

# POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS MICHIGAN DIVISION

QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER  
2017



## QUARTERLY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 12 - 7:00 pm

PAC-MI Headquarters: 11333 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212

### 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

Henrietta Nowakowski

Thaddeus Radzilowski

### State Directors:

Wladyslaw Bankowski

Joan Baritche

Janusz Dabrowski

Frank Dmichowski

Stanislawa Jakobek

Gena Jurek

Joseph Kalenkiewicz

Alicja Karlic

Richard Konrad

Richard Lapham

Marcia Lewandowski

Jerzy Rozalski

Thomas Schemanski

Stella Szczesny

Chester Szczotka

Mary Ellen Tyszka

Miroslaw Wawrysz

Stefan Zmuda

## Ann Bankowski re-elected PAC-MI President

Ann Bankowski (pictured) was re-elected the President of the Polish American Congress Michigan Division (PAC-MI) at the annual membership meeting held on Saturday, March 18, at the PNA Hall in Hamtramck.

Bankowski was the only nominated candidate for the post of PAC-MI President and it is her second term as the leader of this organization.

Bankowski is following in the footsteps of her father, Kazimierz Olejarczyk, who passed away two years ago. 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 April 8. The event also included the presentation of bi-annual awards presented to local Polish-American organization celebrating milestone anniversaries and individuals who in exceptional way contribute to the Polish-American community of Michigan (story on page 2).

## Polish American Congress invites you to "PIEROGI PALOOZA 2" !

HAMTRAMCK, MI - After overwhelming success of the first edition of this fun event, the Polish American Congress Michigan Division invites everyone to the second edition of "Pierogi Palooza". This event for the entire family will be held Friday, June 2, from 4:00 pm to 12:00 am, at the Polish National Alliance Council 122 Hall in Hamtramck (10211 Conant). More than a dozen pierogi variety from local delis and producers will be available for purchase. Polish kielbasa on a bun, delicious desserts will also be offered. Entertainment will include live music by the Kielbasa Kings. Bar, raffles, and many other attractions are also planned. \$2.00 cover charge gets you in along



with great food and beverage options for purchase. Carry out service will be available.

The event is organized as a fundraiser for the Polish American Congress Michigan Division, an organization established in 1944 as an umbrella organization which acts as the voice of Polish American community and brings together organizations and individuals to work toward the civic, social, cultural, and educational betterment of all Polish-Americans.

Join us for an evening of delicious food, good music and great fun! Come hungry and bring your dancing shoes! Polish American Congress Michigan invites you to our "Polish Experience".

# PAC-MI HONORS

On Saturday, April 8, 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: The Polish Falcons of America – Nest 31, Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish, Polish Century Club of Detroit, Polish American Veterans Association District VI, Friends of Polish Art, Klub Polonia (of Wyandotte), Rev. J. Dabrowski Polish Language School, Saint John Paul II Polish Language School. Additionally, PAC-MI honored a few individuals who in an exceptional way contribute to the local Polish-American Community. The awards went to Carolyn Wietrzykowski (the owner of “Polish Village Café” in Hamtramck), Jolanta Gmurowska (director of the A. Mickiewicz Polish Language School in Sterling Heights) and Ludwik Zabicki (a scoutmaster devoted to the Polish Scouting Organization of Michigan). Another award presented by PAC-MI went to Stan’s Grocery (the award was given to the owners, Jolanta and Czeslaw Cieslawski), a popular Polish deli store in Hamtramck, which recently closed. A special “Honorary Lifetime Member” certificate was also presented at the banquet to Mr. Ray Okonski, one of the most generous supporters of the Polish American Congress Michigan Division. Congratulations to all the awardees and best wishes for continued success!

*Pictured - Ann Bankowski presents awards to: first row from top - Urszula Mejza (director of John Paul II Polish Language School), Marzanna Owinski (director of Fr. J. Dabrowski Polish Language School), Ludwik Zabicki; second row from top - Czeslaw and Jolanta Cieslawski (owners of Stan’s Grocery), Jolanta Gmurowska and Richard Lapham (President of Friends of Polish Art).*

*photos by Jacqueline Kolowski*



# PAC-MI remembers Katyn, Smolensk

The Polish American Congress Michigan Division organized the Mass or Remembrance on Sunday, 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 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this 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 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this tragedy, in which 96 members of Poland's elite died along with the late President, Lech Kaczynski.

The PAC-MI would like to express a sincere "thank-you" to everyone involved in organizing 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 Michigan Division 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.

Michigan's Polonia commemorated this Polish achievement on Sunday, May 7, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Sterling Heights.

After, the Mass at 1:30, a special program took place at the John Paul II hall with performances by the students from local Polish language schools, a short lecture by our special guest, Prof. Julian Kulski, and presentation of films (including "Legacy of the White Eagle").



# DETROIT POLONIA CALENDAR



Stay informed about the upcoming Polonian events in Metro Detroit.

A "Detroit Polonia Calendar," compiled by Barbara Gronet, PAC-MI Vice President for American Affairs, is the best source to stay informed about upcoming Polonian events. The list can be found on PAC-MI website, Facebook and is also printed in local Polish American newspapers.

If you would like to add your event to the list, please send your information (who, what, when, where & more) by mail: PAC/MI Calendar, 11333 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212; by e-mail: DetPoloniaCalendar@comcast.net; or call: (313) 365-9400 (leave a detailed message including a call back number).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**POLISH DAY PARADE**  
**LABOR DAY**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**  
**DOWNTOWN HAMTRAMCK**  
**1:30 PM**

**2017 GRAND MARSHAL:**  
**RAY OKONSKI**  
**COME & WALK WITH US!**



## PAC-MI SENIORS CLUB SWIECONKA CELEBRATION



Mrs. Dana Siwek (above) was our special guest. Join our Senior's Club meetings! For more info, call 313-365-9400.



**PAC-SPONSORED**  
**POLISH MASSES**  
**AT**  
**ST. LADISLAUS CHAPEL**  
**EVERY THIRD SUNDAY**  
**OF THE MONTH - 9:00 AM**  
**ST. LADISLAUS CHAPEL**  
**2697 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212**

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

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# **PIEROGI PALOOZA**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017 - 4:00 pm - 12:00 am**

**Polish National Alliance Council 122 Hall**

**10211 Conant, Hamtramck, MI 48212**

**PIEROGI - KIELBASA - BAR - RAFFLES - BAKE SALE - MUSIC - FUN**