

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

MICHIGAN DIVISION

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Spring 2023 Quarterly Newsletter



Wesołego Alleluja

In this blessed season of Easter we extend best wishes that we each may be filled with God's promise of love and hope bestowed on us by Christ's death and resurrection.

*Życzymy wszystkim Błogosławionych Świąt Wielkanocnych Przepętnionych wiarą,
nadzieją i miłością*

*Niech Zmartwychwstanie Pańskie które niesie odrodzenie duchowe napętni nas
wszystkimi nadzieją oraz nieustanną Łaską Bożą.*



Dear PAC-MI Members and Friends!

The PAC-Division continues to be active since the start of the New Year! Besides community and office services, weekly radio broadcasts, various Board and Committee meetings, we held the annual membership meeting at our headquarters on March 12, attended by officers, individual members, and organizational delegates. Before reports and Division business were presented, as is our custom, we prayed for all ailing members and benefactors, as well as those recently deceased.

With sadness we acknowledged the sudden passing of our member and Board officer, Richard Lapham, on March 9, 2023. Richard was active throughout Polonia. He served as current president of Polish American Central Citizens Committee, past president of Friends of Polish Art, held several positions with Polish National Alliance and the American Council for Polish Culture, to name a few. Richard was very generous with his time and treasure and a friend to many. He was very proud of his Polish heritage and made it his mission to promote and share the best of our history and culture. We will miss him and his willingness to help and contribute. May he rest in peace!

In February we welcomed Polish Consul General, Dr. Pawel Zyzak, and Hon. Consul Richard Walawender at the PAC headquarters and hosted a luncheon meeting with PAC officers to discuss our organizational and Polonia's needs, and how we can work together with the Polish Consulate in Chicago, to best address them.



This year we celebrate the 550th anniversary of the world-renowned Polish astronomer, Nicholas Copernicus- Mikołaj Kopernik. In February a PAC delegation, joined by APCS and FPA delegations attended the opening of an impressive exhibit about Kopernik, created by the

Polish Canadian Professional and Business Association in Windsor. Among the guests and the keynote speaker was Polish Ambassador to Canada, Hon. Witold Dzielski. We hope to be able to bring this most informative display, to proudly promote the Father of Modern Astronomy, to everyone in the metro area in the fall.

More recently PAC headquarters served as the pick-up point for MANY recently arrived in Hamtramck Ukrainian refugee families escaping the war. They happily selected much needed clothes, household items, toys, etc. so generously donated by members of Polonia- in response to a collection campaign initiated before Christmas.

The coming months will be quite busy as PAC is sponsoring

several important events. Please mark your calendar for this year's mass to honor and remember the 22,000 Polish victims of the Katyn massacre by the Soviets during WWII and the 96 Poles who died in the tragic plane crash near Smolensk in 2010, including Poland's President Lech Kaczynski, his wife and many of Poland's elite. The patriotic themed mass will take place Sunday, April 23, at 5:00pm at St. Faustina Church in Warren, MI.

On Sunday, May 7, we invite you to this year's Polish Constitution Day anniversary observances, to be held in the Shrine Chapel on the main campus of Orchard Lake Schools with a Polish Mass at 1:00pm followed by a short patriotic program, and a Polish style dinner for purchase in the campus Dining Hall, and additional patriotic entertainment and social interface. Interesting patriotic exhibits and artistic displays by area Polish language students will also be featured.

On Sunday, May 21, at 2:00pm, our festive social, Spring-Fling, will take place at the Queen of Apostles Activities Center. Come join us for an afternoon of good Polish food, entertainment, and camaraderie. Only \$35/person. Tickets need to be purchased ahead- send checks (made out to PAC-MI) to 11333 Jos. Campau Hamtramck 48212 by May 16. Join us for great fun!

Finally, the weekend of June 16-18 is dedicated to the Polish Blue Army Veterans of WWI, and specifically those who volunteered from Michigan, to join the Allied effort and also help to win and secure Poland's regained independence. The occasion will distinguish the graves of 59 veterans at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, who finally have proper grave markers. The Polish National Institute of Remembrance funded 59 beautiful grave markers with crosses for each of the veterans along with a memorial monument, wholeheartedly welcomed by Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. On Saturday, June 17 at 2:00PM, there will be an official ceremonial dedication and blessing of the graves and memorial at the cemetery. All of Polonia is invited to take part. Many American, Polish, and other dignitaries, clergy, government officials, and military representation are expected to participate. It will be a most memorable and inspiring event with much fitting pageantry and observance. This weekend has interesting events related to this auspicious occasion being planned. Please check our website for more detailed information to come.

I conclude with this appeal. It is incumbent upon us, as a community, to "show up", to be seen, to make our presence known, whether it is at the events mentioned, or in other venues, where Polonia is expected to attend. By our presence we reinforce the image of being large, strong, and supportive, not only to ourselves, but specifically the larger community. Strength in numbers.

Happy Easter! Wesolego Alleluja!

Ann Bankowski, PAC-MI President



GODŁO

„Godłem Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej jest wizerunek orła białego ze złotą koroną na głowie zwróconej w prawo, z rozwiniętymi skrzydłami, z dziobem i szponami złotymi, umieszczony w czerwonym polu tarczy”. (*Ustawa o godle, barwach i hymnie Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej oraz o pieczęciach państwowych*).

Orzeł od tysiącleci uważany był za króla ptaków. Symbolizował władzę i potęgę. Dlatego też władcy Polski z dynastii Piastów umieszczali wizerunek orła na pieczęciach, tarczach, chorągwiach i monetach. Najstarszą zachowaną monetą z ukoronowanym orłem jest denar Bolesława Chrobrego, pierwszego króla Polski.

Orzeł w koronie w tarczy stał się oficjalnym herbem państwa polskiego w XIII w., za panowania króla Przemysła II.

Godło czy herb?

Według heraldyków Orzeł Biały jest godłem herbowym, natomiast godło umieszczone w czerwonym polu to herb Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej. Zapis w obowiązującej ustawie jest zatem błędny i powinien brzmieć: Herbem Polski jest orzeł biały w polu czerwonym o uzbrojeniu (szpony i dziób) złotym oraz takiej koronie otwartej.

Po raz pierwszy błędny zapis nazywający herb godłem pojawił się w stalinowskiej konstytucji z 1952 r. i został powielony w ustawie zasadniczej z 1997 r. Błąd w oficjalnym nazewnictwie spowodował rozdzźwięk z zasadami heraldyki, dlatego też do dziś wzbudza dyskusje oraz głosy postulujące naprawę tego stanu.

*Nicolaus Copernicus named a patron of Polish science,
as we celebrate the 550th Anniversary of his birth.*

His most famous accomplishment was “De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium”, known as “On the Revolutions of Heavenly Spheres”. It is considered his lifetime work on the groundbreaking heliocentric theory, which totally reversed the perception of human existence and the surrounding universe, proving that not Earth but the Sun is the focal point of our planetary system. Although published at the peak of Copernicus’ life, it had to wait almost 3 centuries to be accepted and officially proclaimed as reliable. Back then, it was heavily criticized by the Church which even pronounced it heresy, even though the author dedicated his work to the Pope himself. (*Pictured Astronom Kopernik, czyli rozmowa z Bogiem według Jana Matejki, 1873*)



The courage Copernicus has shown to publish a theory entirely contradicting popular beliefs, deserves the highest praise and is a just source of pride for one of the greatest men in Polish history. He certainly earned his standing among the most respected and renowned scientists, which makes us even prouder.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to

Piast Institute!

On Behalf of the Polish American Congress of Michigan

*Sincere Congratulations to the Board of Directors and entire staff
on their 20th Anniversary and Best Wishes for continued success in all*

Your endeavors for many years to come.

~Ann Bankowski, PAC-MI President



Save the Date!

Polish Day Parade will take place, August 26, 2023, and the Grand Marshal of the PDP this year is Vinnie Dombroski a creator a member and a vocalist of the group, Sponge, an American Rock Band formed in Detroit, Michigan in 1992.

The Roast, designed to raise funds for the Parade, is scheduled for June 16, 2023, at the American Polish Century Club, 33204 Maple Lane, Sterling Heights. More information will be posted on the Polish Day Parade Facebook and the website for PDP at polishdayparade.org.

We were saddened by the loss of our member Richard (Rik) Lapham. Rik was very involved in many Polish organizations and as of last election he was elected a recording secretary for our division. He passed away suddenly March 9, 2023.

Our deepest condolences to his family and friends. May He Rest in Peace. Memorial services for Rik are planned by his family sometime later this year.



Zapraszamy!

Serdecznie zapraszamy członków przyjaciół i znajomych na towarzyskie spotkanie przy dobrym obiedzie, muzyce i kilka niespodzianek. Spotkanie w niedzielę 21 maja o godzinie 2:00pp na sali parafialnej przy kościele Królowej Apostołów w Hamtramck, 3851 Prescott. Rezerwacje konieczne do 16 maja.



SAVE THE DATE

Join dignitaries from Poland, US and Canada in the **DEDICATION CEREMONY HONORING VETERANS OF GENERAL HALLER'S "BLUE ARMY"**

Buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
New gravestones gifted by Poland's Institute of National Remembrance (IPN)

Saturday, June 17, 2023 | 2:00 – 4:00 PM
HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY
25800 W. 10 Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan

Serdecznie zapraszamy wszystkich przyjaciół i znajomych na uroczystą dedykację nowo podarowanych pomników dla Weteranów z Armii Generała Józefa Hallera przez Polski Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. Obchody te odbędą się w Sobotę 17 czerwca o godzinie 2pp na cmentarzu Holy Sepulchre w Southfield, przy 10 mili.



Dates to Remember!

Our next General Meeting is scheduled for June 5th at 6:30 pm at PAC Headquarters
Reminder post cards will be mailed in late May.

July 22, 2023 is the Annual Novena at the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit, July 17 – 26, 2023
Polish Celebration, Saturday, July 22, 2023

Dues Reminder

It is important for all members and organizations to pay dues in a timely matter for 2023.

Just a friendly reminder...

Individual annual dues \$55.00



Commemorating Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791

Sunday, May 7, 2023

1:00pm – Polish Mass - Shrine Chapel.
3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, MI 48324
Program, exhibits - 2:30pm – Polish style dinner