



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 4

Your Voice
in *America!*

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

Future PAC Newsletters will be sent out:

Deadline for submission	Publication date
Friday, October 5, 2018	Friday, October 12, 2018
Friday, December 7, 2018	Friday, December 14, 2018

President's Message



Frank J. Spula, President

Dear Members,

I hope you are enjoying the summer weather. Last month, there was a meeting hosted in Chicago for the Executive Committee to address and discuss various issues concerning the Polish American Congress. A considerable amount of time was devoted to various topics regarding the organization, from finances and fundraising, communication to the upcoming meeting of the

Council of Directors. The issues discussed will be highlighted at the next conference in October. The scheduled 2018 Council of Directors meeting will start on Thursday, October 18th and continue through Saturday, October 20th, concluding around noon. The presence of all Directors is most welcome.

The following day, Sunday, October 21, a concert has been arranged in commemoration of Poland's 100th anniversary in regaining its independence. The concert will be held in the prominent Chicago Orchestra Hall in downtown Chicago, with major star performers from Poland and U.S. This should be the event of the season, in celebration of Poland's independence. The concert is scheduled to start at 3:00 P.M. More information will be posted on the website as it becomes available. All PAC members are welcome to attend.

The Washington Office with Ms. Wisniewska and Mr. Czop are arduously working to implement the new website as well as a social media strategy. This should assist in improving our linkage to state divisions, our members and organizations.

(Continued on next page...)

"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.

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(Continued from previous page...)

A meeting has been scheduled by the Council of World Polonia to be held in Warsaw, Poland, September 20th through the 23rd, 2019. The meeting is arranged by the President of Stowarzyszenie "Wspolnota Polska," Mr. Dariusz Bonislawski and Chairwoman of the World Council of Polonia, Ms. Teresa Berezowska. Numerous individuals from around the world will be attending this conference.

With local and state elections on the horizon, I have been meeting with various candidates seeking office for a governor to alderman seeking the support of the ethnic community. I encourage all local PAC divisions, and its leaders to be involved in local politics so that we could build and strengthen our lobbying influences.

The issue of Visa Waiver is still a topic of discussion within the Polish community. President Niedzinski of the Illinois Division and I visited Congressman Mike Quigley to discuss matters concerning Poland, particularly Visa Waiver, and stationing NATO troops in Poland. During the remainder of the year, there are numerous events scheduled to take place concerning Poland regaining its independence. It's vital as representatives within our communities, to make sure to be visible, organize and attend these events. Looking forward to seeing you in October!

Frank J. Spula, President



COALITIONS MAKE SUCCESS

Submitted by John Czop

The POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS needs to work together with partners who share our values and to achieve our common political goals. Your POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS NATIONAL OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, DC works hard to build such coalitions with our partners. Two such coalitions are now active.

First, please see below the statement by the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) which plans to send delegations to visit several District Offices of incumbent members of the House of Representatives this September. This initiative, proposed by the PAC and accepted by the member organizations of the CEEC, is the first effort to organize the CEEC outside the Washington Beltway.

This is necessary because an advocacy organization's influence inside Washington depends on its strength in the country, that is in the Congressional Districts. This is true because every political decision by our national officials involves two components. First, a policy consideration: how will this action help America and our allies? Second, an electoral calculation: will supporting this policy help my re-election? The CEEC, since the invasion of Georgia in 2008, and especially since the annexation of Crimea in 2014, has been doing a first-rate job in presenting to both Congress and the Executive Branch reasons why America needs to stop Kremlin aggression based on revanchism. Starting this September, members of Congress will see for the first time that they have constituents who endorse the CEEC's positions on NATO, the Three Seas Initiative, and sanctions against the Kremlin to preserve and protect our international system based on rules.

Second, please see this writer's letters (Page 4) addressed to two key leaders of the Jersey City Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Last May, in his letter, posted on the PAC web site, President Spula asked the Mayor of Jersey City, New Jersey, Steven Fulop, not to remove from Exchange Place Andrzej Pitynski's powerful Katyn Monument, which commemorates approximately 25,000 Poles murdered on Stalin's orders in April 1940, and by extension all victims of communism and other tyrannies.

The PAC National Office is implementing President Spula's sound policy to keep the Katyn Monument where it is. Readers recall, in the June issue of this NEWSLETTER, the publication, on 13 June, by the JERSEY JOURNAL of an editorial stating the PAC position on Pitynski's Monument. On August 13, the City Clerk of Jersey City announced the successful petition to hold a referendum on the 14 June 6-3 vote by the Jersey City Council to remove the Katyn Monument from Exchange Place. This petition campaign, led by Mr. Slawomir Platta, a successful tort lawyer and 2017 Grand Marshal of the New York/New Jersey General Pulaski Memorial Parade, and supported by the PAC, ONLY succeeded because of help from the Jersey City Branch of the NAACP.

Coalitions are vital for the PAC at the national and local levels.



Central and East European Coalition



**CEEC Advocacy Week
September 2018**

Washington, DC (CEEC) – During the week of September 17th, the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) will hold a timely in-district advocacy week. This endeavor is especially critical considering the recent NATO Summit and President Trump's meeting with Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, and a possible meeting in Washington D.C. between the two presidents.

NATO remains salient to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) to ward off threats from the Russian Federation. CEE members in NATO provide key support to NATO missions and a rising number (Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania) are providing 2% of their GDP towards defense spending to address the new realities. The eastern flank of Europe remains nevertheless exposed to the Russian Federation's continuous aggressive disregard for international law and attempts to disrupt the post-WWII international order based in the principles of democracy.

The goal for this advocacy week is to encourage Members of Congress to continue their support for military cooperation with CEE nations; to enhance military assistance to nations occupied by Russia; to promote full implementation of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA); to urge continued European Deterrence Initiative (EDI) funding; and reaffirm U.S. support for CEE in their effort to retain political sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The CEEC encourages the active participation of all our communities in promoting the need for greater U.S. foreign policy engagement in the CEE region. This advocacy week will provide an opportunity for members of our communities to meet and advocate for issues of mutual interest.

For further information, please contact the CEEC via email at ceecoalition@gmail.com or by calling (301) 340-1954.

Established in 1994, the Central and East European Coalition is comprised of 18 nationwide organizations representing more than 20 million Americans who trace their heritage to that part of the world.





The PAC Supports the NAACP

To: Rev. Nathaniel B. Legay
Jersey City Branch, NAACP

Dear Reverend Legay,

The POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS (PAC) wholeheartedly supports the thoughtful comments, in opposition to Jersey City Ordinance 18-057, expressed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) delegation, of approximately 15, at the Council Meeting on 13-14 June 2018. Their call for commemoration at Exchange Place of the good works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., President Nelson Mandela, and President Barack Obama has the full support of the PAC.

This morning, I was delighted to learn, from Ms. Phyllis Gordon, that the Jersey City Branch of the NAACP will support the ongoing effort to gather signatures of Jersey City residents, who also are registered voters, to hold a referendum on Ordinance 18-057, which authorizes the removal of the Katyn Monument from Exchange Place.

The PAC looks forward to working with the NAACP to give those who visit Exchange Place the opportunity to be mindful of the cost of the freedoms they enjoy. No public good can be served by removing Andrzej Pitynski's Katyn Monument, which commemorates Polish victims of communism, in order to put another upscale tavern on the waterfront. Monuments devoted to heroes of the struggle, waged here in America and in South Africa, against racism and for democracy need to be erected in Exchange Place so passersby's may understand the price of freedom. The shared theme is opposition to tyranny in its many forms and support for democracy and human rights.

I look forward to meeting you in the near future to express my gratitude for your support. May God Bless you and protect the NAACP.

Sincerely,
John Czop, Director of Policy Planning

To: Rev. Willie J. Keaton, Jr.
Jersey City Branch, NAACP

Dear Reverend Keaton,

The POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS (PAC) wholeheartedly supports the thoughtful comments, in opposition to Jersey City Ordinance 18-057, expressed by you as lead speaker of the NAACP delegation, of approximately 15, at the Council Meeting on 13-14 June 2018. Your forceful demand for transparency by Mayor Steve Fulop in the matter of the Exchange Place Alliance articulated the sentiments of Polish Americans at the meeting. Your call for commemoration at Exchange Place of the good works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., President Nelson Mandela, and President Barack Obama has the full support of the Polish American Congress. Commemorating the heroes of the NAACP at Exchange Place will help to prevent the removal of the Katyn Monument.

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I look forward to meeting you in the near future to express my gratitude for your support.

May God Bless you and protect the NAACP.

Sincerely,
John Czop, Director of Policy Planning

SPOTKANIE Z AUTOREM BIOGRAFII O JANIE KARSKIM

*Submitted by Bożena Kamiński,
PAC Vice President for Polish Affairs*

W czwartek 26 lipca w pięknej sali należącej do Centrum Polsko-Słowiańskiego usytuowanej w sercu polskiej dzielnicy na Geenpoincie odbyła się prezentacja książek "Jan KarSKI. Jedno życie" pióra Waldemara Piaseckiego. Organizatorami prezentacji książki byli Towarzystwo Jana Karskiego natomiast pomieszczenie, w którym odbyła się uroczystość udostępniło Centrum Polsko-Słowiańskie.

Podczas uroczystego wieczoru autorskiego i projekcji filmu o Janie KarSKim „Moja Misja” obecni byli przedstawiciele organizacji polonijnych a wśród nich wicekonsul Kamil Henne, który rozpoczął swoją pracę w Konsulacie Generalnym na Manhattanie i mieszkańcy Nowego Jorku, którzy chcieli bezpośrednio poznać autora powstającej trylogii o Janie KarSKim.

Spotkanie otworzyła Bożena Kamiński - dyrektor wykonawczy oraz prezes Centrum Polsko-Słowiańskiego. Wśród gości, którzy przyszli na spotkanie, byli między innymi przedstawiciele z Konsulatu Generalnego RP, Iwona Korga - dyrektor wykonawczy Instytutu Piłsudskiego w Ameryce, przedstawiciele Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej, oraz członkowie Rady dyrektorów Centrum Polsko-Słowiańskiego.

Uroczystość odbyła się w ramach obchodów 75-lecia Misji Jana KarSKiego, pod honorowym patronatem prezydenta RP Andrzeja Dudy. Inicjatorem tego przedsięwzięcia było Towarzystwo Jana KarSKiego w Lublinie. Kulminacją ich jest biografia Bohatera - "Jan KarSKI. Jedno życie" pióra Waldemar Piaseckiego. Jan KarSKI był najwybitniejszą postacią Polonii Amerykańskiej czasu wojny i lat powojennych uhonorowanym najwyższymi orderami Stanów Zjednoczonych i Polski oraz pośmiertną nominacją generałską.



Dear National Directors,

The upcoming Council of National Directors (CND) meeting is scheduled for October 18-20 in Chicago. On Sunday, October 21, PAC Directors will be invited to attend a concert at 3:00 p.m. at the Chicago Symphony Center, commemorating the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence. Tickets for the concert will be available for purchase in September.

The CND will take place at the Hyatt Rosemont, which is located at 6350 North River Rd, Rosemont, IL 60018 (<https://rosemont.hyatt.com>). Please call 1-800-233-1234 for reservations under the Polish American Congress. The cost of lodging is \$119.00 per night, plus tax. The cost for CND registration is \$325.00. I look forward to seeing you at the CND.

Sincerely,
Klara Z. Wiśniewska, Administrator



The Republic of Kraków (1815-1846) and the Republic of Montenegro (2006-2018): The Ghost of 19th Century Europe's Greatest Foreign Policy Dilemma Has Returned

*Submitted by Anthony J. Bajdek,
PAC Vice President for American Affairs*

I begin this article with Britain's view on the matter of Poland precisely as reported in the Niles' National Register in its September 11, 1847 issue, pages 27-29: "ENGLISH ELECTIONEERING. The following address of Lord Palmerston to the electors of the borough of Tiverton, on the occasion of the last election to the new parliament, besides being very amusing, and withal a very favorable specimen of English electioneering speeches, is deserving of perusal for the information it affords on European politics, and the exposition which it gives of the views of a leading member of the British government. It is only necessary to explain that the Mr. Harvey who is repeatedly referred to in the speech, was an opposing candidate, who preceded Lord Palmerston in a long address, in which he had impugned the whole policy of the administration, for which he held the noble lord responsible, as the secretary of foreign affairs, both under the present, and under the late Whig administration. After the speeches were ended, Mr. Harvey withdrew from the canvass, and Lord Palmerston and Mr. Heathcoat were declared chosen without a poll."

Lord Henry John Temple (1784-1865) had been the 3rd Viscount Palmerston, and began his lengthy speech referenced above by stating that his "view of government is that there are two objects of which it should aim – those objects are truth and justice. Then object of all science is truth; and the science of government is the investigation of truth..." an example of which he applied to the Republic of Kraków as follows:

"I think that I have now touched upon nearly every topic to which my opponent referred, except the subject of Poland. I am far from under-valuing the great services, which, in former times, the Polish nation rendered to the Christian nation[s] of Europe. By the partition of Poland, I consider that a heinous crime – a great political offence – was committed, but it was consummated many years ago, and long before I had anything to do with public affairs. The practical question that was recently discussed in the House of Commons, to which Mr. Harvey referred, related to Cracow, a small republic, placed between three military despotisms.

The position was certainly one of great danger; because when the lamp of freedom was placed in the midst of despotism it was hardly to be supposed that despotism would not, sooner or later, extinguish the sacred flame. So it happened. We protested against the proceeding. Mr. Harvey complains that our protest was couched in too civil terms – that we did not threaten more – that we did not show ourselves more angry. I must say that in the case of nations and governments as well as of individuals there is no dignity or wisdom in threatening to do what you are not prepared and may not be able to accomplish. (Hear, hear.) Much as we deplored the extinction of the free state of Cracow, and much as we condemned the act as a violation of the treaty of Vienna, I put it to you, what do you think would have been the verdict of the House of Commons, or of the country, if we had proposed to go to war with Austria, Russia, or Prussia, for the hopeless purposes of re-establishing the republic of Cracow. (Hear, hear.) The only way by which we could have compelled the restoration of the independence of Cracow would have been making war against these three great Powers, with such success that, in order to purchase peace, they would be ready to re-establish the republic.

I would like to know how many millions of money must have been expended, how many thousands of lives must have been sacrificed, and what torrents of blood must have been shed before we could have brought those three Powers on their knees before us, prepared to sue for peace on terms of our own dictation. Why, it is childish to talk about it; and if it was out of the question to go to war with three great powers for re-establishment of the republic of Cracow, it would not have been dignified, wise, or becoming the honor of this country to threaten what it was not prepared to execute. (Hear, hear.)"

Just think today in 2018 what Poles in the Republic of Kraków, 19th century's final European concession to allow for the existence of a veritable morsel (population under 150,000 souls) of Polish freedom and independence, must have thought upon learning of the details of Lord Palmerston's facts-of-life speech. Fast forward to President Trump's recent remarks about Montenegro (population under 630,000 souls) which, in principle, could be equally applied to each of NATO's three Baltic states, as well as to Poland, for that matter.

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As reported by www.cnn.com and other sources as well, when a Fox network TV commentator queried President Trump saying, "Membership in NATO obligates the members to defend any other member who is attacked. So, let's say Montenegro, which joined last year, is attacked. Why should my son go to Montenegro to defend it from attack? Why is that?" President Trump replied, "I understand what you're saying. I've asked myself the same question. Montenegro is a tiny country with very strong people.... They're very aggressive people. They may get aggressive, and congratulations, you're in World War III. Now I understand that -- but that's the way it (i.e., NATO) was set up. Don't forget, I just got here a little more than a year ago."

What is remarkable here is the basic similarities of statements by Lord Palmerston in the 19th century and President Trump in the 21st century, particularly on two points. The first being that each of them remarked that the respective foreign policies had been concluded prior to their involvement, and especially on the second point of major concern, that being, to go to war with a Great Power to defend a tiny republic.

Sadly, the Russian Empire under Czar Nicholas I in the 19th century and the Russian Federation today under President Vladimir Putin in the 21st century respectively, had enjoyed and continue to enjoy the benefits of knowing of the West's lack of enthusiasm for engaging in a war with Russia principally, to defend Poland (and Montenegro), despite the noblest attributions being acknowledged to Poland's history as the knight defending Europe against the barbaric East.

Finally, given the 20th century's painful episodic reality of France and Great Britain not having come to Poland's immediate aid on and after September 1, 1939 despite treaty obligations, what are today's bottom-line NATO realities to be in practical terms and actions as precipitated by President Trump's shocking articulation of this lingering foreign policy dilemma in the manner and substance of Lord Palmerston 171 years ago?

In Memoriam



1938 – 2018

Thaddeus C. Radzilowski

Piast Institute
Co-Founder and President

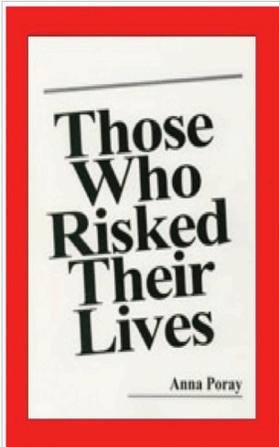
Board of Directors | Dekaban Board

Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, President and co-founder of the Piast Institute, was an award-winning historian whose work focused on Poland and other Central and Eastern European nations, including Russia. He wrote extensively on the histories of these regions as well as the migration of peoples from Central and Eastern Europe, with special emphasis on social history and historiography. He lectured widely in Europe and North America and has published more than 100 monographs, edited collections, journal articles, book chapters and scholarly papers.

In 1999, the President of Poland presented Dr. Radzilowski with the Cavaliers Cross of the Polish Order of Merit for distinguished contributions to the dissemination of Polish culture in the world.

Prior to co-founding the Piast Institute, Dr. Radzilowski taught at University of Michigan, Madonna University, Heidelberg College and Southwest Minnesota State University, where he served as Chair of the department of history, director of the Regional History Center, director of Rural studies and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. He also served as the acting director of the Immigration Research Center of the University of Minnesota, co-directed a special program on international business at the Wirtschafts Universität wien in Vienna (WU Vienna University of Economics and Business) and chaired an International Conference on Migration at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. He served as President of St. Mary College from 1995 - 2003.

Dr. Radzilowski also served as an advisor and consultant to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the U.S. Bureau of the Census and was a member of the Ford Foundation Commission on Ethnicity on American Life. He was the National Endowment for the Humanities' liaison to ethnic and community groups in the United States, a consultant for the New Jersey Department of Education and numerous other local and state government boards on ethnicity and pluralism. He also wrote, produced, consulted and advised on a number of radio and television productions, including award-winning films created in conjunction with organizations such as PBS and A&E. Dr. Radzilowski received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan. He was a corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN).



Anna Poray's "Those Who Risked Their Lives" gained much needed Index

Sebastian Szczepanski, PAC-MI Administrative Assistant
Ann Bankowski, PAC-MI President

Hamtramck, MI – In the cynical age in which we live, accounts of altruistic behavior by individuals who risked their lives for others during World War II should be especially welcome to readers. In wartime Poland, unlike in other German occupied countries, gentiles who extended any form of assistance to Jews risked execution by Nazis. Despite cultural, religious, and linguistic differences between Polish Jews and Polish Christians, most Poles were sympathetic to the plight of the Jewish people. Hundreds of thousands of Poles sheltered, fed, clothed, provided forged documents and looked after the medical needs of Jews on a regular basis. There were additionally hundreds of thousands of Poles whose assistance, though occasional and indirect, was no less dangerous.

“Those Who Risked Their Lives,” compiled, edited and annotated by Anna (Wybranowska) Poray, offers a glimpse of some of the thousands of Poles who rescued Jews. The book records the names and experiences of many of these remarkable individuals.

Recently, an Index to accompany the book was created by members of the Polish American Congress - Michigan Division (Henrietta Nowakowski, Barbara Gronet, Wladyslaw Bankowski, Richard Lapham, Greg Biestek). It was an enormous project, but the Index was much needed as an aid in identifying the rescued Jews and their Polish Christian rescuers as well as the locations where these acts of mercy occurred.

In the introduction to the Index its authors write: “This work pertains only to what the editor documented. It neither exhausts the topic nor covers all known cases. As such, it should be treated as a companion resource to other similar works.”

The Talmud says that he who saves one life, saves the world. Thousands of Jews can bear witness to the Poles who saved the world.

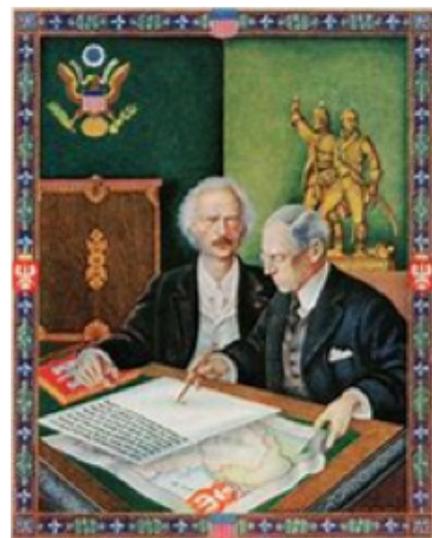
“Those Who Risked Their Lives” was produced by the Heralds of Truth, a Michigan-based organization, and published by IRIS Publishing Services. Last year Heralds of Truth officially transferred promotion of this book to come under the auspices of the Michigan Division of the PAC.

This important book has already found its place on the shelves of such far away places as Polish Library in Montreal, Canada, and in Perth, Australia (the book was ordered by an author and columnist, Joseph Poprzeczny). Thanks to the press release posted on PAC-MI web-site and Facebook page, we are receiving a great interest in the book from all over the world.

The book with the accompanied Index is available for purchase (\$20.00 + \$5.00 shipping & handling) at the Polish American Congress - Michigan Division office (11333 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212). Write us or call the PAC-MI office at 313-365-9400, or email us at www.pacmi.org, to order your copy. We strongly suggest purchasing a copy and donating it to a local library or school as well.



Celebrating the Centennial of Poland Regaining Its Independence!



Ignacy Paderewski and President Woodrow Wilson

This is the fourth in a series of bi-monthly statements issued by the Polish American Congress regarding the centennial of Poland regaining its Independence: November 11, 1918 – November 11, 2018.

Dr. Mark Pienkos, National Vice President for Public Relations, has assembled a team of eminent Polish American Political Scientists and Historians to alert readers as to the importance of Poland's contributions to the United States and the World.

Pienkos, and the authors, sincerely appreciate the efforts of Klara Wisniewska, PAC Washington, D.C. Office Administrator, for her work in disseminating these statements to various media outlets.

MORE THAN A FOOTNOTE - POLISH AMERICA'S CONTRIBUTION TO POLAND'S INDEPENDENCE

Submitted by Donald E. Pienkos

President John F. Kennedy put things so well when he famously said, "Victory has a hundred fathers but defeat is an orphan." So, it is with the rebirth of an independent Polish state at the end of the First World War.

Countless thousands of patriotic Poles were active in their homeland's successful liberation from 123 years of partition and oppression under the Russian, German and Austro-Hungarian empires. Figures like Jozef Pilsudski (1867-1935), Roman Dmowski (1864-1939), Ignacy J. Paderewski (1860-1941) and Josef Haller (1874-1960) played deservedly recognized roles in this effort. Several foreign leaders, most importantly Woodrow Wilson, President of the U.S., were also instrumental in the achievement. But we should not forget the part played by the largely immigrant-led Polish community and its organizations in Poland's restoration.

Indeed by 1914, over four million men and women of Polish birth and parentage resided in a United States of 100 million. Moreover, this was a true community of culture led by a host of dedicated men and women who were active in a number of mass organizations, secular and religious. These dedicated individuals were committed first and foremost to assisting their countrymen in both achieving a better life as loyal Americans and helping them preserve and share their spiritual and ethnic traditions. Many among them were convinced that the vast Polish community - then called *wychodztwo* ("the emigration") and later known as "Polonia" - was indeed a true and significant "fourth segment" of Poland. Indeed, the members in this segment were in an excellent position to play a real role in supporting the independence cause because they resided in a free country which protected their patriotic activities. Significantly, political activists in partitioned Poland took them seriously on this score. A number of its representatives made trips to the United States to address the immigrant community and to raise funds for their work back in the homeland.

In 1910, just four years before World War I broke out, the Poles in America organized a great national congress in Washington, DC whose elected delegates approved a resolution calling for Poland's rebirth. Two years later, in Pittsburgh, Polonia's organizations united to create an organization for this purpose, the Polish National Defense Committee (Komitet Obrony Narodowej, KON). Following the outbreak of the War, most of KON's organizations, led by the Polish National Alliance, Polish Roman Catholic Union, Polish Women's Alliance, and Polish Falcons, joined to form the Polish Central Relief Committee (PCKR) in Chicago. This federation's initial aim was to collect goods and donations for their suffering countrymen in their war ravaged homeland.

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In 1916 the PCKR's political action committee, the National Department (Wydział Narodowy) headed by Chicago's John Smulski (1867-1928), took the lead in pushing for independence - to the Polish community, the American public, and the leaders of the U.S. government, in league with Paderewski. The National Department supported Paderewski in his meetings with President Wilson and strongly backed his work with the president of the Polish Falcons, Dr Teofil Starzynski (1878-1952), to create a Polish Army in America fighting under Polish colors in France. In September 1918 Smulski and the religious and fraternal leaders of the Polish community convened an extraordinary Congress in Detroit. There its 1,000 delegates heard from Paderewski and Dmowski and enthusiastically backed a fund drive to raise \$200 million for a Poland reborn to independence.

The Polish community's services to Poland did not end with Poland's independence, although with independence there came a surprise. In Poland it was Pilsudski, the champion of independence for the leaders of KON (a federation long eclipsed in America by Smulski's National Department), who dominated the newly proclaimed Polish republic. Neither Paderewski nor Dmowski, the long-established spokesmen for Polish independence in America's Polish community, would play significant leadership roles in Poland's politics after 1920.

But here what should be remembered is the Polish emigration's dedication to a cause that for generations had been but a dream. Indeed, Polish America possessed thousands of "fathers" and "mothers" who could legitimately take their share of credit for making that dream come true.

Contributing Authors:

Dr. Patrice M. Dabrowski is an historian with degrees from Harvard University (A.B., A.M. and PhD) and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (M.A.L.D.). She has taught at Harvard, Brown, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and recently completed a three-year stint at the Doktoratskolleg Galizien at the University of Vienna. Dabrowski is currently an Associate of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and editor of *H-Poland*. Dabrowski is the author of two books: *Poland: The First Thousand Years and Commemorations* and *The Shaping of Modern Poland*. In 2014, she was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

Dr. John Radzilowski is an historian with degrees from Arizona State University specializing in Modern U.S. History, Public History, Russia/East. Currently, Dr. Radzilowski is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Alaska Southeast. Among his many activities, Dr. Radzilowski is a fellow at the Piast Institute: A National Center for Polish and Polish-American Affairs and past president of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota. He is also a contributing editor for the *Encyclopedia of American Immigration* (second edition), plus the author or co-author of 13 books.

Dr. Donald Pienkos is Professor Emeritus (Political Science) at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He earned his Doctorate (in Russian and East European politics) from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. His many publications include the histories of the *Polish National Alliance* (1984, 2007), the *Polish Falcons* (1987, 2012) and the *Polish American Congress* (1991). He is an associate editor of *The Polish American Encyclopedia* (2012). In 2010, he was awarded the Officers Cross of service by the President of Poland.



BASEBALL IN POLAND

Submitted by Al Koproski, President PNYBF

Over 20 years ago, Coach Stan Kokoska of Willimantic, CT went to Poland to introduce our National Sport of Baseball to the children of Poland. Stan passed away recently, but the sport goes on. Stan founded the Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation (PNYBF), an all volunteer, not for profit, organization. The organization sends new and used baseball equipment to the children of Poland, free of charge. The equipment is for T-Ball to Senior League Baseball teams.

Our group is small, but dedicated to promoting baseball for the next generation. Today there are approximately 39 baseball teams in Poland, and growing.

Little League in the US picked Kutno Poland as the Headquarters for Baseball in Europe, Asia and Africa, yet does not support baseball to the children in Poland. You can help by contacting LL Baseball and ask them to provide instruction for Coaches and Umpires at their Kutno headquarters. You can also contact the Minister of Sports in Poland and ask them to include baseball in their school sports programs. We Americans are a throwaway society and you can help by collecting baseball equipment that is in good shape and sending it by US Postal Service or UPS to PNYBY, c/o Al Koproski, 222 Ocean Drive East, Stamford, CT 06902. Any questions? Please call Al at 203-323-8844 or email oceanvu222@sbcglobal.net.

You can also help financially by sending a check to PNYBF to help with the cost of sending the equipment by boat to Poland. All donations are Tax Deductible as we are a 501-c-3 non-profit organization. The boys and girls will be delighted with your support. Thank you.



PAC Florida - Western Division

A special celebration commemorating the centennial of Poland regaining its Independence was held in St. Petersburg, FL.

On May 6th, a large crowd sang patriotic songs and listened to inspiring messages, including special greetings from Walter Golebiewski, President of the PAC-Western Division in Florida. The event took place in beautiful Williams Park located in St. Petersburg. A magnificent statue of Tadeusz Kościuszko stands in the park. Additional information and photos can be found on their excellent website: www.kongrespoloni.com.

The PAC-Western Division in Florida is to be congratulated for its outstanding work in organizing this special event.



Walter Golebiewski, President of the PAC - Western Florida Division, gives greetings and explains the significance of the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining its Independence (November 11, 1918 to November 11, 2018). Additional photos demonstrate the Polish Pride shown by those attending the event held in Williams Park located in St. Petersburg, FL.





PAC Nomination Procedures

Submitted by Timothy L. Kuzma, PAC - Secretary

Election of Officers

Written nominations shall be sent to the Secretary of the National Executive Committee postmarked not later than thirty (30) days before the set date of the Election.

Nominations can be sent via email or regular mail. Please send nominations to:

Timothy L. Kuzma
Secretary, Polish American Congress
380 Mansfield Ave. Suite 300
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
Email: tkuzma@polishfalcons.org.

[Please Note: DO NOT SEND NOMINATIONS TO THE PAC WASHINGTON OFFICE]

The Officers that shall be elected at the Annual Meeting are:

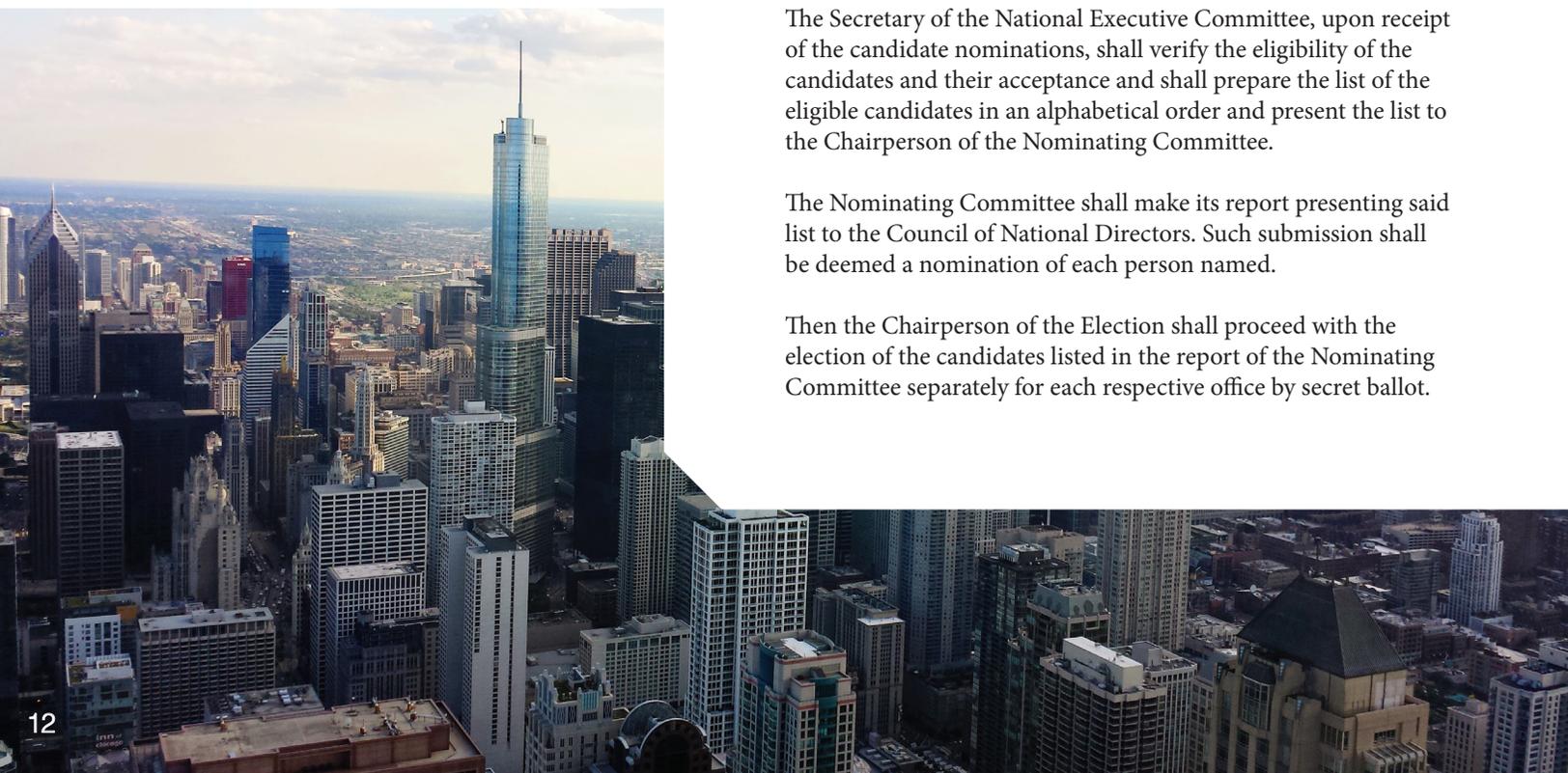
- President
- First Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Vice President American Affairs
- Vice President Polish Affairs
- Vice President Public Relations
- Vice President Cultural Activities
- Vice President Financial Development
- Vice President Membership Development
- Vice President Learning and Education

These nominations shall be submitted either by a State Division or by a National Organization.

The Secretary of the National Executive Committee, upon receipt of the candidate nominations, shall verify the eligibility of the candidates and their acceptance and shall prepare the list of the eligible candidates in an alphabetical order and present the list to the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

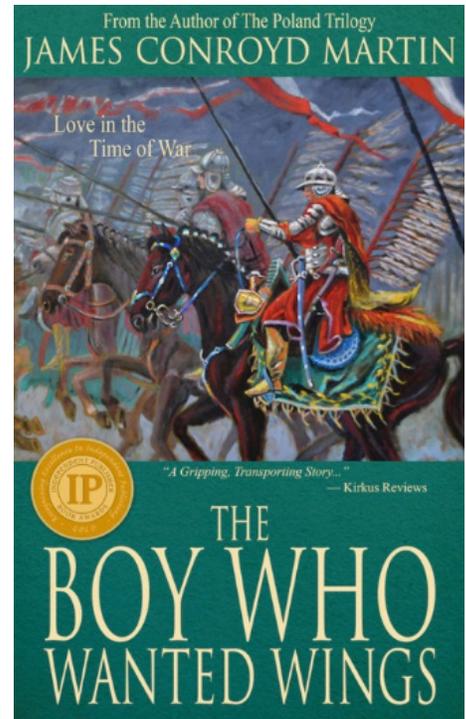
The Nominating Committee shall make its report presenting said list to the Council of National Directors. Such submission shall be deemed a nomination of each person named.

Then the Chairperson of the Election shall proceed with the election of the candidates listed in the report of the Nominating Committee separately for each respective office by secret ballot.





From the Bookshelf



The Latest from author James Conroyd Martin:

The Boy Who Wanted Wings

“A gripping, transporting story of self-determination set against fate.” - Kirkus Reviews

Aleksy, a dark-complexioned Tatar raised by a Polish peasant family, holds in his heart the wish to become a Polish hussar, a lancer who carries into battle a device attached to his back that holds dozens of eagle feathers. As a Tatar and as a peasant, this is an unlikely quest. When he meets Krystyna, the daughter of the noble who owns the land that his parents work, he falls hopelessly in love. But even though she returns his love, race and class differences make this quest as impossible as that of becoming a hussar. Under the most harrowing and unlikely circumstances, one day Aleksy must choose between his dreams.

On the eve of September 11, 1683, a massive Muslim Ottoman horde was besieging the gates of the imperial city of Vienna and had been doing so since the previous July. Now, however, they were just hours from capturing this capital of the Holy Roman Empire. The Turks’ intent was to bring Islam to all of Europe, and this city was seen by East and West alike as the gateway. With the window of time closing for Vienna, the walls were about to be breached on September 12 when the vastly outnumbered Christian coalition, led by Polish King Jan III Sobieski and his famous winged hussars, descended Kahlenberg Mountain to engage the Turks in an attempt to lift the siege. As crucial and consequential as the 1066 Battle of Hastings, the ensuing battle changed the course of European history

(Was it the first 9/11? Some people believe that the date for the September 11th attack in 2001 was chosen to symbolically resume the effort that began in 1683.)

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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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