



January 29th 2009

To the Members of the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas, Inc.:

Happy New Year and a wish that each of your ensembles grow and prosper in this coming year. As I reflect on 2008 I will have many great memories. The Association's 25th Anniversary gave me the opportunity to spend time with the Directors of many of the Ensembles that attended the celebrations both in Poland and here in New York. It was especially gratifying to spend some time with the Director and Choreographer of our newest member group "Wianek" and to discuss their perspective of what they are looking for as members of the Association.

I have to complement all of those member groups that attended the Rzeszow Festival you all gave outstanding performances and it was an honor to share the stage with you.

The Polish American Folk Dance Company celebrated their 70th Anniversary with a spectacular performance in November. Donna and I had the pleasure of attending and are so glad we were able to be there. I presented a proclamation, from the Association, for their perpetuation of Polish culture for the last seventy years. We also presented a proclamation to Stanley Pelc for being the first President of the Association, and his continued contributions to the Association, at the 25th Anniversary luncheon. Unfortunately Stanley was not able to attend the luncheon and Richard Mazur accepted the proclamation for him. I did receive a note from him acknowledging that he did receive it and a Thank You for thinking of him.

The 25th Anniversary Commemorative DVD has been a bigger project than anticipated but is nearing completion. I hope you will enjoy looking back at what we have accomplished over the last twenty five years.

2010 PFDAA Festival – Regina, Canada

“The Polonia Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of Regina with the help of the Polish Canadian Cultural Club would like to host the next PFDAA Festival in the summer of 2010 (June 27th to July 3rd 2010). Polonia will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2010 and what better way to celebrate it than by hosting the next Polish Folk Dance of the Americas Association (PFDAA) Festival!”

Polonia has submitted an impressive 14 page proposal. The PFDAA Board of Directors will be meeting in the near future to review it in detail. If they host a Festival like they write a proposal we will be in for a great time. More to follow in the next Newsletter.

Spisz Workshop:

Learn about the costumes, music, dances, and history of Spisz, presented by the Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of Milwaukee Tuesday, March 3, 2009, 7:00-9:00 pm. Participation is encouraged; please wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

Polish Center of Wisconsin
6941 South 68th Street
Franklin, Wisconsin 53132
(414) 529-2140

The Spisz region is located in Southern Poland near the Slovak border. Its unique dances with Hungarian, Slovak and Czech influences will be a new region in Syrena's repertoire when the suite debuts this summer. Syrena is especially excited to offer this workshop since dances from this region are not performed by any other ensemble in the area and illustrates the continually changing political landscape and blending of cultures in Eastern Europe.

The workshop is free and open to the public. www.syrenadancers.com

7th World Children's Polish Folk Dancing Festival Iwonicz Zdroj Poland:

The Children's Festival will be held on July 16-23, 2009. Full details can be found in Polish at <http://www.wspolnota-polska.rzeszow.pl/> but here is a short list of the requirements:

- Cost \$700 PLN per dancer
- Dancers up to the age of 16
- Must have own music
- Groups must send applications and video to Poland
- Groups must submit a DVD of the dances they would like to take to Poland.

Studium dla Choreografów- Rzeszow

Offered by Wspolnota Polska will be taking place in Rzeszow from July 5th to July 26th 2009. Full details can be found in Polish at <http://www.wspolnota-polska.rzeszow.pl/> but here is a short list of the requirements:

- Candidates must be 18 years old,
- Have danced for at least 5 years.
- Maximum 2 members from each group
- Cost for attending the course is responsibility of the student
- Application deadline April 15th 2009

Membership News:

The PFDA Congratulates "Dolina Polish Folk Dancers Minnesota USA" on their 60th Anniversary.

PFDA Welcomes Zakopane Polish Folk Dance Ensemble from Warren, MI to the membership.

Happy 90th Birthday to Mamcia Walczykowa!

Stanley Pelc received a letter just before Christmas from his son Gregory. He wanted to let everyone know that she turned 90 on 12/5/08. Stanley said he immediately sent a Birthday greeting and told her all her friends in the U.S. wish her well. If you would like to send your own greetings here is the contact information:

Her Address:

Kazimiera Walczak
ul. Baczynskiego 20
24-100 Pulawy
Poland

Gregory's Address:

Gregory Walczak
ul. Skowieszynska 58
24-100 Pulawy
Poland

25th Anniversary T-shirts

Thank you to everyone that placed their orders for the PFDAAs T-shirts they are now being sent out and should arrive in your mailbox soon, sorry about the delay.

PFDAAs Yearly Membership Fees for 2009 are due January 1st 2009:

Please send a cheque for \$35.00 USD to:

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

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.

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



PFDA Board of Directors

Tom Skurski – President (Wawel)

DNTSKUR@aol.com

Konrad Wiecek - Vice President (Lechici)

Lechici@aol.com

Margaret Pawelkiewicz – Sergeant-at-Arms:

gosia00@aol.com

Daniel Smela - Secretary (Polonia)

pfdaa@sasktel.net

Monica Pazdziora- Treasurer (Wesloy Lud)

nikapaz@yahoo.com

www.pfdaa.org