

OFFICIAL BI-MONTHLY
of the
Polish National Union
Printed Continuously
for 120 Years

THE GUARD
STRAZ

1002 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505
570-344-1513 or 1-800-724-6352
www.pnu.org

Dwumiesięcznik
Organ Polsko
Narodowej Spójni
Wychodzi bez
przerwy od 120 lat

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Marking the 66th Anniversary of Passing

February 16, 2019 marks the 66th anniversary of the passing of Prime Bishop Francis Hodur. The PNU, Spójnia, is indebted to this man who had the foresight to organize members of the Polish National Catholic Church, PNCC, and subsequently found this fraternal benefit society. During the years passing between the organization of the PNCC and the events which lead to the establishment of the PNU in 1908 it became evident to Prime Bishop Hodur that there was a great need to assist those who were struggling to find social solace and financial security especially when an unexpected death occurred leaving a family in distress. The following which is entitled "The First Sorrowful Anniversary" is reprinted from the book *Triumph Over Adversity* to remind us of the will and dedication shown by our organizer and founder to follow the calling of our Lord.



Prime Bishop Hodur (above)

"The First Sorrowful Anniversary"

God loans physical life to man, He does not give it to him to hold forever. At 7:20 A. M. on February 16, in the year of our Lord 1953, Bishop Francis Hodur stepped across the threshold of life. He lived eighty-six years. Towards the end of his life this venerable old man lived as if he were to die on the morrow, yet worked as if he were to live forever. "I don't know if I shall be alive tomorrow but I shall work tomorrow, if I am alive, that I certainly know." he was wont to say. And when the remaining strength of his body was burned out completely, he gave his spirit to God-his body to the dust of the earth, and the legacy of his long, industrious life to the faithful. Those who knew how much love the late Bishop had for his ideals,

his work and his faith, could not, without emotion, look at the coffin as it was carried to the cemetery in Minooka.

Nevertheless, in the glow of the funeral candles, in the hour of grief, when eyes are filled with tears, we come to know better those who depart forever, than we knew them during a lifetime.

After life's tribulations, for spiritual labor is tribulation, he was laid to rest among his closest family, in the midst of the three thousand graves of his parishioners. He shared with them the hardships and joys of life and now he shares with them everlasting sleep in a dark grave. Today peace and contemplation abide at his coffin. Unyielding time will turn the body into dust, but a shining aura, impervious to the corrosion of time, emanates from this coffin-the testament of this Priest and Pole, will be a flaming pillar for the Church, illuminating the way for those, who following in the footsteps of their fathers and mothers, will be striving towards God. **(Continued on p. 12)**

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Mary Ann Zarek, 363 Lindsey St.
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Beverly Basinski, 4375 Homestead Ln.
Clarence, NY 14031

**DISTRICT 5 AND 12
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Wexford, PA 15090
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DISTRICT 6 CHICAGO, IL
Christine Wachna,
421 S. Church Rd.
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DISTRICT 7 MICHIGAN
Stephanie Marsh, 2582 Belle View
Shelby Twp, MI 48316
(586) 731-6937

DISTRICT 8
Administered by Home Office

DISTRICT 10 LATHAM, NY
George Urciuoli, 5 Bramble Wood
Clifton Park, NY 12065
(914) 475-3219

December 2018 Member Report

The PNU is pleased to welcome 9 new members in December who have been insured for a total of \$50,000.

Amy Zarek (district 3) and **June Wyant** (district 6) are tied for sales of \$15,000 each. Great job!

January 2019 Member Report

The PNU is pleased to welcome 4 new members in January who have been insured for a total of \$10,000. **Jan Kwiatkowski** (district 6) and **the Home Office** are tied for sales of \$5,000 each. Great job!

"Remember: The PNU was founded on the idea "Every Member Get A Member!"

**Polish National Union of America
Death Benefit Report**

We express our sincere condolences to the families of the deceased. May perpetual light shine upon them. May they Rest in Peace.



Ann Marie Liska Taylor, PA	John Smigel Duryea, PA	Susan Baron Huntley, IL
Dorothy Strok Scranton, PA	Marian Korenkiewicz Scranton, PA	Teofila Okrzesik Chicago, IL
Thomas Simrell Scranton, PA	Robert Evans Home Office	Freda Wojcik Sterling Hts, MI
Helen Highhouse Scranton, PA	Edward Komski Avoca, PA	Carolyn Boychak Larksville, PA
Rt Rev. Stanley Bilinski Home Office	Henry Zaganiaczyk Henrietta, NY	William Guzan, Jr. Wilkes Barre PA
Frank Karweta Wilkes Barre, PA	Walter Storlaski Carnegie, PA	
Anna Goncheroski Wilkes Barre PA	Robert McNally Cannonsburg, PA	

Let Us Send All of Our Friends --

**EASTER GREETINGS
Through the "Straż"**

"STRAŻ" is the best medium of communication amongst the members of Spójnia. The STRAŻ, continuously works for the good of the Polish National Catholic Church and for those ideals that are propagated by the Church. STRAŻ is a progressive paper which fulfills a responsibility to its readers.

**EVERYONE SHOULD READ AND SUPPORT
THE "STRAŻ"**

YOUR WISHES DURING THE EASTER SEASON.

Easter greetings are set at the following price:

\$25.00

All ads must be received by March 22, 2019

Once again we seek your support and cooperation.

With Sincere Wishes, STRAŻ ADMINISTRATION



Polish National Union of America

District One

Joan Scheuneman, District Director 1308 Pittston Ave.
Scranton, PA, 18505

District 1 PNU Delegate Meeting

District 1 will be holding a meeting on March 28, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the PNU Home Office, 1002 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505. This meeting is called to elect delegates to the upcoming 31st General Convention of the Polish National Union of America. Snow date will be April 4, 2019. All District 1 members are invited to attend.

Joan Scheuneman

District Director

Branch 44 PNU Delegate Meeting

Branch 44 PNU will be holding a meeting on March 11, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the PNU Home Office, 1002 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505. This meeting is called to elect 3 delegates to the upcoming 31st General Convention of the Polish National Union of America. Snow date will be March 18, 2019. All Branch 44 members are invited to attend.

Joan Scheuneman

Branch 44 Secretary

Branch 74 PNU Delegate Meeting

Branch 74 meeting will be held on 2/27/2019 at 6:00 pm at The Holy Mother of Sorrows PNCC located at 212 Wyoming Ave, Dupont, PA.

District 1 Quarterly Meeting December 13, 2018

District Director Joan Scheuneman called the fourth quarterly meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held at the lower level of the PNCC building in Scranton, PA.

Secretary's Report: Attendance: Secretary Julie Andrzejewski reported that there were 23 delegates representing 8 branches and 6 guests present. Secretary Andrzejewski then read the minutes from the previous meeting. Director Scheuneman asked if there were any corrections or errors and there were none noted. A motion was made by Reverend Carmen Bolock, second by Mrs. Joan Scheuneman to accept the minutes as read. Director Scheuneman called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Patricia Bolock gave the financial report from September 6, 2018 to December 13, 2018. Director Scheuneman asked if there were any corrections or errors and there were none noted. A motion was made by Vice Director Mari Jane Stankowski, second by Barbara Placek to accept the treasurer's report. Director Scheuneman called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Children's Day: Director Scheuneman reported that the activity this year was a morning at the movies. The movie shown was Ralph Breaks the Internet. Postcards were sent out to invite all juvenile members of District 1 and 8. There were 24 people in attendance. **Spojnia Sunday:** Director Scheuneman reported that at St. Stanislaus they had cake and coffee. One policy was sold. Pictures were taken

District 1 Quarterly Meeting December 13, 2018 cont.
for the 100% PNU family contest.

New Business: Vice Director Stankowski mentioned that the PNU Convention in 2019 will be a cruise. She then asked PNU CFO John C Andrzejewski III to speak about the convention. PNU CFO Andrzejewski told us the 7 night cruise is from 9/29/2019 – 10/06/2019. He also told us of a new form the State Insurance Department is requiring that the secretaries complete when selling an annuity. This form is called the annuity suitability form. The secretaries will be receiving information soon. As of January 1, 2019 the minimum guarantee rate will be 1.6%.

Calendar of Events: St Mary's – Pre-lenten breakfast will be the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. St. Stanislaus – Valentine Dance – February 9, 2019 at the Youth Center. The next meeting will be held on February 27, 2019 at Holy Mother of Sorrows in Dupont at 7pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Director Mari Jane Stankowski.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Julie L. Andrzejewski, Secretary

District 1 Annual Christmas Party and Meeting

On December 13, 2018, District 1 held their annual Christmas party and meeting. At 6:16 pm Director Scheuneman welcomed everyone and then called upon Prime Bishop Emeritus John Swantek for the invocation. After the sharing of Oplatek, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal.

Director Scheuneman then called upon Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky for remarks. He encouraged us to spend time in preparation for our spiritual life so we are ready to receive Jesus. We continued with playing a Christmas bingo followed by the singing of Christmas carols.



Joan Scheuneman, District 1 Director, speaks to attendees



District 1 looking very festive at the annual Christmas party



Polish National Union of America

District Two and Nine
Edmund J. Kotula, District Director 51 Franklin Ave.
Wallington, NJ Phone: (973) 773-4090



Polish National Union of America

District Three and Eleven
Mary Ann Zarek, District Director 363 Lindsey St.
Attleboro, MA 02703 Phone: 508-226-1615



Meeting of District 2 To Elect Delegates To The 31st Convention of the PNU September 29-October 6, 2019

As detailed in the Constitution of the PNU, notice is given to members for election of delegates to the 31st General Convention to be held September 29-October 6, 2019.

MEETING DATE: Saturday March 2, 2019 at 2:00 pm in the Church Hall of the Transfiguration of our Lord Parish, 135 Hathaway Street, Wallington, New Jersey.

INCLEMENT WEATHER DATE: Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 2:00 pm in the Church Hall at Holy Cross Parish, 220 Browertown Road, Woodland Park, New Jersey.

To qualify as an elected delegate, elected, appointed, or by virtue of their office to the General Convention, a person must be a member of the PNU for at least (1) year before the date of election, and a citizen of the United States.

Proposed Agenda

1. Opening and Invocation
2. Roll Call and Minutes
3. Financial reports- Treasurer and Financial Secretary
4. Home Office activities and communications
5. Membership activities
6. Unfinished Business
7. Convention details and role of delegates
8. Election rules and procedures
9. ELECTION OF POOL DELEGATES
10. ELECTION OF ALTERNATE DELEGATES
11. Date and time of next district meeting
12. Adjournment

NOTICE TO MEMBERS AND GUESTS: The PNU Convention will be aboard the Caribbean Cruise Line Allure Of The Seas September 29-October 6, 2019. A seven day itinerary is planned with stops in St. Maarten, San Juan, PR, and Labadee, Haiti. Group transport to and from Newark Airport is planned. The Cruise People are prepared to handle reservations. Telephone 1-800-642-2469

Edmund J. Kotula, District Director

Meeting of District 3 and 11 To Elect Delegates To The 31st Convention of the PNU Branch 139 PNU Delegate Meeting

Michael Zarek Secretary of Branch 139 is announcing a Special Meeting to elect delegates to the 31st PNU General Convention scheduled for Sept. 29 thru Oct. 6, 2019 to be held at the Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI on February 17, 2019 at 11:30 am. An alternate date is March 3, 2019 in case of inclement weather.

A person must be a member of the PNU at least one (1) year before the time of election and a member of District 3. The person must be a US citizen.

Interested persons should be in attendance or submit their names for election.

January District 3 Teleconference

On January 23, 2019, District 3 of the PNU held a teleconference which was led by District Director, Maryann Zarek. On behalf of the diocesan youth, Fr.Sr. Rob Nemkovich thanked the district for the donations of ice cream and pizza as well as for sponsoring an afternoon of bowling at the summer Youth Retreat and the Youth's Winter Gathering. A successful Thanksgiving Raffle sponsored by the district helped to fund these events. Maryann reported that individual branch meetings will be held in early February with the purpose of electing delegates to the upcoming PNU convention. On February 17, 2019, a district meeting will be held after mass at Holy Cross Church, Central Falls, RI to elect the final group of convention delegates. The next meeting of District 3 is scheduled for May 29, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

District 4 Delegate Election Meeting & Election Of Officers

District Four Director
Beverly Bainski
(716) 759-1130
bevbasinski@gmail.com

There will be a special delegate election meeting and an election of officers for District 4 on March 10 at 9:30 AM. The meeting will be held at the Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral Parish Center. An alternate date in the event of inclement weather will be March 24th -- same time and place.



Polish National Union of America

District Five and District Twelve
Melissa Snee, 326 Oak Grove Ct.
Wexford, PA 15090 Phone: 724-263-7272



Polish National Union of America

District Six
Christine A. Wachna, District Director 421 South Church Road
Bensenville, IL 60106 Phone: 630-350-1787 E-mail: pnuofadist6@att.net



District 5

Convention Election Notices

• **Henrietta Kleckner, Secretary of Branch 132, at McKeesport, PA**, is announcing a special meeting on Sunday, February 17, 2019 at 10:15 am at Holy Family Auditorium, 1921 Eden Park Blvd, McKeesport, PA. Branch 132 members will be electing one (1) delegate to the 31st General Convention of the Polish National Union of America. Alternate date, in case of severe weather, will be Sunday, February 24, 2019.

Thank you
Melissa Snee

District 5 Quarterly Meeting

Announcing District 5 Quarterly Meeting Saturday, March 16, 2019 at 11:00 am at Holy Trinity Parish, 200 Grace Street, McKees Rocks, PA. Also election for 4 delegates to the 31st General Convention will take place. Alternate date March 23.

Branch 116 Delegate Meeting

Announcing Branch 116 Delegate Meeting at the Polish National Union Political Club on March 10, 2019 at 2 PM.
The meeting will be located at 510 Franklin Ave
Cannonsburg, PA 15317

Special Note:

The content in this edition may contain information about Delegate meetings that may have already taken place. These meetings were also previously printed in our special edition(s). We have reprinted them as submitted by the districts.

-John Andrzejewski, CFO/Secretary

If anyone is interested in sending articles and photos to the Straz, the article must be sent as a text document. If there are any photos, they should be sent separately with captions as a jpeg to straz@pnu.org

District Six Delegate Election

The delegate meeting will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2019 at 6:30 pm Central time Via Teleconference. Call Christine Wachna at (630) 350-1787 in advance for call-in information.

District Six Quarterly Meeting

The quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2019 at 7:00 pm Central time Via Teleconference

Polish American Congress Calls On Supporters After MSNBC Controversy

Dear Polish American,

Please defend the truth about Poland and the Poles during World War II by participating in the telephone protest against Ms. Andrea Mitchell's wrong report, broadcast by MSNBC television from Warsaw on February 13, 2019. Mitchell falsely claimed that Poles collaborated with Nazi German soldiers in the brutal liquidation of the Warsaw Jewish Ghetto in April 1943.

The MSNBC New York City telephone number 212-664-4444 will connect you with the Comments Line for the "Andrea Mitchell Reports" television program. Please leave a BRIEF, in order to allow many callers to register their protests, message along the following lines:

Attention Ms. Mitchell, you wrongly reported that Poles collaborated with Nazi German soldiers in the April 1943 liquidation of the Warsaw Jewish Ghetto. You owe your viewers the truth. Please promptly deliver, on your MSNBC program, "Andrea Mitchell Reports", a correction of your false statement.

The President of the Polish American Congress, Mr. Frank J. Spula, will write to the CEO of MSNBC to support the telephone protest.
Please telephone MSNBC. Register your protest today in defense of Poland, the Poles, truth, and memory.

Sincerely,

John Czop
Polish American Congress
Director of Policy Planning



Polish National Union of America

District Seven

Stephanie Marsh, District Director 2582 Belle View
Shelby Twp, MI 48316 Phone: 586-731-6937



PNU District 7 Annual Christmas Bowling Party

PNU, District 7 in Detroit, held their annual Children's Christmas bowling party on Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018, at 5-Star Lanes in Sterling Hts, Michigan. Parents brought their children and signed in with our Director Stephanie Marsh. They bowled 2 games, and then enjoyed a pizza dinner. Each child received a goodie bag full of candy and a Christmas craft ornament to take home. Our display table included Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak and Rev. John Cramer. Over 60 participants, including 25 children had a great time and we plan to continue this tradition next year. Thank you to our families who brought their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. By Kathy Chockley, PNU, District 7, Rec. Sec.



Director Stephanie Marsh and Kathy Chockley check in the bowlers



Fr. Jaroslaw Nowak with bowlers



Fr. John Cramer with bowlers

District 7 and Branch 243 Delegate Meeting

District 7 and Branch 243 will hold their delegate meetings on Sunday, March 3, 2019 at the Five Star Bowling Alley, Sterling Hts, MI at 6 pm. The alternative meeting for inclement weather will be March 17, 2019.

Decades of Devoted Service Recognized

On Sunday January 27, 2019, the congregation at Holy Cross Parish in Hamtramck, Michigan celebrated the 60th anniversary of organist, Stephanie Marsh.

Following the Mass the parish committee served a delicious brunch, cake in her honor, and gave her gifts in appreciation of her service.



(Left to right) Jola Nowak, Stephanie Marsh, and Mrs. Aurelia pose for a photo after Stephanie was recognized for 60 years of service as organist at Holy Cross Parish.

In 1959 Mrs. Marsh was asked to fill in as temporary organist for Lenten devotions at Holy Cross Parish by the pastor at the time, the late Rev. Edward Sobolewski. Now 60 years later she has played for the Holy Masses every Sunday and all Masses and services in between for the current pastor, Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak. She has played for weddings and funerals for most of our parishioners during her tenure. She has been director of Choir Melodia and taught and trained four generations of our talented singers. She has been active with United Choirs as organist for concerts and attending conventions. She has worked with the Sunday school students teaching them to sing Christmas carols in English and Polish for the annual Christmas plays. She has served on committees at the parish, seniorate, diocesan and national level of our PNCC. She has been very active with the parish youth club, attending many Convos as a chaperone since Princeton in 1978. She was on the first committee that started the parish monthly soup kitchen in 1983 and rarely missed serving homemade soup to the community. She has been active working and organizing fundraisers for the youth, choir, ANS, MK Society, Mission Committee, and parish. She has been active as a delegate to diocesan and national synods, and is currently the director of PNU, District 7. It will take many people to fill her shoes. Her dedication to our beloved Holy Cross Parish, PNCC, and PNU has been truly amazing. We wish her the best as she begins the next chapter in her life.

By Kathy Chockley

Thank You For Your Support!

The Education and Youth Commission would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who generously supported the Raffle Fundraiser promoting our Stipend Program through the PNU.

Congratulations to our winners!

First Prize (\$400.00) - Gary Kott, Toledo, Ohio
Second Prize (Fibit Charge 2) - Sandra Dobrowolskis,

Chicago, Illinois

Third Prize (Google Home Speaker) - Deborah Parknavy,
White Oak, PA.

Please remember that monetary donations are graciously accepted towards these endeavors, as we continue

our mission of providing funding and enabling our youth members the benefit of this stipend towards their future educational goals.

Donations can be sent directly to:

**Education and Youth Commission, 1006
Pittston Ave., Scranton, PA 18505.
Attention: Mary Ann Stankowski**



Marian Sleczkowski, member of the PNU Internal Audit Committee, presents the Google Home Speaker to Deborah Parknavy on behalf of the E&Y Commission.

Spojnia Credit Union now has an App available for you to review and pay your bills online. The App is FREE and can be downloaded from the Apple Store or the Android Google Play Store.

**Every Member
~
Get A Member**



Polish National Union of America

District Ten

George Urciuoli, District Director 5 Bramble Wood
Clifton Park, NY 12065



District 10 Meeting Announcement

District 10 will meet Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish, 250 Old Maxwell Road, Latham, NY.

Among items to be discussed are:

- Election of delegates to the 31st PNU General Convention scheduled for September 29-October 6, 2019
- Participation in the 2019 Polish Fest
- Reviving inactive Branches within District 10

To qualify as a convention delegate, a person must be a US citizen and member of the PNU for at least 1 (one) year before the time of election. Anyone interested in becoming a delegate should be in attendance to submit their name for election. In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be held February 23, 2019.

George Urciuoli, District 10 Director

Out with the old, In with the New!!!!

A new year brings many new changes. A new job! A new home! A new vehicle! Bill consolidation! A new kitchen! A much needed vacation! A new furnace! The list can be endless.

Whether it's a new vehicle or to consolidate bills, Spojnia Credit Union is here to help you with all your financing needs.

If there is just one new item you need, contact Spojnia Credit Union at 570-344-1513 or visit the website at www.spojniacreditunion.org for a complete listing of rates and loan products.

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For more information contact your
branch secretary or Call the Home Office:



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Mobile Banking is now available at Spojnia Credit Union. The APP is FREE and can be downloaded from the Apple Store or the Android Google Play Store.

With this APP you have the capability to review your account balances, transfer funds from your checking account to your shares, clubs, or make a loan payment.

Remote deposit capture services are designed to allow you, the member, to make deposits to your share draft or share account from your camera-enabled mobile device. Your device must be capable of capturing check images as well as information electronically delivering the items and associated deposit information to Spojnia Credit Union. Your device must capture an image of the front and back of each check and read and capture the MICR (magnetic ink character recognition) line on each check. It must read and capture all such data as is required by the Federal Reserve regulations for processing these checks for payment. All checks deposited on one business day will be combined for an aggregate amount with a daily limit of \$2500 total. The cut-off time for same day credit is 2:00 pm, excluding after hours, weekends, and holidays.

Bill Pay is accessible through the APP. Set your payees on your account and pay billed all from the convenience of your home or office, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.

There is a News and Events tab that will give you up to date information on loan promotions, holiday hours, special meetings, and office closures due to inclement weather.

An Alert Settings tab is available to set up alerts for online transactions, failed logons, loan payments, share certificate maturities, low balances and daily balances.

Contact Spojnia Credit Union at 570-344-1513 to sign up for this service. Download Spojnia Credit Union's App in the Apple Store or the Android Google Play Store. No more postage fees! No more delays with the Postal Service! No more late fees!

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN
US

**Spojnia Credit
Union's Annual
Meeting**

SATURDAY MARCH 16, 2019 10:30 AM
1006 PITTSTON AVE
LOWER LEVEL
SCRANTON, PA 18505
SNOW DATE: MARCH 23, 2019

RSVP: 570- 344-1513 BY
MARCH 13, 2019

A light luncheon will follow
the meeting

**A great opportunity to review the past year,
see what the future holds and a time to meet
your Board of
Directors, Committee Members, and Staff**

**INVEST IN
TOMORROW
WITH US**

POLISH NATIONAL UNION

\$495 FOR \$5,000	\$430 FOR \$5,000
SINGLE PREMIUM	SINGLE PREMIUM
INSURANCE FOR A	INSURANCE
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**A One-Time Payment For A
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**New Annuity Rate is 2.5%
for Annuities issued since 1/1/2013.
Rate for Annuities issued prior to
1/1/2013 is 3%**

(An excerpt)

Statement of the Federation of
Polish Americans (FPA) –
February 12, 2019



The Honorable John D.
Dingell, Jr. d - February 7,
2019

It is not enough just to offer that 'an era has passed' with the demise of John Dingell, who was also a great friend of Polish Americans. Indeed, *he was Polish American* (The Dingell surname had been Dzieglewicz before it was 'Americanized'). The long-serving Congressman, who was a one-man powerhouse and influence broker in the House of Representatives (and beyond), joined the pantheon of the all-time political greats of the traditional Democratic breed on the American scene relatively early in his career, serving 59 years during 11 Presidential administrations. His biography constitutes, in its fullest context, an encyclopedia of the modern American political era. So complex was his role in Congress that few realize in which events, and to what degree, he influenced the truly momentous episodes of the post-Cold War era. One such example is the grueling political fight in the mid-1990's to trigger expansion of the NATO alliance to include Poland. When Poland was allowed across the divide of post-war Europe in Spring 1999, history changed course.

But the story had started much earlier. The first task of enlargement proponents was to get the President's attention. Later, the fight would be focused in the halls of Congress accomplishing the task. Dingell would play a role in both in Washington. While the Polish American grassroots effort surprised the Washington political scene by early 1994 with calls to reshape European security architecture, it was necessary to *follow through from the inside*. Congressman Dingell stepped in with a personal appeal to Bill Clinton on Poland's behalf

The story is that of a man in his Congressional District, who was politically well acquainted with Dingell, making a direct appeal to him on the Poland-to-NATO question. The gentleman, an attorney from the old 'all-Polish' 16th District in Dearborn, Michigan, wrote a lengthy letter to Dingell, the influential House Energy and Commerce Chair. Dingell subsequently raised the issue privately with the President during a duck hunting outing in 1994 as a result. The Federation of Polish Americans (FPA) instigated that episode through the Dearborn attorney.

As it unfolded, the initial three-year (1994-1996) fight in Congress would not see real progress until June 1996, when critical co-sponsors were signed-on to an early version of a NATO legislative bill. Chairman Ben Gilman would credit the Polish American grassroots mobilization (and FPA, as a principal organizer of it) as being critical in breaking that 30-month political logjam in Congress upon passage of the NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act.

The in tandem 1996 House-Senate votes established a *decisive 80% margin of support in Congress that remained intact through final Senate Treaty amendment ratification in 1998.*

For Dingell's part, he never ceased to be a behind the scenes advocate of Polish American causes, including Poland's NATO membership. He was the consummate politician who delivered results, but without the sometimes seamy implications of 'machine' politics. Dingell took the high road on issues, understanding intimately not only his immediate constituency but also American society as a whole. That understanding extended to knowing what would be in the best interests of the United States — NATO enlargement being a case in point. He appreciated, like all too few in Congress did in the early 1990s, Poland's historical pain of Soviet subjugation; but more importantly, as an American he grasped the geo-strategic implications of integrating Central/Eastern Europe (with Poland ever as its center of gravity) into modern Europe. Without a concomitant security guarantee all the talk of 'Partnership' would have been so many words, substituting instead a U.S.–Russia dialogue for Poland's future need of a military shield under NATO. And leaving the middle of Europe unguarded as it had been after 1918.

Members of Congress, big and small, knew where Congressman Dingell stood on Polish American issues. They didn't need to ask, at least ultimately, about his position on the well-being of the powerful chairman's patrimony, Poland. Thus, in the 1996 election year, the years-long opposition to NATO enlargement rather suddenly evaporated, setting the stage for President Clinton to do his part by getting the Treaty protocol into the U.S. Senate by mid-1997. While others took the lead in sponsoring early legislation, Dingell never took his eye off the 'Poland-to-NATO ball' and made sure other Members of Congress knew his view.

The recent words of a current prominent Member of Congress suggest an epitaph of sorts for Dingell. She rightly observes that in Dingell's era Committee Chairmen could periodically exercise greater power than the Speaker of the House! What was more, the way things were accomplished was to eschew ideological positions and work through the rules of the House toward bi-partisan compromise. Dingell understood this process well, as did the leadership of both parties. Her words also read like the FPA/Polish American playbook preamble used to win the fight in Congress almost TWO YEARS before the final Senate decision on the nuclear security guarantee to Poland. Some 14 weeks before the 1996 General Election both the House and Senate delivered in bi-partisan fashion their message to the President: Poland should be offered U.S.-lead security guarantees.

So yes, there is a passing of an era underway – but, it is due in general to the nature of the overheated political scene itself– and not just about the passing of a brilliant practitioner of the political art like Dingell.

Good Luck Linda and Marcy!



(Left To Right) CEO Irene Jugan, Linda Quinn, Marcy Paranich, and CFO/Secretary John Andrzejewski at The Posh in Scranton

On December 6, 2018 members of the PNU Board of Directors and PNU staff gathered at the Posh in Scranton to celebrate Linda Quinn and Marcy Paranich, two longtime and dedicated employees, who are now retired. As the group enjoyed socializing and an excellent dinner, the Christmas spirit filled the atmosphere.

Marcella (Marcy) Paranich and Linda Quinn represent 92 years of work experience together at the PNU. Marcy started working for the PNU in 1968 which puts her in the 50 year category. Her 50 year goal was surpassed in February 2018 and with her actual departure date from the office being in February 2019 she actually logged 51 years. Her career with the PNU covered many responsibilities including handling the issuance of new member certificates and the administration of the PNU insurance data. On top of all the responsibilities Marcy was also the go-to historian of the various types of insurances certificates issued, mortality tables used through the years as well as the many changes occurring with the PNU Branches.

Linda started to work for the PNU in January 1971 as a part of The Straz printing staff. She secured 43 years in all after taking 5 years off after her son was born.

During her tenure as a part of the printing staff Linda helped with many tasks including the setting of the PNU official publication, The Straz. In 2007 Linda joined the insurance staff of the PNU after the closing of the print shop. While part of the insurance staff she handled a multitude of insurance related responsibilities, including the processing of death claims and matured endowments. However, Linda's experiences from The Straz print shop was also transitioned to her position with the insurance department, as she continued to compose and set The Straz using new technology and programming. The work produced the electronic version of the official publication as well as hard copy distributed every other month. Her final issue was the December 2018 issue. The dinner concluded with the spotlight on Marcy and Linda. CFO/Secretary Andrzejewski, AKA - "The Boss", called each of them to the forefront where he proceeded to say a few words of recognition and thanks. To top it all off a beautiful bouquet of roses and a recognition plaque were presented on behalf of the PNU Board.



The talent, knowledge, and contribution of both Marcy and Linda will be truly missed in the office.



Linda Quinn (left) and Marcy Paranich (right) were recognized for their many years of service to the PNU. (42 years and 50 years respectively)

Saying Goodbye Is Never Easy

The PNU recently said goodbye to two very dedicated women, Linda Quinn (on Jan 31) and Marcy Paranich (on Feb 8), who worked at the Home Office in Scranton for several decades. They both worked diligently to ensure the PNU ran smoothly each and every day. Linda and Marcy were two of four current in-house Home Office employees, making the imperative need to fill their shoes a very difficult task at hand.

Jessica Moser and I are the newest members of the Polish National Union's home office team. My training began in December and Jessica's began in January and we already have one thing in common: The challenge of filling the shoes of their predecessors (and now newly retired) Linda Quinn and Marcy Paranich.

Jessica Moser agrees with me about how lucky we both were to have such wonderful teachers during our training process. The two of us only knew Linda and Marcy for a short time and **all of us** are sad to see them leave. We can only imagine the imprint they leave behind but one thing is certain: everyone wishes them a very happy retirement!

By Melissa Cohen



**PNU'S New Employee
Jessica Moser (above)**

I am a 28 year old graduate with a master's degree in human resource management as well as a bachelor in business administration. I am coming to the PNU from working for more than 5 years in business administration including human resources, recruiting, accounts payable, marketing and office coordination. I've previously worked with both, the human service fields as well as medical insurance appeals and 401k processing. While in Human Services I was in charge of the running of the eastern part of Pennsylvania for recruiting, marketing events, accounts payable, capital expenses, ordering supplies, completing certified investigations through ODP and the county for any incidents that occurred to our people served, and setting up Community Living Arrangements for adults with intellectual disabilities. This job also required I do payroll for more than 250 hourly employees and 20 salaried employees. Aside from my day to day role, I also often found myself traveling from Philadelphia, to Chambersburg, and even Lehigh Valley weekly to ensure smooth running in the offices and working closely with the state director, area director and HR director.

**Introducing:
Jessica Moser**

While the bulk of my life has been revolving around schooling and my career, I do find some time to myself to enjoy drawing, painting, playing violin, traveling and spending time with my family and pets.

I'm not a great artist or prodigy at either artwork or the violin but I do find both to be pleasing activities that help alleviate any stress I may be in.

Another great deal of help for stress relief is spending time with my family! In my family I have myself, mother, step father, sister, husband and my in-laws. We enjoy traveling to all areas of the country but our favorite location is Florida.. We also enjoy cruising the ocean blue once every few years.

Travel is a very important for my family as it gives us that chance to just connect with one another and block out technology and any other distraction. In my fur family we have 2 dachshunds by the name of Kairi and Momiji, and 1 Jack Russell Terrier, named Sebastian.

We also have our loving cat named Aria. Now that I am with the PNU I will be working as an Administrative Assistant and assist members with cash surrenders and working on other tasks such as entering premium payments, filing, mailing invoices, and running necessary reports as needed. I look forward to working with everyone in the PNU for many years to come!



**PNU's New Employee
Melissa Cohen (above)**

Originally from Upstate NY, the Scranton, PA is now my new home. I'll be processing claims, publishing "The Straz", overseeing communications, interacting with members, and I am happy to be developing new marketing initiatives with the PNU.

I have a 10 year background in public relations, communications, event development, journalism, film production management, & marketing, and even taught a marketing & communications course for a Job Corps program.

Before moving to PA, I directed all communication, events, and marketing for a film production company. I oversaw casting for actors and actresses, recruited the crew, managed the set, oversaw planning for set locations, and planned film premieres, casting events, and networking events.

The films I produced were shown at festivals all over the world and even won a couple of awards!

We were inspired to launch our own film festival and that is exactly what we did right in the heart of the beautiful Hudson Valley. I directed the film festival and coordinated film screenings to play from around the world, live music, comedy, filmmaker network events, special panels, and celebrity guests.

**Introducing:
Melissa Cohen**

Favorite event I directed: The Hudson Valley International Film Festival (which I co-founded) Naomi Grossman from American Horror Story joined us for our ribbon cutting and hosted an acting class with us!

Favorite interview for a journalism assignment: Interviewing Former Editor-In-Chief of Home Magazine, Gale Steves

Favorite celebrity I met: Too hard to choose just one! Paul Sorvino; Joyce DeWitt (Three's Company), Marion Ross (Happy Days) because I grew up watching them!

I worked a lot with small businesses as sponsorship sales director for the film festival as well as for the benefit fundraiser I directed for people with disabilities. I interacted with so many small business owners and I enjoyed hearing their stories and working with them to provide great advertising for them. I advertise them in newspapers I self-publish, ads for movie theater screens, graphic design options for their Facebook and social media, and so much more. This inspired me to start The Tri-State Business Club, which I still currently oversee in my free time. I develop advertisement options for businesses in the tri-state area and have teamed up with restaurant owners to provide digital slideshow ads inside restaurants. These ads showcase the yummy food inside the restaurant as well as the wonderful small businesses that make up the surrounding communities.

In my free time I love exploring museums and traveling to new places. My latest recommendation: Glencairn Museum outside of Philly! This year I head to Las Vegas for a big milestone birthday celebration! Let's go lady luck!

Remembering Bishop Hodur (Continued From Cover)

The dead depart from us, the living keep them in memory, in the legends of children and grand children, in the legends of coming generations.

The deceased is not remote from us even though the lid of the coffin was shut over him.

Standing at this coffin today, let us recall his life which drew its strength from "the soil, salt and anguish" (from the earth which yields fruit through labor, from the salt which preserves from spoilage and from the distress of pain). Let us today measure this life and present a descriptive image that will be a tribute to the late Bishop and an example for the living. The individual would amount to nothing if his character and nature were not molded by the years of his childhood and youth.

We know that the cradle which shaped the spiritual portrait of the late Bishop was the region of Cracow.

He came from the common people, absorbing their best characteristics: religious fervor, pride in the Piast legacy, inner fortitude, a sober mind, inflexible will power and spontaneous industriousness.

These values were embedded in the deepest recesses of his soul and marked out the further course of his life.

An additional creative force in his work was the thorough theological education he acquired in Cracow.

The late Prime Bishop was an outstanding intellectual.

The spirit of the age in which he lived and matured was not without influence on his life. It was in the second half of the nineteenth century that the Polish people from which he came, began to play an active role in the nation's social and political life. The emancipation of the peasant masses was implanted in the mind and heart of this son of the people, at that time, a young student of theology.

Father Stojalowski, a leader of the Polish peasantry, embodied in this respect a vivid example for those who carried on the task of the people's liberation to fulfillment. Religious movements spring from a profound religio-moral experience and are also evidence of a crisis in a prolonged malady. The late Bishop's life, on this side of the ocean, should be measured in terms of spiritual endeavors. He was like those people with ardent souls who knew that they had come into this world to accomplish some good in it. People of this type are anxious to change their lives for moral values.

The late Bishop felt that life was a continuous process of creation, a continuous striving for perfection in the name of God. Indeed, the mystic ardor of Adam Mickiewicz burned in his soul. They were both soldiers in the service of God. Concerned with implementing these ideals fifty seven years ago, the late Bishop Francis Hodur undertook the formation of the Polish National Catholic Church. This action grew out of his fervent religious and national yearnings and was based on the eternal elements of divine goodness and justice. He raised his voice as a Priest, a Pole and an emancipator in our time. He reached to the essentials of Christianity which influence man's morale, he indicated how collective religious life should be built so that it could at the same time become a function of moral, social and national life.

He restored light and freedom to the Church of Christ, freed man from the shackles of lifeless, dogmatic faith and pointed to the inexhaustible possibilities of the individual's and the nation's spiritual development.

Thus, a new, living work came into being dedicated to the service of God, nation and man.

He made the greatness of the Polish National Catholic Church the criterion of its objectives: moral and religious regeneration and national rebirth. Following the example of many nations who worship in their native language, the late Bishop Francis Hodur, in organizing the Church in the name of God, based it on the spiritual elements of the Polish nation.

Thereafter, the faithful here worship God in Polish.

This was brought about by an inner compulsion of the son of the people of the Cracow region.

It would be difficult to point to another, deeper example of man's tie with his land to another, stronger influence of youth on the later course of a human life.

Thus the late Bishop became the leader of the history-in-the-making of the Polish National Catholic Church.

He fulfilled his leadership for fifty-six years with uncommon wisdom, prudence, industriousness, love of the institution he had built. The institution originated in Scranton, Penna. in 1897 and its history of half a century is an epic of action and a manifestation of religious, humanitarian and national ideals.



The Bishop Hodur memorial

**Report of Actions Taken
by the Board of Directors
of the PNU during a regular board meeting
held December 6, 2018**

OPENING

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Polish National Union of America was held on December 6, 2018 at the home office in Scranton, PA.

Eight board members were present and one was absent.

A member of the Internal Audit Committee was also present.

Minutes

The minutes for the regular board meeting held September 13, 2018 were distributed prior to the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the regular meeting held September 13, 2018 as presented. The motion passed.

STANDARD REPORTS

Standard reports for Spójnia Inc., monthly membership, and the Third Quarter 2018 Statement were given during this portion of the board meeting. Each report was considered separately with respect to any discussion and questions. Discussion and questions followed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the standard reports. The motion passed.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mortgage Department

A report regarding the Mortgage Department was given. It was reported that one application for a mortgage was received. Information regarding the application was reviewed with the Board. A recommendation to approve the mortgage was made by the executive officers. **After a brief period of discussion a motion was made and seconded to approve the mortgage. The motion passed.**

The board was briefed on the status of the remainder of the mortgage accounts.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Exonerations

There were none brought before the Board for consideration.

Correspondence

CFO Andrzejewski noted that several pieces of correspondence were received. There were three thank you letters received, and a letter from the NY Insurance Department regarding the methods used to calculate the asset adequacy

Branch Affairs

A letter of resignation was received from Branch Secretary Katherine Rencewicz who is the Branch Secretary of Branch 119 located in New Castle, Pa. The letter also included a request to consider merging Branch 119 with either Branch 123 or Branch 132. The Board engaged in discussion regarding this matter.

At the conclusion of the discussion a motion was made and seconded to accept the resignation of Katherine Rencewicz, Branch Secretary of Branch 119. The motion passed.

Correspondence was received from Branch 295 in reply to the request from the Board for information about planned branch activities. The correspondence was reviewed and the Board engaged in discussion regarding this matter. **Based on the letter and the Board discussion a motion was made and seconded to approve a partial distribution of funds held at the home office on behalf of the branch to the branch. Future fund distribution to be considered based on the request of the branch. The motion passed.**

The final item discussed under Branch Affairs was consideration of a replacement for the recently deceased director of District 4, Ed Dudek. CFO Andrzejewski informed the Board that Ms. Basinski expressed interest in filling the position until the next convention. **After discussion a motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendation of the CEO and approve the appointment of Beverly Basinski as the Director of District 4. The motion passed.**

Budget Update

An update of actual expenses as compared to the budgeted numbers was distributed prior to the board meeting. The update provided numbers as of September 30, 2018. It was noted that the amounts presented paralleled the numbers shown in the Third Quarter statement. The board entered into brief discussion regarding the results reported. The Board engaged in discussion regarding the promotion of life insurance products offered by the PNU. Several suggestions were made for consideration. **At the conclusion of discussion a motion was made and seconded directing that a special promotional annuity program be established for 2019. The motion passed.**

2019 Budget

The proposed budget for 2019 was distributed to the Board and Internal Audit Committee prior to the meeting. A written summary of the proposed changes were also distributed. The proposed budget was reviewed with the Board during the meeting. During discussion about the budget the Board made some minor adjustments with no change in the anticipated outcome for 2019. Several motions were made to address specific budget items. They are as follows:

(Continued on p. 14)

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5 % for 20 years

4.75 % for 15 years

4.5 % for 10 years

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(December Board Meeting Continued)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal for the 2017 mortality work developed by CPS at the proposed contract price. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to keep the current premium rates in effect. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to keep the 401 (k) matches in 2019 the same as set for 2018. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the executive officers to enter into a two year vehicle lease. The motion passed.

During the discussion about the line items of the budget the Board members called for an executive session. During the session guidance was provided regarding minor adjustments to the expense line items.

Upon completion of discussion and review of the budget a motion was made and seconded to approve the 2019 budget with the agreed upon changes. The motion passed.

Holiday Schedule

The holiday schedule for 2019 was distributed to the Board for their review. During discussion an adjustment to the schedule was suggested.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed holiday schedule with the suggested change. The motion passed.

Personel

CFO Andrzejewski updated the Board with respect to the ongoing efforts to recruit new personnel meant to replace the two staff members who have submitted their intentions to retire by December.

Board Disclosures

The final item under the CFO Report is associated with the completion of the Board Disclosure Report. The Board members were reminded that the annual disclosure was distributed for their completion.

With this the CFO Report was concluded.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the CFO. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTSInvestment Committee

The committee recommended that the board keep mortgage and annuity rates the same as set for the fourth quarter ending December 31, 2018 for the first quarter ending March 31, 2019. **After a brief discussion a motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation. The motion passed.**

The rates are as follows:

The annuity rate for all new issues and annuities issued after 12/31/2012 will be set at 2.5%.

The annuity rate for issues prior to 1/01/2013 will be set at 3%.

The residential loan rates would be set at 5% for twenty years, 4.75% for fifteen years and 4.5% for ten years.

The Commercial loan rates would be set at 5.5% for twenty years, 5.25% for fifteen years, and 5.0% for ten years.

Prior to closing discussion regarding the Investment Committee the Board was informed that discussion of a year end strategy was undertaken with the stock portfolio manager. The strategy employed the need to rebalance the portfolio in light of recent stock market activity.

Spójnia Credit Union

A verbal report about the Spójnia Credit Union was given by CFO Andrzejewski.

Fraternal Activities Committee

The Chairman noted that a financial report was distributed to the board prior to the meeting. He reported that funds were disbursed to the districts to assist with funding for their annual Children's Day events.

Education and Youth Commission

The Chair of the commission was called upon for a report. A summary of the work of the commission was submitted and distributed to the Board. The summary listed the activities being worked on by the commission. One of the activities is the sponsorship of a trip to Poland in 2020. A financial report was distributed.

(December Board Meeting Continued)Ad Hoc Constitution Committee

The Chairman reported that the committee met on December 5, 2018 to review submitted change suggestions and to discuss suggestions for change which will be ultimately submitted to the convention on behalf of the Board of Directors. There were two minor changes considered and discussion was engaged in regarding the governance structure within the Constitution and Bylaws as it relates to new governance regulation scheduled to become effective in 2019.

With the conclusion of the Ad-Hoc Constitution Committee discussion a Motion was made and seconded to accept the reports presented. The motion passed.

District Reports

The Board noted that reports were received from Districts 1, 3, 5, and 6 and expressed their thanks to the District Directors for submitting them. Reports were not received from Districts 2,4,7,8, and 10. Districts 4 and 8 currently have no District Director in place.

The Board entered into discussion regarding the reports. During the discussion board members noted that reports showed that the districts were active in many different aspects of the organization.

Regarding the inactive districts and reporting discipline the Board entered into discussion which resulted in a motion being made.

A motion was made and seconded to direct the executive officers to hold the quarterly payment of District Directors who are found to be out of compliance with the reporting requirements outlined in the PNU Constitution and Bylaws. The motion also approved the required use of the reporting template format developed by the CFO prior to the current meeting. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESSSpójnia Sunday

Director Kathy Nemkovich was called upon to report regarding the activities organized for Spójnia Sunday. Thanks and appreciation was expressed by the Board members for the work done by Director Nemkovich in conjunction with the Spójnia Sunday celebration.

Spójnia Park

CFO Andrzejewski informed the Board that a report was received from the trustees of Spójnia Park. The report was reviewed with no action required on the part of the Board.

Membership Dues Program

CFO Andrzejewski reported regarding the 2018 membership dues mailing. Proceeds and expenses were accumulated and it was noted that the proceeds have been budgeted for distribution to the Education and Youth Commission and the Fraternal Activities Committee.

2019 Convention

CFO Andrzejewski noted that three items were distributed for the Board to consider. The first was a more detailed timeline, the second was a proposed set of reimbursement rules, and the third was a preliminary calculation of the delegates to be elected in each district.

The Board engaged in discussion regarding the reimbursement rules for travel expenses. The Board discussed the reimbursement rules. **At the end of the discussion a motion was made and seconded to approve the reimbursement rules submitted with a change to the mileage reimbursement language. The motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESSContest Drawings

The Spójnia Sunday contest drawing was held at this time during the Board meeting. The Education and Youth drawing was also held during the conclusion of the Board meeting.

Meeting Dates

Meeting dates for 2019 were set and agreed upon.

CLOSING

With no further business to come before the Board a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Based upon the motion the meeting was adjourned after a closing prayer.

This concludes the Report of Actions Taken at a regular meeting held December 6, 2018. As submitted the report is represented to be as accurate as possible with regard to the content and matters discussed and the disposition of matters presented to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,
John C. Andrzejewski, III
CFO/Secretary

Convention Activity

Burrrrrrr! It sure is cold and gloomy in Scranton these days and I am sure most of our readers can relate to that statement as we pass through mid February. However, we have a flurry of activity to help pass the time as each day draws the PNU closer to the start of the 31st General Convention. That means more and more thoughts of the warm Caribbean sun and the beautiful blue water creep into our imaginations, providing the incentive to carry on to another day.

Currently the PNU as a whole has kicked into high gear with convention happenings. Throughout our districts Branch and Delegate elections have been scheduled and are being held. This is surely a telltale sign that there is an adventure waiting on the horizon. Recently two special issues of The Straż, the official publication of the PNU, have been published and distributed. The special issues contain the call to the convention by CEO Jagan as well as information about delegate selection and reimbursement. The last page of the special issues contain meeting announcements about Branch and District meetings being held for the purpose of selecting representatives to attend the 31st General Convention. This year announcements are also being posted on the social media platform of Facebook. An electronic version of the Straż can be accessed through the PNU website by clicking on the newspaper tab. The web address for the site is www.PNU.org

According to the convention timeline, the preconvention committee from the host district, District 6, will be selected and constituted. This committee helps with various aspects of the convention arrangements and is in charge of the convention ad book. Once they go to work they will be reaching out to the various Branches and Districts of the PNU as well as the Parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church. With that, I ask that we all lend support to their effort by considering wishing the delegates well through placing an ad.

Looking at the timeline it would appear as though there is a vast desert of nothing between February 28 and June 1, 2019. The major focus of activity are the special delegate meetings. Once the delegates are elected their information is turned into the home office so that booking and registration information can be forwarded. As a part of the 31st convention the delegates will be expected to attend scheduled meetings during our cruise aboard the Allure of the Seas. June 1, 2019 marks the end of the delegate election period. At this time most of our delegates will have booked their reservations and cabin space will be limited to the remainder of the block reserved.

With time growing short I urge all members and potential guests to book their passage on the Allure of the Seas as soon as possible in order to ensure that the cabin of your choice is assigned to you. With respect to the cruise we have arranged for a seven day adventure starting on September 29, 2019 and ending on October 6, 2019.

Members and guests can find information about this exciting event on the PNU Cruise 2019 Facebook site.

By John Andrzejewski

PNU Convention Cruise News Page



ALLURE of the SEAS

Publication of Delegate Election Meeting Dates

All Branches and Districts are required to publish meeting dates associated with meetings to be held for the purpose of Electing Delegates to the Convention. The Board of Directors highly recommends that all Districts and Branches submit their meeting dates for publishing in the December 2018 issue of Straz. the deadline for submission is November 30, 2018. The next Straz will be printed in February 2019 with a deadline of January 15, 2019.

Delegate Election ByLaws

The PNU Constitution and ByLaws is very specific with respect to the procedure to be used in the process of delegate election. Applicable ByLaws are as follows:

For more complete details please consult the PNU Constitution and ByLaws.

ARTICLE II

Delegates to the General Convention

Sec. 1 Election of delegates in the entire Union shall take place after the issuance of the Proclamation by the President but not later than one hundred twenty (120) days before the General Convention.

Sec. 2. 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 President'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.

Sec. 3 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.

2019 Convention Timeline

A Convention timetable has been developed in conjunction with the PNU Constitution and ByLaws requirement for activities associated with the Convention to take place. The Timeline is as follows:

December 2018 - Convention proclamation issued and Branch and District meetings for election of delegates announced.

December 31, 2018 - Cutoff for delegate count.

January 15, 2019 - Final delegate count to Branches & Districts along with Blank mandates.

February 1, 2019 - Delegate election begins.

February 28, 2019 - Last day to convene Pre Convention Committee.

June 1, 2019 - Last day for delegate elections.

July 1, 2019 - Appointment of Credentials Committee.

July 1-20, 2019 - Credentials Committee must meet.

July 31, 2019 - Credential and Registration packets sent to delegates.

July 31, 2019 - Committee Appointments which include Order of Business, Grievance, Constitution and ByLaws, Press and Resolutions and Nominations.

August 1, 2019 -Deadline for Delegate reservations.

August 1, 2019 - Nominations due at Home Office.

August 30, 2019 - Nominations Published - all reports due to delegates.

September 29, 2019- October 6, 2019 - The PNU Convention opens aboard the RCL Allure which departs Ft. Lauderdale, FL See last page cruise ad for details.

Convention Dates To Keep in Mind

Delegate election meetings must be held between Feb. 1, 2019 and April 30, 2019.

To qualify as a delegate you must be a member of record for a minimum of one (1) year prior to the date of election.





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What ever will I do?

The excitement about the upcoming 31st General Convention cruise is starting to build as each day passes and the date of our ship sailing, September 29, 2019 grows closer. Aside from the initial advertisement flier which was circulated and posted in 2018 there hasn't been much information posted or written until now.

The itinerary of the convention cruise includes three stops and the home port of Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The three stops are St Maarten, San Juan, PR and Labadee Haiti. Each port of call offers its own unique set of things to do and see.

Our first stop is St. Martin or St. Maarten. This island is intriguing because there are two different nationalities that have influenced the development of the culture of the island: The Dutch and the French. Today the two nations share the island creating a unique travel situation such that a passport will be needed to pass from the Dutch portion to the French portion and back. The Royal Caribbean ships dock on the Dutch side of the island just outside of Phillipsburg. One nice part about this is that the cruise dock is only a short distance from Philipsburg. The town as well as beaches can be accessed by a short cab ride or about a half mile walk.

The main city on the French side of the island is Marigot. According to information found on the Trip Advisor website this area offers an abundance of shopping and unique architecture. In addition to a number chic boutiques there is the Marigot Waterfront Market featuring a craft market and Caribbean cuisine.

Some of the other interesting things to do include Fort Louis, The Butterfly Farm, Loterie Farm, and Anguilla. Loterie Farm is an eco preserve where a number of activities are available including horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking and Eco tours. Anguilla is a neighboring island accessible by water ferry which offers a multitude of white sand beaches and dining options.

The second stop is San Juan, PR During the stop the ship will dock close to the historic section of the city commonly referred to as Old San Juan. If you are interested in history Old San Juan has a lot to offer including the nearby San Cristobal Fort which was built in 1771. Another point of interest found in Old San Juan is the tomb of Juan Ponce de Leon. From San Juan you can access the beaches as well as a number of golf courses. One of the most heard of highlights is the Bacardi Rum Factory which can be accessed through ship tours offered or via water taxi.

Labadee is our third stop. This stop takes our cruise to a private beach area established for the use of Royal Caribbean's cruise guests. There are plenty of activities to be found including snorkeling, jet skiing and parasailing. Adventure also waits for those who are of a brave heart. Labadee is the stop featuring the Dragon's Breath Flight Line which is touted as the world's longest zip cable over water. During this stop lunch will be served as a part of the ship's meal service.

"What will we ever do?" That is a tough question to answer. This information only touches the surface when it comes to things to do during the PNU Convention Cruise. There is a lot of information about our cruise ports of call. Some places to look on the internet include The Polish National Union 2019 Cruise Facebook page, Trip Advisor, Cruise Critic, and by just Googling the ports of call.

The PNU Convention Cruise is going to be an exciting event and all are welcome to book! See details on the last page of this edition of the Straz. Don't hesitate because at the great rate being offered the cabin class you want may fill up as there is a limited quantity contracted for in our room block.

By John Andrzejewski



San Juan, PR



St. Maarten



Labadee, Haiti featuring private beach for cruise guests

The Deadline To Apply Is Quickly Approaching!

EDUCATION & YOUTH COMMISSION STIPEND APPLICATION CRITERIA

1. A member of the PNU, who has a life insurance policy (current paying, single-premium, or fully paid-up) that is in force and in good standing for at least 5 years. *(Please remember Social Membership does not qualify.)*
2. Currently enrolled and taking classes at a College or University either part-time (under 12 credits) or full-time (12 or more credits).

(This means the student or applicant must be attending college at the current time, does not pertain to high school college courses taken while still in high school.)

3. Show proof of enrollment from Registrar; Tuition Bill; Class Schedule; or Grades. *(One or all of these are acceptable forms of eligible enrollment; please make sure student's name, university's name, number of credits taken for each semester, are included on the paperwork enclosed.)*

4. A copy of the tuition bill should accompany all stipend applications stating the institution's and student's name. *(This ensures that the student is enrolled and attending that college or university.)*

5. A Stipend Application obtained from the website, www.pnu.org, under downloadable forms – Education & Youth Commission *(Please make sure all fields of information, especially the student contact information, are properly completed).*

1. Offered to students for four years of education from the College or University of their choice.

2. Questions or concerns can be directed to Mary Ann Stankowski, eyc@pnu.org.

3. All information for the entire academic year (both semesters – August – May), should be returned to the following address:

Polish National Union of America
c/o Education & Youth Commission
Attn: Mary Ann Stankowski
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, Pa 18505

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