

Polish American Congress

Eastern Pennsylvania District

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Eastern Pennsylvania District
Office and Meeting Place

308 Walnut Street - Philadelphia, PA 19106 - 215-739-3408

2005 President's Report by Michael Blichasz Report Period - January, 2005 through December, 2005

The following public activities took place in cooperation with the Polish American Congress, its officers, regional representatives, and member organizations:

(1) **January 30, 2005** - The Annual Meeting of the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, and the election of officers at the Polish Beneficial Association Auditorium in the Bridesburg section of Philadelphia.

(2) **February 5, 2005** - General Thaddeus Kosciuszko Annual Tribute Ceremony at the Kosciuszko House, 3rd & Pine Streets in historic Philadelphia. A mini-march took place to the Holiday Inn Hotel, 4th & Arch Streets, where a luncheon was held.

(3) **February 15, 2005** - Polish American Congress and Polish American Cultural Center representatives gathered with the members of the Polish National Alliance to mark PNA's 125th Anniversary at the Polish American Cultural Center in historic Philadelphia.

(4) **February** - In conjunction with the national PAC, the PAC, Eastern PA District, supported the Visa Waiver Program campaign.

(5) **February through April** - The Eastern PA District of PAC sponsored a voter registration drive through its radio, newspaper and organizational contacts.

(6) **March 8th and March 9th, 2005** - Pisanki (Coloring Easter Eggs) demonstration was held at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street, historic Philadelphia, for school students and the public.

(7) **April 6, 2005** - PAC gathered with its member organizations and Polonia for a community-wide Memorial Mass to honor Pope John Paul II at St. Adalbert Church in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia.

(8) **April and May** - Colorful displays of Polish arts and crafts were made available to area schools and various groups by Polish American Congress & Polish American Cultural Center Museum volunteers.

(9) **May 1, 2005** - Polish American Congress sponsored its annual Third of May Polish Constitution Day Mass and Program at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, in Doylestown, PA. Following the Mass a luncheon was held followed by the Annual Polish Constitution Day Youth Program.

(10) **May 3, 2005** - The City of Philadelphia presented a Proclamation recognizing the 214th Anniversary of Poland's May 3rd Constitution, the second Democratic Constitution in the world. The ceremony was held in St. John Cantius Parish Hall, Bridesburg section of Philadelphia at 11 a.m. The program featured a Family Stages performance of Kosciuszko's Garden. Refreshments were served following the ceremony.

(11) **May through October** - The Eastern PA District of PAC sponsored a voter registration drive through its radio, newspaper, and organizational affiliates.

(12) **June 25th through July 4th** - PAC and Polish American Cultural Center representatives participated in the 13th Annual Sunoco Welcome America Festival.

(13) **July** - Throughout the month of July, Polish American Cultural Center Museum, in conjunction with the National Constitution Center, participated as a Community Partner featuring an exhibit with paintings and literature portraying the signing of the first two democratic constitutions: U.S. Constitution and Poland's Constitution.

(14) **September 8th through September 19th** - Members of the Polish American Congress Pulaski Day Observance Committee sponsored the annual Coloring Contest in Philadelphia area schools. More than 20,000 children participated.

(15) **September 28, 2005** - The City of Philadelphia Pulaski Day Proclamation and Polish American Heritage Month Proclamation were held at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum. Winners of the Pulaski Observance Coloring Contest received their awards followed by a reception.

(16) **October 1, 2005** - The Polish American Congress Annual Pulaski Dinner Dance was held at the Associated Polish Home Ballroom in Northeast Philadelphia.

President's Report Continued

(17) **October 2, 2005** - Polish American Congress Pulaski Observance Mass was held in the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul Chapel, Philadelphia, at 9:30 a.m. Following the Mass a Wreath Laying Ceremony took place at the portrait of General Casimir Pulaski in front of the Kopernik Monument, 18th & Benjamin Franklin Parkway. A reception followed the ceremony.

(18) **October 2, 2005** - The Pulaski Day Parade began at 12:30 p.m. from 20th & Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Center City Philadelphia. The parade is a display of Polish pride representing divisions of Polish parishes, organizations, military and youth groups. The parade was televised live from 1 to 3 p.m. on WPVI-TV 6.

(19) **October 23, 2005** - "Dozynki" Polish Harvest Festival, sponsored by the Polish American Congress and Polish American Cultural Center Museum, was held at St. Adalbert, Port Richmond section of Philadelphia. Beginning with Mass at St. Adalbert Church, it concluded with a "Dozynki" Harvest Festival in St. Adalbert Auditorium. There was food and refreshments, live music and dancing, Polish Folk Dancers, arts, crafts and displays and other entertainment.

(20) **October** - Throughout the month of October Polish American Congress sponsored various events to highlight "Polish American Heritage Month". The Pulaski Observance was one of the opening events for Polish American Heritage Month for the Eastern Pennsylvania District celebration.

(21) **October** - Polish American Cultural Center Museum and Polish American Congress in conjunction with the Polish American Heritage Month Committee's theme "Recognizing Polish Poets", sponsored a Poetry Contest for students 6th through 8 grades. The winners' names, along with their poems, were printed in the February, 2006, newsletter.

(22) **December 7, 2005** - Polish American Congress promoted the Medicare Prescription Drug Program Fair, sponsored by Polish American Social Services, in St. Adalbert Auditorium, in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia.

(23) **December** - Celebration of Polish Christmas Customs at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum in historic Philadelphia.

Throughout the year the Polish American Congress conducts various meetings to organize public events and address the needs and concerns of its member organizations and the community at large.

Additionally, it also maintains contact with the national office of the PAC with reference to Polish American affairs as well as with programs and activities involving the needs and concerns of the people of Poland. We are grateful to all who helped and supported the efforts of the Polish American Congress. **"In Unity There is Strength!"**

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**The Board of the Polish American Congress
welcomes all proud Polish Americans to join the PAC**

Polish American Congress

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