



PNU Board of Directors Visit NEPA Shelter

On December 8, 2022 after the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors the members visited the Northeast Pennsylvania Youth Shelter. This visit was to present to the shelter a new refrigerator for water and a stack of gift cards to local fast food restaurants for the at risk youth. The Board of Directors at their October 2022 meeting decided that this year in lieu of the annual Board Christmas Party we would perform a fraternal activity instead.



Vice-President Kathryn Nemkovich was tasked with finding an appropriate non-profit organization in the Scranton area that was in need of items. After researching the need it was determined that the NEPA Youth Shelter was the group chosen.

The NEPA Youth shelter provides numerous opportunities for at risk youth in the Scranton. The Executive Director Maureen Maher-Gray informed the Board that they were desperately in need of a new refrigerator to hold water bottles. The current refrigerator had failed and could not hold the 100 bottles necessary for the shelter. The PNU purchased this item and had it shipped to the shelter. The Board also decided to provide the shelter with a number of gift cards so that the Director could pass them out for the children to have food.



Continued on page 4

Inside this issue:

Organizational Contact Information	2
District Mtg Schedules, Straz Deadlines & Subscription	3
NEPA Youth Shelter & Award Presentation	4-5
District News	6-12
Membership News	13-15
Spojnia Credit Union Rates	16-17
Report of Actions	18
Annual Christmas Greetings	19-24

**Official Bi-monthly Publication
Printed Continuously for 125 Years**

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przerwy od 125 lat**

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Organizational Contact Information



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Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr.,
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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, Debbie Bilinski,
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

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SCU Management:

Jan Cwikla, President

Jacek Grotnik, Vice President

Joan Scheuneman, Secretary

John C. Andrzejewski, Treasurer

Katherine Gnat

PNU District & Branch Meeting Schedules

For meeting information, contact the corresponding District Director. See page 2 for details.

District 1 Quarterly Meeting & Delegate Elections to the 32nd General Convention:

Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA

District 4 (and Br. 79 & 311) Annual Election of Officers and Election of Convention Delegates:

Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, Lancaster, NY. Alternate date in case of inclement weather, to be determined.

District 5: Sunday, January 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting

District 6: Thursday, February 9, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m. central via Zoom

District 7: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Alternate date, March 13, 2023.

District 10: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 via Zoom.

2023 Straz Article Submission Deadlines

You are invited to submit articles and pictures regarding PNU events in a timely manner and relevant to the time period in which the Straz will be published. You are requested to send articles in Microsoft Word format and pictures in either jpeg or png format.

All submissions are to be sent via email to executive02@pnu.org by the deadline dates listed below. Thank you for your cooperation.

<u>Issue Month</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>	<u>Issue Month</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>
February	January 15	August	July 15
April	March 15	October	September 15
June	May 15	December	November 15

Straz Mail Subscription Information

The Official Publication of the Polish National Union, The Straz, is published on a bi-monthly basis throughout the year. At least six issues are published and distributed via the website www.pnu.org.

Annual subscriptions for a printed copy of The Straz are available for \$20.00 per year. You can contact the Home Office via:

Phone: 1-800-724-6352/570-344-1513

Email: info@pnu.org

Mail: PNU – 1002 Pittston Avenue – Scranton, PA 18505

Required info for subscription mailing:

Recipient Name, Address, City, State & ZIP

Visit to NEPA Youth Shelter continued



The Board of Directors then went to tour the facility to see the good work they are doing. During this tour the Board of Directors were amazed with the size of the facility and the different activities the facility provided to the youth of the area. The youth are able to perform arts and crafts, computer work, reading areas, obtain hygiene products, clothes, a music studio, furniture and most importantly a food pantry for those who are in need.

Everyone at the shelter was so appreciative that we took the time to see their safe place. They were also most excited about the gift cards we gave to the Executive Director for fast food restaurants. In some instances that is the only hot food that the children will eat. At the end of the visit the Board informed all the staff and participants that in addition to what we brought with us that a number of pizzas were going to be delivered for the youth that evening.



As the Board departed the Youth Shelter a sense of joy filled our hearts that the PNU was able to provide a small amount of joy to this shelter. This is the true Reason for the Season.





L-R: Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, Christina Danielkiewicz (2022), Mage Stankowski (2021), Henrietta Kleckner (2020), Christine Wachna (2021), Kathryn Nemkovich and Martin Wachna, Jr.

On Friday, October 21, 2022 during the Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church, PNU Vice-President, Kathryn Nemkovich took the podium in order to present all four of the Irene Jugan Heart and Soul Award winners their award from the Board of Directors of the Polish National Union of America. It was at the Synod that all four of the recipients would be present in one location.

Mrs. Nemkovich explained to the Synod the background of the Irene Jugan Award and spoke a little about each of the winners. At that time, all the award winners were requested to come up to the front of the meeting room where they were presented their award.

All of the PNU Board of Directors were present at the Synod to participate in the presentation. Thank you to the four recipients for their dedicated work to the PNU and the PNCC.



Julie Andrzejewski - Director, District 1

**Polish National Union of America
District 1 Quarterly Meeting
September 7, 2022**

District Director Julie Andrzejewski called the meeting to order at 7:16pm on September 7, 2022. The meeting was held at Good Shepherd parish in Plymouth, PA. Rev. Carmen Bolock had the opening invocation. Director Andrzejewski announced that Jessica Moser would be stepping down as Recording Secretary. She stated that Joan Scheuneman would step down as Vice Director to take over the Recording Secretary position and that Mari Jane Stankowski agreed to take over as Vice Director. She then appointed Mari Jane Stankowski as Vice-Director and Joan Scheuneman as Secretary.

Secretary's Report: Attendance: Secretary Joan Scheuneman reported that there were 9 delegates representing 6 branches and 6 guests present. Ms. Scheuneman then read the minutes from the previous meeting. Director Andrzejewski asked if there were any corrections or errors and there were none noted. A motion was made by Mari Jane Stankowski, second by Rev. Carmen Bolock to accept the minutes as read. Director Andrzejewski called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Patricia Bolock gave the financial report from June 8, 2022 to September 7, 2022. Director Andrzejewski asked if there were any corrections or errors and there were none noted. A motion was made by Dorothy Andrzejewski, second by Mari Jane Stankowski to accept the treasurer's report. Director Andrzejewski called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Training Session: Director Andrzejewski distributed and went over the new PNU adult & juvenile applications. The biggest change in the application is that there is a new "leave behind" page which is to be given to the applicant at the time they sign up for a new insurance certificate. This is to comply with HIPAA regulations. She also explained the necessity of completing the section asking if an individual has other insurance coverage as this is important information as to the issuance of the certificate. A brief question and answer session followed.

Old Business: A report was given regarding our Family Day at Skyzone. We mailed 119 postcards and posted information in all the local parishes. In total there were 3 children and 7 adults that attended. We may try a movie later this year to try for a more highly attended outing. Vice Director Mari Jane Stankowski brought information regarding a possible fraternal project. St. Stanislaus Parish has re-started it's One Hot Meal program.

District 1: meeting minutes continued



They do this project the 1st Saturday of every month. They would need the help starting at 9:30 to start getting the meals together and packed up. The pickup time runs from noon until 1 or until they run out of meals. After considering the number of people who would be able to help it was decided not to move forward at this time, however, it can be discussed again at a future meeting.

New Business: Branch secretary reports – Jan Cwikla Br 74 sold 2 policies and has 3 more prospects. Spójnia Sunday will be held September 25, 2022. Cake & coffee hours will be held at St. Stanislaus and Holy Mother of Sorrows. Correspondence is being sent to each parish. Our Christmas Party will be December 6th and will be held in St. Stanislaus Church Hall beginning at 6 p.m. Jan Cwikla made a motion seconded by Rev. Bolock to allow the Executive officers make the catering decision and to keep the expense to \$20 per person. Motion passed unanimously. Mari Jane Stankowski made a motion to place Christmas greetings in both the Straz and God's Field. Jan Cwikla seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Home Office Update – PNU CFO John Andrzejewski mentioned that both the PNU and the Spójnia Credit Union have been having staffing issues. The offices will be consolidating staff. Annuity certificates are now paying 3%. The PNU website is being redone. It should be up and running shortly. SCU President Jan Cwikla announced that the credit union has begun moving forward with the issuance of debit cards. This program will probably be available later next year.

Calendar of Events: Dupont – September 11, 2022 Dozynki, Harvest Festival. St. Stanislaus: One Hot Meal – 1st Saturday of every month. October 1st, 2022 – Pierogi making class. There is no charge but you will need to sign up. October 19 – 21, 2022 General Synod. October 22, 2022 – 125th Anniversary of the PNCC mass. 11:00 mass at Cathedral, 2:00 banquet at Hilton Hotel, 7:00 Organ concert at the Cathedral.

The next meeting will be held on December 6, 2022 at St. Stanislaus Cathedral Church hall in Scranton, PA at 6 p.m. Very Rev. Urbaniak had the closing prayer.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dorothy Andrzejewski.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Scheuneman
Recording Secretary



Julie Andrzejewski - Director, District 1

Polish National Union of America SPOJNIA SUNDAY 2022

Spojnia Sunday was celebrated on September 25, 2022, in St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish, Scranton, PA. The celebration took place after the 9:30 Mass as parishioners gathered in the church hall. The Branch Secretaries of District 1 volunteered to sponsor the coffee hour with the help of some of the members.

The coffee hour offered many opportunities for discussion about the benefit of the PNU as well as the chance to meet District Director Julie Andrzejewski, and Branch Secretaries Joan Scheuneman; Branch 44; and Dorothy Andrzejewski; Branch 323. Members of the Board of Directors of the PNU were also present including Mary Ann Stankowski and Mari Jane Stankowski. As the parishioners were enjoying the coffee and refreshments provided by the district, CFO and Secretary of the PNU, John Andrzejewski had an opportunity to speak about the current promotional program, 5 for 125. This program was established by the Polish National Union in conjunction with the Polish National Catholic Church's marking of the 125th anniversary of organization. The program allowed participants to apply for \$5,000 of life insurance without medical underwriting.



The Education and Youth Commission with the assistance of Mary Ann Stankowski presented a display of Polish items for sale as a fundraiser for the PNU Stipend Program. Items available included glass ornaments, Polish pottery, and various other items. The parishioners responded with avid support as many items found their way home and the donations accumulated.

Overall the celebration was a success!

Melissa Snee - Director, District 5

**Polish National Union of America
District 5 Quarterly Meeting
October 15, 2022**



Attendance – Fr Bruce Sleczkowski, Marian Sleczkowski, Henrietta Kleckner, Terry Kleckner, Paulette Beliunas, Maryann Kiska, Rosalie Clark, Brent Adler, Melissa Snee, Patty Grohal, Barbara Wisniewski, Mike Wisniewski and Georgine Katocs.

Meeting opened at 1:12pm by Director Melissa Snee.

Fr Bruce Sleczkowski offered prayer.

Minutes – Marian Sleczkowski presented the minutes. Paulette Beliunas made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Rosalie Clark. Motion passed.

Financial Report – Henrietta Kleckner presented the Financial Report for the quarter ending Sept 30, 2022. Maryann Kiska motioned to accept financial report, seconded by Brent Adler. Motion passed.

Correspondence – None.

PNU Performance –

Melissa Snee reviewed the PNU membership reports.

District 5 year-to-date performance is not very impressive. So far sold 4 policies, 44 cancellations, loss of 44 members. Annuity interest rate increased to 3% through the end of the year.

PNU is looking to hire insurance agents to sell outside of the PNCC. Many parishes throughout the district had a PNU sponsored activity. Education and Youth Fundraiser – Please promote in the parishes. Drawing will be December 6, 2022.

Old Business –

Family Outing – Held August 21, 2022 – Wild Things baseball game and buffet. It was attended by 39 members. A nice afternoon was had by all.

New Business –

"5 for 125" promotion is in progress. Open enrollment (no refusals) for applicants aged 25-80. 5 pay life policies. \$5k or \$10k increments only.

Continued on page 10



Melissa Snee - Director, District 5

Updated application form have been sent to all secretaries.
Voluntary dues letters went out to all members. Melissa suggested everyone support this.

Irene Jugan Heart & Soul award was presented to Christina Danielkiewicz of Branch 293 on Spojnia Sunday.

We need to advertise the Spojnia Credit Union rates at all parishes and push the Social Membership which gives access to the Credit Union.

Quarterly Charitable Donation – Terry Kleckner made a motion to send the donation for our parishes in Florida with parishioners that were affected by Hurricane Ian. Motion seconded by Paulette Beliunas. Motion passed and Henrietta Kleckner was directed to send the check to the Prime Bishop to be included with other funds.

Straz Christmas greeting to be sent by Henrietta Kleckner.

Melissa Snee thanked Patty Grohal for the delicious dinner and hospitality offered by her branch.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be a Go-To-Meeting on Sunday, January 15, 2023 at 7:00pm. This way we do not have to worry about traveling in bad weather.

Brent Adler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Barb Wisniewski. With no further business, Fr Bruce offered the closing prayer.

Meeting closed at 2:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Marian E. Sleczkowski
Recording Secretary

Christine Wachna - Director, District 6



**Polish National Union of America
District 6 Quarterly Webinar/Teleconference Meeting
October 25, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Director Christine Wachna at 6:35 p.m. The Invocation and prayer for healing for Teri Heath and for deceased secretary Dr. Walter Cegelka was pronounced by Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk.

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

The **Agenda** as presented was revised adding that Christina Danielkiewicz would report on points presented at the General Synod. The **Proposed Revised Agenda** was accepted as presented upon motion made by Catherine Kowalczyk and seconded by Robert Maycan. Motion carried. The **Minutes** from the August 18, 2022 meeting were accepted as presented upon motion made by Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk and seconded by Catherine Kowalczyk. Motion carried.

The **Financial Report** for the 3rd quarter of 2022 was given by Catherine Kowalczyk. Upon motion made by Robert Maycan, and seconded by Christina Danielkiewicz, the financial report was accepted, subject to audit. Motion carried.

Remarks from District Director Christine Wachna: Christine stated that the 5 for 125 Program presently in force will likely be the last Open Enrollment.

It was reported that 2 clergy from the Western Diocese signed – the clergy policy. Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk stated the Diocese pays for \$10,000 and the remainder is responsibility of the clergyman or the parish. If the parish does not assist, it is the responsibility of the priest.

The 2022 Irene Jugan Heart and Soul Award was presented to Christina Danielkiewicz. The recipients of this award for the last four years (since its inception) were all delegates to the recent XXVI General Synod, therefore the PNU felt it appropriate to present all four recipients their award at the Synod. 2019, Henrietta Kleckner; 2020, Christine Wachna; 2021, MaryJane Stankowski; and 2022, Christina Danielkiewicz. The 2022 recipient was announced on Spójnia Sunday.

Old Business

“5 for 125” Program – This program started August 1, 2022 and will run thru December 31, 2022. The program is a 5 Pay Life Policy for either \$5k or \$10k. The program is Open Enrollment for ages 25-80 with no medical. All Districts are encouraged to sell five policies in this program.

Continued on pages 12 & 13

Spójnia Sunday - Christina Danielkiewicz attended Mass on September 24, 2022 at All Saints Cathedral. Following Mass Christina was introduced by Robert Maycan, President of Br.37 to give remarks on Spójnia. She highlighted the 5 for 125 Program and encouraged members to increase their insurance coverage or if they have no insurance, to take advantage of this Open Enrollment program.

New Business

Branch Secretary Reports: Br. 37 and Br. 362: Director Christine Wachna reported on these two branches. Br. 37 is without a secretary right now. Br. 362 will need to elect a secretary following the death of Dr. Walter Cegelka, the branch's long serving secretary. As of now Director Wachna is overseeing both these branches. Robert Maycan is to obtain the Branch 37 records from Rev. David Rowinski. Rev. Rowinski was removed as the Interim Secretary. CEO Martin Wachna reported he is working on getting a replacement for Branch 37. Also CEO Wachna will be speaking with Judith Palacios asking her if she would be willing to serve as Br. 362 secretary.

Branch Br. 295 – Catherine Kowalczyk: Cathy reported that she signed two Social memberships and has five policies pending.

Br. 293 – Christina Danielkiewicz: Christina reported that she is trying to sign members for the **5 for 125 Program**. Also she has made contact with a few members (met with them while visiting the Chicago area) regarding updating their addresses and asking about change of beneficiary. She informed the members that the change of beneficiary form is a “downloadable” form and can be printed, signed and sent to the Main Office. She requested the members to send her a copy of the updated address form.

Christina Danielkiewicz was called upon to give **information from Spójnia announced at the XXVI General Synod** that took place October 18-21, 2022.

- Annuity rate is now 3.75% through 12/31/22. This is only for new monies received.
- The Family of John & Dorothy Markiewicz is initiating a scholarship focusing on healthcare. It will be \$1,000 annually. More details will appear in the December Straż.
- Elaine Gazda, the sister of the late Ernest J. Gazda, Jr., is funding a scholarship in Ernest's name. Mr. Gazda served for many years as attorney for the Polish National Union of America.
- Spójnia's new website will be up effective January 1, 2023 and an App for Smartphones is in the works.

Activities for 2023 – It was stated the smaller attendance over the past few years attending the Wolves hockey games has indicated that this activity has “run its course”. Other ideas brought up were WNBA game, but need to check prices, dates, etc. They play at the Sears Center in Schaumburg, IL. Another possibility is a bowling event. We could call it “Up Your Alley”, a pizza and bowling outing. Another idea during spring or summer is a minor league baseball outing. Possible teams are Joliet Slammers; Chicago Dogs; Gary Railcats. Information would be needed before planning such outing.

Continued on page 13

District 6: meeting minutes continued



CEO Wachna reported that the Board of Directors will require at least two fraternal activities during 2023. One idea is to help a local food pantry by collecting food items for needy families.

For the Good of the District – Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk stated that it's the time of year to hold food drives, a shoe box drive and clothing drive. We can look for sales on these items. Possible to buy two items for the price of one. If your branch is planning an event like this, inform Director Wachna so she can include it in her Director's Report.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion made by Robert Maycan and seconded by Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m. Motion carried. Our next webinar/teleconference meeting is set for February 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. CST. Please note this is the second Thursday of February. All future meetings in 2023 are set for the 2nd Thursday of the month: May 11; August 10 and October 12. The dates may change if it becomes necessary. Upon motion made by Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk and seconded by Robert Maycan, the meeting dates set for 2023 are adopted. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Christina M. Danielkiewicz, Recording Secretary

Membership: Welcome to Our New Members! (Aug. - Nov. 2022)

<u>District</u>	<u>Branch</u>	<u>Name</u>
1	44	Shay Alejandra Salazar & Ann Marie Salony
	72	Ashley Oset, Brooklyn Rose Oset & Carter William Oset
	74	Joann Theresa Stefanko & Ramona Irene Mizenko
	4004	Carlos Aranda & Rev. Nazario Salas
	5001	Kristin Ives, Hannah Caroline Acevedo, Lilian R. Boles, Tracy Diane Bucksbee, Nicholas John Cimino & Jeffrey Joseph Pascavage
2	54	Rev. Jozef Cyman
	5002	Leanardo Joseph Licciardello
3	112	Patricia A. Dobson
6	295	Mackenzie Hatke
	362	Petra Cecilia Palacios & Narda Zimmerman
	5006	Celia Patricia Sance Farias & Jose Luis Palacios

Membership: +Joseph F. Seliga



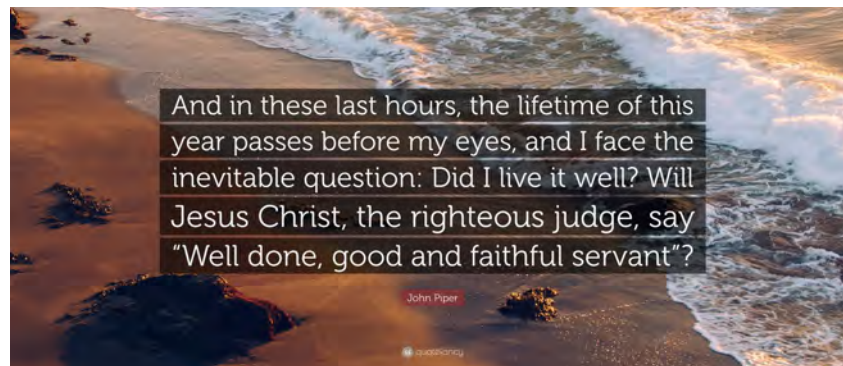
As published in the Scranton Times

Joseph F. Seliga age 86, of Robbinsville, NJ passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 1st, 2022. Born June 6, 1936, in Scranton, PA, Joe spent the majority of his life in Robbinsville, NJ with his wife and family. Preceded by his son Joseph E. Seliga, Joe is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Patricia Seliga, brother Roger Seliga, son, James Seliga and wife Kelly, daughter-in-law, Michele Seliga, grandchildren, Shelby, Morgan and husband Kyle Hartman, James and Kyle Seliga and great granddaughter, Sophia.

Joe served in the United States Navy from 1954 to 1962 and then went on to the Milwaukee School of Engineering and received a BS degree in Electrical Engineering and then a MS degree in Electrical Engineering from Drexel Institute of Engineering. Joe began his career in 1962 as an Aerospace Engineer at RCA Corporation designing satellites and he retired as a Program Manager at Lockheed Martin in Hightstown, NJ.

Joe was a parishioner of Our Saviour Polish National Catholic Church located in Lawrenceville, NJ and Diocesan/National Synod Representative. Member of PNCC History and Archives Commission 1987 – 2022, Budget and Finance Commission, Secretary of Synod Investigation Committee on Nordic Catholic Church, Author of *Ustronie* along with Prime Bishops Nemkovich and Mikovsky. Developed Museum at Waymart, PA, Member of the Banner of Jasna Gora 17th Century Polish Living History Group, Joe served 8 years on the Washington Township Committee, as Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Planning Board Chairman. Joe was a member of Mercer Lodge #50 F&AM. Joe was the founder of Washington Crossing American Revolutionary War Round Table in 2004, Member of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Past New Jersey Department Commander, Member of Camp Olden Civil War Roundtable, President Garfield Civil War Museum Board, member of Civil War Heritage Association Board, member of Swan Historical Foundation, Author of *The Search for Camp Olden*, Hamilton Township, Author of *A Tribute To New Jersey Veterans*.

The internment will be held on Friday, December 16th, 2022, at 12:00pm at St Stanislaus Cemetery, located on Kane Street, Scranton, PA. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to: Our Saviour P.N.C. Church, 2300 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.



Membership: +Edward J. Burczy

Edward J. Burczy (Eddie) passed away December 7th 2022, in Hazleton. He was 90 years old.

He was PNU Secretary/Chairman for many years. The National Organization had at one time 32,000 members. The STRAZ was always found on the kitchen table. His mother would read the Polish section.

He had a business as a house painter and his work in the area spanned two- generations. Eddie was well-known through not only his business, but also his community involvement and many hobbies and endeavors. He attended all the church picnics to enjoy the food and the polkas. His Milk Bottle Collection was legendary. He was a 40-year member of The Greater Hazleton Polonaise Society and was active with them to the end. He was always on the go, and his roads led to all things Polish.



He was also a renowned Polka dancer and his moves could always be seen on WVIA's Pennsylvania Polka. His last attendance there was in October, and he danced with many women!

Eddie was preceded in death by his wife Joyce and his daughter Pamela. His son Robert, who also had a career in the painting trade, is married to Bernadette. They both reside in Lattimer Mines, Pa.

Membership: Death Report September 2022

Bruce Lesko
Peggy Baker
Valerie Feltey
Daniel Klich
Stephanie Kostrewa
Joseph Wilczek

George Krafcik
James Wager
Leonard Buniewski
Eileen M. Hatala
Andrew Kurechka
John Rudzinski

Sonia Prestys
Leonard Koshinski
Chester Czyz
Patricia Soltis
Bruce McRoberts

Membership: Death Report October 2022

Catherine Conniff
Helen Denningham
Edward Krol
Edwin Pitro
Roy Hellmer

Florence Benjamin
Mary Serafin
Cecelia Sportelli
Adolph Biss
Raymond Makowski

Archnishop Herman
Craig Markiewicz
Thadeus Owoc
Rose Gaba

Spojnia Credit Union

Spojnia Credit Union RATES – Effective November 17th, 2022

APY – Annual Percentage Yield, APR – Annual Percentage Rate

Share Rates	APR	APY	Terms
Share (Savings) Account	0.05%	0.050%	Over \$5.01
Christmas Club Account	0.25%	0.150%	Maximum \$5000.00
Vacation Club Account	0.20%	0.200%	Maximum \$5000.00
Share Draft Rates			
Share Draft (Checking) Account	0.00%	0.000%	
Share Certificates - \$1000.00 Minimum			
90 Days Share Certificate*	1.50%	1.500%	
Six (6) Month Share Certificate*	1.50%	1.500%	
Twelve (12) Month Share Certificate*	2.25%	2.250%	
Twenty-Four (24) Month Share Certificate*	2.50%	2.500%	
Thirty-Six (36) Month Share Certificate*	3.00%	3.000%	
Forty-Eight (48) Month Share Certificate*	3.00%	3.000%	
Sixty Month (60) Month Share Certificate*	3.00%	3.000%	
*Share Certificate Rates May Change Weekly Penalties apply on early withdrawal.			
Loan Rates			
Shares Loan - Minimum \$1000.00	2.19%		Up to 24 Months
	2.49%		Up to 36 Months
	2.69%		Up to 48 Months
	2.989%		Up to 60 Months
New Vehicle Loan – Maximum \$50,000.00			
	5.09%		Up to 36 Months
	5.29%		Up to 48 Months
	5.39%		Up to 60 Months
	5.49%		Up to 72 Months
Used Vehicle Loan - Some Restrictions Apply			
2016 and Newer	5.14%		Up to 36 Months
2017 and Newer	5.34%		Up to 48 Months
2018 and Newer	5.64%		Up to 60 Months
2019 and Newer	5.84%		Up to 72 Months
Signature Loan – Maximum \$10,000.00			
	11.00%		Up to 36 Months
Signature Loan – Over \$3000.00	12.00%		Up to 48 Months
Signature Loan – Over \$5000.00	13.00%		Up to 60 Months
Organization Loan – Maximum \$49,999.99 Available to: Parishes and Organizations of the PNCC and non-profit organizations associated with the Polish National Union of America and/or the Polish National Catholic Church)			
	6.59%		Up to 60 Months
	8.10%		Up to 120 Months
\$20,000.00 Minimum on 15 year term	7.85%		Up to 180 Months

Home Equity Loan – Not to exceed 85% of the appraised value minus any first mortgage balance. \$500.00 Application Fee			
	6.24%		Up to 60 Months
	6.38%		Up to 84 Months
	6.38%		Up to 120 Months
Call for current rate			
180 Month Loan – Minimum \$20,000.00	6.25%		Up to 180 Months
2nd Q. Discount of .5% if we are 1st position Lien Holder			
Non-Owner Occupied Home Equity Loan- Not to exceed 75% of the appraised value minus any 1st mortgage balance. \$500.00 Application Fee			
	6.24%		Up to 60 Months
	6.38%		Up to 84 Months
	6.38%		Up to 120 Months
Call for current rate			
180 Month Loan – Minimum \$20,000.00	6.25%		Up to 180 Months
Youth Credit Builder Loan – Ages 16 and 17 with co-signer Minimum \$200.00 – Maximum \$1000.00	6.50%		Up to 12 Months
Collateral Loan – Maximum \$30,000.00	7.50%		Up to 48 Months
Recreational Vehicle Loan			
New			
	6.00%		Up to 36 Months
	6.50%		Up to 48 Months
	7.00%		Up to 60 Months
Minimum \$25,000.00 Maximum \$50,000.00	7.50%		Up to 72 Months
Minimum \$25,000.00 Maximum \$50,000.00	8.00%		Up to 120 Months
Used			
	6.00%		Up to 36 Months
	6.50%		Up to 48 Months
	7.00%		Up to 60 Months
Share Certificate Loans -The full Share Certificate balance may be pledged by any account owner as collateral on a Credit Union Loan. The loan on the Share Certificate will have a term limit of the life of the Certificate (maximum 36 months). The rate will be based on the rate of the certificate plus 2%			
SCU Select Loan Maximum \$2500.00			
	7.99%		Up to 18 Months

Rates subject to change without prior notice; however, loan rate received at closing remains in effect the life of the loan.

Notice

This rate sheet must be used in conjunction with the Truth-in-Savings account disclosures for you to have complete information regarding your account. Rates and yields are subject to change without notice. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees could reduce the earnings on the account. Withdrawals will reduce earnings. The Annual Percentage Yield ("APY") assumes that interest remains on deposit until maturity. For more information, please contact Spojnia Credit Union at 570-344-1513 to speak to a member service representative.

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE POLISH NATIONAL UNION OF AMERICA TO BE A MEMBER OF
SPOJNIA CREDIT UNION

AUTO LOAN CHECKS ARE MADE PAYABLE TO THE MEMBER AND AUTO DEALER.

Equal Housing Lender - Equal Housing Opportunity

PNU Board of Directors: Report of Actions

Report of Actions Taken by the Board of Directors of the PNU during a special board meeting held November 18, 2022

OPENING

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Polish National Union of America was held on November 14, 2022 via video conference. The meeting was opened by CEO Wachna. Eight Board members were present and one was absent. Two members of the Internal Audit Committee were present.

Before proceeding CEO Wachna thanked the attendees and indicated that there was a short and specific agenda for the meeting. The agenda was reviewed.

Reinsurance and Surplus Notes

The ongoing exploration of the use of reinsurance and surplus notes to enhance the society's financial condition was discussed. An update of work was also provided by the exploratory committee. Discussion resulted in the board taking action to engage an attorney experienced in the field of reinsurance contracts to assist with the ongoing work. As a result **a motion was made and seconded to ratify the actions of the executive officers and approve of the engagement of the recommended attorney. The motion passed.**

Charitable Activity

Vice President Kathy Nemkovich was called upon to present information regarding the fraternal activity developed in lieu of the annual Christmas gathering. The board entered into discussion regarding the budget for the recommended activity and the recommended benefit charity. **At the conclusion of the discussion a motion was made and seconded to accept the donation recommendation and discussed budget. The motion passed.**

32nd General Convention

The Board entered discussion regarding the 32nd General convention. As a part of the discussion CFO Andrzejewski reviewed details of a proposal received from the Hilton Hotel in Scranton. **At the conclusion of the discussion a motion was made and seconded to authorize the executive officers to contract with the Hilton Hotel in Scranton as recommended. The motion also included approval of setting the dates for the convention as October 2 and 3, 2023. The motion passed.**

CLOSING

There was no additional business brought for discussion.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by CEO Wachna following a closing prayer.

This concludes the Report of Actions Taken at a special meeting held November 14, 2022. As submitted the report is represented to be as accurate as possible regarding the content and matters discussed and the disposition of matters presented to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,
John C. Andrzejewski, III
CFO/Secretary

Christmas Message from the PNU CEO

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



[8](#)And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night. [9](#)And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. [10](#)And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; [11](#)for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2 8-11

In the Gospel according to St. Luke we hear how during these times the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night in order to protect them from harm. They then are greeted by an angel of the Lord which scared them. The angel told them not to be afraid for they bring good news of great joy for all the people. They then announced to these lowly shepherds that in the city of David the savior of the world was born. It is very interesting that in those days the angel of the Lord went to visit the average working person. The same can be said for the Polish National Union.

In 1908 Bishop Francis Hodur seeing that the average working person in the coal mines were not being cared for in the event of a catastrophe. That the families if the bread winner passed had little to no chance of keeping their homes or even burying their dead. As the angel in the passage for told the good news of great joy Bishop Hodur needed a way to do the same. That is how the PNU came to be.

As we all gather with family and friends this Christmas Season let us remember the reason for the season. Let us be like the poor shepherds in the fields and not be afraid of hearing the good news of great joy of the coming of the Lord. Let us wrap our love around all that we meet.



Christmas Greetings

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

*Marty Wachna, CEO
John Andrzejewski, CFO
Ashley Oset, Claims Administrator
Joan Schueneman, Executive Assistant*

*Spojnia Credit Union (SCU)
www.spojniacreditunion.org*

*Happy holidays from the Spojnia Credit Union, Board of Directors and staff.
We hope you have a blessed holiday season.*

*Jan Cwikła, President
John Andrzejewski, Treasurer
Sandy Reid, SCU Manager
Priscilla Hernandez, Assistant Manager
Ashley Oset, Customer Service Representative*

*Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky
and the
Supreme Council of the P.N.C.C.
Christmas Blessings to all!*



Christmas Greetings

PNU District 1 - Northeast PA
Julie Andrzejewski, District Director
Mari Jane Stankowski, Vice Director
Joan Scheuneman, Recording Secretary
Patricia Bolock, Treasurer
Rev. Carmen G. Bolock, Chaplain
**Wishing you a Merry Christmas and
a Blessed New Year!**



Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish
Dupont, PA
www.hmscpncc.org
Very Reverend Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor
Paul Kaspriskie, Chairman
Paul Kazinetz, Vice Chairman
Susan Baldan, Recording Secretary
David Petrosky, Jr., Treasurer



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish
Reading, PA
www.ststephenpncc.org
Very Rev. Donald E. Wunderlich, Pastor
Thomas Schalata, Chairman
Jay Rowe, Vice Chairman
Janet Katinowsky, Recording Secretary
Francis Kaczmarczyk, Treasurer



PNU District 2 - NY, NJ & Philadelphia
Leslie Pietrowitz, District Director

Michael & Mary Gorgol Mietlicki
Scotch Plains, NJ
Merry Christmas

PNU District 3 - New England
Mary Ann Zarek, District Director



St. Casimir's PNCC - Lowell, MA
www.stcasimirspncc.com
Rev. Andrzej Tenus, Pastor
Robert Hunt & Dr. Robert Quirbach, Co-chairs
Janice Klimczak, Recording Secretary
Shirley Garvey, Treasurer
Linda Hedrick, Financial Secretary



St. Valentine's PNCC ANS
Northampton, MA
www.stvalentinespncc.com
Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
Christine Newman, Chairman & Rec. Secretary
Stephen Matuszewicz, Treasurer



PNU District 4 - Buffalo, NY
Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral
Lancaster, NY
Rt. Rev. John Mack, Pastor
Beverly Basinski, District Director
Rev. Gary Spencer, Br. 27 Secretary
Sharon Pawlowski, Br. 79 Secretary
Beverly Basinski, Br. 311 Secretary

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



Christmas Greetings

PNU District 5 - PA & OH

Melissa Snee, District Director

Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski, Chaplain

Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski, Vice Director

Marian Sleczkowski, Recording Secretary

Henrietta Kleckner, Treasurer



Holy Family Parish - McKeesport, PA

www.hfpncc.org

Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski, Pastor

Ted Gibala, Chairman

Donald Newcamp, Vice-Chairman

Janis Gibala, Recording Secretary

Sharon Kish, Treasurer



PNU District 6 - FL, IL, IN, MN, WI

Christine Wachna, District Director

Rt. Rev. Jarosław Rafalko, Spiritual Counselor

Very Rev. John Kowalczyk, Jr., Vice Director

Christina Danielkiewicz, Recording Secretary

Catherine Kowalczyk, Treasurer

Trustees and Auditors

Active Branch Secretaries

Christine Wachna (Interim), Br. 37 & 362

Christina Danielkiewicz, Br. 293

Catherine Kowalczyk, Br. 295

*In memory of Walter Cegelka,
may he rest in peace. (Sept. 13, 2022)*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a
Happy and Healthy New Year 2023**

Prime Bishop Emeritus

Robert and Florence Nemkovich

Cape Coral, FL



Clergy Circle of the Western Diocese

Bishop Jerry Rafalko

Priests and Deacons



All Saints Cathedral Parish - Chicago, IL

www.ascpncc.org

Rt. Rev. Jarosław Rafalko, Pastor

Gary Kurzynski, Chairman

Phillip Smolka, Vice Chairman

Katy Scott, Recording Secretary

Janet Schumacher, Treasurer



St. Mary Parish - South Bend, IN

www.stmarypncc.org

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



Christmas Greetings

St. Michael the Archangel Parish
Cedar Lake, IN
www.smapncc.org

Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr., Pastor
Christopher Plewniak, Chairman
Jill Sarbenoff, Vice Chairman
James Szalony, Recording Secretary
June Wyant, Treasurer
Martin Wachna, Financial Secretary



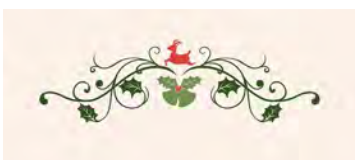
PNU District 7 - MI
Suzanne Snizek, District Director



Holy Cross Parish - Hamtramck, MI
www.holycrosspncc.com
Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Pastor
Nancy Wisbiski, Chairman
Christine Filipowicz, Vice Chairman
Kathleen Banicki, Recording Secretary
Cathy Bilinski, Treasurer



PNU District 10 - Latham, NY
George Urcioli, District Director



Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish
Latham, NY - www.bvmc.org

Rev. Mark Gnidzinski, Pastor
George Urciuoli, Chairman
John Willry, Vice Chairman
Stephanie Fitzpactruck, Recording Secretary
Mark Roach, Treasurer



Holy Cross PNCC - Syracuse, NY
Very Rev. Marian Pociecha, Pastor
Roberta Lasinski, Chairman
Mary Greenfield, Vice Chairperson
Susan Prince, Recording Secretary
John Lasinski, Treasurer
David Greenfield, Financial Secretary



Wigilia at the Polish Consulate in Chicago, IL

On December 15, 2022 ,CEO Wachna and Bishop Rafalko had the honor and privilege to attend the Opłatek dinner at the Consulate of the Republic of Poland. Mr. Wachna was able to meet the newly installed Consul General along with seeing the outgoing Acting Consul General. The evening was filled with Caroling and traditional food for Wigilia. It was a wonderful evening seeing the President of the PRCUA and seeing old friends of Polonia in Chicago.

The PNU and the PNCC have been working on improving the relationships in Chicago with Polonia.



L-R: Martin Wachna, Bishop Rafalko and Consul General Pawel Zyzak



L-R: Bishop Rafalko, Martin Wachna and Jim Robaczewski (PRCUA)



L-R: Bishop Rafalko, Malgorzata Bak-Guzik (outgoing Acting Consul General) and Martin Wachna



Music and song by the Highlanders and included greetings from Consul General Zyzak.

