



*Polish Folk Dance Association  
of the Americas*

Season's Greetings to all of you!

As our second year of Board term ends, I'd like to share a few of our accomplishments and our works in progress.

With our PFDAA treasurer Dan Smela's efforts, we were able to secure a grant to be able to host two choreographers for workshops. At the time, we were notified of receiving the grant, US/Canadian border crossings were still not possible. Because of Covid restrictions, grant guidelines and the timetable we were given to work with and being fair to all our groups, the PFDAA Board decided to host 2 workshops, one in Canada and one in the US.

We had a verbal agreement with one choreographer, who after a week and half of arranging, flights, explaining Manitoba requirements for entry and Covid testing procedures required, decided to back out which sent us scrambling to locate another instructor. With the help of PFDAA secretary's Maciej Smusz's help, we were able to secure Sławomir Kokoszko (Warmia) for the Canadian workshop. We extend our gratitude to Sokol from Winnipeg who graciously stepped up to host the Canadian workshop.

Our second workshop was held in Milwaukee hosted by our Vice President's, Duane Tomka's group, Syrena. The PFDAA secured instructor and choreographer Piotr Kulka, who taught dances from the Wielkopolska region.

Both workshops were well attended and materials from both can be located on the PFDAA website and videos will be forth coming once they are edited. My thanks go out to all those involved for their efforts to make both workshops successful! Enjoy the photos from both workshops in this newsletter.

During the course of getting things situated for the workshop, we received notification from Wspólnota Polska about funding for the upcoming two years. We had approximately a week to put together another request for 2022 & 2023 for workshops and recorded music. Thanks again to Daniel for quickly getting the two proposals put together by the deadline. We now just have to wait and see if the government approves our projects. If they are, we will be reaching out to the member groups as we previously did, to see if a member group would like to organize and host the workshop.

I took the opportunity to attend Ada Dziewanowska's memorial service. It was a beautiful tribute to a remarkable lady who contributed immensely to the propagation of Polish folk dance

and culture here in the North America. It was great to see Syrena members in their stroje and many fond memories were shared at the reception following the church service.

As some of you may have already heard, the Rzeszow Festival is proposed for July 14 -20, 2022. Speaking with some you at the Milwaukee workshop or through FB, many ensembles are just starting to regroup and rebuild and are not planning to attend the Festival. It will take a lot of fundraising and flexibility, but I am sure some US & Canadian member groups will make the effort to attend. I am noticing postings that some European groups are planning to attend. Let us hope the pandemic and new variants do not interfere with the planning.

Next fall, is our next election cycle. I encourage the members to consider running for one of the Board positions. If you are interested, please contact me and we will notify you of our upcoming quarterly meetings so you can attend and get a feel for how the organization runs. If you have questions specific to a certain position, reach out to any of the current Board members. We will send out information about nominations, elections and any proposed amendments to our by-laws in the next newsletter.

Dues notifications for 2022 will be also sent at the beginning of the year, please remember that you will need to be current with your dues if a delegate of your ensemble wishes to run for a Board position.

Thanks to all the groups that submit photos and articles of what is happening with their groups. It's nice to see that in some areas that groups are starting to become active again. Please continue to submit your news to Donna Skurski our newsletter editor, and I hope that you are sharing the newsletter with your dancers and membership. I think it's great for them to see what's happening in the organization and with groups around the country!

You can reach any of us at: [pfdaacontact@gmail.com](mailto:pfdaacontact@gmail.com)

*On behalf of*

*The Board of the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas*

*Życzymy Wam Spokojnych, Zdrowych i Radosnych Świąt  
Bozego Narodzenia*

*oraz*

*Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku*



# 2021 WARMIA WORKSHOP



This past October, the Sokoł Polish Dance Ensemble had the absolute pleasure of hosting a traditional Polish folk dance workshop alongside the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas. The workshop, which focused on the Warmia and Mazury region of Poland, was held from October 15th to 17th and was led by Sławomir Kokoszko, Instructor and Choreographer of the Song and Dance Ensemble “Kortowo”. It was a challenging, yet very rewarding weekend filled with dancing, mingling and building new friendships. For the first time in a very long time, things felt like they were back to normal, despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We were able to gather here in Winnipeg, dance to our hearts desire and make memories that will last us all a lifetime!



We would like to thank everyone who made this workshop possible, despite the short timeline we had we were able to come together and put on a successful event.

Thank you to the participants! Which included the following groups:

- Polish Folk Dance Ensemble SPK Iskry from Winnipeg
- Polonia Polish Folk Dance Ensemble from Regina
- Tatry Song and Dance Ensemble from Windsor
- PKM Polish Folk Dance Ensemble from Philadelphia.

Thank you to...

- our volunteers! Who spent countless hours behind the scenes, preparing food, driving and ensuring everything ran smoothly.
- the Polish Gymnastic Association “Sokoł” Winnipeg, for always supporting our group.
- the Wspólnota Polska for financial support.
- the PFDA Board members, who guided us along the way.
- to Sławomir Kokoszko, for being an excellent instructor and sharing his talent and knowledge with us!
- Lastly, thank you to all those who were not mentioned, yet played a special role in the success of our workshop. We could not have done it without you!

This was the first time our group hosted an event like this and what touched our hearts the most, were the words of thanks and appreciation we received.



# 2021 WIELKOPOLSKA WORKSHOP



The Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of Milwaukee, WI hosted the Polish Folk Dance Association's Wielkopolska workshop on the weekend of November. 26-28, 2021.

PFDA Vice President Duane Tomka is the choreographer of Syrena.

Recognized ethnographer, choreographer and director of Zespół Folklorystyczny Wielkopolanie in Poznań, Poland Piotr Kulka instructed on the traditional steps, dances and games of the expansive Wielkopolska region. Kulka was accompanied by

Wesoły Lud's artistic director and choreographer Richard Jaminski.

The three-day workshop was held at Syrena's new practice hall at the Potawatomi tribe's Wgema Campus in Milwaukee.

The Wielkopolska region boasts the largest number of subregions in all of Poland. Kulka shared research and dance instruction on several of these subregions including Biskupizna, Dąbrowka Wielkopolska and Bambrzy Poznańscy.

Workshop attendees were instructed in a fast-paced environment of different steps and sequences from the three subregion and were even challenged to think of their own choreographies for the Wielkopolska-specific chodzony, waltz and oberek.

Attendees also were taught a variety of Wielkopolska folk songs, which corresponded with dances, including "Idź Sobie," "Mikołajek" and "Marynia."

Amidst the many hours of dancing, "zabawy" or games were showcased including "Chusteczkowy," "Szewc" and "Dupnik, which garnered many laughs among attendees for its lighthearted and adolescence nature of bumping into an adjacent dancer's behind.



The workshop was financed through a grant from Stowarzyszenie "Wspólnota Polska." This generous funding allowed PFDA to host two workshops despite the great challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, this November Wielkopolska workshop and a Warmia workshop held in Canada this past October.

Ten PFDA ensembles were represented at the Wielkopolska workshop. They include: Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of Milwaukee, WI; Karpaty Dance Ensemble of Salt Lake City, UT; Lajkonik Song and Dance Ensemble of Chicago; Lechici Dancers of the PSO in

Chicago; Lowiczanie Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of San Francisco; Polish Roman Catholic Union of America Choreographers from Chicago and Detroit; Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company of the PRCUA in Chicago and Whispers Center for Artistic Expression of Streamwood, IL.



# 2021 WIELKOPOLSKA WORKSHOP PHOTOS



# 2021 WIELKOPOLSKA WORKSHOP PHOTOS



# NEWS FROM DOLINA – MINNEAPOLIS

We are very excited to announce that we are taking orders for the 2022 Dolina Polish Folk Ensemble Wall Calendar!

For \$10 (plus shipping, where applicable), you can enjoy some wonderful photographs of our members in traditional Polish folk costumes and help support our group!

You can place an order here: <https://forms.gle/G11Hzy2XwhdCmfVp7>  
Bardzo dziękujemy za wsparcie!



## NEWS FROM ISKRY – WINNIPEG, CA

SPK ISKRY had the pleasure of working with Slawomir Kokoszko during his trip to Winnipeg. The dance group had members participate in the Warmia workshop where they learned about the origin of the steps and the history of the region. Steps and sequences such as Pofajdok, Szot, Baba and Polka Warminska were a sample of what the dancers learned. We learned about the different pieces of the women's and men's costume and were shown how different groups have evolved the costume from a simple and sad-colored one to a lively and bright art piece.

Our week of Polish dancing continued with a private workshop hosted by our dance group during which the dancers learned the romantic and energetic medley of the Kujawiak and Oberek. Slawomir focused on the correct execution of each step and explained the importance of the character of the dance. We perfected the fast-paced Oberek and tuned into our romantic side for the Kujawiak. We are very grateful to have had this unique opportunity to learn from such an amazing choreographer and instructor.



# NEWS FROM POLISH AMERICAN FOLK DANCE COMPANY - NY

*Pulaski Parade 2021*



*Performance at the Pulaski  
Day Parade Ball 2021*



# NEWS FROM WICI – CHICAGO, IL

## WICI SONG & DANCE THEATER

FEBRUARY 6th, 2022



## *Big Carnival Ball*

Allegra Banquets  
5035 N.River Road  
Schiller Park, IL 60176

2:00 pm

Information and tickets:  
773-827-8108 | 630-935-9065



# Krystyna Maria Chciuk



March 13, 1926 - September 4, 2021



It is with deeply saddened hearts that the Board of Directors of Lowiczanie Polish Folk Ensemble of San Francisco formally acknowledges the passing of our beloved Founding Director and Fellow Board Member, Pani Krystyna Chciuk, on September 4, 2021. Below is a brief synopsis of her astounding life of bravery, fortitude and service.

Krystyna Maria Chciuk (nee Pisarska), a WWII Polish Home Army (resistance fighter) Heroine and central pillar of the Polish and Polish-American community of the San Francisco Bay Area, was born in Warsaw, Poland on March 13, 1926.

While serving as a *Laczniczka*, a liaison and courier for the Home Army, she was ultimately captured and imprisoned by the Nazis; she was liberated from Oberlangen prisoner of war camps for women in Eastern Germany at

the close of the War. In 1945 she made her way to London where she joined the Polish Army in Exile, and also met and married the World War II Polish pilot, Wladyslaw Chciuk. The young couple had one daughter, then immigrated to the United States where their family grew with the birth of two more daughters. In 1965, the family settled permanently in San Francisco.





Krystyna worked initially as a waitress, and by the time of her retirement she had served many years as the Catering Manager for the City's prestigious Olympic City Club. Throughout her professional career, while also raising a family, Krystyna had a more-than full-time additional "job" as a key figure in the Bay Area Polonia. She was Founder or Co-founder of, and inspiration to, numerous Polish community-based organizations.

Krystyna's goals and mission were to keep her cherished Polish heritage alive through the establishment of education and training for youth and adults in the areas of Polish history, language, political life, culture and traditional arts such as dance, poetry, music and song. In retirement, she continued to work with, direct, and /or mentor each and every organization with which she was associated.

Lowiczanie was established in Krystyna's San Francisco home in 1975, with her daughters joining others as initial members. Pani Krysia joined the original Lowiczanie Board of Directors

when the Ensemble was incorporated in 1980. For the next 46 years she stayed engaged with her Ensemble, lending her passion, expertise and advice, and inspiring all who knew her to continue to create and attend programs and events which would, as she so often said, "promote the cause."

We, as Lowiczanians, cannot, nor will we ever, forget our beloved "Pani Krysia"/ "Pani Chciuk." Her literally countless awards, commendations, and honorifics are testament to her long life of Service. Her singular efforts to build Community and bring us together around a shared vision of pride in Polish culture will continue to inspire us individually, and as a group.

The Family has advised that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to one of the following organizations:

- Lowiczanie Polish Folk Ensemble of San Francisco, [www.polishfolk.org](http://www.polishfolk.org)
- Polish Scouting Organization (contact Iwona Urbaniak: [iwonkau@gmail.com](mailto:iwonkau@gmail.com))
- John Paul II School of Polish Language [www.polishschool.org](http://www.polishschool.org)
- Polish Club of San Francisco, Inc. [www.polishclubsf.org](http://www.polishclubsf.org)





## **POLISH FOLKLORE PORTAL**

There is a link to the new Polish Folklore portal provided by Wspólnota Polska for the membership.

<http://www.wspolnotapolska.org.pl/polskifolklor/index.php>

The new portal includes instructional videos and professionally recorded music for three of the national dances- Polonaise, Krakowiak, and Kujawiak, as well as music and videos for Żywiec. There are also e-books available in Polish from Kaszuby, Lublin, Żywiec, and the national dances.



### **ANNUAL PFDAA DUES**

Your PFDAA Annual Membership for 2022 will be due by February, 2022. The fee is \$35.00 USD. Payment can be made by Check or via PayPal.

For groups wishing to pay by check please send the payment and attached form to the following address:

**PFDAA - Treasurer  
c/o Daniel Smela  
5143 Boswell Cres  
Regina, SK S4X 4S4  
CANADA**

For groups wishing to send money via PayPal, please use the following link and indicate on payment the Name of Group and City and how many members are in your Ensemble. <https://www.paypal.me/PFDAAAnnual>

If you have any questions about the online payment option, please send an email to Dan Smela @ [dansmela@gmail.com](mailto:dansmela@gmail.com)





## GROUP CONTACT & EMAIL ADDRESS

To keep our membership contact list current, please send us any changes your group may have had within the last 3 months to a year, regarding your Board of Directors or adding an additional contact person. Please send their name(s), home address(es), phone number(s) and email address(es) to [PFDAAContact@gmail.com](mailto:PFDAAContact@gmail.com).



## 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: [donnaskurski@gmail.com](mailto:donnaskurski@gmail.com) and it will be published in our next newsletter. Newsletters are published every 4 months - March, June, Sept, and December. Please email your event information by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month of publication.

*Edziu Rajtar*  
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*Duane Tomka*  
*Vice-President*

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