

THE POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA

POLAM

FALL 2023 VOLUME 45 ISSUE 3 WWW.PACIM.ORG



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The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is a non-profit organization offering a broad range of programs and events that provide opportunity to grow deeper in understanding and appreciation of Polish and Polish American traditions, culture, and history.

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Cover Photo:

Amada Simula, Mayor of Columbia Heights, MN, and Małgorzata Żebrowska-Piotrak, Mayor of Łomianki, Poland, attend the opening of the American Pilots Monument in Łomianki in 2022.

From the President



Dear PACIM Members!

Witam Wszystkich Serdecznie!

Over the past few weeks, many members of the Polonia community have been busy preparing for the visit of Dr. Paweł Zyzak, the Polish Consul General in Chicago. He will arrive in Minnesota on November 10 and stay with us until November 13. The consul's schedule is filled with meaningful engagements. On Saturday, he will visit the Polish Saturday School, participate in the Independence Day Run, and deliver a speech at the Armistice Day Celebration. The following day, he will visit the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Holy Cross Church, and the office of PACIM. On Monday, the consul has planned to meet with Polish academics from the University of Minnesota and St. Thomas University. While there, he will also have the opportunity to attend the exhibition prepared by the Minnesota Polish Medical Society. His visit will culminate on Tuesday with a meeting with medical professionals at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester and a tour of the Polish Museum in Winona. For the latest details on the consul's visit, please refer to our website: www.pacim.org.

This summer, a significant Polish American event occurred - the dedication ceremony of fifty-nine new grave markers commemorating the Polish "Blue Army" at the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Detroit on June 17th. The granite crosses were placed in memory of the Polish American volunteers who served in the "Blue Army," a World War I military unit composed of ethnic Poles and Polish immigrants who fought on the Western Front and later in the Polish-Soviet War.

The project was co-financed by the National Remembrance Institute (IPN) and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago. During the event I had a chance to talk to Adam Siwek, the IPN's Director of the Office for Commemorating the Struggle and Martyrdom. He expressed his support for the WWII Warsaw US Airlift Memorial project, a cooperation between PACIM and Sister Cities Columbia Heights-Łomianki, Poland. You can find more information about this initiative on page 4.

I would like to thank all PACIM members and supporters of PACIM who attended our Annual Picnic in August. We have been blessed again with lovely weather and talented musicians accompanying our gathering. Please mark your calendars for future events: a meeting with the Polish Consul in the PACIM office on Nov 12, the Soup Festival on Nov 19, and Wigilia on Dec 17. People who have access to the TVPolonia channel, could watch on Nov 24 the "Przystanek Ameryka" program, which will feature Polonia in Minnesota.

Finally, I would like to cordially welcome our new Board Members: Anna Margl and Alex Zemla!

Edyta Dudek
PACIM President

CALENDAR

> **NOVEMBER 12, 4 – 6 pm** <
Meet the Polish Consul
PACIM Office in Little Canada

> **NOVEMBER 16, 7 – 10 pm** <
Minnesota Premier of the Polish Film
"March 68"
JCC Sabes Center

> **NOVEMBER 19, 11 am – 3 pm** <
Soup Festival
Kolbe Hall, John Paul II School

> **DECEMBER 17, 4 – 8 pm** <
Wigilia Dinner
Kolbe Hall, John Paul II School

> **February 10** <
Carnival Ball
Midland Hills Country Club, Roseville

FALL UP FESTIVAL

Continuing with PACIM tradition, **Fall Polish Soup Festival** will take place on **Sunday, November 19th**, from 11:00am until 3:00pm at the Kolby Hall of the Holy Cross Church 1630 4th St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

For \$15 (\$7 children) you can try 8 varieties of delicious Polish soups. If any soups are left at the end of the event, you will be able to purchase 16oz containers for \$15.



PREORDER
You can also preorder 16oz containers for \$12.50 until November 16.

Please write a check to PACIM, 93 Little Canada Rd W, unit 106 Saint Paul, MN, 55117 or pay online at www.pacim.org.

2023 Wigilia

... SAVE THE DATE ...

PACIM Board would like to invite you, your family, and friends to 2023 Wigilia

December 17th

THE EVENT IS OPEN TO EVERYONE

4:30 pm Kolędy and Christmas activities
6:00pm Wigilia dinner

Kolbe Hall, 1621 4th St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

1621 University Ave. NE • Minneapolis, MN 55413 • www.ourholycross.org

Saturday, December 9, 2023 ♦ 7:00pm

The CCW Rosary Guild will host a festive reception in Kolbe Hall!

1944 Warsaw US Airlift Memorial

In September 1944, during the Warsaw Uprising, Allied planes dropped supplies to help the fighters in Warsaw. On September 18, the American B17G Fortress "See you later" was shot down over Dziekanów Leśny, eight miles away from the capital. Eight crew members died in the crash; two survived but were captured and taken as prisoners. After the war, both of the survivors returned to the USA. One of the heroic pilots who lost his life that day, Walter Shimshock (Władysław Szymczak), was a Polish American from Columbia Heights, Minnesota.



In 1987, the American Pilots Monument was unveiled at the Łomianki war cemetery. When US Vice-President George H.W. Bush visited Poland, he paid his respect by laying flowers in honor of the downed American pilots.



The crew of "See you later."

Pictured left to right (kneeling): Walter Shimshock, Dan Weinberg (later replaced by George MacPhee), Paul Haney, and Frank DeCillis.

Left to right (standing): Marcus Shook, Francis Akins, Forrest Shaw, and Myron Merrill.

Not pictured: Vince Stefanek.

Courtesy of Garnett Akins Rainey and Marcia Akins Evancheck.



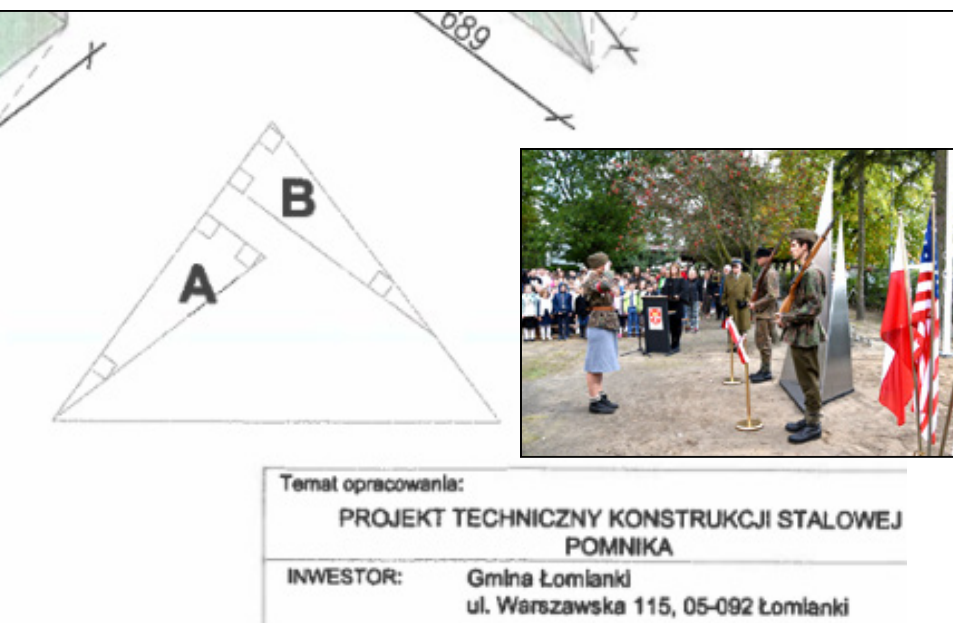
In 1989, when the families of fallen pilots visited Łomianki, the idea of establishing cooperation between two cities, Łomianki, Poland and Columbia Heights, Minnesota, arose.

The ardent supporters of this idea were Walter's brothers - Bernard and George Szymczak. On their initiative, on July 14, 1991, the two cities formalized their partnership with a cooperation agreement.

Since the partnership began, Sister Cities Columbia Heights members have visited Łomianki multiple times to take part in commemorative events for the crash anniversary. A significant highlight was on September 16, 2022, when the Mayor Amada Simula of Columbia Heights was present for unveiling of a monument dedicated to the Heroic Crew of the B-17G Airplane. Amada and other Sister Cities members engaged in many historical activities organized by the city for children and entire families.

In 2023, during one of the Sister Cities meetings held in Columbia Heights City Hall, the conversation between Mayor Amada Simula and PACIM President Edyta Dudek led to initiating the efforts to erect a sister monument in Łomianki Park in Columbia Heights, as a tribute to the American airmen who tragically lost their lives in the 1944 plane crash, as well as the Polish soldiers and civilians who resisted the Germans during the Warsaw Uprising. On October 24, 2023, the city of Łomianki graciously granted PACIM and Sister Cities Columbia Heights the authorization to replicate their monument design in Minnesota.

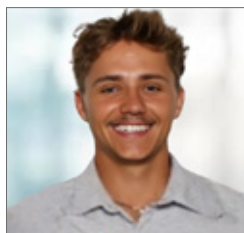
The Columbia Heights Sister City Organization has been very active in Columbia Heights for the past 33 years. Our sister city is Łomianki, Poland. It has a history that reflects back to WWII and the original founders. We are a volunteer organization. Anything that has been accomplished over the years is due to the amazing members. We meet the second Tuesday of each month, except July and December. Our membership dues are very low, but any money we receive goes to support many Columbia Heights events, charitable organizations, and any costs of the organization. Our big project has been supplying books, magazines, calendars to the English teachers in Łomianki, Poland. We call it "The English Learners Library". All are welcomed to join and be a part of this International Organization.



*Gloria Bergstrom, chair of Sister Cities
Columbia Heights - Łomianki*

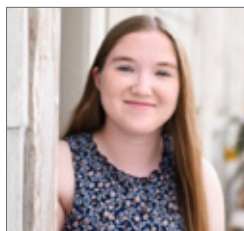
PACIM Scholarships

POLANIE LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS:



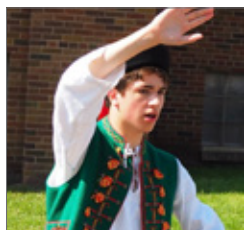
Logan Grayson, Esko, MN, University of Minnesota

This past spring, I graduated from the University of Minnesota, where I majored in Entrepreneurial Management and minored in Strategy. Upon graduation, I was accepted into the University's Master of Business Administration Program. I am passionate about entrepreneurship and financial literacy in our community. In addition to my school, I am also currently integrating military training to become a traditional Public Affairs Officer at the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, MN.



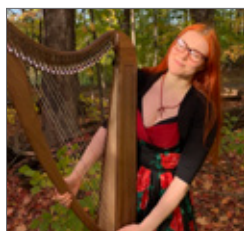
Madeline Hutnik, Spring Green, WI, University of Wisconsin

I am very excited to be a 2023 recipient of the Polanie Legacy Scholarship offered by PACIM. I am currently a sophomore at UW-Madison and I am studying political science and public policy. This year, I am a representative on a student-government finance committee, where I get to work hands-on with policy. I am also a Writing Fellow on campus this year. After I finish college, I hope attend law school to further my studies.



Tymoteusz Luiken, Plymouth, MN, St. John's University

I'm a student at St. John's University, where I intend to double major in music performance and political science. Through my political science studies, I hope to be able to work for the Minneapolis city government or Minnesota state government. I hope to aid in the continued growth and development of the Polish community. Through my continued study of music, I intend to expand my repertoire of Polish music further.



Rosalyn Maney, Minneapolis, MN, University of Maine

I'm currently working as a Public Health Intern at Hope Dental, a nonprofit that gives people in poverty access to dental care while pursuing a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership. I'm TEFL certified and hope to teach English in Poland through the Fulbright Program. I'm Polish through my grandmother and I'm working with a genealogist to source documents to support my application for dual citizenship in Poland through ancestry. In my spare time, I play the harp and volunteer as a Master Naturalist.



Amelia Mazan, Minneapolis, MN, Augsburg University

I currently attend Augsburg University in Minneapolis, majoring in Physical Education and minoring in Health Education and Exercise Science. I aspire to be a future professional educator and coach a team of my own someday.



Jan Tabiszewski, Blaine, MN, University of St. Thomas

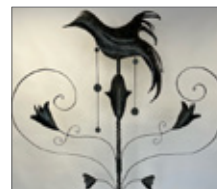
My dreams are fueled by a strong desire to make a positive impact on the world and provide support for my family. I envision a future where I can utilize my skills, passions, and faith to uplift others and create a better society. With unwavering determination, I aspire to engage in humanitarian work, reaching out to the less fortunate and bringing them hope, love, and opportunities for a brighter future.

ROG ENDOWMENT GRANTS:



Marcin Cienski
— Wee Hours

I'm a Polish-born artist who graduated from the Fine Arts Academy in Krakow before making the US his home. Currently based in Minneapolis, I previously lived in vibrant artistic communities of Berlin, Barcelona, Philadelphia, and New York. I collaborate predominantly with European galleries, with a notable partnership with Jochen Hempel Gallery in Germany. My studio, situated in North Minneapolis, serves as the creative nexus for my work. For a comprehensive view of my artistic journey and portfolio, visit www.marcincienski.com.



John Motzko
— Motzko Family Tree

Grandpa Charlie Motzko settled in Delano, MN where he started a retail store with his son, Charles Jr. (My Dad) in the early 1900's. There, he raised six kids above the store, with me being the youngest. My niece Addie Motzko created a sculpture Motzko Drzewo Rodzinne in honor of her Polish heritage and her multi-generational community involvement and service in Delano, MN. This sculpture was placed near the original location of the store, which is now the Delano Art Sculpture Park on June 3, 2023.



Mary Welke
— Sala 752 Artist Residency

My one-month artist residency at Sala752 in the village of Zaczernie next spring will be a valuable opportunity for me to develop new, experimental art about Polish prairie and farmland. My project is about soil health and land. I intend to have daily interaction with residents, using my limited Polish language skills, to learn about their life experiences in Zaczernie, and how they feel connected to their land. I will document my daily experiences and art and share them on social media.

Parliamentary Elections

In the Polish parliamentary elections held on October 15, 2023, the conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party lost seats in the lower chamber (Sejm) from 235 to 194, while the main opposition, led by the Civic Coalition (KO), increased its seat count from 134 to 157. Another notable gain was made by the Third Way alliance, which increased its seat count from 30 to 65. The opposition electoral alliance Senate Pact 2023 won a plurality of the vote and a majority of seats in the Senate. The opposition parties are expected to form a coalition government. Voter turnout was 74.4%, a significant rise from previous elections.

While globally, the Law and Justice party garnered 35.38% and 43.24% of votes for the Sejm and Senate, respectively, in Minnesota, the support for the party was markedly lower, with 25.45% of votes for the Sejm and 31.30% for the Senate. Conversely, most Polish voters in Minnesota cast their ballots in favor of opposition parties.

Chart legend:

PiS - Law and Justice

KO - Civic Coalition

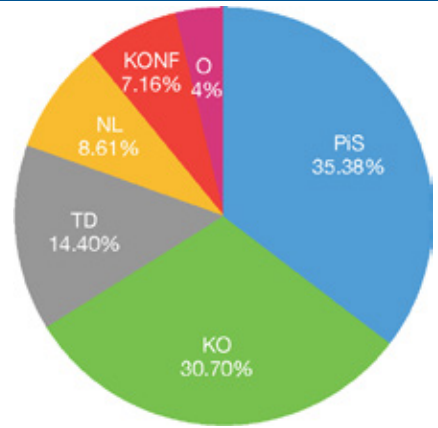
TD - Third Way

NL - The New Left

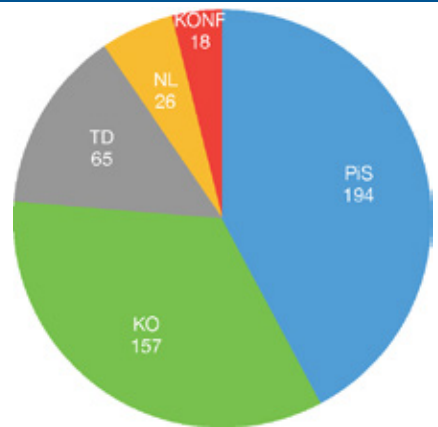
KONF - Confederation

O - others

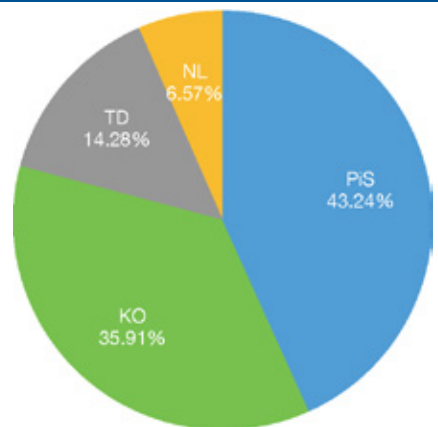
SEJM: percent of votes received



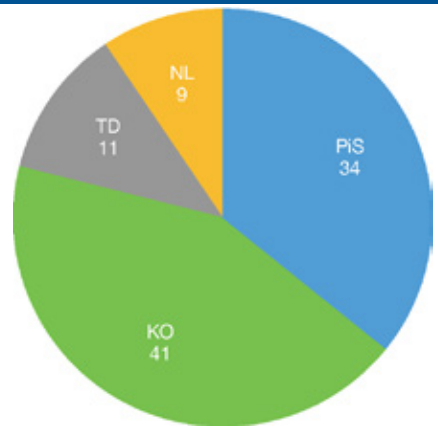
SEJM: number of seats



SENAT: percent of votes received



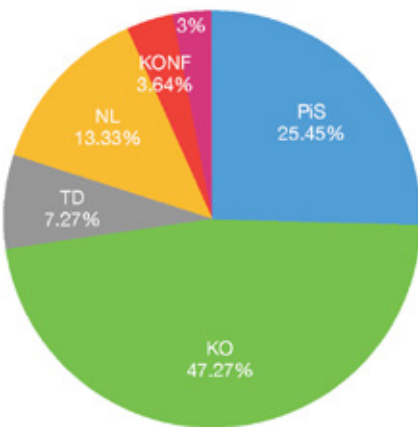
SENAT: number of seats



MN

SEJM:

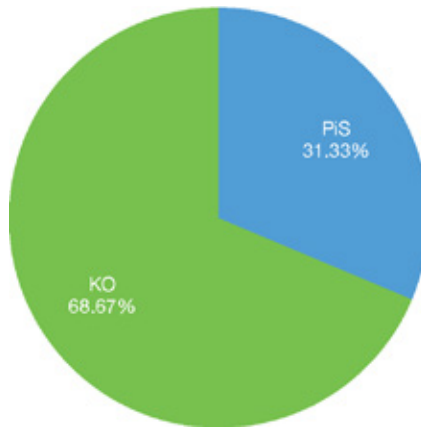
percent of votes received



MN

SENAT:

percent of votes received



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- \$150 [one year]

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