

IOM - Meeting #1 - Wednesday –January 4, 2023 8 PM – 10:35 PM New York Time

IOM (Inter-Organizational Meetings) replaces the name PAC_IDC
(Polish American Congress - Inter-Divisional Conferences)
OIM reports will be incorporated in PACT23

Participants: Andrzej, Gienek, Jola, Krystia, Krzysiek, Renata, Staszek, Zbyszek

I would like to thank Andrzej who led the meeting professionally. The internet connection on the cruise ship, I was on, was unreliable and I had difficulty attending this meeting.

What has happened since the last Thursday meeting?

- An appeal, signed by several organizations, not to eliminate the Seminary from the Orchard Lake Schools was sent to Abp. Vigneron by Krzysztof Gajda's organization, located in Texas.

Andrzej carried out the program prepared for this meeting. Items covered;

- A. Improving effectiveness of our actions. All agreed that is critical to choose wisely projects or issues that we feel are doable by our PACT group and is worth to spend the time to work on them. Secondly, we must first concentrate our attention on projects or issues that need the immediate attention. Zbyszek reminded that effects of our efforts will depend on commitment, dedication and skills of a person conducting a project or an issue (a captain of the boat) and the support of his/her close crew. Also, a method that a team working on a specific project/issue gets and considers an advice from all PACT members, proved to help achieve optimal results.
- B. Matters we can deal with:
- Developing connections with American officials,
 - Developing connections with Polish officials,
 - Continue working towards passing H.R.664,
 - Continue work on repealing WEP,
 - Monitoring the Jersey City project around the Katyń Monument,
 - Preserving the Polish character of Orchard Lake Schools,
 - Investigating what we can do with the book "Kaz...",
 - Improvement of Poland's image in the USA.

It was decided:

- Gienek is ready to meet with the Board of the Coalition of Polish Americans re WEP.
- Consistent work must be continued on to attract enthusiasts to cooperate with us by disseminating info about our meetings and actions wherever is possible.

REMINDER that can be useful in encouraging people to join our meetings:

Who can attend PACT meetings and IOM?

Any person who wants to be useful, anyone who wants to be involved in changing what can be changed, by working with other motivated people. We offer a new concept of "problem solving" through in-depth discussion. Thanks to close cooperation in a friendly environment, we increase the mental power of the group. We are able to focus on important matters that correspond to our capabilities. Also, joining us is free, no application is required, there is no obligation to attend every meeting, our group is not formally structured, we respect personal political views, we accept membership or non-membership in any organization, we cooperate with variety of organizations and individuals

Next meeting: PACT'22 > Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 3 PM ET via Skype
AGENDA: this report will be read + current events

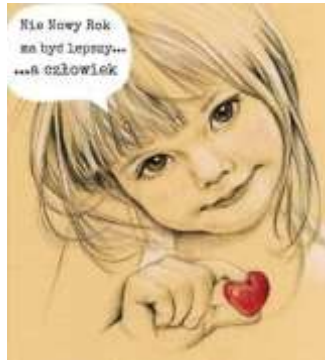
zk 1/11/23

PACT'23 - Meeting #1

Thursday, January 12, 2023 3 – 6:41 PM ET

Participated:

Andrzej, Andrzej P., Bogusia, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Jola, Krysia, Krzysiek, Wojtek, Zbyszek.



What has happened since our last meeting on Wednesday?

- H.R.82 was introduced under the same number by Republican Garret Graves on Jan. 9.
- There was an exchange of emails between Gienek and Leszek Pawlik, President of the Coalition of Polish Americans (CPA) regarding the Retirement Conference in Warsaw. They revealed serious discrepancies in the assessment of the meeting and the exchange was stopped,

We talked about:

- YIVO recently announced a series of programs about Polish responsibility for the destruction of Polish Jewry. The program is based on critical theory and cultural critique initiated by Jan Tomasz Gross's book, Neighbors (2000).
- The Katyń Monument. Bogusława Huang, President and Wojciech Mazur, VP of the Committee for Conservation of Katyn Monument and Historic Objects shared with us the progress of work around the monument and answered our questions. Thanks to their dedication and hard negotiations most of Polonia's proposals were implemented and plans corrected. Jersey City invested 7 million to improve surroundings of the monument. The work supposed to be completed in the Spring. The next goal will be to enter the monument on the list of National Monuments.
- Internet portal dedicated to Polonia's issues. The idea was refreshed by Krzysiek G. in an email to Zbyszek. There was a long discussion about what it should be like and by whom could be run.
- Meeting with Consul General Zyzak and Honorary Consul Walawender. Jola, who is in the process of arranging the meeting, informed us that it will be postponed closer to February. We repeated our plans for this meeting.

Following decisions were made:

- We will help in the preparation of the text that will be on the bronze plaque, placed on the monument side on the wall, erected from the Montgomery Street. The text should be written for Americans and should not be a repetition of the text already existing on the base of the Monument (added Andrzej and Krzysiek)
- Jacek is going to ask his Rep. Gerald Connolly(D), VA-11, to reintroduce H.Res.664.
- We will press on legislators to help with restitution from Germany to Poland for WWII crimes.
- According to Krysia there is no need to argue with YIVO's "research program".

Next meeting: PACT'23 - Thursday, January 19, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype
AGENDA: CPA arguments re Retirement calculations, "Kaz..." book, current events

zk, 1-15-23

PACT'23 - Meeting #2 Thursday, January 19, 2023 3 – 5:53 PM ET Participated:
Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Jurek B., Jola, Krysia, Krzysiek, Ryszard, Zbyszek.

What has happened since our last meeting on Thursday?

- Krzysiek Gajda informed that Łukasz Warzecha, an independent journalist, will meet with Polonia in Texas. People interested in inviting him to their place, should contact Krzysiek.
- “Kaz...” will be available in the New York State Libraries Catalog of Books (from Bogdan).
- Leszek Pawlik, President of the Coalition of Polish Americans (CPA) received a call from the office of Archbp. Vigneron, in response to his letter requesting an audience re the liquidation of Seminary at Orchard Lake Schools (OLS). Leszek was informed that the Archbishop was not responsible for closing (temporary) the Seminary only Regents. What Leszek was not told that Vigneron is responsible for the elimination of the Seminary from OLS and what Polonia is trying to prevent.
- Leszek accused the PACT group of not wanting to cooperate with the CPA and of intercepting projects that the CPA decided to work on.
- Jacek notified Frank Spula that Michael McCaul R,10d, TX) – the new chairman of the House Foreign Committee and Senator Bob Menendez (NJ) - the chairman of the Senate Foreign Committee refused to meet with the Polish Deputy Minister of the Foreign Affairs Arkadiusz Mularczyk who seeks US support for World War II reparations from Germany.

We talked about:

- A very active PACT member turns 92 tomorrow. We sang “many more years (100 is not enough!) in good health” to Richard, President of the Polish American Congress, Long Island Divisions and a member of several Polish American organizations.
- The Katyń Monument. Irene Guillon sent us a drawing of the 5' wall facing Montgomery Street. We hope that EPASID can be persuaded to lower the height of this wall to 3 feet.
- PIASA (The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America) founded by Prof. Piotr Wandycz has been taken over by the chosen ones and turned into anti-Polish propaganda. What can we do, Krysia wondered.
- Leszek Pawlik's recent email re the Conference on methods of calculating immigrants pensions in Poland. All aspects were discussed, including why some countries are excluded from the WEP (because their nationals receive a Civic Retirement).

Following decisions were made:

- We will send individual letters of support for the PAC-Missouri Division's request to Archbp. Mitchell Rozanski to save the only Polish Parish in St. Louis and all of Missouri.
- Gienek's proposal will be sent again by Krystyna to the office of Rep. John Larson with a list of participants of the meeting. Looks like they missed what was sent to them in Dec.
- There seems to be a better chance to repeal the WEP in the US than getting Polish officials to comply with Polish law and allowing immigrants to choose how their retirement pensions are calculated.
- Zbyszek and others were asked by Krysia to find out about their Local Human Rights Commission. We could complain to them, for example, about YIVO's discrimination policy.
- We will try to include Helena Knapczyk into the Immigrant Heritage Hall of Fame in Connecticut (listen to her story: www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgGka9QvI-M).
- Krysia recommended reading carefully the latest PIASA Newsletter: <https://piasa.org/newsletter-vol-3-no-1-january-2023/> :
- We should all read the book “Kaz...” and start spreading the word about it, now (Jola).
- A new chair of Ways & Means Committee became Jason Smith Rep. in Missouri. Gienek will try to get in touch with him and talk about repealing WEP.

Next meeting: PACT'23 - Thursday, January 26, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype

AGENDA: reading all reports from meetings in January and commenting

zk, 1-21-23

PACT'23 - Meeting #3 Thursday, January 26, 2023 3 – 6:23 PM ET Participated: Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Jola, Krzysiek, Ryszard, Susanne, Zbyszek.

We welcomed a new person at this PACT meeting:

Ms. Suzanne Mazurczyk, an active member of Polish American Strategic Initiative (PASI) and the Committee for Conservation of Katyn Monument and Historic Objects (CCKMHO).

What has happened since our last meeting on Thursday?

- The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Retirees webinar was held last week. Zbyszek was present and was surprised that at the well-prepared summary of the efforts to repeal WEP/GPO there was NO mention of those who derailed H.R.82, despite overwhelming bipartisan support. The interesting part was about inflation; Cola (Cost of Living Adjustment). A couple of links: [Webinar Recording](#) + [WEP Calculator](#)
- Anna B. sent Zbyszek official requirements for candidates for OLS Regents.
- Committees have been formed at PASI for various tasks
- There has been a major reshuffle at the national office of Polish American Congress: Klara Wisniewska, Office Administrator has resigned and John Czop, Director of Policy Planning was unanimously fired by the Executive Committee at the same time.
- Yesterday (1-.25), Frank Spula was awarded for his activities in Warsaw by "Wspólnota Polska": <http://wspolnotapolska.org.pl/wiadomosci.php?id=8327>
- Jacek, Gene, Jim and Wojtek J. will meet on Monday with the Ambassador of the RP and the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Arkadiusz Mularczyk.
- Dr. Jim sent a smart request to Rep. McCaul to meet Minister Mularczyk.

We talked about:

- This year's reports from 3 our meetings. Andrzej read them aloud and the participants commented. Bugs that were noticed in the reports, were fixed.
- Katyń Monument - where the 2x3 feet plaque should be located, describing what the Monument commemorates. Susanne: on the wall from the Montgomery Street, that is promised to be lowered to ~3 feet, will be a sign "In Memory of Katyń".
- Requirements to become an OLS Regent which Jola summed up. She emphasized the importance of the letter attached to the resume: "Why I want to be OLS Regent".

Following decisions were made:

- PAC-Missouri will not post a request on ND_Forum to support their fight to preserve the church in St. Louis. Gienek explained that it was not worth it, because his division never received any help either from National Directors or the Executive Board. Other participants admitted that they had similar experiences.
- Zbyszek reminded participants to send individual letters of support for the PAC-Missouri Division's request to Archbp. Mitchell Rozanski to save the only Polish Parish in Missouri.
- We will not bother contacting Rep. John Larson's office again, because clearly, he is deceiving us into believing that he is in favor to repeal the WEP. Info from Krysia: he resubmitted his bill from last year.
- Gienek has a 3-man team ready to talk to Rep. Jason Smith (MO), chair of Ways & Means House Committee, to repeal H.R.82. We should help prepare the script.
- We will try to find and watch a documentary (recommended) about Erazm Jerzmanowski, once the richest Pole in the US: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erazm_Jerzmanowski.
- Susanne sent us a link to a petition prepared by Waldemar Biniecki re the Seminary at OLS. Those who have not signed it yet are encouraged to do so: <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/help-us-to-save-ss-cyril-methodius-seminary>
- Donations to CCKMOH, as per e-mail from Celina can be made here: <https://www.qofundme.com/f/committee-for-conservation-of-the-katyn-monument>

Next meeting: IOM'23 – Wednesday, February 1, at 8 PM New York Time via Skype
AGENDA: this report will be read and commented on. zk (West Palm Beach), 1-21-23.



IOM - Meeting #2 - Wednesday – February 1, 2023
8 PM – 10:15 PM New York Time

Participants: Andrzej, Gienek, Jacek, Jan S, Jola, Krysia, Krzysiek G, Krzysiek, Renata, Zbyszek
We welcomed Jan Sołowiej who joined us for the first time.

meeting with Jurek on a cruise ship (he had a chance to talk to President Trump about history of Poland)

What has happened since the last Thursday meeting?

- Jacek organized a meeting with Vice Minister, Arkadiusz Mularczyk at the Polish Embassy in DC last Monday. Apart from Jacek, there were prof. Wnęk from the Department of State + Presidents of PASI and PASI ED, Wojtek Jeśman and Gene Sokolowski. The matter of reparation from Germany to Poland was discussed.
- Jacek reported that Mr. Mularczyk met with Congressmen: Brad Schneider (R-IL), Joe Wilson (R-SC), James French Hill (R-AR), John 'Jack' Bergman (R-MI), Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Stephen Cohen (D-TN), Joseph Courtney (D-CT), Delia Ramirez (D-IL), Mark Quigley (D-IL) and Senators: Ted Cruz (R-TX), Richard Scott (R-FL), Todd Young (R-IN).
- Zbyszek mentioned: an article in WSJ "Polish repair shop patching up Ukrainians Arms", (received from Łucja), valuable meeting with Jurek Bogdziewicz in Palm Beach, reparations in "Bibula" (sent by K.Panek) <https://www.bibula.com/?p=138590>, PASI appointed various Committees, invitation to meet with Consuls re the OLS, article in NDz about Fr. Król <https://dziennik.com/sprawa-przeciwko-ksiedzu-krolowi-zamkniet/>, a new draft of Electoral Law in the Polish parliament (sent by Krzysiek G.), a bipartisan group of 60 House lawmakers introduced a bill on Friday that would require a week of Holocaust education in U.S. public schools, the US Congress decided to send millions to Ukraine for Holocaust survivors and for other purposes (both info from Krysia),.

We talked about:

- Compensation for damage caused by Germany during WWII. The Greeks have recently received a compensation from Germany (according to Jacek). Poland never got a penny because under the Soviet control had no say. We discussed how we could help convince Americans to support Polish claims.
- Information about Poland in the US. Terry Tegnazian, President of Aquila Polonica and the Kuryer Polski published by Waldemar Biniecki, recalled Jan. The Aquila company specializes in books based on eyewitness accounts, in English, of Poland in World War II. Kuryer Polski is a continuation of the proud, over 70-year-long tradition of the first Polish newspaper in America by the same name published in Milwaukee until 1962, reactivated as an internet portal in September 2020.

It was decided:

- Krysia suggested that we look at Jewish Federations and learn from them.
- Krzysiek G. proposed transforming the Forum-Houston-Polonia website into Forum Polonia. Jacek declared his willingness to help in this project.
- We will use Jacek's idea to convince politicians to support Polish claims that the main reason why Poland has so far not received compensations from Germany is because Roosevelt sold Poland to Stalin's rule and Poland had no voice of its own.
- To support the Resolution prepared by Dr. Gene Sokolowski, as well as petition.
- Krzysiek G. proposed dissemination of films about Pilecki and "Interrogation".

Next meeting: PACT'22 > Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 3 PM ET via Skype
AGENDA: this and previous report will be read + current events zk 2/5/23

PACT'23 - Meeting #4 Thursday, February 9, 2023 3 – 5:56 PM ET

Participated: Andrzej, Andrzej P., Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Jola, Jurek B., Ryszard, Tomasz Sz., Zbyszek.

We welcomed a new person to this PACT meeting: Tomasz Szymkowiak (from Wroclaw), Founder & Co-owner of Genealogy Tour <https://www.facebook.com/genealogy.tour>

What has happened since our last meeting on Thursday?

- Gienek informed about promising news; Archbishop responded to PAC- Missouri's request: church of St Agata can exist as long as parishioners continue finding Polish priests who will lead it. Gienek thanked everyone who sent letters to Archbp. and helped save their Polish parish.
- Krzysiek G. wrote an article together with Waldemar Biniecki about the potential of Polonia: <https://dorzeczy.pl/opinie/402937/kodeks-wyborczy-polonia-stanie-sie-elementem-polskiego-krwioobiegu.html>. It is worth reminding Polish officials of this and Polish people.
- Jim Mazurkiewicz forwarded the draft Reparation Resolution (prepared by Dr. Gene Sokolowski, President of PASI-EDU <https://pasi-edu.org/>) to Rep. McCaul's office.
- Krzysiek G. organizes the first meeting on the Forum Polonia portal, Feb.16.
- Zbyszek talked to Wladek and Jurek R. about the meeting with Consuls re the OLS.
- Gienek explained in detail, during Monday meeting of PAS H.R.82 Committee, why and how was WEP introduced and why it is unfair especially to Polish immigrants.
- Krysia alerted us that the Center for Polish Studies at the University of Michigan is moving towards an anti-Polish narrative. Their bulletin (Feb.9, 2023) reads: "*We hope to fund one- to three-month research visits to U-M by Polish scholars, journalists, and artists whose work is targeted by the Holocaust law*".
- Last Saturday, PASI organized a meeting to support Polish WWII compensation claims.

We talked about:

- "Genealogy Tour" - Tomasz presented his company. They help find family members in Poland (basic research package costs \$250) and organize trips around Poland.
- 3 important questions from Leszek P.: Why is Polonia so weak politically in the US, what can we do today to change it + what and how should we work on it in the long term.?
- The US Presidential elections in Florida. Jurek B.: Polonia voted in large numbers.
- Reports from our last 2 meetings read aloud by Zbyszek.
- Fall elections in the PAC. Andrzej mentioned the degradation of PAC's reputation among Polonia + the need to find not only a good candidate for President but also for VPs.
- Andrzej P. recalled Gordon Black's achievements in California public schools (a lesson about WWII) and the reaction of Jewish women during Dr. Ewa Kurek's presentation on Jewish children in monasteries.

Following decisions were made:

- Andrzej repeated his idea to suggest to organizations to grant scholarships to Polonia students with the proviso that they must join the organization from which they received money and continue their membership for several years (dues should be symbolic). Also, political science students should be preferred over all others for scholarships.
- Gienek: no Polonia organization should now confuse legislators by submitting its own proposals at this time. We should work with US organizations to repeal WEP/GPO and support reintroduced H.R.82. It seems that the Coalition of Polish Americans does not understand this. Andrzej was asked to obtain info from the CPA Board about their action and explain to them how important is to speak with one voice to achieve the goal.

Next meeting: PACT'23 – Thursday, February 16, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype
AGENDA: this report will be read and commented on. zk (Miami Beach), 2-10-23

PACT'23 - Meeting #5 Thursday, February 16, 2023 3 – 5:44 PM ET

Participated:

Andrzej, Andrzej P., Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Jola, Jurek B., Ryszard, Zbyszek.



Robert, Edyta, Halina, Anna, Mark, Zbyszek in Sarasota, Florida (Feb.14)

What has happened since our last meeting on Thursday?

- Jola informed us about amazing changes regarding the meeting with the Consuls: they do not want to meet with various Polonia organizations, as originally planned, only with the Polskie Lobby and there will be no talk about OLS. The meeting will be held on Tuesday.
- Halina and Zbyszek participated in the 60 Million Congress in Miami Beach from Thursday to Saturday, Feb. 9-11 <https://60mln.pl/pl/> . They talked to many interesting people, including Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz - professor of history at the Institute of World Politics, Andy Gołebowski - host of the radio show in Buffalo, Dr Bogdan Kotnis – author of the book “Kaz”, Edyta Ślusarczyk and Robert Wachowiak - producers of “Flavor of Poland”.
- Jan Peczkis presented his review of the Polish government 3-volume study on WWII reparations from Germany: <https://www.jewsandpolesdatabase.org/2023/02/11/poland-war-losses-germany-owes-poland-reparations-big-time-definitive-work-poles-and-not-only-jews-suffered-long-term-demographic-losses-zyblikiewicz-and-wnek/>
- Halina and Zbyszek met with Anna Pienkos and Mark, VP of PAC, in Sarasota on Feb.14.
- Zbyszek started reading the book “Kaz” and his initial opinion is very positive.

We talked about:

- Details on how to help candidates who are considering running for positions on the Polish American Congress (PAC) Executive Committee.
- A plan for candidates that could help them revitalize the PAC.
- Recent events in Miami Beach: the 60 Million Congress organized by Grzegorz Fryc and the 50th International Polonaise Ball of the American Institute of Polish Culture (AIPC) organized by Lady Blanka Rosenstiel.
- Planned meeting on the creation of the Forum Polonia website (hosted by Krzysiek G.).
- Report from the last Thursday's meeting (read by Zbyszek).

Following decisions were made:

- Andrzej will be working on a list of PAC National Directors with their emails and phones.
- Zbyszek will prepare a proposal on how to help candidates in the elections to the PAC EC.
- Zbyszek will ask Krzysiek G. to allow Andrzej and Krzysiek to participate in today's meeting regarding the Polonia Forum website.
- Andrzej P. will send info what Gordon Black has achieved in public schools in California.

Next meeting: PACT'23 – Thursday, February 23, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype

AGENDA: this report will be read and commented on.

zk, 2-20-23

Zanim coś powiesz przesiej swoje słowa przez TRZY SITA SOKRATESA:

1. Czy to co chcesz powiedzieć na pewno jest prawdą?
2. Czy to co chcesz powiedzieć jest dobre?
3. Czy to co chcesz powiedzieć jest konieczne?



PCT'23 - Meeting #6

Thursday, February 23, 2023 3 – 6:11 PM ET

Participated:

Andrzej, Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Jan S., Jola, Ryszard, Zbyszek.

What has happened since our last meeting on Thursday?

- Gienek informed us that our letters to Archbishop seem to change their thinking, some Parishes will be served by one pastor instead of closing them.
- Jola & Renata met with Consuls on Tuesday and they were told that OLS for Polonia was lost. Only the introduction of Regents with Polish hearts can change the situation.
- Nathan Silverstein, President of the Polish Club at UT organized a meeting with mbassador Brzezinski. Recording from the meeting: <https://youtu.be/AuVaOc4wqVE>.
- A meeting was held on creating the Polonia Forum website (hosted by Krzysiek G.).
- Info: IX World Congress of Polonia and Polish teachers will be held in Toruń, May 26-28.

We talked about:

- OLS. What can be done to preserve the Polish character of this institution.
- The report from the last meeting was read and some items extended/discussed.
- The book "Kaz". Halina likes it. We should start informing our friends about it.
- What was introduced to schools in California. Edmund explained: he was part of the team with Gordon Black (Blachowiak) and prepared info about WWII for schools, emphasizing the Polish experience. He told us about his appearance at the meeting of the Education Council. Jan S.: Kazimierz Braun used the materials prepared by Gordon and made the film Eugenica. Jan also mentioned the film of Mac Felton " Katyń".
- Programs for candidates who decide to apply for PAC ET.
- Criticism of passive Polonia's attitudes and are we able to change them.
- Meeting with Mr. Jacek Rosa from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be held on Saturday.

Following decisions were made:

- Andrzej will continue to work on the list of PAC National Directors and proposed work on ideas for candidates to PAC ET.
- Zbyszek will learn from Dr. Jim what is the status of the Reparation Resolution.
- We will not try to reintroduce H.Res.664 again. We will wait what will happen with the Reparation Resolution prepared by Dr. Gene Sokolowski.
- Jola will suggest Regents to join the American Archives by Polish OLS Archives.
- To approach Archbishop Vigneron to support Polish regent candidates.
- Andrzej will remind teachers about Katyń Lesson.
- Zbyszek will try to invite Joseph Rej to our meeting next week Wednesday at 8 PM ET.
- Krzysiek: we should continue to look for candidates for Regents. Jola: 3 already applied.
- To mention on ND_Forum about the upcoming PAC EC elections and time limits will eliminate some officers from the race this year and we should look for replacements.
- Jola will inform Consul Zyzak about a meeting on Restitution of German looted Art.

Recommended: President Biden in Warsaw (from Łucja) [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov)

Prof. Chodakiewicz about EU (from Zygmunt): part I

https://twitter.com/Tysol/status/1626355491952795648?t=h5smzm6_C_b_xxM6z6hUQg&s=09

Part II: <https://www.tysol.pl/a99660-tylko-u-nas-prof-marek-ian-chodakiewicz-peryferie-ue?s=09>

Next meeting: IOM'23 – Wednesday, March 1, at 8 PM New York Time via Skype

AGENDA: this report will be read and commented on.

zk, 2-26-23

Participants:

Andrzej, Andrzej P., Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Jola, Krysia, Krzysiek G, Renata, Zbyszek

Every year on March 1, we are celebrating the National Day of Remembrance of Cursed Soldiers. They never gave up the fight for free Poland and we should never forget about their perseverance and heroism. We live in different times, but they can still be an example for us; to be active and work on issues important to Polonia and Poland, even if most people are passive and they do not want to get involved. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cursed_soldiers

What has happened since the last Thursday meeting?

- Meeting with Minister Jacek Rosa on how Polonia could help convince American politicians to support compensation for Poland for WWII (organized by Krzysiek G. and Jacek last Saturday).
- Meeting of the PASI Committee working on the WEP repealing last Monday.
- Gienek prepared a letter to Rep. Jason Smith and sent it to PASI for comments.
- Yesterday, Krzysiek and Zbyszek participated in a webinar “Diplomacy and restitution of German-looted Art” organized by the Chicago DePaul University.

We talked about:

- How we can get a support of American politicians for Poland that is trying to receive compensation from Germany for damages caused by them during WWII.
- Current situation and what to do to revive PAC EC. Jola wanted to know how to bring young people to the PAC Michigan Division. Gienek reminded about the financial assistance of the PAC Division for young people to go to Poland and enable them to meet their peers. He also mentioned the Kościuszko Foundation (KF) and its annual program of youth trips to Poland. Parents are required to be KF members. The purpose of the trips is to open eyes of young people to the fascinating history, people and landscapes of Poland. Zbyszek added that in Polish Saturday schools there should be a lesson about Polonia organizations, their missions and what they offer.
- The Anti-defamation League (20 US offices). They have 5,5 million for salaries for 400 employees Their professionals hunt for anti-Semitic incidents.
- Progress on WEP repeal. Action to inform Polonia about WEP through announcements in churches. An example of how this can be done was prepared by Rogata Dusza.
- Patriotic Concert in Wallington in 2022 (I recommend listening): <https://youtu.be/XD2WXvn6Rtc>; [Koncert - YouTube](#)

It was decided:

- Gienek will consult with PASI his info leaflet on WEP (he emphasized that PASI is the leading Polonia organization on the repeal of the WEP). Polish and English versions should be placed at the entrance of churches which should be our info distribution centers (Andrzej P.). The Polish and American media should also be informed.
- To suggest to Polonia organizations to Invest in young Polish Americans by helping them visit Poland. Prerequisite: parents must join an organization that offers help.
- To educate Reps' Education Staffers about Poland's suffering during WWII. This could help us get the Reparation Resolution in the US Congress (Krystyna's suggestion).
- That PAC Missouri will send a letter without additional explanations, prepared by Gienek, to Rep. Jason Smith (R-8d.) who leads Ways & Means Committee, after PASI reviewed it. In 2003,4,9 the Missouri Senate passed a resolution calling on the US Congress to repeal WEP/GPO (this must be mentioned in a letter to Rep. Smith).
- To encourage Polonia to make donation to the Polish American Congress: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=67NC46YGN85B2

Next meeting: PACT'23 > Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 3 PM ET via Skype

AGENDA: this and previous report will be read and commented + current events. zk 3

PCT'23 - Meeting #7

Thursday, March 9, 2023 3 – 6:11 PM ET

Participated: Andrzej, Andrzej P. Edmund, Gienek, Halina, Jacek, Jola, John Cz., Krysia, Krzysiek, Krzysiek G., Zbyszek.

We welcomed a new participant, John Czop.

What has happened since our last meeting on Thursday?

- On Friday morning, March 3, there was a webinar hosted by Nathan Silverstein, Founder and President of the Polish Club at University of Texas on the rebirth of Jewish life in Poland. The guest was the CEO of the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Krakow Mr. Jonathan Ornstein. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwxiAs1z2Yo&t=4s>.

We talked about:

- Polish Club at the University of Texas. The President's email address is not a university address. Observing their activities, doubts were expressed whether this Club was really Polish, or perhaps it should rather be called Polish Jewish.
- Report No. 6 of the PACT'23 meeting was read and commented on.
- Orchard Lake Schools (OLS). The Polish Institute asks for donations and is open for cooperation. Jola: I hope this is a legitimate request.
- Elections in the Polish American Congress. The term limit may affect the position of the President and a few other people in the Executive Committee this year but only assuming that the time in office is counted before this amendment was approved in 2018. The candidates for the position of President will most likely be: Alicja Kuklińska (Frank's former Secretary and currently Director of the PNA), PAC VP for American Affairs and Secretary, Tim Kuzma and Vice President of PAC, Mark Pienkos. The abilities of each of them and their electiveness were discussed. Reminder: in 2018 the By-laws were amended. The term limit was established for 4 terms, each term of office lasts 2 years.
- Jonathan Ornstein and his description of the Kielce pogrom.
- Difficulties in finding the PAC website and lack of updates.

Following decisions were made:

- Krysia and Krzysiek will prepare a plan how to approach the Polish Club. They will cooperate with Andrzej and Zbyszek.
- Andrzej will continue to work on making it easier to find the Katyń Lesson.
- Zbyszek will contact Ms. Jaminska (Misia) and ask her for the NDs list.
- We should all watch the one-man theatrical production "Jan Karski" on PBS TV station (in New York: Monday, March 13 at 9 pm).
- We will continue to explore which positions will be available in the fall PAC EC elections.
- Edmund will continue to search for materials prepared by PAC-North California on WWII, adapted by the California Board of Education.
- John will send info on how we could support arming of Poland, a \$24 billion project.
- We should demand the discount that Poland deserves on arms purchases.
- Sending the book, "Polish society under German occupation" by Jan T. Gross to Silverstein, President of the Polish Club and Ornstein, CEO of Jewish Cultural Center.
- We should organize objections to the Holocaust Education Bill.
- Sending info about Pogrom in Kielce prepared by IPN and "I Saw Poland Betrayed" by Arthur Bliss Lane: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Saw_Poland_Betrayed , to Silverstein of the Polish Club and Ornstein, CEO of JCC.

Next meeting: PACT'23 – Thursday, March 16, at 3 PM New York Time via Skype

AGENDA: previous report and this one will be read and commented on.

zk, 3-10-23