



## *Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas*

Dear Members,

We hope that everyone so far has had a great start to 2016, like most groups I am sure the year already has been a busy one with practices, performances and general organization of events. The same has been for the PFDA and we have couple exciting items we want to share with of what we have planned for 2016.

First I would like to take the opportunity to introduce our updated Logo, thirty three years ago when the PFDA was first established, Carla Tomaszewski created our original logo which has served us well over the decades but most recently over the last year or so we looked at what could we do to update logo and refresh it bit. So with still original design in mind we were able to reach out to Carla again to see what could be done to help refresh it, but yet still keep the original design in tack. After many drafts and consultations with you our members we are pleased to release our newly updated logo and ask all groups to please also update their files with this newly refreshed version.

As we move forward into 2016 there are a number of events we want you or members to be aware of. In June 2016 the PFDA once again will be hosting the annual PFDA gala at Polish Fest in Milwaukee open to all members' to come out and perform. Please take a moment to read about the details in the paragraph below about the event and how you and your group can take part in the event.

Lastly, I am excited to announce that the PFDA Board is currently in the planning phase of organizing an instructor's only workshop for in August/September time frame of 2016. This workshop will feature a specialized choreographer of a particular region in Poland and will be open to all members' leaders/instructors to take part in. The 2016 instructors' workshops will also coincide with the PFDA elections scheduled on the same weekend of this event. I invite you to read more about these events and many more in our newsletter below, and as always if you have any questions or concerns, I invite you to reach out to us the board to help answer them for you.

Thank you,  
Daniel Smela

## **DIRECTORS WORKSHOP WEEKEND / ELECTIONS**

This year the BOD is planning a Directors Dance Workshop Weekend in conjunction with the Elections of Officers for the Board of Directors. The workshop is planned sometimes in last August early September. Presently we are looking into choreographers that are available. Once we have more information of the date, location, and region an email will be sent to all group directors/choreographers who are in good standing.

All the positions on the BOD are up for re-elections. Listed below are the duties of each office. If you are interested in running for any of these positions please contact Daniel at [pfdaa@sasktel.net](mailto:pfdaa@sasktel.net)

**DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT.** The President shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation and shall, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, supervise and administer the affairs of the corporation. He/she shall perform all the duties incident to his/her office, and other such duties as may be required by Law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or these Bylaws, or which may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

He/she shall preside at all meetings. Except as otherwise expressly provided by Law, by the Article of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws, he/she shall, in the name of the corporation, execute such deeds, mortgages, bonds contracts, checks, or other instruments which may from time to time be authorized by the Board of Directors.

### **DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT.**

- 1) Conduct the meetings and coordinate activities in the absence of the President.
- 2) Be responsible for membership, publicity, special programs, and act as liaison to the Festival committee.
- 3) In general, perform all the duties incident to the office of Vice President and other duties, which may be assigned to him/her from time to time by the Board of Directors.

### **DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

- 1) Conduct the meetings and coordinate the activities in the absence of the President and the Vice President.
- 2) Keep and have available the original, or a copy, of the Articles of Incorporation, and a copy of these By-laws as amended or otherwise altered to date.
- 3) Keep a book of minutes from all the meetings of the corporation.
- 4) See that all notices are duly given in accordance with these Bylaws.
- 5) Keep a record of the names and addresses of the Members, Delegates and Board of Directors.
- 6) Keep on file the final reports of Special Programs, including Festivals, and reproduce and mail a copy thereof to each member of the corporation prior to the next Board of Directors, or General, meeting, whichever comes first.
- 7) In general, perform all the duties incident to the office of Secretary and other duties as may be required by Law, by these Bylaws, or by the Articles of Incorporation, or which may be assigned to him/her from time to time by the Board of Directors.

### **DUTIES OF THE TREASURER.**

- 1) Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for all funds and securities of the corporation, except for those funds that he/she may designate according to a resolution of the Board as to be used for the Festival Committee needs. He/she shall also deposit all such funds in the name of the corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the Board of Directors.
- 2) Be responsible for filing of a final financial report no later than December 1 of the Festival year, and for a statement of the committee's performance with respect to such committee's duties and powers. Such report shall be filed with the Secretary and the Treasurer of the corporation.
- 3) Receive any monies due and payable to the corporation from any sources whatsoever.
- 4) Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the corporation as may be directed by the Board of Directors, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements.
- 5) Keep and maintain adequate accounts of the corporation's properties and business transactions, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains and losses, prepare financial statements to be included in any required reports, and present them to the Board at its meetings, and to the Membership at its general meeting.
- 6) File any appropriate forms to any taxing authority.
- 7) Maintain the books for the Festival, and prepare a financial statement to be presented to the Board of Directors within forty-five (45) days upon completion of the Festival, but no later than October 31 of the Festival year.

### **DUTIES OF THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS/PARAMENTARIAN.**

- 1) s Sergeant-at-Arms, assists in preserving order at meetings as the chair may direct.
- 2) As Parliamentarian, advises and consults the President and other Officers, committees and members on matters of parliamentary procedure in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and the Bylaws.

### **2016 ANNUAL PFDA DUES**

For those group members who have not paid their 2016 annual dues you are asked to send \$35 and any past dues to our Treasurer by the **end of March** to be considered a "member in good standing"

PFDA  
% Edziu Rajtar  
2239 Stinson Blvd NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Should you have any questions regarding your dues, please contact Edziu Rajtar directly via email, [edziur@aol.com](mailto:edziur@aol.com)

## **UPCOMING GROUP MEMBER EVENTS**

### **SYRENA PRESENTS THEIR ANNUAL ŚWIĘCONE - TICKETS AVAILABLE!**

Come join the Syrena Polish Folk Ensemble of Milwaukee, for their annual “Święcone” Easter Buffet! The event will be held on **March 29th, 2015** at the Blessed Sacrament Church Hall. The event starts at 2:00 PM with doors opening at 1:00 PM.

To purchase tickets and for more information please go to Syrena’s website - <http://syrenadancers.com/>. For questions, contact Diane Ramski at (414) 744-1893 or [syrena\\_tkts\\_diane@yahoo.com](mailto:syrena_tkts_diane@yahoo.com).

### **LAJKONIK SONG AND DANCE ENSEMBLE IS CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!**

All are invited to join The Lajkonik Ensemble in celebrating a magnificent milestone. Come experience our 25th Anniversary Gala Concert, presenting various breathtaking performances of Polish folk song and dance.

*Sunday, April 24, 2016  
1:00 PM  
at the Copernicus Center  
5216 W Lawrence Ave, Chicago, IL 60630*

Tickets available at <http://www.ticketfly.com/venue/7715-copernicus-center/>  
[www.lajkonikchicago.us](http://www.lajkonikchicago.us) or [folk@lajkonikchicago.us](mailto:folk@lajkonikchicago.us) 773-417-5910

### **LECHICI DANCERS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT**

All are also invited to attend the upcoming 50th Anniversary Concert for The Lechici Dancers of the Polish Scouting Organization/Harcerski Zespól Tanca Ludowego on

*Sunday May 15, 2016  
at the J. Sterling Morton West High School  
2400 Home Avenue, Berwyn, IL*

Tickets are - \$20/\$15. Ticketing Contacts: email:[Lechicikoncert@gmail.com](mailto:Lechicikoncert@gmail.com)  
or call: 10:30-3:30 pm 224-244-9655 / 3:30pm-7:30 pm 224-244-5594  
or mail your request & check to :  
Dom Harcerski - Polish Scouting Organization  
Attn: Lechici  
6434 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL 60634

## SUMMER FESTIVALS



### PFDAА GALA CONCERT at POLISH FEST

PFDAА member groups interested in performing in the PFDAА Gala Concert at the Polish Fest on Saturday, June 18th this summer are asked to contact Daniel Smela at [pfdaa@sasktel.net](mailto:pfdaa@sasktel.net)

To be eligible to participate

- Your group needs to be in good standing.
- Dancers ages 16 years and older will only be allowed to perform.
- Costumes must either be replicated & look authentic or original costumes from Poland. *Ballet costumes will be allowed.*
- Music needs to be submitted to the sound technician ½ hour before the performance. *Last year the show was detained because the director/choreographer had to be located because the sound technician did not have their music.*

When we perform we are educating our audiences of our Polish Heritage through Song, Dance and costuming. For many people this is the first time they are seeing a concert like ours, and we would hate to put non-authentic costuming and dances on the stage, to have them believe those are actually representing Poland's Folk Culture.



### TWIN CITIES FESTIVAL

The Twin Cities Polish Festival is looking for dancers and folk entertainment for the Cultural stage. The dates for the 2016 festival are

Aug 12-13-14.

Please contact Edziu Rajtar @ [edziur@aol.com](mailto:edziur@aol.com) or visit [tcpolishfestival.org](http://tcpolishfestival.org) and submit an entertainment form from the website

## **GROUP MEMBER NEWS**

### **“WAWEL” - DETROIT**

Monday, January 04, 2016

**#POLSKAINUS**

On November 21, 2015, Poland's Ambassador to the United States, Ryszard Schnepf, announced a new embassy initiative to highlight Polonian organizations throughout the United States and their contributions to Polish culture and the preservation of it in the US.

The Wawel Folk Ensemble was featured as part of this initiative on the Embassy's Facebook page. Wawel is the first organization featured in 2016, the second Michigan organization featured (the Polish Genealogical Society was featured in 2015), and the first Michigan based Polish dance group to be featured.

### **MISS POLONIA WORLD - 2016**

Wawel is proud to announce that one of their dancers, Ms. Paulina Kowalczyk has been crowned Miss Polonia World for 2016. Paulina has been a member of Wawel for the past 3 years. She has also completed 3 years at the Kurs in Rzeszow Poland and is looking forward to completing her final year this summer. We are all very proud of her success.



### **TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

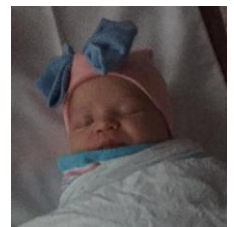


Wawel is also proud of one of their long time dancers, Jessica Wendt who recently was named “Middle School Teacher of the Year”, for the Warren Consolidated School District. Jessica teaches 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science classes at Carleton Middle School in Sterling Heights Michigan. Congratulations, Jessica.

### **“WESOLY LUD” – CHICAGO**

Misia & Richard Jaminski, became proud grandparents to their first granddaughter Ariana Cynthia Turkiewicz, born on March 4, 2016, to Nicole & Michael. Ariana weighed 6lbs. 14 oz and is 19 ¾ “ long. Misia & Richard also have a 7 year old grandson, Cole.

Congratulations to the Jaminski’s & Turkiewicz on their new arrival!



### **“WICI” – CHICAGO**

The Wici Song and Dance Company was featured on the TV program, The WCIU the U – You & Me To celebrate Navy Pier's Neighborhoods Of The World Festival, Chris DeRose chats with Bogdan Puksza of the Polish American Chamber of Commerce about Celebrate Poland. –

This event is going to take place on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, at Crystal Gardens at the Navy Pier. There will also be many other Polish groups performing at this event. See more at:

<http://www.wciu.com/videos/youandme/celebrate-poland-at-navy-pier>

## PFDAА WEBSITE

Please don't forget that our website has a plethora for information from costumes, past dance workshop music, group member information, etc. At the beginning of April the Log-In access to PFDAА Website & Password will be updated and a current Log-In ID and Password will ONLY be sent to those group members who have their dues paid to date.

## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

If your group is celebrating a special event or would like to get the word out about an event please feel free to submit a newsletter article to: [pfdaa@sasktel.net](mailto:pfdaa@sasktel.net) and it will be published in our next newsletter. Newsletters are published every 4 months (March, June, Sept, and December).

*Wesolych Swiat Wielkanocnych From the PFDAА*

*Daniel Smela - President, Corinne Lasek - Vice President,*

*Edziu Rajtar- Treasurer, Donna Skurski - Secretary,*

*Mariusz Bernatowicz- Sergeant-at-Arms, Jerry Drinka - Webmaster*



*We hope that everyone has a wonderful*

*Easter Holiday, and dry Dyngus Day!*