

PAC Directors Meeting from 1

He stated that the media in Poland is controlled by the National Council.

May 8

The day began with a Presidents Breakfast and a Directors Breakfast.

The morning session was opened by President Frank Spula. A moment of silence was observed for deceased members Cas Leonard and Cas Musielak.

There are 131 PAC national directors. 69 were in attendance at this meeting.

Vice President of **Cultural Activities** – Debbie Majka (Philadelphia, Pa.)

Mrs. Majka is planning the celebration for the 400th Anniversary of the Polish craftsmen's arrival in Jamestown, Va. The event will be held on October 1, 2008. The ceremony will begin at 5 PM. There will be wreaths laid at the glass house and at the plaque, followed by a program of speakers, music, and a reception. The PAC National Directors meeting will be held in conjunction, on October 2 and 3 at the Marriott Williamsburg. October is the high season in Virginia, so reservations need to be made as soon as possible.

Membership Development – Ava Polansky-Bak, assisted by Her Advisor John Armstrong (Washington, D.C. Metro Division)

Ms. Polansky-Bak sent a lengthy questionnaire to the State Divisions' Presidents. Many insights were obtained from those responding. Younger members are needed. They need to be involved in the projects in which they are interested. The PAC image is that they are conservative. Chapters need to have their own brochures.

The Washington, D.C. Metro Division was able to recruit 50 new members in two months. John Armstrong gave suggestions. First he said that as in 1920, we need a Miracle of the Wis'a. His recommendations were: 1) have a champion recruiter, 2) The recruiter is the key to create synergism. 3) target recruiting – no phone calls, use friends and family, 4) have an active division with programs and speakers, 5) follow through and check the membership application forms to be sure they are complete and signed properly.

Members must be active in the state, national, and international levels. As of today, the Pac image is that it is conservative, and must be adjusted from the past to the present. There also should be an awareness of pertinent books, such as those by Don Pienkos and "A Question of Honor" (by Lynne Olsen and Stanley Cloud.)

Newspapers and newsletters are needed. Only Philadelphia and Southern California have newspapers. (The S. Cal. newspaper is News of Polonia, but is not exclusively PAC.) E. Massachusetts and Wisconsin have the bulletins.

The National Directors need to work with the divisions and be present at the national meetings to ensure the cooperation at the state and national level.

When asked if non-Poles can join, Article 2, Section 2 of the Bylaws states that non-Poles may join, but they cannot vote and would be classified as associate members.

People want the PAC to be renewed and come back as a potent and powerful organization.

New Concepts – President Frank Spula

President Spula said that he is amenable to changes. Outreach and networking are needed. He then introduced Donald Verson CEO of the Polish American Leadership Initiative (PALI). PALI receives its funding from the Chicago Community Trust. Their goal is to develop leadership and to "get out of the box." They offer leadership seminars on publicity and internet connections. Upcoming seminars may be viewed on polorg.com. There are 30-40,000 hits on the site every month where you can learn about the following which might be helpful to your organization... Recently 83 young Polish priests graduated from seminaries and learned about American culture. Over 1700 non-profit organizations and 2000 community events are listed on the calendar.

There are future plans for a career day and job-shadowing. Knowledge of the English language, financial literacy (foreclosures, insurance), and immigration law are other topics to be taught.

How does this relate to the Polish American Congress? The possibility of becoming a member of this was discussed. Networks of contact could be developed. This would allow the Poles to compete with other ethnic groups. There would be a transition to help with the development of the program. The cost would be \$200 per year. This could be a means of expanding membership and an entrance into the electronic era. A committee has been formed to examine the possibilities.

Anti-Bigotry Committee – Frank Milewski (Brooklyn, New York)

Frank Milewski has been in charge of this committee for 20 years. In the late 1980's the committee was formed to collect stories of Polish victims who were victims of the Holocaust to submit for the archives of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., which opened in April, 1993.

In November one of the most vocal protests of Poles came over a line on the "Back to You" TV program (in which Fox accused Poles of collaborating with the Nazis.) The Wall Street Journal had a Polish joke on a radio program broadcasted by them. After his committee protested, they (WSJ) agreed to interview three Polish Christian survivors.. Fox TV is now giving sensitivity training to their employees. One of the delegates from Buffalo reported that this particular episode is still being shown in Canada.

The right people are needed in the right places – to fight this bigotry.

A complaint about Trinity Broadcasting was mentioned. A woman in Florida heard an anti-Polish remark and called President Spula in Chicago to voice her complaint. Mr. Spula then called Frank Milewski. When Mr. Milewski contacted Trinity Broadcasting, they denied that any such remark had been made. There was no record of the date or time of the incident, so nothing could be done. This shows the importance of carefully reporting the time and date when comments are heard.

The Committee has purchased 1,000 books on Polish World War II History to be distributed in the future. They sent one book to the Catholic Register in Toronto (not to be confused with the National Catholic Register) to educate its editors about what

really took place in German-occupied Poland. The Register had made a reference similar to Fox TV that Poles collaborated with the Nazis. Mr. Milewski intends to send one of these books whenever his committee comes across individuals who show their ignorance about Poland.

Mr. Milewski thanked all for their responses, and urged the delegation to be accurate in their reporting.

The Directors were urged to update themselves on current Polish books, such as "The Zookeeper's Daughter", which is about hiding Jews in the Warsaw Zoo during the Holocaust.

Mr. Milewski is working hard to change this problem, but he needs the help of others.

Fundraising – Richard Pierchalski – New Jersey

The PAC is in dire need of funding however, Mr. Pierchalski does not feel that a lottery should be held this year.

Instead of a raffle, his idea is for each of the Directors to contact ten people (who might be able to donate) and request donations from them. This would increase the outreach and awareness of the PAC. The goal is to obtain 100 honorary people.

Rehabilitation of Jewish Cemeteries in Poland, Joe Macielag (Buffalo, New York)

Norman Weinberg contacted the Buffalo PAC and Director Joe Macielag regarding the restoration of Jewish cemeteries in Poland.

The Ożarów Cemetery (as did all the others) had suffered 60 years of neglect. The Nazis used the tombstones of that and other cemeteries to help fortify the Vistula River. On October 15, 2001 over 500 people were at the dedication of the cemetery, where they placed flowers on the graves. The local school will take care of the graves. The Weinbergs have established scholarships for the students.

Since 2001, 17 cemeteries have been restored. There has been a petition to the German government to pay \$200,000,000 to Poland for the restorations. There are still 1200 – 1400 more cemeteries to restore.

Weinberg has asked the PAC to join in signing a petition to the German government. On the recommendation of Bishop Zygmunt Zimowski of Radom, Poland, Weinberg has asked the Vatican for an audience with the PJCRP (Poland Jewish Cemetery Restoration Project) and Pope Benedict XVI. Pope John Paul "broke the chain between the Catholics and the Jews." There are cultural differences. The reason that the cemeteries are so important to the Jews is that they do not believe in an afterlife, so the grave is the "end of the road."

Polish Catholic cemeteries are also in need of being restored.

The Directors decided to endorse the signing of the petition.

Resolutions

- There were 11 resolutions made:
- calling a meeting of all Polish organizations in America and inviting Presidents Bush and Kaczyński to attend the October ceremonies at Jamestown.
 - demanding fair treatment by immigration agencies to treat immigrants and non-immigrants with the utmost respect.
 - the U.S. should acknowledge Poland's role in supporting the U.S. encouraging the completion of military agreements for the defense of both nations
 - encouraging the U.S. to continue to take an active leadership role in encouraging a free democratic Republic of Georgia and recognizing the efforts of President Lech Kaczyński
 - procedures for communications issued in the name of the PAC
 - resolution for the new American Agenda – to be the PAC's top priority. The original mission of the PAC in fighting communism has been accomplished and the PAC must define its new mission to assist Poles in the U.S. and elsewhere.
 - resolution to initiate PAC national recruitment drive. The PAC will initiate a recruitment drive and all local media will be used as the primary vehicle for the purpose of the drive.
 - to proclaim October 1, 2008 as Polish Pioneers of Jamestown Day.

9. to expand the voter registration drive and encourage individuals to become citizens and vote

10. to continue mandatory subscription fees that support public media in Poland

11. for PAC officers and Directors to sign a vetting declaration within one month.

The most controversial and emotional resolution was #11. The parliamentarian declared that it was against the by-laws, and a change in the by-laws would be needed in order to pass it. (This would have to take place 60 days before the next National Directors meeting, and requires a two-thirds affirmative vote.) Emotions ran very high, because some of the Directors had been part of the Solidarity movement in Poland and experienced the horrors of communism in , so did not wish to encounter communist party and UB members in leadership positions of the PAC. Again, this resolution was defeated!!! One of the attorneys present explained that the PAC is not welcoming former communists, but simply must change the by-laws. However, emotions still were at a high level at the conclusion of the day's meeting.

May 9

The day began with a Breakfast for all, before the meeting reconvened.

The World Polonia meeting in Warsaw was discussed. Many of those who attended were dissatisfied with the organization of it.

There are still 100,000 Poles in the former USSR and Poland is against their return. Frank Kosowicz (SoCal.) spoke about his "Poles in the Former USSR" organization, of which he has been in charge for the past 25 years. In 2007, \$27,283 in support was distributed in Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Russia, and the Ukraine. Frank and his wife Janina usually accompany these distributions (at their own expense) and many times face great danger. (One of their contacts in Belarus was murdered.) It is not an easy job, but Mrs. Kosowicz says, "It is our life." The money is raised through donations, an annual banquet, and a lottery. (Anyone interested in contributing may contact Frank through the News of Polonia.)

Conclusion:

The meeting ended on a happy note, with the singing of Sto Lat to President Frank Spula. Much has been accomplished, but there is much more to be accomplished. The directors departed for their hometowns, ready to infuse life into their chapters and divisions, and eager for the October meeting in Jamestown. □

Polish Profiles - Sandler from 2

During the luncheon and award ceremony at Georgetown University, guests were surprised that instead of flowers on the tables, there were jars with scraps of paper with the names of the rescued children. It was a labor of love done by me and my friend Angela Evan. For days the two of us were writing the names of the children from a list that became available to me.

When I announced to the gathered guests that instead of flowers they are looking at jars with the names of the rescued children, almost everybody cried. Later on they asked me if they could take those jars home. Among those who took a jar were Professor Zibgniew Brzeziński and Ambassador Jean Kirkpatrick. □

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