



PACT'22 - Meeting #38

Thursday, December 29, 2022 3 – 6:09 PM ET

Participated: Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jim, Jola, Krzysiek, Zbyszek.

BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR
I wish you perseverance in overcoming difficulties

What has happened since our last meeting?

- Andrzej Jola, Krzysiek, Renata and Zbyszek met on Tuesday evening and worked on improving the script for the meeting with the General Consul, Dr. Paweł Zyzak and Honorary Consul, Ryszard Walawender which will take place in January.
- One of Jola's sons started reading "Kaz...". So far no one has done it.
- Gienek received links to the meeting in Warsaw on retirement organized by the Coalition of Polish Americans (CPA) in October

We talked about:

- Visiting US National Parks. Edmund was asked by Zbyszek to tell us more about his trip and to send photos from the trip on a platform where we could view them.
- State of Texas. We learned a lot from Jim about the only state that once was an independent country that joined the US. Texas is the 8th largest economy in the world with the population of just 30 million. It has an interesting part-time legislature that meets every two years to vote on the budget. Only the Governor works full-time, members of the house and senate have to work to support themselves which makes them more sensitive to the common people (they get only \$600 per month from the state). Only 3 other states have a similar system: Montana, Nevada and North Dakota.
- How to reach young people to convince them to read Dr. Bogdan Kotnis's book.
- Meeting in Warsaw on the calculation of pension. Gienek analyzed the meeting and shared his opinion with us. It seems that there was no planning and agreement with Ordo Iuris as to what expectations of Polonia: A. there was not a single question as to why CPA did not receive a reply to its letter sent in February. B. instead of asking why the Polish law which allows pensioners to choose their preferred method of calculation, is not respected. Instead, Mr. Jerzy Kwaśniewski asked to put pressure on American legislators to repeal the WEP. It is funny because the purpose of this meeting should be to put pressure on Polish officials and lawyers to comply with Polish law.
- A key goal of the meeting with Consuls and the proposed list of participants. The goal and participants were generally accepted. Krzysiek proposed to exclude members of one of organizations Only Zbyszek agreed with his reasoning. No decision has been made on how to resolve this impasse.

Following decisions were made:

- Jola proposed and all agreed to write another letter to minister Anna Schmidt retirement calculations in Poland. This time, not only the CPA should sign but also several organizations.
- Gienek asked Andrzej to remind the CPA President about the promised meeting on pensions received by immigrants.
- Gienek suggested not to give up, after our efforts failed, but to think about a plan to deal with WEP.

Next meeting: PAC_IDC'23 - Wednesday, January 4, at 8 PM New York Time via Skype

AGENDA: plans for the new year

zk, 12-30-22



BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

PACT'22 - Meeting #37 Thursday – December 22, 2022 3 – 6:05 PM ET

Participated:

Andrzej B., Andrzej P., Bogdan, Halina, Jacek, Jim, Jola, Krystyna, Krzysiek, Ryszard, Zbyszek.

What has happened since our last meeting?

- George Wang, Legislative Aide of Rep. Larson surprisingly could not contact a right person in Rep. Suozzi's office regarding H.Res.664 (Krystyna notified Zbyszek).

We talked about:

- The book “Kaz – war, love and betrayal”. The author, Dr. Bogdan Kotnis made an interesting presentation of his book and answered questions from participants. Bogdan asked us to buy his book on Amazon, add a comment and help him to spread the book among students, soldiers sent to Poland and West Point students.
- Polonia in Texas. Little known facts were presented by Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz. Early Polish immigrants were called Polish Negroes, as many of them replaced Blacks on cotton plantations. Last year, Jim was asked to teach Polish history in St. Thomas University in Texas. He mentioned that one of his grand, grandmothers was named Kościuszko
- Katyń Monument. Zbyszek shared with Christmas Wishes and an updated info, received from the Committee for the Protection of Katyn Monument and Historical Objects.
- Orchard Lake Schools (OLS). We started drafting possible questions that will be part of the script of the meeting with consuls one of whom is in the OLS Executive Board.
- Training of Polish Police. Krystyna sent info on a bizarre anti-discrimination training organized by the Polin Museum.
- Rumors about the newly elected Rep. Santos (D3, NY –where Zbyszek lives).

Following decisions were made:

- We meet next week and work on refining the script of the meeting with Dr. Paweł Zyzak, General Consul and Consul Honorary Ryszard Walawender on matters related to OLS.
- Jola will ensure that the meeting with consuls takes place via internet and reps of some Polish American organizations will be able to participate in it.
- We will work to spread the word about the book “Kaz...” after we first read it.

Next meeting: PACT'22 Thursday, December 29, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype

AGENDA: working on the script of the meeting with the archbishop + plans for next year



PACT'22 - Meeting #36

Thursday – December 15, 2022 3 – 5:59 PM ET

Participated:

Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Jola, Krystyna, Krzysiek,
Tomek, Zbyszek.

What has happened since our last meeting?

- The Coalition of Polish Americans (CPA) plans to hear from various people about Orchard Lake Schools (OLS) before deciding how the Coalition can get involved.
- Archbishop Vigneron of Detroit accepted the request for an audience.
- A meeting with Dr. Paweł Zyzak, Consul General and Ryszard Walawender, Honorary Consul was scheduled for January.
- Jola convinced 2 organizations and Zbyszek 9, to sign Krzysiek Gajda's letter to Archbishop Vigneron not to eliminate the Seminary from OLS.
- Jim Lawicki, President of PAC, Western New York Division sent an info about a historical adventure novel *Kaz* (about General Kazimierz Pulaski).

We talked about:

- Visiting US National Parks - 20, 000 km drive. Edmund finally took the time to tell us a few details about his dream trip.
- Officials and laws in Poland. Examples how they can make the life difficult were presented.
- The author dr. Bogdan Kotnis and his book about Gen. Pulaski.
- Successor who will replace Archbp. Vigneron sometime in the next year.
- "Tu w Ameryce, czyli dobre rady dla Polaków" by Leopold Tyrmand and "Lost in translation" by Ewa Hoffman, mentioned by Krystyna.
- Scanning the most important books in OLS (Halina's suggestion).

Following decisions were made:

- Tomorrow, Krystyna will call George Wang, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Larson, asking why his boss has not yet co-sponsored H.Res.664, although he sees no problem to do so.
- We will try to meet next week and decide on the issues we will work on next year.
- Jola will read and share her opinion about the book by Dr. Bogdan Kotnis about Pulaski.

Sent by Krzysiek Gajda: by Marek Chodakiewicz

„Miejsce Polski na świecie. Czy Polska może znów być wielką ideą wolności”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WHrHcTG1yM>

Next meeting: PACT'22 Thursday, December 22, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype

AGENDA: working on the script of the meeting with the archbishop + plans for next year

zk, 12-16-22



PACT'22 - Meeting #35

Thursday – December 1, 2022 3 – 6:36 PM ET

Participated:

Andrzej, Bogusia, Gienek, Jola, Krystyna, Krzysiek, Tomek, Wojtek J.,
Wojtek M., Zbyszek.

What has happened since last our meeting before Thanksgiving week?

- On Monday (11/21/2022) we met with Rep. John Larson at noon. Instead of half an hour, we talked for an hour and a half. WEP and H.Res.664 were main topics. The meeting was arranged by Dr. Krystyna Zamorska.
- Nov. 4 was Thanksgiving, so we did not have our regular Thursday meeting. I hope that all PACT'19 activists and supporters spent this time in a special way.
- Gienek met the Consul General of Polish Republic and talked about retirement calculations in Poland and our efforts in this matter, also about support re H.Res.664.

We talked about:

- The Katyn Monument: >the trial will begin in April, said Wojtek J., President of PASI > what was achieved through negotiations with Jersey City councilors, reported by Bogna Huan and Wojtek Mazur, President and Vice President of Committee Conservation Of Katyn Monument And Historic Objects. After their presentation there was a Q/A session. Their efforts seem to be paying off. Everyone was grateful for their achievements so far and wished them good luck in their further struggle,
- The Jewish Federation of North New Jersey was informed by Krystyna about the problems with the Katyn Monument.
- Meeting with Rep. John Larson.
- WEP. Gienek invented a fairer method of applying WEP and presented it to us.
- Orchard Lake Schools (OLS): > who else we should invite to the Coordination Team and when and at what time we should schedule the 2nd meeting of this group. The request for an audience with the Archbishop prepared by the Coalition of Polish Americans was mentioned. > two CPA special meetings on OLS were discussed. Jola told us that she did not believe that Archbishop Vigneron wanted to close the Seminary.
- Social Security calculations are based on 35 years of work if one has worked less, those years are taken into account as 0 which in effect lowers Soc. Sec., Gienek explained to us.

Following decisions were made:

- Gienek will send his proposal of a new approach to WEP; whose Soc, Sec, recipients should be omitted from WEP.
- Krystyna will contact George Wang, Legislative Assistant of Rep. Larson, regarding H.Res.664 and will present the proposal prepared by Gienek re WEP.

Next meeting: PAC_IDC'22 Wednesday December 7, at 8 PM New York Time via Skype
AGENDA (proposal): reading this report + current events

zk, 12-03-22

PACT'22 - Meeting #34 Thursday – November 17, 2022 3 – 7:21 PM ET
Participated: Andrzej, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Jola, Krystyna, Krzysiek, Tomek, Zbyszek.

Monday Nov. 14th a few of us worked on the script. **On Thursday, we talked about:**

- What and who will talk during the meeting with Rep. John Larson.
- Gienek's proposal to exclude from WEP those whose Soc Sec. is less than \$1024.
- The expected meeting between Gienek and Pawel Zyzak, General Consul of RP.
- Unawareness in Poland regarding education in the USA.
- 300 Holocaust Education Centers.

Following decisions were made:

- 4 of us will meet tomorrow (Friday) and refine the script for the meeting w/Rep. Larson.
- We should talk to Republicans in the Poland Caucus

Next meeting: PACT'22 Thursday – December 1, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype
AGENDA (proposal): current events + summarization of 2022 + plans for next year.

zk, 11-15-22

a guide prepared for a meeting with Rep. John Larson

Rep's or Krystyna introduction.

[Dr. KZ] We appreciate this opportunity to meet with you personally and to bring to your attention the interests of Polish Americans. We work and hold offices within several organizations, such as the Polish American Congress, Coalition of Polish Americans, Polish American Council of Texas and Polish American Strategic Initiative, living in states such as CT, IL, TX, NY, NJ, MO, CA and DC. We have two issues which we would like to bring up today:

- a. Profoundly unjust impact of WEP on Polish (and other immigrant) retirees;
- b. Co-sponsoring of H.Res.664 in the context of the current geopolitical developments.

[AB] We often hear heart-breaking stories from people whose retirement benefits are heavily affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). For example, if the retirement benefit (AIME) is \$1,024, then the WEP deduction is \$512 (50%), which is the case with most Polish immigrants. As you are probably aware, WEP deduction places them below the poverty level, and they usually have to rely on other government assistance programs, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Presentation of an example. Will the Congressional Majority Leadership allow to vote in the House on H.R.82 and end of this injustice in this year?

[after Rep's reply, continuation by AB] We are appalled to see that HR.82 once had 211 Democrats co-sponsoring, and now its Discharge Petition 117-17 has not a single Democrat supporting it. Would you comment on this? Would you sign 117-17? What can be done to obtain bipartisan support on this issue?

[Richard] As Polish Americans, we are interested in issues affecting the United States as well as Poland. The lack of knowledge and distortions created in the cold war era continue to negatively affect the public perception of Poland even today. As you are aware, H.Res.664 "Commemorating the anniversary of the invasion of Poland and recognizing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Poland" has been introduced almost two years ago. Present geopolitical situation underscores its importance, yet not a single member of the Poland Caucus has co-sponsored it. As a member of the Poland Caucus, would you enlist as a co-sponsor and encourage other members of the Caucus to do the same?

Ending the meeting:

[Dr. KZ] we were very pleased to be able to present our concerns. Congratulation on your reelection. We look forward to establishing a two-way communication channel with your office.

Participated:

Andrzej, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Jim, Jola, Krystyna, Krzysiek, Mariusz, Tomek, Zbyszek.

What has happened since last week's meeting on Thursday?

- Last Sunday (Nov. 6), there was an online meeting on OLS by concerned PACT'22 members. A Coordination Team was created whose task will be to come up with projects and coordinate their implementation.
- Krysia received a message from the office of Rep. John Larson - they are ready to meet with representatives of Polonia on Monday Nov. 21st at noon.
- Richard received an email from Mikołaj Rej regarding his running in next year's PAC elections for another position he currently holds .
- Gienek will have two opportunities to meet and talk to Mr. Paweł Zyzak, the new Polish Consul in Chicago.
- The US mid-term election were held last Tuesday (Nov. 8).

We talked about:

- How can we help Krzysiek Gajda collect signatures for a letter to Archbishop Allen Vigneron, his organization prepared with a request not to remove the Seminar from OLS.
- Results of midterm elections and voting methods.
- Meeting with Rep. Larson – who should we invite and what we can tell him.
- What we want to communicate to Consul Zyzak.

Following decisions were made:

- To send a suggestion to CPA management to discuss its Board's participation in "opłatek" in the OLS in December.
- To invite representatives of Polonia, willing to meet Congressman Larson, on Monday, November 14 at 8 PM. Also, we must update the script we prepared a few weeks ago.
- To inform the General Consul of RP, Paweł Zyzak about the lack of response to the letter re the calculation of the retirement pension entitling to the application of WEP. The letter was sent to Minister Anna Schmidt in February. Gienek could also refer to the opinion of Minister Dziedziczak that Polonia is in a conflict which indicates that he does not know about the PACT initiative.
- To continue contacting the Poland Caucus and persuading congressmen to co-sponsor H.Res.664.

Next meeting: PACT'22 Thursday – November 17, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype
AGENDA (proposal): reading this report and preparing for meeting with Rep. John Larson.

zk, 11-12-22

excerpt of an email from Prof. Bajdek's (sent 11/15/2022 on ND_Forum):

Both of New Hampshire's two Democrat members of the United States House of Representatives signed on as co-sponsors of H. Res. 664. The fact that the entire Polish American Congress could only attract 10 co-sponsors for what should have been a "no brainer" piece of purely commemorative legislation, is not only unfortunate but also disgraceful.

Anthony J. Bajdek, President / Founder
Polish American Congress of New Hampshire

Link to cosponsors of H.Res.664:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-resolution/664/cosponsors>

PACT'22 - Meeting #32 Thursday – October 27, 2022 3 – 6:11 PM ET
Participated: Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Jola, Krystyna, Krzysiek, Mariusz, Ryszard, Tomek, Zbyszek. This meeting was recorded.

What has happened since last week's meeting on Thursday?

- Andrzej volunteered to be an observer during the upcoming US elections.
- Edmund just returned to Poland after traveling in the US for several weeks. To share his story, he needs some time to recover from this grueling journey.
- Andrzej described the progress of work around the Katyn Monument: the apron was removed by a pneumatic hammer attached to a heavy machine, The monument was not protected in any way.
- Zbyszek participated in 3 meetings during one day (Oct.25): he talked with Dr. Mark Pienkos, about the next PAC election, with Andrzej and Krzysiek worked via Skype on a letter to OLS Regents explaining why the CPA decided not to organize its annual meeting in OLS, the 3rd meeting was organized by Krzysztof Gajda from Texas via Zoom re a petition to Archbishop of Detroit with a request to maintain the status for the Seminary as open (not to eliminate it from OLS) and the idea of organizing a meeting of Polonia activists was proposed and discussed. The last meeting was attended, among others, by Waldemar Biniecki, the publisher of Kurier Polski. The meeting ended after midnight

We talked about:

- What are the chances with H.R.82 and H.Res.664 to be accepted and what are the further plans. The end of 117th session of Congress ends on December 16, Gienek reminded.
- Searching for anti-Semitic incidents. Krysia: the main reason seems to be the popularity of the slogan "Black Lives Matter" which dominates the public narrative
- An action in PAC to obtain donations of \$100. Ryszard found that 32 people had donated.
- "History stop". Krysia mentioned about the meeting of PAC and the Institute of National Remembrance leaders that took place in Chicago.
- Current events at the Polish American Museum: an exhibition of paintings and a lecture about the first Polish student at the West Point Academy, were presented by Ryszard.
- "Task Force to combat anti-Semitism". Ryszard told us about the formation of a new group by Long Island County Leaders. The task force will consist of six legislators — three Republicans and three Democrats — as well as the county executive or his designee. The legislators will then pick five community leaders to also be on the task force, based on their expertise and background in opposing antisemitism.

Following decisions were made:

- Ryszard will contact Mr. Mikołaj Rej and ask him if he would be interested in running for VP for Polish Affairs in next year elections in the PAC.
- Andrzej will continue to try to convince Mr. Antoni Wnękowicz to participate in the PAC elections. So far, no one we know is interested in running.
- Krysia will investigate who runs the National Museum of WWII in Texas.
- Zbyszek will call his congressman's office to ask if representatives have to wait for the days when the congress will be open to get their names on the documents and will ask why we have problems finding sponsors for H.Res.664, also will ask Rep. Suozzi to become a co-sponsor of H.Res. 1367 which will force a vote on H.R.82 (this law will repeal WEP & GPO).

Next meeting: PAC-IDC Wednesday – November 2, at 8 PM New York Time via Skype
AGENDA (proposal): OLS, H.Res.664, H.Res. 1367 (H.R.82), Katyń Monument

zk, 11-01-22

Participated: Andrzej, Gienek, Jacek, Jola, Jurek, Krystyna, Krzysiek, Mariusz, Tomek, Zbyszek
This meeting was recorded.

What has happened since last week's meeting on Thursday?

- Krystyna attended the annual local panel of Social Studies (admission: \$70). Participation was reserved for members of the Connecticut Social Studies Council (\$10-20 dues). 4-5 lectures, 50 min each, were held in several rooms
- News from the just completed, annual PAC ND meeting in Chicago: Mr. Spula is nearing the end of his term (as of the revised By-Laws), so he will not be able to run in next year's elections and Mrs. Bozena Kaminski announced that she would not run for re-election. Zbyszek is not liked by PAC leaders because "he has a bad approach to getting things done". H.Res.664 was criticized for containing the word "genocide".
- Reminder: On Monday September 19, 2022, H.Res.1367 was introduced for the purpose of filing a Discharge Petition. The resolution creates a special rule to trigger a vote on H.R. 82. 218 signatures are needed but so far only Republicans (22 of them) have signed it. 2 Democrats who signed up withdrew, possibly at the request of Ms. Pelosi
- Krysia did not get any info from the Rep. Larson's office about the promised meeting regarding repealing of WEP & GPO.

We talked about:

- The Report of last week's meeting was read and some items expanded/explained.
- Director, Robert Wójcik is responsible for the internal guide for Polish officials which causes WEP to be applied for many years which significantly reduces retirement pensions. Gienek once again explained all aspects of the matter and regretted that the letter had not been read at the Conference in Warsaw. In the letter sent at the end of February everything was explained very well (Jacek had its copy with him).
- The exploitation of Jan Karski was noticed by Krysia. The play about Karski had the same supporters as the "Festiwal Mazurka Gen. Wybickiego".
- Possible candidates for next year's KPA election: Witold Łukaszewski, Mark Pienkos and Antoni Wnękowicz were mentioned.
- The CPA meeting at Orchard Lake Schools was canceled. It will be conducted via the internet. Opinions were expressed.
- Details of the arrest of Mr. Janusz Roland and its legality.
- The elections for the position of OLS chairman were announced. They will take place on October 24.

Following decisions were made:

- Andrzej will talk to Mr. Wnękowicz about his possible candidacy and Zbyszek will talk to Dr. Pienkos about his suggestions.
- Krysia suggested that our organizations help selected Polish students through travel awards to participate in the annual international 3-day meeting of the American Historical Association. This will give PAC and CPA exposure and students new experience.
- The CPA position should be announced publicly following the arrest of Mr. Roland.
- Krysia: Social Studies Councils are in every state and we should encourage CPA and PAC representatives to join them.
- Krysia once again reminded us about spreading the news in Polonia about the job opening for the Director of the Museum of WWII in New Orleans.

Next meeting: Thursday - October 27, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype

AGENDA (proposal): Reading report #31, H.Res.664, H.R.82, S.1302, Katyń Monument

zk, 10-24-22

Participated: Andrzej, Gienek, Jacek, Jola, Krystyna, Krzysiek, Mariusz, Tomek, Zbyszek

This meeting was not recorded.

What has happened since last week's meeting on Thursday?

- Gienek sent us regulations on non-for-profit organizations: they are not “owned” by the people who start it, nor their successors. These individuals operate in a position of trust and accountability for the public at large. A nonprofit cannot be sold. Without an ownership mechanism isn't possible. If operations end, the board of directors must distribute all of the assets to another 501(c)(3) after all debts have been settled.
- Jola sent us her article which appeared in the recent “Gwiazda Polarna. Janusz Roland was arrested at the event of unveiling of Gen. Haller's Monument., when the Polish Anthem was sung.
- Jacek and Zbyszek reported on the meeting with Minister Jan Dziedziczak and Director Badowski in the auditorium of the Media Center in Toruń. The event was a part of the “Festival Mazurka Wybickiego” organized on Sept. 28-30 by President of Republika Polonia, Dr. Maria Szonert Binienda . . .
- Krysia: there was an election debate between Democrat John Larson and Republican Dr. Larry Lazor, on PBS. WEP was mentioned.
- Krysia did not hear from Rep. Larson's office about the expected meeting.
- Gienek received a standard answer, unrelated to H.Res.664, from Rep. Warner.

We talked about:

- Mass closures of Catholic churches in America. Gienek: out of 170 parishes, only 80 will remain in Roman Catholic Metropolitan Archdiocese of Saint Louis. Krzysiek: only parishioners can save the church, not the hierarchy.
- Future involvement of our group: lessons for Polonia children.
- Details of the arrest of Mr. Janusz Roland.
- Meeting in Poland with officials on the proper method of calculating retirement.

Following decisions were made:

- Krystyna will attend a local Social Study panel to find out what is going on.
- Zbyszek: after finishing our involvement in lobbying, we should start working on the lessons. Krzysiek suggested “How to protect myself against anti-Polonism”, Zbyszek: “Why should I be proud of my Polish heritage”.
- All agreed that the suggestion to invite all OLS Regents should be communicated to the CPA board. As an organization not directly involved, the CPA has the potential to make a positive impact.
- Krzysiek: the video recording of the scandalous arrest of Mr. Janusz Roland should serve as a great propaganda tool showing how Polonia is being treated. Zbyszek suggested asking Edmund to post it on Facebook with a relevant comment.
- Andrzej, Krzysiek and Zbyszek should meet and prepare a script on how to appeal to members of Caucus on Poland re H.Res.664 and Democrats re H.R.82.

Recommended: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hik1mLLmQvE> (sent by Maria)

Next meeting: Thursday - October 21, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype

AGENDA (proposal):

Reading report #30, H.Res.664, H.R.82, S.1302, Katyń Monument, 2023 election in PAC

zk, 10-19-22

PACT'22 - Meeting #29

Thursday – September 29, 2022 3 – 5:53 PM ET



Participated: Andrzej, Gienek, Jola, Krystyna, Krzysiek, Tomek, Zbyszek

What has happened since last week's meeting on Thursday?

- Tomek called Rep. Marty Kaptur and was told that they knew about H.Res.664.
- Jola was informed, when she called her Rep's office on H.Res.664, that Rep. was very busy.
- Jacek participated in a Conference organized by the Coalition of Polish Americans (CPA) in Warsaw. The talks with representatives of the Ministry of Anna Schmidt concerned the methods of calculating the retirement pension in Poland, one of which makes WEP applicable to Polish immigrants. The meeting was chaired by Jerzy Kwaśniewski, Attorney-at-law, President of the Board of Ordo Iuris.
- Gienek was handing out leaflets to parishioners after a mass encouraging them to contact Rep. Nancy Pelosi about H.R.82 (Soc. Sec. Fairness Act of 2021).

We talked about:

- North Stream – attacks were mentioned.
- H.Res.664 – the results of an attempt to engage Frank Spula, President of the Polish American Congress to make an Appeal to Polonia were discussed. Only a small note appeared, additionally posted not on the weekend but on Thursday.
- The results of the Conference, the purpose of which was to enable the use of a proportional method of calculating pensions by Polish officials, was presented by Jacek. The letter sent to Minister Anna Schmidt by CPA at the end of February, on the advice of Jerzy Kwaśniewski, was not even mentioned.

Following decisions were made:

- Krystyna reminded about the discussion panel organized by the CT Association for Social Studies, during which Andrzej, hopefully, will present the issues included in the Katyn Lesson (the event will take place on October 14).
- Jola will call her Congresswoman again and will insist that a staffer deliver a message on H.Res.664 to the Legislative Aide.
- We must continue searching for members of the Polish Caucus.
Our last chance is to write letters to members of the Polish Caucus re H.Res.664 signed by PAC divisions.

Next meeting: Wednesday - October 5, at 8 PM New York Time via Skype
(Andrzej will be the host, I am still in Poland)

AGENDA (proposal):

report #29, H.Res.664, H.R.82, S.1302, Katyń Monument, PAC and Coalition meetings

(this report was prepared in Warsaw and Białystok) zk, 9-26-22

PACT'22 - Meeting #28

Thursday – September 22, 2022 3 – 6:10 PM ET

Participated: Andrzej, Gienek, Jola, Krystyna, Krzysiek, Tomek, Zbyszek

What has happened since last week's meeting on Thursday?

- The meeting of the National Directors of the Polish American Congress (PAC) was announced. It will be held in the auditorium of the Polish National Alliance (PNA) on Oct.19-20th (Wednesday, Thursday). The \$185 Registration fee includes lunch and dinner. Hotel Hayat was reserved for participants at a discounted rate.
- The anniversary of the invasion of Poland by the Soviet Union was organized by Wojciech Mazur, VP of Business Affairs of the Committee for the Conservation of the Katyn Monument & Historic Objects at the Katyń Monument in Jersey City on Sept.18 (Sunday). Andrzej was there and here is his short report: children with teachers from 4 Saturday schools were present, Sławek Plata spoke among others, over 100 people attended, a rep of the Polish Consulate, PAC-DSNY and City Council were present. The event was recorded and the ink can be found on Facebook.
- H.R.82 has 302 (210 D, 92 R) cosponsors, but was nevertheless removed from the Consensus Calendar and only the Speaker of the House can save this bill, Gienek reminded us. Of the 221 Democrats in the House, 210 are co-sponsors of H.R.82. After the debate, the bill came out of the Ways & Means Committee without a recommendation. Overall, 70% of the representatives support the bill, yet it has minimal chance of being voted because Rep. Larson refuses to support it.

We talked about:

- What students learn about history. Krystyna: there are over 300 Holocaust centers in the US. Russia does not exist in the context of WWII. In the field of history, great emphasis is now placed on "diversity, equity, inclusion" which gives us the opportunity to present our history.
- H.Res.664 - why there is no progress and what we should try now. Krzysiek accused Zbyszek of not spending enough time developing a strategy that would bring results.
- The Katyń Monument - what will happen to it and why the trial has not brought the expected results yet.

Following decisions were made:

- According to Krystyna, Andrzej could present the Katyń Lesson in a discussion panel to which she enrolled him and the Institute of National Remembrance. This event will take place on October 14th.
- We have decided that the best time to meet with Rep. Larson would be when we have our weekly meeting; on Thursday at 3 PM.
- We agreed with Krzysiek's proposal to concentrate our efforts on convincing the Polish Caucus to get involved in the action re H.Res.664. It will be a discredit and a shame for this group if it does not support us.
- Zbyszek will ask Richard to find out if the planned meeting between Rep. Marcy Kaptur and Mr. Kuzma and John Czop was held and what was its result.

Next meeting: Thursday - September 29, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype
(unless we get a message from the Rep. Larson's office)

AGENDA: Hopefully we will meet with Rep. John Larson or his assistants

(this report was prepared on the way from Cracow to Warsaw) zk, 9-26-22

PACT'22 - Meeting #27 Thursday – September 15, 2022 3 – 6:09 PM ET

Participated: Andrzej, Gienek, Jola, Jacek, Krystyna, Krzysiek, Tomek, Zbyszek

What has happened since last week's meeting on Thursday?

- Jola: At the last minute, the religious visa R1 was extended for Fr. Witek for 2 years.
- Jola sent us an article she wrote for Gwiazda Polarna as a response to the Open Letter to Polonia by the Chancellor of OLS.
- Krystyna participated in the following meetings: Local Board of Education and State BoE + Public TV State Advisory Board.
- Gienek: his PAC division persuaded 18 people to send letters to Congresswoman Ann Wagner (R-MO-2), member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee re H.Res.664. The same number of letters went to Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO-1).
- Jola: on 22 October Fr. Witek is planning a special mass to commemorate the election of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła as Pope.
- Andrzej told us about the Jersey City Council meeting on Sept. 8, at which he, John Czop, Wojtek Mazur, Marek Skulimowski and 3 others expressed their disapproval of the covering the Katyn Monument. Reminder: the law suit was filed June 24.

We talked about:

- WEP & GPO. Zbyszek updated the number of Congressmen supporting H.R.82 (299) and the number of supporters of Appeal for the repeal of WEP & GPO (over 101,000).
- How to call using the PASI website designed by Jacek and talk to the Senator's staffer re S.1302, Jacek demonstrated practically during this meeting.
- A panel discussion that will look at WWII in East Central Europe, German and Russian crimes in occupied Poland, and connections to the war in Ukraine. Krystyna signed Andrzej on: <https://ctsociastudies.org/meetinginfo.php?id=10&ts=1654542928>
- Katyn Monument. Gienek wanted to know if a demonstration is planned.

Following decisions were made:

- Andrzej will take part in the ceremony commemorating the Russian invasion on Poland. The event is organized by Wojciech Mazur at the Katyn Monument which, as we know, is fenced on 3 sides and open only from the back of the monument.
- Jola will try again to call Senators re S.1302 and her Congressman re H.Res.664.
- Jacek will print and take with him to a Conference with Polish officials in Warsaw a letter sent to Minister Anna Schmidt re calculation of retirement at the end of February. The meeting was organized by the of the Coalition of Polish Americans (CPA) branch: "Stowarzyszenie Koalicji Polonii Amerykańskiej" and will be held on Friday, 23 Sept. Jacek will suggest signatories: Dr. Stanisław Śliwowski and Leszek Pawlik (current and former President of CPA) to present the letter and asking the Minister why CPA did not receive an answer.
- Krystyna will let us know when we can meet Rep. John Larson as soon as she receives a message from his scheduler.
- Krystyna asked us to use words that politicians use today so often such as "diversity, inclusion, discrimination" in the fight for our causes.
- Thanks to Krystyna, Andrzej will take part in a Conference for CT teachers on 14 Oct.
- Andrzej asked us to follow the activities of our Congressmen on their Facebook and make occasional comments.

Next meeting: Thursday - September 22, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype

AGENDA will be sent

(this report was prepared in Cracow zk, 9-20-22)

Participated: Andrzej, Dianne, Edmund, Gienek, Jola, Jacek, Krzysiek, Ryszard, Wlodek, zk

What has happened since last week's meeting on Thursday?

- Jola: her group helps to extend Fr. Witek a religious visa R1. The Victorian-style building and garages were demolished. Message from Celina:
<https://medium.com/catholic-way-home/orchard-lake-the-school-fighting-its-history-7c7c8efb29d8>
Brief info about Orchard Lake Schools (OLS): <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=156488>
. The Executive Board (8 Regents) is the main decision maker, the rest of 24 Regents have limited power. A letter to Polonia, signed by Cancellor Steve Gross (without the date) is available on the OLS website <https://www.orchardlakeschools.com/>.
- Tomek was unable to talk to Rep. Marcy Kaptur. She did not appear during the Saturday parade commemorating the independence of Ukraine. The reason for her absence may have been the arrival of several Republican politicians at the event .

We talked about

- Wlodek corrected misinterpretation of his statement, by Zbyszek: the group that he believes has a better chance of preserving Polishness in OLS has not yet tried to cooperate with Regents, but is thinking about it. Wlodek's remarks "so as not to upset the Regents because they can do whatever they want", provoked strong reactions.
- Dianne briefed us on the fight to repeal WEP & GPO. She was impressed by the professionalism of Artur Gmurowski from the Polish Society of Texas, during the meeting with the Senator. No other ethnic group other than Polish is actively involved in the repealing of WEP. American Federation of Teachers finally joined the battle.
- The letter to Mr. Frank Spula re H.Res.664 was discussed and who should sign it.

We agreed to:

- Stop talking about OLS. Reason: the current discussions are not productive.
- Place on PACT Facebook info about what we have achieved and what we are working on. Only those who wish to join us and are approved will get links to our reports.
- Find a volunteer who will prepare a summary from our meetings for the public. Gienek who came with this idea has no time to get involved in this project.
- Contact our Senators and talk to their Legislative Aides and persuade them to co-sponsor S.1302 (Soc. Sec. Fair Act). Arguments that can be used: A. it is discrimination because in the case of Polonia, it is not a windfall (Andrzej & Krzysiek's proposal).
B. Purchasing Power of the Polish pension is minimal (Gienek's idea).
- Contact our Congressmen in DC and leave a message for Legislative Aides asking them to co-sponsor H.Res.664. We have to call every day until they will agree to do so!
We must involve the entire Polonia: <https://coalitionpa.org/2ww-resolution-2021/> or https://joinpasi.org/index.php/action_hres664/ , these websites will help in our action.
- Contact other ethnic groups to join our efforts to end WEP (Wlodek reminded us).

Recommended:

<https://player.polskieradio24.pl/antenya/pr24> about reparations (from OLS website)
<https://youtu.be/Ny01qqYCMbq> about Ewa Thompson (from Krystyna)

Next meeting: Wednesday - September 7, at 8 PM New York Time via Skype
(traditionally because it is the first Wednesday of the month)

As I will not be able to participate, I suggest that Andrzej will lead the meeting.

AGENDA will be sent

(this report was prepared in Cracow zk, 9-03-22)

Participated:

Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jola, Jacek, Krystyna, Krzysiek, Ryszard, Wlodek, Zbyszek



Apparently, I misunderstood Gienek's intentions; in reports for our group PACT, the names of participants can be mentioned, but not in reports intended for the public.

What has happened since the last meeting on Thursday a week ago?

- Last Tuesday, Andrzej, Dianne, Jacek, Jola and Tomek met via Skype. Dianne's suggestions were incorporated into the Script of the meeting with Rep. Larson.
- Krystyna maintains contact with Nancy Perry, an assistant to Rep. Larson. Nancy was surprised that WEP also affected emigrants.
- Ryszard and Tomek participated in the Zoom meeting convened by Tim Kuzma. He is now PAC's VP for American Affairs after the resignation of Tom Kolodziej.
- Tomek was awarded by the Polonia Foundation of Ohio. He had to make a speech.

We talked about

- Zbyszek read the report from last week's meeting.
- Krystyna warned that knowledge about Poland was declining. Stereotypes about Poles were born when Poland was partitioned by Austria, Prussia and Russia. She indicated sources of defamation and recommended books by Ewa Majewska Samson.
- Gienek read us the calendar of the US Congress: <https://www.foley.com/-/media/files/insights/publications/2022/01/calendar-for-the-117-congress.pdf?la=en>
- Ryszard and Tomek shared some details of the PAC meeting. 20 participants took part in it. President F. Spula and the VP for Polish Affairs who were to be co-moderators did not appear. H.R. 82, Katyn Monument, H.Res.664 were discussed. It was mentioned that H.R.82 only has a 4% chance (<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/117/hr82>).

The meeting of Tim Kuzma and John Czop with Rep. Kaptur expected on Aug. 23 was not touched upon. The PAC Convention will be held in Chicago on Oct.19.

- Two main topics of the meeting:
 - a. Krzysiek presented his proposal of an Appeal to Polonia to press their congressmen to become co-sponsors of H.Res.664.
 - b. We discussed the Script of the meeting with Rep. Larson with corrections and additions by Gienek and Dianne.

We agreed to:

- Zbyszek will add to the Script for the meeting with Rep. Larson a paragraph that was included in the letter sent to congressmen re H.R.82 and prepared by Gienek.
- Tomek is planning to meet with Rep. Kaptur this Saturday during the Ukrainian Independence Parade
- Gienek will be responsible for preparing reports from our meetings which we will be able to present to the public.

Next meeting: Thursday September 1, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype

AGENDA will be sent

zk, 8-30-22

PACT'22 - Meeting #24
Thursday – August 18, 2022 3 – 6:30 PM ET
11 Participants

I comply with the request made during the last meeting, to stop mentioning the names
of the participants.

What has happened since the last meeting on Thursday a week ago?

- A Facebook post PACT22 designed and launched by one of our members has already been viewed by 2000 people.
- The link to the PACT reports, at the request of one of the PACT participants, was removed from the PACT Facebook.
- Typos were found in the English version of the Katyń Lesson.
- Several people were called and reminded to contact their Reps re H.Res.664.

We talked about

- The report from the meeting from the week before was read.
- Some details of expected meeting with Rep. John Larson. The meeting may be announced soon and we need to prepare for it.
- Newly voted by Congress "Inflation Reduction Act".
- Orchard Lake Schools. It was again suggested not to fight with the Regents, but to be positive and expect them to change their attitude towards Polonia. The Polish Day will be held on the HS campus. The stature of Gen. Haller (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B3zef_Haller) will soon be unveiled at OLS.
- Moral ties between Polonia and OLS. Regents do not want to talk and cooperate with the Polish Lobby because this organization has no stake in OLS. Being regent can be seen as being among the cream of society and it can be the attraction to becoming one of them. The Polish Lobby has been attacked because they fight for transparency in OLS activities. Misleading accusations have recently been brought against the Polish Lobby apparently to undermine their reputation.

We agreed to:

- We will try to find solid sources that will show the use of money from the Soc. Sec. Fund for other purposes than pensions.
- An article about OLS will be sent to PACT. (It came and the link is below)
- This is our last chance to call our Representatives and ask them to co-sponsor H.Res.664. An improved alert will be prepared and we will need to distribute it widely.

Recommended:

Beginning of "Polskie Lobby":

<https://www.polishweekly.com/2021/09/z-pania-renata-fracz-przedstawicielka-grupy-polskie-lobby-rozmawia-alicja-karlic-redaktor-the-polish-weekly-tygodnik-polski/>

an article about OLS on page 10 of Gwiazda Polarna (Aug. 27, 2022)

file:///C:/Users/Zbyszek/Downloads/gp_18_22_2.pdf

Next meeting: Thursday August 25, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype
AGENDA will be sent

zk, 8-23-22

PACT'22 - Meeting #23 Thursday – August 11, 2022 3 – 7:25 PM ET

Participants: Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Jola, Mariusz P., Wladek, Tomek, Zbyszek

What has happened since the last meeting on Thursday a week ago?

- Zbyszek:
 - unsuccessfully tried to contact Fr. Piotr Rożek to obtain an answer re his candidacy for Regent at Orchard Lake Schools,
 - received from Susan Dixon, President of the State Association of California Retired Teachers the cost of the repeal of WEP & GPO (email dated Aug, 10),
 - presented his new appeal which he sent on ND_Forum re H.Res.664,
 - sent info about [Polish Online Studies at the University of St. Thomas in Houston](#) which he received from Krzysiek G,
 - presented the brochure "POLAND - WE THANK YOU" signed by Blanka Rosenstiel, Founder & President of The American Institute of Polish Culture, addressed to Holocaust survivors with a request to make donation to a new scholarship for students,
 - showed an article about the book "Resistance" by Halik Kochanski, illustrated with photos of Witold Pilecki, in the Aug. 6 issue of the Wall Street Journal,
 - together with Krzysiek and Krystyna participated in the Zoom TASK Force meeting aimed at repealing WEP-GPO. So far, the petition has been signed by 95 k people.

We talked about

- Edmund will visit the US in Sept. and Oct. to fulfill his dream of traveling around USA
- Andrzej read the report from the last Wednesday's meeting.
- Katyń Monument: what can we do now, when a fence has been erected in preparation for the implementation of landscaping plans. Has the court accepted the complaint?
- Orchard Lake Schools. Jola: A good letter of intent and resume can make a difference when applying for the position of regent. The so-called Ambassadors are expected to donate \$10 000 at a time and at least \$1000 per year. The Regents are closing the seminary library. Info about the Regents is kept secret. Wladek suggested not to fight the Regents but to try to talk to them. According to him the library will not be closed. Books are only moved temporary. He added that a Regent was some time ago removed because he had threatened other Regents. Jola explained what the real reason was. Zbyszek: OLS HS is registered as a Catholic school.

We agreed to:

- Edmund will look at Edward Reid's ad to see if it can be posted on Facebook.
- Gienek suggested that the request be resent to the Michigan Attorney General re Orchard Lake Schools for the financial statements.
- We will continue to search for candidates for Orchard Lake Schools Regents.
- Edmund reminded us that he was waiting for the PACT mission statement, to open Facebook page, that could become a source of appeals to Polonia for specific activities, such as making telephone calls to Representatives to cosponsor H.Res.664.
- Krzysiek proposed to improve the appeal on Coalition's website to contact Reps to cosponsor H.Res.664. Andrzej, Krzysiek and Zbyszek will meet and make changes.
- Wladek will send us a sample letter of intent.
- Tomek volunteered to find examples of using money from the Soc. Sec. found.
- Krzysiek: Ambassadors of OLS should ask Regents where their donations go.
- We will try to find an organization with legal standing that could file a lawsuit.
- Gienek suggested that the Conference of American Bishops be asked about the OLS financial statements.

Next meeting: Thursday August 18, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype

AGENDA will be sent

zk, 8-16-22

We had another important guest at our meeting. The meeting was partially recorded.

What has happened since the last meeting on Thursday a week ago?

- Krzysiek sent an email to the Board of Coalition of Polish Americans with a proposal to organize their annual meeting in the Orchard Lake Schools in the fall. This would help to gather a delegation to visit archbishop Vigneron and discuss the future of the Seminary in the Orchard Lake Schools.
- Zbyszek wrote another draft of the script based on what Andrzej had already prepared for the meeting with Rep. John Larson. He focused on questions based on the text of Nancy Perry, Larson's Assistant, had sent to Krystyna.
- Jacek programmed an easy way to send messages to legislators and ask them to support the repeal of WEP-GPO. Just go to the PASI website: <https://joinpasi.org/>
- Andrzej mentioned about the Zoom meeting organized by Mr. Kuzma re the Katyn Monument which he participated in. Also present were: Frank Spula, Bożena Kamińska, Łucja Cannon, John Czop.

We talked about:

- The email sent by President of the Committee for the Conservation of the Katyn Monument & Historic Objects, Wojciech Mazur. Mr. Mazur calms down Polonia; he is convinced that EPASID changed plans and everything will be ok, the Monument will not be covered, there will be no benches and there will be a front entrance. Andrzej expressed his disbelief but everyone would like Mr. Mazur to be right.
- Krzysiek shared his observations from vacation in Poland and Italy. Zbyszek asked him about the new movement "Poland is one" chaired by the President of Siemianowice, Rafał Piech. Krzysiek predicts that it will either disappear or be absorbed by one of the current parties. We found out about a young couple whom Krzysiek met at a Seminar in Italy and surprisingly moved from the USA to Hungary. They were attracted by how close interpersonal relations are there.
- Katyn Monument: what can we do now, when a fence has been erected in preparation for the implementation of landscaping plans. Has the court accepted the complaint?
- Orchard Lake Schools: Jola explained how this nonprofit corporation works and underlined that the HS is the most important to most Regents. Fr. Witek was appointed Rector of the Seminary by Archbishop Vigneron. A catholic HS does not need to file their tax return to IRS, only to their parent organization. Regents may transfer but not sell OLS real estate.

We agreed to:

- Andrzej, Krzysiek and Zbyszek will improve the script of the meeting with Rep. Larson.
- We should all strive to find candidates for Orchard Lake Schools Regents. Zbyszek will turn to Dr. Stanisław Śliwowski and Fr. Rożek. According to Wlodek following attributes are required: corporate experience, active membership in a large organization, appropriate education, good financial standing and willingness to donate.
- Zbyszek will make changes in the previous report, mainly to switch Fr. Król with Fr. Witek, as suggested by Jola.
- A delegation of representatives of Polonia organizations should visit the Archbishop of Detroit Allen Vigneron and ask only for a temporary closure of the Seminary. Jola will prepare a letter to hand over to the archbishop.

Next meeting: Wednesday August 3, at 8 PM New York Time via Skype
AGENDA will be sent

zk, 8-3-22

PACT'22 - Meeting #21 Thursday – July 21, 2022 3 – 6:43 PM ET
Participants: Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Mariusz, Tomek, Wladek, Zbyszek

We had an important guest at our meeting. The meeting was partially recorded.

What has happened since the last meeting on Thursday evening a week ago?

- Zbyszek talked with the rep. of Polish Lobby about Orchard Lake Schools (OLS).
- On Monday and Tuesday some of us met to discuss what we should say to Rep. Larson.

We talked about:

- OLS for 3 hours. The discussion deepened our knowledge of this institution and will help us take appropriate actions. We learned that 50% of all 1,200 HS students are Arab Catholics. The Archbishop did not oversee the Seminary as he should, as head of Seminary's Trustees. There was no Rector for last 5 years until Fr. Witek. The accusations led to his removal. This was one of the reasons for closing the Seminary in June 2021. False info about the suspension of recruitment in Poland, was another that convinced the Regents and Trustees to close the seminar. In Nov. 2021, this decision was revoked after corrections sent by Polish bishops. The cost of educating a priest: \$50 k a year for 5 years of study. Payment in advance by the diocese would help. Min. 15 clerics would be required. Regents can sell/give OLS to another 501c3 corporation. Biggest threat: Regents will gradually eliminate Polish organizations from OLS. Work on new amendments to By-Laws began. The lack of transparency is a fact. The historic military barracks were demolished and a new building will be erected.
- Katyń Monument: what can we do next when the fence was erected in preparation for implementing the landscaping plans. Has the court accepted our complaint?

We agreed to:

- organize a meeting of Polonia and the Archbishop of Detroit, Allen Vigneron, as suggested by Andrzej. Goal: to convince him not to eliminate but only temporary close the Seminary. Wladek will try to gather a representative group.
- contact the Attorney General for info about OLS.
- talk to Regents who are not Poles, as suggested by Andrzej.
- contact Fr. Wróbel to open a branch of KUL in OLS, as suggested Gienek.
- continue working on the script for the meeting with Rep. Larson. Zbyszek will modify Andrzej's draft based on the message Krystyna received from Nancy Perry.
- contribute (weeks ago) to a fund for the legal fight for the Katyń Monument. So far, PASI has spent \$5 k. Here it is where to send money:

Mail your check to:

PASI Educational Organization
c/o Gene Sokolowski, Ph.D.
13952 Greendale Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22191

Wire transfer to:

Bank Name: TD Bank
Account Name:
PASI Educational Organization
Account Number: 4407889687
Routing Number: 054001725



Recommended: Debate "The future of Europe" (from Zygmunt) <https://youtu.be/NYlgjCHSw6o>

Next meeting: Thursday July 28, 2022 at 3 PM New York Time via Skype
AGENDA will be sent

zk, 7- 23 -22

PACT'22 - Meeting #20 Thursday – July 14, 2022 3 – 6:53 PM ET
Participants: Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Krysia, Staszek, Wlodek, Zbyszek

This meeting was recorded, so if you wish to know all details you can; go to Skype under PACT'19 address. We began by reading the report from Wednesday's meeting.

What has happened since the last meeting on Wednesday evening a week ago?

- Jurek interviewed Zbyszek for the listeners of "Radio Rozmaitości" about lobbying for H.R.82 and H.Res.664 and how important these two are for Polonia.
- Andrzej told us about yesterday's meeting of Jersey City Board. 9 people spoke.
- Zbyszek received a letter from Mr. Spula to Jersey City Council (attached).
- Krystyna called Larson DC's office today to sponsor H.R.82 and her efforts brought unexpected results: Nancy Perry, Senior Congressman's Advisor offered Krysia to meet Mr. Larson (the email that received Krysia is attached under the report). Documents explaining Larson's legislative proposal were attached to the email.

What we learned at the meeting:

- Covid: some people catch it more than once despite being vaccinated.
Taking 4 tablets of 5 mg Desloratadine as soon as we start feel sick really works.
Get a prescription from your doctor to save money and have it at home.
- Indexing it is not easy to implement in PDF. The easiest way is to transfer to WORD.
- \$ 5.5 million was approved for landscaping of the area around the Katyń Monument.
- 2 hours we talked about OLS and its documents that Gienek carefully analyzed

What we agreed that should be done:

- We will have extra meetings to prepare for a conversation with Rep. Larson.
- We agreed on a preliminary list of participants and Zbyszek will notify them.
Additional suggestions are welcome.
- Jacek offered to call Cori Bush, MO 1. Gienek will remind him.
- Willing to make a donation to pay the lawyer, please notify Andrzej.

Next meeting: Thursday July 21, 2022 at 3 PM New York Time via Skype
AGENDA will be sent zk, 7- 19 -22

Letter FROM NANCY PERRY below:

Nice to talk to you! 1) The Congressman fully supports repeal of WEP and GPO. 2) The repeal of WEP and GPO will likely cost \$85 billion or more for the next 10 years (and so much more over 75 years which is how the Social Security Administration measures impact on Social Security Trust Funds.) **Congressman Larson cannot cosponsor HR 82 when it does not make up that revenue which will hurt the Trust Funds and hence, all beneficiaries.** 3) If there is not enough in the Trust Funds to pay benefits, the benefits will have to be cut.

Attached is information about the Congressman's bill which is going to be voted on in Committee in the next week or two and then will go to the House floor for a vote (note we will be amending the bill to change the effective dates to January 2023 because the Social Security Administration cannot implement new benefit changes in the current year.) 4) His bill not only repeals WEP and GPO, but expands and improves Social Security benefits for all beneficiaries, ensuring that beneficiaries will not retire into poverty (as millions do now.) He pays for these benefits by applying the **Federal Insurance Contribution to those earning over \$400,000.** The wealthy should pay the same rate of FICA as someone earning \$50,000. 5) It is a matter of fairness.

The Congressman would be delighted to speak to the **Polish Americans** about his position. Please let me know how to proceed to arrange that.

Thanks again for calling!

Jersey City Council
280 Grove Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302
June 28, 2022

Dear Members of the Jersey City Council,

The POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS (PAC), established in 1944, represents the interests of over ten million Polish Americans. The PAC has divisions in nineteen states, including three in New Jersey. The mission of the PAC is to advocate and campaign for legislation that strengthens the relationship between Poland and the United States, and protects the interests of Polish Americans. The Katyn Monument in Jersey City is a precious reminder for all Americans of the price that must be paid for freedom.

The PAC maintains close relationships with members of Congress, as well as legislators in State and Municipal governments. The United States and Poland have been close partners in freedom since the American and Polish revolutions of the late eighteenth century. Our shared commitment to the defense of freedom drives the PAC's policies.

The PAC strongly supports the April 26, 2022 decision of the Jersey City Planning Board NOT TO RECOMMEND plans for improvements to the Exchange Place Pedestrian Plaza proposed by the Exchange Place Alliance Special Improvement District (EPASID). I respectfully request that the members of the Jersey City Council agree with that decision of the Jersey City Planning Board, despite the fact that it was later reversed under pressure from the EPASID. Polish Americans DO NOT support the proposals of the EPASID.

Although Ms. Elizabeth Cain, Executive Director of the EPASID, recently claimed that Polish Americans support the improvement plans, her claim is based on incorrect information. Ms. Cain based her claim on her discussions with the Committee for the Conservation of the Katyń Monument & Historic Objects, a small recently organized group without mass support. These talks were later reflected in an article approved by her and published in the *Post Eagle* weekly newspaper, written by Mr. Wojciech Stan Mazur, Vice President for Business Affairs of that organization. Polish Americans oppose and protest construction at the Katyn Monument as proposed by EPASID.

Ms. Jeanne Daly, a spirited resident of Jersey City, was the recipient of the Polish American Congress New Jersey Division's OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD FOR 2018. She is an asset in maintaining the Katyń Monument in Exchange Place, and has spent years working with Mr. John Czop, Director of Policy Planning at the PAC Washington Office, who lives in New Jersey, and with Mr. Andrzej Burghardt, President of the PAC New Jersey Division.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Spula,

President

What has happened since the last meeting:

- Andrzej: on June 24, 2-count complaint was submitted to the court in New Jersey: 1. EPA-SID did not consult its plans with the public, 2. On May 10, the City Planning Board did not allow comments. Plaintiffs: Jeanne Daly, PASI, PASI-EDU. Wojtek paid Lieberman & Associates \$5 k.
- Ryszard: according to John Czop, President Spula is going to write a letter to the Jersey City Board re the Katyń Monument.
- Ryszard received a copy of Łucja's letter to the Archbishop of Detroit (attached).
- Celina shared a proposal on the role, Polonia could play in cooperation w/ Poland.
- Yesterday (Wednesday) Jeanne Daly and Andrzej were present at the meeting in the Jersey City Municipal Council at the City Hall. Andrzej read his objections to "beautification" and sent them to the municipal clerk.
- At the "Man of the year" gala, organized by Pułaski Association of Business and Professional Men held last Friday, Ryszard was awarded the title of the Man of the Century. He should be a role model for everyone, especially for the younger generation.
- At the Friday gala, Zbyszek talked with Sławek Platta, Esq about the Monument and with Fr. Piotr Rożek, chairman of Polish American Priest Association (PAPA) about Orchard Lake. Sławek argued that a law suit will be a waste of money and the only way to succeed was to alert the media and make a demonstration. Fr. Piotr: priests know about the closing of the Seminary. The lack of clerics should force us to invent something new, to keep OLS Polish.
- Halina & Zbyszek went to Philadelphia for a wedding for the weekend and managed to visit the interesting Tadeusz Kościuszko Museum in the house where he was staying. The photos are under previous report. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/getaway-thko.htm>

What we learned at the meeting:

- Andrzej warned about Alicja Woźniak who appears to be an operative who destroys Polish American org. for example the Clark Polish Cultural Foundation in NJ.
- Gienek presented his discovery that Orchard Lake Schools (OLS) is a child of the parent organization, the Conference of Catholic Bishops. Thanks to them OLS has the status of 501c3 and is obliged to send annual reports to its parent organization. All non-profit organizations have been called private organizations since the 60's.
- Wladek: the Regents rule OLS and they can suspend the Seminary but can't remove it.
- Wladek: over 100 seminars in the USA have been closed. If we want this place to be Polish, Polonia should support the events organized there, not ignore them and should stop fighting the Regents.
- Edmund: a bill becomes the law without the President's signature 10 days after it is passed by Congress.
- Zbyszek shared what happened at the WEP/GPO Task Force meeting on Monday.
- The new initiative. "Polska Jest Jedna" (PJJ) was born 9 months ago <https://fb.watch/dVMoGMF5Q4/>
- Krystyna listened to lectures at the Ronin (ownerless samurai) Club in Warsaw about Ukraine and in the 2nd part about Russia: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gxg9HKdvqs4>

What we agreed that should be done:

- Gienek proposed to write a letter, to the Conference of Catholic Bishops to obtain By-laws and other OLS documents. The PAC should be asked to send such a request.
- Halina suggested contacting the chairman of the Katyń Committee, Krzysztof Nowak and asking him to organize a demonstration against the EPA-SID plans.
- Edmund argued to concentrate on Rep. Larson to release H.R.82 from his committee.

an email received from Celina: Piotr Winnicki, działacz polonijny i biznesmen mieszkający w Berlinie, organizator wielu Forum Gospodarczych min. Kongres 60 milionów – jego propozycja.

Czy Polonia Gospodarcza może być kołem zamachowym rozwoju Polski.

Poza Polska żyje ponad 20 milionów Polaków i osób przyznających się do polskiego pochodzenia.

Polacy są na 4 miejscu wśród najliczniejszych emigracji świata. Jak wykorzystać ten ogromny potencjał dla rozwoju Polski? Dokonajmy to czego dokonały najważniejsze diaspory emigrantów w USA:

- Chińczycy: Diaspora chińska doprowadziła do stworzenia w Chinach największego miejsca produkcji wszelkich dóbr, w tym zaawansowanych technologii.
 - Hindusi: Diaspora hinduska doprowadziła do niespotykanego transferu technologii do Indii.
 - Izrael: Diaspora izraelska przeniosła poprzez powroty do własnego kraju istotne centra technologii.
- Spółeczna spontaniczna aktywność środowisk Polonii Gospodarczej, która jest wprawdzie niezwykle cenna, nie wystarczy. Rząd musi być animatorem integracji Polonii Gospodarczej, która będzie w stanie stworzyć pomosty współpracy. Aby to osiągnąć postuluję:
- utworzenie Instytutu ds. Polaków i Polonii Gospodarczej na Świecie (robocze określenie Think Tanku)
 - jednostka naukowa potrzebna do opracowania precyzyjnych definicji na potrzeby legislacji, modus operandi integracji i animacji, identyfikacji środowisk.
 - potrzeba zdefiniowania pojęcia Polonii Gospodarczej przez instytut.
 - użycie sformułowania pojęcia Polonii Gospodarczej w nomenklaturze legislacyjnej i ustawodawczej.
- Stworzenie narzędzi legislacyjnych.
- utworzenie Ministerstwa do spraw Polaków i Polonii na Świecie”.

Link somewhat related to above proposal sent by Krysia:

<https://www.gov.pl/web/dyplomacja/departament-wspolpracy-z-polonia-i-polakami-za-granica>

A letter from Łucja via Ryszard:

The Most Reverend
Allen Henry Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit
12 State Street
Detroit, MI 48226-1823
Vigneron.allen@aod.org

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you to request that you keep open our beloved and historic SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary at Orchard Lake.

The decision to close the Seminary was made under questionable circumstances. First of all, there was a leadership vacuum. The prior Seminary rector departed but the new and capable Father Bernard Witek was not appointed yet. He has a viable seminary funding plan and several seminarian candidates. This was not taken into account when the closure decision was taken.

Second, a significant number of members of the Board of Regents was absent during the vote to close the seminary. It is not clear whether they knew the actual issues involved and did not participate in any discussions. They voted by proxy.

Third, all absent members voting by proxy were for closure. This is statistically highly unlikely and probably incorrect. There are enough irregularities to question the validity of the vote to close the Seminary.

Therefore, we ask you to exercise your authority to keep the Seminary open, while Father Witek assumes his position as rector and presents his plans. In the future, a new vote must be taken and all members of the Board of Regents must vote in person, according to organization's by-laws.

With all our prayers and thanks,

PACT'22 - Meeting #18

Thursday – June 23, 2022 3 – 6:15 PM ET

Participants:

Celina, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, John, Jurek, Krysia, Tomek, Wladek, Zbyszek

What has happened since the last meeting:

- Zbyszek finished calling all 100 individual people on Gienek/ Andrzej's list. Almost everyone he spoke with committed (26 people) to contact their Representatives. None of those for whom he left messages replied. He asked to call their representatives and ask them to co-sponsor H.R.82 and H.Res. 664.
- Celina: The Katyń Monument Committee met with attorney Robert Margulis. According to him going to court will be a waste of money. He suggested to write a protest letter and organize a demonstration.

What we learned at the meeting:

- Orchard Lake Schools. Again, we spent a lot of time trying to figure out what and how can be done not to lose this institution founded by Polonia. Zbyszek presented a controversial article found in "Gwiazda Polarna" by Jolanta Hałaczkiwicz. Jurek: there are 3-4 vacancies in the Regents' Council. To be considered a potential candidate, you need a proper biography and a commitment to donate \$5-10 thousand per year. Wladek is convinced that an organization such as OLS, registered as a private non-for-profit corporation, it is not subject to public control and thus its founding documents, By-laws and finances may be legally secret. Gienek and Zbyszek had a different opinion. Info on this can be found here: <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/private-foundations>
History of OLS: <https://www.orchardlakeschools.com/history>
<https://www.detroitcatholic.com/news/orchard-lake-schools-announces-closure-of-ss-cyril-and-methodius-seminary-following-2021-22-academic-year>
- Poland. Krysia came back a few days ago and talked about her trip.
- Katyń Monument. Celina shared with us the history of the monument and the involvement of her family in this project: the Monument was erected in 1984 and originally not in the present location. It cost \$300,000. As a former councilor, she is convinced that the Planning Board decides what needs to be done and the City Board has no choice but to accept it.

Proposals what should be done:

- Jurek promised to invite Fr. Witek to our meeting next week (he was waiting 7 months for a working visa in the US).
- It was repeated that we must obtain the By-laws of Orchard Lake Corporation with all amendments. This could help find ways to save Polish library, archives and museum.
- Tomorrow is the last day for legal intervention (45 days from the approval of the plans) to obtain an order to postpone the spatial development of the area around the Monument. According to some, this is only a way to stop the implementation of plans.
- Krysia: we should try to get an inspection and obtain a declaration that the implementation of landscaping plans around the Monument will create a threat.
- Gienek proposed to keep contact with those who answered Zbyszek's calls via emails.

Next meeting: Thursday June 30, 2022 at 3 PM New York Time via Skype
AGENDA (proposal): reading this report + what was done + new matters

zk, 6-28-22



Kościuszko on Logan Square in front of Hilton Hotel in Philadelphia, Saturday June 25, 2022



Kościuszko House, Sunday June 26, 2022

PACT'22 - Meeting #17

Thursday – June 16, 2022 3 – 6:45 PM EST

Participants: Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Krzysiek, Tomek, Wladek, Zbyszek

What has happened since the last meeting:

- Jurek Różalski prepared a letter to the archbishop of Detroit asking him to reopen the Seminary. Polonia should sign it and send it individually by e-mail or by post..
- An article appeared in "Głos" about the last meeting of World leaders in Geneva. The Biden administration tried to force all countries to listen to WHO. Thanks to the protest of African countries represented by Botswana the proposal failed. Official world media forgot to mention it.
- The title of "Invitation to join our weekly meetings" was enriched with a few variations.
- Zbyszek called 41 people from the Gienek's list. 9 people answered his call. The list includes 98 names not 50 as Zbyszek mentioned before.
- Yesterday, Andrzej organized a Zoom meeting of priest Wróbel from KUL and key people involved in saving Orchard Lake.
- Andrzej exchanged emails with Minister Dziedziczak re the Katyn Monument. The minister sent Andrzej to Director Jan Badowski.

We talked about:

- Edmund tested positive after returning to Warsaw from Majorca – we advised him and shared our experience in dealing with covid.
- We spent a lot of time talking about Orchard Lake. There are no young men willing to enter the seminary and no money to run it - we wondered why fight for it. Can we offer the Regents a lifebuoy (money and clerics), as Wladek suggested, to save the Seminary? The private Middle School brings money but is not Polish. If we lose the Seminary, will Polonia lose any control of Orchard Lake? Who really owns Orchard Lake? Maybe we should only fight for archives, library and museum.
- Wladek: it is very hard to change the mind of people who think differently.
- Krzysiek talked interestingly about the history and the fight to save St. Wojciech, as well as about other Polish churches in Chicago
- Zbyszek shared what he learned by talking to people from Gienek's list. Ultimately, to make it easier, we should have groups of ~15 for one liaison.
- Edmund was surprised, that only 53 people joined the EPA-SID meeting on Monday, as more than 2,000 viewers saw his message on Facebook.

What we decided:

- We must obtain the By-laws of Orchard Lake Corporation with all amendments. This could help find ways to save Polish library, archives and museum.
- Invitations (titles and text) to our weekly meetings will be changed periodically. Gienek suggested to emphasize not only patriotic, but also personal benefits.
- Edmund was the first to offer \$1,000 to cover initial lawyer's 5 k fee for deferring the implementation of landscaping plans around the Katyn Monument.
- Andrzej will meet again with the Monument group and present a tripartite approach: intervention by a lawyer, letter signed by Polonia to the City Board + demonstration.

Next meeting: Thursday June 23, 2022 at 3 PM New York Time via Skype

AGENDA (proposal): reading this report + what was done + new matters

zk, 6-17-22

PACT'22 - Meeting #16

Thursday – June 9, 2022 3 – 6:06 PM EST

Participants: Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Krzysiek, Tomek, Wlodek, Zbyszek

What has happened since the last meeting:

- Jeanne Daily monitors all the moves of New Jersey officials and she notified Andrzej of the upcoming of DeMarco project group meeting on Monday, June 13 at 11:30 AM via Zoom. 21 minutes is intended for the audience, 3 min for anyone who wants to talk. Andrzej sent the info on how to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86070071817>;
- Andrzej, Krzysiek and Zbyszek have completed the implementation Dr. Sokołowski's suggestions to the English version of the Katyń Lesson;
- Andrzej prepared a list of 50 people that agreed to support other actions besides H.R.82, based on the list from Gienek;
- Elections have been held in the PAC-Missouri. Gienek, who was the Secretary, resigned, the other members of the Board remained;
- Fr. Mirosław Wróbel from KUL contacted Andrzej, he would like to join the group that fighting for the return of the Seminar to Orchard Lake;
- There is still no official support from the Consulate in New York and the Polish government re the Katyń Monument;
- On June 2, Zbyszek sent a lobbying request for H.R.82 and H.Res.664 to our PACT group. The next day, John Czop sent the same request to PAC's National Directors. Two weeks have passed and there has been no reaction from either our group or the National Directors. The question is why do ~150 activists ignore the appeals?
- Festival of The Polish Film Festival was held at Scandinavia House in Manhattan on June 3-5. You can ask Halina what she would recommend. All movies are available to rent for a \$9 per movie (72h rental period) or you can have full unlimited access to all of them for a one-time fee of \$50. If you are new to our platform, please visit <http://cinema.nypff.com/>
- On June 4, Halina and Zbyszek participated in the grand opening of Tom Suozzi's campaign HQ in Jericho, Long Island. Then there was a car parade;
- Zbyszek participated in two Task Force meetings to repeal WEP-GPO;
- In the June 3 edition of White Eagle there is a mention of the list of 8,900 Polonia organizations. The Database is open to the public at <http://polonia.stat.gov.pl>
- The Museum of Victims of Communism has opened in D.C.

What was planned:

- Edmund will place on the Facebook Invitation to join PACT as soon as he gets a text;
- All are invited to work on a catchy title to attract more people to our weekly meetings;
- Andrzej invited everyone who can participate in the meeting of EPA-SID on Monday, June 13 at 11:30 ET. There is no mentioning about the Monument In the Agenda but there will be a chance to express our opinion about proposed landscaping (21 min. for the public). Participation itself will be important as it will show interest in the subject;
- Zbyszek will call those who agreed to participate in future actions and will ask them to lobby their representatives to become cosponsors of H.R.82 and H.Res.664. He will use the list of 50 people prepared by Andrzej.

Next meeting: Thursday June 16, 2022 at 3 PM New York Time via Skype

AGENDA (proposal): reading this report + what was done since the last meeting + news

zk, 6-10-22

PACT'22 - Meeting #15

Thursday – May 26, 2022 3 – 6:20 PM EST

Participants:

Andrzej, Edmund, Jacek, Krzysiek, Ryszard, Tomek, Władek, Zbyszek

What was done since the last meeting:

- Andrzej, Krzysiek and Zbyszek started implementing Gene's corrections in English version of the Katyn Lesson last Monday, they also prepared several sentences that should be included in the invitation to the weekly PACT'19 meetings;
- Zbyszek prepared a draft of the lobbying instruction for constituents, e.g., which can be used to gain co-sponsors for the resolution of H.Res.664;
- Ryszard talked to the president of PAC, Frank Spula, who agreed to start the campaign to acquire co-sponsors for H.Res.664;
- Zbyszek invited Bette Marafino, Chair, GPO WEP Repeal Task and Force Susan Dixon, State President of Relation Chair and member of California Retired Teachers Association whom he met at the WEP rally in DC, to our Wednesday meeting.

What we talked and worked on:

- To whom the Invitation to join our meetings should be directed. Krzysiek correctly noticed that there will be two groups that we seek: one that will work on projects and the other one, larger that will get involved only occasionally, for example when to contact a legislator is required;
- Jurek Różalski's 6 min. presentation of the situation in Orchard Lake on TV Republika, at 25th minute <https://youtu.be/pvzFgHt6C08>;
- We read "Invitation to join PACT'19 meetings". Jacek add his suggestion;
- We prepared a letter that Ryszard is going to send to Mr. Spula;
- Tomek told us about a successful intervention to open closed churches;
- We talked at length about the Orchard Lake what is going on and what can be done to get the Regents to reverse their decision to close the seminar.

We decided that:

- Professor Jim Mazurkiewicz, PhD is going to Poland to participate at the conference "Our Futures Forum" in Warsaw on June 3 www.off.org.pl/forum and he will be with the national Polish agriculture organization of young farmers conference on June 6. Following these meetings, he will have meetings with US Ambassador Mark Brzezinski, the Polish Agriculture Minister, members of the Sejm, American Polish Chamber of Commerce, PAIH and many others. Jim was kind enough to offer to talk to officials about two things important to us: that we are waiting for Minister Anna Schmidt's response to the letter re retirement calculation and that we would be grateful for Poland's support in protecting the Katyń Monument area in Jersey City;
- Ryszard will send a follow up message to PAC President Frank Spula, as he got no reply from Frank re involvement in finding cosponsors of H.Res.664;
- A similar group to PACT'19 should be formed to restore the seminar in Orchard Lake;
- Andrzej, Krzysiek and Zbyszek have to finish to review and implement Dr. Sokołowski's suggestions to improve the English version of the Katyń Lesson;
- We will consider implementing Krzysiek's idea to record these meetings;
- Edmund offered to open a Facebook page for PACT'19.

Next week we have PAC_IDC: Wednesday June 1, 2022 at 8 PM ET via Skype

AGENDA (proposal): reading this report + what was done since the last meeting + news

zk, 5-27-22

PACT'22 - Meeting #14

Thursday – May 19, 2022 3 – 6:20 PM EST

PACT = agreement between individuals to meet and work together
for the good of Polonia, Poland and the US.

Acronym for Polish Americans' Cooperating Teams

Participants:

Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Krzysiek, Tomek, Władek, Zbyszek

„Keep your heart free from hate, your mind free from worry”

What was done (and what NOT, as planned) since the last meeting:

- Halina & Zbyszek went to DC, visited the office of Rep. Suozzi and spoke with his Legislative Advisor Tej on H.Res.664, later attended a rally organized on May 18 by California Retired Teachers Association to repeal the WEP. Among ~80 teachers, social workers and firefighters, from all over the country, were also: Elizabeth Baumgartner (PAC-LI) and her husband, Wojtek Jeśman (PASI), Jacek Marczyński (PASI, CPA, PAC), Gene Sokołowski (PASI-EDU, one of the speakers). Three congressmen (Larson was first) and one senator were speaking. Andrzej and Wojtek filmed the event. Pictures are attached under this report;
- Andrzej and PASI leadership were successful in bringing reps of two main organizations that take care of Katyń Monument and other individuals excluding only Ms. Piórkowska to Zoom meeting. Sławek Platta, who helped for gratis (Polonia did not have to pay \$35k) when there was the attempt to move the Monument, estimated the legal cost now on 10-60 k dollars.
- Halina: the money would not be a problem if we had a Foundation and this shows how important it is to start working on this idea;
- Tomek has NOT received an answer from President of Ukrainian organization to become co-signatory of the letter to congressmen re H.Res.664.

What we talked about:

- Zbyszek: according to Taz the most effective means of lobbying are not letters, emails or phone calls but personal visits of voters to legislators' offices located in DC. The reason: the amount of mail received each day is overwhelming and staffers do not have time to respond all senders and satisfy their requests;
- Gienek was satisfied that our Polish group was noticed at the rally
- How to deal with Ukrainian crimes in the context of present war;
- Władek: Polish group within Regents will ask for help Cardinal Dolan to save the seminary in Orchard Lake;
- Edmund: Dave Larson must be pressed to become a co-sponsor of H.R.82. It seems that repealing the WEP will be easier than making Polish officials follow the law;
- Krzysiek showed us a picture of the sticker: concentration camps were not Polish.

We decided that:

- Zbyszek will contact constituents from the list of supporters and ask them to contact their Reps and request to become co-sponsors of H.Res.664;
- All interested will work on improving the draft Zbyszek prepared to attract more people to our meetings;
- Andrzej, Krzysiek and Zbyszek will have to find time to review Dr. Sokołowski's suggestions to improve the English version of the Katyń Lesson;
- Gienek: the attempt to minimize the exposure of Katyń Monument while Russia is involved in the aggressive war against Ukraine must be publicized.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 3 PM ET via Skype

AGENDA (proposal): reading of the report + what was done since the last meeting + news

zk, 5-21-22

May 18, 2022
 In the morning,
 Halina and Zbyszek
 visited
 Rep. Suozzi office
 and talked with his
 Legislative Advisor
 about
 H.Res.664
 (WWII Resolution)



At 12 PM, we
 attended the rally
 to repeal the WEP
 Polish group, from
 the right:

Wojtek Jeśman,
 Jacek Marczyński,
 Halina Koralewski,
 Gene Sokolowski,
 Paul and Elżbieta
 Baumgartner,
 Zbyszek



Picture was taken by
 Andrzej Cierkosz z TV
 Polonia

Halina, Ela I Zbyszek
 at the rally organized
 by Teachers Assoc. in
 DC to repeal the WEP



PACT'22 - Meeting #13

Thursday – May 12, 2022 3 – 6:25 PM EST

Participants:

Andrzej, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Krysia, Krzysiek, Ryszard, Tomek, Władek, Zbyszek

What was done (and what NOT, as planned) since the last meeting:

- Zbyszek registered for a rally organized to repeal the WEP which will be held at the Capitol in DC, on May 18;
- Andrzej, Halina, Zbyszek and many other reps of Polonia participated at the Zoom Jersey City Board Planning meeting, on Tuesday May 10. Unfortunately, the public was not invited to comment and the Master Plan was approved giving the developer a free hand to implement his land use plans around the Katyń Monument;
- Andrzej informed PAP (Andrzej Dobrowolski) and TV Trwam about the Monument;
- Zbyszek prepared info about our weekly meetings and presented it to the participants;
- Richard convinced American Veteran Association, and Zbyszek Polish Veterans, to be a cosignatory of the letter to congressmen re H.Res.664. Only Arizona, Connecticut, Downstate NY and Washington DC divisions did not respond to the request to sign;
- Tomek talked to the president of local Ukrainian organization to cosign the letter but so far, have NOT received an answer;
- The reply to the president of KF was NOT sent;
- Registration info to the WEP really in DC was NOT sent to the PAC & CPA forums;
- Andrzej, Krzysiek and Zbyszek did NOT review, as planned Gene Sokolowski's corrections of the English version of the Katyń Lesson;

What we talked about:

- Andrzej told us about yesterday's meeting at the City Hall and although the plans for landscaping around the Katyn Monument was not on the agenda during the general discussion 7 reps of Polonia presented their opinions about proposed project which was not consulted with the public. Options were presented what can be done;
- Władek reminded about the decision of Regents' Board to close the seminaries in Orchard Lake (16 for, 13 against) and what can we do now;
- Władek: in Geneva "our masters" will force countries to follow WHO's orders, 5/22-28;
- Krysia: 300 Holocaust Education Centers give money to anyone they choose.

Following proposals were made and accepted:

- We came to the conclusion that PAC President, Frank Spula should be asked by Ryszard to contact congressmen about H.Res.664;
- Krysia suggested informing teachers of American history about the 10-day program of the Institute of National Remembrance: "History of Poland for foreign educators". This could be done at the rally in DC next week, where mostly the teachers will be present;
- Władek proposed drawing up a list of directors of Saturday Schools;
- Krysia would like us to develop a Strategy for dealing with lies about Poland. A team of professionals is needed.
- Re the Katyń Monument: a meeting with reps of all organizations and individuals that care about the Monument should be called ASAP. Matters to be discussed: hiring a lawyer, talking to developer, contacting media, organizing a demonstration - decisions have to be made. The 2018 agreement should be reviewed. Check whether the Planning Board is obliged to consult the public in such a case. Public safety should be our main argument. Photos from the events organized there can be convincing.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 3 PM EST via Skype

AGENDA (proposal): reading of the report + what was done since the last meeting + news

zk, 5-15-22

PACT'22 - Meeting #12

Thursday – April 28, 2022 3 – 6:07 PM EST

Participants: Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jurek, Krzysiek, Tomek, Wladek, Zbyszek

What was done since the last meeting:

- Edmund advertised on Facebook the PAC-North California's 3rd May celebration at concert shell in the Golden Place Park in San Francisco, he had over 20 000 visits;
- We received details about the rally to repeal the WEP that will be at the Capitol in DC;
- Andrzej, Krystyna and Mr. & Mrs. Porwit, who are experts in urban planning, participated at the meeting of Planning Board of Jersey City, they succeeded in stopping the developer from making the Katyn Monument less visible;
- Zbyszek found two more Social Study HS teachers who are interested in reviewing Katyn Lesson;
- As per Krzysiek Gajda's request, Zbyszek announced that Waldemar Biniecki received Maciej Płażyński's journalistic reward for reactivating Kuryer Polski (worth to visit it).

What we talked about:

- Andrzej told us about the Zoom meeting organized by the City Hall where among other issues, plans for landscaping around the Katyn Monument were discussed, 10-12 people took part in discussion including Andrzej who presented items that should be taken into consideration, also Mr. and Mrs. Porwit opposed the developers' plans based on the public safety, Krysia was one of ~40 participants;
- Jurek told us about this year National Veterans' Convention that will take place in Jersey City in May 21-22;
- Gienek reminded us that last year his division sent to President Spula the idea of initiating cooperation between Polonian organizations, their proposal was ignored;
- Calendar of Polonian events was discussed, Edmund and Gienek mentioned about their involvement in implementing this project on websites of their divisions;
- Tomek: in Ohio Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer met with Rafał Trzaskowski;
- Jurek: about the planned reaction by Polonia to the smearing of Poland by CNN;
- Jurek: today the main Regent Board will decide about the seminar in Orchard Lake.

What was decided:

- Our goal is to have H.Res.664 approved by the House:
 - Tomek will ask the president of Ukrainian organization to cosign the letter to congressmen, this Sunday during the May 3rd Parade;
 - Richard will try to convince the President of American Veterans to cosign the letter;
 - Zbyszek was asked to resend the letter addressed to congressmen to participants.
- Our goal is to repeal the WEP by the US Congress:
 - We should check if PASI sent the letter specifically written to Rep. John Larson;
 - We should ask Jacek if he sent thank-you letters with the request to give us zip+4;
 - Andrzej will announce details about the rally in DC on the PAC & CPA forums.
- Krzysiek suggested that we should request from PAC divisions to post reports from their meetings on websites;
- The reply to the president of KF should include the word discrimination;
- Andrzej, Krzysiek and Zbyszek have to review Gene Sokolowski's corrections of the English version of the Katyn Lesson;
- As per Andrzej's request, we should try to join the next Town Hall meeting re the Katyn Monument, participation of Polonia is important, he will send us the date and link.

Next meeting (called inter-divisional): THIS Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 8 PM EST via Skype
AGENDA (proposal): what has been done + new assignments + current affairs

zk (the report was written in Norfolk, Virginia and also on the way to Bermuda), 5-2-22

PACT'22 - Meeting #11

Thursday – April 21, 2022 3 – 6:05 PM EST

Participants: Andrzej B., Andrzej P., Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Krysia, Krzysiek, Tomek, Ryszard, Zbyszek

What was done (or NOT, as planned) since the last meeting:

- Tomek participated in the lunch with 120 others organized by his senator Rob Portman that ended 1.5 hour ago. Senator talked about the war in Ukraine. He had kind words for Poland for helping Ukrainian refugees. Tomek learned that Patriots Launchers are being installed in Poland and 49 tanks will be delivered soon. Tomek had no chance to talk to the President of Ukrainian Congress about supporting H.Res.664;
- We know that Wojtek met with organizers of the rally for H.R.82 in DC and we should soon get details about this event from him;
- We were unsuccessful to contact other ethnic groups and inform them about the rally;
- Krystyna alarmed us about proposals concerning surroundings of Katyn Monument
- Zbyszek found a Social Study HS teacher who is interested in the Katyn Lesson.
- Halina sent a request to Rep. Carolyn Maloney, 18 NY reg. H.Res.664 (met her Asst.).
- Jacek invited us to PASI website, he facilitated email contact with congressmen.

What we talked about and worked on:

- Andrzej P. told us about the organization by his PAC division together with Polish Dancers, the 3rd May Constitution celebration in San Francisco at Concert Shell in Golden Place Park > American orchestra will also participate and play pieces by Polish composers including Polonaise by Tadeusz Kosciuszko > these annual events did not take place for 2 years because of covid;
- Wiesiek warned us about possibility of a similar market crash as in 1929 and what are the options for asset protection > the decrease in cash value since last year is estimated at 15-20%;
- Andrzej presented the details about the plans around the Katyn Monument > he mentioned about Steven Fulop, the mayor of Jersey City and his transformation, he realized that it is better to be friends with Polonia;
- Krysia: in the fall PBS will present "America and the Holocaust" > it would be interesting to find out what they are going to say about Poland;
- Zbyszek: PBS showed two episodes about "Benjamin Franklin", very interesting, they mentioned how important were Lafayette, Pulaski and Von Steuben, but omit Kosciuszko and another surprise... KF was not interested in the intervention.

What was decided:

- Edmund will advertise the PAC Division event on Facebook;
- Zbyszek will try to get following PAC Divisions: Arizona, Wisconsin, Boston plus American Veterans (with Ryszard's help) to cosign the letter to congressmen regarding H.Res.664;
- We should offer our help to Gene Sokolowski PhD who is preparing the WWII for HS;
- Ryszard will work on a reply to KF regarding "Zagłada" (Zbyszek prepared the draft);
- Krysia: we should get WWII lesson plans that use HS.
- Zbyszek is going to send the link to E-tax for non-for-profit organizations

Next meeting: Thursday April 28, 2022 at 3 PM EST via Skype

AGENDA (proposal)

We will talk what has been done since the last meeting + new assignments + current affairs

PACT'22 - Meeting #10

Thursday – March 31, 2022 3 – 6:43 PM ET

Participants: Andrzej, Edmund, Halina, Jacek, Krysia, Tomek, Wladek, Zbyszek

What was done (or NOT, as planned) since the last meeting:

- Zbyszek sent two invitations in English and Polish to 27 organizations to cosign the letter to congressmen to cosponsor the Resolution > so far 13 organizations signed;
- Andrzej DID NOT send separate messages to President Frank Spula and Marek Skulimowski to join our action to appeal to congressmen to cosponsor the Resolution, these messages, according to Andrzej, they need more touches;
- Zbyszek received a positive opinion about the appeal to congressmen from Ivanley, Suozzi's Assistant but ZK got no response from Philip who works for Rep. Meeks';
- Krysia found and sent to us info about Poland for foreigners and "How to be Polish Ambassador" for Poles, publications prepared for 2016 Papal Youth Days in Poland.

What we talked about and worked on:

- A thank you email to supporters of H.R.82 was found by Andrzej, nobody remembered if it was sent > we discussed what it should be changed and added before can be sent;
- Halina brought up "Flavor of Poland" and concerns how to finance the 2nd part of episodes about more Polish regions > she repeated her idea of establishing "Fundacja Polonijna" by collecting \$1-10 for Polonian projects, discussion followed;
- Edmund told us about Polish Club in San Francisco and how money was disposed by Zygmunt Arendt for building houses for poor and none to Polish-Am. organizations;
- Krysia; Universities invite Jews, not Poles to talk about Ukraine;
- We began with history of Russia and what is the Turanian civilization of Russia, we ended with Feliks Koneczny and his innovative work on civilizations.

What was decided:

- H.Res.664:
 - Andrzej is going to send improved messages to President Spula and Skulimowski to join our action to appeal to congressmen to cosponsor the Resolution,
 - Zbyszek is going to call those organizations that have not responded to his email to cosign the letter to congressmen,
 - Zbyszek will try to mention the Resolution and get suggestions from Steven while Rep. Suozzi will be meeting with the local community at the Polish National Home in Glen Cove.
- Andrzej will send the thank you email to the supporters of H.R.82 with a request to send back their 5+4 zip codes, to make easier for us to identify their representatives.

Recommended: Feliks Koneczny https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feliks_Koneczny

Cywilizacja turańska Feliksa Konecznego – założenia teoretyczne oraz współczesna egzemplifikacja - Adam Zamojski

<https://czasopisma.marszalek.com.pl/images/pliki/tpom/27/tpom2705.pdf>

Szkoda, że Mearsheimer nie rozumie po polsku - Prof. Tomasz Nałęcz wykład o Ukrainie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbwc9PSdUsk>

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 8 PM EST via Skype
(as per your request, at first Wednesdays of a month, we meet in the evenings).

AGENDA (proposal)

We will talk what has been done since the last meeting + new assignments + current affairs

PACT'22 - Meeting #9

Thursday – March 24, 2022 3 – 6:57 PM ET

Participants: Andrzej, Edmund, Halina, Jacek, Krzysiek, Krysia, Ryszard, Tomek, Wlodek, Zbyszek

“there is always something behind us and something ahead of us”

1) What was done since the last meeting:

- Renata Jujka called Zbyszek that Dr. Iwona Korga positively assessed the Katyn Lesson and the lesson is now going to be available to Polish schools around the world;
- A couple days ago (Tuesday) Andrzej, Krzysiek and Zbyszek prepared a draft of the appeal to congressmen to cosponsor and submit for voting H.R.664 (the war in Ukraine was the main argument why it is the right time to do so now);
- Zbyszek sent this draft to Ivanley, Suozzi's Assistant to get his opinion.

2) What we talked about and worked on:

- H.Res.664: We read and made improvements to the draft of letter to congressmen plus we worked on cover letters to Spula, Skulimowski and organizations. Two versions of the letter were made: one for congressmen and the other for members of Committee on Foreign Affairs.
- MAUS: Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken was caught luckily by Halina while talking about hate speech comparing Jews to rats and parasites > this will give us a great argument in fight against bringing Maus to classroom;
- Kosciuszko Foundation so far has not reacted to our proposals in reaction to the Zagłada show;
- Krysia told us about a new book about genocide, the Black Book was mentioned that she once sent and the little booklet about Poland prepared a few years ago for visitors during the Youth Days while the pope was in Cracow;

3) What was decided:

- H.Res.664:
 - Andrzej is going to send separate messages to President Spula and Skulimowski to join our action to appeal to congressmen to cosponsor the Resolution;
 - Zbyszek is going to send an invitation to several organizations to cosign the letter to congressmen
- Zbyszek will try to get an opinion from Philip (Asystent of Rep. Meeks) on the letter to congressmen;
- Jacek, when he gets the letter from Zbyszek signed by organizations, will fax it to congressmen (70 have no faxes, so we will have to get their emails);
- Krysia will try to get the info booklet about Poland that she liked and recommends.

Recommended: Halina's good luck; she caught Blinken while defending the image of Jews on PBS last Monday (at 17:40 dehumanizing hate speech comparing Jews to rats and parasites) <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/watch-live-secretary-of-state-antony-blinken-gives-remarks-on-myanmar-at-the-u-s-holocaust-museum>

Next meeting: Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 3 PM EST via Skype

AGENDA (proposal)

We will talk what has been done since the last meeting + new assignments + current affairs

PACT'22 - Meeting #8

Thursday – March 17, 2022 3 – 6:52 PM ET

Participants: Andrzej, Gienek, Edmund, Halina, Krzysiek, Krysia, Ryszard, Tomek, Wladek, Zbyszek

“let's your heart guide you”

1) What was done since the last meeting:

- Andrzej and Krzysiek changed the title “Konspekt to the Katyn Lesson” on “Plan to the Katyn Lesson” plus they included explanation concerning Copyright that is about the context and NOT distribution;
- Zbyszek contacted new Rep. Suozzi's Assistants and convinced them to cooperate again with us on approving H.Res. 664.

2) What we talked about and worked on:

- We read and made slight improvements to the introduction about the Katyń Lesson that hopefully will be published in the worldwide “Assistant” magazine for teachers and the website of Polish Saturdays Schools;
- Wladek told us that Germany assigned \$110 billion for the military buildup;
- “Why Poland should be important for you”, a few arguments were presented how to convince our children > it was decided that we have to return to this subject and make a list that could be helpful for teachers;
- Today's webinar of Prof. Marek Chodakiewicz on the war in Ukraine was mentioned;
- Flyers of PIAST Institute about their organization and “Why I am proud to be Polish” were presented and discussed at length;
- Edmund presented his impressive achievement of getting over 20 000 visitors on Facebook of his organization “Foundation of Polonia 20/20 > he shared secrets of hard work that allowed him to be so successful regarding the repeal of the WEP;

3) What was decided:

- Assignment for all interested:
Two messages must be prepared regarding a renew push for approving H.Res.664
 - To organizations and individuals especially constituents of Reps in Subcommittee on Europe,
 - The letter to members of Subcommittee on Europe in consultation with Rep. Suozzi's Assistants;
Note: After proposals will be sent to Zbyszek, we will begin to work on them.
- Assignment for the WEP team:
 - the letter from concerned citizens to Rep. Larson, who is the Chair of the House Social Security Subcommittee, regarding his recent proposal and H.R.82, prepared by Gienek must be reviewed once more before sending it to individuals and organizations to be signed (a similar action will have to be done, as we had in the fall, when we asked to pass H.R.82);
 - the above letter should be sent to Edmund, so he can post it on his Facebook.

Recommended: Putin's career and ambitions
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/putins-road-to-war/>

Next meeting: Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 3 PM EST via Skype

AGENDA (proposal)

We will talk what has been done since the last meeting + new assignments + current affairs

PACT'22 - Meeting #7

Thursday – March 10, 2022 3 – 4:24 PM ET

Participants: Andrzej, Gienek, Edmund, Halina, Krzysiek, Krysia, Tomek, Wladek, Zbyszek

“let's do what we can, to be useful for Polonia”

1) What was done since the last meeting:

- Krysia sent the reply, prepared by Gienek and polished during our evening meeting a week ago, to Rep. John Larson concerning H.R.82 to his Hartford and DC offices;
- The letter to Vice Minister Anna Schmidt, concerning the calculation method of social security that causes WEP to be applied (prepared by Gienek) was finally signed by Leszek and Staszek and sent to Poland by Staszek via priority mail on March 5th;
- Krzysiek spoke to Ms. Ewa Koch, President of Polish Teachers Association who is interested to make the Katyn Lesson available to 15 thousand students attending 53 Polish Saturdays' Schools in Chicago.

2) What we talked about and worked on:

- The Rep. Suozzi's campaign rally for governor of NY state was compared to the Republican candidate's rally, if it comes to presence of minorities;
- Krzysiek was telling us about a patriotic priest, Rev. Penski and his activity in Ukraine which made him a person non grata in that country, so he chose to go to Kazakhstan, where he presently works for Polish diaspora;
- Krysia told us about a traffic jam on the street that was created by donors of money and parcels for Ukraine, the police had to regulate the traffic;
- We were discussing which channels are the best to send money and goods to Ukraine, the special account created by the PAC was mentioned;
- Wladek told us that 5,000 dollars was collected in one of the Polish churches to be sent to help charities in Poland helping Ukrainians;
- Krysia sent us the info (attached below this report)) about the Town Hall Meeting organized by PASI: “what needs to be done to repeal the unfair WEP”;
- We worked on Gienek's letter to Rep. Larson regarding importance of H.R. 82, we were making improvements (this letter will be sent to organizations to be signed).

3) What was decided:

- Assignment for Andrzej:
the title “Konspekt” (info for teachers to the Katyn Lesson) must be changed, as we otherwise would have to rewrite the text of Konspekt using the formal format used in schools > this change must be approved by the Board of Polish Saturdays' Schools;
- Assignment for the WEP team:
 - the letter from concerned citizens to Rep. Larson, the Chair of the House Social Security Subcommittee, regarding his recent proposal and H.R.82, prepared by Gienek should be sent to individuals and organizations to be signed (a similar action will have to be done, as we had in the fall, when we asked to pass H.R.82, at that time the message was sent to all congressmen);
 - the above letter should be sent to Edmund, so he can posted on Facebook.

Recommended: webinar this Thursday on Ukraine www.iwp.edu/events

Next meeting: Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 3 PM ET via Skype

AGENDA (proposal)

We will talk what has been done since the last meeting + new assignments + current affairs

(I participated at the meeting while our ship was ready to leave Honduras. I began writing this report after we left Costa Maya, Mexico and were going back to Miami in Florida) zk, 03-13-21

SAVE THE DATE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Invitation regarding the Retirement PENSION to the Town Hall Meeting. The meeting at 3 pm will be conducted in English.

The Polish American Strategic Initiative (PASI) invites everyone interested to an open meeting in the Zoom communicator to find out what needs to be done to repeal the unfair WEP / GPO regulations that deprive American retirees of a significant portion of their hard-earned Social Security retirement benefits.

When: Sunday, April 3 at 3 pm EST

Where: Zoom Meeting

Here is the link that you need to click to enter the meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8102630146>

MEETING ID: 810 263 0146

Join us at ZOOM and find out why WEP is discriminatory, unfair and what we can do to repeal it. We are close to winning, let's not waste this chance !!!!!!!!!!! You will learn how if you come to the meeting. TELL OTHERS ABOUT OUR MEETING. If you want your full pension, you need to listen to us!



In Panama Canal...

PACT'22 - Meeting #6

Thursday – February 24, 2022 3 – 6:22 PM ET

Participants: Andrzej, Gienek, Edmund, Halina, Krzysiek, Krysia, Tomek, Wladek, Zbyszek

“let's be useful for Polonia”

As per Krzysiek's proposal, the structure of this report is different than previous ones.

1) What was done since the last meeting:

- The letter to Ms. Schmidt: Gienek prepared what in his opinion should be added (about a delay) in our response and modified the sentence with the word “niekorzystna”;
- The letter to KF: Zbyszek has contacted 28 Polonia's leaders with the request to become a signatory – 20 people responded including 13 PAC divisions, (Signatories of the letter to KF are listed under this report);
- Thank you emails, were sent to supporters of H.R.82, by Andrzej;
- Andrzej, Krzysiek, Zbyszek prepared info for “Asystent” about Katyn Lesson;
- Meeting was held with teachers recommended by Dr. Dorota Andraka regarding making Katyn Lesson widely available.

2) We talked about:

- the letter ready to be sent to vice minister Anna Schmidt
- reply to Rep. Larson regarding H.R.82 and his proposal
- thank you letters to supporters of H.R.82
- letter to KF regarding the play “Zagłada”
- bringing “Maus” to the classroom
- meeting with teachers regarding a worldwide propagation of Katyn Lesson
- how books for public schools are selected
- recruiting people to work in the Polish organizations (Wladek's idea and presentation)

3) What was decided:

- The letter to Ms. Schmidt must be sent ASAP with only Dr. Śliwowski's signature as the leading person of this project;
- The letter to KF must be sent not later than Friday (tomorrow) by FedEx;
- The letter to Rep. Larson regarding his proposal and H.R.82 should be sent;
- Contact Dr. Iwona Korga regarding a review of Katyn Lesson;
- Wladek will work on his idea of a recruiting material
- Zbyszek was obligated to send the info to ND_Forum about our reaction to the play “Zagłada”.

Next meeting (PAC_IDC): Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 8 PM ET via Skype

AGENDA (proposal)

We will talk about realization of the plans we made the last meeting + current issues

zk, 02-27-21

Signatories of the letter to KF are on the page below:

Richard Brzozowski, Prezes
Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej Wydział Long Island

Andrzej Burghardt, Prezes
Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej Wydział New Jersey

Jerzy Bogdziewicz, Prezes
Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej - Wydział Floryda

Marek Waniotka, Prezes
Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej - Wydział Missouri

Wiesław Wierzbowski, Prezes
Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej, Wydział Wschodniego Massachusetts

Jim Ławicki, Prezes
Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej, Western New York Division II, Inc.

Bożena Celina Urbankowski, Prezes
Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej Wydziału Północnego New Jersey

Michael Niedzinski, Prezes
Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej, Wydział Illinois

Jerzy W. Rozalski,
Radio Polskie Rozmaitości – Detroit

Edward Wojciech Jeśman, Prezes
Polish American Strategic Initiative

Richard Widerynski, VP for American Affairs
Polish American Congress Southern California

Ann Bankowski, President
Polish American Congress- Michigan Division.

Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, President
Polish American Council of Texas

Dr. Andrzej Prokopczuk, Prezes
Polish American Congress, Northern California Division

Barbara Szydłowski, President
Polish American Museum in Port Washington

Tom Kacki, President
Signed on behalf of PAC Ohio Division

Leszek Pawlik, President
Coalition of Polish Americans

Janusz Kocur, Prezes
United Polish Societies-Hartford, CT

Bogusław Niemczewski, Prezes
Polonia for Poland

Krystyna Zamorska, PhD
American Historical Association

PACT'22 - Meeting #5

Thursday – February 17, 2022 3 – 6:45 PM ET

Participants: Andrzej, Gienek, Edmund, Halina, Józek, Krzysiek, Tomek, Władek, Zbyszek

“a ship in the harbor is safe but that is not what ships are built for”

- 1) **Zagłada (Holocaust), a play in Kosciuszko Foundation (KF).** Zbyszek found out that Dr. Fogelman is a longtime friend of KF's President and that it could be a factor in allowing the play to be performed in KF. He also prepared the response which with improvements of Halina, Andrzej and Krzysiek were emailed to presidents of PAC divisions and other organizations with the request to support it (is attached below this report).
- 2) **Letter to Vice Minister Anna Schmidt.** Leszek Pawlik, President of Coalition of Polish Americans after several requests by Andrzej, and in the end by Halina, finally signed the letter last Monday. However, he changed the word “błędna” to “niekorzystna” which makes the letter according to Gienek pointless. Leszek sent an enigmatic email that he does not have time to deal with this issue anymore. Lack of will by Leszek to cooperate with us is nerve-wracking. In the response to Ms. Schmidt, we should explain why we reply with the delay and only Staszek should signed it as the “case handler” (assuming that Leszek has not sent the letter).
- 3) **The Comic “Maus”.** All agreed that portraying Poles as pigs and those who cooperated with “cats” (Germans) is particularly perfidious. Recommending this book to be a part of curriculum on Holocaust in schools should be forbidden. Andrzej read to us the draft of letter to the House Committee on Education and Labor prepared by PASI (Wojtek Jeśman and Gene Sokolowski). The letter made a very positive impression on participants. Following suggestions were made:
 - a) In the “Second” argument, mentioning that “only in Poland those who helped Jews, in some way, were murdered by Germans.”
 - b) In the “Fifth” argument, the sentence should be rephrased “The following nations suffered the most; “. Without “and many others”. As there were NOT many others.
 - c) In the last paragraph: instead of “directors of public instruction” for us sounds better “directors of public education”.
- 4) **The Piorun** (meaning "thunderbolt") is a [man-portable air-defense system](#) of Polish production, designed to destroying low-flying aircraft, airplanes, helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles. Władek told us about this unique Polish invention that even Americans are buying and which recently were also sent to Ukraine.
- 5) **Thank you letters to supporters of H.R. 82.** Jacek sent the list of supporters to Andrzej and he is going to distribute the letter to them.
- 6) **Katyn Lesson** – Andrzej, Krzysiek and Zbyszek will meet with Anna Tracz and Jan Koziol via Skype this Monday at 7 PM to find the best way to distribute the lesson.
- 7) **Recruiting people to work in the Polish organizations.** Władek has an idea and he will prepare a draft of arguments why it is important to be active and get involved.
- 8) **Rep. John Larson's proposal H.R. 5723** was summarized by Gienek. It is obvious that Larson is trying to derail H.R. 82. Gienek will prepare a reply to be used for Krysia.
- 9) **H.R.3485 Global Respect Act** was mentioned by Andrzej and he showed us via GovTrack.us which Reps supported this shameful legislation.

Next PACT meeting: Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 3 PM ET via Skype
AGENDA will be sent

zk, 02-20-21

14 lutego 2022

Pan Marek Skulimowski
Kościuszko Foundation
15 E. 65th Street, New York, NY 10065

Szanowny Panie Prezesie,

Kościuszko Foundation znamy jako organizację, która nie jest obojętna na fałszowanie historii.

KF dała tego dowód choćby w ubiegłym roku przez szybką reakcję na wypowiedź kongresmana Steve'a Cohena oraz poparcie rezolucji H.Res. 664 dotyczącej II wojny światowej.

Z tym większym zaskoczeniem, a nawet szokiem spotkało się ogłoszenie KF o prezentacji (10 lutego br.) scenariusza sztuki „Zagłada” o polskim kapo, który został ujawniony przez „African-American journalist”. Bez podania głębszego kontekstu, taki przekaz został odczytany jako popieranie przez KF wrogich Polsce i prawdzie historycznej kręgów, których celem od lat jest pomniejszanie odpowiedzialności Niemców za zagładę Żydów i obarczenie nią Polaków.

Takie prowokujące ogłoszenie okazało się skuteczne i przyciągnęło szukającą sensacji publiczność. To jednak niestety zaszkodziło reputacji KF jako instytucji w tym przypadku biorącej udział w działaniu odebranych jako antypolskie.

Zależy nam na tym, aby tak zasłużona instytucja jak KF nie była postrzegana negatywnie przez Polonię. Naszym zdaniem KF powinna zdecydowanie odciąć się od działań, które mogą być odbierane jako antypolskie. W kulturze amerykańskiej takich działań jest wiele.

Przykłady projektów godnych zainteresowania i wsparcia ze strony KF:

- „Maus” jako przykład tworzenia i propagowania skrajnie negatywnego stereotypu Polaków
- Relacja z książki „The Black Book” wydanej w 1942 r. przez polski rząd na uchodźctwie
- Rola Polski w walce z Hitlerem w porównaniu do innych państw
- Wystawa objazdowa Auschwitz
- Rola Judenratów w gettach żydowskich, ich prawdziwa historia
- Zbrodnie Rosji Sowieckiej na Polakach
- Skąd się wzięły „Polish Death Camps”
- Pogrom kielecki jako antypolska sowiecka prowokacja
- Film „Zemsta czy wybaczenie” o bł. Stefanie Wyszyńskim
- Likwidacja polskiego podziemia w podstępny i okrutny sposób po II wojnie światowej.

Prosimy o przemyślenie naszych uwag i konstruktywne podejście do naszych propozycji. Jesteśmy otwarci na współpracę.

Z poważaniem,

PACT'22 - Meeting #4

Thursday – February 10, 2022 3 – 6:40 PM ET

Participants: Andrzej, Gienek, Halina, Krysia, Krzysiek, Tomek, Wladek, Zbyszek

"If there is no way, make one" - Romans

Sorry, for being late. I joined a few minutes before 4 PM. I am glad that all interested in these meetings managed to join on time and began the meeting without waiting for me.

- 1) **Zagłada (Holocaust), a play in Kosciuszko Foundation (KF).** The play was advertised in a following way: *Zagłada is about a 90-year-old Polish man living in Maspeth, Queens, who is exposed by an African-American journalist as having been a Kapo in Buchenwald. The man shoots at the journalist, is arrested for firing an illegal firearm, and is held at the 112th Precinct by an NYPD Intelligence Bureau Officer. There he is forced to confront his past by a Federal Prosecutor who is driven by a personal vendetta.*
This issue was discussed for an hour. What by showing this play KF wanted to achieve Zbyszek will investigate, also why this play was accepted for presentation and he will propose our reaction.
- 2) **The fight with the WEP.** Leszek Pawlik refused to sign the letter prepared by Teofil, our lawyer. He would like to change some wordings; his suggestions were discussed. Leszek's last statement in his email suggests that he does not wish to continue the exchange with Vice Minister Anna Schmidt (a year of our efforts would be wasted). The letter was already signed by Dr. Śliwowski and we may send it only with his signature, as a "case handler" and former President of Coalition of Polish Americans.
- 3) **Katyn Lesson.** Zbyszek received response from President of Polish Saturday Schools, Dr. Dorota Andraka; she apologized for making us wait for her reply and named two persons Anna Tracz I Jan Kozak who will work with us to make the lesson available for teachers worldwide. Zbyszek showed also the site "History in pictures" (Historia w obrazkach) as example of clarity in presentation that we could follow for the Katyn Lesson and other ones which hopefully we will prepare. This site was compared with the lesson on the CPA site.
- 4) **PAC Missouri Division website.** Gienek spoke about what could be behind the success of his division's website. The 4-person team decides what will be placed on their site. They look for issues that in their opinion are interesting. Simplicity could be another factor that visitors like. From 2016 (the inception), their site was visited by 102 thousand people.
- 5) **Meeting of the PAC National Executive Council** (Wednesday, Feb. 2). Andrzej and Richard participated in that meeting and shared what they learned that Tom Kolodziej and Bozena Kaminska, VPs for American and Polish Affairs will conduct monthly meetings with divisional VPs.

Next PACT meeting: Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 3 PM ET via Skype

AGENDA (proposal)

- 1) Letter to Vice Minister Anna Schmidt
- 2) Response to the play "Zagłada" performed in KF
- 3) "Maus" – Poles portrayed as pigs, letters prepared by PASI
- 4) Katyn Lesson – preliminary meetings were scheduled

zk, 02-17-21

PACT'22 - Meeting #3

Thursday – January 27, 2022 3 – 6:05 PM EST

Participants: Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Kryisia, Krzysiek, Tomek, Wladek, Zbyszek

"If there is no way, make one" - Romans

- 1) **82th Anniversary of the first transportations to Auschwitz.** Krystyna wants us to remind Americans about the first transport of 728 Polish political prisoners on June 14, 1940, who were transported to Auschwitz from a prison in Tarnow, south Poland. In the group were Polish soldiers caught while attempting to flee to Hungary, members of the resistance, students, school youth and several Polish Jews. The lengthy discussion followed (over an hour) about using the travel Auschwitz exhibit which Zbyszek, after a donation made by PAC-LI, received from Andrzej Prończuk, PhD President of Polish American Cultural Foundation in Boston. It was agreed that the exhibit should be showed on the Capitol or in the Holocaust Museum in DC. Possibility of using a projector and a wall was considered. Gienek suggested to use our websites to inform about the exhibit. Andrzej proposed to organize a team that would be responsible for implementing Kryisia's idea. Krzysiek: the best way, to reach the widest audience, would be to make Catholic schools interested in this matter. Possibility of virtual tour was presented by Andrzej. We must prepare an introduction to the exhibit, emphasizing that Poles also were victims, Krzysiek reminded.
- 2) **The fight with the WEP.** A letter to minister Anna Schmidt was prepared by Teofil and discussed by the group responsible for this project last Thursday at 8 PM. It waits to be signed by Dr. Stanisław Śliwowski former and Leszek Pawlik present President of Coalition of Polish Americans . Copies of the letter will be sent to minister Dziedziczak, Frank Spula, President of PAC and Jerzy Kwaśniewski, President of Ordo Iuris. Edmund reminded that the letter must be sent via FedEx. Thank you notes has not been sent yet to those who signed the letter to congressmen supporting H.R.82. Jacek will be able to do that after he comes back from Toronto in two weeks. Kryisia called the office of her Rep. John Larson and asked why he has not yet sponsored H.R.82. She waits for a response. Gienek was wondering if 98 congressmen whose faxes did not work were informed by Jacek.
- 3) **Books about atrocities against Poles in libraries versus present priorities.** Kryisia's idea, to request our local libraries to order 3 books, has not been executed by anybody in our group. Most of us are busy implementing other projects. Zbyszek mentioned that he has a list of 40 proposals sent by a dozen of PAC members, as the response to his questions sent to ND_Forum in the Fall of 2017. Krzysiek: there is only a handful of us working on a few projects, thus we must prioritize our efforts otherwise we will not be effective.
- 4) **Plans to meet w/ Ambassador Magierowski.** Zbyszek's proposal to send a request for a meeting with the ambassador presented to Frank Spula, President of PAC and a couple days later also to Leszek Pawlik, President of Coalition of Polish Americans were rejected by both gentlemen. Presidents of other organizations will be approached. Andrzej already has a question for the ambassador: what are the Polish government's plans are to ameliorate the image of Poland and how we could help. Wladek would like the consulates to improve their service.

Next PACT meeting: Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 3 PM ET via Skype

This coming Thursday we will NOT have a meeting due to Interdivisional meeting this Monday: January 31 (at 8 PM ET via Skype)

AGENDA will be announced

zk, 01-31-21

PACT'22 - Meeting #2

Thursday – January 20, 2022 3 – 5:34 PM EST

Participants: Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, John, Wlodek, Zbyszek

“learn to take each blow, attack in such a way that you do not have to take another”

Tomek's mom passed away at age 71 after 3 years of fight with the colon cancer.

All joined in expressing sincere condolences.

- 1) **Echoes from the meeting w/ Ambassador Brzezinski.** Edmund and Tomek were briefed about some details of this event. The list of participants is under this report
- 2) **Meeting w/ Senator Rob Portman.** Tomek told us about today's morning meeting over the phone with his Ohio Senator. There were 15 participants, including Consuls of Estonia, Lithuania, Macedonia and Ukraine. Mr. Portman came back from Ukraine and he shared his views. He spoke very positively about Poland, praising her decisions, most likely because of purchasing Abrams tanks produced in Ohio. Tomek asked him if the gas pipe II will be used as a bargain in present negotiations with Russia and about missiles with nuclear heads in Kaliningrad. Answers were diplomatic and fuzzy.
- 3) **Actions concerning the WEP.** Letter to minister Anna Schmidt was prepared by Teofil and will be discussed by the group responsible for this project tonight at 8 PM. Thank you notes has not been sent yet. Jacek was too busy.
- 4) **Plans to meet w/ Ambassador Magierowski.** An email to the Embassy w/ a request for a meeting was presented and discussed. It was suggested to contact Leszek Pawlik and ask him if he wants to be signed besides Richard Brzozowski representing Polish American Congress Long Island Division and Jacek Marczyński representing PASI.
- 5) **Covid – vaccines.** Tomek told us how Dr. Ugur Sahin and Dr. Özlem Türeci, Turkish co-founders of BioNTech SE based in Mainz Germany designed the vaccine (I found that they did it just in a few hours over a single day in the summer of 2020). Pfizer got the vaccine from them and others followed their concept; messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines teach our cells how to make a protein that will trigger an immune response inside our bodies. The J&J/Janssen vaccine is different; it contains a piece of a modified virus that is not the virus that causes COVID-19. This modified virus is called the vector virus. The vector virus cannot reproduce itself. This vector virus gives instructions to cells in the body to create an immune response. This response helps protect us from getting sick with COVID-19. This short explanation how two different types of vaccines work, I added to this report.
- 6) **Publishing Katyn Lesson in Assistant.** Andrzej wrote to Ms. Jujka about this intend the last September. Zbyszek volunteered to push this issue forward.
- 7) **Movie about priest Stefan Wyszyński.** The period of his life during the Warsaw uprising. Halina and I saw it in a Parish Hall and strongly recommend it. It has English subtitles.
- 8) **Agenda for Polonia.** Wlodek suggested to find a goal that could unite Polish American organizations for example: preventing the assimilation of the Polish diaspora.

Next PACT meeting: Thursday, 01-27-22 at 3 PM EST via Skype

AGENDA (proposal):

Letter to minister Schmidt, Katyn Lesson, PAC Presidents meeting, Ambassador Magierowski

zk, 01-23-21

Participants of the meeting with Ambassador Mark Brzezinski:

1. **Andrzej Burghardt**, President, Polish American Congress, New Jersey Division
VP for American Affairs, Coalition of Polish American
2. **John Cebrowski**...
Member, Board of Directors, Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria in Texas
Member, Board of Directors, American Council of Polish Culture
Former member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives.
Citizens Democracy Corps volunteer to Poland in 1996, Former Marine Pilot
3. **Edward Wojciech Jeśman**, President, Polish American Strategic Initiative (PASI)
310-291-2681 (cell) president@joinpasi.org www.joinpasi.org
4. **Dr inż. Józef Krutul**, Member, Board of Coalition of Polish Americans,
Member, Board of Polonia For Poland, Chicago,
Member, Polish- American Engineers Association
5. **Zbigniew Koralewski**, VP for American Affairs
Polish American Congress, Long Island Division, NY - 718 -343-4316 zkoral@aol.com
6. **Jacek Marczyński**, Vice President of Polish American Strategic Initiative
Member of the Board Coalition of Polish American, Profession: Information Technology Programmer
7. **Jim Mazurkiewicz, Ph.D.** Professor, Regents Fellow and Leadership Program Director
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and
Communications, Texas A&M University
8. **Leszek Pawlik**, President, Coalition of Polish American
9. **Daniel Pogorzelski** is a political analyst regularly appearing on the Ben Joravsky Show from the
Chicago Reader and the Chicago Sun-Times. He is also a regular contributor to European Foreign
Affairs as well as the Warsaw Institute Review. A writer and editor for ForgottenVhicago.com as well
as the VP of the Northwest Chicago Historical Society, Daniel is the coauthor of four history books
from the Images of America series on the neighborhoods of *Portage Park*, *Bridgeport*, *Logan
Square*, as well as *Avondale and Chicago's Polish Village*.
10. **Gene Sokolowski**, President, Polish American Strategic Initiative Education Organization
Member of Kosciuszko Foundation
11. **STANISLAW SLIWOWSKI, M.D.** 2 Masar Road Boonton, New Jersey 07005
Tel. 201 805-5590 E-mail: stanislaw.sliwowski@coalitionpa.org
Coalition of Polish Americans - Vice President Youth and Education Affairs
Polish American Congress - National Director, Board Member New Jersey Division
12. **Christopher Waz.** Since 1980 active in various social and political Polish American organizations.
Took a leading role in organizing help and community social engagement of the exiled Solidarity
activists, including running a radio program and a national art contest. Currently a second term
member of the Board of the Coalition of Polish Americans. Member of the Illinois Division of the
Polish American Congress. Writing and speaking on political issues in the Polish American media.
Active in mobilizing community participation in the political process, including voter registration. In
2020-21 worked on preparation of the two Congressional resolutions - S.Res.566 and H.Res.644
13. **Krystyna Zamorska, PhD** - American Studies and Public History
Independent Scholar and Historical Consultant, Member: American Historical Association
American Council for Polish Culture

The Polish American Congress Executive Committee members that attended the meeting:

14. **Frank Spula**, President, Polish American Congress, Polish National Alliance – invited by Zbyszek

and Frank invited following officers: **Timothy Kuzma**, Secretary

Mark Pienkos, Vice President, Polish American Congress

Joseph Mikołaj Rej, VP for Financial Development

Mary Sendra Anselmo, VP for Membership Development

Besides the ambassador there were three State Department employees



PACT = agreement between individuals to meet and work together
for the good of Polonia, Poland and the US.

Acronym for Polish Americans' Cooperating Teams

PACT'22 - Meeting #1

Thursday – January 13, 2022 3 – 5:20 PM EST

Participants: Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Jacek, John, Richard, Wladek, Zbyszek

“Difficult projects we do right away, impossible takes us a little longer”

- 1) **Summary of the meeting w/ Ambassador Brzezinski.** A press release was prepared and sent to PAP (Andrzeja Dobrowolskiego). It was emphasized that: we are happy the meeting took place at all, so many organizations which normally do not cooperate participated, issues important to Polonia were presented to Ambassador and a communication channel opened. More info is attached below this report.
- 2) **Meeting w/ Ambassador Marek Magierowski.** Wladek proposed to organize a meeting with the new Polish Ambassador in Washington. We may raise the issue of the method used to calculate retirement benefits in Poland that causes the WEP to apply to Polish immigrants. Gienek approached the previous ambassador, Prof. Wilczek without a success, as he directed Gienek to the Social and Family Department.
- 3) **Actions concerning the WEP.** Edmund: we should continue what we started w/ minister Anna Schmidt and we should press for H.R. 82 to be put for voting by the Social Security Subcommittee. Teofil has still not prepared a letter which supposed to be a reply for the letter we received back in September. Andrzej will try again to contact him. Jacek will work with Andrzej to send thank you letters to those who supported the H.R.82 bill. Andrzej had high fever and Jacek had covid, both were not able work on this project. Andrzej found that chair of subcommittee is John Larson the Rep. of Krysia and she is willing to approach him. She will need a text she can use to convince her Rep. to submit H.R. 82 for voting.
- 4) **Project concerning suffering of Poles.** Krysia: her propose to organize a lecture on Polish victims was accepted by her library. She is expecting other members of our group will follow her example – she is ready to help. Krysia also mentioned about the movie “Little Poland” in India that will be presented. Zbyszek is going to ask his soccer friends if they could help to get the DVD (on YouTube is for free). Krysia mentioned about coming anniversary of the first transportations to Siberia in February and her interview on Polvision.

Next PACT meeting: Thursday, 01-20-22 at 3 PM EST via Skype

AGENDA (proposal)

Old and new projects (WEP, H.Res.664, Katyn Lesson, Ambassador Magierowski)
– we will talk how to push them forward

zk, 01-18-21

Spotkanie przedstawicieli organizacji polonijnych z Markiem Brzezińskim, nowo zatwierdzonym Ambasadorem USA w Polsce. (przykład działania PACT-u)

Kandydatura Marka Brzezińskiego na ambasadora Stanów Zjednoczonych w Polsce ogłoszono 4 sierpnia 2021. Polonia przyjęła to z dużym zadowoleniem. Wkrótce po tej wiadomości, na jednym z cotygodniowych zebrań PACT-u (porozumienia między grupą działaczy, którego celem jest wymiana informacji i praca nad realizacją projektów) Wiesław Gołębiowski, Prezes Światowej Rady Badań nad Polonią zaproponował, żeby przedstawiciele Polonii spotkali się z Markiem Brzezińskim. Półtora miesiąca później w październiku miały swoje coroczne osobne zjazdy: Koalicja Amerykanów Polskiego Pochodzenia oraz Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej. Propozycja spotkania z ambasadorem na tych zjazdach jak również na innych odbywających się wcześniej konferencjach nie była dyskutowana.

O pomysle zorganizowania spotkania nie zapomniał Zbigniew Koralewski, Wice Prezes ds. Amerykańskich w Wydziale Long Island Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej oraz założyciel i prowadzący PACT. Czas mijał i nikt nie podejmował starań w tym kierunku. Wobec tego, na zebraniu PACT-u 1 grudnia 2021 roku, otwartego jak zwykle dla wszystkich zainteresowanych działaniem dla dobra Polonii, przedstawiono plan realizacji tego pomysłu.

Pierwszy etap polegał na nawiązaniu kontaktu z Ambasadorem co wymagało dotarcia do odpowiedniej osoby. W sobotę, 18 grudnia 2021 senatorowie jednogłośnie podjęli decyzję i Mark Brzeziński został zatwierdzony na ambasadora USA w Polsce. Dopiero wówczas rozpoczęła się wymiana emaili z asystentem ambasadora, przerwana długimi wakacjami świątecznymi oraz nowym rokiem. Były poważne obawy czy spotkanie dojdzie do skutku. Mimo tych wątpliwości Zbyszek Koralewski kontynuował codzienne spotkania przez Skype z kilkoma zaangażowanymi osobami nad przygotowaniem pytań do ambasadora.

W środę 5 stycznia, dostaliśmy krótki email o 5:12 PM, a następnie w czwartek 6 stycznia z biura Ambasadora ze szczegółowymi informacjami dot. spotkania i zaskakującą datą wyznaczoną na następny dzień, czyli piątek, 7 stycznia 2021 na godzinę 12:30. Jak wspomniałam wcześniej, nie wiedząc czy spotkanie dojdzie do skutku, czekaliśmy z oficjalnym powiadomieniem przedstawicieli organizacji polonijnych. Po otrzymaniu zielonego światła, okazało się, że mamy dosłownie jeden dzień, aby zebrać szeroką reprezentację organizacji, które zwykle ze sobą nie współpracują i przygotować się wspólnie, do tego ważnego wydarzenia. Ustaliliśmy, że spotkanie będzie prowadził Ryszard Brzozowski, prezes Wydziału KPA Long Island, weteran Armii Amerykańskiej.

Czasem zdarza się, że plany nie zawsze udaje się zrealizować. I tak było tym razem. W piątek przed południem Ryszard musiał odwieźć swego przyjaciela do szpitala i nie mógł uczestniczyć w spotkaniu. Plan B, tzn. osoba mająca zastąpić Ryszarda, również nie doszedł do skutku. Wobec powyższego rolę prowadzącego spotkanie w ostatniej chwili objął Zbyszek Koralewski. Na początku spotkania pogratulował ambasadorowi zatwierdzenia go na to reprezentacyjne stanowisko. Następnie podziękował za przyjęcie zaproszenia i za gotowość zapoznania się ze sprawami ważnymi dla Polonii. Zbyszek kontynuował: „mamy duże oczekiwania, ponieważ pan jest synem Zbigniewa bardzo szanowanym przez Polaków na całym świecie”. Przypomniał też, że jest on drugim ambasadorem amerykańskim, który ma polskie pochodzenie, w ciągu ostatnich 100 lat, tzn. od odzyskania niepodległości. Zbyszek wskazał na sprawy szczególnie istotne dla Polonii: nawiązanie dwustronnej komunikacji z Ambasadą Stanów Zjednoczonych w Warszawie oraz bezpieczeństwo Polski. Po krótkim wystąpieniu ambasadora rozpoczęła się sesja pytań i odpowiedzi.

Spotkanie, które trwało ponad godzinę, przebiegło w przyjaznej i serdecznej atmosferze. Uczestnicy przedstawili 10 spraw ważnych dla Polonii, dotyczących relacji polsko-amerykańskich i wskazali na kwestie, które wpływają na poważne osłabienie nastrojów proamerykańskich w Polsce.

Prezes KPA Frank Spula, zakończył spotkanie i wyraził nadzieję, że obecny Prezydent USA będzie dotrzymywał obietnic w stosunku do Polski, tak jak to robił jego poprzednik. Dołączył się też do pozostałych osób zabierających głos, życząc ambasadorowi sukcesów na placówce dyplomatycznej w Warszawie.

Należy podkreślić, że do sukcesu spotkania przyczyniło się pełne poświęcenie zaangażowanie w pracę nad tym projektem Andrzeja Burghardt i Krzysztofa Węża, należących do grupy PACT, którzy ściśle współpracowali ze Zbyszkciem.

W spotkaniu uczestniczyło 22 osoby, w tym sześciu prezesów:

Andrzej Burghardt, President, Polish American Congress, New Jersey Division,
Edward Wojciech Jeśman, President, Polish American Strategic Initiative (PASI),
Timothy Kuzma, National President, Polish Falcons of America,
Jim Mazurkiewicz, Ph.D., President, Polish American Council of Texas,
Leszek Pawlik, President, Coalition of Polish Americans,
Frank Spula, President, Polish American Congress

oraz członkowie takich organizacji jak:

American Council for Polish Culture, Polish Heritage Center of Panna Maria, Polonia for Poland, Polish American Engineers Association, Americans of Polish Descent.

Halina Koralewski, VP for Public Relations
KPA- Long Island

