Colonel Lenard Honored
Grand Cross - Order of Merit

NY Polish American Congress launches
Long Island Chapter
Contact: Frank Milewski
(718) 263-2700 - Ext. 105

It's official. The Downstate New York Division of the Polish American Congress announced its founding with a general meeting and a buffet luncheon. Invitations, nomination ballots and a letter that outlined existing problems that needed to be considered at the meeting had been sent to all members that were on the roster for the fiscal year beginning June 26, 2006. Unfortunately, only two people mailed in their ballots while only 13 people: 4 members, 1 guest member and representatives of Loyola Marymount University (where the meeting was held) actually came to the meeting. There was a board meeting scheduled for an hour prior to the general meeting to take care of business and discuss two items: the poor response of the membership regarding attendance and voting. Board members discussed many ideas for the future of PAC, however, with no one offering themselves for leadership or volunteer positions, the board members could not see any future for the organization. At this point, the board invited all members present to join in the discussion. The general consensus was that with the passing of Arthur Zygmont, and his tireless dedication to keeping the PACN Journal alive with his extensive reports on Polishian activities, news events, book reviews and his columns such as “Bigos,” the “glue that held the PACN together” had been lost. Without the Journal, and with no one willing to take on the duties of keeping a journal, the board had to hope of rebulding the PACN community. The end result of the discussions was a motion to dissolve the organization. The motion was seconded and then passed unanimously to the regret of all concerned. The members of the Downstate N.Y. Division in its present state have outlived any purpose in the multicultural and politically conscious society we live in,” he said.

As Poland’s national umbrella organization, the Polish American Congress intends to have its new chapter work closely with the American Polish Council of Long Island, the local umbrella organization there.

“We hope to be the place where the English-speaking and Polish-speaking components of our ethnic community will find a common ground and a common purpose in the multicultural and politically conscious society we live in,” he said.

To build and expand membership, the chapter hopes to contact every Polish American organization and parish on Long Island with an invitation to join and participate in the activities that give the Polish American community a powerful and united voice. Throughout the United States, the Polish American Congress has an aggregate membership of over one million. Included are over 3,000 Polish American organizations consisting of fraternal, veteran, cultural and professional groups, religious societies, fraternal orders and has also encompasses individual, corporate and associate memberships.

Through its 29 state divisions and 10 chapters, as well as its member organizations, the Polish American Congress promotes civic, educational and cultural programs designed to further not only the knowledge of Polish history, language and culture, but also the Polish American involvement and accomplishment.

My hope is that the work of the Congress is delegated to standing committees which are involved in such issues as the American Agent, Polish American Legacy, Polish Holocaut Education, Documentation, Education, Polish American Heritage Month, Environment and more. For more information about the Long Island Chapter, please contact Richard Brzuzowski at (516) 354-4349.

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Colonel Lenard Honored
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Marvin Kowalczyk
PAC Washington D.C. July 17, 2007 – On July 15, 2007 Col. Casimir I. Lenard, AUS (Ret), was posthumously awarded the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland by Lech Kaczynski, President of the Republic of Poland. Lech Kaczynski performed the award as a recognition for his life's work in the cause for Poland in a ceremony at the Polish Embassy in Washington, hosted by His Excellency Janusz Reiter, Ambassador from the Republic of Poland.

Lenard was one of three Polish Americans presented with an Order of Merit by Poland’s Defense Minister Mr. Aleksander Szczyglo. The other two were, retired architect, Julian Kuliszki – recognized with the Commander Cross with Star, and Professor Kazimierz Michalski with the Officer Cross.

Lenard, born in Chicago, Illinois, was sent to Poland by his parents for studies and spent eight years in a Jesuit run old-classical Academy. In 1940 he joined the armed conflict in the defense of Poland's freedom. He gratefully accepted the award not only in recognition of his efforts but mainly for the collective endeavors by members of the Polish American Congress.

Polish American Congress President Frank Milewski flew in from Chicago to be present at the award ceremony for Lenard, who in 1994 and then in 2000, with his wife Mary, served as the Polish Ambassadors to Washington, and then the Commander Cross with Star bestowed upon them individually, by President Lech Kaczynski, and the Officer Cross, by Professor Kazimierz Michalski, respectively.

“The Polish American Congress owes a great deal to Col. Lenard and that of his late wife Myra” said President Spula. “We are pleased that the Polish government decided to reward Cas, who is one of the pillars of Polonia and of better relations between the United States and the government and people of Poland.”

Lenard was the Executive Director of the Washington D.C. Office from 1970 to 1974, and is currently since May 2006. It was mainly during May’s tenure as Executive Director of the Washington D.C. Office from early 1960’s to the time of her demise in Washington D.C. Office from 1970 to 1974, and the government and people of Poland.”

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Polish American Cultural Network
By: Florence Beane

The Polish American Cultural Network celebrated its 25th anniversary with its founding with a general meeting and a buffet luncheon. Invitations, nomination ballots and a letter that outlined existing problems that needed to be considered at the meeting had been sent to all members that were on the roster for the fiscal year beginning June 26, 2006. Unfortunately, only two people mailed in their ballots while only 13 people: 4 members, 1 guest member and representatives of Loyola Marymount University (where the meeting was held) actually came to the meeting. There was a board meeting scheduled for an hour prior to the general meeting to take care of business and discuss two items: the poor response of the membership regarding attendance and voting. Board members discussed many ideas for the future of PAC, however, with no one offering themselves for leadership or volunteer positions, the board members could not see any future for the organization. At this point, the board invited all members present to join in the discussion. The general consensus was that with the passing of Arthur Zygmont, and his tireless dedication to keeping the PACN Journal alive with his extensive reports on Polishian activities, news events, book reviews and his columns such as “Bigos,” the “glue that held the PACN together” had been lost. Without the Journal, and with no one willing to take on the duties of keeping a journal, the board had to hope of rebulding the PACN community. The end result of the discussions was a motion to dissolve the organization. The motion was seconded and then passed unanimously to the regret of all concerned. The members of the Downstate N.Y. Division in its present state have outlived any purpose in the multicultural and politically conscious society we live in,” he said.

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Polish American Congress
Southern California Division
Invites you to attend our meeting
Sunday, September 23 - 12:30 P.M.
The Van Pauian Center
3999 Rose Drive - Yorba Linda
Non-members of the Polish American Congress are welcome to attend our meetings to see the projects that we are involved in and to learn more about our organization.

Information: (626) 577-9797