

The Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas



PFDA Newsletter

Updated

2nd Quarter 2013

Memo from Misia Jaminski, President of PFDA

The PFDA Festival in Minneapolis, Minnesota is cancelled. The frustration of Dolina in the lack of response from our member dance groups can only be matched by the disappointment those of us who were to attend this event feel. The 65 interested parties rescheduled family vacations, summer school, work and performances to attend this Festival which promised, based on the survey sent in the fall of 2012, 164 participants. The Festival Committee needed at least 100 to break even in order to provide a quality Festival with all the promised components. I am personally disappointed that the new generation of dancers cannot share in the hands-on, up close and personal connection that the PFDA Festivals can provide. It is not just a Gala and social events, but the workshops – the opportunity to learn new regions, new dances with different Choreographers and work with other groups. I am sad that our PFDA members don't feel the need to bond, share and connect.

The term Festival is used frequently nowadays – any gathering of people is a festival of sorts. The PFDA Festival was different – it was reminiscent of the original Rzeszow Festivals where dance groups were taught something new, exposed to different dance suites and had a chance to work together for a common goal – the outcome was a lifelong bond, friendships and memories.

At last count, Kaja Rajtar, Tori Piorek and Edziu Rajtar (Dolina's Festival Chiefs) had 8 participants excluding Wesoly Lud and Dolina with Tetry-Windsor holding plane tickets in

hand. I do not know if it is in PFDAAs best interest to even promote such festivals on the North American continent in the future since there is no support. Anybody can fill out a questionnaire - - but those who have no intention of supporting this event have limited rights to a voice (i.e., once again I repeat, the TwinFest Committee based their festival on the promise of the pledged participants). Money is tight everywhere and yet costs are rising, but what are the alternatives? Travelling the world over is a dream for all and a reality for few. A suggestion was made to reach out to the member groups and find out why they were not attending. Could it be the location? Minneapolis-St. Paul is a great city with wonderful people but maybe it isn't interesting enough. Would it be different if the Festival was in San Francisco or Florida? Who knows? But then again, there was a festival in New York City and it was pulled off because a few groups actually wanted to perform at Lincoln Center but there weren't the numbers one would think for a popular city. I am sure if the PFDAAs Festivals were free – we'd have the numbers. But where would the money come from? I think the future PFDAAs BOD has to revisit encouraging any group to host a Festival -- countless hours of preparation, nervous anticipation and no response is a total and complete waste of time.

And yet, if we don't try, we won't know.....

My term as President is almost over. My Board has met quarterly on Skype conferences and called emergency meetings when the need arose. All of these Board members volunteer their time and efforts to the PFDAAs cause. Our Secretary – Dan Smela (Polonia, Regina Canada) – does an amazing job – the best in the history of PFDAAs – with his quarterly newsletters, minutes, coordinating meetings and mailings. Our Treasurer – Monica Pazdziora (Wesoly Lud, Chicago IL) – took on this job six years ago and has done what she can to keep our finances up to date. Our VP – Donna Skurski (Wawel, Detroit MI) – has solicited new members to the PFDAAs. Our Sergeant-at-Arms – Conrad Wiecek (Lechici, Chicago IL) – keeps everything on target with our By-Laws. And Edziu Rajtar (Dolina, Minneapolis MN) – 2013 Festival liaison and 2011 PFDAAs Performing Tour Coordinator –has gone above and beyond to make the best of a difficult situation. Edziu, together with the support of the PFDAAs BOD, organized the visit of Mr. Janusz Chojecki – Artistic Coordinator of several Rzeszow Festivals, Director of the ZPiT Polytechnical University of Warsaw and former Director of Mazowsze, to conduct workshops

for those who registered for the 2013 TwinFest in Chicago for Wesoly Lud and in Minneapolis for Tatry from Windsor, Wawel from Detroit, Krakowiacy from Denver and Dolina from Minneapolis. PFDAAs Members, please realize how disappointed we were, in this 30th Anniversary year that we, your BOD, did not have your support in this endeavor! So, to save some face, this was the only solution we could come up with.

Edziu Rajtar also volunteered Dolina's kapela to record music from the Slask workshop in September of 2007. (Those kapelas from Poland who were contacted and contracted never delivered). These cd's will be available to the PFDAAs members.

I ask that each of our member groups answer the next few questions.

- 1) If your group didn't register for the 2013 PFDAAs Festival in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota (TwinFest), why not?
 - a. cost prohibitive
 - b. itinerary not interesting
 - c. location not interesting
 - d. lack of interest within group
 - e. too long
 - f. other: please specify.

- 2) Would a four day weekend Festival encourage your group to attend any future events? What would preclude your group's participation? Why didn't you voice this in the questionnaire. Be specific.

- 3) Why does your dance group belong to the PFDAAs?

- 4) What is it that your group would like PFDAAs to offer that it presently does not?

- 5) What can your group contribute to stimulate interest among the PFDAAs Members (Dance Groups)?

- 6) 2013 marks PFDAAs's 30th Anniversary. The celebration was to have been held during TwinFest. Since the Festival did not take place due to lack of interest, how would your group like PFDAAs to celebrate this milestone?
 - a. Commemorative book (photo and history of group together with contact information).

b. DVD of clips from past festivals and short 3 minute performances by each member group? (If so, clips were to be sent by end of April). **RECEIVED ONE ENTRY as of 6/5/13.**

c. Gift (I have books "Polish Touches" in my possession to send to those groups who did not attend the Festival in Colorado, but I need a name and address to whom to send it to). If you choose gift, what would interest your group? If you didn't attend the Colorado Weekend in September, send me an address and I will send you your book.

d. T-shirts

e. Other, please specify.

7) Would you attend a General Meeting of the PFDAA where the elections of Officers would be held? If so, when and where:

a. In Minneapolis on July 14, 2013?

b. In Chicago for a weekend in the Fall of 2013?

c. Other.

d. No, elections should be held by mail (or email).

As I take my leave as President, I just want you to know how important it is to connect with other dance groups and especially Polish dance groups. We need to stop living on little islands – because the demise of any of our groups weakens our link with our Polish heritage and our fellow Polish dance enthusiasts. One group cannot be everywhere – in every city – in every part of every city. Together, we will make the difference between the importance and the extinction of this beautiful cultural art. Polish people have a reputation for not being supportive of their own – let's not emulate or propagate this conception.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the PFDAA Board again. I hope that you take an active part in the upcoming elections of the PFDAA and its future. I wish you success and perseverance in your dance ensembles and in your personal lives.

PFDAA Festival turned Workshop

With a small handful of registrants we have decided to turn the PFDAA Festival into a Workshop. Participants from Wawel Folk Ensemble, Krakowiacy Colorado, Tatry Song & Dance Ensemble and Zakopane Polish Folk Dance Ensemble (P.R.C.U.A.) will be in Twin Cities from July 14-21, 2013. The week will consist of 4 days of learning Rzeszow and Warszawa conducted by Pan Janusz Chojecki and a weekend of city exploring with a performance by Tatry for the members of Holy Cross church on Sunday before they depart. Dolina is looking forward to hosting this event.



PFDAA Election and General Meeting Monday August 5th 2013

The PFDAA elections will be held via SKYPE (free computer based program that allows us to host a phone conference over the internet for free). Skype is available for download directly from www.skype.com, once the program is installed on your computer you can create a free account that allows you to join the hosted phone conference. In order to participate in the elections you must have access to a computer with Skype installed and access to the internet to log on to the conference call. Please take moment to download Skype if you don't have it already and create an account for the conference call. Once you have created the account please send the account user name information to pfdaa@sasktel.net by no later then July 27th 2013; so that we can add you to the contact list and ensure everything is properly set up. Also when sending in your account information please provide the following information:

- Group Name
- Contact Number
- Name of individual who will take part in conference call and ultimately vote during the meeting.

The PFDAA Skype name is "pfdaa.board". Due to the limited amount of connections for the phone conference we ask that only one contact from each group phone into the hosted conference call and elections. The actual PFDAA conference call will begin at 6:30PM CST, (Chicago Time Zone).

Request for nominations extended – Nominations for PFDA Board Members

Elections for the PFDA board are set for August 5, 2013 at 6:30PM CST via “SKYPE”.

Nominations for the board can be sent via email to pfdaa@sasktel.net or by mail to 5143 Boswell Cres, Regina, Sask. S4X 4S4, Canada. Nominations will be accepted up until July 20th, 2013 and a list of final candidates will be posted on the PFDA website by July 27th, 2013. **Board Positions are as follows:** President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Sergeant at Arms.

Nominations for board members should be sent in the following format:

Group Name:

Individual nominated:

Position nominated for:

Nominated by who/group:

Contact information of group submitting nomination:



America's Largest Polish Festival

PFDA GALA at Milwaukee's 32nd Annual POLISH FEST June 15, 2013

It was a rather windy day as the dancers prepared for their individual group's performances and for the PFDA GALA. Weather forecasts changed by the minute and thankfully, the rain that was predicted, found itself elsewhere. The sight, Milwaukee's Henry W. Maier Festival Park, on the shores of Lake Michigan. This three day Festival hosted by the Polish Heritage Alliance, Inc. boasts being the largest in the country and covers all interests relating to Polish heritage – folk dancing, polka dancing, children's entertainment, shopping, lectures, and even cooking demonstrations. Since 1985, when Marian Hansen (Polish Falcons) was Entertainment Chairman, Polish dance groups outside of Wisconsin were invited to perform at Milwaukee's PolishFest. Since 2000 when Syrena hosted the PFDA Festival in conjunction with Milwaukee's PolishFest, a PFDA Gala was

initiated. This year was no different. Participating in the 2013 PFDAAGala at this PolishFest was Syrena from Milwaukee; Lajkonik, Lechici, Wesoly Lud and Wici from Chicago, and Polanie from Bartlett, IL. Emcee was PFDAAG President, Misia Jaminski, accompanied by sound engineer Richard Jaminski. The line-up for the well-rounded, 90 minute program was determined by lottery shortly prior to the performance and commenced at 6 p.m.:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Spisz – Syrena | 7. Podhale – Syrena |
| 2. Zywiec Mountain – Lajkonik | 8. Krakowiak – Lajkonik |
| 3. Eastern Krakow – Wesoly Lud | 9. Rzeszow – Wesoly Lud |
| 4. Przeworsk – Lechici | 10. Opoczno – Lechici |
| 5. Spisz – Wici | 11. Mazur – Wici |
| 6. Polonez – Polanie | 12. Lowicz - Polanie |

A little about the participants of this Gala celebrating the 30th Anniversary of PFDAAG:

- The **Polish Song & Dance Ensemble „Lajkonik”**, founded in the fall of 1991, was established at the Holy Trinity Polish Mission in Chicago and is sponsored by the Polish National Alliance. Managing Director is Rev. Andrzej Maslejak, S.Ch. Since the Spring of 1997, Halina Misterka is the Artistic Director and Choreographer. The remaining staff includes: Choreographer, Malgorzata Lyda; Music Director, Marta Dudek; and Administrative Director, Maria Grzebien.
- The **Lechici Dancers of the Polish Scouting Organization** from Chicago was founded in 1965. Directors are: Jurek Dzieranowski, Administrative; Katarzyna Napierala, Organizational; Iwona Kumpin, Musical and Konrad Wiecek, Artistic.
- **Polanie Song & Dance Ensemble** has been representing the Emilia Plater Polish School since 1991 and currently is located in Bartlett, Illinois. As of 1997, the Artistic Director and Choreographer is Margaret Skrzykowski. Administrative Director is Ewa Tyrawa. “Polanie” are sponsored by the Polish National Alliance and the Illinois Arts Council.
- The **Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble** of Milwaukee, WI, was founded in 1975, and is a proud member of the International Institute of Wisconsin. Since 1979, the Ensemble has been under the direction of Ada Dziewanowska, an internationally known Polish folklore authority and dance choreographer and author of a comprehensive work entitled, Polish Folk Dances and Songs: a Step by Step Guide. More recently, Syrena has added

the talents of Duane Tomka as a dance instructor. Glenn Ramski currently serves as President.

- The **Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Company** from Chicago is the Representative Ensemble of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and was founded in 1977. It is under the Artistic Direction of Choreographers, Richard and Micheline Jaminski. Wesoly Lud is a charter member of the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas, Inc., recipient of the Illinois Arts Council Grant and recently joined CIOFF (International Council of Folk Festivals).
- The **Wici Song and Dance Theater** from Chicago is the Representative Ensemble of the Polish National Alliance and a recipient of the Illinois Arts Council Grant. Artistic Director and Choreographer is Magdalena Solarz. Wici is a member of CIOFF and will be travelling to Columbia this summer.
- Pictures from Polish Fest can be found on www.pfdaa.org under the picture gallery section.

I would like to congratulate all participants on a job well done, appreciate the cooperation and encourage other PFDAA groups to perform at Milwaukee's PolishFest. Next year's Festival will be from June 13-15, 2014. If you are interested, contact Janine Adamczyk, Entertainment Chairman, at janineadamczyk@hotmail.com (tell her Misia sent you).

Submitted by Misia Jaminski

PFDAA Choreographer project

Are you or is someone you know a choreographer specializing in a region of Polish folk dancing? If so, we would like to add you to the PFDAA North American Choreographer's contact list. The PFDAA choreographer list is comprised of a list of individuals who have completed a choreographer course in Poland, or is a recognized choreographer, specializing in Polish Folk Dancing. The purpose of the list is to be able to provide members of the PFDAA with options of hiring "local" talent, when it isn't always possible to bring in choreographers from Poland. So if you're a choreographer and you would like to add your name to the list, please fill out the attached form and submitted it to pfdaa@sasktel.net.

SEMINAR FOR CHOREOGRAPHERS Rzeszow - July 7 – 28, 2013- Limited 3 & 4 year only!

Due to financial constraints only the 3rd and 4th year of the course will be offered by Wspolnota Polska this summer please contact Wspolnota directly if you have any questions.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

The PFDAА wishes to Congratulations to Polish American Folk Dance Company on their 75th Anniversary of promoting polish culture through song and dance.

St. Mary's Polish Church in Sydney, Nova Scotia 100th Anniversary

On September 8th, St. Mary's Polish Church in Sydney, Nova Scotia, celebrates its 100th anniversary. Numerous centenary events are planned, including a Polish Festival during the weekend of September 6-8, 2013. Performances by Pogoria Polish Folk Ensemble, Pomorze Polish Dance Association and St. Cecilia Polish Choir are scheduled. The Polonia of Nova Scotia would also love to have your ensemble perform at this milestone event! For more information, contact Shari at (902) 539-4354 or shari_pogoria@hotmail.com. Beautiful Nova Scotia, "Canada's Ocean Playground", awaits.

Polish Folk Dancing Festivals

Recently one of our member groups came up with a great idea for the PFDAА website, they suggested that we put together a list of annual Polish Folk Dancing festivals across the US and Canada so member groups could increase performance opportunities and contacts. So if you know of a annual polish folk dancing festivals or maybe host one please send us the information or link and we will get started on this project.

PFDAА Website Update

Currently the PFDAА is updating its website and requests all member groups to send in their group logo along with 2 two 3 pictures. Please send your logos & photos to jerry@pfdaa.org. Lastly if you have any ideas or suggestions, please let us know, this is your site so your input is needed.

New online PFDAA Membership Renewal payment option:

There is now a new way to renew your PFDAA membership fees yearly. We recently upgraded our website to accept secure online payments, as many groups in the past have asked for an easier way to pay their annual membership fee. Please note that groups can still continue to mail in their renewal fees if they wish as in the past, for those groups that are interested in using the new online option please follow the instructions below:

1. Log on to the PFDAA website: www.pfdaa.org
2. Click on the Donate button at the bottom of the webpage:



3. The following secure payment page will be displayed:

Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas, Inc.

Please enter your donation amount and click Update Total.

Purpose	Contribution amount	Total
PFDAA	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$
		\$0.00 USD
<input type="button" value="Update Total"/>		

Pay with Credit Card or Log In PayPal Secure Payments

Country:

First Name:

Last Name:

Credit Card Number:

Payment Type: VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

Expiration Date: / Discover/Novus What's this?

Billing Address Line 1:

Billing Address Line 2:

City:

ALREADY HAVE A PAYPAL ACCOUNT?

Email:

Password:

Forgot your email address or password?

4. Then enter in your membership fees for the year \$35.00USD (please note those groups paying their membership fees online there is **5%** service charge to cover the cost of the online transaction charged to us by the vendor). Please add this service charge to the \$35.00 membership fee when making payment.
5. Next click on the update total button and wait for the webpage to refresh.
6. Next choose your method of secure online payment (credit card or PayPal account).

7. Once an payment option is chosen and submitted you will be taken to the next screen:

Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas, Inc.

Daniel, please review your donation

PayPal Secure Payments

To complete your payment, review the details below and click **Donate**.

Purpose	Donation amount	Total
PFDA	\$35.00	\$35.00
Add special instructions to the seller		
PFDA Membership Renewal for Polonia Polish Folk Dance Ensemble, Regina, Canada		
Total:		\$35.00 USD

8. Once the page loads please enter comments into the special instructions section as follows:
- Group Name , City, Country
 - Group Contact – email address, phone number
 - Payment reason: Renewal Fees for 2012
9. If you have any questions about the online payment option please contact PFDAA Treasure @ monicapaz@ymail.com

Membership fee renewal can still be submitted by post if you prefer. Please send your membership renewal of \$35.00 USD to:

PFDAA Treasurer
c/o Monica Pazdziora
8520 W. 91st St.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457

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 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



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