Anti-Bigotry Report
Frank Milewski (New York) has been the head of the Anti-Bigotry Committee since its inception 25 years ago. It was started for the purpose of fighting the use of anti-Polish jokes. Milewski feels that the jokes have subsided, but there are other matters being raised at the current time. The purpose of the committee is to keep a check on anti-Polish complaints and reports. Most of the anti-Polish remarks come from the Jewish community, making the matter of a problem Jewish anti-Polonism. The Polish American – Jewish American Council was formed in the 1970’s to address this problem. The committee was reconstituted in 1996, and met in June 2008, with the feeling that the goals had been accomplished and will continue to keep excellent relations.

Recently Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania made a public statement in remembrance. He was immediately contacted by the Executive Committee of the PAC. His public statement was opposed to “Soviet concentration camps.” There have been articles in Catholic and Protestant newspapers stating that Poland and Germany killed Jews. By responding to these false statements, the truth about Poland can be told and printed.

When it was under communism the Polish government did not care about anti-Polish statements. Now the Ambassador is working with the PAC in curtailing these incidents. In April a statute of Jan Karski was dedicated at the Polish Consulate – along with a sign saying Jan Karski Corner. Hopefully, the public will realize how the Polish government did favorably receive the Jewish people. (Jan Karski went inside a concentration camp, crawled through a hole, and spoke to ambassadors about the situation.)

TheARC newspapers and television asked if the PAC would be interested in supporting the permanent form of the question about ancestry is a part of the American Agendas. It was suggested that each individual organization to post information about its mission, activities, and contacts, but each organization to post information about its place, for the PAC it would mean access to more than 1700 organizations. If the merger takes place, then the group wishes to transfer all its potential and purpose was to develop leadership skills for the various communities domiciled in the Polish American community needs leaders, said President Spula again emphasized that the Polish American community needs leaders, said President Spula. An inquiry was received from the Polish American community. There was a great desire for the PAC to have a logo and there is now an Illinois division. One was present at the meeting – Kathy Diipla. She has become a well known part of the Miliewski. An inquiry was received from Nevada. It was suggested that these survivors join the PAC.

The U.S. Holocaust Museum, although primarily Jewish survivors, also included non-Jewish persons who were displaced, persuaded, or discriminated against due to the policies of the Nazis and their allies from 1939 – 1945, including refugees and those who were forced to go into hiding. President Ed Moskal donated $30,000 from the PNA in honor of Zegota. It was suggested that letters be written to all the survivors telling them of the film “The Irena Sendler Story” and “Behind Closed Doors.” Finally, the truth is being told.

The first was from the New Jersey Division. “All PAC officers and delegates should be vetted by IPN (Institute of Polish Networks) to ensure compliance that they were never officers, agents, employees, or informants (of the communist government).” There was a great deal of discussion. Many delegations were not proper to do this, and the resolution was defeated (13 for and 29 against). One delegate said this should have been done five years ago, and the response was that “we have been trying for five years.”

The second resolution was from the Illinois Division; “Since the original mission of the PAC has been accomplished, the American Agenda should be the top priority – to improve the political, social, and economic status of Poles reflected in Congress.” This resolution was defeated. The Polish and American Agenda are intertwined. President Spula said that we should use common sense. We may disagree, but should “walk away as friends.”

There were three proposals that were offered for proposal to create the Executive Committee: 1. to create a flag for the PAC; 2. to modify the PAC logo to include some element(s) indicating Polish heritage and 3. to create a PAC logo to be used on podiums during meetings, so the PAC name is displayed in photos of speakers. Other resolutions were discarded, due to conflicts with the by-laws.

Conclusion
Tim Kuźma elaborated on the Arlen Specter matter. He first contacted Specter’s Pittsburg office, and then his Washington office. In January, with the Executive Committee, they met in the Washington office. Specter agreed to a Town Hall meeting. 80 people came to the meeting and many issues were discussed. This was done in a non-confrontational manner. Specter is now an advocate for the Poles. It was recommended that negotiations with politicians be conducted in a positive manner.

President Spula thanked Barbara Anderson for her work in Washington, Pam Komorowski for her work in Chicago, Ted Mirecki for his work on the website, and all of the National Directors.

Tour of the PAC Office
Delegates were invited to attend a tour and reception at the PAC Illinois Division office. An added feature was the opening of an exhibit on Roman Pucinski, former U.S. Congressman and Chicago Alderman. Pucinski’s daughter Aurelia and his mother were in attendance. Aurelia spoke to the assemble, Congressman Pucinski was the chief investigator in the uncovering of the Katyn Murder and introduced a resolution to Congress about Katyn. He was also a Polish language student, a soldier and a reporter. Two buildings bear his name. His daughter spoke very warmly of him, and said that he really loved people. The exhibit consisted of photos and newspaper articles – all nicely done.

The evening was very enjoyable and informative ending to a very busy two days. Congratulations to President Spula for all of the work he is doing with the PAC and the PNA!