

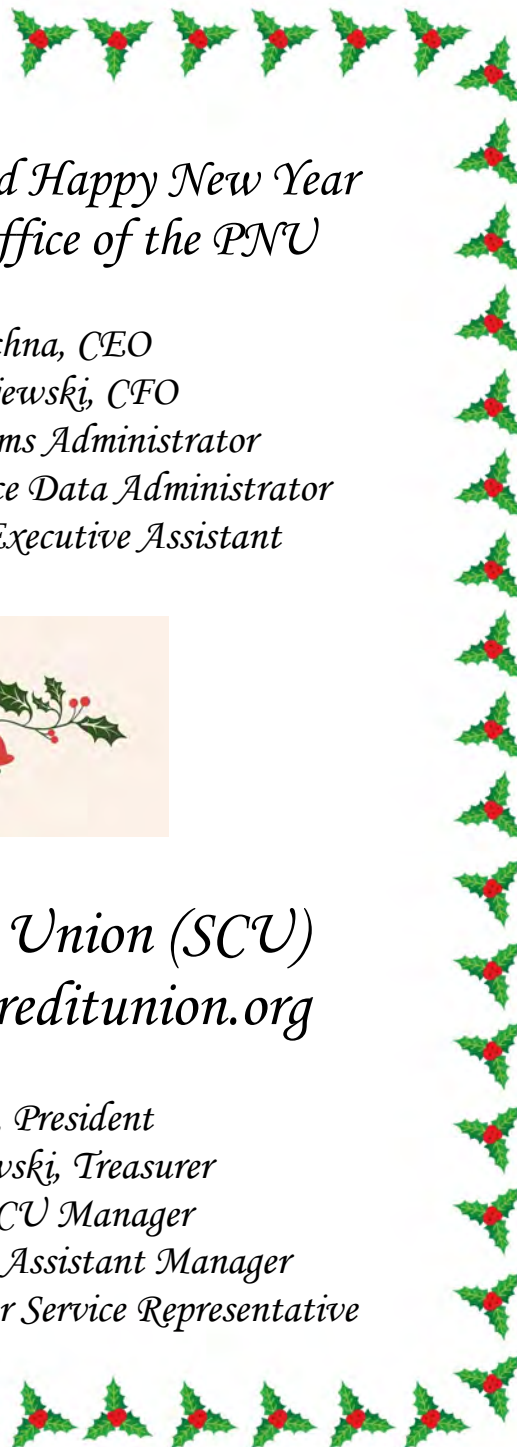
Volume 136, Issue 5

December 2021



POLISH NATIONAL UNION OF AMERICA

# Straz - The Guard



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
From the Home Office of the PNU*

*Marty Wachna, CEO*

*John Andrzejewski, CFO*

*Ashley Onset, Claims Administrator*

*Jessica Moser, Insurance Data Administrator*

*Joan Schueneman, Executive Assistant*



*Spojnia Credit Union (SCU)  
[www.spojniacreditunion.org](http://www.spojniacreditunion.org)*

*Jan Cwikła, President*

*John Andrzejewski, Treasurer*

*Sandy Reid, SCU Manager*

*Priscilla Hernandez, Assistant Manager*

*Katherine Villa, Customer Service Representative*

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**Official Bi-monthly Publication  
Printed Continuously for 124 Years**

**Dwumiesięcznik Organ Wychodzi bez  
przerwy od 124 lat**

**1002 Pittston Ave., Scranton PA 18505  
570-344-1513/800-724-6352  
[www.pnu.org](http://www.pnu.org) [info@pnu.org](mailto:info@pnu.org)**

# Organizational Contact Information



**PNU Home Office:** 800-724-6352/570-344-1513 1002 Pittston Avenue - Scranton, PA 18505  
www.pnu.org info@pnu.org  
Find us on Facebook @ Polish National Union of America

Martin Wachna, CEO x310 John Andrzejewski, CFO x310  
Joan Schueneman, Executive Assistant x310 Jessica Moser, Insurance Admin x305  
Ashley Oset, Insurance Claims & Customer Service x303  
Christine Wachna, Straz Editor straz@pnu.org www.thestraz.com

**PNU Executive Management:** Martin Wachna, Jr., Chief Executive Officer executive01@pnu.org  
John C. Andrzejewski III, Chief Operating Officer executive02@pnu.org

**Board of Directors:** Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr.,  
Kathryn Nemkovich, Mari Jan Stankowski, Mary Stankowski, Michael Mietlicki &  
Gregory Senkevitch

**Spojnia Inc. Directors:** Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Chairman; Martin Wachna, Jr., Vice Chair;  
Mari Jane Stankowski, Secretary; Paul Gorgol, David Petrosky, Stacey Shrive &  
Michael Mietlicki

**Education & Youth Commission:** Mary Stankowski, Chair; Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky; Martin Wachna, Jr.,  
Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr. & Carol Mikovsky

**Fraternal Activities Committee:** Michael Mietlicki, Chairman; Very Rev. Lucian Urbaniak, Henrietta Kleckner,  
George Urciuoli & Martin Wachna, Jr., Ex-officio

**Internal Audit Committee:** Very Rev. John Kowalczyk, Jr., Chairman; Henrietta Kleckner, Vice Chair &  
Marian Sleczkowski, Secretary

**Medical Director:** Dr. Samuel Alfano

**District Directors:**

1	Lackawanna County, PA	Julie Andrzejewski	570-842-1603	district1director@pnu.org
2	NY, NJ, Philadelphia	Leslie Pietrowitz	201-393-0696	district2director@pnu.org
3	New England	Mary Ann Zarek	774-254-5844	district3director@pnu.org
4	Buffalo, NY	Beverly Basinski	716-759-1130	district4director@pnu.org
5	PA & OH	Melissa Snee	724-263-7272	district5director@pnu.org
6	IL, IN, FL MN, WI	Christine Wachna	847-927-9534	district6director@pnu.org
7	MI	Suzanne Sniezek	313-720-4339	district7director@pnu.org
10	Latham, NY	George Urciuoli	914-475-3219	district10director@pnu.org

**Spojnia Credit Union (SCU):** 800-724-6352/570-344-1513 1006 Pittston Avenue - Scranton, PA 18505  
www.spojniacreditunion.org info@spojnia.org  
Sandy Reed, SCU Manager x308 Pricilla Hernandez, SCU Assist. Manager x 302  
Catherine Villa, MSR x306

**SCU Management:** Jan Cwikla, President Jacek Grotnik, Vice President  
Joan Scheuneman, Secretary John C. Andrzejewski, Treasurer  
John Ostroski

## Celebrating Fraternalism

On November 10, 2021 Martin Wachna, PNU CEO and Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw Rafalko, Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church were invited to the annual celebration for the Independence of Poland. The celebration was held at the Consulate of Poland in Chicago. During the celebration those in attendance were treated to a history of Poland's Independence by the Consul General. Also at the celebration the Major General of the Illinois National Guard was present and gave remarks. The Guard and Poland's Defense Ministry have been partners for a number of years in many of the conflicts. The General mentioned in his remarks how nice it is to have such a close bond with the Republic of Poland. Later in the evening a soloist performed. At the conclusion of the program, refreshments were provided to all. The evening was very enjoyable and further brought the PNU and PNCC closer with the government of Poland.



### Polish Fraternal Representation

*Frank Spula*  
President of PNA

*Jim Robaczewski*  
President of PRCUA Life

*Martin Wachna*  
CEO PNU



*CEO Wachna*

*Emma Buckham*  
Deputy Consul General Australia

*Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw Rafalko*  
Bishop Ordinary  
Western Diocese  
Polish National Catholic Church



Consul General of the Republic  
of Poland Malgorzata Bak-Guzik

CEO Martin Wachna PNU

19 November 2021

In this loveliest of seasons may the miracle of Christmas fill your heart with joy and peace. May the New Year bring us all good health, prosperity and many blessings. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Życzę, aby Święta Bożego Narodzenia przyniosły Państwu radość, pokój i wzajemną życzliwość. Niechaj będą źródłem wzmacniania ducha i nadziei na lepsze jutro, zaś Nowy Rok niech obdaruje Państwa zdrowiem, szczęściem i pomyślnością.

Pięknych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!

*Malgorzata Bak-Guzik*  
Konsul Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej /Consul of the Republic of Poland





# **PNU District 3 Children's Day**

**Friday - Jan. 14, 2022 @ 7:05 pm**



**Providence  
Bruins  
vs.  
Hartford  
Wolfpack**



**Dunkin Donuts Center  
Providence, RI**



Polish National Union of America

**Youth of PNU District 3 and of the Eastern Diocese PNCC will be  
guests of PNU District 3. Join Us for a Fun Evening.**

**For reservations, tickets and more information  
please contact Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich - [Robnem21@aol.com](mailto:Robnem21@aol.com)**

**Need an exciting present for someone?  
How about tickets to a  
Chicago Wolves Hockey Game?**



## **PNU District Six Family Night**

**Chicago Wolves Hockey Game  
All State Arena - Rosemont, IL  
Chicago Wolves vs. Iowa Wild**



**Saturday, February 19, 2022 @ 7 p.m.**

**Only 30 Tickets Available . . . Center Ice Section...  
Order Your Tickets Today!**

**Contact Christine Wachna by January 23rd  
with your reservation and make arrangements for payment:  
847-927-9534 or [pnuofadist6@att.net](mailto:pnuofadist6@att.net)**

### **Game Ticket Pricing**    30 Tickets Available

**Adult** (17 & up) .....**\$30 each**

**Youth PNU Member** (16 & under) ...**Free**

**Youth Non-member** (16 & under) ...**\$30 each**

**Parking fee is \$15 per car at the All State Arena.**

**Ticket Order  
Deadline  
January 23, 2022**

### **Family Night Schedule**

**6:00 p.m. All State Arena Doors Open**

**7:00 p.m. Chicago Wolves vs. Iowa Wild**

**GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**



## Celebrating Fraternalism - District 6

---

Chicago, IL

District Six held their Annual Family Night at the Opening Night of the Chicago Wolves AHL Hockey Game at the All State Arena on Saturday, October 16, 2021. All in attendance went to dinner at Moretti's restaurant in Rosemont, IL prior to the game. Even though the Wolves lost, a good time was had by all. Those in attendance were Fr. Sr. John & Cathy Kowalczyk, Leslie and Bishop Jerry Rafalko, Marty & Chris Wachna, Jill Sarbenoff, Joe Kowalczyk and Mackenzie Hatke.

We are looking forward to more people attending the game in February 2022, when we normally attend the Wolves hockey game! See information on previous page to make your reservations as soon as possible. If you are interested in purchasing tickets as a gift for a special person(s), gift certificates are available upon request. For reservations or gift certificates, contact Christine Wachna [pnuofadist6@att.net](mailto:pnuofadist6@att.net).



Our small but mighty group enjoyed opening night of the Chicago Wolves hockey season.

Front row: Marty & Chris Wachna, Jill Sarbenoff, Joe Kowalczyk and Mackenzie Hatke. Second row: Fr. Sr. John & Cathy Kowalczyk, Leslie and Bishop Jerry Rafalko.



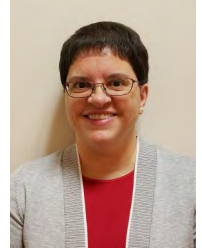
Director Wachna catching a selfie with Leslie and Bishop Jerry Rafalko.



District 6 attendees enjoying the evening together.

### *Julie Andrzejewski - Director, District 1*

#### **Polish National Union of America District 1 Quarterly Meeting September 2, 2021**



District Director Julie Andrzejewski called the meeting to order at 7:00. She called on Rev. Carmen Bolock to give the invocation. Acting secretary Joan Scheuneman reported that there were 10 members in attendance representing 5 branches.

Director Andrzejewski called on Joan Scheuneman to read the minutes from the June meeting. One correction was noted. Patty Evanchyk made a motion seconded by Dorothy Andrzejewski to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion passed.

Pat Bolock then gave the Treasurer's report from June 8, 2021 to September 2, 2021. There were no corrections noted. Rev. Carmen Bolock made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Patty Evanchyk seconded. Motion passed.

Director Andrzejewski gave an explanation of the different types of coverage that the PNU provides and the benefits that we offer.

#### **Old Business**

Contest – It was noted that Dorothy Andrzejewski has 35 points for the membership contest.

Family Day – Since we only had 2 children signed up for the Family day event it was decided to cancel the event. There was nothing lost. The face painter, magician and hayride people were ok with the cancellation.

The Texas Roadhouse event is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup>. Director Andrzejewski passed out flyers as well as coupons. She asked for assistance in getting donations for the basket raffle from local businesses.

We did not qualify for Panera bread fundraising. They require organizations to be a 501 (c)(3). We are a 501 (c) (8).

#### **New Business**

Spojnja Sunday will be held September 26, 2021. A letter will be going out to the clergy as a reminder. Maybe they can hold a cake and coffee hour in the parishes.

No activity was reported by any of the secretaries in attendance.

Our Christmas party will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> starting with dinner at 6:00 pm at St. Stanislaus in the church hall. We are considering 2 caterers. It was decided to let the Executive officers get quotes and decide on catering and menu. We will also be holding a door prize raffle. Anyone who wants to bring something for the raffle is welcome to.

Patty Evanchyk made several suggestions for possible activities and promotions. One was a family movie night at the Circle Drive-in. The executive officers can make arrangements with the drive-in in the Spring. She also thought that maybe we could advertise in smaller local newspapers. Maybe we could get water bottles with our names on the labels. Also check with Rita's Italian ice for a Spring fundraiser.

Rev. Carmen Bolock made a motion to place ads in the Straz and God's Field for Christmas. John Evanchyk seconded. Motion carried.

*Continued on page 8*

*Continued from page 7*

PNU CFO John Andrzejewski gave a brief update regarding the Home Office. He mentioned that we have 2 new credit union employees and we will be hiring a new PNU staff member due to the resignation of Melissa. There are 2 promotions: one geared for people over 40 years old and the other for people under 40. We just finished the State examination.

Calendar of events – Holy Mother of Sorrows is going to be holding their Dozynki on September 12. St. Mary's will be having their yard sale on September 4.

With no further business, John Evanchyk made a motion to adjourn at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Scheuneman – Acting secretary



**What do you get the little one who  
already has everything they need?**

**Life is a gift**

**A 20 Year Endowment can be too**

**Give the gift now**  
**That they can thank you for**  
**later**

**Annual Premium \$211.50**  
**(Based on a male age 0 \$5,000**  
**20 Year Endowment Plan)**

**Policy matures at age 20**

**20 year olds go to college**  
**20 year olds drive**

**Both cost a ton.**  
**Better plan now!**

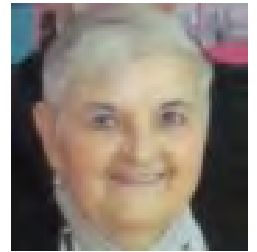
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**www.pnu.org (800) 724-6352 info@pnu.org**



## District 3: New England



*Maryann Zarek Director, District 3*



**Polish National Union of America  
District 3 Quarterly Meeting  
November 22, 2021**

PNU District 3 held a Zoom meeting on November 22, 2021. There were 8 people on the call. Fr. Sr. Robert Nemkovich opened the meeting with a prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were read to the members by Director Maryann Zarek. Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich made a motion to accept, second by Fr. Sr. Joseph Krusienski. Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich presented the financial report for Eric Nemkovich. Brenda Richard made a motion to accept, second by Michael Zarek.

Maryann Zarek gave the District Director's report. Spojnia Sunday was held on September 26th with a coffee hour at Holy Cross Church in Central Falls, RI and Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA. The Thanksgiving raffle was held Sunday, November 21st. There were 4 parishes that participated. Thank you to everyone who supported this raffle for the District. One raffle prize was returned to be donated to the Blessed Trinity Toy Drive. Maryann thanked Fr. Sr. Rob for everything he does for District 3.

District 3 will hold Children's Day on Friday, January 14th at the Providence Bruins and at the Hartford Whalers respectfully. Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich will make a flyer announcing these events.

District 3 will cover the expenses for the Pizza Party and the Ice Cream Social for the Winter Gathering that will be held on December 27-28 at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA.

The next meeting will be held viz Zoom on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Brenda Richard made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Thomas Zarek. Fr. Sr. Joe Krusienski offered the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Brenda Richard  
Recording Secretary  
District 3, PNU

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**POLISH NATIONAL  
UNION OF AMERICA**

**IS THE KEY**

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NATIONAL UNION TODAY BECAUSE:**

**NOBODY CAN PREPARE YOU  
FOR YOUR FUTURE THE  
WAY YOU CAN**

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**(800) 724-6352**  
**WWW.PNU.ORG INFO@PNU.ORG**



***Melissa Snee - Director, District 5***

**Polish National Union of America  
District 5 Quarterly Meeting  
October 16, 2021**

Attendance – Fr Bruce Sleczkowski, Marian Sleczkowski, Henrietta Kleckner, Terry Kleckner, Melissa Snee, Michael Wisniewski, Barbara Wisniewski, Paulette Beliunas, Brent Adler, Deacon Dave, Ted Gibala, and Jan Gibala.

Meeting opened at 1:15pm by Melissa Snee

Fr Bruce Sleczkowski offered prayer.

**Minutes** – Marian Sleczkowski presented the minutes. Ted Gibala made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Jan Gibala. Motion passed. A comment was made that the bad names and addresses have not yet been received.

**Financial Report** – Henrietta Kleckner presented the Financial Report for the quarter ending Sept 30, 2021. Jan Gibala motioned to accept financial report, seconded by Paulette Beliunas. Motion passed.

**Correspondence** – No correspondence.

**Old Business –**

Request for list of bad names and addresses for branches to the Home Office. John Andrzejewski will address this on a case by case basis.

**PNU Performance –**

Overall the PNU has had 29 new members, 6 annuities, and 294 cancellations. Sales have been slow. District 5 had 1 sale in September for \$10,000 sold by Henrietta Kleckner. Year-to-date we had 2 new policies, 9 deaths, 1 cash surrender, and 1 cancel.

Spojnina Sunday – Holy Family had refreshments and passed out brochures, Holy Trinity, McKees Rocks Paulette gave a presentation in Church.

**New Business –**

The annuity promotion has been extended through December 31, 2021.

The new programs that will start September 1 are:

1 – Ages 40-70 – Peace of Mind – No application refused, No medical, 5-pay life for \$7,500 and \$15,000 policies

2 – Ages 1-39 – Time to Prepare – no medical, use non-smoking rates – 10-pay life, \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$15,000 policies

There will be a \$30 finder's fee paid, policies must be written by the Home Office.

*Continued on page 11*

*Continued from page 10*

Irene Jugan Heart and Soul Award was awarded to Mage Stankowski. Congratulations, Mage!!

There was some frustration expressed in not receiving more information to membership as to what is going on in the PNU.

Mailing was sent out for the membership dues of \$12/year.

Credit Union update – flyers were sent to everyone in the dues mailing.

**Fundraising** tickets – continue or take a break?? Jan Gibala and Henrietta Kleckner do most of the work. We thanked them for the generosity of their time. Ted Gibala made a motion to continue, if Jan & Henrietta agreed, Brent Adler seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Training Note:** Melissa is going to start 1 training item every meeting. Today's is Newborn Benefit program.

Fraternal activities – The FAC has challenged all Districts to do community activities. It was agreed to do the Roll Away the Stone of Hunger (Branch 132 has done this for the past 2 years). We will send the information to EVERY parish in the District. Marian Sleczkowski will prepare the posters to go to all parishes. Brent Adler made a motion to do this food drive, Jan Gibala seconded it. Motion passed.

Family Outing – Looks like no outing for 2021. 2022 outing – suggestions were Bowling Party, Conneaut Lake, Del Grosso Park, Pittsburgh Zoo, Gateway Clipper. Research to make a decision at the January meeting.

Our quarterly charitable donation of \$100 will be sent to the Clergy Pension Fund.

**Next Meeting:**

Next meeting will be January 16, 2022. It will be a Zoom/Teleconference meeting so we won't have to deal with weather.

Jan Gibala made a motion to close meeting, seconded by Barbara Wisniewski, motion passed.

Having no further business to discuss, Melissa Snee closed the meeting at 3:05pm.

Fr. Bruce Sleczkowski offered closing prayer and grace for dinner. Then the meeting attendees enjoyed dinner together as it was our first in-person meeting since the beginning of COVID.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian E. Sleczkowski  
Recording Secretary





***Christine Wachna - Director, District 6***

**Polish National Union District 6  
Quarterly Teleconference Meeting  
October 14, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Director Christine Wachna at 6:32 p.m. the Invocation was pronounced by Rt. Rev Jarosław Rafalko.

District Director Christine Wachna called the Roll: **Present:** Director Christine Wachna; Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk; Rt. Rev. Jarosław Rafalko; Rev. David Rowinski; Catherine Kowalczyk; Christina Danielkiewicz; Robert Maycan; Dian Maycan. Guest at meeting was Martin H. Wachna, PNU CEO. **Absent:** Walter Cegelka; Teri Heath; Judith Palacios; June Wyant.

The **Agenda** as presented was accepted upon motion made by Robert Maycan, and seconded by Christina Danielkiewicz. Motion carried. The **Minutes** from the August 19, 2021 meeting were accepted as presented upon motion made by Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk and seconded by Dian Maycan. Motion carried.

The **Financial Report** for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter was given by Catherine Kowalczyk. Upon motion made by Robert Maycan seconded by Christina Danielkiewicz, the financial report was accepted, subject to audit. Motion carried.

### **Old Business**

District 6 Family Night is this Saturday, October 16, 2021. We are attending the Chicago Wolves Hockey Game at the Allstate Arena. There will be nine (9) attendees. A small group this year because of the pandemic and different time of year. It seems that February is a better time to attend. We will attend in February, 2022. This will be advertised before Thanksgiving as an incentive for gift-giving at Christmas 2021. The date is February 19, 2022 and will be considered Family Night for 2022. Director Wachna will get in touch with Eric at the Wolves offices to reserve a block of tickets.

CEO Wachna sent out an email informing all that Christina Danielkiewicz is the interim secretary of **Br. 293**. Christina Danielkiewicz agreed to serve as secretary and approval took place at the September 9, 2021 Board meeting.

### **New Business**

**Branches 295 and 293** co-sponsored a One Hot Meal. It took place on Thursday, September 16, 2021 at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, Indiana. Along with the members of Br. 295 and 293, there were members of St. Michael the Archangel Parish that assisted in the preparation and serving of the meal. There were 35 meals served. Photos were taken and an article was written about the event. These will be sent to Straż for publication in the next issue.

**Branch Secretary Reports:** **Br. 295** – Catherine Kowalczyk: Cathy reported that she is promoting Social Membership, and Annuities. Cathy did sign up a member for an Annuity. Cathy stated that on Spójnia Sunday presentations were made by Director Christine Wachna, Christina Danielkiewicz and Cathy Kowalczyk at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, Indiana.

*Continued from page 13*

**Br. 362** –Walter was unable to join the meeting so there was no report.

**Br. 37** – Rev. David Rowinski reported that he has one policy pending and two Annuities. Rev. Rowinski, Robert Maycan and Director Christine Wachna remained on the call following the District meeting to discuss scheduling a reorganization meeting for the Branch which includes election of officers..

**Br. 293** – Christina Danielkiewicz reported that one of the members she contacted about a policy that no death benefit had been submitted was successful. The spouse was very appreciative of Christina reaching out to assist in submitting the death benefit. Thanks go to Director Christine Wachna for speaking to Christina asking about this particular case as well as a few others. Names and members were from the former St. John's Parish. Christina has no information about the other members that she contacted. Christina received a minute book and financial information. The bank account was closed July 12, 2016. The balance was turned over to District 6.

Christina also reported that she is working on a juvenile and adult member. She is going to suggest a 20-yr. Endowment for the juvenile and either a Single Premium Life or 5 Pay Life for the adult.

Director Christine Wachna reported that she signed a member for a 20-year Endowment certificate in the amount of \$50,000.

**Proposed Meeting Calendar for 2022:** Dates are: Thursday, February 17; Thursday, May 12; Thursday, August 18; and Thursday, October 13. These are all teleconference meetings to begin at 6:30 p.m. CST and 7:30 p.m. EST. Dates are subject to change. One could change to an in-person meeting and it would be on a Saturday. Upon motion made by Robert Maycan and seconded by Catherine Kowalczyk, the proposed 2022 meeting dates were accepted. Motion carried.

CEO Martin Wachna, Jr. informed all about **two new programs** that are now in effect, **only until December 31, 2021**. **A Time to Prepare** for Ages 0-39. Amounts of insurance are \$5k, \$10k and \$15k. Only the 10 Pay Life Plan. Payments would continue for 10 years. The other is the **Peace of Mind** Program for ages 40-70. There are 2 options: (1) a \$7,500 five pay policy. Five years of payments will pay this policy in full. (2) a \$15,000 five pay policy. Five years of payments will pay this policy in full. CEO Wachna stated that Spójnia is doing this to help increase membership and assist our present members to get additional insurance.

CEO Wachna also stated that there is a new program planned that will begin in 2022.

**Branch Secretary Virtual Seminar** –Director Christine Wachna is working with CFO John Andrzejewski regarding holding this Seminar. Possible dates in November or December. It will be during the week and about one hour in length. The branch secretaries are asked to contact Director Christine Wachna with possible dates and topics to be covered.

Our spiritual counsellor, Rt. Rev. Jarosław Rafalko, was called upon for remarks. Bishop Rafalko stated that he is willing to translate Spójnia general information pamphlets into the Polish language.

*Continued on page 14*

*Continued from page 13*

**For the Good of the District** – Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk expressed thanks to District 6 for the homemade ice cream that was served at the Diocesan Youth Gathering. He stated that the Western Diocese is hosting the National Youth Convocation next year. The dates are July 25-29, 2022. Very Rev. Kowalczyk will be sending out information in the near future.

Our next teleconference meeting is set for Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. CST.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion made by Catherine Kowalczyk and seconded by Robert Maycan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m. Motion carried.

Closing prayer and benediction was pronounced by Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina M. Danielkiewicz  
Recording Secretary

## Correction to Report of Action

---

Following is a correction to the Report of Actions taken by the Board of directors during their September 9, 2021 meeting.

The correction is associated with the Fraternal Activities Committee section of the report where a motion to approve the new Children's Day funding distribution was omitted.

Prior to the conclusion of the report the board engaged in discussion regarding the proposal. **A motion was made and seconded to approve of the Children's or Family Day event funding as proposed by the Fraternal Activities Committee. The motion passed.**

Correction submitted by John Andrzejewski – CFO/Secretary

## How to Celebrate the Oplátky Tradition

---



The Oplátky are enjoyed by families, typically right before the Christmas Eve meal. The entire family will gather around the table with the Oplátek. Generally the eldest member of the family will begin the ritual by breaking off a piece of the wafer and passing it to another family member with a blessing. This blessing can simply consist of what you desire for your loved one in the upcoming year – whether it be good health, success, or happiness. The purpose of this act is primarily to express one's unconditional love and forgiveness for each member of his or her family.

The significance of the Oplátky Christmas wafer is in that it shadows the Eucharistic meal that Catholics participate in at each Mass. Just as we share in the Eucharist as one family in Christ and receive Christ's love through the Eucharist, the Oplátky allows for one's immediate family to come together and share the love they have for one another.

Source: [www.catholiccompany.com](http://www.catholiccompany.com)





## Membership: Dreams Do Come True

Halle Maciag, a PNU member of Branch 162 in Wallington, NJ, graduated from Monmouth University on May 20, 2021, with a Bachelor of Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies for Elementary Education.

In 2010, Halle attended her first youth convocation with her mother, Amy Maciag, which was held at Monmouth University. Halle was a youth member of the CONVO2010 team representing the Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish in Wallington, NJ. During her stay, Halle had a photo taken on the grand staircase of Wilson Hall, which was also the scene of the famous movie, "Annie." It was this moment that Halle dreamed of attending Monmouth University when it would be time for college.

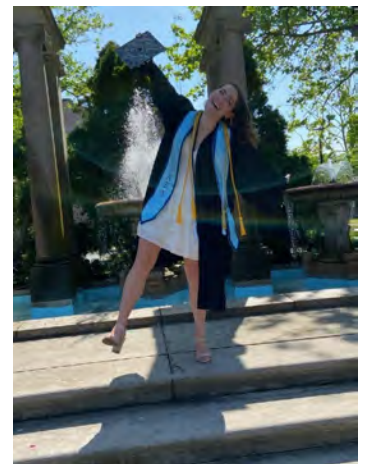
Halle's dream came true eleven years later as she graduated Summa Cum Laude and recently accepted a position to teach the fourth-grade students at North Arlington Public School in New Jersey. After graduation, Halle posed for the very same photo at Wilson Hall, only this time in her cap and gown fulfilling her dream envisioned at CONVO2010.

Halle attended many PNCC Youth Convo's, served the Transfiguration Parish as an acolyte, a Sunday School teacher and actively participated in events and activities throughout the church.

Great job, Halle! Be proud of your accomplishments!

May God bless you with much success!

Submitted by Leslie Pietrowitz, Director District 2



## Membership: Welcome to the PNU!

---

PNU Branch 295 of District 6 welcomes Emily Jane Wyant to the PNU family!

Emily is the daughter of Josh and Toni Wyant, granddaughter of June Wyant, all from St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Cedar Lake, IN.

As a new juvenile member, Emily received a "PNU Bear", which she absolutely loves!

Thanks to Grandmother, June Wyant for signing up Emily and increasing our membership in District Six and the PNU.



## +Gloria Debra (Shiner) Dymkowski

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Gloria Debra Shiner Dymkowski, 74, of Wilkes-Barre, passed away peacefully Saturday, May 15, 2021, around midnight, with her devoted husband, the Very Rev. Thaddeus J. Dymkowski at her side.

Born in Scranton, she was the daughter of the late Wanda Zackowski Baden, Carl Shiner and stepfather, Walter "Mark" Baden.

Gloria attended St. Stanislaus Cathedral School and was a graduate of Scranton Technical High School, Class of 1963.

In 1967, Gloria was married to her husband, the Rev. Thaddeus J. Dymkowski, in St. Stanislaus Polish National Catholic Cathedral, by the Most Rev. Leon Grochowski. She was a faithful and supportive wife to her husband as they served PNC Church Parishes in Lawrenceville, N.J., Niagara Falls, N.Y., and, since 1972, Holy Cross Parish, Wilkes-Barre. She was a teacher at St. Stanislaus Sunday School, the youth choir and the youth organization. In recent years, she was employed by Catherine's Clothing, Wilkes-Barre. She was previously employed by Hess Department Store and PNC Bank call center.

In addition to her husband, Gloria is survived by her loving children, Lea Buffy Sypniewski and husband, Thomas, Huntingdon Valley; Thad Dymkowski and wife, Amy, Willington, Conn.; and Sarette Tiffany Rachel Dymkowski, New Britain, Conn.; grandchildren, Anthony and Alexandra; brothers, Carl and Chester Shiner; and half-brother, Gary Shiner and wife, Lenore; a half-sister, Arlene Maros and husband, Mike; nieces, nephews and cousins.

The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Saturday with Mass offered in St. Stanislaus Polish National Catholic Cathedral, 529 E. Locust St. Scranton, by the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky.

Interment will be at the convenience of the family.

Those attending the funeral are asked to go directly to church Saturday morning. Family and friends may call from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday at Nicholas Chomko Funeral Home, 1132 Prospect Ave., South Scranton. Arrangements are from Joseph W. Szynter, F.D.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Polish National Catholic Church Clergy Pension Fund, 1006 Pittston Ave., Scranton, PA 18505 or to the Luzerne County SPCA, 524 E. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702.

## Membership: +Viola Przybylski

At age 94, of Cheektowaga, NY, November 12, 2021. Dear daughter of the late Peter P. and Mary M. (nee Jiczkowski) Przybylski; dear sister of the late John (Catherine), Richard (Jane) and Daniel (Marie) Przybylski; beloved aunt of Loretta (Larry) Malek, Michael (Ann Marie) Przybylski and the late Marie (Kevin) Stroud; great-aunt of Shaun (Alexis Maltby) Przybylski, Dan (Kate) Przybylski, Amanda (Joseph) Schub, Cynthia (Patrick) Maloney, Ken (Celia) Malek, and Brenda (Michael) Sulkowski; survived by great-great-nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Family present at the BARRON-MILLER FUNERAL HOME, INC., 3025 William St., near Union Rd., Cheektowaga, Wednesday, 4-8 PM. Mass of Resurrection at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, 6298 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086, Thursday, at 10 AM.



## Death Report for November 2021

Barbara Glinka  
Joseph B. Czarnecki  
Helen Dinan  
Leo Koceski  
Martha Simbida  
Kenneth Thibault  
Donald J Martonick  
William Jurczyk  
Margaret Krusinsky  
Gertrude Gron

John Stanley Moczulski Sr  
Paul Wankowski  
Ellen Cherry  
Anna Holotyak  
Helen Pagacz  
Grace Weaver  
Karen Maxwell  
Irene Kopec  
Klara DiRienzo



## Coping with Grief and Loss (source: [Coping with Grief and Loss - HelpGuide.org](https://www.helpguide.org/articles/grief/coping-with-grief-and-loss.htm))

Whatever type of loss you've suffered, there's no right or wrong way to grieve. But by understanding the stages and types of grief, you can find healthier ways to cope.

What is grief?

Grief is a natural response to loss. It's the emotional suffering you feel when something or someone you love is taken away. Often, the pain of loss can feel overwhelming. You may experience all kinds of difficult and unexpected emotions, from shock or anger to disbelief, guilt, and profound sadness. The pain of grief can also disrupt your physical health, making it difficult to sleep, eat, or even think straight. These are normal reactions to loss—and the more significant the loss, the more intense your grief will be.

*To read the complete article online search:* [Coping with Grief and Loss - HelpGuide.org](https://www.helpguide.org/articles/grief/coping-with-grief-and-loss.htm)



## Christmas Greetings: Executive Officers

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***Martin H. Wachna, Jr.***  
***Chief Executive Officer, PNU***

“For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

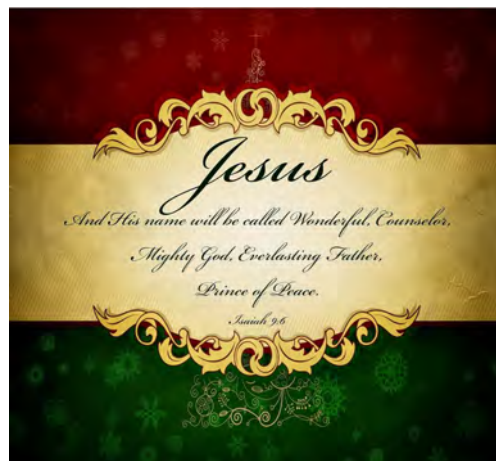
The Prophet Isaiah in his writings foretold of the birth of Jesus Christ long before his birth. Each advent we hear the prophecies of Isaiah in anticipation of the commemoration of the birth of Christ. In fact, in Handel’s Messiah this passage is of such importance that it was included in the score that was written. While the Hallelujah Chorus is the most recognized piece of music, this score is almost just as popular.

During the Christmas Season many of us make time to send greetings to those we care about. We make special efforts to gather with family and friends to celebrate, to catch up on what has been happening over the course of the year, to spread cheer to all we meet. It is also a time when Christians reflect on the greatest of gifts given to us. God the Father loves us so much that he sent his only son to earth in human form to give us everlasting salvation. Jesus Christ was also sent to earth to complete the prophecies of the Old Testament.

In the New Testament, we hear of the humble beginnings of the birth of Jesus in a manger, in a stable because there was no room at the inn. Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes (burlap) and placed in a feeding trough. We see that even in those times, that there was homelessness and poverty. As we celebrate the season of Christmas let us remember those who have no place to live. Those that are struggling, not sure where their next meal will be coming from. Those that are in facilities of care. Those that are homebound during this pandemic. Those that are in need.

Let us remember the true reason for the season this year. As members of a Fraternal Benefit Society, we need to recommit ourselves to helping those that are in need. The Polish National Union of America has been there for all people for over 100 years providing financial help to its members, the parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church, and to the community.

As the CEO of the Union and on behalf of my wife Chris, we would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year.



## Christmas Greetings: Executive Officers

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**John Andrzejewski**  
**Chief Financial Officer/Secretary - PNU**



There is great excitement in the air! All of the sights and sounds of the Christmas season. The melody of Christmas music, the beautifully colored and coria graphed lights with the deep night as a background, the scent of pine in the cool air, and visions of beautifully wrapped gifts under the Christmas tree. Aha! There seems to be something missing. What could it be? The list has been filled and checked twice and still no answer. So what could it be?

Could it be our savior Jesus Christ? For on this day our savior was born to bring into the world the most beautiful light, the greatest joy and the most endearing love one could ever experience. Christmas day **IS THE DAY** we celebrate and remember the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a day to rejoice because he brought light into the world as well as hope while teaching man the many facets of Love.

This Christmas season I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas as well as a Happy and Healthy New Year. Most of all I pray that the Love of the Christ Child fill your family with joy and goodwill towards your brothers and sisters.

Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku! Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo!

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*.... Wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him..." When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. Matthew; Chapter 2*

**Kathryn Nemkovich**  
**Vice President**  
**PNU Board of Directors**



At Christmas each year we hear how the wise men followed the Star of Bethlehem to lead them to the infant child...their newborn King and Savior. We learn of the great joy they had when they reached their destination and discovered Jesus, there in Bethlehem.

While the Star of Bethlehem is always delivered as part of the story of Christmas, one might say that following a light that leads us to Jesus and allows us to rejoice with great joy as we move closer to him, should be an everyday occurrence, not just at this time of year.

Today our every day journey closer to Jesus might look a little different than that of the wise men on their camels moving across the desert. It is important to keep ourselves focused on drawing nearer each day to Jesus, but it is also important for us to be attentive to what we may come across at different times during our journey. In other words, don't just look up – look around.

Let us always see with our eyes open wide those we are to help along our journey to great joy. It's common for people to be warmly generous with their time, talents, and treasures at this time of year, but we are called to be generous whenever there is a need, regardless of the month or season. Hunger, homelessness, addiction, grief, stress, and loneliness are not needs unique to Christmas. They are real needs that we pass by on our journey almost each and every day of the year. There is always someone in need of a hot meal, a warm blanket, a phone call to check-in, an outreach that says thank you for your service, an invite to not be alone, a little form of kindness in so many different ways.

Follow the Star of Bethlehem and rejoice with great joy for our newborn King and Savior, but be sure to open your eyes to see the needs of others that Jesus has so nicely laid in front of you along the way...all year long.

Wishing our PNU and PNCC families and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed, Happy, and Healthy 2022.

## Christmas Greetings: District 1

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**Mari Jane "Mage" Stankowski**  
**Director, PNU Board of Directors**

During this time of year, our thoughts go to the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, trimming the tree, singing carols, making our to-do lists, getting together with family and friends. But it's also a remind us of the greatest gift of all, the birth of Jesus. And with that, I find myself thinking of Mary. It started by honoring her with mass before dawn on the Wednesday morning in advent. The intention of the mass is that we are waiting, just like Mary, for the birth of Jesus.

Many years ago I was introduced to a poem about a dream Mary had. It touched me so much that I realized, in a way, it's how life has become. It's called Mary's Dream and I'd like to share it with you. It was taken from the internet. I hope you appreciate it as much as I do.

### **Mary's Dream**

Posted on **December 12, 2006**

(Author unknown)

*I had a dream, Joseph.*

*I don't understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son. I think that was what it was all about. The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts. It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our Son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right in their house. They'd decorated the tree also. The branches were full of glowing balls and sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on the top of the tree. It looked like an angel might look. Oh, it was beautiful. Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited about the gifts. They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not our Son. I don't think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn't it seem odd for people to go through all that trouble to celebrate someone's birthday if they don't know Him? I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration he would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone so full of cheer, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus – not to be wanted at His own birthday celebration. I'm glad it was only a dream.*

*How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real.*

Now, we all like to sing Kolendy and carols but there are new songs that have gotten my attention. They remind again of Mary and the account of Jesus' birth. The most popular one that I think everyone know is "Mary Did You Know". This song asks questions of Mary, thoughts about her child. The words are moving and thought provoking. Other songs I like to listen to are, "There's a New Kid In Town" and "Good News". The titles actually tell you what the songs are about. "There's A New Kid In Town" talks about the Magi looking for the King and "he's lying in a manger down the road.". It's a relatable song that transports you to Bethlehem. "Good News" talks about the angels talking to the shepherds. "Oh why are you afraid? ...So you'll see a gift that's given." It also tells of all the good news of what Jesus' birth now and in the future. I hope you make these songs part of you Christmas listening along with your favorite tunes.

So this holiday season, as you're busy trimming the tree, shopping, baking cookies and wrapping gifts, take some time to remember the reason for the season.

May God bless you and have a Merry Christmas.



### Go and See – The Child in the Manger

**Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky**  
**Prime Bishop - P.N.C.C.**  
**Director, PNU Board of Directors**



“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.” (Luke 2:15-16)

At this Christmas season we often contemplate these words, at the times we are gathering together within our parish churches or even as we set up manger scenes within our own homes, but as do it is also important for us to consider these words and their meaning for ourselves. These words are not just a narrative of the events of the past, but also a guide to live our lives in the present.

It was not enough for the shepherds simply to hear and accept the message of the angels. They had to go on to the manger to witness for themselves the manifestation of the Good News that they received. It reminds us that we too need to enter ever more fully into the proclamation of the Good News of the birth of Jesus Christ that is proclaimed within our world today. And there are several aspects to this witnessing: first, we are called to partake in the corporate worship of the Church in celebrating the birth of Christ, but we are also called to the corporate work of accomplishing the building up of the kingdom of that infant child as well. This work is done when we work together as parishes and also in the work of the members of the Polish National Union.

Within these words of the Gospel of St. Luke we also see the encouragement among the shepherds as they seek to encounter the Savior. They said to one another, “Let us go now...” No one set off on their own. No one went by themselves. They brought each other to the Manger. They brought each other to witness the saving event of the birth of Jesus Christ. They brought each other to encounter Christ, the newborn King and Messiah. It is for this reason that the Christmas season is one of fellowship and love for each other. We are called, as followers of Jesus, to bring others to a knowledge of Jesus Christ, to bring others to know Him in our worship, in our fellowship and in our work.

During this Christmas season, especially as we are emerging from such difficult times within our nation and within our world, let’s let love and fellowship guide us during this Christmas season and into the New Year as well. It’s the love and fellowship found in the Good News of Jesus Christ, the love and fellowship manifested by the shepherds.

On behalf of my brother bishops, the clergy and laity of the entire Polish National Catholic Church, as well as the management and members of the Polish National Union, I extend to all of you the blessings of the Christ child, newly come into our lives and our world. May the blessings of Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, descend upon us all and remain with us forever.



## Christmas Ads: District 1

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### **PNU District 1**

Julie Andrzejewski, District Director  
Joan Scheuneman, Vice Director  
Jessica Moser, Recording Secretary  
Patricia Bolock, Treasurer  
Most Rev. Emeritus John F. Swantek, Chaplain

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and  
a Blessed New Year!

### **Cathedral Parish of Saint Stanislaw, Bishop & Martyr - Scranton, PA**

The Right Reverend Bernard Nowicki, Pastor  
Reverend Janusz Lucarz, Asst. Pastor  
Fred Aebili, Chairman  
Edward Borek & Maria Hughes, Vice Chairman  
June Sarnowski, Recording Secretary  
Lynn Pfohl, Treasurer

### **The Good Shepherd Church—Plymouth, PA**

Very Reverend Lucian Urbaniak  
Michael Truszkowski, Chairman  
Stephen Marko, Vice Chairman  
Shari Urbaniak, Recording Secretary  
John Joseph, Treasurer

### **Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish—Dupont, PA**

Very Reverend Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor  
Paul Kaspriskie, Chairman  
Paul Kazinetz, Vice Chairman  
Susan Baldan, Recording Secretary  
Lois McHugh, Treasurer

### **Our Lord's Ascension PNCC—Bethlehem, PA**

Reverend Bogdan T. Yurchishin, Pastor  
Daniel Broczkowski, Chairman  
Walter Poposki, Vice Chairman  
Cindi Weller, Recording Secretary  
Karen Amate, Treasurer  
Nancy Poposki, Financial Secretary

### **Ss. Peter & Pauls P.N.C.C.—McAdoo, PA**

Rev. Boguslaw Janiec, Pastor  
Mrs. Alice Lichvar, Chairman  
Mr. David Schott, Vice Chairman  
Mrs. Joan Golden, Recording Secretary  
Mr. Jon Johnson, Treasurer



### **St. Mary's Parish—Duryea, PA**

Rev. Fr. Carmen G. Bolock, Pastor  
Michael Marks, Chairman  
Nicholas Bolock, Vice Chairman  
Patricia Bolock, Recording Secretary  
Jean Makala, Treasurer



### **Christmas Greetings from South Side Floral**

Jake & Mage Stankowski  
Serving Scranton for 97 years!



### **Christmas Blessings to all!**

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky and the  
Supreme Council of the P.N.C.C.



## Christmas Greetings: District 2

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**Greg Senkevitch**  
*Director - PNU Board of Directors*



As we approach Christmas 2021, I think about the looking forward. The birth of our Lord Jesus always gives me Hope. I find myself channeling the promise of a better world towards renewing my faith in God, The Church and mankind.

Growing up, you could see and feel the hopefulness at this time of year in the attitudes of the people you would meet. No matter what the circumstances were, you felt Hope. In the close –knit community of our local parish you would revel in the Celebration of the Birth of our Lord, because you knew everyone felt a new dawn at Midnight Mass and a recommitment to their Christian beliefs. We all believed our joy would carry us through the coming New Year.

We have been through a lot in the last twenty months. All of us acknowledge the impact that this pandemic has had on our global community, our relationships with each other, our interactions with close friends, relatives and people we meet. Some of us may even believe we are at a personal breaking point.

We need to cast aside this gloom. We need to capture that spirit of Hope that comes with Christmas. We need to rededicate ourselves to God, The Church and our fellow man. That to me is how we can all make an impact this Christmas. That to me is how we can fulfill the promise of the Birth of Jesus.

May we all enjoy the Christmas 2021 and commit ourselves to working harmoniously together in the true spirit of Christianity for our beloved Church and the PNU.

A Merry Christmas to all.

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**Michael R. Mietlicki**  
*Director - PNU Board of Directors*



### **Christmas - A Time of Giving**

There are so many gifts to consider during this joyous season.

First and foremost is the reason for the season, God's gift to us of His Son born in a manger in Bethlehem. The greatest gift ever given to humanity one of love and sacrifice.

It is that gift of love and sacrifice that we emulate during this season through various fraternal / service projects whether it be giving gifts to needy children and families, providing food to the hungry, providing coats to the poor, or providing the gift of our talent and time to our parish or community.

And then there are the physical gifts we exchange on Christmas day. Those expressions of love we share with family and friends. Just recently, my wife, Mary, and I were reviewing the various PNU insurance and annuity products we own and realized we did not purchase many of them. Many years ago, they were given to us as a gift from parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles most likely at Christmas. We tried to recall any of the toys or physical gifts we were probably also given but couldn't recall one of them. But these PNU gifts have lasted decades and even today we cherish them and are thankful for them.

So, parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, consider a PNU annuity, insurance product or social membership when you make your Christmas list this year. Contract your local PNU Santa, your district director for more information. These PNU gifts will be cherished long after the toys and clothes are enjoyed and discarded.

A most blessed and merry Christmas to you and to those you love.

## Christmas Ad: District 2

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### **PNU District 2**

Leslie Pietrowitz, District Director  
Linda Zulkowski, Vice Director  
Beverly Desbiens, Recording Secretary  
Margaret Kotula, Treasurer  
Rev. Joseph Cyman, Financial Secretary  
Very Rev. Gregory Mludzik, Spiritual Advisor  
Edmund J. Kotula, Honorary District Director



**Michael R. & Mary Gorgol Mietlicki**  
Scotch Plains, NJ

### **Transfiguration of Our Lord Wallington, NJ**

Very Rev. Gregory Mludzik, Pastor  
Raymund Bielski, Chairman  
Edmund J. Kotula, Vice Chairman  
Leslie Pietrowitz, Recording Secretary  
John Pietrowitz, Treasurer  
Dawn Wassman, Financial Secretary



**Holy Cross Church**  
Woodland Park, NJ



## Christmas Ads: District 3

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**Rejoice and be glad!**  
**Christ the Savior is born!**  
Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski



**Holy Trinity Cathedral**  
**Manchester, NH**  
Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Pastor  
Raymond Pieczarka, Chairman  
Stefan Swiadas, Vice Chairman  
Jo-Ann O'Connell, Recording Secretary  
Frances Dobosz, Treasurer

### **Holy Cross Parish Ware, MA**

Very Rev. Fryderyk S. Banas  
Francis Trzepacz, Chairman  
Lee Ann Pellegrini, Vice Chairman  
Evelyn Mongesh, Recording Secretary  
Gerry Skaza, Treasurer



**St. Valentine Parish**  
**Northampton, MA**  
Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor  
Christine Newman, Chairman  
Christine Newman, Recording Secretary  
Stephen Matuszewicz, Treasurer



## Christmas Greetings: District 3

***Very Rev. Robert M Nemkovich Jr.***  
***Director - PNU Board of Directors***



“To you is born this day in the city of David,  
a Savior Who is Christ the Lord”. - St. Luke

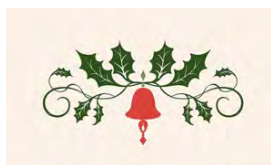
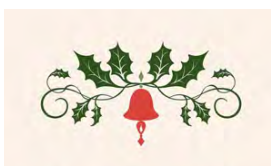
As we approach Christmas, for so many it is about presents, trees, decorations, parties, dinners, Santa, some elf looking for a shelf, plenty of shopping to do and food to prepare. For us as disciples this should not be the focus of Christmas – we should focus on the true meaning of the day – the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

And when we look at His birth – we don’t see the glitz and glamour that for so many is Christmas in our society today. We see the Son of God born not in luxury, not even in a home but rather outside with the animals and placed in a feed box. Do we stop from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season to think about what God is telling us by the birth of His Son? Our Lord, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was not born in a comfortable palace and it was simple poor shepherds who were the first to hear the Good News – again God is speaking to us about what and who is important to Him. Are we listening?

There is much to learn from the birth of our Lord. Jesus was not concerned with the things of this world but what was important was going out to care for and love the poor, marginalized and outcasts as He did throughout His ministry. It began with those humble shepherds and continues through His disciples today.

This Christmas think about what God has taught us with the birth of His Son – Think about the example our Lord Jesus Christ has given us in His Birth. Let this message be the focus of the Christmas Season as we celebrate the love God had by sending His Son for our salvation. Let us show that Love by not being consumed with the material and secular things of Christmas but rather by being consumed with showing God’s Love to the poor, homeless, marginalized and outcast in our world today. Take advantage of the opportunities God will give you not to be focused on yourself but rather on who you can help with your time, talent and treasure in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior. In your Christmas giving remember the poor, homeless, outcast in your community.

Also, to properly celebrate the birth of our Lord, attend Holy Mass this Christmas with your family and give praise and glory to God – let that be a priority in your Christmas planning as we focus as Jesus did, on the needs of others. Have a blessed Christmas sharing God’s love in our own local communities.



**Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year 2022!**

**PNU District 3—New England**  
Director—Maryann Zarek  
Vice Director—Michael Zarek  
Recording Secretary—Brenda Richard  
Treasurer—Eric Nemkovich  
Marshall—Thomas Zarek  
Trustee—Janice Dzialo  
Chaplain—Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich

## Christmas Ads: District 4 & 5

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**Greetings for a  
Blessed and Joyous Christmas Season**

**PNU District 4  
Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral  
Lancaster, NY**

Rt. Rev. John E. Mack, Pastor  
District Director: Beverly Basinski  
Branch 27: Rev. Gary Spencer  
Branch 311: Beverly Basinski  
Branch 79: Sharon Pawlowski



### **PNU District 5**

Melissa Snee, District Director  
Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski, Vice Director  
Marian Sleczkowski, Recording Secretary  
Henrietta Kleckner, Treasurer

### **Holy Family Parish - McKeesport, PA**

Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski, Pastor  
Mr. Ted Gibala, Chairman  
Mr. Donald Newcamp, Vice Chairman  
Mrs. Jan Gibala, Recording Secretary  
Mrs. Sharon Kish; Mr. Terry Kleckner, Treasurer

### **St. Mary's Parish - Parma, OH**

Rev. Jason Solytziak, Pastor  
Elaine Ploskonka, Chairman  
Steve Fesz, 1st Vice Chairman  
Mike Wisniewski, 2nd Vice Chairman  
Patty Temesi, Recording Secretary  
JoAnn Long, Financial Secretary  
Josephine Ference, Treasurer

## Christmas Ads: District 7

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### **PNU District 7**

Suzanne Sniezek, District Director  
Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Vice Director  
Kathy Chockley, Recording Secretary  
John Sniezek, Treasurer



### **All Saints Parish Sterling Heights, MI**

Rev. Michael Gitner, Pastor  
Dr. Rody Yezman, Chairman  
Dwight Berend, Vice Chairman  
Sharon Stachurski, Recording Secretary  
Carol Szydlowski, Treasurer

### **Holy Cross Parish Hamtramck, MI**

Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Pastor  
Nancy Wisbiski, Chairman  
Chis Filipowicz, Vice Chairman  
Katherine Banicki, Recording Secretary  
Cathy Bilinski, Treasurer



### **Resurrection Parish Temperance, MI**

Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Administrator  
Chris Cremean, Chairman  
Scott Patay, Vice Chairman  
Ty Menna, Recording Secretary  
Tom Kowalski, Treasurer

## Christmas Ads: District 6

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### **PNU District 6 FL, IL, IN, MN, WI**

Christine Wachna, District Director  
Very Rev. John Kowalczyk, Jr., Vice Director  
Christina Danielkiewicz, Recording Secretary  
Catherine Kowalczyk, Treasurer  
Rt. Rev. Jarosław Rafalko, Spiritual Counselor  
Trustees and Auditors

Active Branch Secretaries  
Rev. David Rowinski, Br. 37  
Christina Danielkiewicz, Br. 293  
Catherine Kowalczyk, Br. 295  
Walter Cegelka, Br. 362

**Merry Christmas and  
Happy & Healthy New Year!**



**Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and  
a Happy and Healthy New Year 2022**

from  
Prime Bishop Emeritus  
Robert and Florence Nemkovich  
Cape Coral, Florida

### **St. Joseph P.N.C.C. and ANS Sodality Davie, FL**

Rev Krzysztof Mendelewski, Pastor  
Mrs. Ania Dan Rodriguez, Chairman  
Mr. Sylvester Henry, Vice Chairman  
Mrs. Trudy McAdams, Financial Secretary

### **St. Mary Parish South Bend, IN**

Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski, Pastor  
Kathy Martinczak, Chairman  
Cecil Brummett, Vice Chairman  
Pat Lynch, Recording Secretary  
Carol Kolecki, Treasurer  
Kim Bjorkland, Financial Secretary  
Susan Zawistowski, Financial Coordinator



### **Saint Michael the Archangel Parish Cedar Lake, IN**

Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr., Pastor  
Mr. Christopher Plewniak, Chairman  
Mr. James Szalony, Recording Secretary  
Mrs. June Wyant, Treasurer  
Mr. Martin Wachna, Jr., Financial Secretary  
Mrs. Maria Becerra, Mrs. Catherine Kowalczyk,  
Mr. Jerry Wilck and Mr. Richard Wisniewski,  
Directors



### **Clergy Circle of the Western Diocese**

Bishop Jerry Rafalko, Ordinary  
Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski, Chairman  
Deacon Jim Ploskonka, Recording Secretary  
Rev. David Rowinski, Treasurer  
Priests and Deacons



# Education & Youth Stipend Application - Page 1

## EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMISSION

Polish National Union of America  
Fraternal and Benefit Society  
1006 Pittston Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505  
Website: [www.pnu.org](http://www.pnu.org)  
Email address: [EYC@pnu.org](mailto:EYC@pnu.org)



### Stipend Application

For members who are in the Polish National Union at least five (5) years and are currently in good standing.  
Grants are made in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Stipend for the academic year 20\_\_\_\_ - 20\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: Cell phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Home# \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of PNU Branch No. \_\_\_\_\_ District No. \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College / University: \_\_\_\_\_

Course/Study Pursued: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate current year of Enrollment: 1<sup>st</sup> year \_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> year \_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> year \_\_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> Year \_\_\_\_

Anticipated/Expected year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate status attending: \* PART TIME (7-11 credits) \* FULL TIME (12 credits and more)

*Please attach verification of credits taken for each semester stated below. If the college/university determines part time or full time status differently please provide this paperwork.  
(i.e. a class schedule showing the number of credits for each class taken)*

Fall Semester _____	# of credits completed/earned _____
Spring Semester _____	# of credits completed/earned _____

Tuition Amount \_\_\_\_\_ per academic year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home office Approval/Authorization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature





### Stipend Application - continued

In order to process this application in its entirety, please choose from at least one of the following criteria listed below, to show the proper enrollment verification from the College or University.

**THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ALL APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>, FOR THAT ACADEMIC YEAR.** All applications must be either received or postmarked by this date and returned to the address listed on the front of this application.

*Please note the name of the institution, applicant's name, as well as the academic year must be stated on these documents in order for them to be considered as proof of enrollment.*

- ☐ **SCHEDULE (and/or) GRADES AND A TUITION STATEMENT FROM EACH SEMESTER, FOR THAT ACADEMIC YEAR.**  
*Please make sure the number of credits are clearly stated on the schedule for that enrollment year.*
- ☐ **ACADEMIC STATUS (UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT) FROM THE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY VERIFYING THE ENROLLMENT YEAR, SEMESTER STATUS, AND NUMBER OF CREDITS TAKEN ( OR IN PROGRESS). A TUITION STATEMENT FROM EACH SEMESTER SHOULD ALSO BE ATTACHED.**
- ☐ **ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATION OF REGISTRAR FOR ACADEMIC YEAR.**  
*A tuition statement from each semester should be attached.*  
*Please fill out the following information below.*

This is to certify \_\_\_\_\_

Enrolled at \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enrolled in 1<sup>st</sup> year \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> year \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> year \_\_\_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> year \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Registrar \_\_\_\_\_

(Seal)

## Education & Youth Stipend Information

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### Stipend Application Timeline

Please note the academic year follows the school year, i.e. 2021/2022

#### DECEMBER

START PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION PAPERWORK

Download the application from the PNU website,  
[https://www.pnu.org/index\\_27.htm](https://www.pnu.org/index_27.htm)

#### JANUARY – EARLY FEBRUARY

GATHER ALL NECESSARY MATERIALS

Class schedules/grades if available

Include information for both fall and spring semesters,

NUMBER OF CREDITS TAKEN FOR EACH  
SEMESTER MUST BE NOTED ON APPLICATION

Tuition statement for fall and spring semesters

Complete the entire application and sign

Deadline to submit is April 15<sup>th</sup>

MAIL THE APPLICATION ALONG WITH ALL THE DOCUMENTATION MENTIONED TO THE  
FOLLOWING ADDRESS **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>\*\***

EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMISSION OF THE PNU  
ATTN: MARY ANN STANKOWSKI  
1006 PITTSTON AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PA 18505

#### MAY

EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMISSION COMMITTEE  
MEETS TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS

#### END OF MAY/EARLY JUNE

CHECKS WILL BE DISBURSED TO APPLICANTS

#### **\*\*PLEASE NOTE**

**NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED  
IF POSTMARKED AFTER  
APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> OF THAT ACADEMIC CALENDAR YEAR.**



**Polish National Union of America  
“Cast A Net”  
Contest  
January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022**

### **Contest Rules**

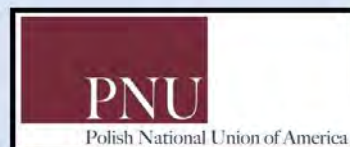
1. This contest is open to all Branch Secretaries, District Directors and Organizers of the Polish National Union of America.
2. Applications signed ONLY during 1/1/2022 – 6/30/2022 will be accepted for contest.
3. Applications must be submitted not later than July 15<sup>th</sup> and approved by July 31, 2022.
4. All applications are subject to our present underwriting procedures.
5. No combination of branches.
6. Each certificate issued is on one life only. Multiple applications on the same individual will be counted as one member.
7. Reward to the Parish: Reward donated directly to the Parish. Donations will be sent to the Parish Treasury once one full year of premium is received at the Home Office from all certificates signed during contest period.
8. Qualifications for eligibility:

5 members & \$25,000 or more in insurance - \$500 donation to Parish  
10 members & \$50,000 or more in insurance - \$1000 donation to Parish  
15 members & \$75,000 or more in insurance - \$1500 donation to Parish  
20 members & \$100,000 or more in insurance - \$2,022 donation to Parish

Using any combination of the following plans:

1. 5 Pay Life
  2. 10 Pay Life
  3. 20 Pay Life
  4. Life Paid Up at 85
  5. 20 Year Endowment
  6. Single Premium
  7. Annuities
9. As a Bonus – All 20 Year Endowment Certificates written for \$15,000 and over will count as 2 members; and **all** new Annuity Policies over \$25,000.00 will count as 3 members.





### **"Cast a Net" Contest**

**Help your Parish by  
Becoming fishers of members**

**Here's the bait:**

5 members & \$25,000 or more of insurance earns \$500  
10 members & \$50,000 or more of insurance earns \$1000  
15 members & \$75,000 or more of insurance earns \$1500  
20 members & \$100,000 or more of insurance earns \$2,022

Contest runs from January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022

### **A Whale of a Bonus:**

20 Year Endowment policies over \$15,000 earn double member count  
Annuity Policies over \$25,000 earn triple member count

Contact your Branch Secretary, District Director or  
The Home Office of the PNU at (1-800-724-6352)

For more details

