

NARÓD POLSKI Polish Nation

IN THIS ISSUE:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
page 2

BUSINESS pages 3-6
Financial Statement - 5

MEMBER NEWS page 7

CULTURE pages 7-21

Kids Activity Page - 11
VP Column - 12-13
Higher Perspectives - 15

POLISH SECTION
pages 22-27

PRCUA ANNUAL STATE OF THE UNION

Dear Fellow PRCUA Members,

After reviewing the year-end statement for 2019, most organizations turn to the annual ritual of issuing a State of the Business declaration. Be it the federal, state or local government, large corporations or even our endeared and beloved fraternal organizations, the leadership has the responsibility to inform the populace of what has been accomplished in the previous year. The members need to feel confident that the organization is in good hands and the leaders understand the conditions, have a strategy for the years ahead, and know how to adapt to changes that have occurred.

Like any journey, not every step is effortless. At times, there are pitfalls that we face, but we need to adapt and overcome them. Once they are surmounted, you then try your best to not face them again.

This year, the PRCUA embraced many changes on the strategic path for growth. As with any such changes, there are also unwanted effects during the process of implementation. On page 5, you will see our financial statement. For the year 2019, the PRCUA had a negative net income of \$758,846, with a total surplus of \$11,043,205. Even though there is a loss in the surplus, we have achieved many things in the past year and this surplus continues to place the PRCUA in a strong financial position.

The new life insurance administration system we have acquired is progressing well. It is currently being tested and used for one of our life insurance products. In the near future, this system will assist us in providing more efficient service to our members, including allowing PRCUA to be another step closer to providing online access to certificate information. The PRCUA is about two thirds complete in the installation process and is now testing the software to ensure that it is user-friendly and error-free. The implementation cost of this project is one that cannot be amortized over a long time period and was taken as a real expense for 2019. This amounted to approximately two thirds of our stated deficit.

Looking to the positive, the volume of our life insurance continues to grow. In 2019, 991 new life members were added to our ranks with a face value of over \$41,000,000. This, in part, is due to the addition of two new Polish language schools that have joined the PRCUA ranks of subsidized groups in 2019! A



James J. Robaczewski
PRCUA National President

large “Thank You” goes to our hardworking sales force and home office staff. The members of our high-ranking sales force for 2019 are on page 6. With a growth in members comes a growth in our staff – we are currently looking to fill spots within our home office! If you or someone you know may be interested, please reach out to us.

Some additional developments last year included the completion of our new parking lot, initiating direct billing to our members (streamlining the payment process for assessments), implementing the 2017 CSO (improving the pricing of our life insurance portfolio) and an enhancement of the underwriting tools available to our sales force.

The PRCUA is also rebuilding links to different trade organizations in the insurance business. This is assisting us in becoming a vital member not only in the fraternal insurance community, but in the insurance arena. By attending different seminars and workshops, our staff is becoming better educated through formal educational programs and gaining knowledge from networking with their counterparts from other organizations.

As you will see, we are making great strides in sales and marketing to bring the best products available to the public while educating the public about all the good done by our wonderful organization. The members of our sales force are our PRCUA product ambassadors – we are always searching to find additions to this team. We strive for new ideas on how to bring stable growth for our company and continue being relevant to our community. In 2018, we introduced a new logo, **PRCUALife**. This year, we introduced a new look for the *Naród Polski* – a sleek, easier to handle adaptation of our newspaper with shorter articles and more information for our membership to enjoy.

We, the members of the PRCUA, must be proud of our accomplishments, but cannot sit back on our laurels. We need to be responsible, relevant and recognizable. It is time for every member of the PRCUA to ask “What can I do to make our beloved fraternal even stronger?” The simple answer would be to get more involved with the programs that the PRCUA offers, but what needs to be done is for you to spread the word about the PRCUA. Tell friends and neighbors about the benefits of being a member.

(Continued on page 15)



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

PRCUA.ORG |

NARÓD POLSKI

Polish Nation

ISSN 0027-7894

Official Publication of the
Polish Roman Catholic Union
of America

FREQUENCY: Published Monthly

NARÓD POLSKI CONTACT INFORMATION (including materials for publications):

Executive Editor:

Lidia Kowalewicz

773-782-7639

Toll-Free: 1-800-772-8632

Ext. 2639

lidia-kowalewicz@prcu.org

Publisher:

PRCUA President

James J. Robaczewski

Publication Dept. Administrator:

PRCUA Vice President

Micheline I. Jaminski

Graphic Design:

PRCUA Marketing Department

POSTMASTER,
SEND ADDRESS CORRECTIONS
TO:

Narod Polski

984 N. Milwaukee Avenue

Chicago, IL 60642-4101

Change of delivery address or
other newspaper related inquiries:
narod-polski@prcu.org

PRCUA CONTACT INFORMATION

Hours of Operation:

8:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Home Office: 773-782-2600

Toll-Free: 1-800-772-8632

Fax: 773-278-4595

www.prcua.org



MARCH

2 PUŁASKI DAY ANNUAL CELEBRATION on Mon.,
March 2 at 10:00 a.m. at the PMA Great Hall, 984 N. Milwaukee
Ave., Chicago, IL. **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 – 86TH NATIONAL PRCUA BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT** on Sat., March 7 in Muskegon, MI. For more infor-
mation, see page 19.

**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 20.

**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 infor-
mation, see page 17.

**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. Doors open at 11:00
a.m.; lunch at 12:00 p.m. For more information, see page 21.

**18 LANSING, MI – WHITE EAGLE SOC. #2342
POTLUCK AND MEETING** on Wed., March 18 at the Fed-
erated 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 21.

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

**DETROIT, MI – 18TH ANNUAL BLESSING OF MICHIGAN
POLISH DANCE SCHOOLS** on Sun., March 22 at the 11:15 a.m.
at Saint Hyacinth Parish, 3151 Farnsworth St., Detroit, MI. Ten PRCUA
dance groups will participate.

**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 KENTWOOD, MI – MALBORK DANCE GROUP RE-
CITAL** on Sat., March 28 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Mary Magdalen
Catholic Church, 1253 52nd St. SE, Kentwood, MI. Admission: \$5 at
door (under five years old free), advance admission with meal, \$15. The
deadline to order the food/tickets: March 20. Information and reserva-
tions: malborkdancegroup@gmail.com.

**ST. CLAIR SHORES, MI – OPOLE DANCE SCHOOL 62nd AN-
NUAL RECITAL** on Sat., March 28 at Lakeshore H.S. Auditorium,
22980 13 Mile Rd., St. Clair Shores, MI. For more information, see pg. 21.

HALKA DANCERS 51ST ANNUAL RECITAL on Sun., March
29 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 60TH 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. Re-
cital at 3:00 p.m. For more information, see pg. 21.

**REDFORD CHARTER TWP., MI – WIELICZKA DANCE EN-
SEMBLE RECITAL** on Sun., March 29 at 2:00 p.m. at Westfield
Charter Academy, 27201 W. Chicago Dr., Redford Charter Twp., MI.
Dinner and Recital \$16.00. Contact Kristi Mihalic at 734-455-3504 for
more details.

APRIL

5 PALM SUNDAY

**WARREN, MI – 44TH ANNUAL POLSKIE MAKI DANCE
SCHOOL RECITAL** on Sun., Apr. 5 at 2:00 p.m. at Van Dyke Audi-
torium (at Lincoln High School), 22900 Federal, Warren, MI \$8.00 ad-
mission. For additional information, contact Maria Jalkiewicz at
586-979-5164.

**11 GOOD FRIDAY - THE PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED.**

12 EASTER

**15 LANSING, MI – WHITE EAGLE SOC. #2342 POT-
LUCK AND MEETING** on Wed., April 15 at the Federated
Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI. Contact: Veronica Ulrich
at 517-484-3311.

**17-19 WYANDOTTE, MI – 83RD NATIONAL PRCUA
BOWLING TOURNAMENT, HOSTED BY SOC.
#162** on Fri.-Sun., April 17-19 at Thunderbowl Lanes, 4200 Allen Rd.,
Allen Park, MI. For details see pg. 7.

**19 ST. JOHN PAUL POLISH SCHOOL ŚWIĘCONKA AND
POLANIE RECITAL** on Sun., Apr. 19.

**25 MUNSTER, IN – ST. RAPHAEL KALINOWSKI
SCHOOL FAMILY DAY (DZIEŃ RODZINY)** on Sat., Apr.
25 at 11:00 a.m. in the Carmelite Fathers Banquet Hall, 1628 Ridge Rd.,
Munster, IN. For additional information, contact Monika Otworowski
at 630-276-6764 or monikaotworowski@gmail.com

**WARREN, MI – ZAJĄCZEK DANCE GROUP 15TH ANNI-
VERSARY RECITAL** on Sat., April 25 at 2:30 p.m. at Warren Woods
Auditorium, 13400 E. 12 Mile Rd., Warren, MI. For more information,
see pg. 21.

ROGALIN DANCE TROUPE RECITAL on Sun., Apr. 25.

**26 DYER, IN – ANNUAL PRCUA ŚWIĘCONKA - HOSTED
BY DISTRICT 9** on Sunday, April 26 at Casa Maria, 500
Northgate Dr., Dyer, IN. Doors open at 12:00 p.m., lunch at 1:00 p.m.
For more information, see pg. 19.

**28 WARREN, MI – ST. JOHN PAUL II SOC. #1593 MEET-
ING** on Tues., April 28 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Anne Jr. H.S. (back build-
ing), 36000 Mound Rd., Warren, MI. Contact: Valerie Brumm at
248-622-8949 or valerie.brumm@gmail.com.

INTRODUCING PRCUALife

2020 ANNUITY SERIES

This Tax Season:

- ✓ EARN MORE MONEY
- ✓ MAXIMIZE your TAX REFUND
- ✓ BOOST your RETIREMENT INCOME
- ✓ JOIN **PRCUALife**

by opening a new PRCUALife Annuity or transferring your existing account*

ELITE — 8 year

3.75%
APY

3 YEAR GUARANTEE

STAR — 5 year

3.00%
APY

2 YEAR GUARANTEE

EDGE — 3 year

2.50%
APY

1 YEAR GUARANTEE

CORE — 3 year

2.00%
APY

minimum deposit

— \$500 —

effective 1/1/2020

minimum deposit \$2,500

limited time offer available 1/1/2020 through 4/15/2020

*For more information contact:



POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA | Life Insurance, Annuities & Member Benefits
984 N MILWAUKEE AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60642 | (800) 772-8632 | **PRCUA.ORG** |     



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.

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 or contact Mateusz Bomba at: 1-800-772-8632 ext. 2636; mateusz-bomba@prcua.org or your local PRCUA Sales Representative.

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

**ANNUAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019
OF THE POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION
OF AMERICA**

984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60642

ASSETS

Bonds.....	\$182,244,260
Stocks...(Preferred \$6,392,086 - Common \$402,000).....	6,794,086
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....	932,280
Real Estate Owned including Contract Sales.....	4,296,031
Certificate Loans.....	735,031
Cash on Hand and On Deposit.....	1,331,629
Short Term Investment.....	1,444,907
Electronic Data Processing Equipment.....	197,627
Premiums Actually Collected by Subordinate Lodges Not Yet Remitted to Home Office.....	55,362
Investment Income Due and Accrued.....	<u>2,414,895</u>

TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS

\$200,446,107

LIABILITIES, SPECIAL RESERVES AND UNASSIGNED FUNDS

Aggregate Reserve For Life Certificates and Contracts.....	\$183,647,169
Deposit – Type Contracts.....	-0-
Certificate and Contract Claims.....	1,262,334
Provisions For Refund Payable in Following Calendar Year.....	150,000
Life Premiums Received in Advance.....	448,367
Surrender Values on Canceled Certificates.....	17,458
Interest Maintenance Reserve.....	510,441
Commission to Field Workers Due or Accrued.....	15,138
General Expenses Due or Accrued.....	271,629
Taxes, Licenses and Fees Due or Accrued.....	76,366
Unearned Investment Income.....	550
Amounts Withheld or Retained by Society as Agent or Trustee.....	54,055
Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers	900,000
Assets Valuation Reserve.....	<u>2,049,394</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$189,402,901

Special Bonus Dividend Payable in Following Year	-0-
--	-----

Unassigned Funds.....	<u>\$11,043,206</u>
-----------------------	---------------------

TOTAL

\$200,446,107

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

(Excluding Unrealized Capital Gains and Losses)

Life and Annuity Premiums.....	\$6,764,565
Net Investment Income.....	10,061,607
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve.....	259,756
Reimbursement for Educational Stipends.....	<u>4,317</u>

TOTAL INCOME

\$17,090,246

DEDUCT:

Death Benefits.....	\$2,175,350
Matured Endowments.....	199,926
Annuity Benefits.....	5,977,387
Disability Benefits.....	633
Surrender Benefits.....	7,219,502
Interest on Certificates or Contract Funds.....	-0-
Supplementary Contracts with Life Contingencies.....	610,282
Supplementary Contracts without Life Contingencies.....	-0-

Increase in Aggregate Reserve for Certificates and Contracts

with Life Contingencies.....	(4,930,225)
Commission on Premiums.....	651,076
Contributions for Employees Benefits.....	189,016
General Insurance Expense and Fraternal Payments.....	5,151,091
Taxes, Licenses and Fees.....	<u>215,731</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$17,459,769

Net Gain From Operations Before Refunds to Members and Excluding

Realized Capital Gains and Losses.....	(\$369,523)
Refund to Members.....	<u>152,639</u>
Net Gain From Operations After Refunds to Members.....	(\$522,162)
Net Realized Capital Gains.....	<u>(55,946)</u>

NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS

(\$578,108)

UNASSIGNED FUNDS AND SPECIAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS

Unassigned Funds 12/31/18	\$11,802,052	Unassigned Funds 12/31/19	\$11,043,206
Change in Unrealized Gain	14,523	Liabilities for Pension	100,000
Change in Non-Admitted Assets	60,163	Net gain from operation	578,108
		Change in reserve	<u>155,424</u>

TOTALS

\$11,876,738

\$11,876,738

SUMMARY OF VALUATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR OF 2017

Number of Life Certificates	Amount of Insurance	Total Reserve
44,929	\$381,545,990	\$183,647,169

Expected Mortality on Gross Amounts at Risk.....	\$2,030,704
Net Death Losses Incurred in 2019 Less Reserve Released.....	652,074
Ratio Per Cent of Actual to Expected Mortality on Gross Amounts at Risk During 2019.....	32.11%

Net Investment Income.....	\$10,061,607
----------------------------	--------------

RATE OF NET INVESTMENT INCOME TO MEAN ASSETS

2015 - 5.07%	2016 - 5.16%	2017 - 5.14%
	2018 - 5.24%	2019 - 5.09%

RATIO OF ASSETS TO LIABILITIES

2015 - 103.35%	2016 - 103.98%	2017 - 106.20%
	2018 - 106.08%	2019 - 105.83%

The Society's valuation indicates that on the basis of the American Experience of 1941, 1958 and 1980, 2001 Commissioner's Standard Ordinary Table of Mortality with interest at 2.5% through 5.5%, the future assessments at the rates now collected together with the invested assets are sufficient to meet all certificates as they mature by their terms with a margin of safety of \$11,043,206 over the above statutory standard.

Respectfully submitted,
James J. Robaczewski, FIC, ALMI, ACS, President
Micheline I. Jaminski, ALMI, Vice President
Agnieszka J. Bastryk, FICF, ALMI, ACS, Secretary-Treasurer
Emily Kurda, ALMI, ACS, Controller
Steimla & Associates, Inc., FSA, FCIA, MAAA, FCA, Actuary

PRCUA RECOGNIZES TOP 2019 LIFE INSURANCE SALES REPRESENTATIVES

PRCUA would like to recognize its top 2019 Life Insurance Sales Representatives:

- Andrzej Sertler
- Marian Sertler
- Iwona Zawicki
- Karolina Sobczyk
- Michael Zwick

and Top 2019 Fraternal Life Insurance Sales Representatives:

- Anna Krysinski
- Krystyna Lech
- Robert Bielenda
- Michael Ozog
- Wallace Ozog

THANK YOU to the aforementioned sales representatives and to ALL of our sales force! We appreciate your support and contributions and look forward to a successful 2020. Your effort, time and talent are sincerely treasured!

Two of the top 2019 PRCUA life insurance sales representatives from Illinois were presented with awards during the PRCUA Agent Appreciation Dinner held on Saturday, February 1, at Maggiano's Little Italy in Oak Brook, IL.

The program began with

PRCUA Director of Sales Robert Fattore welcoming all participants and acknowledging the PRCUA Executives: President James Robaczewski, Vice President Micheline Jaminski and Secretary-Treasurer Agnes Bastrzyk, National Directors Anna Krysinski D-7, Myron Cislo D-8 and Beth Sadus D-9, and members of the Home Office staff: IT Director Kevin Ryba, Membership Department Manager Julie Prado and Annuity Services Representative Inna Parasych, Marketing Department Director Elzbieta Sawczuk, and *Naród Polski* Executive Editor Lidia Kowalewicz.

President Robaczewski thanked all the sales representatives for their efforts and efficiency, which resulted in an increase of life insurance and annuity production last year.

Agents' loyalty and devotion were also acknowledged by Director Fattore, who thanked them for representing the PRCUA. He also talked about the Sales Department's mission and goals and assured the agents of PRCUA's continuous efforts to better serve the members, the agents and their clients.

He closed the program with



Anna Krysinski (c) with the PRCUA Officers and Robert Fattore



Andrzej Sertler (c) with the PRCUA Officers and Robert Fattore

presentation of the awards to the top 2019 life insurance sales representatives: Anna Krysinski and Andrzej Sertler.

Anna Krysinski is the co-founder of Polonia Ensemble and is currently the National Director of PRCUA District 7. Anna produced 37 certificates.

Andy Sertler joined the PRCUA in October of 2017. He has recruited

and built a group of very productive, motivated and dedicated agents who issued 114 applications and who were also influential in acquiring two Polish language schools, which will be subsidized by the PRCUA.

Thank you to all the agents who attended in the event and congratulations on the outstanding job!

WINNERS OF THE 2019 CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Congratulations to the winners of the **PRCUA** 2019 Christmas Special Promotion, offered on all Single Pay Whole Life Insurance Certificate purchases for children age 2 weeks to 15 and 5 months. The prize drawing took place on February 15, 2020.

ANDREW MOCZULSKI was born in April 2019.

His parents are Lindsay Bielski and Thomas Moczulski and he has a big brother, Jacob, who is 5. Jacob is also a PRCUA Society #162 member and dances with the Rogalin Dance Group. Andrew is a 4th generation PRCUA member. His great grandfather, Charles Bosman, once served as President of Society #162. Andrew's grandparents signed him up for PRCUA because they wanted



him to be able to take advantage of all the cultural and fraternal opportunities within the organization. They hope Andrew will have fond memories of PRCUA, just like his family members before him. They also hope Andrew learns the Polish language (his dad speaks fluently), will enjoy learning more about his heritage through holiday celebrations and participation in Rogalin, and will have the opportunity to travel to Poland soon to meet his family there!

RHETT WHEELER

is 5-months-old. He is the son of Jaden Hodgkins and David Wheeler from Collinsville, IL. Rhett has a big brother August, age 3. Rhett had his first Polish Hall Christmas at St. Stanislaus Lodge in Madison, IL, in



December 2019. He will also celebrate the 103rd anniversary of the Polish Hall in Madison on May 3rd.

HOLDEN HERSCHBACH is a 5-months-old happy little boy. His great grandma on his mom's side is 100% Polish. His mom grew up attending many family events at Polish Hall in Madison, IL, and was even on their Polish dance team. It is a tradition in Holden's family that every child receives life insurance through PRCUA. Holden's parents believe learning about his family culture is very important. Holden will be taught to appreciate his heritage and grow up eating delicious traditional Polish food. Holden has yet to crawl, but you can bet he will learn how to polka as soon as he is stable on two feet.



Welcome to our PRCUA Family!

DEARLY DEPARTED PRCUA BROTHERS AND SISTERS



Member	Society	State	Member	Society	State
Anielak, Bernadette	31	IL	Moskal, Maxie J.	549	MA
Artkop, David	389	VT	Nieciecki, Dolores	1147	IL
Bargiel, Beverly K.	1004	IL	Patrick, Cassandra	1580	IL
Batkiewicz, Daniel	1486	TX	Pietrowicz, Jane	632	NY
Buczkiewicz, Ted	2248	OH	Plewa, John L.	802	NJ
Cichon, Dianne	1486	CT	Plewa, Veronica	1118	OH
Ciepiela, Edward	1593	MI	Podgurny, Felice J.	2009	PA
Cole, Thomas J.	162	MI	Polhopek, Helena	880	IL
Diskevich, Helen	1000	FL	Reinke, Russell A.	475	IL
Dolub, Stefania	2220	OH	Relford, Kayla M.	1617	OH
Drodz, Ronald Paul	597	CT	Romanic, Helen	1004	MO
Gaydos, Lillian	308	IL	Rudman, Josephine	977	OH
Golembiewski, Bernadine	2303	WI	Rudnick, Barbara	308	IL
Gula, Theresa H.	531	PA	Rybicka, Evelyn	1593	CA
Haven, Doris	2308	WI	Savickas, John	78	MI
Helstowski, Loretta	162	MI	Sczesny, Clara	283	AZ
Jachimiec, Tomas	413	IN	Sicina, Marion	750	NY
Jachryra, Henrietta A.	1368	MI	Sikorski, John D.	413	IL
Jakubiec, Ludwik	540	OH	Smolarkiewicz, Leonard R.	1111	MI
Kaczor, Jolanta	412	IL	Sobolewski, Thomas J.	1492	FL
Krzeminski, Roger	1583	MI	Stiller, Irvin F.	527	MD
Kseniak, Dorothy T.	20	NJ	Sujdak, Veronica	29	PA
Kuca, Bruno	1004	IL	Tuszynski, Alexander	1593	MI
Kudla, Stanley	290	IL	Tylinski, Loretta	139	IL
Kulesza, Martha T.	124	OH	Valenti, Mary	450	MO
Lagoski, Teddy	105	KS	VanHese, Agnes	1593	MI
Lotarski, Frances	2100	OH	Welsh, Edward	295	PA
Maczka, Thomas	817	WI	Wierzba, Jean	2315	WI
Michalski, Robert	2100	OH	Yarosz, John	2002	PA
Misiak, Gerald S.	87	MI	Zydel, Ronald J.	317	IL
Misiuda, Linda	1584	OH			

PAUL PAWLOWSKI RECEIVES FRATERNAL AWARD

Congratulations to Paul Pawlowski, President of PRCUA District 9, on receiving the Fraternal Award during the annual Heritage Awards Banquet, held on Sunday, November 17, 2019 at the Innsbrook Country Club in Merrillville, IN. PRCUA President James Robaczewski presented the award to Paul.

Paul Pawlowski was honored for his fraternal activities. He is currently the President of PRCUA District 9, which includes South Chicago and Northwest Indiana. He has been Sergeant-at-Arms and flag bearer at the PRCUA National Conventions. Paul is involved in the PRCUA St. Raphael Kalinowski Polish Dance and Language School and with the Polish American Community Fair. His other activities, both past and present include: South Holland Jay-

ces, Moose Lodge #828 Hunting Club, South Chicago Bowling Club, Navy Pier Fall Festivals, Food for Poland project, PNA Chicago Society, FEMA Emergency Response Team, and ownership of the Pawlowski Polish Home.

Three other awardees at the banquet were: Honorable Anthony Copeland, Calumet City Treasurer - The Civic Award; James S. Pula, Profesor of History at Purdue University Northwest - the Distinguished Service Award; and Mark Kolasa, President of the Polish Heritage Association of Michigan City, Inc. - the Heritage Award.

Thank you, Paul, for all your work for the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. We wish you many more successes in all your future endeavours!

83rd PRCUA National Bowling Tournament

April 17-19, 2020 – Wyandotte, MI

The 83rd National PRCUA Bowling Tournament will be held on April 17th, 18th and 19th at Thunderbowl Lanes. It is being hosted by Sacred Heart of Jesus Society #162.

SPORTS VENUE:

Thunderbowl Lanes
4200 Allen Road, Allen Park, MI
(313) 928-4688; www.thunderbowl.org
The bowling facility has enough lanes to accommodate our entire group.

SQUAD TIMES:

- Doubles/Singles Friday, April 17 @ 11:00 a.m
- Team Event Saturday, April 18 @ 11:30 a.m
(Opening ceremony will be at 11:00 AM)
- Doubles/Singles Sunday, April 19 @ 9:00 a.m

To secure your entry (and preferred squad day for doubles/singles event), send in your completed entry form promptly along with the appropriate entry fees by the deadline. **Please be sure to fill in all information on your entry form. This year we will start using tournament averages** (please see the "Average" section of the Tournament's Rules and Regulations for more details).

****The deadline for submitting your entry is FRIDAY, MARCH 20th****

At the bowling facility there will be a tournament office with complimentary coffee every morning. This is where you will check-in, pick additional tournament information and store bowling balls securely overnight.

RAFFLES: offered by Society #162

- 50/50 raffle each game, each day
- Bowling ball raffle
- Jackpots for both men and women, details provided at bowling facility

LODGING:

La Quinta Inn, 12888 Reeck Rd., Southgate, MI; (734) 374-3000
Rate: \$67 (2 people) / \$75 (4 people) plus tax. Code: PRCUA Bowling
Comfort Inn and Suites, 18950 Northline Rd., Southgate, MI; (734) 287-9200
Rate \$109.00 plus tax. Code: PRCU Bowling

Room Rates/Hotel Info:

- Must be booked before 4/03/20 and is subject to availability
- Both hotels include complimentary breakfast

HOSPITALITY: Thursday & Friday, April 16&17

Society #162 Lounge, 430 Oak Street, Wyandotte, MI

Generously offering two nights of complimentary draft beer and wine along with light snacks from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Lounge opens at 6:00 p.m.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY MASS:

Details on Mass offerings will be provided at Society #162 Lounge.

AWARDS CEREMONY – Saturday, April 18 at Society #162 Lounge

- COMPLIMENTARY Dinner and cash bar
- Doors open at 6:00 p.m., Dinner served at 6:30-6:54 p.m.
- Awards at approximately 9:00 p.m.
- Music and dancing by The New Brass Express from 7:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

For entry forms and more information, visit www.prcua.org/sports.

WESOŁY LUD WINTER DINNER DANCE 2020

By Micheline Jaminski



Wesoly Lud dancers with PRCUA President James Robaczewski and Vice President Micheline Jaminski, choreographer Richard Jaminski and his assistant Michael Dziadkowiec

It seems like the Wesoly Lud Masquerade Winter Dinner Dance was just yesterday, and yet it's only been a month. Held at Camelot Banquets in Hickory Hills, IL, the celebration of six dancers marking a milestone anniversary was topped only by the glitz and glamour of the evening. (Each of these Wesoly Lud stars performed a solo flanked by ensemble numbers found in the current repertoire of Representations I and II including suites of dances and songs from the regions of Rzeszów, Lubusk, Górny Śląsk, with a grande finale of the Killer Bees Polka.)

Sylvia Kupiec, 25, a 10-year member of Wesoly Lud, is currently pursuing her Master's Degree as a Clinical Mental Health Counselor at Lewis University in Romeoville, IL. She works as a TMS technician at Success TMS in Hinsdale. She started dancing at 4 years old at the Southwest Center of Polish Song and Dance (SWCPSD) and after graduating to Wesoly Lud when she started high school, continued at SWCPSD as a part of the teaching team. She was selected Cinderella in 2012. "I am excited to celebrate dancing in Wesoly Lud for 10 years now.



Sylvia Kupiec
with Kacper Szumiec

I am so happy to have been part of a group that I can call my second family." Sylvia performed the Warszawski duet with Kacper Szumiec, who also presented her with her award at the conclusion of the show.

Camilla Steczek, 25, was the second 10-year member of Wesoly Lud to be honored at this event. Her dance career began at age 5 at the SWCPSD until she graduated to Wesoly Lud. Camilla has been a dance instructor at SWCPSD for eight years and a candidate at the Cinderella-Prince Charming Ball where she won runner-up one year. A graduate of the Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School, Camilla also taught Polish language at the Maria Konopnicka Polish School. She is an avid traveler and studied abroad in Australia. She graduated from Lewis University in 2017 and is currently enrolled at Governors State University pursuing a Master of Health Sciences in Addiction Studies. Camilla performed an Oberek duet with alumnus Robert Kroplewski, who also presented her with her plaque.

The following four Wesoly Lud members received their five-year awards:



Camilla Steczek
with Robert Kroplewski

Anna Cieplucha, 19, a graduate from Reavis High School, is currently a student at Saint Xavier University in Chicago, majoring in Finance. She attended Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School and began dancing at the SWCPSD at age 5.



Anna Cieplucha
with Ivona Jablonski-Gal

Carolina Kukulski, 19, is a student at Moraine Valley Community College. She works at a travel agency where she assists in translating documents from English to Polish. She started dancing with the SWCPSD at the age of 8 and continued until high school when she graduated to Wesoly Lud. "I thank God for where I am today with life and being committed and dancing in Wesoly Lud for 5 years."

Weronika Niedzielski, 20, is a junior at Saint Xavier University majoring in Biology Pre-Medical and minoring in Studio Art and Chemistry. She is the president of the Polish Student Association at the college. "Through my years in Wesoly Lud, I had many wonderful experiences and made lifelong friends. I cannot imagine my life without dance, and I will forever treasure the memories I have made. I hope to continue to pass on the Polish culture through song and dance." Weronika has been a dance instructor at SWCPSD for the last 6 years. She was also a candidate at the Cinderella-Prince Charming Ball and is a high school graduate of the Maria Konopnicka Polish School, where she currently volunteers, working on a certification in Polish early education.



Weronika Niedzielski
with Michael Dziadkowiec

Alexander Labudzki is 19 years old and has been a Polish folk dancer for eleven years, with five years in Wesoly Lud, starting at the SWCPSD. He is a student at Saint Xavier University, working toward a degree in Business with a concentration in Finance. At Saint Xavier, Alex is a board member of the Business Student Association and the vice president of the Polish Student Association. Alex is to graduate in Spring 2020.



Alexander Labudzki with
Anna Kraszewski-Winkler

For their solo presentations, Ania Cieplucha presented the Mazur duet with Alex Labudzki; Weronika Niedzielski performed the Kujawiak with fellow Wesoly Lud dancer Mitchell Gajda; and Carolina Kukulski together with Kuba Stypula danced the Jive. Award presentations to these individuals were made by former ten-year veterans of Wesoly Lud: Ania Kraszewski-Winkler, Ivona Jablonski-Gal, Danielle Lech-Kroplewski and Michael Dziadkowiec (also Dance Assistant of Wesoly Lud).

Applauding the efforts of the Artistic Director and Choreographer of Wesoly Lud, Richard Jaminski, and the amazing dance team of Wesoly Lud were family and friends together with PRCUA President and Mrs. James Robaczewski, Vice President Micheline Jaminski, National District 8 Directors Elizabeth Dynowski and Myron Cislo, District 8 Vice President Krystyna Lech its Secretary Danielle Kroplewski, and the Adult Culture Group with Edward Muszalski at the helm. President Robaczewski led all in prayers before our delicious meal. Emcees were Anna Kraszewski-Winkler (Managing Director of the SWCPSD) and Joanna Niedzielski (Vice President of the M. Konopnicka Polish School Board). Decorating committee: Camilla Steczek, Sylvia Kupiec, Ania Cieplucha, Carolina Kukulski, and Albert Kopinski. Thank you to all who continue to support the Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Company, especially the PRCUA.

Save the date for 2021: January 17, Camelot Banquets, Hickory Hills, IL.

BAL MŁODZIEŻOWY BRINGS OHIO POLONIA TOGETHER

By Mitchell Bienia, District #5 PRCUA National Director

A grand, glitzy, elegant event brought Polonia of Northeast Ohio together to celebrate the *Bal Młodzieżowy* Debutante and Cavalier Crystal Presentation Ball on Saturday, January 25, 2020.

The Ball was under the patronage of the Polish American Congress – Ohio Division, which served as fiscal agent.

Co-chairing the event were PRCUA Director Mitchell Bienia, and Polish Youngstown Executive Director Aundrea Cika Heschmeyer. Hard-working committee members were Monica Sochecki, President of the Polonia Foundation of Ohio, and Bernadette Zubel, former Director, PNA.

The primary sponsor of the event was the PRCUA, with PNA and other Polonia organizations from Northeast Ohio, including Strongsville Mayor Thomas Peciak, Polish American Congress – Ohio Division, Cleveland Society of Poles (CSOP), Polonia Foundation of Ohio, Tremont City Side Ballroom, and Thad Cooke, long-time Polonia supporter of Cleveland.

Debutantes were Mihalina Dziadyniak, Anastazja Golab (PRCUA Society 2159), Millie Heschmeyer, and Catherine Katrenich. The lone Cavalier was Michal Golab (PRCUA Society 2159,) who was awarded a \$500 scholarship for his essay about a person who personifies Polish culture, his father. After extending greetings from Chicago and the Home Office, PRCUA President James Robaczewski presented monetary awards of \$250 each to Mihalina Dziadyniak and Catherine Katrenich. Millie Cika Heschmeyer and Anastazja Golab received \$250 monetary awards presented by Joseph Magielski, PNA Director.

Remarking on the event, Robert Rybka, Advocate of Cleveland Society of Poles, wrote:

“Dear Aundrea and Mitch, the Debutante & Cavalier Ball was perfectly beautiful, delicious and enjoyable in every aspect and detail. The Agnieszka Kotlarski-choreographed Polonez was outstanding, the Grand Polonez, led by Cathy and Tom, was

exuberantly shared. The Kent State US Air Force ROTC Cadets were far superior to the former West Point Cadets of CSOP Balls. I have never heard a finer Mazurek Dabrowskiego than by Joanne Uniatowski (all of the evening's music was excellent as well). I changed my travel calendar to join the Katrenich family presentation, and am so pleased that I did. To have missed the *Bal Młodzieżowy* would have been a great loss, and the evening was a great value, far exceeding the ticket price. The intimacy of the gathering contributed to the warmth of the evening, though it is a shame that more of our Polonia were not present to share



Debutantes and Cavalier with the Cadets from Kent State University

the joy. I congratulate you both for executing an outstanding Deb Ball. I attended every CSOP Deb Ball, from when I was a teenager, chairing two of them, and two of the Kosciuszko Foundation New York Balls at the Waldorf Fostoria, and none has been more enjoyable.

Thank you for a most enjoyable and memorable evening.” Ever grateful, Robert.

Please read a detailed *Bal Młodzieżowy* article on PRCUA website: prcu.org.



Debutantes and Cavalier with their parents



L-r: D-5 Director Tom Jesionowski, Rev. Eric Orzech, Catherine Katrenich, Mihalina Dziadyniak, PRCUA President James Robaczewski, co-chairmen Aundrea Cika-Heschmeyer and PRCUA D-5 Director Mitchell Bienia, Millie Heschmeyer, Anastazja Golab, Michał Golab, committee member Monika Sochecki

2020 RYDER CUP BOWLING XI

ST. STAN'S #718 DEFEATS WYANDOTTE #162

By Robert Hojnacki

Saturday January 18, 2020 was the date for the 11th annual Ryder Cup Bowling Bash between St. Stan's #718 and Wyandotte #162. The event took place at Indian Lanes in Wyandotte, MI and for the 2nd straight year we had to take on a nice winter storm, but to everyone's credit we had full participation. The Ryder Cup series has continued to attract members since it began 11 years ago with 160 bowlers participating and over 200 people attending from the 2 societies (an all time record). The series has #718 leading 6 victories to 5 victories for #162.

The format was the same for all 3 games:

- 4 person teams on the team event.
- Alternate shot will be 2 person teams, you and your partner will alternate shots, rotating leading off each frame.
- The individual game will be you versus a member of the other society.
- All scores for all games were handicapped based on the person's average.
- All games are based on 1 point similar to the PGA Ryder Cup event.

It was another fun match as it was tied in the first game, #718 took a 4pt lead in the second, and in the end #718 held onto the 4pt lead to post a 32 to 28 point victory. It was the first time we had a few participants from St. Rita's and PJP societies. Afterward, everyone headed back to the #162 PRCUA Hall in Wyandotte, MI where over 180 people enjoyed beverages, food and music well into the night.

Special thanks to:

- Mike Halberstat for organizing the #162 members
- Stan Pasko for producing the shirts.
- Randy Lanfair & Rita Nasiatka 50/50 sales.
- Tom Hojnacki, Mark Hamilton, Stan Pasko, Max Hojnacki, John Pilon, and Dennis Butka for helping with scores.
- Max Hojnacki on the shirt design.
- Both societies for participating.

Great time!

See the photos of all participating teams on the PRCUA website: prcu.org.

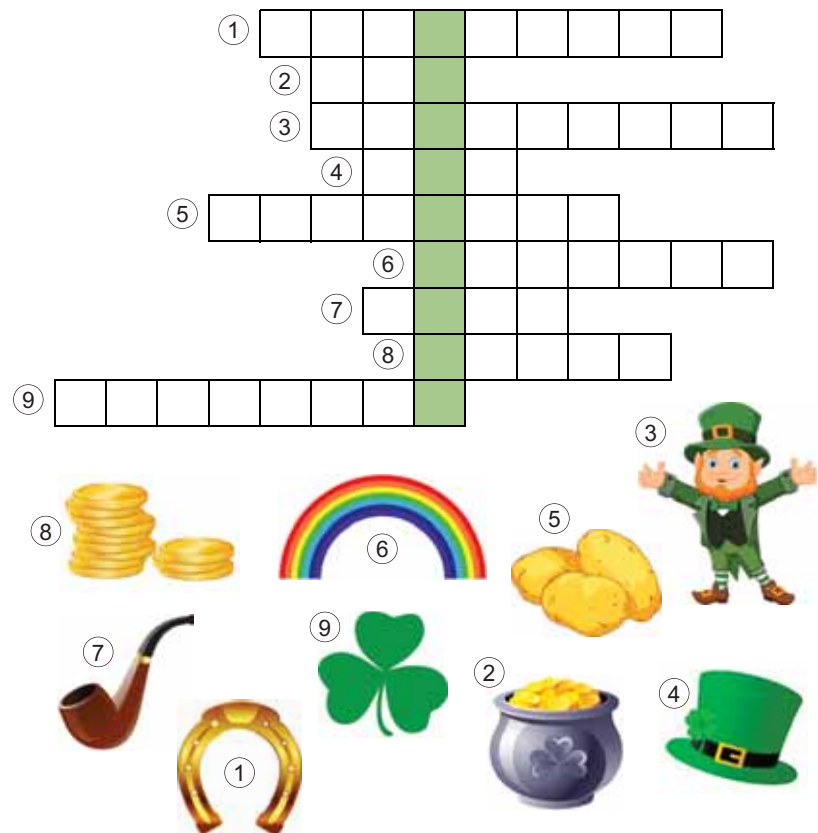


Kids Activity Page!

1. Color the picture.



2. Fill in the puzzle, using the pictures as clues.
Read the answer.



4. Help the hungry caterpillar get to the yummy green breakfast.

3. Find the items on the picture.



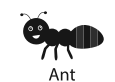
Find this part
on the picture

1. How many ants on the picture?
2. How many ladybugs on the picture?
3. How many bees on the picture?

Find
on the picture



Grasshopper



Ant



Bee



Butterfly



Ladybug



Answers on pg. 17



The Open Door Otwarte Drzwi

Micheline "Misia" Jaminski

Vice President | wiceprezes
micheline-jaminski@prcu.org

"IN LIKE A LION, OUT LIKE A LAMB. March roars in like a lion so fierce, the wind so cold, it seems to pierce. The month rolls on, and spring draws near. And March goes out like a lamb so dear." (Lorie Hill). Speaking of lambs, I must take this opportunity to wish my little Ariana (carries "Lambie" with her still) a very happy golden birthday (she'll be four on March 4), as well as to my niece Kayla and brother-in-law Jacek.

It's been a great carnival season and the fun seemed never-ending, but now the Lenten season is upon us and through prayer, reflection, fasting, penance and a little less ego, we give our minds and bodies a well-deserved retreat from the daily marathon of our lives. Sounds easy, but is it? In a world of endless to-do lists, we are challenged every day to take a breath and relax. I have an Apple watch that tells me to breath or to stand up (hard to do when you are driving on an expressway, but I digress). Have we truly lost the art of taking a moment to be in that moment? To reflect on that which we have accomplished and not dwell on what still needs to be done? To just be still. Meditation – mindful meditation to be precise – is the buzz word of now, but isn't that what prayer is? I will join all of those who also will take this time to make a conscious effort to cleanse the mind, body and soul in preparation for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Where will your journey take you this Lenten season?

On January 31, Marketing Director Elżbieta Sawczuk and I had the privilege of attending a parents' meeting at the Holy Cross Polish School in Joliet, IL. Professional agents Andrzej Sertler and Joanna Stoch (a former Polish school teacher) have been instrumental in promoting **PRCUALife** products to the students, and with the cooperation and support of Principal Dorota Grzegorzewicz and Asst. Principal Barbara Szuba, Holy Cross Polish School will benefit from PRCUA pa-

tronage. Welcome to the school and thank you for your hospitality!

The month of February this year was chockful of merriment. It began with an Agent's Appreciation Dinner on the 1st. A strong showing of new members is credited to professional agents, who lead in promoting the PRCUA through sales. Sales Director Robert Fattore organized the event, which was held at Maggiano's Little Italy in Oak Brook. Invited to the event were the top agents of 2019, headed by professional agent Andrzej Sertler and fraternal agent Anna Krysinski. The Executive Officers and department managers joined in the festivities. We commend our agents for a job well done and encourage more agencies to join our bandwagon. **PRCUALife** has outstanding products and we hope more individuals take advantage of the opportunities these products provide. Review your own certificates and see if they continue to fulfill your retirement and financial security needs. If not, give the Sales staff a call or drop an email – robertfattore@prcu.org (773-782-2631) or michael-dziadkowiec@prcu.org (773-782-2642).

Danielle Kroplewski and Krystyna Lech chaired a fun-filled afternoon on behalf of District 8 entitled "It's Polka Time" at Janosik Banquets in Hickory Hills, IL. Serving the district as Secretary and Vice President respectively, this dynamic mother-daughter duo was assisted by Emilia, Karolinka, Aleksandra and Anthony Kroplewski as well as the "Raffle Twins," Mary Brzezniak and Diane Cortesi. District President James Rustik joined in the welcoming of guests and PRCUA President Robaczewski led the prayer before the meal. Games such as "Who stole the kiszka" (a version of Hot Potato), a Right-Left game, dance contests for different age categories and a money raffle made for much laughter and silliness to melt any worries away.

If anyone complained about not having anywhere to go on February



"It's Polka Time" luncheon

8 and you were in the Chicagoland area – you didn't read the Calendar of Events. It was Zabawa Night! President and Mrs. Robaczewski were "footloose" and fancy free at the St. Raphael Kalinowski Polish School Zabawa in Munster, IN. School Board President Monica Otworowski and Mała Polska Choreographer Agata Wilgocki persuaded the Robaczewskis to show their fancy footwork on the dance floor. The Mała Polska Dancers performed their newest selections and everyone had a great time, much to the satisfaction of D-10 Director Elizabeth Sadus, who joined in the festivities as well.

In the meantime, Richard and I attended the Maria Konopnicka Polish School Zabawa together with D-8 Directors Elizabeth Dynowski and Mirek Cislo (both alumnae of the school) at Paradise Banquets. The School Board, consisting of President Danielle Kroplewski, Vice President Joanna Niedzielski and Treasurer Malgorzata Garbarz, greeted all the guests and parents with their usual exuberance. Although the parents and guests took the dance floor by storm, there were guest appearances by a local hip-hop group and by several former students who are now in Wesoły Lud. Lovely people, lovely evening!

While the PRCUA President and Secretary-Treasurer attended the 140th Anniversary of the Polish National Alliance on Sunday, January 16, Richard and I travelled to Wyandotte, MI to see the dress rehearsal of the Michigan Ball graduates. Unable to attend the main event (which was held the following week), we surprised our graduates and school directors alike with our unexpected visit. Choreographer Kelly Malinowski did a wonderful job with a very talented and well-mannered group of young adults and Chairper-

son Pat Steven, assisted by her committee (the Michigan school directors), were busy with last minute tasks. Back in Illinois, D-8 Director Mirek Cislo and past Supervisor Edward Muszalski represented PRCUA at the Polish Day in Lemont.

The 2020 Carnival season began its grand finale with pączki and faworki (chruściki) for Fat Thursday, thanks to President Robaczewski, who stood in line for over an hour to get some of the best and freshest pączki for the PRCUA (and PMA) employees. Editor Lidia Kowalewicz found time to make the best chruściki ever! I have often questioned the Fat Thursday vs Fat Tuesday observance and found that the former was and continues to be a traditional Catholic feast designating the last Thursday before Lent (Polish *Środy* czwartek; Hungarian *törökcsütörtök*, German *Fetter Donnerstag*, or carnival related - *Weiberfastnacht*; Greek *Τσικνοπέμπτη* (Tsiknopempti) and the latter Mardi Gras is the French tradition and means Fat Tuesday. Suffice it to say that if it is good luck to eat a pączek on Fat Thursday, then why not double the odds and have them on both days? This is exactly what we did at the PRCUA – now to play the lottery and test the theory! (Cont. on pg. 13)



Director Colleen Bonkowski (c) receiving flowers and a 25th anniversary plaque from Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastrzyk (l) and President James Robaczewski (r)



James Robaczewski and Agnieszka Bastrzyk with the Michigan graduates and their escorts



Michigan schools' directors, choreographers and teachers with Rev. Walter Ptak, past and present PRCUA Officers and Directors, and their spouses

the Tatry Dancers, who had a mishap two days earlier. We wish her a speedy recovery.

On the same day in Illinois, both the St. John Paul II Polish School and the Polish Club of Lemont celebrated their 40th Anniversaries together with the 20th Anniversary of the Polanie Dancers affiliated with the school. Richard and I attended this event with much anticipation as we

were both affiliated with Polanie and I with the school's previous artistic groups as well. The school has been under the patronage of the PRCUA since the early 1980s, thanks to the efforts of PRCUA Vice President Regina Ocwieja and then School President Victoria Para. The presence of PRCUA has been more prominent in the last twenty years with the establishment of the Polanie Dancers and those affiliated with both, including former Vice President Anna Sokolowski, the artistic directors and choreographers: Basia Rozwadowski-Eckert, Anthony Dobrzanski, Richard Jaminski, Michael Dziadkowiec and from 2007-2014, myself and dance instructors: Elizabeth Sliwa-Tomala, Barbara Wargacki-Skrzypiec, Renee Bober-Kroplewski, Virginia Gavaghan-Stekala, Kalina Dziadkowiec-Gorczyca, among many others. Of the latter, there is one that began as an original Polanie Dancer and for the last several years is one of the dance instructors whose daughter, Kalina, is now dancing – Patricia Szyrzyna. The evening's program was emceed by D-8 Director Mirek Cislo and teacher Anna Watkins and included an artistic program performed by the dancers as well as the Polish Club Choir. We applauded each of the entities celebrating their anniversaries and the efforts of



Students performing at the JPPI and Polanie Anniversaries



Receiving the medal from Consul Piotr Janicki at the JPPI and Polanie Anniversaries
all students, teachers, members and those at the helm: Halina Szyrzyna - Principal, Malgorzata Śnieżko - School Board President, Michael Dziadkowiec - the artistic director and choreographer of Polanie and Richard Witkowski – president of the Polish Club of Lemont. Of all the awards, designations and accolades presented at this event by the Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, Piotr Janicki, and local politicians including Dan Lipinski, U.S. Representative for Illinois's 3rd Congressional District, I was honored to receive a Medal of the National Education Committee: Polish Departmental Distinction, awarded for special merit for education and cultural awareness by the Minister of National Education.

Editor Lidia Kowalewicz represented the PRCUA at the annual Carnival Family Ball hosted by the Polonia Ensemble, also held on February 22nd. D-7 Director and Managing Director of Polonia Ensemble, Anna Krysinski, together with choreographer Jaclyn Krysinski, Musical Director Mieczyslaw Dzis and dance instructors Nicole Romek and Emilia Wojciak, and the Parents Committee, provided a fun-filled evening of dining, dancing and an amazing show!

The 2020 Census continues to be a topic of conversation in the media and within the Polish American community as well. Several meetings have taken place, organized by the Polish American Congress, for the executives of Polonia organizations. When the time comes, remember to record your race and ethnicity – make sure you write in POLISH unless it shows up on the form. Let's be proud and Polish in the 2020 Census!

With Ash Wednesday, the 2020 Carnival Season has officially ended and just as I began this article, I now bring it full circle to its conclusion. I ask for prayers for the Tatry Dancers' assistant, Kaitlyn Gordon, and her family, as well as for Rose Ann Lackey and all who are on the mend. I extend my belated but sincere condolences to the family of Petronella Latuszek, age 81, who passed away on January 13, 2020. Pat was the beloved wife of Walter, loving mother of Michael (Judy) Latuszek, Nancy (John) Golemo and Mary Jo (William) Mistal. She was a grandmother and a great-grandmother. She served the PRCUA in many capacities, even as a school director of the PRCUA Wisła Dancers (1970-1971). Shortly before this issue went to print, we learned of the passing of Ernie Pindzia, a long-standing member and sergeant-at-arms of PRCUA Society #718 and a regular participant in the PRCUA sporting events through the years either as an active participant or cheerleader. Ernie was the recipient of the 2018 Joe Osmanski Award for Bowler of the Year. He and his late wife Pat were involved with PRCUA's Tatry Dance Group where Pat was a School Director. Ernie is survived by four children, 5 grandchildren and many, many friends. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them..... Rest in Peace, dear friends.

NEWS FROM ZAJĄCZEK ENSEMBLE

By Karrie Westphal, Secretary
Zajączyk Dance Ensemble

A FAMILY BREAKFAST

It was four days before Christmas and the atmosphere was energized with spirit at the American Polish Century Club in Sterling Hts., MI. Chaos lingered in the air, as the students from Zajączyk Dance Ensemble gathered along with their families, at the club for their annual Family Christmas Breakfast. As everyone prepared for the staging of our yearly Christmas pageant, the smells of a delicious menu filled the banquet hall. Dressed in their ugliest Christmas sweaters, Zajączyk Dance families settled in their seats, as our younger dancers dressed as angels, wise men, Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus, made their way into the hall. As our older dancers sang Christmas carols, the 2020 graduates Andrew Saunders and



Madelyn Brown, were narrating the story of the birth of Jesus. At the completion of this amazing performance, Rachael Kasperek, one of two Zajączyk choreographers, presented baby Jesus with a birthday cake. The group sang *Happy Birthday* and *Sto Lat* to Jesus. As our younger dancers changed back into their Christmas pajamas, our breakfast was ready and waiting!

This was the sign that it was time for Deacon Piotr Kosk, seminarian from Orchard Lake, to begin our prayer of grace before our meal. He began with telling us about his Christmas traditions in Poland with his family. He expressed how happy he was, to be able to share our annual Christmas breakfast tradition with the group, and how thankful he was for all that we have done for him. Deacon Kosk recited a beautiful prayer of thanksgiving both in Polish and English.

During all of these events, families had the opportunity to win various raffle baskets, purchase a Share the Wealth ticket, have their child's face painted, or get a special creation from our fabulous balloon designer. As breakfast soon became

a memory, our 2020 graduates wandered the hall, evaluating Christmas sweaters to select the winners of the Ugliest Christmas Sweater Contest! This was such a proud moment for not only the graduates, but for the two selected individuals who could actually be labeled as "Uniquely Christmas"! Finally, the moment we had all been waiting for - a guest arrived in a red suit, with a white beard, carrying a bag full of gifts for all! Word has it, he traveled all the way from Poland to join us on Saturday, December 21, 2019. May God continue to bless our Polish dance family in the days to come!



EVERYTHING IS PICTURE PERFECT

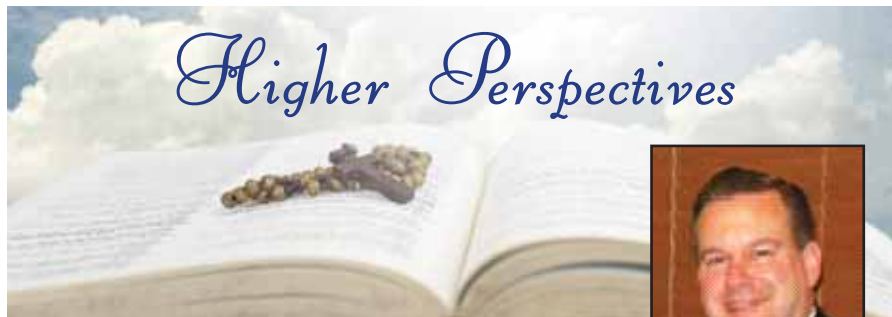
Mom, where are my boots and my wianek? Where are my hat and ribbons? Ms. Colleen... ..help!! Yes, these were the scattered questions as Zajączyk Dance Ensemble hosted their annual picture night at the American Polish Century Club in Sterling Heights, Michigan, on Thursday, January 23, 2020. From our youngest group members in Male Zajączyk, to our 2020 graduate dancers, An-

drew Saunders and Madelyn Brown, everyone worked in harmony with the photographer, capturing the beauty of all the costumes and the lively smiles. Organized chaos always seizes time capturing moments, on the other side of the camera!

We hope you can join us, on Saturday, April 25, 2020 for our 15th Dance Recital at Warren Woods Auditorium, 13400 12 Mile Road, Warren, Michigan, 48088 at 2:30 pm. We promise you an afternoon of Music, Song, and Dance.



Higher Perspectives



"SAINT JOSEPH, BE OUR GUIDE"



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

The contemporary social scene in our country has no problem in the month of March remembering to commemorate a certain English lad who was kidnapped by pirates, sold into slavery, ran away to become a priest, and came back as a great missionary to his adopted people, effectively forming the Church among them, as well as their national identity: St. Patrick. Far too few remember two days later the solemnity of the Universal Patron of the Church, a man mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer of every Mass, the patron saint of - among other things - fathers and a happy death, someone dear to Poles and many other nations, and someone whose feast day is always a welcome "oasis" to our Lenten fasting: St. Joseph.

As the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster father of our Lord Jesus Christ, St. Joseph has been highly honored by the Church throughout its history because he himself was highly honored by God in being chosen for the roles he played so faithfully and well. St. John Paul II wrote a beautiful encyclical letter about him called "Guardian of the Redeemer" - which would be great Lenten reading, by the way. The Church, however, doesn't do such things without reason - and always for the added purpose of our own benefit, too - so perhaps it would do well for us this month of March to reflect a little upon just some of the traits of St. Joseph as food for thought and growth in our own lives. After all, like May is the month of Mary and June the month of the Sacred Heart, March is observed as the month of St. Joseph, so such actions would be most timely.

First and most obviously, in all of the events associated with St. Joseph in the gospels, he goes about doing the will of God without ever having a word of his recorded. That's right, as far as the scriptures are concerned, St. Joseph never speaks! This might seem odd until we recall the old adage of "actions speak louder than words." St. Joseph doesn't have to talk to get his point across. He shows us the importance of putting our faith into practice by the way he lived his life in obedience to God's Will. This is always a good point of reflection. While it doesn't mean we can't or shouldn't talk (though moderation in this regard can certainly be laudatory), it does mean that maybe the next time we do, we'll make sure our words are backed-up by our faithful actions.

Second, in the Mass prayers for his feast, St. Joseph is called a "wise" and faithful steward. What does it mean to be truly wise? While there are many approaches to such a question, in the New Testament letter of St. James, we have an answer that brilliantly illustrates the wisdom of St. Joseph, where he writes, "Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good life let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity. And the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." (James 3:13;17-18)

Now there are some lines to take with you on retreat or to spend some time reflecting upon! The last time you made a decision, did it pass the "St. Joseph Test"? Was it done with pure intentions? Was it done in tranquility and without animosity or hostile passion? Was it open to the best of the opinions of others and found to be sound? Did it have the intention of being wholesome to achieve the greatest possible good? All this would lead to a sound decision which we could not only "live with" (which people not using such a process are so often forced to do) but it will lead to true contentment and lead to peace - regardless of what the outcome might be - because we

went about doing it the right way.

Thirdly, those same Mass prayers call St. Joseph a "just" man. No wonder! If you combine the second and first points mentioned, you will discover that you, too, are well on the road to being a just person. While there are many definitions for being just, suffice it to say for our purposes that it can simply refer to one who lives out the great commandment: love God and show that love of God through love of neighbor. Thus, following the example of St. Joseph leads to a true life of discipleship.

In closing, perhaps the words of the lovely hymn, "Look down on us, St. Joseph" could serve as some final food for thought: (Since singing is praying twice, it goes well to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation").

Look down to us, Saint Joseph,
Protector of Our Lord,
Who followed you through deserts,
And gave you blessed reward;
Our foes are yet about us,
Be strength now at our side,
Be light against the darkness.
Saint Joseph, be our guide!

We venerate your justice,
The gospels praise your name,
You are the saint all humble,
Who gained eternal fame;
In your devoted family
Our souls in trust confide,
Direct our way to heaven.
Saint Joseph, be our guide.

(Continued from page 1) PRCUA ANNUAL STATE OF THE UNION

If you have an idea that you think would help us grow, either email or phone us, we even accept letters in the mail. We want to be in touch with our members and want to hear your input!

Take advantage of our competitive life insurance and annuity portfolios - our current offer, which can be seen on page 3, ends April 15th! By purchasing a life insurance or annuity product from the PRCUA, you are investing in your and your family's financial future as well as in the fraternal benefits shared with our membership in our communities. PRCUA's fraternal benefits range from cultural and sport activities to mortgages and scholarships.

In closing, "Get involved, Stay involved, and Get others involved" in the Mother of All Polish Fraternals - the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America - protecting life through all its stages. I again ask you, remember the PRCUA when speaking with your friends and neighbors. Ask them to explore the idea of becoming a fellow member. There is a good chance they may say "Yes."

Faternally yours,

James J. Robaczewski
National President

"Crucified Love" Exhibit 2020



"An exhibit of photographed crucifixes from around the world through the lens of seminarian Przemek Rozestwinski is a collection of stories told through photographs, poems and music."

Location: Adam Cardinal Maida Alumni Memorial Library
3535 Commerce Rd., Orchard Lake, MI

- April 4th (Saturday) 7:00-9:00 PM (Meditation)
- April 5th (Sunday) 12:30-5:00 PM (Reception)

PRCUA GWIAZDA DANCERS' LATEST HAPPENINGS

By **Nicholas J. Nowakowski**,
Gwiazda Secretary & 1997 Alumnus

The PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers have decided to fight the winter blahs with folk.

On January 19, the ensemble per-

formed at the Southeastern Michigan Polish Winter Celebration at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in Dearborn.

On January 25, Gwiazda hosted its annual Fowling fundraiser at the Fowling Warehouse in Hamtramck.



Gwiazda at the Multicultural Festival at Robert Trombley Elementary School

This was a sell out event and is one of the group's main fundraisers. Fowling is a sport which combines football and bowling. It has received lots of local media attention as well as national coverage in Time Magazine and CBS News.

January 26, was picture day for the ensemble and took place at its normal practice location.

On January 31, the ensemble performed as part of the Multicultural Festival at Robert Trombley Elementary School in Grosse Pointe.

On February 8, Gwiazda dancers performed as part of the Detroit Pistons' Polish Heritage Night on the court at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit.

The Gwiazda Dancers have additional performances 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 performing at the Detroit Pistons' Polish Heritage Night

TATRY DANCERS NEWS

By **Gail Esker**

January 25, 2020: What a start to the year! Over \$1000 raised, and more importantly, a lot of fun was had by all who attended this year's Tatry Dancers' Fowling fundraiser at the Fowling Warehouse in Hamtramck. Even better, our fundraiser was followed by another PRCUA group, Gwiazda! So much fun trying to "bowl" with a football! Thank you to all who contributed and participated! And a special shout out to Kaitlyn Gordon, we love you and support you!



Tatry Dancers' Fowling Fundraiser



Participants of the Fowling Fundraiser



Tatry Dancers are saddened to lose a good friend of the ensemble, Kathy Ann Belcher, who loved to go cruising and dancing with the dancers. She will be remembered for her skills when it came to cooking and sewing and always being willing to strike a good conversation.

Kathy Ann Belcher passed away

suddenly on January 8, 2020. She has gone to join her beloved Russ in heaven. She was the loving mother of Kaitlyn (Nathan) Gordon and the proud Grandma of the Gordon boys, sister of Henry J. (Deborah) Shymanski and David (Tammi) Shymanski, sister-in-law to Ellen Belcher-Reno (Kim), John (Tracey) Belcher, Joseph (Debbie) Belcher, and Brian Belcher. She will also be sorely missed by many nieces and nephews and dear friends.

May she rest in peace!

MALBORK DANCERS PERFORM AT THE POLISH NIGHT

By Rick Metcalf

On January 24, Grand Rapids Malbork Dance Group entertained sports fans at a Grand Rapids Griffins "Polish Night," sponsored by the Grand Rapid's Polish Heritage Society.



The group danced a few numbers in the concourse before cheering on the Griffins (a farm team of the Detroit Red Wings) to an exciting 4-3 win in overtime over the San Diego Gulls.

The Malbork Dance Group is West Michigan's only Polish dance group, now celebrating their fourth year.



Looking for ways to pay for college?

Apply for a PRCUA Scholarship!

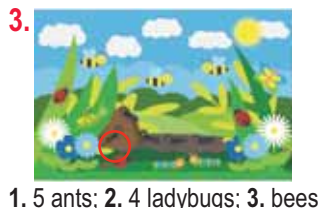
Did you know that PRCUA offers scholarships as one of our many member benefits?

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

ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLES ON PG. 11

2.
1. HORSESHOE; 2. POT;
3. LEPRECHAUN; 4. HAT;
5. POTATOES; 6. RAINBOW;
7. PIPE; 8. COINS; 9. SHAMROCK.
ANSWER: ST. PATRICK



1. 5 ants; 2. 4 ladybugs; 3. bees



Bowling Fundraiser

Help support the Rogalin Dance Troupe with an evening of fun, raffles and bowling!

Friday, March 13, 2020

Check-in 7:30pm | Bowling starts 8:00pm

\$25 per person - 9 pin tap

Includes 3 games, mystery (games 1 & 2), shoes & pizza

(5 bowler smaximum per team)

Indian Lanes
4500 - 13th Street
Wyandotte, Michigan

Sign up by Tuesday, March 10, 2020
Contact Lisa Brandt for more information
(734) 775-7987

245TH ANNIVERSARY OF PUŁASKI'S BIRTH AND 210TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHOPIN'S BIRTH

By Mark Sorbi

CASIMIR PUŁASKI (1745 - 1779)

Kazimierz (Casimir) Pułaski was born on March 6, 1745 in Warsaw, Poland. He was a Polish nobleman, cavalry officer and military commander who fought for the freedom of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth during the Bar Confederation (1768-1772), and for American Independence during the American Revolution (1765-1783).

Like his father, Pułaski become involved politically and militarily in the events of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. He joined the Bar Confederation, the uprising against Russian involvement in Poland. His courage, daring and military skill, along with his victories at Pohorele, Majdany, Starokostiantyniv, and his defense of the Monastery of Jasna Góra at Częstochowa enhanced his military reputation.

By 1772, Pułaski was considered a leading commander of the Confederation, but was also known to disobey orders and act on his own. By the spring of 1772, the uprising was being defeated by the Russians. Pułaski escaped first to Turkey and then to France. In 1773, his enemies accused him of regicide (the killing of a king), he was tried and found guilty by the *Sejm* Court, the verdict was given *in absentia* (in absence). Pułaski was stripped of "all dignity and honors" and sentenced to death.

In 1775, while in France, friends introduced Pułaski to Benjamin Franklin, who realized that Pułaski's courage and military skills would make him a great asset to the fight for American Independence. Franklin wrote a letter to General George Washington recommending that Pułaski be accepted as a volunteer in the Continental Army Cavalry. Pułaski set sail for America and arrived at Marblehead, MA on July 23, 1777. Upon arrival he wrote to General Washington, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it."

Pułaski met with General Washington, who assigned Pułaski to his staff. His first engagement was the

Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777. When the army began to yield, Washington ordered Pułaski to gather what troops he could and delay the British. His subsequent charge secured the retreat of the army and saved Washington's life. General Washington wrote to the Continental Congress praising Pułaski's actions during the battle. The Continental Congress promoted Pułaski to the rank of Brigadier General and gave him command of the Continental Cavalry. He reorganized the cavalry and wrote the first cavalry regulations. He and his men took part in the Battle of Germantown and spent the winter at Valley Forge.

In 1778, Pułaski and his men were ordered to Yorktown. While there, the Continental Congress gave him the title "Commander of the Horse" and authorized the formation of a corps of cavalry which became the Pułaski Legion. He and the legion were then ordered to Bethlehem, PA. While there, the Moravian Single Sisters of the Moravian Community presented Pułaski with a banner for the legion. The legion took part in the battle of Little Egg Harbor, and were then ordered to South Carolina, where they helped to defend the city of Charleston from the British.

In September, General Benjamin Lincoln attempted with the assistance of the French to retake the city of Savannah from the British. During the assault on October 9, 1779, the French forces began to retreat. Pułaski was in command of the American and French cavalries. While attempting to rally the fleeing French forces, Pułaski was mortally wounded by grapeshot. He was taken aboard the brigantine *Wasp*, where he died two days later, never regaining consciousness. His body was taken from the ship and buried at Greenwich Plantation near Savannah. In 1825, Lafayette laid the cornerstone for the Pułaski Monument in Savannah, GA.

In 1996, the remains were exhumed, but after years of DNA testing and examination, the results were inconclusive. The skeleton was consistent with Pułaski's age and that

of a cavalryman, and the skeleton also had a wound on the skull's forehead, consistent with the injury that Pułaski sustained in battle.

In 2005, Pułaski's remains were reinterred with full military honors at the Pułaski Monument in Savannah, and he was given honorary United States Citizenship.

FRYDERYK CHOPIN (1810 - 1849)

Fryderyk (Frederick) Chopin was born on March 1, 1810 in Żelazowa Wola in the Duchy of Warsaw. His father taught French at the Warsaw Lyceum and played the flute and violin. His mother, who played the piano and gave piano lessons, began his early piano instruction. It was clear from an early age that he was a child prodigy, and by age 7 he had begun giving public concerts and was composing music. He studied under Czech musician Wojciech Żywny; his earliest surviving composition was a polonaise from 1821.

Chopin studied music at the Warsaw Lyceum, where he studied under another Czech musician, Wilhelm Würfel. He also took vacations to various locations throughout Poland, and during a visit to village of Szafarnia, he encountered Polish rural folk music. During his travels he attended concerts given by Carl Friedrich Zelter, Niccolò Paganini and Felix Mendelssohn. He gave public concerts and intimate salon concerts. On August 1, 1829, after completing his studies at the Warsaw Conservatory, he made his debut in Vienna. Chopin's success as a composer and performer opened Europe to him. On November 2, 1830, he left

Poland and went to Austria.

A few weeks later, while he was staying in Vienna, the November 1830 Uprising began in Poland. Depressed and feeling nostalgic, Chopin wrote to a friend "I curse the moment of my departure." In September 1831, while traveling to Paris he learned that the November Uprising had been crushed, which inspired him to become a national bard who intuited the past, present and future of his native Poland. Chopin arrived in Paris in late September 1831; he became a French citizen in 1835. He would never return to Poland, but he chose to be close to his fellow Polish exiles, whom he considered friends and confidants.

Chopin supported himself by giving piano lessons, which were in great demand, and by selling his compositions. During the last 18 years of his life, he gave only 30 public concerts; he preferred the more intimate atmosphere of the salons. He was friends with Franz Liszt and Robert Schumann and was admired by his musical contemporaries. He was engaged to be married to Maria Wodzińska but it didn't last. Later, he maintained a long relationship with Amantine Dupin, (known by her pen name, George Sand) and with Jane Stirling, who was one of his admirers. For most of his life, Chopin suffered from poor health, and in 1849, at the age of 39, he died in Paris, probably of pericarditis aggravated by tuberculosis.

Chopin's funeral was held at the Church of the Madeleine in Paris on October 30, 1849. He was buried at Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. Chopin's heart was taken from his body when he died, and preserved. It was entombed at Holy Cross Church in Warsaw, Poland in 1850. During World War II, the heart briefly fell into the clutches of the Nazis but was returned after the war.

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
November 6-7	Volleyball Tournament	Chicago, IL	PRCUA District 8

ANNUAL PRCUA ŚWIECONKA HOSTED BY DISTRICT 9



Sunday, April 26
Casa Maria
500 Northgate Dr., Dyer, IN

Doors open at 12:00 p.m., lunch at 1:00 p.m.

Donation \$30 (children under 12 \$15.00)

R.S.V.P by April 13, 2020 to:

Elizabeth Sadus

847 Marian Way, Chicago Hts., IL 60411
or 708-481-6796.

LENTEN AND EASTER DISHES

Robert Strybel, The Polish Chef

LENTEN RYEMEAL SOUP (postny żur): In pot combine 4 c water, a chopped onion and cook until onion is tender. Add 2-3 c “żurek” (bottled liquid ryemeal sour available at Polish delis), 1/4 of a mushroom bouillon cube and 1 bud crushed garlic. Stir in 2 T flour dissolved in 1/2 c water, bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer 2-3 min. Season with salt, pepper and marjoram and serve over hard-cooked egg slices and/or cubed cooked potatoes. Provide horseradish for those who want a zingier soup.

RAISED PANCAKES (racuchy): Beat 2 c sour milk or buttermilk with 2 eggs. Beat in 2 c + 2 T flour until smooth. Stir in 1 t baking powder and 1 t baking soda. (Optional: Add 1/2 t liquid vanilla extract to batter if desired.) Spoon batter into 1/4” deep hot oil, fry roughly 3” pancakes to a nice golden-brown on both sides and drain on absorbent paper. Serve hot, dusted with confectioner’s sugar or topped with preserves, jam, plum butter, syrup or canned pie filling of choice.

HERRING IN OIL (śledź w oleju): Drain 12 – 16 oz. jar marinated herring, discarding onions and spices. Plunge into cold water, drain and pat dry. Halve and slice thin 2 onions, place in pot, scald with boiling water and after 1-2 min drain. Combine herring and onions, place in clean jar and drench with salad oil of choice to cover. Refrigerate overnight. Serve with plain boiled potatoes or bread.

ROAST PORK LOIN (schab pieczony): Mince and mash 2-3 cloves garlic into a paste with 1 t salt and rub into 3 lb boneless pork loin. Place in roasting pan, cover and let stand at room temp 2 hrs. Remove loin, dust with flour (through sieve) and brown in hot fat on all sides to seal in juices. Place loin in roaster fat side up on rack and sprinkle with caraway seeds, pepper and marjoram. Roast uncovered at 450° 15 min, then reduce heat to 350°. Add 1 c water to pan and baste occasionally with drippings that form. Roast about 90 min or until liquid that comes out of meat when pierced is no longer pinkish. Remove from oven and cool to room temp. Refrigerate over night and slice when cold. Serve hot or cold.

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. Games will be played at Muskegon Catholic Central High School, 1145 W. Laketon Ave., Muskegon, MI in 3 divisions: Men’s Open, Women’s (3 on 3), and Men’s Over 50 (3 on 3, Must be over age 50).

Hospitality catering will be held on Friday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m. at Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Muskegon Norton Shores, 1520 E. Mt. Garfield Rd., Muskegon, MI. Awards banquet will take place on Saturday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. at PRCUA 78 Lounge, 1890 Henry St., Muskegon, MI.

For additional information, please contact the PRCUA Fraternal Department at (800) 772-8632, ext. 2636 or Drew Dodge at (231) 329-0902.

POLISH NEWS BYTES

*Robert Strybel,
Warsaw Correspondent*

Poland’s presidential election set for Sunday, May 10th - Poland will elect its next president to a five-year term on Sunday, May 10. Incumbent Andrzej Duda is the front-runner so far, with the public backing of 44% of Poles. In second place is the liberal opposition’s Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska with 24%. Other candidates enjoy only single-digit support, surveys have shown. A candidate who gets over 50% of the vote on election day becomes president. Under Polish law, if no contender wins over half the vote, a second round will be held two weeks later, on May 24th.

Poland buys fleet of US-built fighter planes for \$4.6 billion - Poland has signed a \$4.6 billion transaction to obtain a fleet of 32 US-built state-of-the-art F-35 fighter jets to replace the antiquated Soviet-era SU-22 and MiG-29 warplanes still used by the Polish Air Force. “This project will strongly contribute to strengthening Polish-US relations,” President Andrzej Duda remarked. As a deterrent to Russia’s periodic saber-rattling, Poland has done much in recent year, to beef up its defenses mainly with American military hardware. This has included a \$4.75 billion purchase of Patriot missile-defense systems, said to be the largest defense deal in Polish history, and a HIMARS medium-range missile system for \$414 million. American Blackhawk helicopters are now being built in Poland.

New outlet to Baltic to be completed by 2022 - The Gdynia Maritime Office has approved the work schedule of the Vistula Spit canal which should be completed by 2022. A spit is a narrow strip of land separating the sea from an inland body of water. By cutting through it, Poland will gain another outlet to the Baltic, turning the semi-landlocked city of Elbląg into a full-fledged seaport. At present, Poland is forced to use an outlet on the Russian side of the border which at times has been closed to Polish navigation. The project is opposed on environmental grounds by the EU and for political reasons by the Kremlin and Poland’s liberal-leftist opposition.

Warsaw to host Religious Freedom conference in July - A joint Polish-US conference on religious freedom will be held in Warsaw on July 14-16, Polish Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz announced in Washington, DC. There, he attended a meeting of the Religious Freedom Alliance and told its members that “freedom of religion has been a “traditional Polish involvement and one of our foreign-policy priorities.” Starting back in the Middle Ages, when Jews were getting expelled from one country after another and “heretics” were being burned at the stake in the “enlightened” West, Poland became a haven for religious dissenters. The July conference will emphasize that today Christians are the world’s most persecuted religion and each year on average 100,000 of them are murdered for their faith.



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



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 8th, 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

Contact: Jamie Clark-Drewke 313.471.7138 or Jamie.Clark@hockeytown.com

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:
PRCUA District 7
3759 N. Newland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60634



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
Gail: geesker@hotmail.com
248.255.9336

TATRY DANCE



*Proceeds Benefit the
Tatry Dancers*



\$15 per Person

1st, 2nd and 3rd Place prizes
Share the Wealth Raffles



Bring a snack to pass

Drinks are available
for purchase



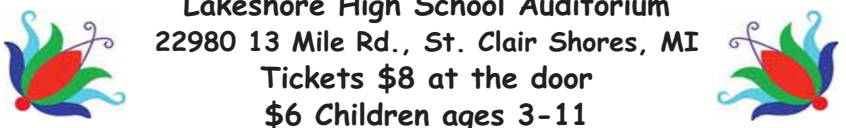
Tatry Dancers, P.R.C.U.A.
<https://tatrydancedearborn.wixsite.com/website>



You're Invited!
 PRCUA
 Opole Dance School's
62nd Annual
Recital
 Celebrating American and Polish Dance




Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 2 pm
 Lakeshore High School Auditorium
 22980 13 Mile Rd., St. Clair Shores, MI
 Tickets \$8 at the door
 \$6 Children ages 3-11



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



Sunday, March 29th, 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)



TATRY DANCERS
 49th Annual Dance Recital
*Experience Traditional Polish Dances
 and
 Beautiful Regional Costumes!*



Saturday, April 4, 2020 at 3:00 pm
Doors Open at 2:30 pm
Share the Wealth Raffles and Reception
\$8 Presale, \$10 at the Door
Lincoln Park High School
1650 Champaign, Lincoln Park, MI

Now accepting new members!
 For information about joining or to
 schedule a performance contact:
 Rose Ann Lackey, Director at (313)274-0183
 tatrydancers-roseann@yahoo.com
 or tatrysecretary@outlook.com



Tatry Dancers, PRCUA
<https://tatrydancedearborn.wixsite.com/website>




PRCUA
Zajączek Dance Ensemble
15th Annual Performances
of
Music, Song, and Dance
Saturday, April 25, 2020
2:30 P.M.
Warren Woods Auditorium
13400 E. 12 Mile Rd., Warren, MI
Admission \$8.00

Any Past PRCUA Alumni
who would like to participate in our annual recital, please contact:
Colleen Bonkowski - zajaczekdance@yahoo.com
Rachael Kasperek - rocki_road@yahoo.com
Tricia Dennis - triciamdennis@gmail.com

STYPENDIA PRCUA NA ROK AKADEMICKI 2020-2021

Warunki ekonomiczne w USA i na świecie oraz wzrastająca konkurencja na rynku pracy czynią zdobywanie 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 (PRCUA) 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 PRCUA. Studenci mogą ubiegać się o stypendia każdego roku nauki, ale maksymalnie mogą je otrzymać trzy razy w życiu. Na każde z oferowanych przez PRCUA stypendiów można składać po jednej aplikacji. Termin składania

podania 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 PRCUA, 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 PRCUA w terminie do 1 czerwca 2020 r.

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 godz. kredytowych dla studentów studiów dziennych lub 8 godz. kredytowych dla studentów 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 St. 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 PRCUA. Wnioskodawca musi spełnić wszystkie wyżej wymienione warunki plus dodatkowo być członkiem PRCUA przez

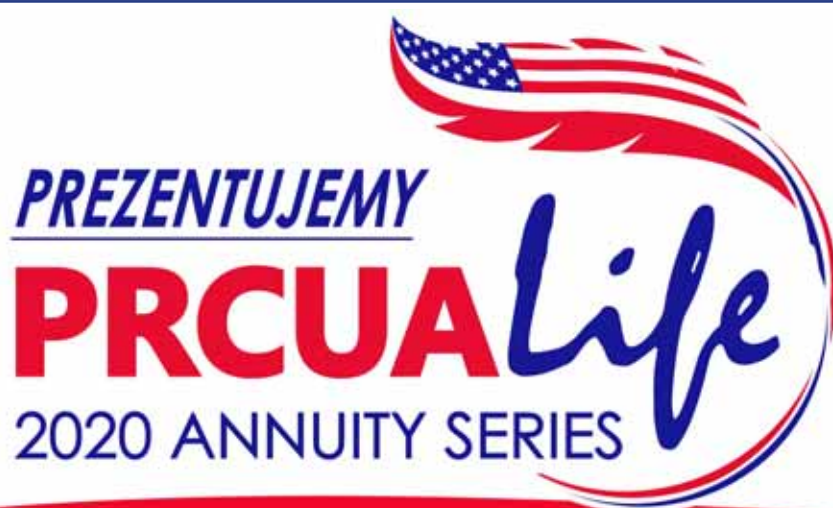
co najmniej pięć lat, posiadać ubezpieczenie na życie w wysokości minimum 5.000 USD oraz opłacać terminowo wszystkie składki.

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 4 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.

Stypendia naukowe to jedna z wielu korzyści członkowskich oferowanych przez Zjednoczenie Polskie Rzymsko-Katolickie w Ameryce.

Więcej informacji i aplikacja dostępne na
www.prcua.org/scholarships



W tym sezonie podatkowym:

- ✓ ZARÓB WIĘCEJ
- ✓ POWIĘKSZ ZWROT PODATKOWY
- ✓ ZASIL PLAN EMERYTALNY
- ✓ DOŁĄCZ DO PRCUA Life

otwierając konto emerytalne w NOWEJ serii lub dokonując transferu istniejącego konta*

ELITE — 8 lat

3.75%
APY

3 LATA GWARANTOWANE

STAR — 5 lat

3.00%
APY

2 LATA GWARANTOWANE

EDGE — 3 lata

2.50%
APY

1 ROK GWARANTOWANY

CORE — 3 lata

2.00%
APY

wymagane min. wpłaty

— \$500 —

oferta ważna od 1/1/2020

wymagane min. wpłaty \$2,500

limitowana oferta ważna od 1/1/2020 do 4/15/2020

*Więcej informacji:



ZJEDNOCZENIE POLSKIE RZYMSKO-KATOLICKIE W AMERYCE

984 N MILWAUKEE AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60642

Ubezpieczenia na życie, konta emerytalne & korzyści członkowskie

(800) 772-8632 | PRCUA.ORG | [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [y](#) [v](#)

UBEZPIECZENIA BEZ TAJEMNIC

Robert Sobczak
Specjalista ds. ubezpieczeń

Low Income Subsidy – Extra Help na 2020

Każdy, kto posiada Medicare może zapisać się na plany zniżkowe na lekarstwa, tzw. **Part D Medicare**. Niektóre osoby, ze względu na niskie dochody, mimo wszystko przekraczające poziom kwalifikacji na **Medicaid**, mogą zakwalifikować się na dodatkową pomoc (**Extra Help**) w kosztach planu na leki na receptę tzw. **Low Income Subsidy**. Pomoc ta dotyczy między innymi kosztów związanych z miesięcznymi opłatami za plan tzw. **premium**, kosztami udziału własnego - **deductible**, i kosztami leków - **co-pays**.

Pomoc ta w 2020 roku może sięgnąć nawet do \$5,000.00 w skali rocznej.

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

By się kwalifikować, urząd Social Security musi zostać poinformowany o dochodach i zasobach osoby aplikującej o pomoc, jak również posiadać informacje na temat jej współmałżonka.

Limity:

Aby kwalifikować się na pomoc w roku 2020 dochody na osobę indywidualną nie mogą być wyższe niż \$18,735 lub \$25,365 na małżeństwo.

Jednocześnie sprawdzany jest również poziom zasobów. Nie może przekraczać on \$14,610 na osobę indywidualną lub \$29,160 na małżeństwo. Limity dotyczące zasobów pochodzą z danych na 2020 rok.

Przykładowe zasoby brane pod uwagę:

- Nieruchomości (nierozdzielcze)
- Konta bankowe (czekowe, oszczędnościowe, CD)
- Akcje
- Obligacje
- Lokaty
- Plan emerytalny (IRA, 401K, 403B, itp.)
- Gotówka

Przykładowe zasoby nie brane pod uwagę:

- Dom rezydencyjny
- Rzeczy osobiste
- Samochody
- Ubezpieczenia na życie
- Odszkodowania

Przykładowe dochody nie brane pod uwagę:

- Kartki na żywność (Food stamps)
- Pomoc w kosztach utrzymania domu
- Kredyty podatkowe (Tax credits)
- Odszkodowania
- Stypendia

W jaki sposób można składać aplikację na **Low Income Subsidy**:

- Online: www.socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp
- Zadzwoń do Social Security pod numer 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)
- Można wypełnić podanie osobiście. Każda osoba wchodząca w Medicare otrzymuje automatycznie formę pocztą
- Wypełnić w trakcie spotkania w biurze Social Security
- Można przyjść do naszego biura i jeden z naszych licencjonowanych agentów pomoże wypełnić aplikację (pomoc ta jest bezpłatna)

Po złożeniu podania, przedstawiciel Social Security przejrzy dokumenty i zdecyduje, czy kwalifikujemy się na dodatkową pomoc. Jeśli tak i jeśli posiadamy **Medicare** od dłuższego czasu, to przysługuje nam jednorazowa możliwość dostosowania części D do naszej nowej sytuacji. Jeśli w przyszłości będziemy zmieniać plan (part D) zniżka **Low Income Subsidy** zostanie automatycznie dołączona do nowego planu, tak długo jak będzie nam nadal przysługiwała.

Kilka dodatkowych ciekawostek na temat **Low Income Subsidy**:

- **Extra Help** jest jednym z niewielu sposobów na zniesienie kary za nieposiadanie planu zniżkowego na leki – **Part D**. Przypominamy, że kara za brak **Part D Medicare** stanowi 1% średniej krajowej ceny planu zniżkowego na leki na receptę pomnożoną o każdy miesiąc nie posiadania owego planu od momentu otrzymania benefitów **Medicare**. Kara jest naliczana dożywotnio
- Weryfikacja dokonywana jest co roku przez urząd Social Security na podstawie informacji dostarczonych przez urząd IRS
- Aplikacje o **Low Income Subsidy** możemy składać wielokrotnie, za każdym razem gdy nasz dochód ulegnie zmianie
- **Part D** na leki możemy zmieniać przynajmniej raz w roku (w trakcie Corocznego Okresu Zapisowego - **Annual Enrollment Period**, który trwa co roku między 15 października, a 7 grudnia) by dostosowywać go do naszych obecnych potrzeb.



KOLEJNA SZKOŁA ZAWITAŁA DO GRONA PRCUA!

Współpraca PRCUA z polskimi szkołami na terenie aglomeracji Chicago rozkwita. W lutym powitaliśmy w gronie organizacji kolejną placówkę oświatową z południa Chicago – Polską Szkołę Katolicką im. Św. Krzyża.

Szkoła mieści się w Joliet, IL. Organem prowadzącym placówkę jest parafia przy Kościele Św. Krzyża w Joliet. Bezpośredni nadzór nad szkołą sprawuje aktualnie pełniący funkcję proboszcz parafii ks. Ron Nietzke. Dyrektorem szkoły jest pani

Dorota Grzegorzewicz, wicedyrektorem pani Barbara Szuba.

Zajęcia w klasach od przedszkola do liceum odbywają się w piątki w godzinach popołudniowych i wieczornych.

Główne cele szkoły to nauczanie języka polskiego z elementami historii i geografii Polski, wzmacnianie u dzieci i młodzieży uczuć patriotycznych, kształcenie w duchu tradycji i kultury polskiej, wychowanie religijne w oparciu o zasady chrześcijańskie oraz nauczanie religii

i przygotowanie do Sakramentów Świętych

W lutym 2020 roku Polska Szkoła Katolicka im. Św. Krzyża została objęta patronatem Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego w Ameryce, uzyskując częściowe dofinansowanie swojej działalności, z planami całkowitego dofinansowania. Do rodziny PRCUA przyłączyło się już blisko stu uczniów. Każdy z nich otrzymał od szkoły zniżkę \$50 w opłacie za naukę oraz szereg dodatkowych benefitów.

W piątek 31 stycznia, wiceprezes PRCUA Micheline Jamiński, dyrektor marketingu PRCUA Elżbieta Sawczuk oraz ekspert ds. ubezpieczeń Andrzej Sertler ucze-

stniczyli w zorganizowanym przez szkołę spotkaniu z rodzicami uczniów, podczas którego zaprezentowali ofertę korzyści członkowskich w PRCUA oraz odpowiadali na pytania rodziców zainteresowanych zakupem ubezpieczeń na życie i przystąpieniem do organizacji.

Wszystkim, którzy już to uczynili dziękujemy za zaufanie, a pozostałych zachęcamy do kontaktu z przedstawicielami ds. sprzedaży PRCUA, zapoznania się z bogatym portfolio produktów finansowych **PRCUA**, jak również z ofertą szeregu dodatkowych korzyści członkowskich. Szczegóły na stronie prcu.org lub pod numerem telefonu (800) 772 8632.

WIADOMOŚCI ZE SZKOŁY ŚW. RAFAŁA KALINOWSKIEGO

ZABAWA SZKOLNA

Monika Otworowski, Prezes szkoły

W sobotę 8 lutego w sali bankietowej o. Karmelitów Bosych w Munster, IN odbyła się coroczna zabawa szkolna Polskiej Szkoły im. św. Rafała Kalinowskiego. Mieliśmy zaszczyt gościć prezesa PRCUA Jamesa Robaczewskiego z żoną Elaine, Elizabeth Sadus, dyrektora Dystryktu 9, Barbarę Pawłowski - założycielkę naszej szkoły z synem Paulem Pawłowskim oraz przedstawicieli Pulaski Citizen's Club.

Podczas zabawy wystąpili uczniowie klasy przedszkolnej, którą przygotowały panie Urszula Krzysztofiak, Ewa Slon i Anna Dunlap oraz klas zerowej, którą przygotowała wychowawczyni Bożena Matson. Swoją pierwszy w tym roku występ zaprezentowali również uczniowie klas 1-4 pod kierownictwem nauczycielki tańca Agaty Wilgocki. Zabawę uświetnił także występ szkolnego zespołu „Mała Polska”, którego choreografię przygotowała Agata Wilgocki z udziałem asystentki Barbary Golko. Dziękujemy gorąco za trud i zaangażowanie w przygotowaniu uczniów, a naszym tancerzom za spektakularny występ.

Po przedstawieniu tanecznym dyrektorka Małgorzata Czachor wyróżniła uczniów klasy ósmej, którzy w tym roku ukończą naukę w szkole podstawowej, otrzymując na pamiątkę trofeum

z logo naszej szkoły. Serdecznie gratulujemy!

Po modlitwie poprowadzonej przez przeora o. Franciszka Czaickiego rozpoczął się uroczysty obiad, a następnie degustacja wspaniałych polskich ciast i pączków.

Dzięki hojności naszych rodziców uczestnicy zabawy mieli okazję wylosowania wielu atrakcyjnych nagród z loterii fantowej. Jeszcze raz serdecznie dziękujemy Wam drodzy rodzice i sponsorzy za ufundowane nagrody.

Rodzice wraz z gośćmi bawili się wspaniale przy oprawie muzycznej Dj Lukasa, który grał i zabawiał wszystkich do północy.

Jeszcze raz bardzo dziękuję wszystkim, którzy

poświęcili swój czas i przyczynili się do zorganizowania zabawy tanecznej, która cieszyła się wielkim powodzeniem i sukcesem.



„NOC W BETLEJEM” - WIDOWISKO JASEŁKOWE

Barbara Golko, Wychowawczyni kl. 3 i 4

Okres Bożego Narodzenia to czas radosnego świętowania, kolędowania, łamania się opłatkiem i składania sobie życzeń, ale również czas przedstawień ukazujących tradycje bożonarodzeniowe. Jednym z nich są Jasełka, które przenoszą dorosłych w świat dzieciństwa, a dzieci wzbogacają w przeżycia, do których zawsze będą chętnie wracać we wspomnieniach.

W sobotę 18 stycznia, w szkole im. św. Rafała Kalinowskiego odbyły się Jasełka pt. „Noc w Betlejem”. Program rozpoczęła dyrektorka Małgorzata Czachor, a nauczycielki Magdalena Przybysz i Barbara Golko serdecznie zaprosiły rodziców, dziadków i gości na przedstawienie bożonarodzeniowe.

Zgromadzona publiczność po raz kolejny mogła przeżyć historię Maryi i Józefa szukających schronienia na noc, którzy po bezowocnych poszukiwaniach zdecydowali się przenocować w stajence. Do nich i do małego Jezusa przybywają liczni goście: pastuszkowie, zwierzęta, dzieci z polskiej szkoły oraz trzej mędrcy, którzy przynoszą nowonarodzonemu Dzieciątku dary i składają pokłon. Inscenizacja była przeplatana wierszami, kolędami i pastorałkami w wykonaniu

uczniów i uczennic szkoły, a dodatkowymi atutami były kolędy wykonane przez solistki. Całość przedstawienia została przygotowana przez wychowawczynię klasy 3 i 4 Barbarę Golko i wychowawczynię klasy 1 i 2 Magdalenę Przybysz.

Na szczególną uwagę zasługuje wystrój poszczególnych scen, stroje aktorów i rekwizyty. Jesteśmy bardzo dumni, że mamy tak wspaniałych uczniów i uczennice obdarzonych talentami recytatorskimi i wokalnymi, którzy w niepowtarzalny sposób odegrali narodzenie Dzieciątka.

Dziękujemy wszystkim za pomoc w przygotowaniu Jasełek, dziękujemy dyrekcji i zarządowi naszej szkoły, uczniom – aktorom za ich piękną

grę, ich rodzicom, wychowawcom klas i nauczycielom, dziękujemy za dekoracje i przygotowanie sali oraz wszystkim, dzięki którym mogliśmy przeżywać radość Bożego Narodzenia.



„BYĆ POLAKIEM”

Wyjątki z pracy nagrodzonej w konkursie „Być Polakiem” w 2019 r.

Dzięki komu zacząłem czuć się Polakiem? Kto lub co sprawiają, że chcę umacniać polskość? A może dzięki komu lub czemu poczułem dumę z faktu przynależności do Narodu Polskiego?

Mam na imię Michał i urodziłem się w polskiej rodzinie emigrantów w Chicago. Mam młodszą siostrę Mariannę, oboje moi rodzice są jedynakami. Odkąd sięgam pamięcią, to w moim domu zawsze się mówiło w języku polskim, celebrowało się wszystkie polskie i katolickie święta, chodziliśmy w niedziele całą rodziną do polskiego kościoła. Mama zabierała nas do różnych polskich kościołów na terenie Chicago [...] aby pokazać nam bogatą historię polskiej emigracji w Chicago. [...]

Mama i obie babcie zawsze dbały, abyśmy zawsze mieli nowe i ciekawe książki, bajki, atlasy z Polski. Wieczorami przed snem mama zawsze czytała nam polskie bajki [...]. Dziś, gdy ludzie pytają mnie skąd mam tak ładny polski akcent i tak czysto mówię po polsku, to odpowiadam im, że to dzięki polskiemu poetom, których twórczość poznałem już w kołysce. [...] Wszystkie te książki, atlasy, filmy są po dziś dzień w moim domu [...].

Od najmłodszych lat jeździliśmy podczas wakacji w odwiedziny do obu babć mieszkających w Polsce. Oboje moich rodziców pochodzą z południa Polski, mianowicie Bielska-Białej. [...] Pamiętam liczne wycieczki, dzięki którym poznałem piękno polskich gór, jezior i morza. [...] Właśnie te wszystkie obrazy zachowane w mej pamięci pozwalają mi na pełne rozumienie polskiej kultury i tradycji, dzięki nim wiem co to znaczy być Polakiem.

Swoją edukację zacząłem w polskim przedszkolu [...]. W tym też okresie moja mama zapisała mnie i moją siostrę do Zespołu Pieśni i Tańca „Polonia”. Początkowo, jako najmłodsi członkowie owej grupy nauczyliśmy się polskich pieśni i tańców folklorystycznych. [...] Kiedy szliśmy razem z zespołem na tradycyjną wielkanocną święconkę, to nie tylko pięknie przyozdabiało się koszyczek, ale przede wszystkim siebie, a potem były liczne zdjęcia

z zespołem i z rodziną. „Magiczne Święta” w Copernicus Center wraz z całą bożonarodzeniową oprawą: kolędnicy, szopka, śpiew kolęd, dzielenie się opłatkiem, liczne choinki, a przede wszystkim Mikołaj! To są rzeczy, których nigdy nie zapomnę, rzeczy, które nadają bogactwa i magii świętom. Czynią je wyjątkowymi, innymi niż te amerykańskie i pomagają mi być dumnym z bycia Polakiem. Coroczne pochody trzeciomajowe, w kolorowych strojach - nawet rodzice się w nie przebierali, balony, kwiaty, rydwany, tłumy zgromadzonych ludzi na trasie przemarszu, radio, telewizja, ważne osobistości miasta Chicago oraz Polonii chicagowskiej.

W tym miejscu muszę wspomnieć panią Celinę Rożnowską, która przeszło 30 lat temu założyła nasz zespół, a która prowadziła zajęcia z moją najmłodszą grupą. Pani Celinka nie tylko uczyła nas tańca i śpiewu, ona w magiczny sposób opowiadała o Polsce, jej kulturze, tradycjach, zwyczajach. Uczyła nas jak być dumnym z tego, że urodziliśmy się w Polskiej rodzinie, jak szanować historię naszych przodków [...]. Wszystko to opowiadała w taki sposób, że do dziś to pamiętam i uważam za coś wyjątkowego.

W zespole jestem już 11 lat i przez ten okres przeszedłem przez wszystkie grupy wiekowe, a obecnie tańczę w dwóch grupach: w „Młodej Polonii” i Grupie Reprezentacyjnej „Polonii”. Razem z Młodą Polonią w zeszłe wakacje byłem na Dziecięcym Festiwalu Zespołów Folklorystycznych w Iwoniczu Zdroju. Muszę powiedzieć, że podczas tego festiwalu coś się we mnie zmieniło i „Polonia” stała się moją pasją, a przede wszystkim drugą rodziną. Zobaczyłem tam, że takiej młodzieży jak ja na świecie jest masa. Oni wszyscy pochodzą z polskich emigranckich rodzin, lubią tańczyć i śpiewać, a przede wszystkim są dumni z tego, że w ich żyłach płynie polska krew. [...] Nawiązałem nowe znajomości i przyjaźnie, które trwają do dnia dzisiejszego. Cała nasza grupa żyła się bardzo ze sobą. Organizujemy wspólne wyjścia na pizzę, gre

w kregle, urodziny, „indyka”, święta, zacząłem słuchać polskiej muzyki, a przede wszystkim zacząłem czerpać przyjemność z wielogodzinnych prób. Gdyby nie „Polonia”, to myślę, że więcej czasu spędzałbym z moimi amerykańskimi przyjaciółmi i pomału zanikałaby we mnie świadomość bycia Polakiem, byłoby to dla mnie obojętne skąd pochodzę i kim byli moi przodkowie.

[...] Byłem pierwszy raz na wyjeździe zagranicznym z grupą Reprezentacyjną „Polonii” w Kanadzie, na występie w Domu Polskim, z zaprzyjaźnionym zespołem „Polan”. Oprócz występu, mieliśmy okazję zwiedzenia Calgary, Narodowego Parku Banff oraz miasteczka Canmore. Mieszkaliśmy kilka dni w domach polskich emigrantów z Kanady, których dzieci również tańczą w zespole folklorystycznym Polanie. Miałem możliwość poznania ich dnia codziennego, pójścia do maleńkiego kościółka z jedyną

[...] w moim przypadku, to kim jestem zawdzięczam wielu osobom napotkanym w moim życiu, a także zbiegom różnych sytuacji i wydarzeń. Niemniej jednak jestem dumny, że w moich żyłach płynie polska krew i nigdy się swojego pochodzenia nie wyprę, a w przyszłości będę się starał wychowywać swoje dzieci w duchu polskiego patriotyzmu.

polską mszą. Wtedy doceniłem jak my, mieszkańcy Chicago i okolic mamy dobrze, kościół co kawałek, a i polskich mszy mnóstwo. Tam, w Calgary nie mają polskich sklepów, a co się z tym łączy pysznego polskiego jedzenia. I znów doceniłem miejsce swojego zamieszkania. [...]

Lubię kiedy mój występ cieszy ludzi, dostarcza widowni wielu emocji i wzruszeń, kiedy po zakończonym występie ludzie podchodzą do nas i nam gratulują. Wielokrotnie widzę, że ludzie płaczą. Wtedy napęnia mnie duma i zadowolenie.

Ostatnio przygotowywaliśmy tango opowiadające o Powstaniu Warszawskim. Specjalnie na tą okazję przygotowaliśmy stroje z tego okresu razem z opaskami na ręce i dzięki temu dowiedzieliśmy się, że opaskę należy nosić na prawej ręce, gdyż na lewej nosili zdrajcy. Taka krótką, ale jakże treściwą lekcję historii, którą trudno będzie zapomnieć. Podobne emocje towarzyszyły scenie, którą specjalnie dla Polonii wyreżyserował Pan Walter Bohenko. Scenka ta opowiada o Polskich żołnierzach, którzy walczyli w obronie Ojczyzny pod dowództwem Józefa Piłsudskiego w okresie odzy-

skania przez Polskę upragnionej niepodległości w 1918 roku, a potem ponowna walka o wolność ze Związkiem Radzieckim, którą nasze wojska wygrały.

„Polonia” uczy nas nie tylko tańca i śpiewu, ale uczy nas także historii, patriotyzmu i dumy bycia Polakiem. Uczy nas w jaki sposób pielęgnować tradycje i dzielić się z innymi pięknem naszej kultury. Pozwala nam czuć się Polakami pełną piersią. Pozwala integrować się z rówieśnikami, którzy mają podobne zainteresowania i wypełnić lukę nudy. Broni nas przed popadnięciem w złe towarzystwo. Uczy, a zarazem wychowuje, dodaje pewności siebie. O tym wszystkim kiedyś, dawno mówiła pani Celinka Rożnowska, ale wtedy, jako małe dziecko tego nie rozumiałem. Dziś, te słowa do mnie wracają i dziś je rozumiem i doceniam i cieszę się, że mama zapisała mnie jako dziecko do „Polonii”. Mama nigdy nie odpuszczała, czasami nawet zawoziła mnie na próby na siłę, ale dziś wiem, że miała rację i było warto.

Byłbym nie w porządku, gdybym nie wspominał w tym miejscu o sobotniej polskiej szkole, do której uczęszczam od przedszkola. W szkole tej w początkowych klasach miałem możliwość poznawać polski alfabet, uczyć się czytać i pisać w języku przodków, a w starszych klasach szkoła odkryła przede mną karty jakże pięknej i kolorowej karty historii Polski. Również literatura i gramatyka Polska otwarły przede mną drzwi swej krainy. [...]

Ale polska szkoła to nie tylko nauka, to także niezliczone imprezy, np.: obchody dnia nauczyciela, a zarazem patrona szkoły, dzień dwujęzyczności, jasełka, śniadanie wielkanocne, parada 3 Maja, wyjścia do kina, teatru, itd. Polska szkoła to przede wszystkim wspaniali nauczyciele, którzy w ciekawy sposób nam całą tą wiedzę o Polsce przekazują, to koledzy i koleżanki, którzy jak ja pochodzą z polskich rodzin, czasami nawet w którymś pokoleniu wstecz. Teraz kiedy jestem już w drugiej klasie liceum i znam moich kolegów od przedszkola, to sobotnie wyjście do szkoły to sama przyjemność połączona z dobrze spożytym czasem.

Michał Mosz

Michał jest członkiem Tow. #1624 ZPRKA, tancerzem ZPiT „Polonia” i uczniem Polskiej Szkoły im. Maksymiliana Marii Kolbe w Chicago.

WICEPREZES PRCUA NAGRODZONA MEDALEM KOMISJI EDUKACJI NARODOWEJ

By Elżbieta Sawczuk

Podczas uroczystości jubileuszu 40. lecia Polskiej Szkoły im. Św. Jana Pawła II i 20. lecia zespołu „Polanie” w Lemont wiceprezes PRCUA Micheline Jamiński została odznaczona medalem Komisji Edukacji Narodowej. Medal KEN to polskie odznaczenie resortowe nadane przez Ministra Edukacji Narodowej Dariusza Piontkowskiego, za szczególne zasługi dla oświaty i wychowania dzieci i młodzieży. Odznaczenie Micheline Jamiński odebrała z rąk Konsula Generalnego RP w Chicago, Piotra Janickiego. Obecna wiceprezes PRCUA, Micheline Jaminski, to Amerykanka, polskiego pochodzenia, która od blisko 50 lat swoją działalnością przyczynia się do promocji polskiego folkloru w Stanach Zjednoczonych.

W 1977 roku, po ukończeniu studiów wyższych założyła Zespół Pieśni i Tańca „Wesoły Lud”, którego kierownikiem artystycznym i choreografem była do 2014 roku. Pani Jaminski jako ówczesny instruktor tańca ludowego w polskich szkołach działających pod patronatem Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego, z powstałych w nich grup tanecznych, w 1985 roku stworzyła Południowo Zachodnie Centrum Polskiej Pieśni i Tańca. W ośrodku tym, będącym swoistym sercem kultury polskiej dla Polonii zamieszkującej południe Chicago do roku 2009 była dyrektorem artystycznym i głównym choreografem.

W 1997 r. jako pierwsza kobieta została mianowana prezeską Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas. Na pozycję tą wybrano ją ponownie w roku 2010. Działalność artystyczną i pedagogiczną pani Jamiński doceniły władze stanu Illinois przyznając jej dwukrotnie w latach (2002 i 2007) Master Apprentice Grant, za nadzór nad etnicznymi choreografiami folklorystycznymi nawiązującymi do polskiego dziedzictwa, przygotowywanymi przez jej dwie wychowanki. W roku 2009 pani Jaminski została laureatką nagrody przyznanej przez burmistrza Chicago Richarda M. Daley za krzewienie wśród młodzieży stanu Illinois kultury polskiego folkloru. W latach 2005-2006 współpracowała z Polską Szkołą im. św. Rafała Kalinowskiego, od roku 2007 do 2013 Micheline Jaminski pracowała jako kierownik



Wiceprezes Jaminska (2-ga z lewej) z innymi laureatami i konsulem Janickim

artsytyczny i choreograf Zespołu Pieśni i Tańca „Polanie”, przy Polskiej Szkole im. św. Jana Pawła II. W roku 2014 za swoją działalność została wyróżniona przez Prezydenta RP Srebrnym Medalem Zasługi. Pani Jamiński jest autorką niezliczonych choreografii do tańców ludowych, prezentowanych przez jej zespoły 12-krotnie na Światowym Festiwalu Polonijnych Zespołów Folklorystycznych w Rzeszowie oraz Międzynarodowym Festiwalu Dziecięcych Zespołów Folklorystycznych w Iwoniczu Zdroju. Celem działalności pani Jamiński jest przekazywanie kolejnym pokoleniom polonijnej młodzieży zainteresowania bogactwem kultury polskiej, wiedzy dotyczącej tańców regionalnych i narodowych, odkrywanie przed tancerzami skarbów polskiego folkloru, jego różnorodności, wyjątkowości i siły wyrazu. Zespoły prowadzone przez Panią Jamiński prezentowały swój dorobek na scenach lokalnych festiwali w Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin i wielu innych stanów USA. Pod jej kierownictwem wykształciło się do-

tychczas ok. dwóch tysięcy tancerzy. Obecnie Pani Jamiński jako wiceprezes Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego w Ameryce nadzoruje działalność 25 polskich szkół i zespołów ludowych działających pod patronatem PRCUA w czterech stanach (Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana). W placówkach tych wiedzę o Polsce i polskiej kulturze zdobywa ok. tysiąc dwustu dzieci i młodzieży rocznie.

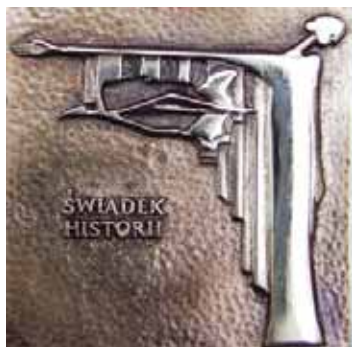
Pani Misiu serdeczne gratulacje! Dziękujemy za blisko 50 lat Pani wysiłków na rzecz wychowania polonijnej młodzieży.

NAGRODA ŚWIADEK HISTORII

Nagroda Świadek Historii/The Witness of History (dla osób i organizacji spoza Polski) – VI edycja

Zgłoszenia kandydatów do nagrody przyjmowane będą do 31 maja 2020

Instytut Pamięci Narodowej ogłasza szóstą edycję międzynarodowej nagrody „Świadek Historii” dla osób i organizacji spoza Polski. Jest to honorowe wyróżnienie, ustanowione w 2009 roku zarządzeniem Prezesa IPN i przyznawane przez Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Otrzymują je osoby i instytucje szczególnie zasłużone dla



upamiętniania historii Narodu Polskiego oraz wspierające IPN w realizacji ustawowej działalności w obszarach edukacyjnym i naukowym. Zapraszamy do zgłaszania osób i instytucji spoza Polski, szczególnie zaangażowanych w pielęgnowanie polskiej pamięci historycznej, dbających o zachowanie, propagowanie i pogłębianie wiedzy o historii najnowszej naszego kraju oraz odkrywanie zapomnianych faktów czy osób zasłużonych dla Narodu Polskiego. Laureatem nagrody może zostać osoba niemająca polskiego pochodzenia.

Wnioskować można także o uhonorowanie pośmiertne.

Opis (w objętości do 3 stron) powinien uwzględniać działania mające na celu pielęgnowanie pamięci historycznej o Polsce i Polakach poza granicami naszego kraju oraz wspierające IPN w realizacji działalności w obszarach: edukacyjnym, naukowym i wydawniczym (przykładem takiej działalności jest gromadzenie pamiątek związanych z naszą historią, poszuki-

wanie, zbieranie i archiwizowanie dokumentów jej dotyczących, dbanie o cmentarze czy pomniki, projekty popularyzujące dzieje najnowsze Polski itp.). Instytut Pamięci Narodowej, zgodnie z ustawą o IPN, zajmuje się wydarzeniami z najnowszej historii Polski, czyli tymi, które miały miejsce pomiędzy 8 listopada 1917 r. a 31 lipca 1990 r. W związku z tym nagradzane są działania dotyczące tego okresu.

Wniosek o przyznanie nagrody powinien zawierać dane kandydata, opis jego zasług uzasadniających przyznanie nagrody, dostępne wnioskodawcy kopie dokumentów poświadczających osiągnięcia kandydata. Do wniosku należy dołączyć zgodę kandydata na zgłoszenie (nie dotyczy kandydatów zgłaszanych pośmiertnie). Wyłącznie pisemne zgłoszenia należy nadsyłać do 31 maja 2020 r. (decyduje data stempla pocztowego – 31 maja to ostatni dzień nadania przesyłki) na adres:

Instytut Pamięci Narodowej
Biuro Edukacji Narodowej
(Nagroda „Świadek Historii”)
ul. Wołoska 7
02-675 Warszawa

245. ROCZNICA URODZIN PUŁASKIEGO ORAZ 210. ROCZNICA URODZIN CHOPINA

By Mark Sorbi

Tłum. Lidia Kowalewicz

KAZIMIERZ PUŁASKI (1745 - 1779)

Kazimierz Pułaski urodził się 6 marca 1745 r. w Warszawie. Był polskim szlachcicem, oficerem kawalerii i dowódcą wojskowym, który walczył o wolność Rzeczypospolitej Obojga Narodów podczas konfederacji barskiej (1768–1772) oraz o niepodległość Stanów Zjednoczonych podczas rewolucji amerykańskiej (1765–1783).

Pułaski, podobnie jak jego ojciec, angażował się politycznie i wojskowo w wydarzenia Rzeczypospolitej. Wstąpił do Konfederacji Barskiej, powstania przeciwko kurateli Imperium Rosyjskiego w Polsce. Jego odwaga, śmiałość, umiejętności wojskowe oraz wkład w zwycięstwa w bitwach pod Pohorelami, Majdanami i Starokonstantynowem i obronę klasztoru na Jasnej Górze w Częstochowie, wzmocniły jego reputację wojskową.

W 1772 r. Pułaski został uznany za wiodącego dowódcę konfederacji, ale znany był także z nieposłuszeństwa wobec rozkazów i działania na własną rękę. Walki konfederacji zakończyły się zwycięstwem Rosjan w 1772 r. Pułaski uciekł najpierw do Turcji, a następnie do Francji. W 1773 r. jego wrogowie oskarżyli go o próbę królobójstwa. Pułaski został zaocznie skazany na śmierć i pozbawiony „wszelkiej godności i honoru”.

W 1775 r., będąc we Francji, przyjaciele przedstawili Pułaskiego Benjaminowi Franklinowi, który zdał sobie sprawę, że odwaga i umiejętności wojskowe Pułaskiego uczynią go wielkim atutem w walce o niepodległość Ameryki. Franklin napisał list do generała Jerzego Waszyngtona, zalecając przyjęcie Pułaskiego jako ochotnika w kawalerii armii kontynentalnej. Pułaski popłynął do Ameryki i przybył do Marblehead, MA, 23 lipca 1777 r. Po przybyciu napisał do generała



Waszyngtona: „Przybyłem tu, gdzie broni się wolności, aby jej służyć, żyć i umrzeć za nią”.

Pułaski spotkał się z generałem Waszyngtonem, który przydzielił go do swojej jednostki. Jedną z pierwszych bitew, w której Pułaski wziął udział, była bitwa pod Brandywine 11 września 1777 r. Kiedy Armia Kontynentalna zaczęła ulegać naporowi wroga i szykować do odwrotu, Waszyngton rozkazał Pułaskiemu zebrać jak najwięcej żołnierzy i opóźnić Brytyjczyków.

Szarża Pułaskiego zapewniła odwrót armii i uratowała życie Waszyngtonowi. Generał Waszyngton napisał do Kongresu Kontynentalnego, chwając działania Pułaskiego podczas bitwy. Kongres Kontynentalny awansował Pułaskiego do stopnia generała brygady i mianował go dowódcą kawalerii Armii Kontynentalnej. Pułaski zreorganizował kawalerię i napisał pierwszy regulamin. Wraz ze swoim oddziałem wziął udział w bitwie pod Germantown i spędził zimę w Valley Forge.

W 1778 r. Pułaski i jego ludzie zostali skierowani do Yorktown. Tam Kongres Kontynentalny nadał mu tytuł „Dowódcy konnego” i zezwolił na utworzenie korpusu kawalerii, który stał się Legionem Pułaskiego. Legion został skierowany do Betlejem PA. Tam, żeńskie stowarzyszenie Moravian Single Sisters of the Moravian Community wręczyło Pułaskiemu sztandar dla legionu. Legion wziął udział w bitwie pod Little Egg Harbor, a następnie został wysłany do Karoliny Południowej, gdzie pomógł obronić miasto Charleston przed wojskami brytyjskimi.

We wrześniu generał Benjamin Lincoln próbował z pomocą Francuzów odzyskać miasto Savannah. Podczas ataku 9 października 1779 r. siły francuskie zaczęły się wycofywać (Pułaski był jednocześnie dowódcą kawalerii amerykańskiej i francuskiej). Podczas prób mobilizacji uciekających wojsk francuskich, Pułaski został śmiertelnie ranny przez odłamek kartacza. Zabrano go na pokład żaglowca „Wasp”, gdzie zmarł dwa dni później, nigdy nie odzyskując przytomności. Jego ciało

zostało zabrane ze statku i pochowane na plantacji Greenwich w pobliżu Savannah, GA. W 1825 r. Lafayette położył kamień węgielny pod pomnik Pułaskiego w Savannah.

W 1996 r. szczątki Pułaskiego ekshumowano w celu przeprowadzenia, testów i badań DNA, które jednak nie dały jednoznacznych wyników. Wg. badań, szkielet wskazywał zgodność z wiekiem Pułaskiego i cechy osoby, która jeździła konno, a na czole czaszki znajdowała się rana, co zgadzało się z raną, którą Pułaski odniósł w jednej z bitew.

W 2005 r. badane szczątki zostały ponownie złożone z honorami wojskowymi pod pomnikiem Pułaskiego w Savannah, a Pułaskiemu przyznane zostało honorowe obywatelstwo Stanów Zjednoczonych.



FRYDERYK CHOPIN (1810 - 1849)

Fryderyk Chopin urodził się 1 marca 1810 roku w Żelazowej Woli w Księstwie Warszawskim. Jego ojciec uczył francuskiego w liceum warszawskim, grał na flecie i skrzypcach. Jego matka, która grała na pianinie i udzielała lekcji gry na fortepianie, udzielała małemu Fryderykowi lekcji gry na fortepianie. Od najmłodszych lat było jasne, że był cudownym dzieckiem, w wieku 7 lat zaczął dawać publiczne koncerty i komponować muzykę. Uczył się u czeskiego muzyka Wojciecha Żywnego, jego naj-wcześniejszym zachowanym utworem był polonez z 1821 roku.

Później studiował muzykę w liceum warszawskim u innego czeskiego muzyka, Wilhelma Würfela. Wyjeżdżał też na wakacje do różnych miejsc w Polsce, a podczas wizyty w miejscowości Szafarnia poznał polską wiejską muzykę ludową. Podczas swoich podróży brał udział w koncertach Carla Friedricha Zeltera, Niccolò Paganiniego i Felixa Mendelssohna. Dawał koncerty publiczne i kameralne koncerty

w salonach. 1 sierpnia 1829 r., po ukończeniu studiów w Konserwatorium Warszawskim, zadebiutował w Wiedniu. Sukces Chopina jako kompozytora i wykonawcy otworzył przed nim Europę. 2 listopada 1830 r. opuścił Polskę i wyjechał do Austrii.

Kilka tygodni później, kiedy przebywał w Wiedniu, wybuchło powstanie listopadowe 1830 r. Przygnębiony i trawiony nostalgią Chopin napisał do przyjaciela: „Przeklinam moment mojego wyjazdu”. We wrześniu 1831 r. podczas podróży do Paryża dowiedział się, że powstanie zostało stłumione, a wszystko to zainspirowało go do zostania narodowym bardem, który potrafił interpretować w swoich utworach przeszłość, teraźniejszość i przyszłość Polski. Chopin przybył do Paryża pod koniec września 1831 r., w 1835 r. został obywatelem francuskim. Nigdy nie powrócił do Polski, ale obracał się w kręgach polskich emigrantów, których uważał za przyjaciół i powierników.

Chopin utrzymywał się udzielając lekcji gry na fortepianie i sprzedając swoje kompozycje. W ciągu ostatnich 18 lat swojego życia dał tylko 30 publicznych koncertów, wolał bardziej intymną atmosferę salonów. Przyjaźnił się z Franzem Liszem i Robertem Schumannem i był podziwiany przez współczesnych sobie muzyków. Był krótko zaręczony z Marią Wodzińską, później utrzymywał długi związek z Amantine Dupin (znaną pod pseudonimem George Sand) oraz z Jane Stirling, która była jedną z jego wielbicielek.

Chopin przez większość swojego życia cierpiał z powodu złego stanu zdrowia. Zmarł w Paryżu w 1849 r., w wieku 39 lat, prawdopodobnie na zapalenie osierdzia, nasilone przez gruźlicę.

Pogrzeb Chopina odbył się w kościele La Madeleine w Paryżu 30 października 1849 r. Został pochowany na cmentarzu Père Lachaise. Zgodnie z wcześniejszym życzeniem Chopina, jego serce zostało usunięte z jego ciała zaraz po zgonie i zakonserwowane. W 1850 r. zostało złożone w kościele Świętego Krzyża w Warszawie. Podczas II wojny światowej serce na krótko wpadło w ręce nazistów, ale zostało zwrócone po wojnie.

LIFE INSURANCE

WHOLE, TERM & FINAL EXPENSE

SAVE 10%

WITH THE **FAMILY PLUS SPECIAL**

ANNUITIES

NON-QUALIFIED & IRAS

3.75% APY

ELITE SERIES (3 YEAR GUARANTEE)

AVAILABLE THROUGH **APRIL 15, 2020**

MEMBER BENEFITS

POLISH LANGUAGE &
DANCE SCHOOLS

SCHOLARSHIPS &
EDUCATIONAL LOANS

SPORTS TOURNAMENTS

CULTURAL EVENTS

NARÓD POLSKI &
OTHER PUBLICATIONS

PERKSPOT & PRESCRIPTION
DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

AND MUCH MORE!



This spring, let the **benefits** bloom in your **PRCUA Life**

