



# *Polish American Congress, Inc.*

## **Long Island New York Division**

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### **Division Report**

May 3, 2014

During the period of September 2013 through April 2014 the Division held six Board meetings and two general membership meetings.

Membership renewals have not met our expectations for 2014.

The following is a summary of current membership status:

73 individual members; 31 renewed

5 family memberships; 5 renewed

11 organizations; 9 renewed

In the election on March 30, 2014 over 60% of members (record number) participated.

Results of the election:

Grzegorz Worwa- President

Malgorzata Gradzki VP for Youth Affairs (was chosen again, but resigned after the election)

Bogdan Blusewicz- Treasurer

National Delegates:

Ryszard Brzozowski and Zygmunt Staszewski.

Audit committee:

Ryszard Brzozowski – Chairman

Kazimierz Nietupski- Member

No candidates were nominated for the following positions:

VP for Polish Affairs, VP for American Affairs and Secretary

Previously elected officers will continue to serve until filled by appointment.

The following is a summary of the Division's significant activities:

1. Kazimierz Nietupski, President, together with Board Members and division members participated in many Polish-American events. Most important was observance of Polish Independence Day and events on Sunday, April 13, dedicated to the victims of Katyn and Smolensk held in American Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pennsylvania. He traveled there with Grzegorz Worwa, VP for Polish Affairs.

2. Richard Brzozowski, Honorary President and National Delegate, together with PAC LI members, participated in several cultural events held at the Polish American Museum in Port Washington.

Richard together with Zbyszek Koralewski and the cooperation of President of Rzeszow and Mr. Waldemar Jarzmus, obtained the support of the Israeli Embassy and Yad Vashem in Poland to have Steinreich Communications and the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous in New York to retract their use of the phrase "Polish Nazi collaborators" in their story honoring Maria and Czeslaw Polziec who helped save the Leon Gersten family in Rzeszow, Poland during WWII. The story, together with the erroneous reference, was published in Newsday, a major Long Island paper. After considerable effort a correction and retraction was published.

Richard on behalf the PAC and the Polish American Museum, participated in an event at the Port Washington Community Synagogue to honor a Polish Christian family who saved the life of Mrs. Gloria Glantz during the Holocaust. Richard was requested to introduce General Consul of RP, Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka.

2. Dr Lucja Swiatkowska-Cannon, VP for American Affairs. As per her request, the report she prepared, that covers her activities during the two-year term, is attached.
4. Grzegorz Worwa, organized Jaselka performed by a folk group "gorale" and two discussion panels titled „Polonia, where are you heading?“. He invited prominent panelists including youth movement representatives and moderated the discussions. The last panel was held in January 2014 and was dedicated to find ways to strengthen Polonia's organizations and improve cooperation between them.
5. Malgorzata Leniartek, Treasurer mailed over 100 Christmas greeting cards with requests for financial support. Accompanying the greetings was a questionnaire to help assess the interests of both members and non-members in the PAC.
6. Zygmunt Staszewski, National Delegate participated in numerous national and international events including the Pangea Alliance International Conference in Miami where he made, on his own, a visual presentation about the PAC to all attendees. His interactions with both politicians and business persons have resulted in successful networking
7. Teodor Lachowski, chairman of the Nomination committee was successful in planning and preparing the March PAC-LI. Division election.
8. Edmund Keczmer, PAC- LI member, came up with the idea to have the Polish version of By-laws for mostly Polish-born membership and initiated the effort to have Halina and Zbyszek Koralewski translate the division's By-laws.
9. Zbyszek Koralewski, Corresponding Secretary designed full page ads in local Polish newspapers and in local organization and Polish supplementary school journals. The ads introduced the PAC's mission and encouraged Polonia to join their local PAC division. Zbyszek designed and installed the division's website in January 2014. He also coordinated a position paper, approved by the boards of four divisions, which brought to the attention of the Executive Committee items that need to be addressed and or discussed during the spring session of the PAC. Zbyszek represented KPA-LI at the whole day Conference titled "Budujmy Wielki Front Patriotyczny" held in American Czestochowa, where 14 prominent speakers from the US and Poland presented their views on numerous important topics.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of:

President, Kazimierz Nietupski, Past President

Grzegorz Worwa, President

Zbyszek Koralewski – Corresponding Secretary, Long Island Division

Attached is the report of Dr. Lucja Swiatkowski Cannon

**Dr. Lucja Swiatkowski Cannon  
Vice-President, American Affairs  
Polish-American Congress, Long Island Division**

**Report of activities for the period June 2012- March 2014:**

**LOCAL ELECTIONS ON LONG ISLAND 2012**

Prepared a memorandum on Voter Registration in New York State and sent it to all members of PAC LI.

Located a map of Long Island new redistricted Congressional Districts and sent to all members of PAC LI.

Located a New York State Voter Registration Form and sent it to all members of PAC LI.

Prepared memoranda and sent newspaper articles on local Congressional candidates.

Sent all educational election materials to appear on the PAC Long Island website, though there were delays with its inauguration.

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2012**

Signed in a personal capacity a letter circulated by some Polish-American Congress state leaders, requesting Mitt Romney, the Republican presidential candidate, to clarify his positions in relation to Polish-American relations. The Romney campaign answered the letter in detail.

This started a discussion and an exchange of letters and emails about the role of the Polish-American Congress in national political campaigns, the Polonia agenda and direction of activities as well as the division of labor between the PAC headquarters and state divisions and within the divisions in relation to important Polish and Polish-American issues.

Further discussion and letters concerning an inadequate flow of information between HQ and local chapters and members. Asking PAC headquarters for explanation of its election positions on important Polonia issues, including visa waiver program.

Prepared a Presidential Voter Guide on Polish-American Issues that contrasted positions on Poland and Polish-American issues of both Democratic and Republican presidential candidates.

Called and wrote letters to PAC Washington office on meetings with US officials on financial and tax issues, affecting Polonia.

## **VISA WAIVER PROGRAM - SENATE BILL ON IMMIGRATION REFORM S. 744**

Sent memoranda to members and advocated to the passage of S. 733 Senate immigration bill, that contained a provision #4506 on the Visa Waiver for Poland. The bill passed on 27 June 2013.

## **VISA WAIVER PROGRAM - US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL HR 1354**

PAC headquarters in Chicago chose JOLT Act of 2012 (HR 1354) as the best legislative vehicle to get the Visa Waiver Program approved in the US Congress.

Conducted extensive consultations with PAC headquarters on legislative strategy

Sent a number of memoranda in summer and fall of 2013 to all members of PAC-Long Island to send letters and make phone calls to four local congressmen, representing Long Island, in support of HR 1354.

Sent letters to four Long Island Congressmen to become sponsors of HR 1354. Two of them Peter King and Tim Bishop, became sponsors. Carolyn McCarthy became a sponsor of a competing House bill and Steve Israel promised to get involved after the bill cleared the House Judiciary Committee.

Met and lobbied other US congressmen on support for HR 1354

## **VARIOUS OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Sent out various announcements and articles, related to Poland and Polonia to members.

Wrote a memorandum to PAC members on protesting the BBC transmission of the German TV serial that distorts Poland's history in World War II. Made a proposal to PAC HQ Chicago to send its own protest letter.

Sent out a memorandum on protest against holding a climate change conference in Poland on the Independence Day.

Met with Dr. Barbara Andersen at the PAC Washington office on 5 April 2013 to talk about the PAC Long Island retirement project

Prepared a memorandum on policy guidelines, provided by Dr. Barbara Andersen, to advance projects supported by the PAC Long Island Division.