Dear Directors and Members of the Polish American Congress,

As a Polish American community, we have many historical commemorations we will be observing this year. One of earliest is the first labor strike in the colony of Jamestown in 1619 against the Virginia Company. The strike was formed in reaction to the Polish community exclusion from voting rights; the Poles launched the first labor strike, a fight for civil rights and voting representation. Additionally, September 1 will mark the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of WWII when the Nazi’s invaded Poland without any warning of war, and Soviet Russia followed shortly after. Moreover, this year marks the 70th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty (NATO) which over the years, safeguarded the security of its members and played a critical role in the protection and promotion of the principles and values of the post-World War international order.

Similarly, twenty years ago on March 12, 1999, Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic became full-fledged members of NATO, after a winding path to membership. Much of the success can be attributed to the efforts of the Polish American Congress, its leadership, efforts and involvement of many divisions and individuals throughout the United States. Thousands upon thousands of letters were addressed and mailed to legislators seeking their support. Meeting were held through the country stressing the importance of Poland being part of the Alliance. Also, this year marks the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Polish American Congress in Buffalo, New York at the end of May in 1944. The anniversary is a tribute to the founders and supporters who volunteered their, time, energy – and many time funds – for a cause that prevailed and endured for all these years. (Continued on next page...)

Future PAC Newsletters will be sent out:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline for submission</th>
<th>Publication date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 5, 2019</td>
<td>Friday, April 12, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, June 7, 2019</td>
<td>Friday, June 14, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, August 2, 2019</td>
<td>Friday, August 9, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 4, 2019</td>
<td>Friday, October 11, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, December 6, 2019</td>
<td>Friday, December 13, 2019</td>
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“Your Voice in America” newsletter is published bimonthly by the Polish American Congress. The purpose of the newsletter is to offer PAC National Directors and PAC Executive Committee members the opportunity to share news and information about their state divisions and offices. The newsletter does not receive funds from any external source. The editor is Dr. Mark Pienkos.

Articles should be between 100 and 400 words. Some editing will be done to match our style guidelines and spatial constraints, as well as correcting grammatical errors. We do not send proofs for approval. When sending photos, please include captions with names, official titles. All submitted materials become the property of the Polish American Congress and may be used to promote the mission of the PAC. Materials will not be returned unless requested.

Articles are due according to this schedule. Send your submissions to PAC National VP for Public Relations, Mark Pienkos at markpienkos2012@gmail.com.
As members of the Polish American Congress, we should be proud of the accomplishments. At the upcoming meeting, we should focus on how to meet our goals, and conquer challenges facing the organization. At our last Council of National Directors meeting, various sites were mentioned to host the upcoming conference and commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Congress. The city selected was Chicago, after a discussion of multiple dates, May 9th and 10th were decided upon. The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Hotel located in Rosemont, with a celebratory event taking place on Thursday evening and meeting concluding Friday afternoon. Additional information will be available on the PAC website.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Spula

Frank J. Spula, President

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for an Interesting Opportunity?

The National Office of the Polish American Congress recruits Communications Interns throughout the year. We are currently seeking four interns to work from June to August 2019.

Description: Communications Intern (4 vacancies)
Hours: 10-25 per week, working remotely or out of the National Office
Supervisors: Administrator and Director of Policy Planning
Compensation: Unpaid

Communications Intern will provide research support and write articles or short commentaries about policy issues concerning Poland and Central and East European region, as well as Poland-U.S. relations. Topics will also include energy security, NATO, cyber security, Three Seas Initiative and Russia’s hybrid warfare. This work can be done either at the National Office in Washington D.C. or remotely. The length of the internship is flexible depending on intern’s availability.

Qualifications:

• Must have excellent writing skills.
• Must have an interest in policy and security issues.
• Must possess the ability to adequately follow directions and work with minimal supervision.
• Working towards a degree in Journalism, Communications, Political Science, History, International Relations, Public Policy, Intelligence Studies, or other writing intensive fields.
• Ability to read in the Polish language is preferred.

The internship program is open to all university students including college, graduate, and doctoral degree candidates. If interested, please e-mail resume, cover letter, short writing sample (1-3 pages), and a recommendation letter (optional) to the attention of Klara Z. Wisniewska at kwisniewska@pac1944.org by Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

For additional info regarding other types of internships at the National Office of the PAC, please visit: http://www.pac1944.org/internship-program/.
The annual meeting of the Polish American Congress Council of National Directors will be held in Chicago, Thursday and Friday, May 9 & 10, 2019. The location for the meeting will be the Hyatt Rosemont, 6350 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018. For more info on the hotel, visit www.rosemont.hyatt.com.

Specific details will be sent to National Directors from the PAC National Office in Washington, D.C.

The 2019 gathering will conduct normal business, including reviewing By-Laws and considering Resolutions. Also, this year the Polish American Congress celebrates its 75th anniversary as an organization. One of the highlights of the Council of National Directors meeting will be a banquet to commemorate the many accomplishments of the PAC.

Again, additional information will be sent to National Directors in the immediate future. In advance, thank you for making plans to attend the 2019 PAC national meeting – celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of our fine organization!

**Amendments to the By-Laws**

**Procedure to Amend the By-Laws.**

The following procedures to amend the by-laws:

Proposals to amend the by-laws must be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the Bylaws Committee sixty (60) days before the meeting of the Council of National Directors. The Bylaws Committee is as follows:

— Mr. Andrew Kaminski, Chairperson
— Mr. Zbigniew Koralewski
— Mr. James L. Lawicki, II
— Ms. Maria Staszkiewicz
— Ms. Anna M. Wierzbicki
— Mr. Mark Grzymala

The contact information for Mr. Kaminski is:

• E-mail: Kaminskiny@aol.com
• Cellphone: 973-303-0498
• Office Phone: 718-389-0450

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PAC WASHINGTON OFFICE**

Following a review of the submitted amendments by the chairperson of the by-laws committee and members of the Executive Committee a report of the submitted amendments will be distributed to members of the Council of National Directors thirty (30) days before the meeting of the Council of National Directors.

The by-laws committee shall meet prior to the meeting of the Council of National Directors and prepare a report recommending action by the Council of National Directors.

All amendments to the by-laws shall require a two thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members present of the Council of National Directors assembled.
CELEBRATING THE GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS!

2019 marks the 75th anniversary of the Polish American Congress. The following article provides a brief overview of the history of the PAC.

ORIGINS OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

Written by Donald Pienkos

The Polish American Congress (known as PAC, or Kongres Polonii Amerykanskiej, KPA) was established at a massive gathering in Buffalo, New York at the end of May 1944 in what proved to be the last year of the Second War. (The great Allied invasion of Normandy occurred just five days after the Congress adjourned.)

In Buffalo, more than 2,500 elected representatives of the Polish community across the United States spoke in one voice to express their total support for the victory of the United States over Nazi Germany and imperial Japan in the conflict, and for the restoration of a free and sovereign Poland once the War was won.

Charles Rozmarek of Chicago was elected president of the Polish American Congress. He and his fellow officers immediately set to work to mobilize the organized Polish community in support of the aims of the Congress. Sadly, the Allies’ victory in World War II did not lead to a Poland restored to freedom and sovereignty. But the Polish American Congress never wavered in its energetic efforts on behalf of the Polish cause, a cause that was at last realized in 1989 with the creation of the Third Republic of Poland.

The record of the Polish American Congress in its constant support of a free and sovereign Poland, its humanitarian work on behalf of Poland’s people, and its key role in bringing about Poland’s entry into NATO should be well enough known to its members and to well informed Americans and Poles alike.

But what follows is a summary of the story of how the Polish American Congress is less well known.

On September 1, 1939 Poland was invaded by Nazi Germany, an act that shattered the lives of its people and precipitated the start of World War II. For the then 6 million member Polish community in America, Germany’s ruthless aggression, followed by the Soviet invasion of Poland from the east just weeks later, was a profound shock. Not only were many in America linked to suffering family members in Poland, there was the blow to Polonia’s morale, since the community’s efforts to work for the achievement of Poland’s independence back in 1918 had been one of its proudest organizational achievements.

Given America’s initial neutrality in the conflict, the only way for Polish Americans to respond on Poland’s behalf was by collecting goods on behalf of Polish refugees under the auspices of the Rada Polonii Amerykanskiej federation. Yet even when the U.S. did enter the War after Pearl Harbor in December 1941 the Rada Polonii was forbidden as a humanitarian organization from operating as a political lobby for Poland’s independence. This U.S. government decision effectively paralyzed the organizations of the massive Polish community in addressing the issue of Poland’s future fate to America’s leaders in Washington.

At the same time, however, a small group of Polish Americans sympathetic to America’s war time ally, the Soviet Union, succeeded in organizing the American Slav Congress and the American Polish Labor Council. Claiming to speak for the millions of Polish people in America in their patriotic support of the war against Germany and their commitment to American-Soviet friendship, they gained considerable influence with the U.S. government. At the same time, they did their best to blacken as anti-American, and worse, any Polish American group that was not with them.

But there were activists in the Polish community who refused to buckle under the intimidating propaganda of the pro-Soviet Polish Americans. Centered largely in New York, they included leaders from the pre-World War II Polish government exiled in this country, most notably Ignacy Matuszewski and Waclaw Jedrzejewicz, and like-minded Polish Americans, led by Max Wegryznek, publisher of the New York Nowy Swiat Polish daily newspaper and Frank Januszewski, publisher of Detroit’s Dziennik Polski. In 1942, they and their colleagues organized the National Committee of Americans of Polish Descent (Komitet Narodowy Amerykanow Polskiego Pochodzenia, KNAPP).
In their view, Poland’s very future as an independent state was threatened by an unmindful Soviet-American alliance, a view that also made them sharply critical of the Polish exile government in London headed by General Władysław Sikorski.

Though vilified by its critics and even subjected to U.S. government harassment, the KNAPP group persisted. But after the discovery of the devastating Katyn massacre in March 1943, the Soviet government decision in April to break diplomatic relations with the London government in favor of its own handpicked communist followers as leaders of a future Soviet-dominated Poland, and the tragic death of Gen. Sikorski at Gibraltar in July, conditions dramatically changed. Soon enough, KNAPP’s warnings were receiving greater and greater recognition. In December 1943, leaders from KNAPP met in Chicago with Charles Rozmarek, president of the Polish National Alliance fraternal, Honorata Wolowska, president of the Polish Women’s Alliance, Teofil Starzynski, president of the Polish Falcons of America, and John Olejniczak, president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union, and leaders of the Polish clergy and the Polish American press. There they agreed that the time had come for the true representatives of the Polish community in America to organize politically and speak their mind to the U.S. government.

What followed was the call to elect delegates from across the country to meet in Buffalo, a major Polonia center located midway between the vast Polish populations in the East and the Midwest and to set up a true political lobby on Poland’s behalf.

The Polish American Congress was the result of this extraordinary gathering. It was an organization Congress that from Day One has remained true to its founding principles.

Polish Sailing Ship, Celebrating 100th Anniversary of Poland Regaining its Independence, visited Los Angeles Area.

Reported by David Rosenfeld
The Daily Breeze - Redondo Beach, CA
December 17, 2018

A three-masted Polish sailing ship on a world tour, docked at the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro from Christmas Day through December 27, 2018. The tall ship, more than 300 feet long and weighing 2,255 gross tons, is named Dar Młodzieży. It has been cruising around the world from its home in Gdynia Maritime University, Poland since May to celebrate 100 years of Poland’s regained independence following the defeat of the Central Powers — Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire — in World War I. The armistice was signed on Nov. 11, 1918, thus Poland’s Independence Day. During the ship’s visit to Los Angeles, the crew met with local officials and members of the Polish community, including those from the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles.

The 36-year-old ship travels at 5.5 knots (6 miles per hour) and has sailed more than 20,000 nautical miles. Dar Młodzieży — meaning “The Gift of Youth” — was on its way from Japan with a previous stop in San Francisco before arriving in Los Angeles. Upon leaving San Pedro, the ship headed to Panama for the Roman Catholic Church’s World Youth Day. The 16th World Youth Day will be celebrated in Panama from January 22-27, 2019. Pope Francis announced the date and location of the 2019 gathering at the end of the closing Mass of World Youth Day 2016 in Brzegi near Kraków, Poland.
On Christmas Day 2018 through December 27th, the Polish Tall Ship, Dar Młodzieży, docked at the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro, CA. Visitors were invited aboard to gain a glimpse of the magnificent vessel. The three-masted Polish sailing ship is on a world tour helping to bring attention to the importance of 2018 in the nation’s history.

The tall ship, more than 300 feet long and weighing 2,255 gross tons, has been cruising around the world from its home port at the Gdynia Maritime University, Poland, since May – celebrating 100 years of Poland regaining its independence, which took place on November 11, 1918. During its visit to Los Angeles, the crew met with local officials and members of the Polish community, including those from the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles.

Michelle (Pienkos) Mora, her husband, Alex, and his daughter, Amy, seized the opportunity to visit the Tall Ship and admire its beauty – both dockside and aboard. Michelle is a fourth generation Pole and she is extremely proud of her Polish roots. Every chance she gets, Michelle does her best to share the beauty, history, traditions, and pride of her Polish ancestry. Wanting Alex and Amy to gain an even greater appreciation for what it is to be Polish, the visit by the Dar Młodzieży afforded her an excellent opportunity to do just that.

A few take-aways from the tour were both Amy and Alex expressing their amazement as to how professional and polite all of the crew members were. Every question was answered in an easy to understand manner. Plus, the friendliness of all crew members struck them so positively. Michelle really appreciated all crew members for their willingness to pose for photographs, so she could have wonderful memories touring the Tall Ship.

The experience Michelle, Alex, and Amy enjoyed on this special day was mirrored by the many other guests who took advantage of boarding the Dar Młodzieży. Everyone was delighted for the opportunity to see a Tall Ship “up close and personal!”

Michelle at the stern of the Dar Młodzieży.
Jan Matejko’s Battle of Grunwald is indisputably one of the most famous paintings in Poland’s national collection. The painting has followed a tumultuous track through more than a century of cultural and political change, inspiring artists, authors, filmmakers, historians and even politicians.

Jan Matejko’s monumental work depicts an amalgam of the most dramatic turning points in the struggle of the Polish and Lithuanian armies against the Teutonic Knights on July 15, 1410. The battle of Grunwald, which took place in the fields of Grunwald, Łodwigow and Stębark, was one of the greatest battles of medieval Europe. As for the painting’s ideological facets, it has remained pretty fixed in its anti-Germanic message from its first appearance in 1878 up to the period of the Polish People’s Republic. It should be emphasized that Grunwald carried a special significance for Poles in the time when the nation did not exist as an independent state on the map of Europe, and all uprisings were bloodily suppressed. In order to survive, national identity had to refer back to the past. In these circumstances, painting and literature created “to cheer people’s hearts” played a very special role, feeding the conscience and patriotic sentiment.

The composition of the painting is extremely dynamic, almost Baroque. The circle in which the main heroes of the painting’s action are presented creates an unusual effect. You can see swarms of people captured in violent action, stressed by the dynamic movement of their robes. At the same time, the composition remains harmonious and balanced as a whole. The figures of the commanders, Duke Witold on the right and Ulrich von Jungingen on the left are placed in the painting’s center. Thanks to the contrasting colors of their red and white robes, as well as the illuminated effect on that part of the painting, the viewer’s gaze stops there first. Still, after a moment of close reading you can notice equally important historical figures in the top right corner in the background, that is Władysław Jagiełło and Zbigniew Oleśnicki, who will later save the king’s life. It is an element of composition that Matejko often made use of. On the one hand, highlights a clear message - at the center of the painting - and on the other it injects additional elements into the story, key to its proper interpretation and understanding. The viewer discovers new parts of the account without losing track of the main theme.
The suggestive and dynamic visual form of The Battle of Grunwald is intended to serve more than just an educational purpose. The composition literally seizes and sucks in the viewer. The attack of the Kraków banner develops along a diagonal line of the canvas, almost perpendicular to its surface. It creates the illusion that the viewer is in the center of the painting’s action. Furthermore, it suggests his participation in the battle’s struggle. As was pointed out by Stanisław Czekalski in his question “What does Grunwald want?”, the painting, as it were, forces the viewer to identify with the figure of the warrior in the red hood with his back turned towards to him, ready to strike the Grand Master with a fatal blow.

The work brought exceptional success and status to the already well-known and highly-regarded artist. After the public presentation of The Battle of Grunwald during a special ceremony, Matejko was awarded the interrex scepter. The painter became not only a hero, but most of all the ruler of people’s hearts. Matejko’s unique status cannot be compared with any other painter of the time. The master became “sacred”, and this sacralization was transferred to the painting, called the “altar of Polish art” at the time. In subsequent years, the battle turned into the major event which came to determine the fate of the Polish nation.

To learn more about the significant role Matejko’s painting had on Poland’s past and future, please read Henryk Sienkiewicz’s 1900 novel Krzyżacy / The Knights of the Cross.

DYK ~ Did You Know?

The Polish Home Army (Armia Krajowa)

On 14 February 1942 by order of the Commander-in-Chief Władysław Sikorski, the Home Army (Armia Krajowa) was formed, renamed from the Union of Armed Struggle (Związek Walki Zbrojnej). The Home Army was, like every army, perfectly organized, with units responsible for intelligence, training, propaganda, etc. Although the Home Army was the largest resistance movement in Europe, allied weapons, and supply drops for them were only a fraction of what the partisans in France or Yugoslavia received. Thanks to thousands of actions carried out by the Home Army and affiliated organizations, the Germans were forced to hold strong forces in occupied Poland, which adversely affected their situation on the fronts.
NEW FEATURE

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Stephanie Louise Kwolek
New Kingston, Pennsylvania
(July 31, 1923 – June 18, 2014)

Kwolek was an American chemist of Polish heritage, whose career at the DuPont company spanned over 40 years. She is best known for inventing the first of a family of synthetic fibers of exceptional strength and stiffness: poly-paraphenylene terephthalamide – better known as Kevlar. Her discovery generated several billion dollars of revenue for DuPont. For her work, Kwolek was awarded the DuPont company’s Lavoisier Medal for outstanding technical achievement. As of February 2015, she was the only female employee to have received that honor. Moreover, Kwolek won numerous awards for her work in polymer chemistry, including the National Medal of Technology, the IRI Achievement Award and the Perkin Medal. In 1980, Kwolek received the Chemical Pioneer Award from the American Institute of Chemists, and an Award for Creative Invention from the American Chemical Society. In 1995, Kwolek was added to the National Inventors Hall of Fame. In 2003, she was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame. She was awarded honorary degrees by Carnegie Mellon University (2001), Worcester Polytechnic Institute (1981) and Clarkson University (1997).

In 1986, Kwolek retired as a research associate for DuPont. Toward the end of her life, she consulted for DuPont, and served on both the National Research Council and the National Academy of Sciences. During her 40 years as a research scientist, Kwolek filed and received either 17 or 28 patents. Kwolek often tutored students in chemistry and also invented and wrote numerous classroom demonstrations that are still used in schools today. (Source: Wikipedia)
Stephen Gary Wozniak  
San Jose, California  
(Born: August 11, 1950)

Wozniak is the co-founder of Apple Computers, who is credited with being the main designer of the first Apples. A noted philanthropist who helped found the Electronic Frontier Foundation, Wozniak was the founding sponsor of the Tech Museum, the Silicon Valley Ballet and the Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose. His grandfather was of Polish descent.

Wozniak is best known for being a technology entrepreneur who co-founded Apple, Inc. in 1976, which later became the world’s largest information technology company by revenue.

He and Apple co-founder Steve Jobs are widely recognized as pioneers of the personal computer revolution of the 1970s and 1980s. Additionally, Wozniak was awarded the National Medal of Technology by the President of the United States in 1985, the highest honor bestowed on America's leading innovators. In 2000, he was inducted into the Inventors Hall of Fame and was awarded the prestigious Heinz Award for Technology and the Economy and Employment Award for “single-handedly designing the first personal computer and for then redirecting his lifelong passion for mathematics and electronics toward lighting the fires of excitement for education in grade school students and their teachers.”

(Sources: Personal Bio and Wikipedia)
Today’s Top Threat to Poland and the United States

John Czop
Director of Policy Planning
Polish American Congress

In the evening, on December 20, 2018 at the Penn Club in New York City, the Executive Director of the International Security Forum (ISF), Mr. Edmund Janniger, presented the views of three experts on transatlantic relations in today’s political context marked by increasingly strident nationalism and aggressive Kremlin revanchism. Poland’s former Minister of National Defense, Antoni Macierewicz, who today serves in the Sejm and as Chair of the Parliamentary Committee to Investigate the Smolensk Catastrophe, described the threat posed by increasingly close relations between Germany and Russia. Former United States Senator Larry Pressler, who represented North Dakota, and served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, now frequently travels, talks with world leaders, and writes a column on how Washington really works for the influential Deseret News, based in Salt Lake City. The Senator underlined the need for United States policy makers to find a way to get along with our opponents. Professor Jean-Marc Aucoin, who is on the faculty of Rutgers University Law School, views the authority and prestige of international organizations undermined by the worldwide revival of a strident nationalism.

Minister Macierewicz began with several geopolitical observations. Poland is flanked by authoritarian powers threatened by the Polish idea of freedom; she has no choice and must fight to preserve our national values against countries which find the very existence of Poland inconvenient. Though the Minister did not mention it in his speech, one of Putin’s top advisers, Aleksandre Dugin, wants to “regenerate Europe” through forced mass conversions to the Russian Orthodox Church, and he repeatedly has called for eliminating Poland, because she stands in the way of Russia dominating Europe.

By contrast, Macierewicz observed that, unlike Poland, the United States has a choice, albeit an unattractive one. America is an island at the edge of the Eurasian land mass, and the United States is a trading country. The United States could choose isolation and slow decline by not challenging the German-Russian project to set up a Eurasian bloc closed to trade with America. Minister Macierewicz hopes that the American people will NOT decide for autarky and a fortress America response.

Instead, Minister Macierewicz encourages the United States to work with Poland to challenge German-Russian domination of the Continent by doing two things. First, move the Three Seas Initiative from rhetoric to reality. This initiative is intended to build an economic prosperity zone in the Intermarium, the lands between the Baltic, Black, and Adriatic Seas. This zone must be independent of Russian energy and free from domination by German business. Second, permanent NATO bases with United States armed forces need to be established in Poland to protect and promote the economic prosperity of the Intermarium.

This project echoes the Polish American Congress’s mission to stand for a strong Poland as protecting United States national security interests in the Intermarium and promoting the values of political freedom and free enterprise in that area. Soon after he returned, in December 2018 from visiting Poland and several other countries in the Intermarium, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry’s office telephoned the Polish American Congress’s National Vice-President for Public Relations, Dr. Mark Pienkos, to request the PAC’s help to win support in American public opinion for the Three Seas Initiative, and especially for energy independence of the Intermarium countries from Russian oil and gas. Vice-President Pienkos instructed the PAC National Office in Washington to achieve this goal.

Working to establish a strong and prosperous Intermarium with permanent NATO bases in Poland is the ideal way to ensure peace and prosperity in Europe by challenging the German-Russian project to dominate Eurasia.

Intermarium

Intermarium was a geopolitical project conceived by politicians in successor states of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in several iterations, some of which anticipated the inclusion as well of other, neighboring states. The proposed multinational polity would have extended across territories lying between the Baltic and Black Seas, hence the Latinate name Intermarium, meaning “Between-Seas”.

Today’s Top Threat to Poland and the United States
From the Bookshelf

The Real Story of How Enigma Was Broken

By Dermot Turing

In 2018, Sir Dermot Turing – the nephew of Alan Turing, the man credited with cracking Nazi Germany’s Enigma code – published his book: The Real Story of How Enigma Was Broken. It details the critical role of Polish cryptographers who worked closely with French and British mathematicians. Using Enigma machines before World War II, Polish mathematicians were the first to decipher German military communications. Their work was crucial for later code-breaking during the war. Enigma was a series of cipher machines originally created near the end of the First World War and used in Germany both commercially and militarily. This excellent read can be found on various on-line bookstores.
Polish American Congress

Founded in May, 1944, the Polish American Congress is a National Umbrella Organization, representing at least 10 million Americans of Polish descent and origin. Its membership is comprised of fraternal, educational, veteran, religious, cultural, social, business, political organizations and individual membership. The Polish American community prides itself on its deeply rooted commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy, hard work and fulfillment of the American dream. We are present in every state and virtually every community in America, on various social, business and economic levels.

The Polish American Congress, an “umbrella” organization, is a federation of over 3000 Polish American organizations and clubs, ranging from national fraternal benefit societies, such as the Polish National Alliance, Polish Women’s Alliance, Polish Roman Catholic Union, Polish Falcons and others, including veteran, cultural, professional, religious and social associations, with aggregate membership of over one million. The PAC by-laws also provide for individual membership, as well as associate membership.

The PAC promotes civic, educational and cultural programs designed to further not only the knowledge of Polish history, language and culture, but to stimulate Polish American involvement and accomplishments.

The governing body of the PAC is the Council of National Directors, consisting of directors elected by their respective State Divisions or National Organizations and up to 10 at-large directors elected by the Council. Day-to-day operations are conducted by the Executive Committee elected by the Council of National Directors for a two year term.

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