

# POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS MICHIGAN DIVISION

QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER

SUMMER  
2015

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## Executive Board:

**Ann Bankowski**  
(President)

**Barbara Lemecha**  
(Executive Vice President)

**Christopher Adamczyk**  
(VP Polish Affairs)

**Barbara J. Gronet**  
(VP American Affairs)

**Thomas Wolski**  
(Treasurer)

**Anna Huk-Gleaser**  
(Recording Secretary)

**Donna Bielecki**  
(Recording Secretary)

**Jolanta Bujny**  
(Corresponding Secretary)

## National Directors:

Zdzislaw Jurek

Jerzy Rozalski

Thaddeus Radzilowski

## State Directors:

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Joan Baritche

John Baritche

Jerzy Czaja

Frank Dmuchaowski

Anita Dul

Andrzej Jakobek

Stanislawa Jakobek

Richard Lapham

Edward Nizienski

Francine Nizienski

Jerzy Rozalski

Thomas Schemanski

Stella Szczesny

Jane Tylenda

Mary Ellen Tyszka

Miroslaw Wawrysz

Stefan Zmuda

## Ann Bankowski elected PAC-MI President

Ann Bankowski was elected the President of the Polish American Congress Michigan Division (PAC-MI) at the annual membership meeting on Saturday, March 14, at the PNA Hall in Hamtramck.

Bankowski was the only nominated candidate for the post of PAC-MI President. Mariusz Szajnert, who was the PAC-MI President for the last eight years, decided not to run for re-election.

Bankowski is following in the footsteps of her father, Kazimierz Olejarczyk, who passed away last year. Mr. Olejarczyk devoted his entire adult life to Polish American Congress (for 16 years he served as the President of PAC-MI).

The election of officers and board members was conducted by the Nominating Committee led by Hon. Judge John Chmura.

The full list of elected officers and board members is printed on this page. They were all sworn-in during the Installation Banquet on March 28. The event also included the presentation on bi-annual awards presented to local Polish American organizations celebrating milestone anniversaries (story on page 2).

At the Installation Banquet, Ann Bankowski addressed the gathered crowd, in her first speech as the PAC-MI President.

“Our organization, the Polish American Congress, Michigan Division with its splendid history of accomplishments in helping Poland when it needed our help, now itself, needs to look inward and discover the same purpose and determination to serve our cause,” said Bankowski. “And that cause is not only to defend and support the interests of the Polish nation but to proliferate and defend our common heritage, good name and the history of contributions, we Poles and Polish Americans made here in America and around the world.”



“Here in America we can observe an ongoing process of societal changes where traditional aspects of our culture are under assault. Public education has pretty much abandoned teaching fundamental history and the significance and relevance of the American Constitution upon which this country was founded. And the general level of popular cynicism and corresponding withdrawal from public life and participation is on

the rise. One is led to conclude that in our diverse society only those versed in activism and those who are organized get to achieve their goals. My point is that all of you here have your own definitions of how things should be done, for example, how your local school should educate your children, how media should cover Poland and Polonia or how much value bicultural and bilingual upbringing can offer our children having a distinct and documented advantage in attaining success through education. These and many other issues matter to us. We want to be able to voice our opinions and affect others. It’s difficult to do this on our own but much easier in one united and powerful voice such as that of the Polish American Congress. We are a national umbrella organization founded for that purpose. The work we do as a division and the goals we strive for should focus on serving our community but should also strengthen the national organization’s goals and efforts. We are an organization that strives to unify and to speak as the voice of Polonia - how ever large and diverse it may be.

“My intention, and that of the Executive Board, together with the PAC membership, will be to work hard in facilitating these objectives. My method, let me be clear about this, will be to count on your understanding, your support, and your involvement. As they say, I will be calling you.”

**Resolutions adopted at the Election Meeting are posted on PAC-MI website: [www.pacmi.org](http://www.pacmi.org)**

## UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

**MONDAY, JUNE 1 - 7:00 PM**

**QUARTERLY  
GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**

PAC-MI Headquarters

11333 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5 - 5:30 PM**

**PAC-MI Scholarship Fund  
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS  
PRESENTATION**

Krakus Restaurant - Detroit, Michigan

DETAILS ON PAGE 3

## DARMOWE KONSULTACJE PRAWNE w BIURZE KPA

### FREE LEGAL CONSULTATIONS AT PAC OFFICE

Sobota, 30 maja / Saturday, May 30  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**JAKUB SZLAGA**

Sobota, 6 czerwca / Saturday, June 6  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**ANNETTE RACZKOWSKI**

*Aby umówić się na spotkanie z prawnikiem należy wcześniej zarejestrować się dzwoniąc do biura KPA na numer telefonu 313-365-9400.*

*To schedule a meeting, call PAC office at 313-365-9400.*

## Have you thought of remembering us in your will?

Leaving us a gift in your will  
is a way to ensure that  
we can continue our mission.

## MASZ PYTANIE, POMYSŁ, PROPOZYCJĘ, ENERGIE? CHCESZ POMÓC?

ZADZWOŃ  
DO TWOJEGO BIURA  
- 313-365-9400

## DUES REMINDER

It is important for all members to  
pay dues in timely manner.

Only paid members are allowed to  
vote in the PAC-MI elections!

Thank you!

Najnowsze informacje o michigańskim  
wydziale KPĄ znajdziesz  
na stronie internetowej KPA  
na portalu Facebook.

# PAC-MI honors

On Saturday, March 28, the Polish American Congress Michigan Division held its Installation Banquet during which awards were presented to local Polish-American organizations celebrating their milestone anniversaries. This year the honors went to: Orchard Lake Schools (celebrating its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary; Vice Chancellor Anthony Koterba accepted the award), Polish American Central Citizens Committee (on the occasion of 100<sup>th</sup> Jubilee; President Stella Szczesny accepted the honors), Polish National Alliance Lodge 1758 (celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary; Vice President Thomas Schemanski accepted the award), "Polish Varieties" Radio Program (on the occasion of its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary; its program director Jerzy Rozalski accepted the honors), Club "Filarets" (celebrating 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, its President Mirosław Wawryś was presented with the award), Wawel Folk Dance Ensemble (celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary; the award was presented to its founder Marcia Lewandowski), PAC Federal Credit Union (celebrating 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year; COO of the Credit Union Anita Dul accepted the award) and the



Zenon Stepień (left),  
Edward Maska (above).

American Polish Cultural Center (on the occasion of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary; President Richard Konrad accepted the award).

The awards were presented by Mary Ellen Tyszka, Henrietta Nowakowski, Ann Bankowski, Judge John Chmura, Sebastian Szczepanski, Barbara Lemecha, Mariusz Szajnert and Dr. Zdzisław Jurek.

Additionally, Walter Bankowski presented awards to the Hamtramck Police and Fire departments, both celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries.

Two special recognition awards were also given out at the banquet. Edward Maska was recognized for his continued help in maintaining the PAC-MI building in good condition and Zenon Stepień was recognized for his patriotism, especially for organizing monthly Masses for Poland (Msza za Ojczyznę) for the last 30 years.

## PAC-MI remembers Katyn, Smolensk

The Polish American Congress Michigan Division organized the Mass of Remembrance on Thursday, April 9, at St. Faustina Church in Warren.

The Mass was celebrated to remember and honor the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre of April 1940, commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the brutal execution of more than 20,000 Polish officers, intellectuals, and clergy by the Soviets, as well as to remember the victims of the airplane crash near Smolensk on April 10, 2010, on the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this tragedy, in which 96 members of Poland's elite died along with the late Polish President, Lech Kaczyński.

The Mass was celebrated by the Pastor of St. Faustina Parish, Fr. Bogdan Miłosz, with participation of



"Filarets" choir, Polish scouts, members of the "Radio Maryja" family, veterans and other Polonian organizations.

The PAC-MI expresses its sincere "thank you" to everyone involved in helping organize the Mass and all who participated.

## PAC-MI, Polish Mission hosted May 3 Constitution Day

The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools and the Polish American Congress - MI hosted the annual event commemorating the anniversary of Poland's May 3 1791 Constitution. It was the first Constitution adopted in Europe and second in the world, following the American one. It was a significant achievement of the Polish Enlightenment thinkers. The adoption of the May 3 Constitution provoked the active hostility of the Commonwealth's neighbors, leading to the Second Partition of Poland in 1792, the Kościuszko Uprising of 1794 and the final, Third Partition of Poland, in 1795. In the words of two of its co-authors, Ignacy Potocki and Hugo Kołłątaj, it was "the last will and testament of the expiring Fatherland."

Michigan's Polonia commemorated this Polish achievement on Sunday, May 3, on the grounds of the Orchard Lake Schools.

The event included performances by the students of the Polish Language Schools of Metro Detroit, commemorative address by Christopher Adamczyk (PAC-MI Vice President) and performance by violinist Joseph Greenbaum. Additionally, Marian Rogowski of Wyandotte's "Klub Polonia" recited a poem by Marian Hemar. The opening of the exhibit "Cum Tacent, Clamant" ("When they are silent, they shout") from the Institute of National Remembrance in Poland was also on the agenda of the day. The exhibition is devoted to the search for victims of the communist system who were murdered in Poland in 1944-1946. A Mass celebrated by Fr. Ludwik Madej (with music by "Filarets" choir) concluded the celebration.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

## Polish Day Parade Labor Day

Monday, September 7  
Downtown Hamtramck  
1:30 pm

2015 Grand Marshal  
**CHESTER ZOCHOWSKI**

*If you would like your organization  
to be featured on the pages of PAC-MI Newsletter  
please contact our office: 313-365-9400.*

## PAC-MI Scholarship Fund begins its new fundraising campaign "Invest in the Future"



A special appeal to Polonia - "Invest in the Future" Make a Difference Scholarship Appeal - was recently made by the PAC-MI Scholarship Fund. A letter asking for monetary support of the Scholarship Fund was recently sent out to all PAC-MI members and friends.

"The Polish American Congress of Michigan Scholarship Fund, Inc. has limited income to use for this year's scholarship recipients. Since our major fundraiser to be held on August 5, at the Krakus Restaurant will not be sufficient to award each recipient at least \$1,000.00 in scholarships, we now need additional funds," the letter reads.

"This year the Scholarship Fund has initiated an 'Invest in the Future' Make a Difference Scholarship Appeal. We are requesting contributions from you or your organization or from your family estates. Donations of any amount will be greatly appreciated. Those who give \$100 or more will have their name placed on a Donor Board that will be on display at the PAC office in Hamtramck and at the Scholarship Dinner."

### PLEASE SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

Tax deductible donations can be sent to:  
PAC MICHIGAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
11333 Joseph Campau  
Hamtramck, MI 48212

Checks are to be made payable to: PAC of Michigan Scholarship Fund, Inc.  
Deadline for this appeal is July 15

## Polish American Congress of Michigan Scholarship Fund ANNUAL FUNDRAISER / DINNER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS PRESENTATION Wednesday, August 5, 2015 Krakus Restaurant

(12900 Joseph Campau, Detroit, MI)

Doors open: 5:30 pm, Dinner served at 6:00 pm

Suggested Contribution: \$30.00

Please make reservations by July 31 by calling: 313-365-9400.

### SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

## Polish American Numismatic Society

If haven't been to one of the coin shows organized by the Polish American Numismatic Society (an organization-member of PAC-MI), make sure you attend the next one. This unique organization, established in 1981, consists of members-numismatic enthusiasts. Their meetings include informative lectures on many numismatic topics, including US, Polish and World Numismatics. Les Rosik is the current President of PANS. PAC-MI would like to thank PANS for their continued support. For more information about PANS, please visit: [pans-club.org](http://pans-club.org).

Save the date for PANS next COIN SHOW  
Sunday, August 30, 2015 - American Polish Cultural Center, Troy, MI



**Polish American Congress  
Michigan Division  
11333 Joseph Campau  
Hamtramck, MI 48212**

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i usługi tłumacza.*

*Firma zajmuje się  
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