



## 2023: The Year of Transformation Update



**Martin H. Wachna, Jr.**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Polish National Union of America**

The Board of Directors and Management Team are excited to announce that the “2023 Year of Transformation of the PNU” continues to move forward. Since the beginning of January 2023 the Board of Directors Merger Committee and the Management Team have been working diligently and swiftly on the transformation of the Polish National Union. In this article we will give an update on what has transpired.

On March 23, 2023 the Board of Directors of the Polish National Union met to discuss the three fraternal organizations narrowed from the eight invited to discuss the possibility of merger. During these discussions the Board weighed the organizations in a side by side comparison. Also, during these discussions, the pros and cons of each organization and its advantages to the members of the PNU were reviewed. At the conclusion of this review a decision by the Board was made to instruct the management team to proceed with the discussions with the Polish National Alliance.

The Polish National Alliance is a fraternal organization that the PNU has been in partnership for many years with Polonia in Chicago. The leaders of both organizations know each other well and the Board of the PNU feels that this organization will be the best fit.

What does this mean for the members? The PNU will continue to negotiate a merger with the PNA to the benefit of our

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**570-344-1513/800-724-6352**  
**www.pnu.org info@pnu.org**

# Organizational Contact Information



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**Board of Directors:** Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr.,  
Kathryn Nemkovich, Mari Jane Stankowski, Mary Stankowski, Michael Mietlicki &  
Gregory Senkevitch

**Spojnia Inc. Directors:** Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Chairman; Martin Wachna, Jr., Vice Chair;  
Mari Jane Stankowski, Secretary; Paul Gorgol, David Petrosky, Stacey Shrive &  
Michael Mietlicki

**Education & Youth Commission:** Mary Stankowski, Chair; Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky; Martin Wachna, Jr.,  
Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr. & Carol Mikovsky

**Fraternal Activities Committee:** Michael Mietlicki, Chairman; Very Rev. Lucian Urbaniak, Debbie Bilinski,  
Henrietta Kleckner, George Urciuoli & Martin Wachna, Jr., Ex-officio

**Internal Audit Committee:** Very Rev. John Kowalczyk, Jr., Chairman; Henrietta Kleckner, Vice Chair &  
Marian Sleczkowski, Secretary

**Medical Director:** Dr. Samuel Alfano

<b>District Directors:</b>	1	Northeast PA	Julie Andrzejewski	570-842-1603	district1director@pnu.org
	2	NY, NJ, Philadelphia	Leslie Pietrowitz	201-393-0696	district2director@pnu.org
	3	New England	Mary Ann Zarek	774-254-5844	district3director@pnu.org
	4	Buffalo, NY	Beverly Basinski	716-759-1130	district4director@pnu.org
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	6	IL, IN, FL MN, WI	Christine Wachna	847-927-9534	district6director@pnu.org
	7	MI	Suzanne Sniezek	313-720-4339	district7director@pnu.org
	10	Latham, NY	George Urciuoli	914-475-3219	district10director@pnu.org

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www.spojniacreditunion.org info@spojnia.org  
Sandy Reed, SCU Manager x308

**SCU Management:** Jan Cwikla, President Jacek Grotnik, Vice President  
Joan Scheuneman, Secretary John C. Andrzejewski, Treasurer  
Katherine Gnat

## PNU District & Branch Meeting Schedules

**District 1:** Thursday, June 1, 2023 @ 6:00 at Frank Bednash Memorial Library, 2nd floor of the National Church Center, Scranton, PA Contact District Director, Julie Andrzejewski for details.

**District 2:** To be determined. Contact District Director, Leslie Pietrowitz for details.

**District 3:** Tuesday, May 30, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.  
Contact District Director, MaryAnn Zarek for details.

**District 4:** To be determined. Contact District Director, Beverly Basinski for details.

**District 5:** Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 1:00pm hosted by Holy Family Parish, 1921 Eden Park Blvd, McKeesport, PA Contact District Director, Melissa Snee for details.

**District 6:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m. central via Zoom  
Contact District Director, Christine Wachna for details.

**District 7:** To be determined. Contact District Director, Suzanne Sniezek for details.

**District 10:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
Contact District Director, George Urciuoli for details.

## 2023 Straz Article Submission Deadlines

You are invited to submit articles and pictures regarding PNU events in a timely manner and relevant to the time period in which the Straz will be published. You are requested to send articles in Microsoft Word format and pictures in either jpeg or png format. All submissions are to be sent via email to executive02@pnu.org by the deadline dates listed below.

Thank you for your cooperation.

<u>Issue Month</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>	<u>Issue Month</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>
February	January 15	August	July 15
April	March 15	October	September 15
June	May 15	December	November 15

# Straz Mail Subscription Information

The Official Publication of the Polish National Union, The Straz, is published on a bi-monthly basis throughout the year. At least six issues are published and distributed via the website [www.pnu.org](http://www.pnu.org).

Annual subscriptions for a printed copy of The Straz are available for \$20.00 per year. You can contact the Home Office via:

**Phone:** 1-800-724-6352/570-344-1513

**Email:** [info@pnu.org](mailto:info@pnu.org)

**Mail:** PNU – 1002 Pittston Avenue – Scranton, PA 18505

**Required info for subscription mailing:**

Recipient Name, Address, City, State & ZIP

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members. The PNA is a large fraternal with a long history of cooperation with the PNU and the PNCC. The PNA is a non-sectarian organization but has committed to the further support of the PNCC. The PNU is negotiating with the PNA to continue our legacy. The PNA and PNCC will also work with the Spojnia Credit Union to provide more member services which you will hear about in future editions.

The PNA has many benefits, annuity and policy offerings that combined with the benefits of the PNU will put you the member in the best possible light. The strength of the PNA will afford you the membership of the PNU confidence that the organization will be viable for the next 115 years.

The mission of the PNU continues and the Board of Directors continues to position itself to be strong for next 115 Years. These are very exciting times in the PNU and you the member are going to be the ones that benefit from this transaction.

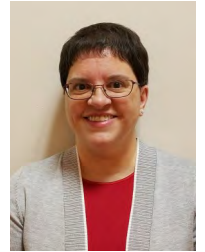
Please continue to purchase new policies or annuities during this time as they will all become a part of the merger. **More** Benefits, **more** types of Policies, **more** types of Annuities are what your Management Team and Board of Directors are doing for you.

Fraternally,  
Martin Wachna  
CEO, Polish National Union of America



*Julie Andrzejewski - Director, District 1*

**Polish National Union of America  
District 1 Quarterly Meeting  
March 16, 2023**



On March 16, 2023, District 1 held their quarterly meeting at Holy Mother of Sorrow Parish in Dupont, PA. After opening with a pizza and ice cream social, the meeting was called to order at 6:46p.m. Director Andrzejewski welcomed everyone and then called upon Rev. Carmen Bolock for the invocation.

**Secretary's Report:** Attendance: Secretary Joan Scheuneman reported that there were 15 delegates representing 6 branches. Two delegates attended via telephone. Ms. Scheuneman then read the minutes from the previous meeting. Director Andrzejewski asked if there were any corrections or errors and there were none noted. A motion was made by Rev. Carmen Bolock, second by Mari Jane Stankowski to accept the minutes as read. Director Andrzejewski called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Patricia Bolock gave the financial report from December 6, 2022 to March 15, 2023. Director Andrzejewski asked if there were any corrections or errors and there were none noted. A motion was made by Carl Cwikla, second by Dorothy Andrzejewski to accept the treasurer's report. Director Andrzejewski called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

**Training –** Director Andrzejewski went over a list of questions that appeared in the Straz regarding 2023 the Year of Transformation.

**Old Business:** It was reported that there would not be a convention in 2023 due to the upcoming changes. Delegates from the previous convention will receive voting packets. This information will probably come out in the fall. Delegate meetings will more than likely be held.

**New Business:** Director Andrzejewski opened the floor for discussion on activities that District 1 could become involved with. After discussion it was decided that our District would participate in 2 events. The first taking place on Saturday, April 1, 2023 – One Hot Meal at St. Stanislaus Cathedral from 12:00 to 3:00 which would involve serving meals and clean up. The second event would be assisting the Greater Pittston Meals on Wheels with the annual “Stamp out Hunger” event sponsored by the postal service. This takes place on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2:00. We would help unpack, sort and date items brought in from the collection. Patty Evanchyk made the motion to undertake these two

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projects with a second by Dorothy Andrzejewski. Motion passed unanimously.

**Family Activity-** Several ideas were discussed for our family activity. We selected the Electric City Trolley Museum and trolley ride for our event. We will need to get postcards made and mailed to our juvenile members. We will try to hold the event on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 1:30 depending upon availability. Ticket prices were discussed, we will need to purchase tickets in advance. PNU member juvenile tickets are free, Age 17 and up members – tickets \$10. Juvenile non-member tickets - \$10, Age 17 and up non-members \$12. Patty Evanchyk made the motion seconded by Jan Cwikla to have this event as our family activity. Motion passed unanimously.

**Home Office Update:** CFO Andrzejewski discussed more details about the PNU transformation and pending merger.

**Calendar of Events:** Providence of God parish – Lenten retreat on Saturday, March 18, 2023, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. St. Stanislaus – March 26, 2023, Breakfast with the Bunny. April 4, 2023, Chrism Mass. One Hot Meal – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month.

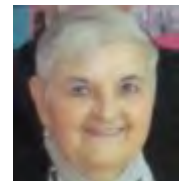
The next meeting will be held on June 1 @ 6:00 at Frank Bednash Memorial Library, second floor of the National Church Center in Scranton, PA. Father Senior Dawid had the closing prayer.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dorothy Andrzejewski at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Scheuneman  
Recording Secretary



*MaryAnn Zarek - Director, District 3*



**Polish National Union of America  
District 3 Quarterly Meeting  
February 27, 2023**

PNU District 3 held a Zoom meeting on Monday, February 27, 2023. There were 8 people on the call. Bishop Paul opened the meeting with a prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed. The financial report was emailed to the group. Thomas Zarek made a motion to accept both reports as presented, second by Karen Sobiechowski.

MaryAnn Zarek introduced Marty Wachna, CEO of the Polish National Union with a presentation regarding upcoming changes to the Polish National Union. 2023 will be a year of transformation for the PNU. The Board of Directors is in merger talks with three fraternal organizations. The focus will change from insurance to fraternalism in the parish of the PNCC. There will be no significant changes. The delegates from the 2019 convention will be contacted to approve the recommendations of the Board of Directors. Maryann thanked Marty for his presentation.

District 3 will hold a spring raffle in April. District 3 will cover the pizza and ice cream social for the upcoming Acolyte Retreat being held at Blessed Trinity in Fall River. Brenda Richard made a motion to have District 3 pay for the t-shirts and water bottles for the upcoming Youth Retreat that will be held in August, second by Eric Nemkovich. Fr. Sr. Rob thanked District 3 for all that they do for the youth of our parishes.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 6:30PM via Zoom. Nancy Riley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second Eric Nemkovich. Fr. Sr. Rob offered the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.

Respectfully submitted  
Brenda Richard  
Recording Secretary, District 3, PNU





*Beverly Basinski - Director, District 4*

**Polish National Union of America  
District 4 Quarterly Meeting  
January 29, 2023**

The PNU District 4 meeting along with representatives from Branches 79 and 311 was held on Sunday, January 29, 2023, at 10:30 A.M. in the Bishop Peplowski Parish Center, Lancaster, NY. Five members were in attendance. Bishop John Mack, Beverly Basinski, Sharon Pawlowski, Christina Giczkowski, and James Pawlowski. District Director, Beverly Basinski, called the meeting to order and Bishop John Mack gave the invocation.

Beverly Basinski, Treasurer, gave the Financial Report. **MOTION** to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Sharon Pawlowski and seconded by Beverly Basinski. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There are 3 active Branches in District 4: Branch 27 – Father Gary Spencer (NOTE: upon Father Spencer's resignation as Branch Secretary, Branch 27 will be managed from the Home Office)      Branch 79 – Sharon Pawlowski      Branch 311 – Beverly Basinski

### **ELECTION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS FOR 2023**–Secretary cast One Vote for the Election

President – Christina Giczkowski      Vice President – James Pawlowski  
Recording Secretary – Sharon Pawlowski      Treasurer – Beverly Basinski

### **ELECTION OF DELEGATES to the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Convention October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

Convention is on hold. Delegates from the previous Convention will be contacted regarding a possible meeting to discuss the proposed Transformation/Merger and subsequent vote.

**PNU TRANSFORMATION AND MERGER PRESENTATION** – Beverly Basinski and Bishop Mack showed the slide presentation that had been prepared by CEO, Marty Wachna. On January 5, 2023, the PNU Board of Directors met with all the PNCC Bishops to discuss the transformation of the PNU. PNU will become a Foundation and continue as a viable Fraternal Society. Terms and conditions of policies will remain the same. Proposed merger of the insurance operation by March 2023 and sales completed by June 2023. The Constitution will have to be changed and/or draw up a new Constitution. This will be a positive impact on the Spojnia Credit Union with deposits FDIC insured up to \$250,000.

### **NEXT MEETING – DATE TBD**

**Motion** to adjourn at 11:20 AM was made by James Pawlowski, seconded by Christina Giczkowski, Carried. Closing Prayer by Bishop John Mack.

Respectively Submitted, Sharon Pawlowski, Recording Secretary



*Christine Wachna - Director, District 6*

**Polish National Union of America  
District 6 Quarterly Meeting  
February 9, 2023**



The meeting was called to order by Director Christine Wachna at 6:38 p.m. The Invocation and prayer for deceased was pronounced by Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk.

Director Christine Wachna called the Roll: **Present:** Director Christine Wachna; Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk; Catherine Kowalczyk; Christina Danielkiewicz; Judith Palacios; Dian Maycan; Robert Maycan. **Absent:** Guests at meeting were Martin H. Wachna, PNU CEO; Judith Wachna.

The **Proposed Agenda** was accepted as presented upon motion made by Robert Maycan and seconded by Catherine Kowalczyk. Motion carried. The **Minutes** from the October 25, 2022 meeting were accepted as presented upon motion made by Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk and seconded by Dian Maycan. Motion carried.

The **Financial Report** for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2022 was given by Catherine Kowalczyk. Upon motion made by Robert Maycan, and seconded by Christina Danielkiewicz, the financial report was accepted, subject to audit. Motion carried.

Remarks from **PNU CEO Martin H. Wachna, Jr.** – Mr. Wachna stated that Board members will be attending District meetings during the first quarter of 2023. He stated that the 2023 year will be a year of transformation. He informed the members at the meeting that the PNU will no longer be a fraternal benefit society. We are exiting from the insurance business. The PNU is in discussions with three fraternal organizations regarding a merger. This should be completed and finalized and announced in March, 2023. We will belong to two organizations, one that holds insurance policies and one for fraternal benefits. Once the merger is complete, we will concentrate on community outreach. The Spójnia Credit Union will remain. Mr. Wachna stated to be sure to watch the Straż for more information as it becomes available.

**Scholarships** have been established – The Dorothy Markiewicz and Ernest J, Gazda, Jr. scholarships.

The **Straż** will be published every month. The odd months will include items from the Board of Directors, Spójnia, Inc., Education & Youth and Fraternal Activities. The even months will include information from all Districts. It was stated that we need to emphasize our efforts on fraternal activities. This year all Districts are asked to sponsor a Food Drive during Lent and donate to a local food pantry.

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**Fraternal Activities for District 6 –**

Lenten Food Drive 2023 – The food drive will take place February 22 thru March 26, 2023. Any PNU branch, parish, parish society, all within District 6 qualify. Photos for any activity undertaken should be taken and an article written and sent to Straż. It was reported that the All Saints Cathedral Youth Group is spearheading “Souper Bowl of Caring” as a food drive collection.

Along these lines, it is hoped that a fraternal activity is done each quarter.

**Summer School Supply Drive** – It was reported that District 6 will attempt this activity. It needs to be completed by August in order that items are ready to be donated for the beginning of the school year. All Saints Cathedral Shoe Box drive would qualify as a fraternal activity within the District.

**For the Good of the District** – Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk stated that the Western Diocese Youth Gathering will take place in July or August 2023. The District should think about sponsoring an ice cream social or other event during the Gathering.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion made by Catherine Kowalczyk and seconded by Dian Maycan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried.

CEO Martin Wachna asked Judith Palacios to continue working in Br. 362.

Closing prayer and benediction was pronounced by Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina M. Danielkiewicz  
Recording Secretary



## All Saints Cathedral – Chicago, IL

### Souper Bowl of Caring – Feb 12, 2023

The youth of the parish collected \$375 in monetary donations and a good amount of food was collected. All money and food was donated to the Leyden Food Depository.

Thanks to Kara Lindenmuth and MaryJane Scott for taking care of this important activity within the community!



## St. Michael the Archangel Parish Cedar Lake, IN Lenten Food Pantry Drive

The Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament (SAMBS) has sponsored three food drives recently: Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. The Parish had decided to assist Project Love Food Pantry located at the Cedar Lake United Methodist Church in Cedar Lake, Indiana during the holidays by fulling their shopping list for holiday food baskets. Our parish sponsored 25 baskets for each holiday by donating dry good as well as dairy products. District 6 and Branches 293 & 295 which are located at the parish assisted with the Easter food drive. We thank everyone who donated food or gave monetary donations to all of our efforts over these three holiday. Cathy Kowalczyk & Christine Wachna are officers in the Parish SAMBS, District 6 and Br. 295.





**Happy Easter from ...  
Home Office of the PNU**

**Marty Wachna, CEO John Andrzejewski, CFO  
Joan Schueneman, Executive Assistant**

**PNU Board of Directors**

**Kathryn Nemkovich, Vice President  
Michael Mietlicki, Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky,  
Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr. , Greg Senkevitch,  
Mary Ann Stankowski and Mary Jane Stankowski**

**PNU District Directors**

**Julie Andrzejewski (1), Leslie Pietrowitz (2),  
MaryAnn Zarek (3), Beverly Basinski (4), Melissa Snee (5)  
Christine Wachna (6), Suzanne Sniezek (7), George Urciuoli (10)**

**Spojnia Credit Union (SCU) [www.spojniacreditunion.org](http://www.spojniacreditunion.org)**

**Jan Cwikla, President John Andrzejewski, Treasurer  
Sandy Reid, SCU Manager**

**Polish National Catholic Church**

**Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the PNCC  
Most Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Prime Bishop Emeritus  
Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Bishop Emeritus of the Central Diocese  
Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese  
Rt. Rev. John Mack, Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese  
Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw Rafalko, Bishop of the Western Diocese**



**Supreme Council of the PNCC**