

Polish American Congress

National Conference

The Polish American Community in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities

Zjazd Polonii: Konferencja nt.

Polonia Amerykańska w XXI w.: Wyzwania i Możliwości

**October 15 & 16, 2009
Auditorium, Fine Arts Center
Northeastern Illinois University
Chicago, Illinois**

AGENDA

Thursday October 15

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Opening Plenary Session**

Welcome:

Frank J. Spula, President, PAC

Greetings by:

- Hon. Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago
- H.E. Jan Borkowski, Secretary of State,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland
- H.E. Robert Kupiecki, Ambassador of Republic of Poland
to the United States
- Ms. Krystyna Bochenek, Representative of the
President of the Polish Senate
- Mr. Zygmunt Matynia, Consul General of the Republic of
Poland in Chicago
- Mr. Maciej Płażyński, President, Wspólnota Polska
- Dr. Carla Knorowski, Vice President for Advancement,
Northeastern Illinois University

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Break**

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **General Session 2:**

Today's Polish American Community

Moderator: Dr. Lucja Mirowski-Kopec,
General Secretary, Alliance of Polish Clubs

Panelists:

- H.E. Jan Borkowski, Secretary of State,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland
- Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, President, Piast Institute
- Ms. Kasia Rivera, Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau
- Mr. Dominik Stecula, Census Coordinator, Piast Institute

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **General Session 3:**

Leadership in the Polish American Community

Moderator: Dr. Casimir (Cash) J. Kowalski, Professor of
Educational Leadership, South Carolina State Univ.

Panelists:

- Mr. Kamil Mroz, Co-Organizer, Polish-Canadian Youth
Leadership Challenge
- Participants of School of Polonia Leaders, Warsaw, 2009:
Ms. Laura Felusiak, Secretary, Texas Division, PAC
Mr. Jennifer Crissey, Polish Roman Catholic Union

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **Break**

3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. **Issue Session A -1:**

Education Partnerships: Teaching and Learning

Moderator: Dr. John J. Kulczycki, Professor Emeritus,
East Central European History,
University of Illinois at Chicago

Panelists:

- Dr. Lidia Z. Filus, Professor of Mathematics,
Northeastern Illinois University
- Dean Janet Fredericks, Northeastern Illinois University
- Prof. Adam Budnicki, Warsaw School of Economics
- Rector Maria Nowicka-Skowron, Częstochowa Polytechnic

Issue Session A -2:

Role and Importance of Ethnic Organizations

Moderator: Ms. Virginia Sikora, President,
Polish Women's Alliance of America

Panelists:

- Ms. Teresa Abick, Vice President, Polish National Alliance
- Ms. Anna Sokolowski, Vice President,
Polish Roman Catholic Union of America
- Mr. Wallace Zielinski, Secretary, PAC;
Past President, Polish Falcons

4:45 - 5:00 p.m.

Break

5:00-5:30 p.m.

Keynote: H.E. Waldemar Pawlak,
Deputy Prime Minister of Poland

5:30 – 6:45 p.m.

General Session 4:

U.S. –Poland Business Ties:

Moderator: Mr. Bogdan Puksza, Executive Director,
Polish American Chamber of Commerce

Panelists:

- Mr. Andrzej Arendarski, President,
Poland Chamber of Commerce
- Ms. Iwona Bochenska, Illinois Department of Commerce
- Mr. Maciej Cybulski, Managing Director,
State of Illinois Central European Office, Warsaw, Poland

7:00 p.m.

Piano Recital and Reception

Friday, October 16

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **General Session 5:**

Polonia & Poland: Ties Between the Two Countries

Moderator: Ms. Bozena Kaminski, Director,
Polish and Slavic Center, New York, New York;
PAC Vice President for Polish Affairs

Speakers:

- Mr. Maciej Płażyński, President, Wspólnota Polska
- Dr. Susanne S. Lotarski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Europe and Director for Eastern Europe, Russia and
Eurasia, U.S. Department of Commerce (ret.)
- Jonathan E. Monken, Deputy of Illinois State Police
- Major General William L. Enyart, Adjutant General,
Illinois National Guard

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Issue Session B-1:**

Political Opportunities: Getting Involved, Being Active

Moderator: Mr. Anthony Bajdek, Associate Dean (ret.)
and Senior Lecturer in History, Northeastern University
(Boston, MA); PAC Vice President for American Affairs

Panelists:

- Hon. Edward J. Derwinski, U.S. Secretary of Veteran Affairs, 1989-92, Member of Congress, 1959-83
- Hon. Neil Hartigan, Illinois Lt. Governor 1973-77, Illinois Attorney General 1982-90

Issue Session B-2:

Building Community Through Sports

Moderator: Mr. Wallace Zielinski, PAC Secretary
Past President, Polish Falcons of America

Panelists:

- Mr. Piotr Nurowski, President, Polish Olympic Committee
- Mr. Timothy L. Kuzma, President, Polish Falcons of America
- Mr. Ed Kelly, Superintendent, Chicago Park District (ret.)

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Issue Session C-1:**

Preservation and Promotion of Polish Culture and Heritage in the United States

Moderator: Ms. Debbie Majka, President,
American Council for Polish Culture;
PAC Vice President for Cultural Affairs

Panelists:

- Ms. Maria Cieśla, President, Polish Museum of America
- Ms. Maria Zakrzewska, Chair of the Polish American Services Committee at the Chicago Public Library
- Ms. Barbara Lemecha and Ms. Henrietta Nowakowski, Co-Chairs, ACPC Polish Resources Booth, National Conference of the Social Studies

Issue Session C-2:

Networking in the Community:

Moderator: Dr. Susanne S. Lotarski, Vice President,
Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America

Panelists:

- Mr. Don Verson, Banker & community leader
- Mr. Philip J. Mullins, Chief Operating Officer, UNO
- Mr. Tony Muszynski, Director, Poland in the Rockies
- Mr. Lucas Lobecki, Webmaster, www.polorg.com

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **Break**

3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. **General Session 6:
The Future of Polonia - Organizational Challenges and
Opportunities**

Moderator: Mr. Frank Spula, President PAC

Panelists:

- Dr. Donald Pienkos, Professor of Political Science,
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Ms. Irene Tomaszewski, Author, Founding President,
Canadian Foundation for Polish Studies;
- Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, President, Piast Institute

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. **Concluding General Session:
The Way Forward**

6:00 p.m. **Dedication of Bust of Lech Walesa
Northeastern Illinois University, Walesa Hall,**

6:30 p.m. **Reception**

7:30 p.m. **Concert**

NOTE: Except for the Opening Plenary and Keynote, all sessions will include time for discussion and exchange of views among participants on the subject of the session.

(Agenda subject to change)