



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 69

November 2018

NUMBER 11

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Nov 21, 2018
November General Meeting
White Eagle Events &
Convention Center
6:00 pm

RESERVATIONS
by November 19 to
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org
or (847) 635-0883 or
<https://www.chicagosocietypna.org>

Monday, December 3, 2018
December Board Meeting
PNA Home Office 6:00 pm
FORUM Deadline
Send all articles to
editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Saturday, December 15, 2018
Deserving Children's
Christmas Party
PNA Home Office Cafeteria
12:00 pm

Saturday, January 26, 2019
2019 Inaugural Ball
Victoria in the Park Banquet
Mt. Prospect, Illinois
6:30 pm

November 2018 Dinner Meeting

As we celebrate Veteran's Day this month, we extend a special invitation to all Veteran Brother members. The November meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 21, 2018 at White Eagle Events & Convention Center, 6839 N Milwaukee Ave, Niles, IL 60714. This will be our Thanksgiving Day dinner. Cocktail hour starts at 6:00 pm with the dinner meeting starting at 7:00 pm. Please contact Brother **Ro Matuszczak** at meeting@chicagosocietypna.org or call (847) 635-0883 for reservations. You can also RSVP by going to the Chicago Society website. Please note: Any guests at the meeting must be prospective new members and you must confirm the reservation with Brother **Ro Matuszczak**. No exceptions! All members must be current in their dues to attend the meeting!

Deserving Children's Christmas Party



Chairman Brother **Peter Dykas** has announced that the Deserving Children's Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 12:00pm. The event will be held at the Polish National Alliance home office cafeteria. Peter took the reigns over from Brother **Ro Matuszczak** who chaired this event for over 50 years. Last year we hosted about 65 boys and girls ranging in age from 3 to 13. They were treated to a magic show with bunnies. For lunch they had hot dogs, chips and a drink. Then the surprise of the day was a visit from Santa Claus pulling in a hand cart full of gifts.

This event requires a lot of onsite help so if you are interested in helping please contact Peter. To help make this event special, we ask your help in supporting us with a donation of a gift to give to a needy child. We are looking for a new, unopened and unwrapped toy for a boy or girl ages 3 to 13. If you don't know what to get, cash donations or sponsorships are also accepted. You too can be a part of this event just

by giving. It is the Holiday that gives and makes us Happy. Donations can also be made via PayPal at <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/children-xmas>.

Special Request from Brother Dykas... "Fellow Brothers, I have a request of all. We have a slight set back in our major sponsor. The PNC bank has undergone some reorganization and cut backs in their company. They will be unable to donate any funds this year. I ask from you all if anyone is willing to donate to this long lasting tradition that Chicago Society and Co -Chair Ro Matuszczak have done. Any little funds will help. We can even promote your business if you donate over \$300. Thank You!"



CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

A monthly news bulletin for the Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications
editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Visit Our Website At
www.chicagosocietypna.org

CHICAGO SOCIETY P.N.A. 2018 Board of Directors

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Romuald Matuszczak

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Christopher Grzadziel

Brothers, here we are, November. There is a chill in the air, Christmas music is in stores and on the radio and we have Thanksgiving Day 10 days away. Let's be thankful for what we have.



2018 is quickly coming to an end and before you know it, we will have 2019 and our new board of officers and directors to lead us. CONGRATULATIONS go out to them. I would like to thank the committee for the Candidate's Corned Beef and Dinner who worked so hard to make it a success. They wished they could have had more candidates but being so close to elections, scheduling was tough. Thank you to all the members who showed up. Nice to see your support.

And let's not forget our other events coming up. We have the Deserving Children's Christmas Party coming up on the 15th of December, where we can use your help especially in the sponsorship department. Due to our main sponsor going through cuts and reorganization, we are in need of your help. We also have our Christmas meeting coming up, our new board coming in, our inaugural fast approaching and our Sledz. We have many events to end the year and to start the new. So let's continue to show support, let's get our friends or family members to join and let's have more fun together. HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!

Fraternally, Brother **Mario Mikoda**

Chicago Society Foundation News

Sometimes we forget that the Chicago Society Foundation was founded by the membership of the Chicago Society. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide philanthropic and charitable assistance to meet the needs of individuals primarily of Polish heritage and organizations primarily dedicated to the Polish American or Polish community within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Chicago Society Foundation has made the following grants for the year 2018. They are as follows:

Polish Scouting Organization, \$1,000
 Polish American Association, \$10,000
 The Way Back Inn, \$5,000
 The Polish Museum of America, \$3,500
 Chicago Philharmonic, \$5,000
 Katyn Rally Society Memory and Identity, \$1,000
 Polish Film Festival, \$1,000
 Life In A Jar Foundation, \$1,000

The Grant Request Guidelines are found on the Chicago Society's Website: www.chicagosocietypna.org under the Chicago Society Foundation tab. Please take a moment to see what the Foundation is all about.

Ted Makarewicz
 President, Chicago Society Foundation

2019 Election of Officers and Directors

During the October meeting, the Nominating Committee restated the 2019 slate of officers and directors. The committee chairman is Brother **Ken Kogut** and the committee members are Brothers **Batorski, Zapalski, Kurdziel, and Gondela**. The 2019 slate is as follows:

President: Peter Dykas

First Vice-President: Adam Konopka

Second Vice-President: Romuald Matuszczak

Secretary: Jan S Plachta

Financial Secretary: Rich Ciesla

Treasurer: Richard W. Wiermanski

Advocate: Walter Piecewicz

Director of Social Activities: Anthony P Kawalkowski

Director of Personnel: Charles Cwiakala

Director of Outreach: Vacant

Director of Publications: Christopher T Grzadziel

Members had until the close of the October meeting to present a petition to contest one of these positions. Brother **Kogut** announced that he has not received any such petitions. Being that there are no contested positions, the entire slate will be voted on at the November meeting.

The position of "Director of Outreach" is currently vacant. If you are interested in filling this role, please contact Brother **Peter Dykas**.

James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship

The Chicago Society Foundation, affiliated with the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance, Lodge 1450 of the PNA, announces that it will again be funding up to three \$7500.00 scholarships through its James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship Fund. These scholarship awards are available to U.S. residents of Polish descent with financial need who are pursuing academic studies in college, graduate, or professional school.

Initial applications will be accepted through February 15, 2019. Selections will be made in April 2019 for the subsequent fall academic term. Forms, dates, and other information regarding selection criteria and requirements can be found on the Chicago Society's website at <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/foundation-kulze-scholarship>. Please email **Brother Walter M. Piecewicz** for further information at wpiecewicz@immaculaw.com.

Candidate's Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner Recap

The setting was fitting. The King's Room at the Copernicus Center held the annual Chicago Society's Candidate's Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. The evening was filled with speeches from about 15 dignitaries, candidates and representatives of candidates from all over the region. Among those in attendance were officers of other Polish Organizations such as PAPA and PACC.

Roughly 74 paid attendees showed up and all enjoyed the fabulous corned beef and cabbage dinner which was provided by Harrington's Catering. They helped make this event a success as well. Special Thanks go out to Brother Adam Konopka and his law firm Dowd and Dowd for sponsoring a portion of the bar.

Thank you to all the Candidates and their representatives who showed up. There were many photo ops that all the guests had with the Candidates such as Chicago mayoral candidates Jerry Joyce and Bob Fioretti, State reps / Senate candidates Marilyn Smolenski, Amelia Kessem, and Amanda Biela, Judge Masalek, representatives from Congresswoman Jan Schokowsky, state comptroller Sussanna Mendoza, and MWRD candidate R.Cary Capperalli, Casey Smagala for Alderman, Ald. Ariel Reboyras and our own Brother Andrew Przybylo Mayor of Niles.

Congratulations go out to our own Brother State Representative **Rob Martwick** and to Honorable Diane Marsalek who won their reelection bid.



November Birthdays

The Chicago Society would like to extend to the following brother members, who are celebrating their birthday in November, a warm wish of Sto Lat!



- 02 Stan Lesniak
- 05 Jesse J Soszko
- 06 Edmund Boduch
- 11 Andrew Csoke
- 12 Robert P Groszek
- 16 Martin Weihing
- 18 Roman E Piotrowski
- 18 Marshall S Olech
- 18 Harold Brown
- 19 Robert F Mance
- 22 Edward Wasilewski

November Anniversaries

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following Brothers on their anniversary of being inducted into the Chicago Society.

Brother **Dariusz Kozlowski** is celebrating his **10th Anniversary**, Brother **Christopher T Grzadziel** is celebrating his **20th Anniversary**, and Brother **Alfred C Kotlarz** is celebrating his **30th Anniversary**.

Thank you for your loyal membership & STO LAT!

Winter Dress Code

Winter dress code is in effect from October to April for the General Meetings. Winter dress code is Business Casual — suit or slacks, sports coat and business shirt; tie optional.



2019 Inaugural Ball

Chairman Brother **Chris Grzadziel** along with co-chairmen Brothers **Ro Matuszczak** and **Peter Dykas** invite you to the 2019 Annual Inaugural Ball and Installation of Officers and Directors. The event will be held on January 26, 2019. We will once again be at the elegant Victoria in the Park Banquet facility in Mt. Prospect, Illinois. This year we are honoring the Polish American Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is dedicated to fostering its members' business interests, educating and facilitating commercial contacts, and building relations.



The evening will start at 6:30 pm with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Dinner will be served in the main dining room followed by the installation of officers and directors and presentation of our honorees. Music will be provided by our own Brother **Anthony Kawalkowski** and his Orchestra. Tickets for this event will be \$135 per person which will include an open bar before and after dinner as well as a dinner choice of Filet Mignon, Chicken Marsala, Salmon with Tomato Dill Sauce or Vegetarian. There may be some surprises but you have to be there to see what they are. Black-tie is optional for this event but always welcome. Look out for the invitation in the near future.

We will also have a program book for this event. The program book will allow you to demonstrate your support for the Chicago Society and the Polish American Chamber of Commerce by placing a congratulatory message or advertisement. Full page ads will be \$100, half page will be \$60 and quarter page will be \$40. Inside front and back as well as outside back covers will also be available on a first come first serve basis. Letters and ad contracts will be handed out at the November meeting. This information can also be found on our website at <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/ball-ad-contract>. Please contact Chris Grzadziel with any questions — cgrzadziel@gmail.com or 847-630-2863.

Proposed for Chicago Society Membership

The following gentleman has applied for membership in the Chicago Society of the PNA. If any member has an objection regarding the admission of this prospective member, he should contact the Personnel Director prior to the next general meeting. Sponsors are to attend the general meeting in which the new member will be inducted and to introduce him to the Personnel Director and to others before the Induction Ceremony.

Name: Casey M. Smagala

Address: 4855 N Springfield Ave #3, Chicago, IL 60625

Phone: 312-806-1052

Occupation: Director of Development, Albany Park Community Center

Birth date: December 27

Birthplace: Michigan

Sponsors: Brothers Ted Makarewicz and Mario Mikoda

AROUND
THE
SOCIETY

At their hockey game on Sunday, October 28, 2018, the Chicago Blackhawks honored Brother **Ro Matuszczak** as a World War II Veteran. Before the start of the game, Ro and two other veterans were escorted on center ice for the playing of our National Anthem. The three veterans were introduced to the 23,000 Hawk fans. Ro was introduced as World War II Marine Corps Veteran Staff Sergeant Romuald “Ro” Matuszczak. After the playing of the National Anthem, the veterans were escorted off the ice and proceeded to their seats in a reserved section.



When there was an intermission during the second period, once again the three veterans were recognized with their picture and name displayed on the large scoreboard above center ice. The fans gave a standing ovation to the military men. The event called the Boeing Military Salute, was arranged by the USO of Illinois and sponsored by the Boeing Corporation and the Blackhawks organization. Boeing presented each veteran with a beautiful wristwatch. Joining Ro at the event were his wife Chris and six children and grandchildren. Brother Ro stated it was all overwhelming and an honor. It was a lifetime experience.

In memory of his late wife, Helen, who died in 2016, Brother **Jack Rohner** and his family have donated funds to the Geneva Lake Conservancy to create a children’s fishing park near the shores of Geneva Lake.

The Helen Rohner Children’s Fishing Park is located in Williams Bay, Wisconsin, along Southwick Creek, a trout stream that runs into Geneva Lake. Children can dig for worms in a special worm digging area, take fishing lessons, explore a trail with Native American plants or run across a boardwalk. There is a special walnut tree known as “The Thinking Spot” where the local library hosts story times for young children. A storyboard teaches children about the life cycle of brown trout.



The mission of the Helen Rohner Children’s Fishing Park is to encourage children to explore the wonders of nature. More than 150 children and adults attended the June 4 opening. A college student helped lead children’s nature classes throughout the summer. In 2019, an amphibian pond, small nature center and longer boardwalk will be added.

The Rohner family wanted to ensure that the local community was involved in the creation and operation of the park. The Lake Geneva Fishing Club, Williams Bay Lions Club, Lake Geneva Rotary Club, Boy Scouts Troop #235, Barrett Memorial Library, and Friends of Kishwaukee all donated time and resources to the park. A grant for the park was also provided by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

“We are so grateful to Jack Rohner and the Rohner family for making this park possible for the enjoyment of many generations of children,” said Karen Yancey, Conservancy executive director. “Through the Rohner’s donation, we took a blighted property in the center of the village and created a park and asset for the entire community to enjoy.”

The Helen Rohner Children’s Fishing Park is located at 159 Elkhorn Road (Highway 67) in Williams Bay, adjacent to the entrance of the Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy. For more information, call the Geneva Lake Conservancy at 262-275-5700.

Congratulations to Brother **Jan Plachta** as his son & daughter-in-law (John and Anastasia) welcome a new addition to their family — Zachary Jonah. Zachary was born on October 15, 2018.

Mailing of Printed Forums

As of January 2019, the mailing of The Forum via USPS will be to those that opt-in for the mailing. Please send your opt-in requests to Chris Grzadziel at cgrzadziel@gmail.com or 847-630-2863. Please respond by December 31, 2018. The Forum will be e-mailed to members and is available on the Chicago Society website. Please send your current e-mail address if you are not receiving any Chicago Society e-mails.



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