



February 2024

PACOM'S BULLETIN

*Message from the President and the first Vice President
- Looking Ahead to the Future*

Dear PACOM Members and Friends,

I hope this message finds you well as we approach our first General Meeting of 2024. It's been a while since our last communication, but I am excited to reconnect with you all and provide some updates on our progress. First and foremost, I'd like to extend my warmest New Year greetings to each of you. I trust that you have had the opportunity to review the bulletins we've been sending out since last summer, ensuring you are up to date with all the latest news and developments.

Despite some challenges, we remain committed to maintaining a positive outlook and focusing on the success of our project. Following the 2022 election, we've noticed differing agendas among certain members. We remain open to listening to all perspectives and hope to foster unity within our community. We heard some complaints, but nobody ever suggested a solution in writing. We are trying to keep everything in order, and we are very hopeful that we succeed.

Just in the last few days, we have had tremendous success. We met with the neighborhood representatives in the Benevolent Police Association, who accepted our plans to build the 8-story building, as manifested in the numerous Miami River Commission meetings. Thanks to that, we are heading toward a final meeting with the City Commissioners to obtain approval for our Polonia Center's new zoning designation. Also, Mr. Lech Walesa, a former President of the Republic of Poland, was passing through Miami and met with us on our lot. He expressed his support and appreciation of our project.

My dear friends, we are getting there. We are just about to obtain all the necessary permits to start building. Hopefully, our Executive Building Committee will have a complete list of possible developers for us to choose the best party to build our Center. You can submit your proposal if you have any suggestions or know a developer; there is still time for that.

Throughout the past year, we've held numerous Board of Directors meetings, both virtually and in person, where we've discussed various project aspects and the overall well-being of PACOM.

Some key highlights include:

- Establishment of the Executive Building Committee, comprising Club members not on the Board, ensuring impartial decision-making in selecting a developer for our Polonia Center Project. Committee members: Mr. Zbigniew Klonowski, Mr. Zbigniew Jarosz, Mr. John Roland, and Mr. Daniel Olech, who is the chairman of the committee.*
- Ongoing efforts to secure a loan to address our financial obligations, including debts owed to the Polish National Alliance, amounting to over \$200,000, hindering progress on our project. We must pay our debt to the Polish National Alliance in 2024.*
- Appointing Mr. Buck as PACOM advisor and accountant.*

By hearing some complaints right now, why didn't you come up with some suggestions back then? It has been a whole year since we sought your constructive advice or advisable criticism. If you were against the loan, why didn't you suggest an alternative option? We need something more than just words. We are in debt, and we need to pay it back. I would like to highlight that our loan should be sufficient enough to pay our debt and have some money to continue operating without any disturbance.

As we prepare for upcoming elections, I'd like to emphasize the importance of addressing the crucial following aspects:

1) Updating our membership list: As per our Constitution, we urge all members to confirm their current membership status to ensure eligibility for voting rights. Mr. Turski, who was appointed the membership committee chairman after reaching out to all members, has hardly received any feedback. We kindly ask everyone to confirm their membership either through email. If you wish to vote, you must pay your dues for 2024, which is \$100. As you are all aware, according to our Constitution, only members who are at least members for 6 months and in good standing can vote. The membership list must be completed by March 7th, 2024.

2) Approval of the revised PACOM Constitution: As of Summer 2023, Mr. Kwasniak and Mr. Les Surowiec have undertaken the task of updating our Constitution. We understand that the Board of Directors have already provided their comments. All members must review and provide feedback within two weeks of getting the final draft. The revised Constitution must obtain undivided members' approval by March 15th, 2024, at the latest.

3) *The date of the Annual Meeting and Election needs to be determined based on the time of the approval of the Amended Constitution. Any eligible person who desires to be a candidate for a position on the Board of Directors must give written notice of their intention to seek such a position no later than forty (40) days prior to the scheduled Election, together with a one-page/one-sided information sheet describing their background, education, and qualifications. The Nominating Committee of five (5) or more members shall screen all possible candidates and make their recommendations prior to when the ballot is printed. Before the Annual Meeting and Election, the members will receive a Second Notice with a package including a Ballot that shall list the names of the candidates. The President will select the Nomination Committee from individuals willing to participate.*

When I was elected President, which I consider a big honor, knowing of my various obligations and that I may not be accessible daily, I nominated Mr. Schindler, the first PACOM Vice President, to represent me in my absence. Because of this nomination, Mr. Schindler is the only person besides me who can send out the agendas for the meeting and represent PACOM in official matters.

Please be aware of it, and have no other members preparing agendas without consulting it with the President or Vice President.

We, as your elected leaders, will do everything in our power to see the success of this project. I believe all the members would like to see the Polonia Center built shortly. Please, we do not have space for negativity. If you are unhappy and don't want to agree, we won't be forcing you to stay with us; you can always tend us your resignation.

Thank you for your attention to these matters, and I look forward to our continued collaboration and progress in the year ahead.

*Warm regards,
Blanka Rosenstiel
President of PACOM
Jacek Schindler
First Vice President of PACOM*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**President:**

Blanka Rosenstiel

1st Vice President:

Jacek Schindler

Vice President:

Wesley Kwasniak

Vice President:

Les Surowiec

Vice President:

Lech Zalewski

Treasurer:

Rose Kruszewski

Director:

John Richard Turski

Contact

1440 79th Street Causeway
Suite 117,
Miami, FL 33141



polishamericanclubofmiami.org



Copywriting and editing:
Vanessa Bijak, PhD
vanessa.bijak@gmail.com

Adoption of Conflict of Interest Policy for PACOM

Dear Members of PACOM,

As we continue to move forward with our ambitious projects and initiatives, we must uphold the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and accountability. In light of this, I propose that PACOM adopt a Conflict of Interest Policy to ensure that our actions are always aligned with the greater good of our organization and community rather than for personal gain.

As highlighted in the provided text and recognized by nonprofit governance best practices, a written policy on conflicts of interest is essential for effective management. Such a policy would require individuals with conflicts or potential conflicts to disclose them transparently. Furthermore, it would prohibit interested board members from voting on any matter in which a conflict exists.

Formalizing this policy demonstrates our commitment to ethical conduct and responsible stewardship of PACOM's resources. This policy will enhance transparency and accountability within our organization and strengthen public trust and confidence in our mission and activities.

Furthermore, compliance with conflict of interest policies is not just a matter of good governance; it also has legal implications. Failure to manage conflicts of interest appropriately can result in significant penalties, as outlined by the IRS. Therefore, adopting a robust conflict of interest policy is crucial for protecting both our organization's integrity and our members' interests.

In addition to adopting a written policy, we must establish clear procedures for managing conflicts and regularly review and update the policy as needed. This ensures that our governance practices align with regulatory requirements and best practices in the nonprofit sector. In conclusion, I urge all members to support the adoption of a Conflict of Interest Policy for PACOM. By doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to ethical leadership and responsible decision-making, thereby safeguarding our organization's long-term success and sustainability.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Blanka Rosenstiel

President of PACOM

Jacek Schindler

First Vice President of PACOM

The 2024 New Year's party at the Hungarian Club by Ewa Piacentile

The relations between Polish Hungarian communities were always excellent, and so is our relationship with the Hungarian Club of Miami.

Mrs. Valeria Berki contacted Blanka Rosenstiel with information about the New Year's Eve Party and extended her invitation to all PACOM members. Lady Blanka immediately considered it a perfect occasion to reunite all members in an atmosphere of effervescent champagne. She didn't waste any minute, and with Vanessa's assistance, she created an invitation and sent it out to all past and present PACOM members at the beginning of December.



Few people who did not have other opportunities for a good New Year's Eve party accepted our Hungarian friends' invitation and decided to try it. For almost a last-minute setup, we had a friendly crowd that included guests from other states. We all were hoping to have a lovely evening together. The Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in New England, Dr. Margaret Chalupowski, and her husband flew to Miami to celebrate with us. A few days before Christmas, Dr. Maria Siemionow's husband happily announced, "We are going to the Hungarian Club. Join us," so I did. Lady Blanka came along with her friends from Washington DC, Mrs Joanna and Mr. Wlodek Lopaczynscy. Jacek Schindler joined the party with his wife, Cheryl. Ewa Lidner and Beata Matim were among the party crowd, too!



We did not think that it would be as great as it turned out to be. The hosts were overwhelmingly lovely, warm, and friendly every so often, reassuring if we had a good time or anything we wanted.

They could not treat us better.

The friendly atmosphere was incredible.

The food was excellent, and the Hungarian wines were also delicious. The entertainment and the music are great. Whatever was said in Hungarian was then translated into English to ensure we could understand.



The evening started with the National Anthems and speeches, then the dancing part with the traditional Viennese Waltz, after which all other dances and songs continued till late at night. Many Hungarians recalled their good times dancing in the Polish Club and talking together. They said once we were coming to you, now you come to us, when your new building will be ready we'll come to you. We all had a great time and did not feel homeless. It would be nice if we still had our old club there, but for now, we can plan to have our events together. It can be done and can be very pleasant for the Polish and Hungarian communities. In today's world, unity gives strength, and we should try to unite and be together with people who are our friends



Happy
New Year

Meeting with the local community

On Wednesday, January 31st, representatives from the Polish American Club of Miami (PACOM) and club lawyer Javier Fernandez convened at the Benevolent Police Association alongside members of the local community, HOA representatives, and Polish community members. The primary agenda of the meeting centered around addressing concerns regarding the Polonia Center project, which had raised hesitations within the neighborhood. Mr. Fernandez meticulously outlined the project's history and objectives, providing clarity and transparency to the audience. Throughout the session, he patiently fielded questions and addressed the various concerns raised by attendees, fostering open dialogue and constructive engagement among all parties involved. The meeting concluded with a promising local community agreement, assuring them they would not protest the project. Additionally, they agreed to accept the proposed 8-story high building in the neighborhood, signifying a positive step forward in community collaboration and development.



Meeting with President Lech Walesa Impact Day during 60 Million Congress

The third day of the 60 Million Congress in Miami, dubbed Impact Day, saw the collaboration of a public event co-organized with PACOM on the club's premises. This gathering garnered attention from congress participants, the local Polish community, and neighbors alike. As anticipation filled the air, attendees eagerly awaited the arrival of President Lech Walesa, a special guest at the 60 Million Conference, who graciously made time amidst his hectic schedule to join this meeting. Before the President's arrival, Mr. Klonowski warmly welcomed everyone and expressed his delight at the impressive turnout. He invited attendees to share their thoughts on PACOM and the Polonia Center project.

With heartfelt sincerity, Lady Blanka recounted the journey behind the project, detailing the challenges, triumphs, and unwavering optimism that sustained the endeavor. Mrs. Rose Kruszewski, a cherished PACOM member, reminisced about the club's rich history and the fond memories she cherished from events at the old building. Mr. Jacek Schindler, the architect behind the new building's design, shared his vision and aspirations for the project, while Les Surowiec and Leszek Ladowski contributed their valuable insights.



Among the attendees were friends from the Hungarian Center, including Valeria Berki, adding to the sense of community and solidarity. It was a poignant moment to share stories, memories, and visions for the future with friends while also witnessing the overwhelming support from the community. When President Lech Walesa made his grand entrance, accompanied by a parade of Polish cars known as "Maluch," the atmosphere was electrifying. It was an amusing coincidence to note that even Tom Hanks, the renowned actor, owned a Maluch and took pride in it. President Walesa's captivating speech underscored the significance of his support for the Club and the Polonia Center project. His presence symbolized solidarity, inspiring renewed dedication among club members as they rallied around a common goal. His visit was highly anticipated and impactful, reaffirming the strength of community bonds and the shared commitment to preserving Polish heritage.



General PACOM meeting

The PACOM general meeting on February 10th showcased a positive atmosphere amidst occasional tensions. President Lady Blanka highlighted recent achievements and introduced the new lawyer, Mr. John Kirkpatrick. Despite minor conflicts concerning former members, the meeting progressed constructively.

Noteworthy discussions revolved around constitutional updates, election organization, financial reports, and advancements in the building project. President Lech Walesa's visit was meaningful, underscoring the project's significance for future generations.

In a show of gratitude, special appreciation is extended to Mr. Les Surowiec and Mr. Wesley Kwasniak for their dedicated efforts in rewriting and updating the club constitution. The process was arduous and time-consuming, but we are nearing completion. All Board Members provided their notes and comments, and now we eagerly anticipate providing all members with the updated version for review soon. Their commitment exemplifies the spirit of collective endeavor and strengthens our resolve to navigate challenges and emerge stronger as a community.

We also would like to applaud Mr. Adrian Grobelny, a new PACOM member who agreed to help make our PACOM website more convenient for membership tracking. At the same time, he became an assistant to Mr. John Turski, Chairman of the membership committee. He will help him in his efforts to establish a list of all current members.

The meeting concluded with plans to enhance membership engagement, brainstorm fundraising initiatives, and a prevailing optimism for the club's future. Despite challenges, members departed with renewed determination and a positive outlook.



ANNUAL ELECTIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024A graphic with a red top bar and a yellow bottom bar. The text "ELECTIONS DAY" is written in large, bold, black letters in the center of the yellow bar.

ELECTIONS DAY

If you are a paid member with some time to spare and a plethora of great ideas for the club's future, we extend a warm invitation for you to consider joining the Board of Directors.

To express your interest, please submit your resume along with the position you would like to be a candidate for to Jacek Schindler (jws@schindlerarchitects.com) by **March 20th, 2024**. Each candidacy will be carefully reviewed. The special election edition of the bulletin containing all of the candidates' profiles will be sent out at least a week before the election meeting.

Join us in proudly serving our club until the Polonia Center is built, providing us with a new and cherished home. The potential for greatness is immense, and with your valuable input, we can strive to make it the best it can be.

The election schedule strictly depends on the approval of the new constitution.

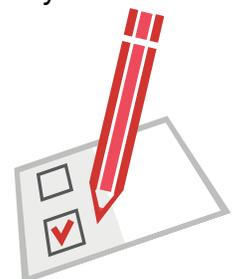
Here is the **tentative** schedule:

- Approval of the Amended Constitution: February 28th – March 15th
 - First Notice of Annual Meeting: March 1st
- Candidate Application Form and Resume received: March 20th
 - Completed list by the Nominating Committee: March 30th
 - Ballot ready: April 2nd
- Second Notice of Annual Meeting and issuance of the ballot electronically: April 10th
 - Election: April 27th

Your participation is crucial to our success, and we eagerly anticipate your involvement. Together, let's shape the future of our club and create a welcoming and vibrant community.



We are excited to receive your submissions!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

 Name: _____  Phone: _____
 Date of birth: _____  E-mail: _____

What is your address?

What is your nationality?

What is your occupation?

Are you resident of Florida?

What are your reasons for joining the Club?

How did you hear about PACOM?

Please send the application form along with a \$100 check to the address below:

1440 79th Street Causeway
Suite 117, Miami, FL 33141





Chopin Foundation of the United States
 Telephone: (305) 868-0624
 Email: info@chopin.org
www.chopin.org

We are delighted to announce that preparations for the **12th Chopin Piano Competition** in 2025 are already underway! We are just a few steps away from another extraordinary edition, and the anticipation is truly thrilling. Stay tuned for more updates as we get closer to this exciting event!

Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland
 1440 79th St. Causeway Suite 117
 Miami, FL 33141
 Phone: 305-866-0077 • polconsulf@yahoo.com

The American Institute of Polish Culture Inc.

The American Institute of Polish Culture
 1440 79th Street Causeway, Suite 117
 Miami, FL 33141
 Tel: 305.864.2349 | Fax: 305.865.5150 | Email: info@ampoloinstitute.org

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Executive Building Committee – short report



The Committee, comprising members Daniel Olech, Zbigniew Klonowski, John Roland, and Zeb Jarosz, convened on Monday, January 22nd, to strategize the next steps for the project. After deliberation, Daniel Olech was appointed chairman of the Committee. During the meeting, they meticulously outlined the tasks ahead, emphasizing the importance of gathering comprehensive information and files to ensure accuracy in their endeavors.

One primary focus of the Committee is to draft a request for proposals (RFP), a crucial document that will detail project requirements and solicit bids from potential developers. Once finalized, this RFP will be presented to the board for approval, signifying a significant milestone in the project's progression. Simultaneously, the Committee has initiated the process of compiling a list of prospective developers. It's worth mentioning that this process is inclusive and transparent, with every member encouraged to contribute by proposing developers or sharing approved RFPs with interested parties. So, if you would like to suggest a builder, please contact the Committee, and they will provide you with all the established guidelines.



Hop into the Joyful World of Easter in Poland: A Celebration of Tradition and Delight!

As the frost begins to thaw and the days gradually lengthen, whispers of spring dance through the air like petals on a gentle breeze. Nature stirs from its wintry slumber, awakening with a symphony of birdsong and the vibrant hues of budding blossoms. And as the earth awakens, so too does the anticipation of Easter. This celebration heralds the arrival of a new season and the promise of hope, renewal, and the joyous embrace of life's ever-turning cycle. Yes, spring is just around the corner, and with its arrival comes the timeless tradition of Easter, infusing the world with a sense of warmth, wonder, and the sweet fragrance of possibility.

Easter in Poland isn't just a holiday; it's a spectacular whirlwind of tradition, joy, and a hint of mischief! From the solemn rituals of Holy Week to the exuberant celebrations of Easter Sunday, the Polish embrace this time of year with enthusiasm and festivity.

Picture this: It's Holy Saturday morning, and the air is alive with anticipation. Families across Poland are bustling about, preparing for the enchanting tradition of Świąconka. But what exactly is Świąconka? Well, it's not just any old ceremony; it's a basketful of magic!



In every Polish household, baskets are lovingly filled with goodies, from freshly baked bread shaped like lambs to meticulously decorated eggs known as pisanki. These baskets, adorned with symbols of abundance and renewal, are then taken to church to receive a special blessing from the priest. Imagine the scene: rows of colorful baskets brimming with treats, all aglow with the spirit of Easter.

But the fun doesn't stop there! Easter Sunday is a feast for the senses, both culinary and cultural. Picture yourself seated at a table laden with traditional Polish delicacies: steaming bowls of żurek, a tangy sour rye soup; platters of succulent kiełbasa, tantalizing the taste buds with their smoky aroma; and let's not forget the pièce de résistance – babka wielkanocna, a heavenly Easter cake that's as light and fluffy as a spring breeze.



And what's Easter without a bit of whimsy? In Poland, Easter Monday – known as Śmigus-Dyngus – is a day of playful pandemonium. Armed with buckets of water and mischievous grins, people take to the streets to engage in epic water fights, drenching friends and strangers alike in a gleeful frenzy of laughter and lightheartedness. It's a tradition that's as refreshing as it is riotous, symbolizing cleansing and renewal as we bid farewell to the solemnity of Lent and welcome the joy of Easter. But amidst all the festivities, let's not forget the true essence of Easter: a time of faith, hope, and new beginnings. Whether attending church services, singing Easter carols, or simply spending time with loved ones, the Polish people embrace Easter with a genuine spirit and an unwavering sense of community.

So, as you hop into the enchanting world of Easter in Poland, may your heart be filled with the warmth of tradition, the joy of celebration, and the promise of renewal.

Happy Easter!

