



Polish American Congress, Ann Arbor Chapter

"Serving Polish-American Community of Washtenaw County"

Newsletter

Issue 138

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June 2016

Report from the Annual Executive Board Election Meeting

The Annual Executive Board Election Meeting took place on April 17th 2016 at the U of M Bentley Historical Library. The first order of business were the reports on last year's activities by the PAC President Wanda Walasek, followed by the Treasurer Ilona Kryczek, reviewed by Audit Committee lead by T. Jozefiak. Both reports were accepted by the acclamation by the members of AA PAC and by the Audit Committee (Tadeusz Jozefiak and Wanda Filipiak). Following, the representative of the Election Committee Ewa Jozefiak presented candidates for the election of the 2016-2017 Executive Board of AA PAC. In the non-contested, non-secret ballot, the members of Ann Arbor Chapter this year again elected:

- Wanda Walasek - President,
- Anna Bielinska - Vice-president,
- Ilona Kryczek - Treasurer
- Barbara Alvarez - Secretary.

Mrs. Krystyna Bobowska and Barbara Walkowc will continue as Senior and Community Advisers. Congratulations!



New Executive Board: Ania Bielińska, Basia Walkowc, Inka Kryczek, Wanda Walasek, Krystyna Bobowska, Basia Alvarez

Thank you to all the members who participated in the elections!

Annual Lecture

The annual AA PAC lecture titled "Faces of the Polish Diaspora: People of Hamtramck" was presented by Dr. Anna Muller, the Frank and Mary Padzieski Endowed Professor in Polish, Polish American and Eastern European Studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Her talk was based on the ongoing historical and sociological studies and a

recent exhibit conducted in cooperation with the Museum of Emigration in Gdynia, Poland. This project documents life of the Polish community that, at the beginning of the XX century, constituted the majority of Hamtramck's population. Dr. Anna Muller and Tomasz Zerek collected interviews with representatives of the local Polonia, photographs and materials from home archives documenting the rich life of Hamtramck's Polonia throughout the 20th century. The lecture has met with a great interest and was followed by a lively discussion.

As in previous years the lecture was complemented by an exhibit of archival materials documenting the history of Polish immigrants in Michigan, prepared by AA PAC member Małgosia Myc. We deeply appreciate sharing with us the riches of the Bentley archival collections and for hosting the annual Executive Board Meeting at the Bentley Historical Library. Thank you, Małgosiu!



From the President

AA PAC Chapter continues to work for Polish-American Community of Ann Arbor and vicinity, and also maintains communication with Polish groups to keep informed "what's going on" around Metro Detroit and to spread Polish news and culture.

In addition to many AA PAC members our August picnic and the September bonfire were attended in by an unusual number of international guests. Anita Adhikary, a children's book author from Nepal, was a guest our picnic, while various relatives and friends from Poland made our bonfire gathering more celebratory and special, and definitely with more of singing!

In november the Polish Cultural Fund, in partnership with Polish American Congress Ann Arbor Chapter and Polish Language Center of Ann Arbor organized the 22nd Ann Arbor Film Festival. The festival program included 5 feature films, documentaries, and a discussion with the festival guest director Kinga Dębska. For the first time, the festival introduced two film sessions for children and an exhibit of the best Polish children books. As usual, AAPAC organized a fundraising bake sale, which turned the most successful so far and earned more than \$700.00.

Last year instead of our carnival ball, we encouraged all our members and friends to support the University of Michigan Polish Student Association by participating in their annual Wolverine Charity Ball.

For the first time we celebrated our annual Pasterka Mass together with St. Francis of Assis Parish community. Fr. Tom Wasilewski has presided over the liturgy both in English and Polish. The Choir Filareci from Troy sang Polish Christmas carols as it has been our tradition for over 30 years. Thank-you to all our members who contributed baked goods for the reception.

AAPAC supports and appreciates activity of the U of M Copernicus Endowment, the University of Michigan Polish Student Association and of course our Polish Cultural Fund. We have been promoting variety of Polish events offered by those organizations. We would also like to thank Marysia Ostafin, the Executive Director of Copernicus Program in Polish Studies, for all the efforts to bring Polish events to U of M and Ann Arbor community.

In 2015-16 the number of active members remained constant. We have recently welcomed a few new members: Marcin Szczepanski, Margaret Pałczyński-Dunbar and Jeffrey Tomaszewski. We also sadly said goodbye to Dr. Janusz Zielinski. Last summer Danusia Podgorska, a long-time PAC member especially active in PCF, has left Ann Arbor for Colorado!

We continue to help new members of our community who come to the Ann Arbor area to find houses, friends and even housekeepers

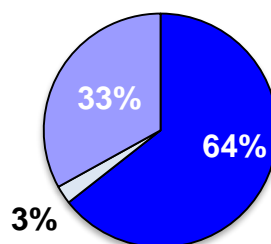
Last year we have also accomplished important step to update and formalize the legal/financial status of our organization. **The Ann Arbor Chapter of Polish American Congress is a registered non-profit organization, EIN 47-4408220, JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. (021), Ann Arbor, account#73168577**

.As a President I would like to thank all Board Members for their hard work to make our events happen. A special thanks go to Basia Walkowc, our Community Adviser, and her husband Janusz, for their dedication to make our events look pretty and very special.

Treasurer's Report: 2015-2016

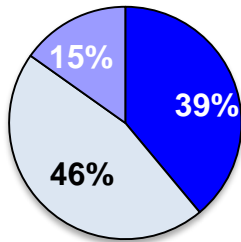
Total financial assets of AAPAC in fiscal year 2015/2016 are **\$7,554.60** including yearly increase of \$954.02

Revenue



- Składki członkowskie (Membership Fees)
- Licytacja na pikniku (Picnic Auction)
- Sprzedaż ciast na festiwalu (AAPFF Bake Sale)

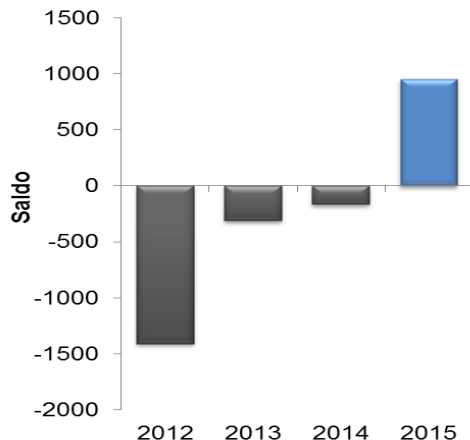
Expenditures



- Organizacja spotkań (Meetings)
- Wydarzenia religijne (Religious events)
- Inne wydatki, w tym strukturalne (Other expenses)

Considering limited sources of income and to ensure financial survival, since 2011 expenses of AA PAC were gradually limited to basic expenditures. This year Chapter has not organized the Carnival Ball and a relief action for children in Poland. Moreover, PAC reduced contributions to the Michigan chapter, as well as spending on Picnic and Bonfire. The membership fees in 2015 was raised from \$ 30 to \$ 35. We would like kindly remind that the membership contribution is based on the individual assessment.

Revenue in last 4 years



Wianki!!

We would like to thank Basia and Janusz Walkowc for the beautiful tradition of inviting members of our community to enjoy “Wianki Swietojanski” on their property over Raisin River in Dundee, MI. This year attended over 40 people including a lot of kids!



“Panny Swietojanki”

Fr. Tom Wasilewski

We just learned that Polish priest, Fr. Tomasz Wasilewski, who recently presided over our monthly Polish Mass has left for some necessary rest and

healing and to care for some on-going health issues. As we say farewell to Fr. Tom and thank him for his ministry we wish him every blessing in the years ahead.

If you would like to write Fr. Tom a card or note, please send it to the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Office [2150 Frieze Ave. Ann Arbor, MI. 48104] and your well wishes will be forward to him. In the June19 parish newsletter Fr. Tom wrote: "Offering Mass in my native Polish language on occasion was also a challenge and blessing ".

Membership Dues

The membership year starts with the Executive Board elections in May. The annual dues of \$35 could be paid at the meeting or by mailing a check to PAC AA, PO Box 130763, Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0763. Please remember to renew your membership as this is the main source of funding for our activities!

Upcoming Events

Annual Picnic

Time: Sunday, August 14/2016 @ 2pm

Place: Central Shelter, Dexter Huron Metropark, 6535 Huron River Drive, Dexter, MI 48130

As usually our picnic is a potluck event, so please bring a dish and a beverage to

share. Sausages, soft drinks and tableware will be provided by AA PAC

We excited to introduce the silent auction during this year picnic. You can win the "mystery basket" by purchasing 1\$ ruffle ticket (or 6 for 5\$). Please join this fundraising, because its proceeds will help finance various activities of our organization.

Also, be prepared for a Metropark 10\$ entrance fee (1 car, cash only).

Bonfire / Ognisko

Time: Saturday, September 24th @ 4pm

Place: MIGIZI Frontier Cabin, Brighton Recreation Area, 6360 Chilson Rd, Howell, MI 48843

The cabin sleeps 20 and is rented for an overnight stay rom Saturday till Sunday. If you would like to spend the night there, please contact us at pac.ann.arbor@gmail.com. On Saturday, before the bonfire, everyone is welcome to join around 12 noon for a walk around the lake. The bonfire will start at 4pm. Participants please bring food, sausages and various drinks to share.

Our thanks to Adam Filipiak for generous yearly donation of firewood.

Contact Us

Whenever you have a question, comment or complaint, please contact us:

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