



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS, INC

Newsletter



Winter 2014

Message from the President

Welcome to our first PAC EMass Newsletter.

The PAC EMass membership has expanded significantly since the election of the new executive board. Accordingly, the executive board has voted in three new members to the board of directors: Stanley Dzierzeski, Anita Jedwabski and Wieslaw Wierzbowski.

In addition to building up and organizing our division, we have held several meetings in the past few months, and several members have volunteered to chair committees. We also have a new website found at the following link: www.PACEMass.org.

Some events we have held include a meeting with Felix Molski from Australia and we co-sponsored PAC Day at the MA State House with the Polish Legislative Caucus. We have also worked to build ties with other Polish American organizations.

Please contact the members of the board of directors if you would like to get involved with the organization or if you have any suggestions for future functions or the direction of the PAC.

Thank you for your attention,

Peter Suchcicki
President



Felix Molski photo by Theresa Czerepica



Felix Molski and Peter Suchicki photo by Theresa Czerepica

MEETING WITH FELIX MOLSKI

PAC EMass hosted a meeting with Felix Molski representing the **Kosciuszko Heritage Group** in Australia. The meeting was held in the John Paul II Hall in South Boston.

Mr. Molski spoke about Sir Pawel Edmund Strzelecki, a nobleman who was born in Poland in 1797 and who immigrated to England in 1829. Sir Strzelecki was credited in saving the lives of over 200,000 children in Ireland during the Irish Potato Famine. Since he became a British subject, he was knighted for his feats.

Sir Strzelecki also preformed an invaluable service to people of Australia. He extensively explored Australia. He published his findings on Australia's nature and terrain in 1845. His findings were continuously used for the next 135 years.

Sir Strzelecki named the highest peak in Australia after his countryman, Thaddeus Kosciuszko. In 1988 a statue of Sir Pawel Edmund Strzelecki was unveiled at the foot of Mt. Kosciuszko in Australia. The statue was a gift from Poland to the people of Australia.

It was inspiring to hear of the efforts of Mr. Strzelecki and his organization in spreading the achievements of this very distinguished Pole.



Mayor Marty Walsh at the podium picture by Theresa Czerepica



Theresa Czerepica, Mayor Marty Walsh and Mark Wisniewski
Picture courtesy of Don Harney

NATIONAL POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

Members of the PAC EMass helped to celebrate **National Polish Heritage Month** on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at Our Lady of Chestochowa Church Hall. The celebration was in honor of the 6th anniversary of the official naming of the **Polish Triangle** in Andrew Square.

The speakers spoke about their memories growing up in the area with many Polish families. Speakers included Marek Lesniewski-Laas who represents the Republic of Poland in Boston. Other speakers were former PAC EMass Presidents Andrzej Pronczuk and Marcin Bolec, as well as Darek Barcikowski from the White Eagle newspaper and Mr. Jan Kozak, Principal of the John Paul II Polish language school in South Boston.

The featured speaker was the new mayor of Boston, Martin Walsh. Mayor Walsh recounted his memories from growing up in the neighborhood.

POLISH TRIVIA QUESTION:

Please name a Polish patriot who died in the US during WWII. He was a pianist, a composer and a Polish statesman.

He was buried at Arlington Cemetery in DC until 2002. His heart is still buried at Our Lady of Chestochowa Church in Doylestown, PA.

Answer on the next page.



Attendees at PAC Day

pictures by Theresa Czerepica



l. to r. Anite Jedwabski, Mark Wisniewski, Lukasz Gawel, Peter Suchicki and Theresa Czerepica

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS DAY AT THE STATE HOUSE

On November 13, 2014 members of PAC EMass along with the Massachusetts Polish Legislative Caucus celebrated Polish American Congress Day at the Massachusetts State House in Boston.

The PAC Day celebration is mandated under Massachusetts General Laws.

The meeting was opened by President Peter Suchcicki. Honorary Counsel Marek Lesniewski-Laas brought greetings from the Polish government. Mr. Anthony Bajdek, Vice-President of the National PAC spoke about the history of the PAC Day and its significance.

Representative John Scibak presented a citation to PAC EMass from Governor Duval Patrick.

The featured speaker was Darek Barcikowski, the Executive Director of the American Polish Advisory Council. Mr. Barcikowski spoke of the need for Polonia to be more involved in the government of this country. He pointed out a need to have more legislators of Polish descent elected to political office. He stressed the need to have prospective legislators start at the local level and build their experience for future higher offices. Mr. Barcikowski also spoke of the need for Polonia to support these future leaders with their backing and finances.

MEETING WITH WIESLAW BINIENDA AND MARIA SZONERT-BINIENDA

Prof. Binienda and Ms. Szonert were invited by PAC EMass member organizations, Gazeta Polska and JPII School, to speak regarding the investigation of the Polish Air Force One plane crash in Smolensk in 2010.

The meeting was held in the hall of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in South Boston. The hall was filled with many members of Polonia.

We listened to the results of the investigation which was conducted by international experts in the recreation of plane crashes. We were shown pictures and simulations of possible explanations of what happened to the plane.



Pictures courtesy of the White Eagle

POLISH TRIVIA ANSWER:

Jan Ignacy Paderewski died in NYC. His final wish was to be buried in free Poland. He was temporarily buried in Arlington Cemetery.

He wished that his heart remain in the US. After a number of years, his heart was found at a funeral home and was placed at the vestibule of the shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA.

PAC CALENDAR

May 3, 2015 Constitution Day Celebration and Polish Fest