

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

MICHIGAN DIVISION

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Audit Committee:

Richard Lapham

Edward Nizienski

Joseph Sobota

*Thank You for helping us
Celebrate our Diamond Jubilee*



President Ann Bankowski & Hon. Consul Richard Walawender



On Saturday, February 8 2020, the Michigan Division of Polish American Congress marked the 75th anniversary of the Division's establishment and its many years of service to Poland and Polonia in Michigan. While the actual Division founding took place in November of 1944, Saturday's event was designated to be a joyful celebration and remembrance of that historic occasion, featuring a festive dinner-dance, in the spirit of the Carnival season, to recognize the division's many achievements while engendering a proud look forward with renewed hope. The affair took place at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan.

Highlighting the evening's celebration was a delicious dinner, music and dancing to the dynamic sounds of the band "ONI", beautiful Carnival themed decorations and atmosphere, a professionally performed dance medley by City Style Tango, an opening elegant Polonaise, danced by guests and the Zakopane Dance ensemble, acknowledgment of dignitaries and organizations, an address by the Division President, and a special presentation by Detroit's Honorary Polish Consul, Richard Walawender, of a congratulatory framed

letter from the Polish Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Piotr Wilczek, recognizing the Division's long record of service.

To commemorate the jubilee, each guest received a beautiful diamond anniversary book, paying tribute to the Division's 75 years, comprised of congratulatory greetings from many dignitaries, businesses, organizations, and individuals and the history of the Division along with many photographs. The book's 78 pages will serve as a documental record for PAC-MI and Polonia.

The event brought together representation of over 25 Polonian organizations, parishes, institutions, media, PAC membership, and dignitaries, thus reflecting testimony to PAC's role as an umbrella organization for Polonia.

Though it was a monumental task to prepare, by a small but very hard-working committee, we are inspired by its success, and we look forward to the Division's next 75 years.

~Ann Bankowski, President

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
Spring 2020**

CENSUS 2000

Please participate in this most important proceeding and be assured that it is completely confidential and that by being counted, our group is strengthened in importance for the next 10 years.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that the country count its population once every 10 years. The results are used to adjust or redraw electoral districts, based on where populations have increased or decreased.

State legislatures or independent bipartisan commissions are responsible for redrawing congressional districts. The U.S. Census Bureau provides states with population counts [for this purpose](#). *Ważne jest byśmy my Polacy byli policzeni aby sie z nami liczyli!*
[Pomoc w wypełnianiu formy jest dostępna w biurze Kongresu.](#)

Federal Funding The results of the 2020 Census will inform decisions about allocating hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding to communities across the country—for hospitals, fire departments, school lunch programs, and other critical programs and services. It is critical that our nationality group, Polish, is counted. Be sure to enter “Polish” in question #9. *Stand up and be counted!*

Time to Apply for Scholarship

The Polish American Congress Scholarship Committee is urging Polish American students to apply for scholarship. Since its inception PAC MI Scholarship Fund has awarded nearly 270 students with scholarship grants.

To apply students must be a resident of Michigan, submit completed application and required verification of current grade point average, Polonian involvement and financial need.



To download the scholarship application, please visit: www.pacmi.org or you can pick up an application at the PAC office: 11333 Jos Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212

Deadline is April 1st, 2020

We Remember

80th Anniversary of Katyn Forest Massacre and
10th Anniversary of Smolensk Tragedy

PAMIETAMY

We cordially invite everyone to attend the
Remembrance Mass
Scheduled for March 29, 2020 - 6pm at the
St. Faustina Parish
Fr. Bogdan Milosz, Pastor

10425 E. 12 Mile Rd., Warren, MI

The Polish-American Central Citizens Committee celebrated its Annual Pulaski Award Banquet on Sunday November 3, 2019 where Polish American Congress Michigan Division, among many others, was honored with the Pulaski Medal on its 75th Anniversary. Special thank you to the CCC for this recognition.



DETROIT POLONIA CALENDAR

Stay informed about the upcoming Polonian Events by checking the PAC-MI website; www.pacmi.org

If you would like to add to the calendar please email detailed information to office @pacmi.org

Polish American Congress Michigan Division Proudly Celebrates 400th Anniversary of Polish Craftsmen's Civil Rights Action for The Right To Vote, Jamestown, Virginia ~July 21, 1619 - July 21, 2019

This is a monumental anniversary for Polonia to remember and celebrate. Groups around the country have done so, as we read in many Polish American publications, and so did Polish American Congress, Michigan Division, under the direction of Richard Lapham by organizing an event to celebrate this anniversary of 1619, providing an opportunity to share this historical gem with a Polish and American audience.

The celebration took place on the campus of the Orchard Lake Schools in the Adam Maida Alumni Library. At 11:00 am of Sunday, July 21, 2019 the program took place. We heard 3 short presentations about life in Jamestown in 1619, the Polish Craftsmen strike, and their efforts for gaining the right to vote. Outside the library, a live glassblowing demonstration was taking place, impressing all who looked on.

Guest speaker, Dr. Larry Kutchen, who received his doctorate in Early American Literature and History from the University of California, Berkeley, presented an interesting concept of how very distinct cultures were first melded in the colony of Jamestown, specifically through the efforts of Captain John Smith, to form a new and stronger culture in this New World, setting a model for generations of immigrants yet to come, including his Polish immigrant grandmother. PAC-MI National Director, Henrietta Nowakowski, gave an informative power point presentation about the first labor strike at Jamestown and shared strong documentation, from her research, about the real existence and efforts of these early Polish pioneers. PAC-MI Vice President, Donna Bielecki, shared interesting points with the audience about the day's Jamestown exhibits and artifacts included in the event.

After the program the audience moved to St. Mary's Shrine Chapel, where during Mass we commemorated this important anniversary. SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary Vice Rector, Fr. Przemysław Nowak, gave a patriotic homily stirring us to remember the fact these simple Polish craftsmen, by their industrial work ethic, won "the right to be enfranchised and made free as any inhabitant whatsoever."

To complete the afternoon celebrations, the audience had the pleasure of listening to selections of beautiful music by Polish emigrant composers, with a piano recital performed by Jacek Kasjan.

During the festivities, Stella Szczesny, National Director for PAC-MI, read a proclamation from the State of Michigan Governor, Gretchen Whitmer, commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the First Strike.

PAC member, Richard Lapham, who chaired the commemoration, thanked everyone for participation and especially recognized the various businesses, organizations, the Polish media, parishes and individuals for their generous support and promotion making this event possible.

He expressed words of gratitude to Fr. Mirosław Król, Chancellor of Orchard Lake Schools, and the OLS Polish Mission for graciously co-hosting this gathering and for offering the venue for the event.



Rick Lapham, Chairman



Henrietta Nowakowski, PAC National Director



Stella Szczesny



Donna Bielecki

W imieniu Zarządu Michigańskiego Wydziału Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej, chciałabym wyrazić głęboką wdzięczność wszystkim, którzy wsparli Kongres finansowo podczas tegorocznego Radiotonu.

Zapewniamy wszystkich ofiarodawców, że przekazane nam datki będą wykorzystane najlepiej jak można i posłużą przede wszystkim w budowaniu potężniejszej Polonii i sprawnie działającego Michigańskiego Wydziału Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej, który istnieje dla Polonii, dzięki Polonii i z Polonią.

Najserdeczniejsze Bóg zapłać!

Mark Your Calendar:

Katyń/Smoleńsk Remembrance Mass,
March 29, 2020 - 6pm at St. Faustina Parish
w/ Fr. Bogdan Miłosz, Pastor and PAC MI Chaplain

PAC –MI Mass at St. Ladislaus Chapel
March 16, 2020 - 9am

Konstytucja 3-go maja, Niedziela, 3 maja Patryjotyczne
obchody w Orchard Lake o godzinie 1:00.
Msza Święta i Program.

Polish Day Parade Annual Roast of Fr. Ballien,
June 26, 2020 at De Carlo's Banquet Center,
6015 E. 10 Mile Rd., Warren

Polish Day Parade on Labor Day
Monday, September 7, 2020, Hamtramck

PAC-MI at the Annual Folk Dance Festival

Polish American Congress MI Div. proudly participated in this year's Folk Dance Festival at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy. Members prepared a special display to promote PAC and Polish Heritage with posters, brochures, books and bookmarks.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Polish American Congress Michigan Division Senior Club.
Proudly announces and congratulates two of the members on
becoming Citizens of the United States.

Mrs. Jadwiga Murawska and Mrs. Wanda Jaglowska



*Happy and Blessed Easter
to all our members*

