

ANN ARBOR POLONIA ASSOCIATION

New Logo Needed
see details below

Issue 1 (145)

July 2018

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held on June 24, 2018. Some important changes to our organization were finalized at that time.

Most importantly, attendance was encouraging, with members taking time out of their busy summer to come participate in discussion and guidance for the Executive Board. Thank you so much.

Quorum was met, and, with 79% of membership voting, the motion passed (29 yeas, 2 nays, 2 abstentions) to change the name of the organization from “Polish American Congress - Ann Arbor Chapter” to “**Ann Arbor Polonia Association (AAPA)**.”

The Executive Board has begun to implement this action and name certification is complete with the State of Michigan. An email will be sent to membership once confirmations are received from all businesses and partner organizations. Please make sure you note the new email for the organization – poloniaannarbor@gmail.com. Attached are the President’s and Treasurer’s reports as presented at the Annual Meeting.

Other action taken at the meeting was the election of a new Executive Board for a one-year term which expires at the next annual meeting (to be held in 2019). The vote was unanimous.



The Executive Board for 2018-2019: President Anna Bielińska, Treasurer Inka Kryczek, Community Advisor Krystyna Bobowska, VP/Secretary Amy Olszewski. (Not pictured: Community Advisor Barbara Walkowc)

Thank you to the outgoing board member Wanda Walasek and Barbara Alvarez, who have tirelessly served the organization for the last few years.

Thank you also to Małgosia Myc, Assistant Director for Reference and Academic Programs, Bentley Historical Library. She presented a selection of historical papers from the organization archives of Ann Arbor Chapter.

PICNIC! August 19th!

When: Sunday, August 19, 2018

Gather: 2:00 p.m.

Where: Central Shelter, Dexter Huron Metropark, 6535 Huron River Drive, Dexter, MI 48130 ([Map](#))

Truly the best way to wrap up your summer, this social event is a great kickoff to the school year and a chance to reconnect with friends. We will once again be located right on the Huron River!



Bring:

- Dish to pass (potluck)
- Your favorite beverage
- Cash to enter park (\$10) with some extra for the gift basket raffle
- Your favorite outside games

AAPA provides:

- Grilled kielbasa
- Soft drinks
- Tableware
- A gift basket to raffle!

SAFETY FIRST! For children - be aware that the Huron River has a rocky bottom, a steady current and supervision will be required.



Ognisko September 29-30th!

Save the date for Ognisko (Bonfire).

Begins: Saturday, September 29, 2018

Bonfire begins: 4:00 p.m.

Where: WINDIGO Frontier Cabin, Brighton Recreation Area, 6360 Chilson Rd, Howell, MI 48843 ([Map PARK in HOWELL](#)) ([Map Windigo Cabin](#))

Overnight? The Windigo Cabin sleeps 8 so you can sleep and leave on Sunday.

Interested? Please email for details poloniaannarbor@gmail.com.

On Saturday, before the bonfire, everyone is welcome to join us for a walk around Bishop Lake and in the beautiful woods. The bonfire will start at 4pm.

Please let us know if you can help haul firewood from the Ann Arbor area.

Ognisko (cont.)



The Bonfire is a potluck event - bring food and drinks to share. Don't forget about guitars and other musical instruments. We are known to break into song around the fire!

Upcoming Events

August 19: Picnic (see article)

September 9: Polish Mass, 6pm, St. Francis of Assisi Church, lower chapel

September 29: Ognisko (see article)

We Need You...



**...to Help Design
a New Logo**

With a new name, comes the need for a new logo! Please submit your logo design ideas by **September 15, 2018**.

Please follow these basic design requests:

1. Simpler is better. The logo will be made larger or smaller based on needs (think newsletter heading, letterheads, website, etc.). Use basic colors.
2. You can draw the logo and take a picture. Don't worry about being a computer expert. We are interested in your ideas.
3. Be creative and try to speak to who we are!

Thanks so much for helping us move forward with a new look in 2019!

Contact us

President: Ania Bielińska
Vice-President/Secretary: Amy Olszewski
Treasurer: Inka Kryczek

Community Advisors:
Krystyna Bobowska
Barbara Walkowc

Ann Arbor Polonia Association
P.O. Box 130763
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poloniaannarbor@gmail.com
Check us out on FaceBook!

President's Report,
Anna Bielinska
Annual Meeting of PAC Ann Arbor Chapter
Bentley Historical Library
June 24th/2018

Dear Members and Friends,

As every year the President of our Polonia organization – the PAC AA Chapter is presenting the annual report from the activities of the Board and the organization. Our organization serves the Polish American community in AA and vicinity, as well as plays an important role in contacts with other Polish groups, informs "what's going on" around Metro Detroit and spreads the information about Polish events, actions and culture.

1. Our annual events

The **Summer Picnic in August and the Bonfire** at the beginning of the fall in September were very successful. Both events were attended by many participants, members, guests and broad variety of people from Polish community of Ann Arbor and vicinity. As usual, it was a great pleasure to see so many young families with children, even though most of them are not the members of Polish American Congress. Various relatives and friends, some visiting from Poland, as well as some new guitar players made our gathering more fun! We welcomed two new members who found us via our Website.

2. Lectures

a. In October 2017, Polish Heritage Month in Michigan, we offered a series of 3 lectures on the history of Polish Americans in Detroit and S-E Michigan presented by Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, the known historian and sociologist, who is also currently the President of the Piast Institute in Hamtramck. Unfortunately, these events did not garner great interest and were attended only by some members of the Board.

b. In the dead of winter, Feb. 22, we presented the talk and discussion: "Shifting Sands: Laws, Social Norms, and Controversies Related to the Issue of Sexual Harassment in the US and Poland". Kasia Kietlinska, the lecturer at the Oakland University in Detroit, gave the talk and mediated a lively discussion on the variety of current gender and sexual harassment issues in Poland and USA. This event was organized by PAC Ann Arbor Chapter with support of the UM Polish Student Association and was attended by over 15 people, as well as students and faculty of UM.

3. Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival

In November 2017, many members of PAC Ann Arbor Chapter were actively involved in the organization of the 24th Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival. The principal organizer – the Polish Cultural Fund, relies on the partnership with Polish American Congress Ann Arbor Chapter, Polish Language Center and other institutions to bring this important cultural event to Ann Arbor. The 3-day festival program included feature films, documentaries, and meeting and discussion with the festival guests. This year once again included a children's program with Polish films and a Polish children's book fair. As in past years, PAC AA conducted its most effective fundraising – The Bake Goods Sale. Thank you again, to all those who baked, sold

and served our delicious home-made goods to the festival audiences. Proceedings brought over \$500.

4. Wolverine Charity Ball

Again, in 2018, instead of having of a small carnival party, we supported the University of Michigan Polish Students Association in their annual Wolverine Charity Ball. Via our email lists, website and Facebook we informed, encouraged and sent invitations to our members and friends. We are happy that Polish students, many only temporarily in AA, share an interest in a variety of Polish activities with Ann Arbor Polonia. The Ball was fun and a great opportunity for members of our organization, students and guest from the Ann Arbor and vicinity to dance, enjoy each other and Polish music, and in general have a really good time at the end of Carnival! All proceeds from the ball benefited The Kosciuszko Foundation – Teaching English in Poland Program.

5. The 100 Jubilee of the Independence of Poland

2018 is the 100th Anniversary of Polish independence and reestablishment of sovereign statehood after over 120 years under Prussian, Russian and Austrian partition. We plan to celebrate the Independence by leading a series of events. We have prepared two grant applications for the financial support with the local Ann Arbor Kiwanis Organization and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago.

6. 50th Anniversary of the 1968 events in Poland

In another example of collaboration between a variety of local organizations and institutions, our Chapter joined the Polish Culture Fund, UM Copernicus Program, and the UM Library in screening of the documentary film *The Peretzniks/Perecowicze* (2009) by Slawomir Grünberg. The documentary commemorates the 50th anniversary of the March 1968 events in Poland. The film was seen by many members of Polish, Jewish and University communities.

7. Polish religious life in Ann Arbor

PAC AA Chapter helps the Polish community to carry on an over 45-year tradition of Polish Mass, which take place monthly at the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Ann Arbor during the school year.

As for the last 3 years, we celebrated the 2018 Polish Pasterka together with the St. Francis of Assisi congregation. Bishop Boyea of the Lansing Diocese presided over the liturgy (held in both Polish and English), along with other invited priests. The Polish Choir Filareci performed beautiful Polish Christmas carols as has been our tradition for over 45 years. Thanks to Basia Walkowc for preparing children for the beautiful procession in Polish folk costumes.

- At our reception in addition to guests we hosted many homeless people from Ann Arbor.
- We had so many guests that there were not enough seats, even for the Choir!

8. Support for Polish initiatives

In addition to PCF and the Polish Student Association, we strongly support the Polish Language Center of Ann Arbor, represented by our Board secretary Basia Alvarez. Our V-president Wanda Walasek and others. were personally involved with the Polish School. We

also supported organization of the very successful Polish Bilingual Day in Troy in during the Polish Heritage Month in October 2017.

9. Ms. Irena Thiel Scholarship:

- We've received 2 applications for the scholarship. Thank you, Wanda, for organizing the ad-hoc applicant review committee consisting of volunteers Krystyna Dolata, Marcin Walasek and Jadwiga Sipowska. The selected awardees' names will be announced shortly.

Thank you

As a President I would like to thank all my fellow Board Members for their dedication and hard work to make our events happen.

I would like to especially thank Wanda Walasek, who from 2013 until now (7 years!), not to mention a previously 3 years (2004-2006), served as a President and V-president of our organization. She is retiring from the Board – and I really don't know what we are going to do without her! Wanda is a great organizer and motivator and above all a great person. Another terrific person -Basia Alvarez is also leaving the Board after 4 years of being our Secretary. And this is in addition to all her work on behalf of various Polish organizations, children, films... I've always believed that Basia can do anything!

I would also like to thank Inka Kryczek, our Treasurer, for her tireless work to improve our finances and with a good spirit is keep everything together. This is in addition to so many other things happening in her life.

Thank goodness that that both our Advisors - P. Krystyna Bobowska and Basia Walkowc decided to continue in the Board. Their knowledge of our community, good advice, and the steadfast contributions help make our organization special and grounded.

Anna Bielinska
The President of PAC
Ann Arbor Chapter

2016/2017 FINANCIAL REPORT OF PAC Ann Arbor Chapter
Prepared by Ilona Kryczek

During the 2016/2017 financial period the account balance increased from 8,639.06 (4/24/2017) to \$9,969.69 (6/30/2018) with net profit \$1,330.63

Balance sheet displaying financial performance:

Income	\$ 2,403.00	
	\$ 1,550.00	Membership fees
	\$ 140.00	Premium for chapel rental
	\$ 212.00	Basket - Picnic raffle
	\$ 501.00	AAPFF Donations associated with bakes offering
Expenditures	\$ (1,072.37)	
	\$ (321.19)	Church
	\$ (113.74)	Bonfire
	\$ (41.82)	PAC Executive Board Election Meeting
	\$ (325.62)	Picnic
	\$ (250.00)	Charity: Supporting of The Polish Mission (Polish Bilingual Day)
	\$ (20.00)	Others (nonprofit registration)
Balance	\$ 1,330.63	