

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

Resolutions passed by the Council of National Directors assembled in Chicago, IL on October 25- 26, 2012

Resolution 1. "Fair Social Security" initiative to repeal Windfall Elimination Provision

Whereas, Windfall Elimination Provision causes reduction of Social Security benefits for people who are eligible for a pension based on earnings not covered by Social Security (including foreign pensions, such as Polish ZUS or KRUS); therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Polish American Congress (PAC) supports H.R. 1332: Social Security Fairness Act of 2011 sponsored by Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon (R), and by Sen. John Kerry (D), which is to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset; and

Resolved, That the PAC broadly publicizes action for "*Fair Social Security*" to Polish Americans in order to educate the public and exert pressure on legislators in Washington.

Resolution 2. Renegotiation of the Polish-American Tax Treaty

Whereas, Non-resident tax (flat tax) affects the income of Polish Americans who return to Poland and are not American citizens, the Social Security Administration withholds a 30 percent flat tax from 85 percent of Social Security retirement, survivors, and disability benefits, which results in a withholding of 25.5 percent; and

Whereas, Many Polish Americans return to Poland only to find out that their retirement income is severely reduced; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Polish American Congress supports renegotiation of the Treaty for Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion signed between the United States and Poland on October 8, 1974, in order to make Poles exempt from the American nonresident tax;

Resolved, That the Polish American Congress initiate lobbying Polish lawmakers to renegotiate the Polish-American Tax Treaty; and

Resolved, That the PAC broadly publicizes action for "*Fair Taxes Of Returning Immigrants*" (*Sprawiedliwe Podatki Reemigrantow*) to Polish Americans in order to educate the public and exert pressure on the Polish Government to renegotiate the Polish-American Tax Treaty.

Resolution 3. Polish tax breaks for retirees returning to Poland

Whereas, Social Security benefits for recipients with limited income are not taxable in the United States, the eighteen percent Polish income tax on retirement benefits of returning immigrants seems particularly reprehensible inasmuch as the returnees bear the high cost of relocation and spend their savings in Poland, thereby giving a boost to the Polish economy; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the PAC supports Polish five-year tax breaks for retirees returning to their homeland and starts lobbying Polish lawmakers to this effect;

Resolved, That the PAC broadly publicizes action for "*Fair Taxes Of Returning Immigrants*" (*Sprawiedliwe Podatki Reemigrantow*) to Polish Americans in order to educate the public and exert pressure on the Polish Government to introduce tax breaks for returning retirees; and

Resolved, That the PAC Executive Committee request that the Polish authorities prepare a compilation of regulations pertaining to returning immigrants.

Resolution 4. Support of "The Joint International Committee on Camp Kościuszko"

Whereas, The year 2017 will mark the 100th anniversary of the formation of General Haller's "Blue Army" comprising American volunteers; and

Whereas, On March 24, 2012, the Polish American Congress Division of Western New York and the Canadian Polish Congress of Niagara created "The Joint International Committee on Camp Kościuszko" (The Niagara-on-the-Lake Historical Military Training Site and Cemetery of General Haller's Recruits) in order "to uphold the honor of, and to preserve the site, and to undertake whatsoever efforts to achieve this noble cause for all Polonia and future generations;" therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of National Directors of the Polish American Congress supports and entrusts the Polish American Congress Division of Western New York to continue in this role on our behalf and encourages all Polish Americans to support this noble cause.

Resolution 5. Commemoration of the January Uprising of 1863

Whereas, The national emblems of several of the oldest Polish American fraternal organizations incorporate the coat of arms of the January Uprising of 1863 in the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth;

Whereas, The founding fathers of our nation's oldest fraternals were veterans of the January Uprising of 1863; and

Whereas, The year 2013 marks the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the January Uprising of 1863; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of National Directors of the Polish American Congress encourages all Polish Americans to commemorate this noble event appropriately and to pay honor to our forefathers who endured the struggle and laid the foundation of our present-day Polish American community in the United States.

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Resolutions 1, 2, and 3 submitted by New York Long Island Division.
Resolutions 4 and 5 submitted by Western New York Division.

Resolutions Committee

Christine J. McMullan, Chair

Teresa Bunk

Frances X. Gates