



NOTES FROM THE FIFTH ANNUAL IWP KOSCIUSZKO CHAIR SPRING SYMPOSIUM PG.3 ■ POLAND'S
MEMBERSHIP IN THE U.S. VISA WAIVER PROGRAM PG. 6 ■ POLAND'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS & POLISH
CONSTITUTION EVENTS DAY - CHICAGO, IL PG. 8 ■ OBSERVATIONS OF A VISITOR TO THE UNITED
STATES MEMORIAL HOLOCAUST MUSEUM IN WASHINGTON, D.C. PG.9 ■ VISION BECOME REALITY
IN BOSTON PG.10 ■ ISSUES STATEMENT CONDEMNING FBI DIRECTOR JAMES COMEY'S COMMENTS PG.12

May 2015

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 3

Your Voice
in America!

2015 Council of National Directors Meeting

WASHINGTON D.C.

July 20-23, 2015

The meeting will be
held at:

Holiday Inn National Airport Hotel
2650 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202
Phone 703-684-7200

We have a block of rooms reserved under the name of the Polish American Congress. The room rate is \$139 + taxes. **To ensure that you receive the group rate, the reservations need to be made by Saturday, June 20, 2015.**

There is a complimentary shuttle that runs between the Ronald Reagan National Airport and the hotel.

A detailed agenda for the meeting will be forwarded as soon as it is finalized.

The tentative agenda includes:

- **Monday, July 20** - PAC meeting (approximately 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm); dinner
- **Tuesday, July 21** - PAC meeting 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
- **Wednesday, July 22** - Polish American Advocacy Days (e.g. Capitol Hill visits, official meetings)
- **Thursday, July 23** - Polish American Advocacy Days continued.; meeting concludes mid-afternoon

The registration fee for the four-days of events is \$325 per person.

The cost is somewhat higher than previous meetings, but please keep in mind that the average registration costs for the two-meeting per year format was around \$400. Furthermore, this time we will be meeting for more days, and in a undoubtedly more expensive location. Finally, the PAC officers spent a considerable amount of time trying to find a hotel and arrangements that would meet both the needs of the PAC agenda meeting and also be financially feasible to its participants.

The registration fee was calculated to cover the costs of meeting room rental; meeting equipment (microphones, recording, projector/screen, etc.); selected meals (breaks during the meeting, dinner, lunch); and transportation (buses) from the hotel to the places of meetings (to include Capitol Hill, Polish Embassy, White House, etc.).

Additional information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.



CORRECT THE Mistruths about POLAND!

Have you signed the petition regarding FBI Director James Comey's recent remarks? If so, thank you. If not, please go to our PAC website homepage: www.pac1944.org and click on "Petition to disavow and correct mistruths spoken by FBI Director Comey" - there you can read the PAC statement and at the bottom click on the link to add your name to the petition. Again, thank you.

Click the pen below to go directly to
the petition at whitehouse.gov:





President's Message

FRANK SPULA, PRESIDENT OF POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

Dear Members,

As the upcoming meeting of Council of Directors in Washington in July is quickly approaching, I appeal to all that you put the dates on your calendars. An interesting schedule is being planned and as we move forward additional information will be posted on the Web site.

I recently returned from a trip to Poland. During my short visit, I was able to participate in a conference arranged by Minister of Foreign Affairs Grzegorz Schetyna. Approximately 40 representatives from various parts of the world were able to attend. Topics of discussion included the situation in Ukraine and Poland's support in this matter; globalization; Poland's openness to business partnerships; investment; stronger unity and cooperation; improving the positives image of Poland; the need for Polish Schools outside of Poland, and the promotion of Poland abroad.

During a session attended by Minister Schetyna and Minister Pawlik, on behalf of World Polonia its President Mr. Jan Cytowski presented a letter concerning lack of progress on the Smolensk plane crash investigation.

I had the pleasure of participating in various celebrations. I was invited by Stowarzyszenie "Wspolnota Polska" to take part in the celebration of its 25th Anniversary hosted by its President, Longin Komolowski. It was extremely well prepared and attended by dignitaries including the President of Poland Bronislaw Komorowski, who was the featured guest. I was honored to receive the "Krzysz Kmandorski Orderu Zaslugi Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej." One of the many awards recipients was also Mrs. Ewa Koch, president of the Polish Teachers Association in America.

May 2nd is celebrated in Poland as Flag Day and Day of Polonia, so I had a chance to attend the official flag-raising ceremony and presentation of flags to representatives of Polish and Polonia communities. President Komorowski was the host, main speaker and presented the flags himself. A special, televised concert was arranged by Wspolnota Polska in recognition of its 25th Anniversary. At the ceremony at the Polish Royal Castle (Zamek Krolewski) TVP Polonia presented awards for services to Poland beyond the borders of our homeland. I had a privilege to accept one on behalf of the Polish American Congress.

While Polonia in Chicago participated in the great May 3rd Parade, I was able to commemorate this historical event in front of the Presidential Palace by the Marshall Pilsudski monument and later went to an outdoor reception attended by various Ministers, including U.S. Ambassador as well as ambassadors from other countries.

Before my return to the U.S. I had the opportunity to meet privately with Minister Schetyna and present him with a letter concerning the Smolensk investigation, as well as discuss the alleged sale of public forest and other issues. I will be able to share the content and detail of our conversation as well as my reflections on it at the upcoming meeting in July.

Wishing you a splendid spring and hoping to see you in Washington,

Frank J. Spula

President



PAC Newsletter Committee

Anita Jedwabski (Massachusetts)
anitareliv@gmail.com

Ania Karwan (California)
ania_k@hotmail.com

Zbigniew Koralewski (New York)
zkoral@aol.com

Tim Kuzma (Pennsylvania)
tkuzma@polishfalcons.org

Boguslaw Niemczewski (Illinois)
bniemczewski@op.pl

Mark Pienkos (Wisconsin)
PAC National VP for Public Relations
markpienkos2012@gmail.com

Layout and Design by Polish Falcons of America:
Courtney Caughey-Stambul, Communications Director
Holland Brown, Communications Assistant

Notes from the Fifth Annual IWP Kosciuszko Chair Spring Symposium,

“BETWEEN RUSSIA AND NATO: SECURITY CHALLENGES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE”

BY ZBYSZEK KORALEWSKI, PAC-LI

On Saturday, April 25th, the Fifth Annual Kosciuszko Chair Spring Symposium took place at the Pentagon City Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia. This year's symposium was organized around the topic: *Between Russia and NATO: Security Challenges in Central and Eastern Europe*. The event was hosted by the Institute of World Politics; Sebastian Gorka, Major General, Matthew C. Horner Distinguished Chair of Military Theory, Marine Corps University, presided over the day's speakers.

Topics centered on the recent events in Ukraine, analyses of security threats in the region, and the role of United States foreign policy. **After Gorka's introduction**, which described the mission of the IWP and emphasized the necessity of a nuanced approach to American foreign policy, **Professor Marek Jan Chodakiewicz, the Kosciuszko Chair of Polish Studies at the IWP, took the stage**. A historian by training, Prof. Chodakiewicz has been instrumental in organizing IWP's events for several years. At this year's conference, his talk focused on the history of the Intermarium, a region stretching from the Baltic Sea, to the Black Sea, to the Adriatic coast. He explained that, after the dissolution of the Hapsburg, Hohenzollern, and Romanov dynasties in the twentieth century, the region experienced a period of disintegration and petty bickering in stark contrast with the harmony that prevailed during the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, lasting from the sixteenth to the mid-eighteenth centuries. As the ancient

nations of Poland and Hungary sought to secure their lost territories, ethno-nationalist states, like Latvia and Slovakia, attempted to distance themselves from their former rulers. Conflicting irredentist claims and the precarious egos of the fledgling Central European nation-states precluded the sort of regional solidarity necessary to defend the cluster of states from Germany and the USSR. The events and aftermath of World War II demonstrated once and for all the foolishness of regional bickering in light of very real existential threats brewing at the thresholds of Central Europe: If the region hopes to avoid repeating history, Professor Chodakiewicz concluded, regional solidarity must trump petty intra-regional concerns.

The following speaker was Žygimantas Pavilionis, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the United States of America. Pavilionis provided a very apt follow up to the previous speech, translating Prof. Chodakiewicz's historical observations into their current, real-world implications. He insightfully noted that the key to establishing regional security partnerships involves larger countries, like Poland, treating smaller countries, like Lithuania, as equals. Patronizing relations elicit spite on the part of smaller nations, thereby contributing to disintegration and bad blood amongst Central European nation-states. Emphasizing the need for NATO to strengthen itself by adopting both a concrete enlargement



plan and a specific strategy regarding Russian aggression, he reminded the audience of Lithuania's leadership in supporting Ukraine's Euromaidan Revolution and invited Poland to match this level of commitment.

Briefly, Pavilionis mentioned that energy policy might hold the key to preserving Eastern European democracies. The following panel, featuring Ariel Cohen, Senior Research Fellow in Russian and Eurasian Studies and International Energy Policy at the Heritage Foundation, and **Lucja Swiatkowska-Cannon, Chief Economist of the Texas First Investment Management Company**, delved deeper into this question. Both speakers discussed current efforts to achieve energy independence from Russia using Liquid Natural Gas, or LNG. While Mr. Cohen discussed the networks of pipelines and seaports either already existing or under construction, Mrs. Swiatkowska-Cannon raised the question of whether shale gas, which is to be found in abundance on Poland's territory, might already be a lost opportunity for Poland. She then discussed the exact nature of the exploitation that defines Poland's energy dependence on Russia, noting that, of all the countries in Europe, Poland pays the most per 1000m³ of natural gas. The fact that Russia openly engages in price-gouging when

NOTES FROM THE FIFTH ANNUAL IWP KOSCIUSZKO CHAIR SPRING SYMPOSIUM

CONTINUED FROM PG.3 ...

it comes to selling natural gas to Europe seemed to confirm Ambassador Pavilionis' observation about the critical role of energy policy in Central and Eastern Europe.

The following speaker, Professor Andrzej Nowak from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, dealt more explicitly with the nature of Russian aggression in the 21st century. Analyzing Vladimir Putin's foreign policy motivations, he identified Putin's membership in the KGB and his personal interest in judo as key influences. While the former provides the basis for a renewed form of Soviet imperialism, the latter lends the means towards achieving this end: using the enemy's power against him by finding weak spots. From the perspective of Russia, one must note, Central and Eastern European nations belonging to NATO and the EU constitute the utmost enemy. Professor Nowak went on to note the role played by the demographic crisis in Russia: Russia, soon enough, will simply lack Russians. Consequently, it needs to look for "future Russians:" Byelorussians and Ukrainians who can be Russified and incorporated into the Russian Empire to make up for the demographic crisis decimating Russia's East. Therefore, sowing divisiveness in the

Intermarium region through petty ethno-national conflicts is entirely in the best interests of Russia, exemplifying the divide-and-conquer credo.

Jack Dziak, a private security consultant with an extensive background in intelligence, emphasized the continuity between the Soviet Union's imperial efforts and Russia's current resurgence. Comparing the Russian and American intelligence communities, he noted that while the United States has systematically de-funded its Cold War-era intelligence and counterintelligence units, Russia has dramatically increased its spending on its own. One crucial difference between the US and Russia, which makes this augmentation of Russian intelligence services so worrisome, is that Spetznaz units and other Russian special forces exist not under the leadership of Russia's military, but under its security services, including the FSB. When one considers that the irregular troops operating in Ukraine are primarily bolstered by Russian Special Forces, the real-world consequences of Russian intelligence growth become very apparent.

The nature and extent of what is sometimes called Hybrid Warfare, or "New Generation Warfare," was elaborated by the **two following speakers:**

Chris Zawitkowski, National Director of the Polish-American Congress, Southern California Division, and Philip Petersen. Mr. Zawitkowski presented an outline of Russian-style hybrid warfare: through a combination of friendly posturing, agents of influence, targeted corruption of foreign officials, and inciting local populations to rebellion, Russia has succeeded in dominating its neighbors either explicitly or implicitly, the most visible examples of which are Russia's invasion of Georgia, and Russia's current occupation of Eastern Ukraine. Mr. Petersen, on the other hand, focused on the ideological elements of Russian war doctrine, which he explicitly termed "New Generation Warfare." This form of warfare includes propaganda, destabilization through fraud and bribery, economic warfare (including price gauging), and the persistent threat to use tactical nuclear weapons. This form of warfare is the instrument of Russia's resurgent imperialism, the foundation of which is twofold: along with a sincere belief that the Russian-Eurasian civilization is engaged in an existential struggle with the Euro-American civilization, Russia has also adopted a "fourth ideology": An image of itself as a neoconservative, post-liberal ideological superstate defending "traditional

values" against Western relativism and hedonism. This ideology is precisely what allows Russia to provide financial support for, and work closely with, far-right ethno-nationalist groups in Europe, ranging from Hungary's Jobbik to France's Front National. Recalling Professor Chodakiewicz's speech, one can remember that it is precisely this sort of irredentist ethno-nationalism that decimated Central European regional solidarity leading up to World War II.

The following speaker, Phillip Karber, added concrete details, numbers, and figures to the ideological scaffolding illustrated by Mr. Petersen. Karber, who is the President of the Potomac Foundation and an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University, presented photographs as well as his first-hand accounts of what is currently occurring in the Donbas region in Eastern Ukraine. Step by step, he detailed the ways in which hybrid warfare doctrine is currently being employed. Prof. Karber concluded by suggesting solutions that the United States would do well to adopt, including transferring unused American military supplies to the Ukrainian government and supporting and funding pro-Western political parties throughout Central and Eastern Europe, to counteract the information war currently being waged by Russia.

CONTINUED ON PG.5 ...



NOTES FROM THE FIFTH ANNUAL IWP
KOSCIUSZKO CHAIR SPRING SYMPOSIUM
CONTINUED FROM PG.4 ...



Colonel Joseph Wood, the following speaker, spent several years flying for NATO in the 1980s and 1990s and is currently a professor at the Institute for World Politics. His speech was markedly different in tone from the preceding panelists: focusing on the mission and motivations of NATO as an institution, he introduced a discourse about what the United States' place in Europe is and what it is that the North Atlantic Treaty was defending. He read aloud the preamble as well as Articles 4 and 5 of the treaty, which are often invoked in arguments supporting Western military intervention in Ukraine, and contrasted NATO's purpose with that of the European Union. Whereas NATO was always fundamentally based on a defense alliance with the United States, the EU was always about an economic alliance with Germany. Many of the problems associated with current Western intervention in Ukraine can be found in this dissonance between the purposes of these two international

organizations. Rephrasing the idea of a clash between the Eurasian and Euro-American civilizations, Colonel Wood identified a philosophical conflict surrounding the question of whether there is a natural order to things and how this belief impacts foreign policy attitudes about ends and means. Such a demarcation divides NATO and the EU's member states along markedly different lines, with countries like Germany and France perhaps adhering more closely to the cynical foreign policy motivations of Russia while Central and Eastern Europe find more in common with the ideals of American foreign policy. He concluded with an examination of NATO's role in a post-Cold War (or, Neo-Cold-War) world: NATO must maximize the freedom of individual member states, while also providing real opportunities for these states to adhere to the preamble of the North Atlantic Treaty and to work together in achieving their common goals.

The penultimate speaker was John Lenczowski, president of the Institute for World Politics. While wrapping up many of the strands of thought presented throughout the day, Lenczowski emphasized the cynical and insidious nature of contemporary Russian statecraft, which is predicated upon organizing treaties and agreements only to find novel ways in which to violate and exploit these same agreements. As an example, he discussed the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, which guaranteed Ukraine's territorial integrity in exchange for Ukraine's relinquishment of the Soviet nuclear arsenal found within its borders after the collapse of the USSR. This treaty, of course, was completely ignored by all the signing parties: in retrospect, it seems as if Ukraine's one-time proposal of a nuclear union with Poland would have been the more judicious option for guaranteeing the region's security.

Sebastian Gorka, the day's master of ceremonies, summarized the symposium with an overview of the ideas, statistics, problematics and solutions that had been discussed that day. He identified three key points about Russia's resurgent imperialism: Russia is not our partner (but only poses as such to manipulate our weaknesses), Russia does have a plan (whereas the US, NATO, and the EU do not), and we are Russia's enemy (even if we may think that we are its friends). Gorka emphasized the need for action, the importance of swiftness, and the preferability of deterrence over full-scale war. Although sometimes bordering on fear mongering, he successfully concluded the day's events with an admonition that the West tirelessly defend its freedoms and values from outside aggression, while nevertheless remembering why it is that these freedoms are worth defending in the first place. ■



Poland's membership in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program

TIME TO ACT!

BY BARBARA B. ANDERSEN, PH.D.
PAC NATIONAL OFFICE DIRECTOR

In recent years, Poland's inclusion into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (VWP) has become one of the top and most important issues in the U.S.-Poland relations in the eyes of the Polish American Community.

For the Polish American Congress – an organization that has been staunchly supporting the principles of openness, fairness, and justice in the U.S. immigration system – the current effort towards the inclusion of Poland into the VWP is a continuation of a long path, as the PAC has been actively advocating for the inclusion of Poland into the Program for over a decade on Capitol Hill and in state legislatures. For that reason the organization held countless meetings on the subject, wrote dozens of letters, and issued a multitude of action alerts

in an effort to mobilize the Polish American community to urge their respective elected officials to support the cause.

Even though last year Poland came very close to finally become a member of the Program, due to last-minute developments on Capitol Hill, regrettably it did not happen. It does not mean, however, that the battle is over. Quite the contrary – our effort must continue. And it must continue as long as it takes.

At this point, the most viable and strongest legislative vehicle that would allow for Poland's membership is the H.R. 1401, Jobs Originated through Launching the Travel Act of 2015 or the JOLT Act of 2015.

This bi-partisan legislation, reintroduced in the current Congress by a Republican Congressman, Joe Heck of Nevada, and a Democrat, Mike Quigley of Illinois, among its many other provisions calls for the modification of the VWP, one that would allow most trusted and loyal allies, such as Poland, to finally join the Program.





POLAND'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE U.S. VISA WAIVER PROGRAM. TIME TO ACT!

CONTINUED FROM PG.6 ...

As of May 5th, the list of cosponsors included:

Cosponsor - Date Cosponsored

Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2] 03/25/2015	Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1] 04/13/2015
Rep. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large] 03/25/2015	Rep. Farr, Sam [D-CA-20] 04/13/2015
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1] 03/25/2015	Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-17] 04/13/2015
Rep. Amodei, Mark E. [R-NV-2] 03/25/2015	Rep. Webster, Daniel [R-FL-10] 04/13/2015
Rep. Jolly, David W. [R-FL-13] 03/25/2015	Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large] 04/13/2015
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52] 03/25/2015	Rep. Takai, Mark [D-HI-1] 04/13/2015
Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26] 03/25/2015	Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8] 04/28/2015
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-22] 03/25/2015	Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2] 04/28/2015
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20] 03/25/2015	Rep. Bera, Ami [D-CA-7] 04/28/2015
Rep. Sanford, Mark [R-SC-1] 03/25/2015	Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2] 04/28/2015
Rep. Hardy, Cresent [R-NV-4] 03/25/2015	Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3] 04/28/2015
Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14] 03/25/2015	Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47] 04/28/2015
Rep. Lawrence, Brenda L. [D-MI-14] 04/13/2015	Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9] 04/28/2015
Rep. Mulvaney, Mick [R-SC-5] 04/13/2015	Rep. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL-8] 04/28/2015
Rep. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD-8] 04/13/2015	Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2] 04/28/2015
Rep. Hanna, Richard L. [R-NY-22] 04/13/2015	Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3] 04/28/2015
Rep. Walz, Timothy J. [D-MN-1] 04/13/2015	Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4] 04/28/2015
	Rep. Simpson, Michael K. [R-ID-2] 04/28/2015



(For more updated information go to www.congress.gov and type JOLT Act as a key word.)

Luckily for us, the Polish American community is not alone in the effort. Not only does Polonia have many strong supporters on Capitol Hill and in the current Administration, but also the JOLT Act legislation also has very influential backing from the travel and hospitality industries, who see the initiative as a way of increasing safe travel to the U.S. and hence an increase in revenue for airlines, hotels, etc. Nevertheless, grassroots votes are the ones that are heard most loudly and clearly on Capitol Hill.

We realize that in the past hundreds of members of our Polish American community contacted their elected officials in support of the earlier version of the JOLT Act legislation. These calls and personal visits made a huge impact and we have to do that again.

Therefore, we again strongly urge you to contact your Congressional Representative (if he/she is not on the list above) and expressly ask them to co-sponsor H.R.1401. Please encourage your family and friends to do the same. Only through a unified and continuing effort can we finally make Poland's membership in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program a reality! ■

Poland's Presidential Elections

BY RICHARD BRZOWSKI, PAC-LI

On Saturday, May 9, 2015 eligible Polonians voted for presidential candidates in Poland. Only 21,413 registered to vote at approved voting sites throughout the United States. At the four New York City voting sites, approximately 5,745 individuals, including individuals living on Long Island, registered to vote.

The Polish American Congress, Long Island New York Division implemented several nonpartisan initiatives to promote and encourage eligible individuals to vote in Poland's election of a new president.

The following were the Division's initiatives:

1. One Division Board member, Zbyszek Koralewski, volunteered and was selected to serve on the election commission in the New York Metropolitan area.
2. Voting information was made available on the Division's website.
3. Several Division members, including Zygmunt Staszewski, Marta Wesolowska, Teodor Lachowski and Kazimierz Nietupski, set up information sites in two Polish parishes, to inform voters about eligibility requirements and facilitated electronic registration.
4. Printed and distributed fliers informing voters when, where and how they could cast their vote.
5. Provided free bus service from a convenient Long Island location to a voting site in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. The bus service was funded by a grant from the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union and by several private donors.

Grzegorz Worwa, President of the Polish American Congress, Long Island New York Division, Zygmunt Staszewski, Vice President for Polish Affairs and Division Board members believe that the effort and funds expended enhanced the reputation of the PAC and the Long Island Division.

Click here
to view the
Candidates!

Click here watch
the Presidential
Debate!

Constitution Day Events



Chicago, Illinois

On Saturday, May 2nd, numerous activities took place in Chicago commemorating the 224th anniversary of the Polish Constitution – the second oldest Constitution in the world, signed on May 3, 1791.

Festivities began with a 9:00 a.m. flag raising ceremony in Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago. The annual parade then took place at midday. An evening reception was held at the Polish Consulate of the Republic of Poland.

Paulina Kapuścińska, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago hosted this special event and gave greetings to all present. Marlena Dziś, a Polish-born lyric coloratura soprano, provided excitement with her singing of several Polish folk songs and melodies.

Ann and Mark Pienkos were invited guests and represented the Polish American Congress – Wisconsin Division.

Photo above:

From left: Mark Pienkos, Polish American Congress - Wisconsin Division President and National PAC Vice President for Public Relations; Jan Watroba, Bishop of Rzeszow, and Paulina Kapuścińska, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago share a festive moment during the Constitution Day evening activities at the Polish Consulate in Chicago on May 2nd. Upon sharing pleasantries, Pienkos spoke to Bishop Watroba regarding his grandfather, Walenty Pienkos, who was born in Rzeszow and came to America in 1912. Mark, his wife, Ann, and his family have visited this beautiful city in southeastern Poland on several occasions.

Observations of a visitor to the United States Memorial Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

BY ZBYSZEK KORALEWSKI, PAC-LI

The day after the April 25, 2015 Institute for World Politics conference on Security of Poland in Washington D.C., the Koralewski family visited the Holocaust Museum. It was early Sunday morning and we were moving slowly trying to read, listen and see as much as possible. Soon, we were caught up in a crowd of visitors making progress difficult. We viewed the newly opened exhibit “Neighbors”, documenting the love story of a German boy and Polish girl (Gerhardt and Bronia), and their severe punishment.

Surprisingly, we saw nothing about the controversial Jedwabne incident.

During the visit to the Holocaust Museum we observed the following:

1. The statement on the “Zegota” plaque should be changed from “...the only Polish organization that helped Jews...” to “...the only organization in all German occupied Europe, was established by the Polish Government in exile, whose mission was saving Jews...”.
2. There is no mention that only in Poland, Germans killed individuals caught assisting Jews. Entire Polish families and often neighbors were also killed.
3. There is no mentioning about the behavior of Jewish neighbors when the eastern part of Poland was invaded by Soviets and later by Germans (that made so many Poles angry).
4. No mentioning about Poles deported to Siberia.
5. No mention of Katyn massacre where many Polish Jews, in military service, were also murdered.
6. In the exhibit about the Ghetto Uprising there is a negative statement about the Polish Home Army (AK) being a nationalist organization that was hostile to Jews.

This must be corrected. A statement from the link: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Combat_Organization

“In November 1942, ŻOB officially became part of and subordinated its activities to the High Command of the Armia Krajowa. In return the AK began providing ŻOB with weapons and training, with the first shipment of guns and ammunition being provided in December 1942.[8]”

7. In the Karski exhibit, there is no mention that President Franklin Roosevelt and Premier Winston Churchill did nothing to stop “the final solution” despite specific information presented about the atrocities being committed.
8. There is no mention of Pilecki and his acts of heroism on behalf of Poles and Jews.
9. A reference, under the Irena Sendler photograph, fails to mention that she saved 2,500 Jewish children from the Ghetto.
10. There is no mention that Polish monasteries, convents and clergy saved countless Jewish children.

The above observations should justify PAC empanelling a committee to investigate misstatements in the Holocaust Museum exhibits and to recommend suitable corrections and clarifications.



VISION BECOME REALITY IN BOSTON

A CHRONICLE OF POLISH FEST BOSTON 2015

BY ANITA JEDWABSKI, PAC- MA



Starting top left: (Photo 1) Anissa Essabai George, Boston City Council candidate looking on, Peter Suchicki is being presented a Proclamation declaring May 3rd as Polish Constitution Day by Hodari Cail, Director of Community Affairs, on behalf of Charles Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. (Photo 2) The City of Boston closes down a portion of busy Boston Street for Polish Fest. (Photo 3) Local Chapters of Polish American Veterans were represented. (Photo 4) Vendors selling fresh kielbasa to parade goers. (Photo 5) Led by the Polish American Congress, a Parade from Our Lady of Czestochowa Church to the site of Polish Fest Boston. Some of the members of the PAC E-Mass division, Board of Directors L to R: Marek Wisniewski, Steve Wychorski, Wes Wierzbowski, Peter Suchicki, Lukasz Gawel.

CONTINUED ON PG. 11 ...

VISION BECOME REALITY IN BOSTON

A CHRONICLE OF POLISH FEST BOSTON 2015

CONTINUED FROM PG.10 ...

What started with an idea of Peter Suchcicki, current President of the Polish American Congress-Eastern Massachusetts Division, came to fruition on Sunday, May 3rd. “I wanted to start a tradition and put Boston Polonia on the map of well-known cultural events in Massachusetts”, stated Mr. Suchcicki. In Boston, Irish-Americans are known for their grand St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Our German friends have Oktoberfest. Now, New Englanders have Polish Fest Boston where everyone is Polish for a day. This was a glorious celebration of Poland’s Constitution of May 3rd, 1791, the world’s 2nd ratified constitution. Taking place in the heart of Boston’s “Polish Triangle” an estimated 1,000 attendees took part in a rich display of Polish history, culture and food.

COMING TOGETHER

Suchcicki underscores the importance of the PAC as an umbrella organization for American Polonia. He and his team rallied the support of local Polish American pillar organizations including Polish American Citizens Club of Boston, Branches of Polish American Veterans organizations – Boston, Chelsea, Lynn, Lowell Posts, and the Polish Cultural Foundation. Everyone pulled together and shared their talents and to create a memorable day which appealed to the crowd’s interests. There were many activities to enjoy throughout the day indoors and out. Aside from the culinary delights, Suchcicki wanted to emphasize the impact Poles have made to global history. There were historical lectures, messages delivered by local political officials and candidates and a cultural display of art, dance, song and a demonstration by Hussaria re-enactors.

POLAND’S RICH MILITARY HISTORY OF DEFENDING LIBERTY AND OTHER FUNDAMENTALS OF POLAND’S CONSTITUTION

Keeping history alive are members of Polish Hussar Supply.... Educating today’s generation on the most successful and elite calvary in all of Europe. Vivat!

AND THE WINNER IS....

Aside from Polish Fest Boston’s “Polish American of the Year”, New England Patriot player, Rob Gronkowski, a major draw of Polish Fest was the Kielbasa Cook-off where 3 local Polish delis competed for the coveted title of Boston’s Best Kielbasa. Suchcicki notes, “I wanted to increase exposure of such businesses to the general public. Within these streets that literally create a triangle, our community has a lot to offer to the City.”

UNTIL NEXT YEAR

PAC-Eastern Massachusetts Division is just getting started. Peter is already looking forward to next year’s event. “It will be even larger!” Suchcicki exclaims, “We will have a massive parade. We will bring it to the State House!”

Photos provided by
Darek Barcikowski, White Eagle News and
Peter Olejnik, www.drydockstudios.com



Polish American Congress – Wisconsin Division

ISSUES STATEMENT CONDEMNING FBI DIRECTOR JAMES COMEY'S COMMENTS

The Polish American Congress – Wisconsin Division issued a statement condemning the recent comments made by FBI Director James Comey. Comey made comments suggesting Poles were accomplices in the Holocaust. Anyone who knows the history of World War II would never make such a statement. Comey showed not only his lack of judgment, but also his ignorance as to what happened in German occupied Poland during 1939-1945.

Poland has been one of the staunchest allies of the United States throughout our history. Poland is also a member of NATO. Poland does not deserve Comey's uneducated commentary about the Holocaust that saw six million Polish citizens killed.

The Polish American Congress – Wisconsin Division stands not only with the Republic of Poland in condemning Comey's remarks, but also with people throughout the world who are interested in learning and informing others of the truth of the extermination of innocent peoples during the Holocaust.

The remarks made by Director Comey deserve strong condemnation. They also require not only a sincere apology, but a commitment to learn the lessons of history that accurately portray Poland's commitment to freedom, tolerance, and friendship. The best way for Director Comey to show his sincere remorse is to resign.

Let it always be remembered and taught that Poland never capitulated nor collaborated with the German occupation of its homeland.

Let this never be forgotten: The people of Poland - all its people - were the victims of the most cruel and merciless totalitarian aggression in World War II. Let no one ever forget this.

Sincerely,

Mark Pienkos

Mark Pienkos, President
Polish American Congress – Wisconsin Division

Side Note



A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM MARK PIENKOS

PAC VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

I want to thank everyone who reacted with action by either signing a petition or writing a letter to the White House regarding the recent horrible remarks made by FBI Director James Comey on Poland and the Second World War. Besides the actions taken, we must remain vigilant on erroneous, ignorant, or deliberate mis-statements made about Poland.

Although we hope this will not happen in the future, the past has shown that unfortunately this will happen again. We must continue to educate people about today's Poland, as well as its history.

I urge everyone to communicate the following message in your newsletters and other communications. We must work tirelessly to inform everyone we come in contact concerning Poland and World War II. This brief statement is:

“Let this never be forgotten: The people of Poland - all its people - were the victims of the most cruel and merciless totalitarian aggression in World War II. Let no one ever forget this.”



*TO ALL OF OUR PAC
NATIONAL DIRECTORS,
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:*

*FROM YOUR
POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE . . .*

*Summer
Greetings!*

REMINDER!

Deadlines for Submissions

Our PAC Newsletter will be sent out six times this year. The deadlines for submission of articles and photos, as well as the publication dates are as follows: →

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES/PHOTOS

Friday, July 3, 2015

Friday, September 4, 2015

Friday, November 6, 2015

PUBLICATION DATES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Friday, September 11, 2015

Friday, November 13, 2015

Be thinking about ways to share your division's activities and events with your fellow national directors. This is a great way to network! Plus, you may be able to pick up on a successful idea being done in a neighboring state division. Also, your own state division members – and prospective members – will enjoy seeing your work in the national PAC Newsletter.



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.

CONTACT US

NATIONAL OFFICE

1612 K Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20006
Tel.: (202) 296-6955
Fax: (202) 835-1565

Click to visit: www.pac1944.org

E-mail: pacwash@pac1944.org