

PACT'22 - Meeting #12

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

Participants: Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jurek, Krzysiek, Tomek, Władek, 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 Biniński 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 Katyń 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 "Zaglada" (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) **Zagląda (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 Kryisia.
- 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, Krysia, 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 Krysia'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. Krysia 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.** Krysia'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, Wladek, 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.** Wladek 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 pomyśle 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

