



# The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA  
Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 68

FEBRUARY 2017

NUMBER 2

## MONTHLY NETWORKING- DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 15, 2017

6:00 p.m.

White Eagle Banquets  
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS

by February 13 to

[meeting@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:meeting@chicagosocietypna.org)

847-823-8747

## NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, February 27, 2017

7:00 p.m.

PNA Home Office

## COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017—

Dinner Meeting & Speaker

White Eagle Banquets

Cocktails 6:00 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017 -

Chicago Society Śledź

LaVilla Banquets

Wednesday, March 15, 2017—

Dinner Meeting & Speaker

White Eagle Banquets

Cocktails 6:00 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 30, 2017—

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

AAC Eagles Hall

Open Bar 6:00 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

## FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING & FEATURED SPEAKER

Mrs. Magdalena Dolas will be our featured speaker at the CS February General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at the White Eagle. This past July the Board of Directors of the Polish American Association named Mrs. Dolas as the organization's new Executive Director. Magdalena will oversee all aspects of the Polish American Association including strategic planning, program direction, fund development, staff management and community relations. Magdalena has been a part of PAA for 18 years. She previously served as interim Executive Director, and most recently as a Director of Operations. "I have dedicated most of my professional career to the PAA's mission to serve the diverse needs of the Polish community in the Chicago metro area by providing resources for changing lives," said Dolas. "We are delighted that Dolas is becoming the new Executive Director. She has a superb record of leadership and service," said Adam Kamieniak, Chairman of PAA's Board of Directors. "Through her leadership, PAA is certain to continue to grow and develop new and unique programs to serve the Polish community."



Founded in 1922, the Polish American Association is the nation's only human services organization providing a comprehensive range of bilingual and bicultural services to the Polish community and others in need. In 1922, the Chicago Society incorporated the Polish Welfare Association, the precursor to the Polish American Association. The Chicago Society Foundation has annually awarded grants to the Polish American Association to assist them in their welfare programs, ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000. This past January the Chicago Society Foundation board of directors awarded the PAA \$5,000 to allow the homeless victims in winter to survive with food, shelter and warm clothing.

The February General Meeting not only offers great camaraderie, a featured speaker, but a delicious dinner menu! The menu includes a tossed salad with choice of individual dressings, homemade French style cream of chicken rice soup, Beef London Broil (Queen Elizabeth's private recipe), assorted roasted chicken pieces drenched in a delicious golden sauce served family style, oven roasted selected potatoes, gourmet organic vegetable of the day, European bread basket, chef's dark chocolate mousse dessert, and coffee or tea. Please contact Brother Chuck Cwiakala at [meeting@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:meeting@chicagosocietypna.org) or call 847- 823-8747 for reservations. Please note: Any guests at the meeting must be prospective new members and you must confirm the reservation with Brother Chuck. No exceptions!



## CHICAGO SOCIETY Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the  
Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications

Ted Wiecek

[editor@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:editor@chicagosocietypna.org)

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*Below is the address given by Brother President  
Steven Rakowski at the Inaugural Ball.*

My Chicago Society Brothers, representatives of our brother Polish organizations, and honored guests,

It is an honor to be here with you tonight and to share with you my hopes and goals for the Chicago Society for the future.

Who among you (except Ro, who was here when our Constitution was signed) knows that the Chicago Society has been around 105 years? That's a long time, and during that time Chicago Society has developed a great deal of traditions. As a group, we have accomplished much. But the Chicago Society, like most other organizations serving Polonia today, can do so much more.

What happened to those days when Polish aldermen represented Polish wards? Why is the number of Polish judges dwindling? Where are our influential leaders in the tradition of Rozmarek, Pucinski, Mazewski, and Moskal. One reason could be that Polonia no longer thinks or acts as a group. We each have our own pet projects and affiliations and by and large the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing.

So what do we do? In 1<sup>st</sup> John we read the entreatment to "love not in word but in deed and truth." By serving one another, getting involved, networking, joining, we make the most genuine expression of our concern for each other and for Polonia. I know I'm preaching to the choir because you are here, participating, supporting. But if each of us can convince just one other person to support an initiative benefitting Polonia in 2017, supported a Polish candidate for office, undertook a leadership role in the Chicago Society, we would double our voice. And that's what it's all about! With a greater voice, we have greater influence and greater ability to help Polonia and our fellow Poles.



Enough pontification—that's a prerogative of one holding the mic, but not one of pursuing unification. As incoming President, my goal will be to increase the vitality and presence of the Chicago Society. By reaching out and modeling the lesson in 1<sup>st</sup> John, and supporting other Polish organizations, I hope to create more public understanding of the Chicago Society and its value to its members and the community-at-large. With a greater presence in the community, we can offer greater incentives for people to join. That's what it really comes down to: membership., energy, creativity, new ways of solving problems. I'm going to pursue the growth of the Chicago Society, both in size and influence.

I have many people and much to be thankful for. First, thanks to Brother Ro and his lovely wife Chris for organizing this elegant affair. If you are enjoying yourselves this evening, please join me in expressing our appreciation by giving them a round of applause. Thanks also to Brother Ted Makarewicz for all of his behind the scenes work to make the Chicago Society and me look good. Thanks also to Hon. John Wasilewski for administering the oath of office to our incoming officers.

Thanks to everyone in the Chicago Society who supported me for this office. I'm not sure what I did to justify this trust, but I promise you I will work hard to maintain it. And on behalf of all Chicago Society members, thank you all for joining us tonight. We truly value your support and your friendship. God bless you all. Good night!

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE





**FROM THE  
EDITOR'S PEN**

Dear Brothers,

I was recently appointed as Director of Publications, which is just a fancy name for Editor of *The Forum* (again!). Thank you to the members and the Board for entrusting me with this significant position.

I'm counting on you the members to provide news and information for publication. Merriam-Webster defines forum as "a medium of open discussion or expression of ideas." I would like to see The Forum as

a place in which the members can share not only news items, but also items of interest to the members.

I warmly invite all brothers to submit any and all items they would like to share with the membership. This includes life-events, events you have attended, news about other members, news you have found about a new business venture that you would like to share, anything you feel might be of interest to your fellow members. Simply email them to [editor@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:editor@chicagosocietypna.org). I'm looking forward to your news items.

May 2017 bring all of you peace, health, and prosperity. *Szcześliwego Nowego Roku!*

Fraternally,  
Brother Ted Wiecek

### THE 2017 INAUGURAL BALL

Saturday, February 4, 2017, was a beautiful evening, a perfect evening to enjoy the warmth of camaraderie. Upon entering the elegant Café la Cave, guests were offered flutes of champagne and gourmet hors d'oeuvres, passed by the gracious wait staff. Upon passing to the ball room, guests immediately impressed by the simple yet elegant glass bowls of white and red flowers bathed in light on each table.

The festivities began with our dear friends Maria Ciesla and Dr. Geraldine Balut-Coleman leading the guests in the National Anthems of the United States and Poland. Ball Chairman Brother Ro Matuszczak then welcomed the guests. Rev. Robert. Fedek, Pastor of Our Lady of Victory parish gave the Invocation, asking for God's continued blessings on the Chicago Society and its members

A gourmet dinner was flawlessly served by the cordial wait staff. During dinner, Brother Anthony Kawalkowski strolled among the guests, serenading them with soothing dinner music. Outgoing President Brother Ted Makarewicz spoke, expressing how much of an honor it has been to serve as President of the Society for the past two years. He thanked the members of the Board and all the members for their support, ensuring all that the Society is in good hands with the new Board. President Brother Ted then presented the Honorees of the evening, the Advocates Society, honored for its many years of service to Polonia, especially in sponsoring the Amicus Poloniae legal clinic, offering free legal advice to those in need. Brother Ted asked all the past presidents present to stand and be recognized; curiously, most of these were women. President of the Advocates Society Matthew Sidor thanked the Chicago Society for the honor and for the many years of collaboration between the two organizations, and look forward to many more years of collaboration for the benefit of Polonia. Executive Vice President Peter Dykas then presented the 2016 Chicago Society Booster Award to Brother Makarewicz for sponsoring the most number of new members in 2016.

The culmination of the evening was the Installation of the new Board by Hon. John Wasilewski, who administered the oath of office to the officers and wished them much success in the coming year. He then individually

➤ *continued on p. 5*

### In Memoriam

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you that our Financial Secretary Richard Jadczyk passed away on February 4, 2017 after a long illness at the age of 68. He



was a proud and devoted member of the Chicago Society since 2011. Mass of Christian Burial was held on February 7 at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Cary IL Our condolences to his family. Please remember him in your prayers.

### THE CHICAGO SOCIETY'S ŚLEDŹ MARDI GRAS PARTY

Co chairmen Brothers **Mark Orwat** and **Charles Komosa** cordially invite you to attend the 2017 Annual Chicago Society Śledź on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at LaVilla Restaurant and Banquets, 3632 N Pulaski in Chicago. The festivities will begin with a social hour (cash bar) at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will start with śledź (herring) served with rye bread, *biały* (white) *barszcz* soup, followed by *kiełbasa*, *kapusta*, Polish style chicken *de volaille*, potatoes, pierogi, green beans *almandine*, coffee or tea, ice cream, and *pączki*. After dinner, the traditional pageant representing Śledź will be held followed by the crowning of St. Joseph for 2017. The gentleman selected acts as our chaplain at Chicago Society meetings and at special occasions, leading those present in an appropriate prayer. This festive event is open to members, family, relatives, and guests. The celebration of Śledź is the Chicago Society's version of Christian and Polish traditions that date back centuries. It is a celebration of carnival, or Mardi Gras—the period immediately preceding Lent. Following our pageant will be an open bar and raffle with prizes. Music by DJ Kamil. The cost is \$40.00 per person. For reservations or information call Brother Mark at 773-502-6969 or Brother Charles at 773-286-7123 or purchase your tickets online through PayPal at [www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html](http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html).







Brother Stan Jendzejec is again a proud great grandfather. His second great granddaughter Juniper Paige Cumerford was born January 8, 2017, weight 8 lbs 10 oz, length 21 inches.



Brother Mark Orwat has proposed marriage to his beautiful fiancée Gina and she accepted! The young husband and wife to be have planned their wedding mass at St. Hyacinth's Basilica followed by a smashing reception at the Chateau Ritz in Niles, IL on Saturday, October 14, 2017!

### CHICAGO SOCIETY FOUNDATION MEETING & ELECTIONS

On Monday, January 23, 2017, the members of the Chicago Society Foundation Board of Directors met at Colletti's Restaurant for the 1st quarter meeting of 2017. The board voted and approved grants to the Polish American Association (PAA) for \$5,000., The Strong Foundaion and Catholic Marriages \$1,000, and the Children's Smile Foundation that benefits Polish children with hospice care in the amount of \$500. The board elected Brother **Mark Orwat**, Foundation President, Brother **Walter Pieciewicz**, Vice president, Brother **Stanley Sawa**, Treasurer, and Brother **Charles A. Komosa**, Secretary. The members of the Chicago Society Foundation Board of Directors are comprised of the current and all former Chicago Society Presidents: Brother **Romuald Matuszczak**, Brother **Donlad Gutowski**, Brother **Frank Gondela**, Brother **Walter Pieciewicz**, Brother **Richard Ciesla**, Brother **Stan Sawa**, Brother **Charles Komosa**, Brother **Mark Orwat**, Brother **Frank Czaja**, Brother **Ted Makarewicz**, and Brother **Steve Rakowski**. Brother **Robert Groszek** was reappointed as Foundation Advocate, Brother **Ron Olech** was reappointed as Foundation Accountant, and Brother **Walter Pieciewicz** was appointed Finance/Investment Committee Chairman with committee members Brother **Don Gutowski** & Brother **Frank Gondela**. The board is in the progress of formulating rules and regulations for the James and Lillian Kulze Academic Scholarship consisting of larger financial amounts.

### COPERNICUS FOUNDATION DEDICATES ANNEX TO T. RON JASINSKI-HERBERT

When T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, known by all as "T. Ron," passed away, he left a very significant bequest to the Copernicus Foundation. The Board of Directors had chosen to name the Annex in his honor as well has memorialize his life on one of our honorary panels in the lobby.

The dedication took place on January 14, 2017. Brother **Steve Rakowski** spoke of T. Ron's many contributions to the Chicago Society and to Chicago's Polonia. Brother **Ted Makarewicz** read a proclamation from the Illinois State House of Representatives introduced by Brother **Robert Martwick**.



Consul General Piotr Janicki, Karen Mackay, ald. John Arena

The Annex is now called "Herbert Hall" in honor of T. Ron. The unveiling was conducted by his cousin Karen Mackay and John Arena, Alderman of the 45th Ward. There are 4 plaques in the lobby, one for each of his "favorite organizations." One of those is of the Chicago Society, which speaks of the Society and its contributions to Polonia. Another is of the Chicago Society Foundation and how its financial support has helped many organizations. .

This is quite a fitting tribute to a truly great man, who is truly missed.



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administered the oath to President Brother Steve Rakowski. Brother Steve then gave his address (which is published on p. 2), in which he spoke of how powerful Polonia once was. He then challenged the members to become more active in the Society and to bring in at least one more members. He then pledged to increase the vitality and to create a greater understanding of the Society. Finally, he thanked Brother Ro and his wife Chris for making this evening a reality, Brother Ted for all his help, and Hon. John Wasilewski for administering the oath of office to the incoming officers. The program concluded with a lively Krakowiak presented by the Polonia Dancers of the PRCUA, adding some levity to the evening.



Following the official portion of the evening, guests danced to the music of Brother Anthony Kawalkowski and his Orchestra. The orchestra played a variety of tunes from traditional to contemporary, from polkas and waltzes to romantic melodies, all to the enjoyment of the guests. The dance floor was full of couples dancing and enjoying themselves throughout the evening, so it's clear our guests had a memorable experience. The Orchestra played its last strains at midnight, and our guests now have another evening to remember.

*Gratulacje!* go to Brother Ro Matuszczak and his wife Chris for creating a truly beautiful evening. As he promised, the evening met the high standards of the Chicago Society with great food, good drinks, and high quality entertainment. Chicago Society balls have long been well known throughout Chicago's Polonia, and this year's certainly lived up to that tradition.



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