President’s Message

Dear Directors and Members of the Polish American Congress,

I hope this letter finds you in good health, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues causing a lot of uncertainty and anxiety. Many of our state divisions have not had meetings as a result of implemented social distancing measures. We need to utilize modern means to communicate with our members. The Executive Committee regularly holds teleconferences reviewing matters of importance for the organization, and the Polish American community. I appeal to Division Presidents to reach out to your local communities. Please encourage them to take part in the 2020 Census. Data from the Census helps determine the distribution of public funds. It is important that the Polish American community is counted, and consequently supported.

Being there are still a number of growing uncertainties taking place, the meeting for the Polish American Congress is tentatively scheduled for April 2021 in Washington D.C.

Continued on next page...
Poland recently held its 2020 Presidential election. I congratulated President Andrzej Duda for his re-election on behalf of the PAC. I am optimistic that he will continue to lead the Polish nation in a good direction. Poland has one of the European Union’s fastest-growing economies. Opportunately, the bond between our two nations seems to be very strong.

As we are all aware, the 59th U.S. presidential election is scheduled to take place on November 3rd, 2020. Become mobilized in your communities and support a candidate who will help develop causes that are of outmost importance to you. Vote your conscience!

In the United States, we should not neglect our support for two important matters for American Polonia. Remember to call your Senators and encourage them to support S. Resolution 566.

Namely, a true depiction of history honors the many brave Polish men, women, and children who ultimately lost their lives to the Soviet Union’s totalitarian regime. The truth should never be censured. Also, our best wishes to both Vice Presidents Tony Bajdek and Rick Pierchalski recovering from their health hitches.

Wishing you a good, and most importantly healthy summer!

Frank J. Spula

Frank J. Spula, President

A SALUTE

One PAC State Division Speaks for Many . . .

Submitted by the Officers, Directors, and Members of the PAC Wisconsin State Division

On Sunday July 12, 2020 Poland held its Presidential election. In spite of all the many difficulties created by the pandemic, that has done such damage throughout the world, Poland’s voters turned out in record numbers to cast their ballots to elect the country’s president. Congratulations are in order to the Citizens of Poland! Indeed, once again, in this, Poland’s seventh national presidential election since Poland regained its freedom in 1989, the contest was defined by a firm adherence to the highest principles of democracy.

Furthermore, this election was exactly like those that came before. Indeed, since the founding of the Third Republic of Poland in 1989, nine parliamentary elections, seven presidential elections, along with a host of local elections and several national referendums have been held. All have been conducted in the most proper manner conceivable. We in the Polish American Congress salute all the Citizens of Poland for once again demonstrating their dedication to democracy. And we remember that our organization—from the moment of its founding in 1944—has unswervingly dedicated itself to the very principles of freedom and independence that were once again reaffirmed in the election that was just held.

Congratulations to the Citizens of Poland!
Us Army to Set up HQ in Poland Under New Defense Deal

As part of an enhanced US-Polish defense agreement, the US Army’s Fifth Corps is setting up its Headquarters in Poland. “The Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement will improve deterrence against Russia. An advanced presence in Poland, on NATO’s eastern flank, will improve our strategic and operational flexibility,” explained Pentagon Chief Mark Esper who announced the deal. The announcement came after President Donald Trump decided to relocate 1,500 American troops formerly based in Germany to neighboring Poland. US troop strength in Poland will grow from the present 4,000 to 5,500 when the transfer is completed. At the official ceremony in Kraków, Polish American Lt. Gen. John Kolasheski (originally Kołaszewski) was introduced as the commander of the new US Army Headquarters. “My grandfather came from Chmielów, Poland,” Kolasheski explained to the gathering.

High Court Validates Duda’s Win; Partial Boycott of Inauguration

Poland’s Supreme Court has ruled that the results of July’s final round of the presidential election were valid, thereby officially legitimizing the victory of conservative incumbent Andrzej Duda. The fiercely anti-conservative liberal-leftist Civic Coalition party had questioned the results and flooded the High Court with thousands of electoral protests. They alleged various irregularities such as the use of public television in the campaign and included a demand that the election be repeated. The Supreme Court found only 92 of the protests valid but ruled that they did not impact the final results. Some opposition members boycotted Duda’s inauguration including his defeated rival Rafał Trzaskowski. “I couldn’t attend, because I had to take my kids on vacation,” he explained.

Polish-Lithuanian-Ukrainian Triangle to Protect Against Aggression

The foreign ministers of Poland, Lithuania and Ukraine met recently in the eastern Polish city of Lublin to create a trilateral political grouping to help defend and safeguard their national interests, mainly against threats posed by their mutual foe, Russia. The formation intends to participate in international peace-keeping and humanitarian efforts under international auspices and will work to promote Ukraine’s inclusion in NATO. Lublin was chosen for the announcement because it is the headquarters of a 4,500-strong Polish-Lithuanian-Ukrainian military brigade first set up in 2009 and fully operational by 2016. It was in that city in 1569 that the Union of Lublin was signed, leading to the rise of the sprawling Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, once Europe’s largest land empire.

Poland Weathering Crisis Well but Pandemic Is Far From Over

With 45 COVID-19 deaths per million population in early August, Poland remained far less affected by the coronavirus pandemic than many other countries. At the same time, European front-runner Belgium had registered 845 deaths per million residents.

Continued on next page...
Poland would also be sending medical supplies to Lebanon. Caritas Polska, Poland’s leading Catholic charity, is also involved in the humanitarian effort. The first explosion of unknown origin set off the second, and 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, went up in smoke and huge balls of fire. The chemical compound, used to make explosives, had been stored in portside warehouses for years.

Vouchers Provide Vacations for Young Poles, Aid Tourist Industry

Millions of Polish children and teenagers have enjoyed summer fun around the country thanks to a system of tourist vouchers launched by Polish President Andrzej Duda. He indicated that the vouchers will boost the country’s tourism industry which had been badly hit by the pandemic crisis. Each child under 18 has received a 500-złoty ($134) voucher, and disabled kids got double that amount. The money was used to pay for summer camps, guest houses, recreation, and other vacation activities but only in Poland. An estimated 6.5 million children benefited from the program which cost $940 million. In addition to the one-off vacation bonus, for years, Polish kids have been receiving a monthly allowance of 500 złotys until they reach age 18.

Illegal Medieval-Style Castle May Have to Be Razed

Police have detained seven people on charges of illegally building a huge medieval-style castle in an ecologically protected area near the west-central city of Poznań. The structure was erected as a residential building in Notecka Virgin Forest, an area protected under the European Union’s Natura 2000 network. It contains several nature reserves including a bird sanctuary. Environmental approval for the project was revoked last year, but construction continued, nevertheless. The 14-floor castle stands on a made-made island and includes a 230-foot tower. It is intended to house 46 luxury apartments for 97 people and 10 staff. A court will decide what to do about the building which may have to be razed.

Former Polish Cabinet Member Charged With Corruption

A former minister in Poland’s previous liberal government, who landed a VIP post in neighboring Ukraine, has been charged with masterminding a corruption scheme. Sławomir Nowak had headed Poland’s Transport Ministry, later took out Ukrainian citizenship and was put in charge of that country’s road and highway authority. A joint investigation by Poland’s CBA (Central Anti-Corruption Bureau) and its Ukrainian counterpart found that Nowak had accepted $335,000 in bribes for awarding road repair and construction contracts to private businesses. He is also suspected of leading an organized-crime ring and money-laundering.

Poland Rushes to Assist Explosion-Damaged Beirut

Poland was one of the first countries to respond to an appeal from the Lebanese government following two huge explosions that initially killed 73, injured thousands and flattened the Lebanese capital’s port area. The death toll soon exceeded 100 and continued climbing. Poland’s State Fire Service sent a 50-strong team of rescuers including four sniffer dogs and a chemical-rescue module to help sift through the rubble in search of survivors and locate the bodies of victims. Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki announced that
Written by Polish Heritage Center USA

The Polish Heritage Center USA, in Panna Maria, Texas (PHC-USA) is making great strides towards preserving the history, values, customs and traditions of the first Polish settlers who immigrated to Texas beginning in 1854. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, we are as resolute in designing, producing, and building the exhibits, audios and movies as the immigrants were in surviving their trials and tribulations back in the mid-19th century.

We are presently in final production on the project’s eleven videos, four interactive displays, and more than one hundred short audio programs, produced for both adult and youth audiences. The adult programs are being translated into Polish.

Exhibit design and production are exacting and detail-oriented endeavors, involving the careful orchestration of designers, writers, editors, producers, audio and video technicians, voice talent, artists, photographers, videographers, lighting specialists, craftsmen, and fabricators. They are all at work! We have a Board of Directors sub-committee that carefully and diligently reviews all exhibit copy, audio and video scripts, and maps prior to production. This is a challenging task. Our hats are off to Professors T. Lindsay Baker, Mieczysław Biskupski, Janusz Duzenkiewicz, Don Pienkos, and James Pula who have provided valuable historical insights and guidance. The Center’s exterior shell is complete!

Within the building, exhibit walls are being constructed, and the rotunda dome has been built and painted, awaiting the final work of a decorative artist. Exhibit graphics are in final production and will be sent to the fabricator for printing and assembly in anticipation of installation this Fall. These are exciting times. PHC-USA will be another jewel in the American Polonia crown. We are looking at an early 2021 opening.

The high-tech theater, which will have red upholstered seating, will be a dynamic center for workshops, seminars, lectures, meetings, classes, and movies. The Center will host special events and celebrations. Please consider this great location for a future event. PHC-USA is well positioned fifty miles southeast of San Antonio, one of America’s favorite tourist destinations.

After years of work, we are on the threshold of seeing Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta’s vision come to fruition. We have achieved over $11.4 million towards our $14 million goal. Please consider being a part of this national attraction, as a family or as an organization. The Center offers multiple opportunities to pay tribute to loved ones.

Email John Cebrowski, Vice-President, Director of Development, at jcebrowski39@gmail.com to have your questions answered. Visit our recently revitalized website: polishheritagecenterusa.org to learn more and to donate.
The following article is courtesy for the PAC-Wisconsin Division website: pacwisconsin.com.
Webmaster Irena Frączek, Vice President for Public Relations (ifraczek@sbcglobal.net)

The Battle of Warsaw is Won 100 Years Ago

Written by Professor Emeritus Donald Pienkos
PAC – Wisconsin Division

Fought August 13-20, 1920 between the armies of the newly restored Poland and revolutionary Bolshevik Russia, this great battle is also known as “the Miracle of the Wisla” or Vistula, Poland’s main river. Pitting two armies totaling over 250,000 combatants, the battle resulted in the Bolsheviks’ total defeat. As to its significance, Britain’s ambassador to Germany, in Warsaw at the time, would call it “the 18th most decisive battle in world history.” Why was this Battle fought? Why was it so important?

On November 11, 1918, the very day the First World War ended with an armistice or truce in the trenches dividing Germany and France, General Jozef Pilsudski proclaimed Poland’s national rebirth in Warsaw. This came after 123 years of occupation by the empires of Russia, Austria, and Germany. But proclaiming independence was one thing, making independence a reality and successfully defining its borders were very different matters. Indeed it would take the Poles more than two years of difficult negotiations along with plenty of fighting to accomplish these gargantuan tasks. For his part Pilsudski believed that for Poland to survive it needed to include the lands to the east that had been part of the old Polish Commonwealth going back to 1772. It was in that year that Russia, German Prussia and Austria had seized a third of the country in what became known as the first partition of Poland, the first giant step in the country’s destruction in 1795.

From the Great War (1914-1918) and the rebirth of Poland (1918), the show details the course of the Battle of Warsaw and its aftermath: A Free World to the West and a Prison of Nations to the East.

However, these eastern lands were inhabited by numerous non-Polish peoples—Ukrainians, Belorussians, and Lithuanians—with ethnic Poles comprising just 35 percent of the population. Still, Pilsudski believed these nationalities could be persuaded to be part of a new, federalized Polish state and in that way be liberated from the oppression they had endured under Russia—whether it was the Russia of the tsars or that of their new Bolshevik revolutionary successors led by Vladimir Lenin who had seized control of the empire in 1917. Indeed by 1919 Poland had become embroiled in a worsening border conflict with the new and radical regime in Moscow.”

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Young defenders of Warsaw pictured in the epic 3D movie “1920 Battle of Warsaw” (pl. Bitwa warszawska 1920) directed by Jerzy Hoffman (2011)
By Spring 1920, Pilsudski had given up the idea of a restored multi-ethnic Commonwealth. Instead, he made an agreement with the head of the latest Ukrainian national government in Kiev headed by Symon Petlura that aimed at guaranteeing Ukrainian independence from Soviet Russia. But in response an infuriated Lenin then ordered the mobilizing of a new and massive Bolshevik army to regain control of the Ukraine. Furthermore, he created a committee of Polish Bolsheviks under Felix Dzerzhinsky, who had organized the ruthless CHEKA special police force to secure the revolution in Russia. Dzerzhinsky’s group’s mission was to follow the “Red Army” in its invasion of Poland, unseat Pilsudski, and establish a puppet state subservient to Lenin.

As quickly as the Polish army had moved into Kiev in May 1920, just as quickly was it driven westward back into ethnic Poland. By the end of July the massive Red Army commanded by the 27 year old Mikhail Tukhachevsky was approaching Warsaw itself. Incredibly this war had exploded into a conflict that pitted over a million Bolshevik troops against about 750,000 Poles in a true fight to the death. In this war infantry, cavalry, tanks, armored locomotives, even airplanes would all see action.

By July Poland was in a panic, its forces in seeming disarray. Pilsudski, the great hero in May was now condemned by his critics in Warsaw as the gravedigger of independence. Poland found itself abandoned by its supposed allies, France and Britain. But Pilsudski kept his head. He appointed Wincenty Witos, the popular leader of the Peasant party to be Prime Minister and called on him to rally the country’s vast peasantry to the nation’s defense. In response countless thousands of peasant farmers joined patriotic urban workers in the fight for Poland’s survival.

As the Bolshevik army approached Warsaw, Pilsudski got a lucky break when Polish cryptographers got hold of Tukhachevsky’s plans. Pilsudski himself devised the strategy to defeat the massive invasion. Essentially his plan was to lure the Bolsheviks to attack the defenders of Warsaw from the east. As the battle commenced, he then ordered most of his troops to wheel around from the south in a massive sweeping action against the invaders’ left flank. The plan worked. The Reds were totally surprised and thrown into panic. Of its 130,000 man army, over 20,000 were killed, 65,000 were captured, and another 35,000 were forced to flee into East Prussia where they were disarmed. In the Battle, the Poles lost about 4,500 men.

Just two weeks later the remaining Red army forces under Cavalry Commander Semyon Budyonny and Josef Stalin were also crushed. By October Lenin was forced to call an end to the fighting. The Bolsheviks were forced to wake up from their dream of a victory over the corpse of the Polish ‘landlord state’ propelling the revolution into war-wrecked Germany itself. In March 1921 Poland and Russia reached a border settlement at Riga in Latvia. In it Poland gained some Ukrainian and Belorussian lands to the east. But most of Ukraine and Belorussia was lost to the Soviet regime.

With victory, Pilsudski’s stature rose dramatically. However his political enemies remained unreconciled to him. In 1926 he did lead a coup against the government and established a regime of national moral reform (“Sanacja”). It would survive his death in 1935, only to be destroyed by the Nazi-Soviet invasions of 1939.

The monumental victory at Warsaw in August 1920 was thus not the “end of the story.” But it did allow the citizens of a reborn Poland to experience two critical decades of independence.

*Sources for the battle of Warsaw can be found within the Richard Overy: A History of War in 100 Battles (Oxford University Press, 2014); pp. 75-79; and Adam Zamoyski: The Polish Way: One Thousand Years of Polish history and Culture (1985), pp. 335-339; M.K. Dziewanowski: Poland in the Twentieth Century (1977), pp. 80-84; and Wikipedia.
PAC RESPONSE TO THE REPRESSSION OF BELARUS'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

Written by John Czop
PAC Director of Policy and Planning

Over the past week, the brutal repression of Belarus's democratic movement by the Lukashenko regime recalls the theme of Professor Zbigniew Brzezinski's keynote speech, at the November 2005 symposium: "Poland's Foreign Policy, from the "Piasts to the Present," at Columbia University. Professor Brzezinski began by stating that military and political alliances are fine, but every sovereign country is responsible for its own defense. In his speech delivered approximately one month after PiS won both presidential and parliamentary elections, Brzezinski forcefully observed that: "The road to Warsaw is open to invasion from the east fifteen years after the establishment of the Third Polish Republic. Why do open borders among former Warsaw Pact countries and the revanchist Russian Federation persist after the partial collapse of the Soviet Union?"

Namely, the answer to this question has two components. From the establishment of the Third Polish Republic to Poland's accession to NATO in 1999, the transformed communists who ruled Poland saw no reason to fortify the borders with Kaliningrad Oblast and Belarus. These former communist upper level civil servants were still on good terms with their former bosses in the Kremlin. After 1999, the dominant view among Polish officials was that reliance on NATO will safeguard Poland.

Professor Brzezinski masterfully registered his opposition to this view that relieved Polish officials of responsibility for the defense of their country. Well before Putin ordered his troops to don Georgian army uniforms to perpetrate the masked invasion of Georgia in August 2008, Professor Brzezinski put forward the following scenario of high contemporary relevance.

Following the repression by Lukashenko, with the Kremlin's consent, of Belarus's democratic opposition, among whom there are numerous ethnic Poles, a dangerous refugee situation develops along Poland's border with Belarus. To avoid capture by Lukashenko's forces, these Belarus democrats cross into Poland.

Among the legitimate refugees in fear of their lives are Lukashenko and Putin troops masquerading as Belarusian democrats. At this point it is unclear in this confused situation if Poland has, or has not, been invaded. We recall the ambiguity and doubt following the Putin orchestrated invasion of Crimea in 2014 by "little green men." This tactic allowed Putin to deny responsibility and confuse international opinion long enough to allow the conquest of Crimea BEFORE the United Nations Organization could decide if Russia did in fact invade and amputate Crimea from Ukraine.

This is why, in his 2005 speech at Columbia University, Professor Brzezinski strongly encouraged Poland to set up a state-of-the-art military force, outside NATO command, to defend the Fatherland for two-to-three weeks against such a masked attack. He pointed out that Article V of the Washington Treaty of 1949 only obliges the NATO countries to declare an attack against one of their members an attack against all. Article V does NOT provide for immediate military aid to the country that asserts it was attacked. According to Professor Brzezinski, it might take NATO several weeks to conclude that Poland was the victim of a masked attack. Poland needs a rapid self-defense force to allow NATO time to come to her aid. The presence of a battalion, 1,000 American infantry, on continuous permanent rotation deployed in the Suwałki Gap in northeast Poland, does NOT make moot Professor Brzezinski's scenario.

Condemning and deploring Lukashenko's war against the people of Belarus is but the first step in stopping this most recent Kremlin orchestrated project of revanchism. The next step must be to persuade the United States Government to repeal the 1997 NATO – Russia Founding Act, which prevents the establishment of permanent NATO bases in Poland, the Baltic States, and Romania. The Polish American Congress as a member organization of the Central and East European Coalition is working to repeal the NATO – Russia Founding Act. This will show the Kremlin that NATO will defend the sovereignty of these countries over the long term and will deter the Kremlin from continuing its revanchist project which involves support for Lukashenko's war against the people of Belarus.
On July 3, 2020, President Trump signed an Executive Order on building and rebuilding monuments dedicated to American heroes. The President has directed David L. Bernhardt, Secretary of Interior, to lead a Task Force that will propose options for the creation of a National Garden of American Heroes, including potential locations for the site. The National Garden will feature the statues of the greatest Americans to ever live and express our noblest ideals: respect for our ancestors, love of freedom, and striving for a more perfect Union. These works of beauty will create an enduring tribute and will show reverence for our past, dignify our present, and inspire those who visit this majestic place in the future.

Kazimierz Pulaski and Tadeusz Kosciuszko are well known. However, that does not allow us to take their inclusion in the National Garden for granted. This may especially apply to Pulaski. Kosciuszko’s should be a very strong candidate because of his active opposition to slavery which counts for a lot in the current political climate.

PAC members nationwide should send their nominations to the Task Force Director Charles Laudner. We should “amplify” our message by having it sent again and again, from many places. Even a cursory look at the sample of figures to be in the National Garden appearing on President Trump’s Executive Order makes it clear that there will be a variety of fields from which they will be drawn. Obviously, that may make less room for candidates with Polish roots. Therefore it is critically important that any proposals submitted are backed by good supporting material.

One suggestion: Why not act through local authorities in counties and municipalities named “Pulaski” and “Kosciuszko” across the country? How about other organizations with their names?

For your reference, you can find additional details on the matter at: doi.gov/pressreleases/trump-administration-task-force-building-and-rebuilding-monuments-american-heroes.

The best email address for the submissions of candidates may be charles_laudner@nps.gov, but there is also this site: americanheroesinfo@ios.doi.gov. Please keep in mind that the deadline for submitting candidates is September 1, 2020.

It is equally important to submit other nominations. For example, Col. Francis Stanley “Gabby” Gabreski, two-war ace pilot, one of the 30 most decorated members of the US Armed Forces. Likewise, Col. Matt Urban. We should also submit the candidacies of Gen. Wlodzimierz Krzyzanowski, and Ignacy J. Paderewski, as well as Gen. Ryszard Kuklinski. The later hero’s consideration emphasizes the need that the National Garden must include heroes of the Cold War era who struggled against Communism.

It’s very important that our recommendations should include strong argumentation supporting the candidacies. The point is that we need to do it NOW.

Deadline for submitting nominations is September 1, 2020.
In these unprecedented times of Covid-19, PAC-MI was invited once again to coordinate and help sponsor the Polish Ethnic Mass, part of a 9-day Novena to St. Anne. It took place July 24, at Detroit’s historic church, Ste. Anne de Detroit, designated this year by Pope Francis as a minor basilica, recognizing its spiritual and historic significance.

St. Anne Church, founded by the French in 1701, is the second oldest continually active parish in the United States. The current magnificent Gothic structure is its eighth edifice, built in 1886. It is interestingly positioned with a view of the Ambassador Bridge from Detroit to Canada, expanding just above it. It houses a first-class relic of St. Anne from the ancient shrine of Ste. Anne d’Auray in France, and it is designated an archdiocesan shrine, St. Anne being the patroness of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

St. Anne Novena has been celebrated annually for over 100 years in this resplendent church. The Novena encompasses nine days of prayer and Masses, each day’s Mass designating an ethnic group associated with Metropolitan Detroit. It culminated with Mass, July 26, the Feast Day of St. Anne, celebrated by His Excellency Archbishop Allen Vigneron.

This year the church event on Polish Night was enhanced by honoring Eastern European cultures as well. Several other communities, Hungarian, Lithuanian, and Slovak were represented with language, costume, and flag. His Excellency Bishop Robert Fisher, who is of Polish descent, was the main celebrant. We gathered to pray for our own intentions, the intentions of our families, our community, our Archdiocese, and the world affected by the pandemic.

We were pleased to have representation of our Polonian organizations as well as PAC membership, some of whom came dressed in uniform, folk costumes, processing in with flags and organizational banners, and taking part in readings in Polish and other languages. Moreover, there was representation of the Polish Girls Scouts, Polish Mountaineers (Górale), and the PRCUA children’s dance group, “Gwiazda”, which entertained everyone with music and dancing, as they happily performed on the church plaza following Mass.

Archdiocesan restrictions did not allow our Polonian Filarets Choir to sing this year during Mass, though it was preparing to do so, as to keep up their decades-long tradition at the Novena. However, we were able to hear the vibrant voice of their president, Zbigniew Foryś, reading several of the intentions in Polish, during the Prayers of the Faithful.

As President of the PAC-Michigan Division, I had the honor of reading during this Mass and again at the Patronal Feast Mass on July 26, representing PAC and Polonia. The Polish American Congress-Michigan Division was also recognized as a sponsor in the Novena’s beautiful commemorative publication, which all participants received. So, in spite of restrictions, we were able to display our heritage, and mark our presence as part of Detroit’s multiethnic community, with great pride.

Of course, face masks and social distancing were observed. The Mass was also live streamed, but Msgr. Charles Kosanke, St. Anne’s pastor who is proud of his Polish heritage, was especially happy to see the red and white decorative accents everywhere, and that, despite the heat, our night’s Mass had the largest number of participants, with worshippers spilling out into the plaza in front of the church. Unfortunately, this year’s pandemic related restrictions did not allow for the traditional procession of the St. Anne statue to be led outside, but it did process within the church, carried by our Górale. Nor could we enjoy tasty Polish and other ethnic food from the stands set up outside, to serve all participants, following Mass on the beautiful plaza, when the sun would set, casting a golden glow over the church’s façade, creating a memorable moment for all.

We look forward to participating next year and anticipate once again being an integral part of this beautiful celebration.
Photo Captions:
1. Gorale carry St. Ann statue
2. His Excellency Bishop Robert Fischer, main celebrant
3. Kolo Gorali
4. PAC-Michigan Division President, Ann Bankowski, carrying a bouquet flowers for altar
5. Pastor Kosanke enjoying the dance performance on the plaza
6. Polish Girls Scouts represented
7. Proud Lithuanian family participants
8. Proud Lithuanian participants
9. PAC – Michigan Division Vice President, Barbara Lemecha, with Msgr. Kosanke
Dear National Directors, PAC Executive Board Members, Foundation Board Members, PAC Members, and Friends of Polonia,

What, in your opinion, is the most important issue for Polonia and the organization you are a member of to support?

Certainly, one issue is promoting the upmost positive image of Poland in America.

There are a variety of methods to achieve the above, but by far the most effective medium is via film - two independent movie producers have done so in creating "Flavor of Poland." It took years for the producers of "Flavor of Poland" to work with PBS to discover the most optimal way to successfully promote Poland in the US. Their hard work paid off and the final product—13 amazing episodes of Poland's culture and cuisine took America by storm! (Please see just a sampling of viewer comments below.) The American audience is absolutely pleased by the series and already looking forward to additional seasons. It has brought 10 million Americans of Polish descent closer to their roots. To finish the first season of "Flavor of Poland"—as well as publishing the Album-Cookbook and creating DVDs—we ask for your generous donations.

Please offer your help!

As mentioned, due to popular demand there is a strong possibility of a second season of "Flavor of Poland," and also for a documentary which will cover Poland’s culture, history, and beauty in detail. The title of the 2 hour documentary: "Poland from the Sky."

So what can you do to continue the series?
1. Donate (!)
2. Utilize your network to reach out to Polish business owners as well as board members who care about Poland’s image within American media and ask for their contribution.

Several times the PACFF, PNA, and KPA were contacted. Unfortunately, as yet, we have heard no response. However, there is still time to donate for the support of "Flavor of Poland."

Leaders in the Polish community, please help! What a fantastic way to show support for a program that promotes Poland!! In the process, we help promote our own efforts within our organizations. It’s very much a WIN WIN!!

If you have ever wanted to do something special for Poland, there has never been a more ideal time and cause. We need to:
1. Complete Season 1 (DVDs, and Album/Cookbook).
2. Prepare for Season 2—find a sponsor.
3. Sponsor "Poland from the Sky" documentary (the producers have already secured a spot on PBS).

There has never been such an opportune time to exhibit Poland and its wonderful heritage in such an amazing light then on American TV. And the chance is NOW—Let’s accomplish this TOGETHER!

Please write a check – TODAY – to "Independent Film Factory" and mail to:
Halina Koralewski, 82-37 264th St, Floral Park, NY 11004

Also, you may make a donation to the producers account at the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union.

Continued on next page...
Here a few of the dozens and dozens of comments from viewers:

“The shows are always so informative to watch. You cover the history, food, and culture of the different areas. I do enjoy watching. I hope you will have on DVD’s at some point. I have an aunt who would like it and she doesn’t have a computer.” – Rosemarie Emilia

“With Polish heritage in my family. I’m shocked at the different regional cuisines you shared on the show, most that I’ve never seen before. Thanks, the format of the program is excellent.” – Eddie

“Amazingly and lovingly presented story about Poland, its culture and cuisine.” – Jaroslaw Adamski

“Thank to the producers of Flavor of Poland and PSFCU and to all who supported the project!” – Edward Garbowski

“This is a wonderful way of showing Poland to Americans as a great place to visit; see many interesting places, try delicious Polish dishes, just have a great time in one of the most beautiful European countries. Great idea!! Robert and Edytna Congratulations!!” – Lidia Mikolajczyk

“Absolutely amazing project. Great powered people!!” – Przemyslaw Konieczynski

“Seeing my mother’s family homeland is interesting, the restaurants and cooking are excellent!!” – Kathy Gusas

“Great project! One of the best ways to promote Poland. Kudos to Edyta, Robert and those who helped.” – Alina Mikolajczyk

“I thoroughly enjoyed the program and look forward to seeing more episodes. It is very refreshing to see a program about Polish cooking and history.” – Frank Pisha
Did You Know? "Polonia Today"

Written by Debbie Majka, Talk Show Host
Philadelphia, PA
PAC Vice President for Cultural Affairs

There are many radio programs across the U.S., which broadcast in the Polish language. And, many that are Polka programs. Strictly speaking, the Polka didn’t originate in Poland, but that’s the subject of another article on the origin of the Polka and how it came to be popular in the U.S. But not too many radio programs offer news from Poland, Polish history, the customs, culture, and cuisine of Poland—all in the English language. And, a variety of Polish music—Classical, Polkas and Obereks, Folk songs, Pops and Oldies, too!

The 2000 Census reported that only about 0.25% of Americans speak another language. To share our rich Polish cultural heritage with those who feel Polish but don’t understand or speak the language, Polonia Today was inaugurated in 2001. To my surprise and amazement, I learned that native Polish speakers listen, too. When asked why, they advised that they could hear “good English” and could learn about their heritage and culture that weren’t taught in school in Communist Poland. For example, over the past three weeks, in the Cultural Corner, I have covered the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, the 610th anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald, and the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Warsaw.

Tune in to Polonia Today—a Polish radio program in English from Philadelphia. Listen Live on Sunday at 1:30 pm, or listen to the podcast anytime at: wwdbam.com. “Do usłyszenia”!

Best Wishes to All Our PAC National Directors, Division Presidents, Members, and Friends: Please Have a Happy & Safe Labor Day Weekend!
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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