.org/payonline). **All entries must be submitted by Friday, February 21, 2020. Late entries will not be accepted.**

New PRCUA players are welcome and encouraged to join in the fun. If there are any questions, please contact the PRCUA Fraternal Department at (800) 772-8632, ext. 2636 or Drew Dodge at (231) 329-0902.



# HALKA SHINES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

By Laura Heiz



Halka Dancers with St Nicholas at their Christmas party

The Halka Dancers of Detroit, MI definitely run like a well-oiled machine. On December 14, 2019, not only did they have their usual Saturday morning dance practice prior to their beloved Christmas party, the delivery of over \$13,000 in pierogi and kielbasa fundraiser sales was distributed for the parents to then deliver! The Halka Christmas party is a highlight of the school year for dancers and parents because of the wonderful Polish lunch buffet, special holiday punch, and amazing homemade desserts; the highly antici-

pated Chinese Raffle, the children's bead game, and of course a visit from St. Nicholas. After the party cleanup was over, many of the dancers put on their Polish costumes and winter coats to then participate in the Royal Oak Lighted Jingle Parade. With Polka music playing, Polish flags waving, and light-up Christmas necklaces on, the Halka Dancers walked down Main Street to a large crowd of spectators.

Once they finished the parade, the dancers



Halka teacher, Tom Lisiecki, in awe of the Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams event



Ready to travel by City of Berkley fire truck to Beaumont Hospital



Halka graduates and escorts ready for first State Ball practice



2020 Halka Graduates: Maira Kasperek, Jared Shick, Dierdre Eusebi, and Allison Knuckey

then traveled to the nearby Berkley Fire House to have the special treat of traveling by fire truck to Beaumont Hospital and partake in the Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams event. Dozens of people gather outside the hospital each night leading up to Christmas to shine flashlights up to pediatric patients while the kids shine flashlights, and even lightsabers, from inside. Words cannot describe the special feeling to be a part of this event. As the calendar turned to 2020, the Halka graduates were ready for their first PRCUA Shirley Ann Galanty Michigan State Ball practice. With the 51st Halka recital only a few months away, the Halka Dancers are putting their gears into overdrive to make it a spectacular event. Check us out on Facebook @ Halka Dancers to hear about more of our recital and upcoming events.

## WELCOME NEW PRCUA POLISH SCHOOL

The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America warmly welcomes a new Polish educational institution - the Zbigniew Herbert School of Polish Language and Culture - to the organization. The school is located in Palos Heights, IL in the Chicago Christian High School building. Classes are held on Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm. The Principal of the school is Irena Woźniak, whom we thank for her enthusiasm and cooperation.

The Herbert School implements the educational program based on the Core Curriculum for Students Studying Polish Abroad issued by the Ministry of National Education in 2010. The school also prepares for the Polish language exam. The certificate of Polish as a foreign language is the only state document certifying knowledge of the Polish language. The school offers religious education in Polish and also provides additional classes, after school activities, and interest groups.

The school's patron is Zbigniew Bolesław Ryszard Herbert (1924-1998) - a Polish poet, essayist, playwright, creator of the famous poetry series "Mr. Cogito," author of radio plays. An economist, lawyer and philosopher by profession, he was also invested in the Order of the White Eagle. His books have been translated into 38 languages. He was a well-known and esteemed poet in Poland and abroad and winner of over twenty literary awards.

At the end of 2019, the Herbert School became partially funded for its activities by the PRCUA, with plans for full funding. Forty students have already joined the PRCUA family. Each of them received a discount in tuition fees from the school.

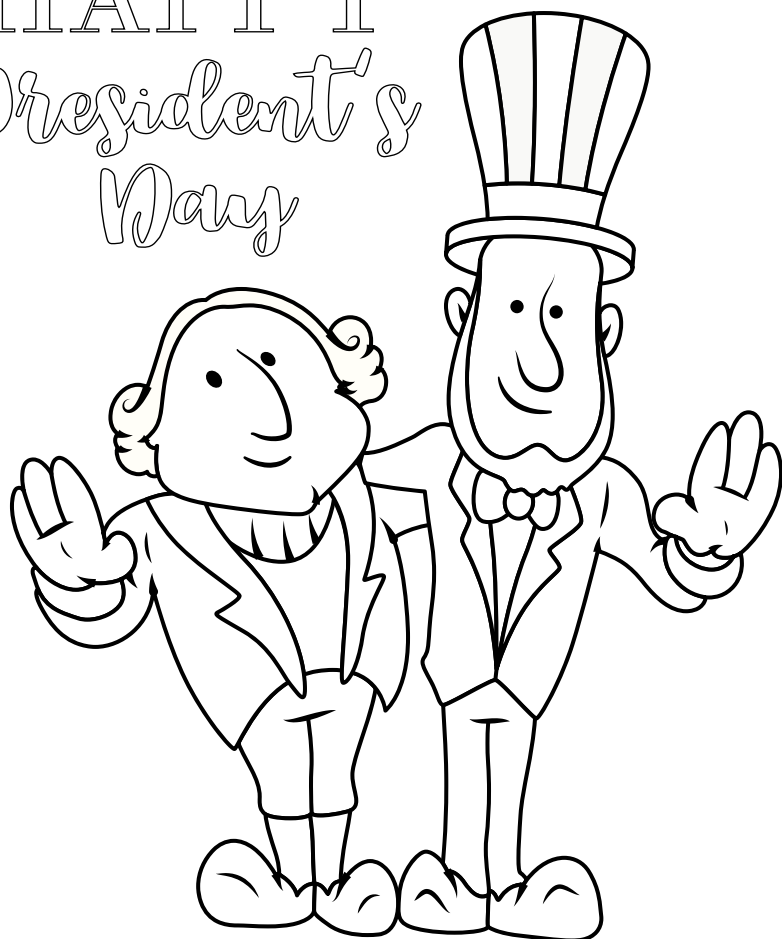
We welcome all to the PRCUA and encourage students, parents and teachers to familiarize themselves with the extensive PRCUALife financial products portfolio, as well as with a number of additional member benefits on the prcu.org website or by calling (800) 772-8632.



# Kids Activity Page!

1. Color the picture of the two U.S. presidents. Can you name these two presidents?

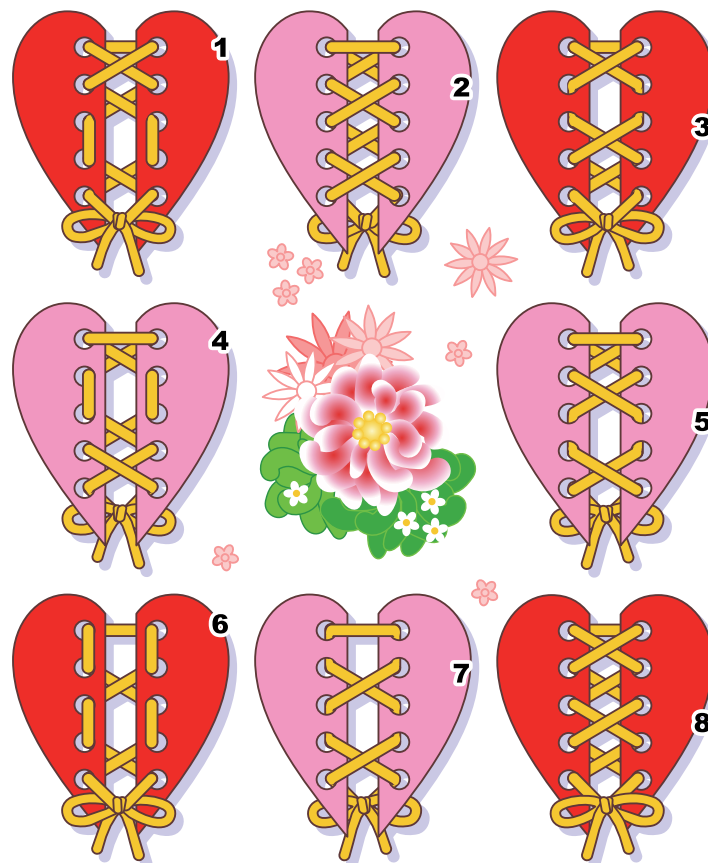
HAPPY  
President's  
Day



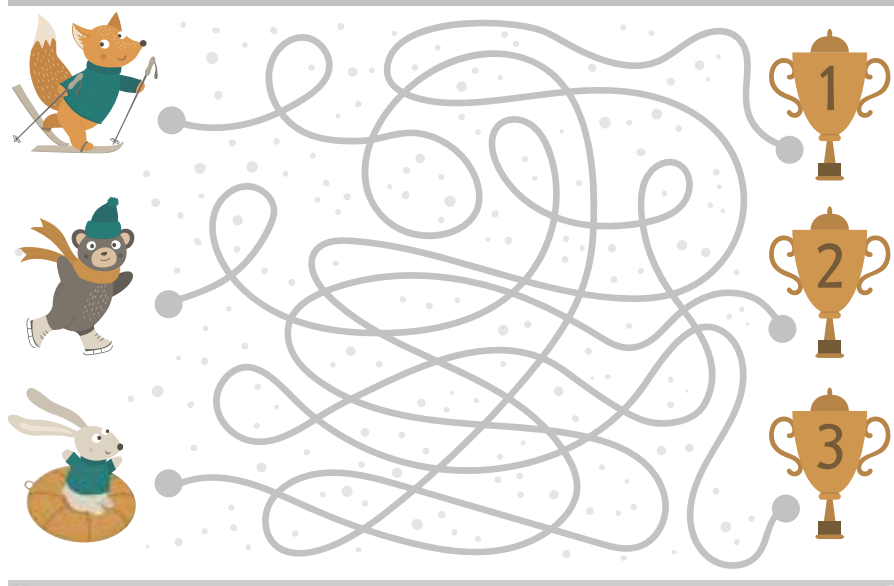
2. Cross out the words on the right from the puzzle (words can go in any direction and diagonally).



4. For each front side find the corresponding back side.



3. Find out which animal is the fastest.





# 48TH ANNUAL CINDERELLA-PRINCE CHARMING BALL

By Elizabeth Dynowski  
Photos by freestylephoto

The Adult Culture Group held its annual Cinderella Prince Charming Ball at Bobak's Signature Events in Woodridge, IL. This year's elegant event celebrated its 48th Anniversary alongside the 50th Anniversary of the Adult Culture Group.

Danielle Kroplewski and Tom Frankowicz welcomed the guests to the ball. The program included an introduction of the PRCUA National officers as well as the Adult Culture Group Officers and members. His Excellency Bishop Andrew P. Wypych graced us with his presence at this very special event. The evening began with a traditional Polonaise showcasing the candidates with their parents.

Ania Ray sang the American and Polish national anthems, followed by greetings extended by the out-going Cinderella 2019 Klaudia Widur and Prince Charming 2019 Aleksander Sacinski. The invocation was given by Bishop Wypych, and a toast was proposed by Edward Muszalski, president of the Adult Culture Group. This evening also brought about a special celebration, the 50th anniversary of the Adult Culture Group commemorated by PRCUA Vice President of Micheline Jaminski with a special gift from the National Officers of the PRCUA. Mrs. Jaminski asked all the members of the Adult Culture Group to come up in front of the candidates. She first introduced the officers: Edward

Muszalski - President, John Frankowicz - Vice President, Walter Dynowski - Treasurer, Liz Dynowski - Secretary and PRCUA District 8 Director. She then asked the following members to join the Adult Culture Group officers: Beth Cislo, Vicki Kroplewski, Krystyna Lech, Angie Muszalski, Asia Niedzielski, Desiree Sacinski, Nathalie Skowyra, Yola Stanek, Marzena Staron, Danuta Stypula, Gabby Zuk.

Mrs. Jaminski completed the introductions of the Adult Culture Group by celebrating two of its charter members, Mary Brzezniak and Diane Cortesi, escorted to their place of honor by Myron Cislo, PRCUA District 8 Director.

It was indeed an honor to have 50 years of dedication to the Adult Culture Group recognized. A group composed of members and volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to promote the Polish culture and traditions through today's youth. The Adult Culture Group proudly fosters Regina Ocwieja's dream of serving the youth of the PRCUA as hosts of the annual Cinderella-Prince Charming Ball and Spring Fashion Show. Currently, two former Cinderellas, Nathalie Skowyra (1988) and Liz Dynowski (1990), are members of the Adult Culture Group and they look forward to seeing future Cinderellas, Prince Charmings and candidates become actively involved in the Adult Culture Group. It's important to continue to promote the Polish traditions and dreams of those members before us, so that some day



L-r: 2020 runners-up Kevin Wildhirt and Veronica Przytula, 2020 Prince Charming and Cinderella Arthur Rykala and Karolina Gal, and 2019 Prince Charming and Cinderella Aleksander Sacinski and Klaudia Widur

we may celebrate 100 years of the Adult Culture Group.

After dinner, the program continued with a benediction by Bishop Wypych. Then, the 32 candidates were presented by 2018 Cinderella Anna Tumiel and 2018 Prince Charming, Xander Burd. As the candidates are individually presented with their parents, their school accomplishments are shared with the guests. Many candidates are honor roll students, active members of different sports, dance and school organizations. Candidates were proud to note in their biographies their affiliation with PRCUA dance groups and PRCUA Polish schools.

After each candidate was presented, the young men and women performed in a beautiful waltz, choreographed by Richard Jaminski. Guests watched in amazement as the candidates glided across the floor,

making intricate patterns with their movements in their white gowns and black tuxedos. The performance was flawless, and the choreography was breathtaking. The Adult Culture Group is much honored to see that the grace, maturity, confidence and friendships developed during the preparation for the ball shine throughout the evening.

The most anticipated moment of the ball was the drawing of the 2020 Cinderella and Prince Charming. Bishop Wypych blessed the crowns and the lottery drawing of the winners was done by honored guests: PRCUA President James Robaczewski selected the Cinderella envelope; Vice President Micheline Jaminski selected the Prince Charming envelope; and Agnieszka Bastrzyk, Secretary-Treasurer, selected the Cinderella-runner up and Prince Charming runner-up envelopes.



2020 Cinderella and Prince Charming candidates with 2019 and 2020 Royal Couples and 2020 runners-up





Most Rev. Andrew P. Wypych blessing the crowns

The first runners-up for the 2020 PRCUA Cinderella and Prince Charming are Veronica Przytula and Kevin Wildhirt. The 2020 PRCUA Cinderella and Prince Charming are Karolina Gal and Arthur Rykala.

Cinderella and Prince Charming, the runners-up and the candidates all receive scholarships from the Adult Culture Group. Funds for these scholarships are provided from the money raised through the annual ball and annual fashion show. Cinderella and Prince Charming receive the largest scholarship presented to the candidates and are honored to represent the Adult Culture Group and the PRCUA at various Polish-American events throughout the city, culminating in their passing their crowns at the following year's Cinderella Prince Charming Ball.

The evening's official program concluded with the promenade of the 2020 Cinderella and Prince Charming and with the candidates dancing a waltz with their parents. Thank you to everyone who made the ball an elegant and enjoyable experience. The ball would not be possible without the support of the Adult Culture Group, including its officers and committee chairs: Candidates: Gabby Zuk, Danuta Stypula and Krystyna Lech. Invitations: Vickie Kroplewski and Jolanta Stanek; Program Book: Nathalie Skowyra, Desiree Sacinski and Lidia Kowalewicz and the following dedicated committee members: Mary Brzezniak, Elizabeth Cislo, Diana Cortesi, Angela Muszalski, and Marzena Staron, alongside volunteers Magda Ciszewska and Stan Dron.

Congratulations to all the candidates for participating in a wonderful tradition. For 48 years, we have honored the vision of the founder of the ball, Regina Ocwieja, past Vice

President of the PRCUA. Mrs. Ocwieja's dream of promoting the Polish-American heritage of today's youth lives on through the dedication of everyone who made the 48th Anniversary of the Cinderella Prince Charming Ball an exquisite night to remember. We look forward to everyone supporting the history, traditions and memories during our upcoming 49th Cinderella Prince Charming Anniversary Ball on November 21, 2020 at Belvedere Chateau, Palos Hills, IL.

Please save the date for the annual Fashion Show: March 8, 2020 at Paradise Banquets, Bridgeview, IL. This year's Fashion Show will be celebrating its 45th Anniversary and we are always looking for former candidates, Cinderella and Prince Charmings to support this fundraising event. Please contact the fashion show chairperson, Liz Dynowski, at (708) 846-2004 if interested in volunteering for this event. (Details on pg. 17)

One of the greatest ways to honor our Polish-American heritage is to continue to support the traditions and events of the PRCUA that continue to be a part of our lives. The Cinderella Prince Charming Ball has seen multiple generations participate in this beautiful event. I am proud to see so many parents who attended Polish school, Polish dance, and other PRCUA functions encourage their children to do the same. This was evident in the number of alumni who participated in the time-honored tradition of the Cinderella Prince Charming Ball with their children and grandchildren.

### 2020 Candidates bios

**Natalia Bafia**, 16, of Crestwood, IL is the daughter of Beata and Stanisław

Bafia. She is a sophomore at Alan B. Shepard High School and a member of Society #1634. Natalia was a member of the Southwest Center of Polish Dancing (SWCPD) for 2 years and is currently a member of the Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Victoria Bielanski**, 14, of Romeoville, IL is the daughter of Katarzyna and Adam Bielanski. She is a freshman at Plainfield East High School and a member of Society #1637. She danced with the Polanie Dancers for 10 years and currently is a member of the Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Joanna Burdzy**, 16, of Chicago, IL is the daughter of Elżbieta and Marek Burdzy. She is a sophomore at Lincoln Park High School and a member of Society #1634. Joanna was Cinderella runner-up for 2018. She was a member of the Southwest Center of Polish Dancing for 9 years and is currently a member of the Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Katarzyna Burdzy**, 16, of Chicago, IL is the daughter of Elżbieta and Marek Burdzy. She is a sophomore at Lincoln Park High School and a member of Society #1634. Katarzyna was Cinderella runner-up for 2019. She was a member of the SWCPD for 9 years and is currently a member of the Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Liliana Cislo**, 15, of Lockport, IL is the daughter of Elizabeth and Myron Cislo. She is a sophomore at Lockport Township High School and a member of Society #1622. Both of her parents are past candidates, and her father is currently Director of PRCUA District 8. She danced with the Polanie Dancers for 11 years and currently is a member of the Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Teresa Czerwien**, 15, of Chicago, IL is the daughter of Renata and Kazimierz Czerwien. She is a freshman at Lincoln Park High School and a member of Society #1634. She was a member of the SWCPD for 11 years and is currently a member of the Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Karolina Gal**, 16, of Lemont, IL is the daughter of Anna and Marian Gal. She is a junior at Lemont High School and a member of Society #993. She was a member of the Polanie Dancers for 8 years and is currently a member of the

Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Weronika Kaczmarczyk**, 14, of New Lenox, IL is the daughter of Dorota and Artur Kaczmarczyk. She is a freshman at Lincoln Way High School and a member of Society #1634. She was a member of the Southwest Center of Polish Dancing for 10 years. She is currently a member of the Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Alexandra Little**, 14, of Wheaton, IL is the daughter of Diane and Brian Little. She is a freshman at Wheaton North High School and a member of Society #1622. Her mother is a past candidate. She was a member of the SWCPD for 3 years.

**Veronica Przytula**, 14, of Palos Park, IL is the daughter of Agnieszka and Marek Przytula. She is a freshman at Amos Alonzo Stagg High School and a member of Society #1634. Veronica has danced with the SWCPD for 7 years.

**Tanya Sacinski**, 15, of Homer Glen, IL, is the daughter of Desiree and Andrzej Sacinski. She is a sophomore at Lockport Township High School and a member of Society #1622. She was a member of SWCPD and Polanie Dancers for 14 years. She is currently a member of the Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Karolina Slomba**, 15, of Chicago, IL, is the daughter of Renata and Jan Slomba. She is a sophomore at Theodore Roosevelt High School and a member of Society #1634. She was a member of the SWCPD for 7 years and is currently a member of the Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Sabina Slubowski**, 17, of Burbank, IL is the daughter of Elżbieta and Zbigniew Slubowski. She is a senior at St. Laurence High School and a member of Society #1634. She was a member of the SWCPD and is currently a member of the Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Joanna Staron**, 17, of Chicago, IL is the daughter of Marzena and Ryszard Staron. She is a senior at Nazareth Academy and a member of Society #1634. She was a member of the SWCPD for 12 years and of the Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Co. for over one year.

(Continued on pg. 14)



**Wioletta Stasinski**, 15, of Oak Lawn, IL is the daughter of Beata and Marcin Stasinski. She is a sophomore at Oak Lawn High School and a member of Society #1634. She danced with the SWCPD for 7 years.

**Magdalena Truta**, 14, of Chicago, IL is the daughter of Kinga Anna and Łukasz Truty. She is a freshman at Whitney M. Young Magnet High School and a member of Society #1634. She was a member of the SWCPD for 10 years and currently is a member of the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Claudia Walkosz**, 14, of Homer Glen, IL is the daughter of Aneta and Andrzej Walkosz. She is a freshman at Lockport Township High School and a member of Society #1636. She danced with the Polanie Dancers for 11 years and currently is a member of the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Jessica Wenc**, 14, of Palos Hills, IL is the daughter of Agnieszka and Janusz Wenc. She is a freshman at Amos Alonzo Stagg High School and a member of Society #1634. She was a member of the SWCPD for 10 years and is currently a member of the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**AnnaMaria Williams**, 15, of Palos Park, IL is the daughter of Kasia and DJ Williams. She is a sophomore at Amos Alonzo Stagg High School and a member of Society #1634. She was a

member of the SWCPD for 11 years, and is currently a member of the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Olivia Witek**, 16, of Lemont, IL is the daughter of Agnieszka and Mariusz Witek. She is a junior at Lemont High School and a member of Society #1605. She was a member of the Polanie Dancers for 11 years and is currently a member of the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Emily Wozny**, 16, of Chicago, IL is the daughter of Agnieszka and Zbigniew Wozny. She is a sophomore at Lake View High School and a member of Society #1638. She has been a member of the Polonia Dance Ensemble for 12 years.

**Thomas Czerwien**, 16, of Chicago, IL is the son of Renata and Kazimierz Czerwien. He is a sophomore at Jones College Prep and a member of Society #1634. He was a member of the SWCPD for 10 years and is currently a member of the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Andrew Handzel**, 15, of Homer Glen, IL is the son of Teresa and Piotr Handzel. He is a sophomore at Lockport Township High School and a member of Society #1634. He was a member of the SWCPD for 5 years and is currently a member of the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Dominic Karkoszka**, 14, of Alsip, IL is the son of Renata and Jozef Karkoszka. He is a freshman at Alan B. Shepard High School and a member of Society #1634. He was a member of the SWCPD for 7 years and is currently a member of the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Bartłomiej Klempka**, 17, of Park Ridge, IL is the son of Agata Zgiet and Łukasz Belda. He is a senior at Maine South High School and a member of Society #1624. He is currently a 13-year member of the Polonia Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble.

**Jacob Krasnicki**, 15, of Harwood Heights, IL is the son of Renata and Andrzej Krasnicki. He is a sophomore at Maine South High School and a member of Society #1626. He has been a member of the Polonia Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble for 9 years.

**Lukasz Mazur**, 17, of Chicago, IL is the son of Katarzyna and Tomasz Mazur. He is a junior at Guerin Preparatory High School and a member of Society #1626. He is currently a member of Wawel and the Polonia Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble.

**Jakub Niedzielski**, 15, of Oak Lawn, IL is the son of Joanna and Jacek Niedzielski. He is a freshman at Brother Rice High School and a member of Society #1634. He was a member of the SWCPD for 12 years

and is currently a member of the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Arthur Rykala**, 15, of Chicago, IL is the son of Elżbieta and Thomas Rykala. He is a sophomore at St. Rita High School and a member of Society #1634. He was a member of the SWCPD for 2 years and is currently a member of the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Lucas Skowrya**, 17, of Hickory Hills, IL is the son of Nathalie and Ricky Skowrya. He is a senior at Amos Alonzo Stagg High School and a member of Society #1622. He was a member of the SWCPD for 6 years and is currently a member of the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Kevin Wildhirt**, 15, of Lockport, IL is the son of Wiesława and David Wildhirt. He is a sophomore at Lockport Township High School and a member of Society #1636. Kevin enjoys learning about history and likes dancing. He danced with the Polanie Dancers for 10 years and currently is a member of the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

**Oscar Witek**, 16, of Lemont, IL is the son of Agnieszka and Mariusz Witek. He is currently a junior at Lemont High School and a member of Society #1605. He was a member of the Polanie Dancers for 11 years, and is currently a member of the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Co.

## THE MOST HOLY MASS WITH CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

By Karrie Westphal, Secretary  
Zajęcsek Dance Ensemble



On Sunday, January 5, St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Utica, MI celebrated the Feast of The Epiphany with a special Mass and concert by

the Filaret Women's Chorus directed by Bob Barnhart from Troy, MI. Reverend Roman Pasieczny, pastor of St. Lawrence, officiated and Deacon Marion Jurewicz from St. Martin de Porres Parish in Warren, MI assisted.

Twelve members from Zajęcsek Dance Ensemble attended the Mass in their traditional Polish dance costumes, helping Fr. Roman commemorate the visitation of the Wise Men to worship the baby Jesus upon His birth. The dancers also helped support Fr. Roman's passionate homily explaining the many beautiful Polish Christmas traditions that are celebrated each year, reminding us of the magnificent culture we are a part of. Christmas carols were sung in both



Polish and English by the Filaret Choir as well as Fr. Roman, and Christmas memories were shared by many. From the mushroom soup to the *oplatek* exchange, it was a time of remembrance, a time of joy, and a time in which we came together as

one Polish community representing those who came before us and those who are still with us, in spirit today. Blessings to everyone as we embark upon a new year and a new decade. May the vigor of hope always be alive in our hearts.



# HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE TATRY DANCERS

By Gail Esker, Tatry Secretary



Happy New Year from Tatry Dancers in Dearborn Heights, Michigan! We had so much fun eating, joking, playing games and visiting with Santa at our annual Christmas Party. Here are a few pictures from our festivities!



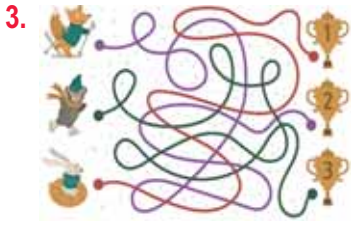
## 2020 PRCUA SPORT TOURNAMENTS

| Date         | Tournament            | Location      | Hosting Society  |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| March 7      | Basketball Tournament | Muskegon, MI  | Society #78      |
| April 17-19  | Bowling Tournament    | Wyandotte, MI | Society #162     |
| July 25      | Golf Tournament       | La Porte, IN  | Society #1031    |
| August 21-22 | Softball Tournament   | Livonia, MI   | Society #718     |
| TBD          | Volleyball Tournament | Chicago, IL   | PRCUA District 8 |

### ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLES ON PG. 11

1. George Washington and Abraham Lincoln

4. 1-5, 2-8, 3-4, 6-7



# ST. STAN'S SOCIETY #718 120 YEARS OLD AND GOING STRONG

By Jerry Nasiatka

St. Stanislaus Kostka Society #718 held its annual Corporate Communion and Election meeting on Sunday, January 12. The day started with the celebration of Mass at St. Linus Church in Dearborn Heights, MI, in memory of its deceased members. Some 95 members were in attendance despite the inclement weather. Father Patrick Stoffer was the celebrant and surprised our membership by providing numerous Polish songs during the Mass. Following Mass members shuttled over to the VFW Stitt Post for the meeting, to be followed by a complimentary Polish meal.

President Jerry Nasiatka thanked the members for their attendance. He told the group that St. Stan's has existed for 120 years (1913-2020) because of its volunteers and

their participation. St. Stan's participates in 14 events yearly, five on the National level and nine at the local level which keeps its membership active and involved. He asked that they keep in their prayers members that are battling serious medical issues. He said that #718 was looking forward to hosting the 2020 PRCUA National Softball tournament in Woodhaven, MI.

Special thanks to Len & Eileen Nasiatka for hosting the event.

The election of officers was chaired by Bob Bielenda and four officers retained their current positions: Jerry Nasiatka, President; Bob Hojnacki, Vice President; Larry O'Reilly, Secretary/Treasurer; Len Nasiatka, Recording Secretary. A vote by the membership was held and Jeff Gliwa was elected to the position of Sergeant-At-Arms.

## KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER WINNER

By Teresa Gibala

At a breakfast in the Knights of Columbus Hall in Toledo OH, held on January 12, Sienna Maitland, daughter of Sophia and Doug Maitland and granddaughter of Walter and Teresa Gibala was honored for her participation in *Keep Christ in Christmas* poster contest. Sienna is also a

member of St. Paulina Society #1633 and Regina Coeli School where she is in the eighth grade.

The Knights of Columbus opened the contest to Toledo Catholic schools. Sienna was awarded 1st place for their poster in the 7th and 8th grade division and 2nd place overall.

Good job, Sienna, we are so proud of you.







## DETROIT RED WINGS 2019-2020 GROUP TICKETS

### POLISH HERITAGE NIGHT

Special ticket packages available for  
Polish Heritage Night with the Detroit Red Wings!

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Detroit Red Wings v. Tampa Bay Lightning  
5:00 p.m.

**TICKET PACKAGE INCLUDES**  
Discounted Detroit Red Wings Ticket;  
\$5 Donation to Local Polish Dance Studio  
Limited-edition Red Wings Polish Heritage Pint Glass



**TICKETS**  
\$65 – 100 Level Corners, Red Wings Defensive End  
\$45 – Labatt Blue Club (Sections 201-205)  
\$45 – Gondola (overhangs the upper bowl, along sidelines)  
\$35 – 200 Level Corners, Red Wings Offensive End, Rows 8+

**GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY**  
[www.DetroitRedWings.com/Poland](http://www.DetroitRedWings.com/Poland)

Contact: Jamie Clark-Drewke 313.471.7138 or [Jamie.Clark@hockeytown.com](mailto:Jamie.Clark@hockeytown.com)



**Saturday**  
**March 21, 2020**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Doors Open at 6:30**

**Enjoy a Fun Night Out  
with Friends and Family**

**Come with a friend or  
yourself!**



**St. John the Baptist**

26132 McDonald St.  
Dearborn Heights, MI

Questions?  
Jen: [delcotto@yahoo.com](mailto:delcotto@yahoo.com)  
Gail: [geesker@hotmail.com](mailto:geesker@hotmail.com)  
248.255.9336

## TATRY DANCE



*Proceeds Benefit the  
Tatry Dancers*



**\$15 per Person**  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place prizes  
Share the Wealth Raffles



Bring a snack to pass

Drinks are available  
for purchase



**Tatry Dancers, P.R.C.U.A.**  
<https://tatrydancedearborn.wixsite.com/website>

## PRCUA LODGE 1031 VALENTINES DINNER AND DANCE

**Saturday, February 15, 2009**

4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
at PRCU Lodge 1031  
620 Bach St., LaPorte, IN

*Let the "MEN" of PRCUA prepare dinner  
for you and your Valentine.  
All ladies will receive a special gift.*

Choice of:

- 16 oz Prime Rib - \$18.00
- 10 piece Butterfly Shrimp- \$12.00
- 12 oz Prime Rib Dinner & 4 piece Shrimp - \$18.00

Side Options:

- Side Salad or Caesar Salad
- Dinner rolls
- Baked Potato or Loaded Baked Potato
- Cheesecake, pie or cake

(Take out orders are available, please schedule a pickup time)

Please R.S.V.P. by calling 219-362-1092 or see the bartender

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

## 23rd ANNUAL PRCUA LODGE 1031

### Chili Cook Off

**Sunday, February 23**

**Entry Fee \$20.00. Cash prizes for  
1st, 2nd and 3rd place.**  
**Entry forms and rules available  
at the PRCUA Lodge 1031,  
620 Bach St., LaPorte, IN**

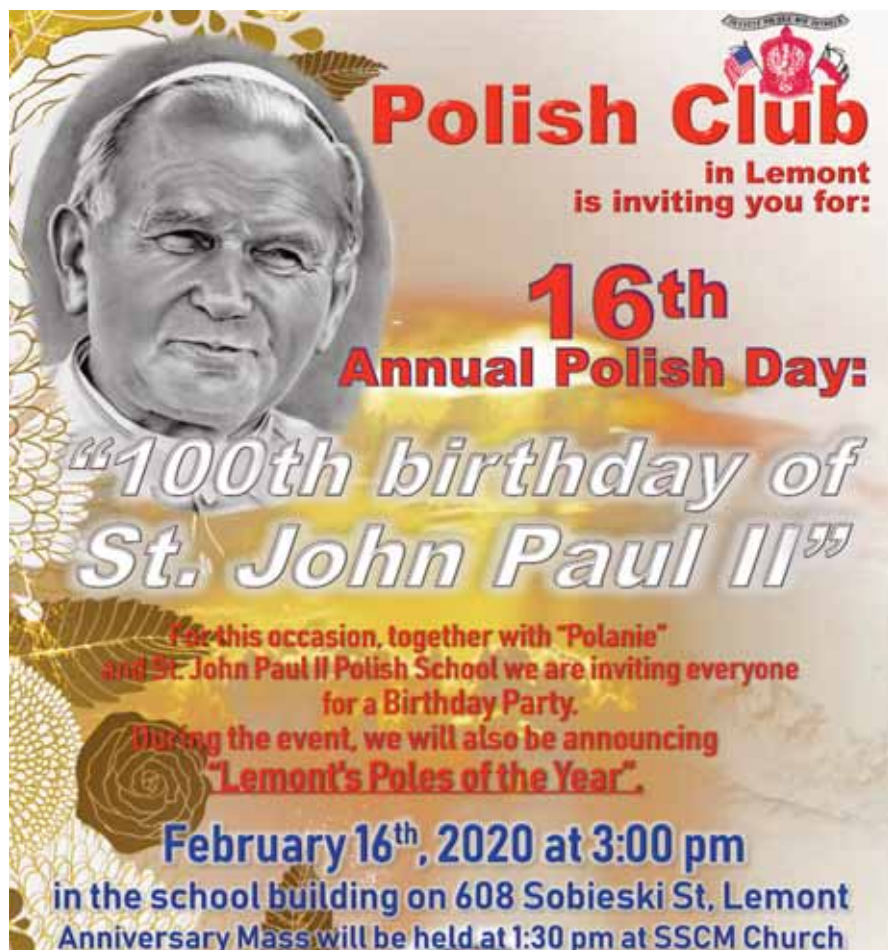
**Open to the public from 12 p.m.**  
**All the chili you can eat \$5.00**

**Prepare yourself to have a fun day, and let's see  
who can cook up the meanest chili in "Pole Town"**

**Whether you want to hang out..or  
just want to eat.**

**COME DOWN AND JOIN US!!!**





**Polish Club**  
in Lemont  
is inviting you for:

**16th Annual Polish Day:**  
"100th birthday of  
St. John Paul II"

For this occasion, together with "Polanie"  
and St. John Paul II Polish School we are inviting everyone  
for a Birthday Party.  
During the event, we will also be announcing  
"Lemont's Poles of the Year".

**February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 3:00 pm**  
in the school building on 608 Sobieski St. Lemont  
Anniversary Mass will be held at 1:30 pm at SSCM Church



**Adult Culture Group**  
of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of  
America  
extends a cordial invitation to you and your friends  
to attend the

## 45th Annual Spring Fashion Show & Luncheon with Entertainment

**Sunday, March 8, 2020**

**Paradise Banquets**

9220 S. Harlem Ave., Bridgeview, IL

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.; luncheon at 12:00 p.m.

Proceeds from the Fashion Show go toward scholarships  
for next year's Cinderella - Prince Charming  
Ball Candidates.

**Please support this fundraiser!**

For additional information, please contact  
Liz or Walter Dynowski at (708) 532-1541  
adultculturegroup@gmail.com



**Celebrate 60 years with the  
PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers!**



**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Recital at 3:00pm**

- Doors Open at 2:30pm -

**Fitzgerald High School Auditorium**  
23200 Ryan Rd., Warren, MI 48091

**Recital Tickets Available ONLY at the Door**  
\$10.00 Adult, \$5.00 Children 3-11, Free 2 years and under

**For more information please call -**  
313-682-3031 or 313-433-4929 (Polish and English)

## PRCUA DISTRICT #7 CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

**Sunday, March 15, 2020**

**Cocktails at 1 p.m.**

**Dinner at 2 p.m.**

**PRCUA Social Hall**

984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL

**Cost: \$35 (Cash Bar)**

**Catered by Harrington's Catering & Deli**  
**Cash Raffle**

**RSVP by March 9, 2020 (no tickets sold at the door)**  
773-782-2636 -or- prcuadistrict7@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to  
PRCUA District 7 and send to:  
Mateusz Bomba  
PRCUA  
984 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60642-4101





The PRCUA Michigan Dance Schools,  
Members of the Board, Directors and Teachers  
cordially invite you and your friends to attend the

## Twenty-Ninth Annual

PRCUA

Shirley Ann Galanty

Michigan State Ball

Honoring the 2020 Graduates

Saturday, February 22, 2020

The San Marino Club

1685 E. Big Beaver, Troy, MI



Cocktails 5:15 p.m.

Promenade 6:00 p.m.

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Semi-Formal Attire

Music by Duane Malinowski Orchestra

Donations \$60 per adult, \$53 per student through age 20

For information, contact Maria Jalkiewicz at (586) 979-5164

DETROIT  
BASKETBALL

POLISH HERITAGE NIGHT  
AT LITTLE CAESARS ARENA

SAT, FEB. 8 – 7:00PM  
vs. NEW YORK KNICKS

Show your Polish Pride on Saturday, February 8th at Little Caesars Arena as the Pistons take on the New York Knicks. Enjoy pre-game performances and Pistons basketball! Through this package you will receive an exclusive discount and a limited edition Pistons Polish Heritage T-shirt. All attendees will also have the opportunity to shoot a postgame free throw on the Pistons Floor. Don't hesitate to get your tickets and order today!

### EXCLUSIVE TICKET PRICING:

100 LEVEL SEMI-CORNER (SECTION 125): **\$76** (\$91 value)  
100 LEVEL CORNER (SECTION 117): **\$42** (\$57 value)  
MEZZANINE END (SECTION M2): **\$32** (\$47 value)  
200 LEVEL CORNER (SECTION 230): **\$30** (\$45 value)

\*FREE Limited Edition Polish T-shirt for each ticket purchased

– redeem at Pistons Game

\*Postgame Free Throw Shot on The Pistons Court for all purchasers

PURCHASE TICKETS AT:  
**PISTONS.COM/POLISH**

Offer cannot be redeemed at the Xfinity Box Office.  
For additional information, please contact:

**BRANDON GOEBEL**

(248) 377-0172 / BGOEBEL@PISTONS.COM

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020

All tickets are subject to availability and handled on a first-come, first-served basis. All prices on orders received after the indicated deadline are subject to change. Refunds or exchanges will not be issued. Please provide an accurate e-mail address in order to access your tickets. All tickets purchased will be available on your Pistons Account. You

**40<sup>th</sup> anniversary**  
**20<sup>th</sup> anniversary**  
of St. John Paul II  
Polish School & Polish Club  
of dance group "POLANIE"

Please join us for a Celebration on  
**February 22, 2020**  
**AT 6:00 PM**  
**Crystal Grand Banquet**  
**12416 South Archer Avenue • Lemont**

PERFORMING FOR YOU:  
MIRA SOJKA-TOPOR AND "THE KINGS" BAND

TO BUY TICKETS OR MAKE RESERVATION:  
630-669-9700 OR JUBILEUSZ@POLSCHOOL.COM

Anniversary Mass will be held on February 16, 2020  
at 1:30PM at SSCM Church, 608 Sobieski, Lemont IL 60439

Looking for ways to pay for college?  
**Apply for a PRCUA Scholarship!**



Did you know that PRCUA offers  
scholarships as one of our  
many member benefits?

New applications for the  
2020-2021 school year  
are available online now.

Get more information by visiting  
**PRCUA.org/scholarships**  
or by calling 773-782-2630



# „OPOWIEDZ MI ŚWIĄTECZNĄ BAJKĘ”

Dorota Romek

Magiczne Świąta, czyli „Wielki Świąteczny Festiwal Rodzinny” odbył się po raz pierwszy dziewięć lat temu, dzięki pomysłowi Fundacji Kopernikowskiej. O tym, iż jest coś prawdziwie magicznego w Świątach Bożego Narodzenia nie trzeba nikogo przekonywać. O tym, że polskie świąta są wyjątkowo uroczyste wiedzą wszyscy. Przywołują wspomnienia, które chętnie opowiadamy naszym dzieciom i wnukom.

Cały rok tęsknimy za świąteczną atmosferą, zapachem i magią tego pięknego wydarzenia i staramy się by były podobne do tych, które pamiętamy z naszego dzieciństwa. Niestety nie da się cofnąć czasu i nie wszystkim udaje się spędzić świąta w Polsce. Co zrobić, aby umożliwić naszym dzieciom przeżycia równie piękne, jak nasze?

Trzeba było opowiedzieć bajkę!

Za pomocą możliwości, jakie daje teatr, słowo, muzyka i taniec - opowiedzieliśmy, zagraliśmy, wy-

tańczyliśmy i wyśpiewaliśmy. Wielki Świąteczny Festiwal Rodzinny Magicznych Świąt w Copernicus Center to wszystko o polskich tradycjach świątecznych na scenie w II obszernych aktach, w wykonaniu dzieci i młodzieży.

W tym roku, akt I otworzyły „Malutkie Aniołki”, czyli najmłodsze dzieci Warsztatów Teatralnych Little Stars zapraszając publiczność do wspólnego kolędowania, a anielski pochod z betlejemskim światłem przemaszerował podczas kolędy „Cicha Noc”. Wspólnie, z bardzo zajęтыми kuchareczkami, zasiedliśmy do wigilijnego stołu i śpiewając stare polskie kolędy oglądaliśmy przygotowania do wigilii.

Dzieci i młodzież z Akademii Muzyki PaSO zaprezentowały świąteczny program muzyczny na pianino i skrzypce, pełny kolęd, polskich pastorałek oraz popularnych piosenek świątecznych. Wśród nich nie zabrakło utworów takich jak: Mazurek Chopina – pianino solo, ilustracji muzycznej Czajkowskiego do baśni „Dziadek do Orzechów” – skrzypce, czy chóralnego Ave Maria, które stworzyły ponadczasowy klimat tej magicznej

imprezy.

Zespół Pieśni i Tańca „Polonia” rozpoczął widowisko skocznym rock-and-rollem, po którego rytmach na scenie pojawiła się gromadka słodkich „Krasnoludków” z najmłodszej formacji zespołu. Kolejne grupy wiekowe „Polonii” zaprezentowały część potencjału folkloru polskiego w utworach tanecznych regionu Nowego Sącza, Kurpiów oraz Żywca w oryginalnych strojach. Celebrytacje festiwalu zakończył debiut walca wiedeńskiego grupy „Młoda Polonia” oraz wspólny finał wszystkich wykonawców.

Przez cały czas trwania festiwalu czynny był świąteczny jarmark, na którym można było zaopatrzyć się w prezenty świąteczne, książki, płyty, biżuterię, ozdoby choinkowe, wyroby rzemiosła jak również domowe przysmaki polskiej kuchni. Wiele atrakcji i zabaw dla dzieci przygotował „You Can Be My Angel”, były niespodzianki i... Święty Mikołaj - gotowy do zdjęć.

Czas szybko płynie i już dziś serdecznie zapraszamy Państwa na jubileuszowe, bo już 10-te wydanie Magicznych Świąt w tym roku, a w imieniu wszystkich uczestników oraz organizatorów festiwalu pragnę złożyć Państwu życzenia wszystkiego, co najlepsze w 2020 roku.



**Zespół Pieśni i Tańca „Polonia”**  
Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego w Ameryce  
zaprasza na

**RODZINNY BAL  
KARNAWAŁOWY**

sobota, 22 lutego 2020 r.  
od 6 wieczorem do północy  
Crystal Palace Banquets  
1070 S. Elmhurst Rd., Mt. Prospect, IL

Bilety w cenie: \$80 dorośli (otwarty bar)  
\$40 młodzież (12-20 lat)  
\$35 dzieci (3-11 lat)

W programie:  
występ ZPiT „Polonia”, wykwinny obiad, przekąski,  
zabawy karnawałowe, znakomita muzyka - DJ Koval

W sprawie biletów  
prosimy dzwonić pod numer:  
847-529-2555





## The Open Door Otwarte Drzwi

Micheline "Misia" Jaminski

Vice President | wiceprezes  
micheline-jaminski@prcua.org

Pozdrowienia ze słonecznego i wietrznego Boca Raton na Florydzie! Oto spełnia się jedno z moich priorytetowych noworocznych postanowień: wakacje z mężem Ryszardem, długo odkładany urlop, pierwszy od 15 lat! Powitała nas nie spodziewana chłodna aura, ale po pierwszych dość nietypowych dla Florydy o tej porze roku zimnych dniach w końcu pojawiło się upragnione słońce. Relaksujemy się pochłaniając zachłannie witaminę D. Jaka to wielka odmiana, po ostatnich kilku tygodniach zimy w Chicago. Na mojej liście rzeczy do zrobienia w 2020 roku było też zdobycie licencji agenta sprzedaży ubezpieczeń na życie. Wyobraźcie sobie, że ten ważny dla mnie egzamin też już zaliczyłam. Jakie życie byłoby proste i cudowne gdyby inne sprawy można było równie łatwo „odhaczyć” z listy. Cały czas powtarzam sobie jednak „chcieć to móc”. Ale dość o mnie.

Pierwszym dużym wydarze-

niem kulturalnym nowego roku w PRCUA było rozpoczęcie zajęć tanecznych dla dorosłych (powyżej 30 roku życia). Rozpoczęliśmy, a właściwie reaktywowaliśmy kurs, oryginalnie zapoczątkowany przez Grupę Kulturalną Dorosłych w 1969 roku. Odświeżona inicjatywa nauki tańców ludowych w formie towarzyskich spotkań została skierowana do nowicjuszy, a także doświadczonych tancerzy. Pomysł, mający wpłynąć na zwiększenie członkostwa w PRCUA, zasugerował dyrektor krajowy Dystryktu 8 Myron Cisło, a ja podjęłam się roli instruktorki tańca. Zajęcia rozpoczęły się 6 stycznia, a ja tym samym spełniłam moje kolejne noworoczne postanowienie.

W niedzielę, 12 stycznia, wraz z mężem Ryszardem uczestniczyłam w imprezie „Afterglow” zorganizowanej przez Grupę Kulturalną Dorosłych. Członkowie grupy przygotowali słodki poczęstunek w świetlicy parafii Our Lady of the Woods w Orland Park, IL. Gości powitał prezes Edward Muszalski, który przedstawił Kopciuszka i Księża 2020 Karolinę Gal i Artura Rykałę, laureatów tytułów wice Kopciuszka i Księża Veronicę Przytuła i Kevina Wildhirt oraz członków dworu królewskiego wraz z rodzinami. Miałam zaszczyt wręczyć im pamiątkowe plakietki. Kolejne przed-

sięwzięcie Grupy Kulturalnej Dorosłych już niebawem. Zapraszam na Pokaz Mody, w Dniu Kobiet, 8-go marca. Organizatorem imprezy jest dyrektor Dystryktu 8 i sekretarz Grupy: Elizabeth Dynowski.

Karnawał 2020 w pełni. Oficjalnie, tradycyjny czas karnawału rozpoczął się 6 stycznia, tuż po święcie Trzech Króli, w Nowym Orleanie, a zakończy się przed Środą Popielcową (26 lutego). 18 stycznia, zespół „Wesoły Lud” przypomniał mi o różnicach pomiędzy „Mardi Gras” a balem maskowym. Stało się to przy okazji zimowej zabawy tanecznej organizowanej dorocznie przez „Lud”, tym razem w formie Balu Maskowego. Symbolami „Mardi Gras” są błazny, koraliki, Bourbon Street, Nowy Orlean, roztańczone tłumy na ulicach, kolory zielony, złoty i fioletowy. Z kolei bal maskowy, to subtelniej poprzebierani goście balu, tańce pod kryształowymi żyrandolami wśród ozdobnych deko-

racji w kolorach białym, czarnym, złotym i srebrnym oraz elegancja, dobre maniery i atmosfera balu karnawałowego. Wspólnym mianownikiem obu tradycji są maski na twarzach uczestników. Podsumowując, Mardi Gras może być balem maskowym, ale nie wszystkie bale maskowe odbywają się w klimacie Mardi Gras (Oriana). Miniony Bal Maskowy „Wesołego Ludu” był także formą celebracji okrągłych rocznic naszych tancerzy: Sylvii Kupiec i Camilli Steczek (obchodzących 10-cio lecie) oraz Ani Cieplucha, Caroliny Kukulski, Weroniki Niedzielski i Alexandra Labudzkiego (świętujących 5 lat w zespole „Wesoły Lud”). (dok. na str. 21)



Maturzyści szkoły Jana Karskiego



Maturzyści szkoły Św. Jana Pawła II



Agnieszka Bastrzyk (l) z maturzystami i pedagogami szkoły M. Konopnickiej



ZPiT „Polonia” z choreograf Jaclyn Krysiński i sekretarz-skarbnik Agnieszką Bastrzyk



Spotkanie Afterglow Grupy Kulturalnej Dorosłych



Bal Maskowy - tancerze „Wesołego Ludu” z laureatami wyróżnień



Wszyscy oni swoją przygodę z polskim folklorem rozpoczynali jako dzieci w „Południowo-Zachodnim Centrum Polskich Tańców i Śpiewu”. W imprezie oprócz mnie i mojego męża Ryszarda uczestniczyli także z ramienia PRCUA: prezes James Robaczewski wraz z małżonką Elaine, dyrektorzy Dystryktu 8 Elizabeth Dynowski oraz Myron Cisło, wiceprezes Dystryktu 8 Krystyna Lech, sekretarz Danielle Kroplewski, prezes Grupy Kulturalnej Dorosłych Edward Muszalski i ponad 400 innych gości

kibicujących naszym tancerzom. Bal prowadziły Ania Kraszewska-Winkler i Joanna Niedzielska. Artykuł poświęcony temu wydarzeniu wraz z fotorelacją zamieścimy w kolejnym wydaniu *Narodu Polskiego*. Osobiście pragnę pogratulować wszystkim tancerzom, obchodzącym okrągłe rocznice tańca w zespole „Wesoły Lud” za lata poświęceń, pasji i przepiękne solówki. Gratulacje także dla dyrektora artystycznego i choreografa zespołu Ryszarda Jamińskiego oraz jego asystentów Michaela Dziadkowiec, Roberta Kro-

plewskiego i Kacpra Szumiec za wspaniały występ, wszystkim tancerzom za cudowny wieczór oraz Joannie Niedzielski i rodzicom za przygotowanie przepysznych domowej roboty słodkości. Obsługa sali bankietowej Camelot jak zwykle sprawiła się na medal! Dziękujemy! Kolejna zimowa zabawa z „Wesołym Ludem” już za rok, 16 stycznia 2021.

Prezes James Robaczewski wziął udział w Balu Młodzieżowym organizowanym przez Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej - Wydział Ohio i dyrektora Dystryktu 10 PRCUA Mitchella Bienię, który odbył się w Tremont City Side Ballroom w Cleveland, OH. Zjednoczenie było współsponsorem imprezy, fundując jednocześnie w balowej loterii dwie nagrody pieniężne dla debutantów w Debutante and Cavalier Crystal Ball. Gratulujemy zwycięzcom - Mihalinie Dziadyniak i Catherine Katrenich.

W tą samą sobotę, 25 stycznia, sekretarz-skarbnik Agnieszka Bastrzyk reprezentowała Zjednoczenie podczas Studniówki polskich szkół, zorganizowanej w Oak Brook

Drury Lane w Oak Brook, IL przez Zrzeszenie Nauczycieli Polskich. Także podczas tego wieczoru wśród polonijnej młodzieży przygotowującej się do Matury 2020 rozlosowano fundowane przez PRCUA dwie nagrody pieniężne - zwycięzcy to Karolina Gal z Polskiej Szkoły im. Św. Jana Pawła II i Kacper Bakun z Polskiej Szkoły Katolickiej im. Św. Jakuba. Szczęśliwcom gratulujemy, a wszystkim życzymy powodzenia na egzaminie. Również gratuluję udanego występu ZPiT „Polonia” na Studniówce dzięki zaproszeniu tego-rocznego organizatora, Polskiej Szkoły im. Św. Ferdynanda i pięknego wspólnego Poloneza w choreografii Jaclyn Krysińskiej. W studniówce uczestniczyli maturzyści z trzech polskich szkół działających pod patronatem PRCUA.

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Bal Młodzieżowy w Ohio (l-p): dyrektor Tom Jesionowski, ks. Eric Orzech, Catherine Katrenich, Mihalina Dziadyniak, prezes James Robaczewski, współprzewodniczący Aundrea Cika-Heschmeyer i Mitchell Bienia, Millie Heschmeyer, Anastazja Golab, Michał Golab i członkini komitetu organizacyjnego Monika Sochecki



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# UBEZPIECZENIA BEZ TAJEMNIC

**Robert Sobczak**

**Specjalista ds. ubezpieczeń**

## Zapisy i po zapisach.

Sezon zapisowy na ubezpieczenia na 2020 rok dla większości mieszkańców USA można uznać za zamknięty. Zarówno posiadacze Medicare, których coroczny okres zapisowy (AEP) zakończył się 7 grudnia 2019, jak i osoby korzystające z planów typu Obamacare zakończyły już zapisy pomimo przedłużenia okresu zapisowego do 17 grudnia 2019. Wydawałoby się, że możemy odetchnąć spokojnie. Niestety nie tak do końca. Jest jeszcze parę obowiązków, którymi musimy się zająć by mieć pewność, że wybrany przez nas plan wystartuje jak planowaliśmy w 2020 roku.

## Posiadacze Medicare:

1. **Karty Medicare** z Claim number zawierającym Państwa numer Social Security straciły już ważność. Od 1 stycznia możemy posługiwać się wyłącznie kartami zawierającymi 11 znakowy Medicare number składający się kombinacji cyfr i liter. Jeśli nie otrzymaliście Państwo nowej karty, proszę skontaktujcie się jak najszybciej z najbliższym biurem Social Security Administration lub zadzwońcie na 1-800-MEDICARE.
2. Upewnijmy się, że plan, który wybraliśmy jako ostatni w trakcie corocznego okresu zapisowego jest zarejestrowany odpowiednio w Medicare. Dotyczy to planów typu Medicare Advantage (MAPD) i planów zniżkowych na leki na receptę (PDP).
3. Sprawdźmy, czy otrzymaliśmy **nową kartę ubezpieczeniową**. Dotyczy to planów typu Medicare Advantage i planów zniżkowych na leki na receptę.
4. **Wyberzmy lekarza prowadzącego**. Do tych to szczególnie planów typu HMO,

gdzie lekarz prowadzący (Primary Care Physician) jest sternikiem naszego planu i to on wystawia skierowania do lekarzy specjalistów i badania dokonywane w ramach planu. Warto też mieć wybranego lekarza prowadzącego posiadając plany typu PPO, choć nie jest to konieczne.

## 5. Upewnijmy się, czy nie nastąpiła zmiana właściciela planu na rok 2020.

W 2019 roku plany Medicare Advantage firmy Meridian zmieniły właściciela na firmę Wellcare i to ona wyśle nam nowe karty i będzie zarządzała nimi w 2020 r. Podobnie jest z planami zniżkowymi na leki na receptę firmy Aetna. Odsprzedała ona swój blok planów zniżkowych na leki na receptę firmie Welcare. Kartą tej właśnie firmy musimy posługiwać się w aptekach od 1 stycznia 2020.

6. Jeśli po wykupieniu planu typu Medicare Advantage jesteśmy niemiłe zaskoczeni, to nadal mamy możliwość jednorazowej zmiany w tzw. OEP.

## Posiadacze Obamacare:

1. **Sprawdźmy Eligibility Letter**, czyli formę zatwierdzającą poziom pomocy finansowej na rok następny. Dokument ten zawiera również listę żądań, które zobowiązani jesteśmy dostarczyć do urzędu Marketplace, aby nasz plan został zatwierdzony lub kontynuowany w kwocie ustalonej w trakcie aplikacji. Najczęściej proszeni jesteśmy o dostarczenie dokumentów potwierdzających status emigracyjny, numer Social Security, poziom oczekiwanych dochodów, utraty ubezpieczenia, zawarcia związku małżeńskiego lub rozwodu.
2. Upewnijmy się, że **opłata za pierwszy miesiąc została uiszczona**. Ta opłata ma krytyczne znaczenie i może oznaczać być

albo nie być dla naszego planu typu Obamacare na 2020 rok. Pamiętajcie Państwo, że jeśli plan nie wystartuje ze względu na nie dokonanie pierwszej opłaty miesięcznej, to nie będzie można go wskrzesić przez cały rok.

3. **Wyberzmy lekarza prowadzącego**. Dotyczy to szczególnie planów typu HMO, gdzie lekarz prowadzący (Primary Care Physician) jest sternikiem naszego planu i to on wystawia skierowania do lekarzy specjalistów i badania dokonywane w ramach planu.
4. Upewnijmy się, że nasz **lekarz prowadzący należy do odpowiedniej Grupy Medycznej** (oznaczonej trzycyfrowym numerem). Dotyczy to posiadaczy planów HMO z firmy ubezpieczeniowej BCBS. Jeśli nasz lekarz prowadzący nie jest w wybranej przez nas grupie (sprawdźmy oznaczenie na nowej karcie ubezpieczeniowej), to jego skierowania nie będą ważne i wizyty u niego będą płatne w 100% stawki.
5. Wszystkich spóźnialskich zapraszamy do sprawdzenia szerokiej gamy programów krótkoterminowych lub szpitalnych. Pamiętajcie Państwo, że w tym kraju warto być ubezpieczonym.

Jak widzicie Państwo nadal trzeba trzymać rękę na pulsie by mieć pewność, że plany wybrane przez nas będą działać w sposób przez nas oczekiwany lub działać w ogóle. Lepiej zająć się tym od razu na początku roku.

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# KONKURS „BYĆ POLAKIEM”

Kochani Uczniowie, Nauczyciele, Rodzice,

po raz jedenasty zapraszamy dzieci i młodzież pochodzenia polskiego, Mieszkających poza granicami Polski, do udziału w konkursie „Być Polakiem”.

W roku jubileuszu 40-lecia rejestracji NSZZ Solidarność chcemy skierować Waszą uwagę na słowo solidarność, które dla Polaków znaczyło tak wiele, bo było symbolem odpowiedzialności, jedności

i współpracy. Od tamtych wydarzeń minęło wiele lat, zmieniła się Polska. Czy warto więc mówić o solidarności między Polakami?

Jak myślicie? Napiszcie. **Czy obecnie jest potrzeba, aby być solidarnym z Polską i Polakami żyjącymi w kraju oraz poza jego granicami? Jeśli nie, czy możecie uzasadnić dlaczego? Jeśli tak, czy możecie podać przykłady współczesnych Wam postaw, zachowań i działań, które dowodzą**

**wzajemnej solidarności między Polakami.**

Proponujemy jeden temat dla wszystkich grup wiekowych. Chcemy byście przez Wasze polskie „okulary” spojrzeli na różnie rozumiane i odczuwane relacje solidarności między Polakami.

**Prace konkursowe należy nadsyłać do 8 marca 2020 roku na adres: [bycpolakiem2020@gmail.com](mailto:bycpolakiem2020@gmail.com)**

Szczegółowe informacje dotyczące tej edycji Konkursu znajdują się w Regulaminie na stronie <http://swiatnatak.pl/byc-polakiem-x-2020/>.

Na autorów wyróżnionych prac czekają wspaniałe nagrody: przyjazd do Polski, udział w Gali w Zamku Królewskim, wycieczka „Śladami polskości”. Powodzenia i do zobaczenia

W imieniu Komitetu Organizacyjnego i Jury:

**Helena Miziniak,**

Wiceprzewodnicząca Rady Polonii Świata

**Joanna Fabisiak,**

Przewodnicząca Komitetu

Organizacyjnego

**Marek Machała,**

Koordynator Generalny



# ZPRKA OFERUJE STYPENDIA NA ROK AKADEMICKI 2020-2021

Warunki ekonomiczne w USA i na świecie oraz wzrastająca konkurencja na rynku pracy czynią zdobycie dyplomu ukończenia wyższej uczelni warunkiem niezbędnym do znalezienia zatrudnienia. Jednocześnie koszty edukacji stanowią dla studentów i ich rodzin poważną barierę, a ponoszenie ich trudne wyzwanie. Zjednoczenie Polskie Rzymsko-Katolickie w Ameryce wychodząc na przeciw potrzebom finansowym polsko-amerykańskiej społeczności oferuje stypendia naukowe dla studentów studiów licencjackich, magisterskich i doktoranckich.

W sezonie stypendialnym 2020-2021 dostępne będą 2 rodzaje stypendiów: PRCUA Education Scholarship dla wszystkich chętnych aplikantów oraz PRCUA Fraternal Scholarship dla członków ZPRKA. Studenci mogą ubiegać się o stypendia każdego roku nauki, ale maksymalnie mogą je otrzymać trzy razy w życiu. Na każde z oferowanych przez ZPRKA stypendiów można składać po jednej aplikacji. Termin składania podań upływa 1 czerwca 2020 r.

W ramach programu: PRCUA Education Scholarship liczba przyznanych stypendiów i ich wysokość zależne będą od ilości tegorocznych aplikacji. Stypendia te dostępne są dla wszystkich chętnych, także osób niebędących członkami ZPRKA, spełniających wymagane kryteria:

1. Wnioskodawcy muszą pomyślnie ukończyć pierwszy rok studiów przed upływem terminu składania wniosku o stypendium. Do aplikacji o stypendium musi być dołączony oficjalny odpis ocen lub inny równorzędny dokument z uczelni, do której student uczęszcza, wysłany przez uczelnię do ZPRKA w terminie do 1 czerwca 2020r.

2. Kwalifikujący się wnioskodawcy to studenci drugiego, trzeciego lub czwartego roku studiów licencjackich, magisterskich lub zawodowych, uczęszczający na studia w pełnym wymiarze godzin. Pełen wymiar godzin jest określony wytycznymi ustanowionymi przez federalny program pomocy finansowej: minimum 12 godzin kredytowych dla studentów studiów dziennych lub 8 godzin kredytowych dla stu-

dentów studiów wieczorowych. O stypendia mogą się ubiegać także studenci studiujący w niepełnym wymiarze godzin na studiach magisterskich i doktoranckich.

3. Wnioskodawcy muszą mieć skumulowaną średnią ocen (GPA) 2,5 lub wyższą w skali 4,0 lub 3,5 lub wyższą w skali 5,0.

4. Wszyscy wnioskodawcy muszą być obywatelami lub stałymi rezydentami Stanów Zjednoczonych.

W ramach programu PRCUA Fraternal Scholarship w sezonie stypendialnym 2020-2021 przyznane zostaną stypendia w wysokości 30 tysięcy dolarów: 10 stypendiów po 2.000 USD i 10 stypendiów po 1.000 USD. Prawo do ubiegania się o stypendia w ramach programu PRCUA Fraternal Scholarship mają wyłącznie członkowie ZPRKA. Wnioskodawca musi spełnić wszystkie wyżej wymienione warunki plus dodatkowo być członkiem ZPRKA przez co najmniej pięć lat, posiadać ubezpieczenie na życie w wysokości minimum 5.000 USD oraz opłacać terminowo wszystkie składki.

Jeśli w chwili składania wniosku członek nie spełnia minimalnego, pięcioletniego okresu członkostwa może również spełnić jedną z dwóch poniższych opcji: 3 lata członkostwa i ubezpieczenie na życie w wysokości 25.000 USD lub cztery lata członkostwa i ubezpieczenie w wysokości 15.000 USD. Wnioskodawcy muszą utrzymać swoje polisy w mocy i opłacać terminowo wszystkie składki przez co najmniej pięć lat po otrzymaniu ostatniej wypłaty stypendium.

W obu programach stypendialnych, stypendia zostaną przyznane studentom, którzy otrzymają najwyższą punktację za napisany esej w języku angielskim na podane tematy. Prace oceniane będą przez zespół trzech niezależnych jurorów.

Zachęcamy do skorzystania z oferowanej przez ZPRKA pomocy finansowej na studia. Stypendia naukowe to jedna z wielu korzyści członkowskich oferowanych przez Zjednoczenie Polskie Rzymsko-Katolickie w Ameryce.

Więcej informacji i aplikacja dostępne na

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