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THE GUARD
STRAZ

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Dwumiesięcznik
Organ Polsko
Narodowej Spójni
Wychodzi bez
przerwy od 120 lat

SCRANTON, PA JANUARY 2019

CALL TO THE
31ST GENERAL CONVENTION

September 29th, 2019 – October 6th, 2019

Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines - Allure of the Seas

In accordance with the provisions of the PNU constitution detailed in Article IV, I, Irene Jugan, Chief Executive Officer hereby declare and call the 31st Convention of the Polish National Union of America (Spójnia) to convene on September 29, 2019 through October 6, 2019. The convention will use Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines cruise ship Allure of the Seas sailing from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida for all convention sessions, meals and housing as approved by the Polish National Union of America Board of Directors. District 6 will host the convention. All sessions of the convention will be held aboard the cruise ship.

All members are advised that the delegates to the convention are composed of the following according to the PNU Constitution Article IV section 5 which reads: Sec. 5 The General Convention shall be composed of benefit members of the PNU as follows: (a) All lawfully elected Delegates; (b) Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O.); (c) Vice-president; (d) Chief Financial Officer (C.F.O.); (e) All Directors of the Board; (f) Representative of the Education and Youth Commission; (g) Representative of Spójnia, Inc. ; (h) Representative of the Internal Audit Committee; (i) All District Directors or their duly appointed representatives confirmed by a District Convention and who would qualify as a delegate under Article II Section 1 of the bylaws; (j) The Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church or his delegated representative; (k) Representative of the Fraternal Activities Committee; (l) Representative of the Spójnia Credit Union Board of Directors; (m) Prime Bishops Emeritus and (n) All Active Diocesan Bishops of the Polish National Catholic Church

The convention of the PNU is the most important gathering of member representatives. Because this event has significant impact on the course of the PNU during the four year period following the convention all members are encouraged to consider representing their Branch or District.

It is important to note that according to Article IV section 6 of the PNU Constitution a quorum consists of a majority of the full composition of the General Convention which means that a quorum will be declared only after a majority of those eligible to participate as delegates are duly registered.

The responsibilities of a delegate are not light. Article IV section 7 clearly outlines the responsibilities as follows: (a) To amend or change the Articles of Incorporation of the PNU by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of its full composition; (b) To amend or change the Constitution and Bylaws, as the laws governing the organizational life of the PNU, by a two-third (2/3) vote of its full composition; (c) To change the order of the General Convention; (d) To interpolate the members of the Board of Directors; (e) To establish the requirements for admission to membership into the organization through its Branches; (f) To elect officers to the Board of Directors, that is: C.E.O., Vice-president, C.F.O., and five (5) Directors; (g) To elect two (2) members to the Education and Youth Commission; (h) To elect three (3) members to the Internal Audit Committee; (i) To set the salaries of the Board of Directors, and to empower the Board of Directors to conduct an annual job performance review of the executive officers for the purpose of setting their compensation and benefits accordingly; (j) To set the salaries of the members of the Internal Audit Committee; (k) To set the salaries of District Directors; and (l) To set the administrative dues of the PNU from time to time as economic conditions may warrant for the operation and the attainment of the objectives of the PNU.

During the proceedings of the convention the delegates will consider for action all other matters that are brought to the convention floor for discussion.

ARTICLE II

Delegates to the General Convention

- Sec. 1 To qualify as a delegate, elected, appointed or by virtue of their office, to the General Convention, a person must be a member of the PNU at least one (1) year before the time of election.
- Sec. 2 Each fully paid-up insured/benefit member shall be eligible for election to act or serve as a delegate to the General Convention.
- Sec. 3 A delegate to the General Convention shall be a delegate to any Special Convention held before the next General Convention.
- Sec. 4 Election of delegates in the entire Union shall take place after the issuance of the Proclamation by the C.E.O. but not later than one hundred twenty (120) days before the General Convention.
- Sec. 5 Election of delegates to the General Convention shall be held at a "Special" Branch meeting called for this purpose by the Branch President following the issuance of the C.E.O.'s Proclamation for those Branches having one hundred (100) or more members.
- (a) The presiding officers of the branch must publish a notice of such meeting in the official organ of the PNU, "Straz — The Guard", at least once before such election is held giving place, date and time of such meeting.
 - (b) In determining the number of delegates to be elected, only premium-paying members and administrative dues-paying members shall be counted.
 - (c) The number of delegates to be elected shall be based on the membership enrolled and in good standing in the Branch as of December 31 of the year preceding the General Convention.
 - (d) Each Branch shall be entitled to representation at the General Convention on the basis of one (1) delegate for every one hundred (100) members and major fraction thereof, i.e. (fifty one (51) or more).
 - (e) These Branches shall not participate in the "Special" District Convention as listed in Section 6 of this Article.
- Sec. 6 Election of delegates to the General Convention shall also be held at a "Special" District Convention called for this purpose by the District Director following the issuance of the President's Proclamation for those branches having less than one hundred (100) members.
- (a) These Branches shall be entitled to representation at the General Convention by pooling their total membership.
 - (b) Members of Home Office Branches will be counted for the purpose of selecting delegates as part of the district in which they maintain residence, and shall be assigned to that District's Pool.
 - (c) In determining the number of delegates to be elected, only premium-paying members and administrative dues-paying members shall be counted.
 - (d) The number of delegates to be elected shall be based on the membership enrolled and in good standing in these branches as of December 31 of the year preceding the General Convention.
 - (e) Delegates shall be elected on the basis of one (1) delegate for every one hundred (100) members and major fraction thereof (fifty-one (51) or more) of the pooled membership.
 - (f) All members of these Branches as provided in Article VII, Section 2, of the Constitution have the privilege of attending this "Special" District Convention with the right to vote (subject to Article XVIII, Section 2, of the Bylaws).
 - (g) Only one (1) delegate can be elected from any given Branch.
 - (h) If any district cannot achieve a full compliment of delegates from differently designated branches because of a lack of branch representation in attending the meeting, the balance of delegates can then be elected as at-large delegates regardless of membership count
 - (i) If any branch having 100 or more members fails to produce a delegate(s), the District shall elect an additional delegate(s) from within that District's pool to fulfill its delegate count. Members of said Branch (es) will have no voice or vote in that District's pool.
- Sec. 7 The delegate shall be elected from the Branch of which he is a member as of December 31 of the year preceding the General Convention.
- Sec. 8 Duplicates of the mandates shall be forwarded immediately following the election of delegates by the District Director and/or the Branch President to the Home Office not later than ninety (90) days prior to the General Convention.
- Sec. 9 The list of elected delegates shall be certified by the Credentials Committee for the General Convention.
- Sec. 10 All disputes over the election of delegates shall be presented to the Credentials Committee and the decision of this committee shall be binding. The appellant, at his own expense, has the right of appeal to the General Convention. However, if delegates are elected from branches or district pools in a manner not complying with specific Constitutional and Bylaw instructions, they shall have no redress to the General Convention if such election is determined to be in non-compliance by the Credentials Committee.
- Sec. 11 Travel expenses and per diem charges of the delegates to the General Convention shall be paid by the PNU in the amount determined by the Board of Directors prior to the election of delegates.
- Sec. 12 Delegates shall receive a copy of the minutes from the previous General Convention and all pertinent information to be presented at the General Convention, at least thirty (30) days in advance of the General Convention.

PNU Delegate Reimbursement Rules

31st General Convention September 29 thru October 6, 2019

A. Delegate must be present for all roll calls taken in order to qualify for the coverage of the expense associated with accommodating delegate for the convention. Delegate will be expected to pay for the cost of the cruise provided a roll call is missed.

B. The Delegate will be allowed \$717 which will be applied to the cost of a cabin. The allowance will be paid for by the PNU Home Office. The remaining balance will be paid by the delegate. This price includes all port charges and fees, all applicable taxes, and a gratuity package.

For example: The delegate will be responsible for a \$100 payment toward the cost of an inside cabin, \$167 payment toward the cost of an ocean view cabin or \$300 toward the cost of a balcony cabin. The choice of cabin is determined by the delegate.

C. The PNU will reimburse for transportation expense to and from the point of departure of the convention cruise which is Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. This includes air travel arranged through the home office or reimbursement for other types of ground transportation. Maximum reimbursement for other types of ground transportation will be based on comparable airfares negotiated by the home office which are associated with the transportation by air of the delegate to and from Ft. Lauderdale.

D. Mileage will be paid at a rate of 40 cents per mile round trip. The mileage will be reimbursed to the driver of the vehicle only. The maximum reimbursement paid for mileage will be based on comparable airfares negotiated by the home office which are associated with the transportation by air of the delegate to and from Ft. Lauderdale. Because of the departure location, most areas will require air transport.

E. Recommended per Diem of \$0 per delegate, total for seven days \$0.

F. No expenses will be paid for transportation and/or parking associated with travel to/from the departure airport facility.

G. Tips paid above and beyond the tip package provided for will not be reimbursed.

H. Meal expense in route to and from the city of origin will not be reimbursed.

I. The PNU will reimburse the delegate for the cost of 1 baggage fee each way (to and from) the point of departure, not to exceed the industry standard at the time of travel for luggage which is not overweight.

J. Any other fees not associated with the purchase of the ticket to and from the port of departure will not be reimbursed.

K. Since all cabins are based on double occupancy, all individual delegates who have not requested a specific roommate will be assigned a companion. Any delegate requesting to travel as an individual will be responsible for the cost difference between a single rate and a rate based on double occupancy.

L. Delegates will be responsible for the cost of upgrading cabins if requested.

M. Travel insurance will be made available for purchase to the delegates. All delegates will be held responsible for reimbursement of the travel cost provided they cancel reservations.

2019 Special District Election Calendar

Districts	Place	Date	Inclement Weather 1st Alternate Date
1	PNU Home Office, 1002 Pittston Ave. Scranton, PA 18505 at 7:00 pm	March 28	April 4
2	Church Hall of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, 135 Hathaway Street, Wallington, NJ at 2pm.	March 2	Mar 9 at 2pm in the Church of the Holy Cross Parish, 220 Browertown Road, Woodland Park, NJ
3	Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI	February 18	March 3
4	Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, Bp Peplowski Parish Center, Lancaster, NY at 9:30 am	January 20	January 27
5	Holy Trinity Parish 200 Grace Street McKees Rocks, PA at 11:00 am.	March 16	March 23
6.	Thursday, @ 6:30 p.m. Central time Via Teleconference	February 7	
7.	To be announced in the February issue of Straz.		
8.	To be announced in the February issue of Straz.		
9.	To be announced in the February issue of Straz.		
10.	Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish 250 Old Maxwell Rd, Latham, NY at 10:00 am	February 16	February 23

2019 Special Branch Election Calendar For Branches Having 100 Or More Active Adult Members

Branches	Place	Date	Inclement Weather 1st Alternate Date
37	All Saints Cathedral, Chicago, IL for Sunday at 10 a.m.	January 27	
44	PNU Home Office, 1002 Pittston Ave. Scranton, PA at 7:00 pm	March 11	March 18
132	Holy Family Auditorium, 1921 Eden Park Blvd McKeesport, PA, 10:15 am	Feb 17	Feb 24
213	Holy Trinity Cathedral, 266 Pearl Street Manchester, NH at 10:30 am	Feb 10	

Additional branch meetings to be scheduled. Please look for meeting announcements in the February issue of Straz as well as event pages for meetings that will also be listed on the PNU Facebook page.