

# *The Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas*



---

## PFDA NEWSLETTER

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2011

---

Dear PFDA Members and Friends:

July 13th is almost upon us – the beginning of PFDA PreTour 2011. Edziu Rajtar, Artistic Director and Choreographer of Dolina Polish Folk Dancers from Minneapolis, Minnesota is the PreTour Coordinator which begins with four days in Budapest, Hungary; then to Poland beginning with performances in Myslenice, Kraków (still pending, but fingers are crossed) and Tarnów. Accompanying Dolina on this phenomenal journey is the Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Company of PRCUA from Chicago, Illinois. Everyone is psyched, packed (Ha! Ha!) and ready to go.....On behalf of the PFDA BOD, serdeczne dzięki to Edziu for taking on this heroic task!!! Right on the heels of the PreTour....

The XV International Festival of Polish Folk Ensembles in Rzeszow, Poland! July 21st is just around the corner. Of the 43 Ensembles that qualified at this prestigious event, the following are PFDA members:

- Zespół Pieśni i Tańca „DOLINA” (Minneapolis – USA)
- Zespół Taneczny S.P.K. „ISKRY” (Winnipeg - KANADA)
- Zespół Pieśni i Tańca „LAJKONIK” (Chicago – USA)
- „ŁOWICZ” - Polski Zespół Folklorystyczny (Edmonton - KANADA)
- Polski Zespół Ludowy „ŁOWICZANIE” (San Francisco - USA)
- Zespół Pieśni i Tańca „POLANIE” (Calgary – KANADA)
- Polsko-Amerykański Zespół Folklorystyczny (Nowy Jork - USA)
- Zespół WAWEL (Detroit - USA)
- Zespół Polskich Tańców Ludowych „WESOŁY LUD” (Chicago - USA)

**ATTENTION DIRECTORS OF THE ABOVE PFDAA GROUPS** as well Directors from **Polish Intercollegiate Club of Philadelphia – PKM Philadelphia, PA** and **Pomorze Polish Folkdance Ensemble Halifax, NS** also in Poland at the time of the festival. Traditionally PFDAA hosts a “kolacja” for the Directors of its members at Bohema. Plans are made to do the same this year. We are still waiting on the availability of Monday evening – July 25. Nothing has been confirmed as yet. We will be in touch with you ASAP. In the event, you don’t hear from us – look for Donna Skurski (Wawel) or me (Wesoly Lud) in Rzeszow.

We would also like to congratulate the organizers of the “Rzeszow Festival” with Festival Director - Mariusz Grudzien at the helm on this milestone anniversary – 15 Festivals in a 42 year history is amazing! Bravo and Bis!

The PFDAA BOD wishes our members and all the ensembles fantastic weather, wonderful memories, many pictures (send to us so we can post online) – and on the stage, “break a leg!”

Since our last newsletter, I am sure that all of our member groups have been busy with rehearsals and concerts. I was invited to the 20th Anniversary Concert of the LAJKONIK Polish Song and Dance Ensemble from Chicago on May 29th. Congratulations on a job well done to Halina Misterka, Artistic Director and Choreographer, her staff and all the dancers! I would like to welcome a new member to PFDAA – the POLANIE Polish Song and Dance Ensemble from Bartlett, IL. Polanie Song & Dance Ensemble has been representing the Emilia Plater Polish School since 1991. As of 1997 the Artistic Director and choreographer of the group is Margaret Skrzykowski. The Administrative Director is Ewa Tyrawa. "Polanie" are sponsored by Polish National Alliance and Illinois Arts Council as well as Emilia Plater Polish School and many local businesses. Thanks to their contributions "Polanie" are able to present Polish Culture to audiences in United States and Poland. In 2006 Polanie traveled to Iwonicz Zdroj, Poland to take part in International Festival of dance groups. The same year, they participated in several presentations of the story of “Pyza on the Polish roads” joining professional actors with the Folk Theater of Krakow in Chicago, filling the dancing parts of the story with original choreographies. In 2007 "Polanie" traveled to the East Coast and performed in Hartford and Philadelphia. In December of 2008, unfortunately and sadly, Polanie lost one of their dancers, Monika Skrzykowski, killed by a drunk driver. She would have been 18 now. Ever since, the group annually supports the efforts of Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists by performing or volunteering at their fundraisers to help fund needy victims of drunk driver crashes. In memory of Monika, "Polanie" will perform a special concert of their 20th Anniversary on October 16th, 2011 in Schaumburg. This summer the group is traveling again to Connecticut for a youth Festival and was very happy to perform in this year’s PFDAA Gala Concert at Milwaukee Polish Fest.

Over the weekend of June 17-19, 2011, the city of Milwaukee was host to the 30th Anniversary of its PolishFest. In addition to individual 30 minute performances by dance groups, there is a PFDAA GALA. The concept of a “Gala Concert” at Milwaukee’s PolishFest was originally introduced by Marian Hansen, then the Entertainment Chair of the event and also the Director the Polish Falcons District II Dance Group (also a PFDAA Member). Then in 2000, Milwaukee’s own Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble hosted a PFDAA Festival with the PFDAA Gala at PolishFest. Neil Dziadulewicz was the Chairperson; his co-chair was Glenn Ramski. Since then, Polish Fest has hosted a PFDAA Gala and this year was no different. Instead of just listing the groups and the program, I thought you should get a pictorial program – enjoy!

### **2011 PFDAA GALA AT POLISH FEST IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**



**1. SYRENA (Milwaukee) – KASZUBY**



**2. POLANIE (Bartlett, IL) – BESKID ŚLĄSKI**



**3. WAWEL (Detroit) – PODLASIE**



**4. LAJKONIK (Chicago) – BESKID ŻYWIECKI**



**5. WESOLY LUD (Chicago) -  
KRAKÓW WSCHODNI**



**6. POLANIE (Bartlett, IL) –  
OBEREK/KUJAWIAK**



7. SYRENA (Milwaukee) – PRZEWORSK



8. WESOLY LUD (Chicago) – SPISZ



9. LAJKONIK (Chicago) – LACHY SADECKIE



10. WAWEL (Detroit) - RZESZÓW

The last number was Wawel's send off to Rzeszów with their Rzeszów suite, all the dance groups were reintroduced as they entered the stage – the audience was asked to sing STO LAT in honor of Wawel's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Lajkonik's and Polanie's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries! Syrena is its 36<sup>th</sup> year and Wesoly Lud in its 34<sup>th</sup>! I personally think every year is entitled to a celebration – but milestones are extra special!!!!

Have a great summer!!!!!!

### **RZESZÓW FESTIVAL 2011:**

For more information about the festival be sure to check out Wspolnota Webpage: <http://www.wspolnota-polska.rzeszow.pl/>

### **TWIN CITIES POLISH FESTIVAL - AUG 13-14, 2011**

The Twin Cities Polish Festival is a kaleidoscope of unique cultural and educational displays, food and top-notch entertainment. If your dance group wants to be a part of the Twin Cities Polish Festival please take a look at the entertainment forms on line at: [www.tcpolishfestival.org](http://www.tcpolishfestival.org)

## **Future PFDAAs Event – Opinion Required**

The PFDAAs Board has been busy thinking about the next PFDAAs sponsored event. In the past, traditionally the PFDAAs has hosted a festival every three years, usually the year or two before the festival in Poland. The last PFDAAs festival was hosted in Regina, Canada in 2010 and in Chicago, USA 2007. The PFDAAs board wants to hear from you, is your group interested in hosting the next PFDAAs Festival in 2012 or 2013?

The PFDAAs Board also wants to hear back from the memberships on what they think about of the festivals. Do we change things up or leave them the way they are: with performances, workshops and site seeing all mixed together? Are they too long to short what would you like to see? Let us know so we can better serve you and your group, email us at [pfdaa@sasktel.net](mailto:pfdaa@sasktel.net).

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS:**

The Janosik Polish Dance Ensemble is celebrating its 40th anniversary this October. Dedicated to the dissemination and performance of Polish music, dance, and song, Janosik was founded by Dr. Morley Leyton while on the faculty of Temple University. It is currently under the directorship of Monique Legaré and Christine McNaull, assistant director. Some of its more notable performances over the past 40 years have included the Nixon Inaugural Ball, the Centennial Celebration of the Statue of Liberty, the PFDAAs Lincoln Center Gala in 1999, Our Lady of Czestochowa festivals, Wianki festivals in Washington, DC, Shawnee PoconoWurst festivals, numerous Rzeszow festivals, a sister city trip to Torun and the sponsorship of the Toruniacy to Philadelphia. For additional information, please visit our website @ [www.janosikdancers.org](http://www.janosikdancers.org)

## **NEW AND USED COSTUMES FOR SALE**

If you have costumes you want to sell or are looking for a set of costumes let the PFDAAs know and we can run your request in our quarterly Newsletter.

## **PFDAA Yearly Membership Fees for 2011 are due**

The PFDAA thanks the following group for submitting their 2011 Membership fees:

"Dolina Polish Folk Dancers Minneapolis, MN"  
"Echoes of Poland Song & Dance Ensemble Toledo, OH"  
"Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble Tonawanda, NY"  
"Hejnal Polish-American Dancers Long Island, NY"  
"Janosik Dancers Philadelphia, PA"  
"Krakusy Polish Folk Dance Ensemble Los Angeles, CA"  
"Lajkonik Dancing Group Chicago, IL"  
"Lechici Dancers of the PSO Chicago, IL"  
"Lowiczanie Polish Folk Dance Ensemble San Francisco, CA"  
"Mazur Polish Canadian Dancers Of Edmonton Soc. Edmonton, AB"  
"Marek Polish Folk Dance Ensemble Lopez, PA"  
"Michas Polish Dance Group Virginia Beach, VA"  
"Polanie Dance Ensemble Arlington Heights, IL"  
"Polanie Polish Song & Dance Ensemble Calgary, AB"  
"Polish Heritage Dancers Buffalo, NY"  
"Polish Intercollegiate Club of Philadelphia – PKM Philadelphia, PA"  
"Polonia Dance Ensemble Regina, SK"  
"Polonia Song & Dance Ensemble Pittsburgh, PA"  
"Polish American Folk Dance Company -Brooklyn, NY"  
"Polish Falcons Distric II Milwaukee, WI"  
"Radomianie Dearborn, MI"  
"Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble Milwaukee, WI"  
"Wawel Folk Ensemble Detroit, MI"  
"Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of PRCUA Chicago, IL"  
"Wianek Polish Dance Group Middle Village, NY"  
"Wici Song & Dance Company Chicago, IL"  
"Zakopane Polish Folk Dance Ensemble Warren, MI"

**For those groups that have not submitted their fees for 2011 please send a check in the amount of \$35.00 USD to:**

Monica Pazdziora, PFDAA Treasurer  
8520 W. 91st St.  
Hickory Hills, IL 60457 USA

## **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).

*The Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas*



*Misia Jaminski – President*  
[mrjaminski@comcast.net](mailto:mrjaminski@comcast.net)

*Donna Skurski - Vice President*  
[dntskur@att.net](mailto:dntskur@att.net)

*Daniel Smela - Secretary*  
[pfdaa@sasktel.net](mailto:pfdaa@sasktel.net)

*Monica Pazdziora- Treasurer*  
[monicapaz@ymail.com](mailto:monicapaz@ymail.com)

*Konrad Wiecek - Sergeant-at-Arms*  
[Lechici@aol.com](mailto:Lechici@aol.com)  
[www.pfdaa.org](http://www.pfdaa.org)