

**PAC Fall Meeting from 1**

At the commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of the IPN at the Royal Castle in Warsaw, Mrs. Kamiński presented a congratulatory plaque from the PAC to the IPN. She has been to Poland seven times on PAC business since she was first elected Vice President for Polish Affairs in October 2008.

During one of her trips, she visited Father Tadeusz Iszakowski-Zaleski, a well known staunch anti-Communist, who recently organized— Fundacja Im Brata Albe---- (To Be as Good as Bread). Mrs. Kamiński introduced Father Tadeusz to the CND Meeting and let us know that he is the author of a book, “Moje Życie Nielegalne”. Mrs. Kamiński concluded by observing that the United States no longer hosts the largest Polish population outside Poland. The countries of the European Union (EU) have more Poles than does the United States. Moreover, these Polish populations in EU countries are well organized. The PAC needs to get more involved in what Poland is all about right now.

A questions and answers session followed Mrs. Kamiński’s report.

Mr. Maurycy Leszkiewicz, a national director from the New Jersey Division, asked Mrs. Kamiński if she advised President Spula to write his letter of 31 March 2010 to Dr. Sławomir Cenckiewicz. The gist of this letter is that President Spula reprimands Cenckiewicz for something that the latter never did. Cenckiewicz pointed out that the late Edward Moskal’s entourage was penetrated by Communist agents who abused Moskal’s confidence and then cited Moskal as the source of information in reports that they submitted to their bosses. President Spula’s letter conflates Moskal cited as a source by Communist agents, with Moskal being a witting source, or agent, which Cenckiewicz never said that he was.

Mrs. Kamiński replied that she was in Poland when she first learned of Spula’s letter of 31 March 2010. She said that she did not advise Spula to write the letter of 31 March 2010. Moreover, Mrs. Kamiński does not believe that her role is to advise Spula on Polish Affairs. She continued by noting that she does not have a personal agenda and sees herself as a representative of the PAC and will follow whatever instructions that she may receive about Polish Affairs.

This writer had a side conversation with President Spula during a break, and he did not say whether or not he intended to correct, or remove, the letter that he wrote to Dr. Cenckiewicz of 31 March 2010. This letter is still posted without any changes on the official website. The effect of Spula’s letter is to undermine without warrant Cenckiewicz’s credibility, and by extension to discredit lustration.

Mr. Andrzej Burghardt, national director and vice president of the New Jersey Division who is a stalwart supporter of lustration, asked Father Tadeusz to describe the sitting PO Government’s policy and attitude toward the IPN. Readers recall that until his recent book, which unmasked Lech Wałęsa as Agent Bolek, Cenckiewicz was a historian and administrator at the IPN’s archives and that the IPN is the key institution which makes lustration possible in Poland. No IPN; no lustration.

Father Tadeusz said that the present Polish Government is “slowly strangling” the IPN by withholding funds. The anti-Communist priest and underground hero continued by observing that the present Polish Government would like to see the IPN close its archival services which support research on who did what to whom in Poland from 1 September 1939 to 15 September 1993, when the last soldiers of the Russian Federation withdrew from Polish territory.

**Culture**

The PAC’s National Vice President for Cultural Affairs, Deborah M. Majka, who also serves as President of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), reminded the CND that this year marks the 200th anniversary of Chopin’s birth. Many celebrations have taken place across the country. This year is also the 70th anniversary of the dissolution of the 303<sup>rd</sup> Squadron (Poles who fought with the RAF in WW II). No plans for PAC cultural activities were announced by the vice president.

**Anti-Bigotry**

Before the Chairman of the Anti-Bigotry Committee, Mr. Frank Milewski, delivered his report, Camille Kopelski (Chicagoan - ACPCND) reminded the group of the Libertyville, Illinois School District’s decision to require its seventh grade pupils who study the Holocaust to read the anti-Polish book “Maus” by Art Spiegelman. Mrs. Kopelski went to the Superintendent of the district regarding this matter and was told that it was not required reading, but listed under Holocaust studies. She asked President Spula to write a letter to the Superintendent on behalf of the PAC, and she also asked PAC members to write letters of protest as individuals. The publisher of Spiegelman’s book should also be boycotted.

Mr. Frank Milewski (Pres. - Downstate New York Division) described some of the recent activities of his Anti-Bigotry Committee, which was initiated in the 1980’s with the intent of squelching Polish jokes. Most of the comedians (telling these jokes) at that time were Jewish and they have died, so Milewski feels this is no longer a problem. However, Polish slurs are often found on sitcoms. A recent one was on “Two and a Half Men”, wherein one of the characters said, “You don’t have to tell me twice. I’m not Polish.” He called CBS in New York, spoke to the President and Vice President, and told them about the Polish survivors in New York. They guaranteed not to show that episode again.

He participates in a Polish - Jewish dialogue and feels that relations are improving.

The United Nations declared January 27 as Holocaust Day because it was on that date in 1945 that Auschwitz was liberated. Should the Poles have their own day?

Another important project is the Children of Holocaust Survivors. As many of the survivors die, their legacy must be continued by their children. Every PAC chapter should find these children of survivors and record their stories. Buffalo has started a Polish Legacy Project and members have interviewed on tape thirteen Gulag survivors.

A questions and comments period followed Chairman Milewski’s report.

President Spula said that he has been seeing a marked increase in anti-Polonism linked with Poland and the Poles during World War II.

Other comments called for outbursts of anti-Polonism to be redressed before an audience of the same size that heard and/or saw the anti-Polish slur. It means little to have a sitcom producer agree not to rebroadcast a slur or falsehood after it has already been seen on television by millions of viewers. The damage is already done. The damage needs to be repaired in the same way it was perpetrated.

Others were baffled that Milewski did not link the increase in anti-Polonism based on World War II issues with the Holocaust Industry’s ongoing campaign to persuade American public opinion that Poland should enact legislation on restitution/compensation of World War II era private property. Cynics point out that if Poland does enact restitution/compensation legislation, then the anti-Polish campaign will stop in America and perhaps we will hear comments on television that Poles are intelligent after they paid for crimes against private property perpetrated by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union on conquered Polish territory. Anti-Polonism today is all about the Holocaust Industry’s attempt to extract money from Poland. It is not about some journalists who have faulty knowledge about history or geography. The fact that Polish Christians were victims of

German Nazi brutishness does not inhibit the Holocaust Industry from using the United States Government to bully Poland into paying unwarranted reparations.

**Day 2**

After a hearty breakfast the 61 national directors (and some guests) reassembled to continue the meeting. This was declared to be the largest number of attendees in recent years. There are 119 National Directors, and fifty percent of them constitute a quorum.

**Treasurer’s Report.**

The PAC needs more money if it is to be an effective political force. Expenses are kept at a minimum. None of the officers are paid, and all travel is done at their own expense. The offices in Chicago and Washington must be maintained and this includes paying salaries for staff, and rents for office space. Donations to PAC charities are tax deductible, but not contributions to the PAC. Members of the PAC from Utica, New York presented a check for \$1600 to the PAC.

**Reports from other officers**

*VP American Affairs - Anthony Bajdek* once again urged members to make the Polish presence felt in their state legislatures.

*VP Polish Affairs Bożena Kamiński* once again stressed the importance of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IPN.

*President Frank Spula* reported the success of last November’s Symposium at Northeastern University. The event was recorded and sixteen discs were made and will be available for purchase.

His big question was, “Where are we going now?” There is a need to revitalize. People come to a meeting to get something out of it. Although there are 10,000,000 Poles in the U.S., there are few representatives. Poles should talk about the present and the good we do. We need to promote Polish Heritage Month, build bridges, attract youth, and reach out to other groups. We need to embrace the technology of today and use Face Book and text messages. Poles need to unite under the PAC and bring the generations together.

**Election**

At this point there were 65 delegates present and eligible to vote.

The slate for nomination of officers was presented. Only one office was contested – Vice President for Polish Affairs. The nominees were: Bożena Kamiński, Andrzej Burghardt (New Jersey Division), Ted Mirecki (Washington Metro Division), and Wojciech Siemaszkiewicz (Northern New Jersey Division). All were given time to speak about themselves. Burghardt and Siemaszkiewicz both withdrew their candidacies and asked their supporters to vote for Ted Mirecki. After the votes were counted (during lunch), the winner was Bożena Kamiński (37 votes); Ted Mirecki (28 votes).

The other officers elected in uncontested elections were: President – Frank Spula, First Vice President- Virginia Sikora (who also serves as president of the Polish Women's Alliance of America with its headquarters in Chicago), VP American Agenda – Anthony Bajdek, VP for Culture – Debbie Majka, Public Relations – Suzanne Lotarski (Washington Metro Division), Membership Director - Rick Mazola (Western New York), Financial Development – Paul Sosnowski (Polish - Slavic Credit Union – Philadelphia), Secretary – Tim Kuźma (Polish Falcons, Pittsburgh), and Treasurer – Robert Maycan (Illinois).

**Luncheon Speaker**

After a Chicago Food lunch, President Spula invited an inspirational speaker to lift the spirits of the group. Dorothy Brown, Clerk of Cook County, told of her struggles to get elected in Chicago and defy the political “machine.” She can relate the struggles of PolAms to those of African-Americans. Born in Louisiana, her parents encouraged all of their children to work hard, aim for high goals, and believe in the American Dream. She graduated Number One from her college and secured her first job with Con West Edison (not her ultimate goal). She then passed her CPA exam and got her Master’s Degree. At age 38 she entered Law School. When she asked her mother if she should go to law school, her mother answered, “In four years you will be 42 – with a law degree or without a law degree.”

Now Ms. Brown was qualified and ready to run for office. She ran for the Chicago City Treasurer and lost. Not deterred, she then ran for Clerk of the Court and won. She was judged by the “content of her character - not by the color of her skin.”

All were inspired by this speech!

**Conclusion**

Frank Kosowicz (Southern California) told of his more than 21 years of work with the Committee for “Aid to Poles in the Former USSR.” He worked diligently raising funds (over \$600,000), and delivering supplies and 600 computers to Lithuania (where there are 120 Polish schools), Latvia, Russia, Belarus, and the Ukraine. Unfortunately, he is no longer able to continue this work and is dissolving the committee.

An Ethics Committee was appointed by President Spula. The Chairman is Mr. Joseph Kos, President of the Western Massachusetts Division, and one of the members of the Ethics Committee is Edmund Lewandowski (Northern California Division). One of the tasks of the Ethics Committee is to suggest ways to proceed with lustration of Polish American organizations including the Polish American Congress. Lustration is the effort to remove from positions of responsibility in Polish government and society and from positions of trust in Polish organizations abroad, like the Polish American Congress for example, those who were involved with the security services of the former Polish People's Republic, or any other Communist ruled country.

The meeting adjourned!

**Polish American Congress Cultural Foundation (PACCF)**

PAC National Directors expressed strong curiosity about this organization, and stayed for more information. The PACCF is a separate entity of the PAC. It originated in 1971. One of their main projects is to give scholarships. In 2007 they were appointed to administer the Górecki Scholarship. Officers are elected and must be PAC members. \$30,000 was given to Carritas and Sandomierz. More information may be found on PACCF.org.

*Betsy Czepielik provided information to this article* □

**Jan****Concrete Contractor - Residential or Commercial - 40 years experience**

Concrete Driveways, Patios, Stamp Concrete, Brick, Stone, Flagstone, Remodel Sidewalks, Curbs Retaining walls, Block walls, swimming pools, Waterfalls, Pool decks

Contractor License # 501466

**(818) 362-4662 or 378-6121 ©**

*Mówimy po polsku*