



Hello Fellow Directors and Dancers!

As I am writing this piece for the newsletter, we seem to be winding down from the Covid pandemic, but also hearing of another lockdown in China because of an outbreak again. Many of you have written and messaged various members of the PFDA board indicating that your ensembles are having a difficult time in re-grouping and getting back to performing. Without the pandemic, it was tough for some groups to recruit new members, but Covid exacerbated the situation. The board hopes that in time, most dance groups will be able to rebuild and function as they did pre-Covid or even better.

The other unsettling event is the Russian incursion into Ukraine. It is heart wrenching to see the destruction of cities, the mass exodus of people and the death of many brave people. I am glad Poland has stepped up to help, knowing from its own history, what invasion is.

Many of you have also stepped up to show your support by postings on the internet, participating in rallies and marches, as well as performing in concerts to raise financial support for the people of Ukraine. The effort is worldwide and we need to continue the support until this is over. I think I echo all our hopes that this ends soon and in a positive way.

Maciej Smusz, our web master has uploaded on our member website resources for Lemko and some Rzeszow. If you haven't checked out the resources section in a while, you may find some interesting material that could be useful for your ensembles. Also, if you would like your group photo updated, send Maciej a new one, and he'll be glad to change it for you. Many of you get information about groups, musicians and even instructors coming to the United States or Canada. Please share them with us so we can share with the membership via FB or email

Polish Fest in Milwaukee is scheduled for the weekend of June 10-12, 2022. Once again, the performing groups that are PFDA members will participate in a gala concert on Saturday, June 11, 2022.

PFDAА elections will be held in the fall, date yet to be determined. We are trying to coordinate the annual meeting with a longer weekend workshop. As soon as we know dates, we will notify the membership. Please consider running for a position on the board. The PFDAА board is always looking for new and fresh ideas and

Congrats to the groups celebrating anniversaries this year! Wishing you continued success!

As always, please feel to contact me or other board members at pfdaacontact@gmail.com with ideas, suggestions, questions or concerns.

Ed Rajtar – PFDAА president

Życzymy Was

*Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych,
smacznego jajką, szalonego
i wyjątkowo mokrego Śmigusa Dyngusa
oraz samych słonecznych i cudownych dni!*

The Board of the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas



2022 MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

These member groups will be celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2022. Further information regarding their anniversary concerts will be published in our next newsletter. Congratulations to you all!



Echoes of Poland Song & Dance
Ensemble 55 Years



KRAKOWIAK
Polish Dancers of Boston

85 Years



Polish Folk Dance Ensemble Iskry
55 years



Polish Heritage Dancers
25 years



Tatry Song & Dance Ensemble
50 years



45 years

5 GORAL DANCERS

An exciting exhibition will be coming to the **Irma Freeman Center for the Imagination**, 5006 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh on April 1, 2022. The exhibition, *The Magical World of Roman Golla*, is a survey of 18 paintings and 12 drawings by Roman Golla, a Polish Immigrant to America and nationally ranked chess master.

Born in 1917 in the Goral highlands in or near Zakopane, Roman was swept up in a Nazi round-up during World War II and spent years in a Nazi slave labor camp in Alsace, France. Several years after liberation, Roman immigrated to Chicago, found work as a securities currier, and played chess in the local clubs. In 1964, unmarried but happy in Chicago, Roman decided that he was an artist and began painting memories of Poland, Polish myths, and dreams of America. Though one gallery exhibition occurred in Chicago in 1978, Roman rarely exhibited afterward. He passed away in 2001, alone and without any evident close relations. In 2014, a cache of his paintings appeared on Craigslist, having been sold by a distant relative to an aspiring Art Dealer in the year after his death.

Robert Nowalk acquired the paintings, and, with the aid of a box of personal effects, began researching Roman, his history and his works. He presented a large exhibition of Roman's paintings at the Culver Academies in 2018. This will be the second time works have been shown since, and will include *Five Goral Dancers*, a painting Roman created to celebrate his homeland.



Five Goral Dancers, Circa 1980
Roman W. Golla
Oil on Canvas, 24" x 36," 60.9 cm x 91.4cm
NS2014.054

Robert will be in Pittsburgh for the opening on the evening of April 1st and will give a gallery talk at 1:00pm on April 2nd. I would welcome your attendance. The exhibition will conclude on May 6th as a First Friday gallery offering.

NEWS FROM KARPATY – UTAH



Karpaty's youth group recently recorded a segment for RootsTech, the world's largest family-history technology conference. We performed a short excerpt of our Podlasie dances for an online audience and also recorded an additional video explaining the parts of the dance and why Polish culture matters to us.

The video can be found at: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/origins-of-our-polish-dance>



NEWS FROM – LAJKONIK



2022 has been an incredible year so far for Lajkonik Chicago! After much anticipation, we were finally able to celebrate our 30th anniversary with a Gala. With performances from each group, ranging from Lasowiak and Lublin, to a beautiful waltz to commence dancing portion of the evening, the Lajkonik dancers, alumni, parents and supporters were finally able to celebrate 30 years

of the Ensemble's history.

As one of the highlights of the night, we were also able to showcase our new Spisz suite, with new costumes music... and a choreographical debut of our very own alumn, Arletta Gromek.



Thank you to the PFDA for presenting us with a 30th Anniversary certificate! We were honored to have you be a part of our night.



NEWS FROM POLISH AMERICAN FOLK DANCE COMPANY (PAFDC) - NY



On February 12, 2022, the Polish American Folk Dance Company performed at the International Polonaise Ball in Miami, Florida hosted by Lady Blanka Rosenstiel. Each year, the ball celebrates friendship between Poland and another country; this year we celebrated a very special occasion- the 50th anniversary of the ball.



NEWS FROM SYRENA – MILWAUKEE, WI

Syrena and Syrenka Polish Children's Folk Dance Ensemble were thrilled to be participating in Lisa Kaye Catering's Fat Tuesday event.

Syrena and Syrenka dancers made a traditional Polish dill pickle soup, which will be available to purchase on March 1st. Proceeds from the soup sales will go back to our ensembles.



**MARCH 1ST**
11am-3pm

INDULGE
in the FLAVORS of the BAYOU
FATtuesday
944 N. 33rd St., Gate 1

Chefs Stations!

Cajun Red Fish & Shrimp Etouffee
Sweet Pepper Creole Sauce, Dirty Rice
Chef Joe Roberson

Fried Catfish, Gumbo
Red Beans & Rice
Cornbread
Chef Whitney Alexandria with Chef Ro

Shrimp N Grits, Peach Cobbler
Bread Pudding with Bourbon Caramel Sauce
Chef Lisa McKay

Signature Cajun Pasta with Shrimp & Sausage
WI Eats

Dill Pickle Soup
Gosia Wormsbacher

Vegan Po Boy
Hand Cut Fries
Chef Sista Solful

Come support local MKE Chefs
DINE-IN or CARRY OUT
Delivery Available...Call 414 751-8784



Syrena will be hosting their annual Świącone event on **SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022 AT 3 PM to 7 PM EDT** at Blessed Sacrament School.

For more information and tickets please email them directly at www.syrenadancers.com



NEWS FROM WESOLY LUD – CHICAGO, IL

80 YEARS OF POLISH DANCING ON ONE STAGE



WESOLY
LUD 45
SOUTHWEST
CENTER 35
OF POLISH SONG
& DANCE

JUBILEE CONCERT

CELEBRATE WITH US!

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022

MOTHER MCAULEY THEATER, 3737 W. 99TH ST., CHICAGO, IL

DOORS OPEN AT 1:30 PM • PERFORMANCE AT 2:00 PM

FOR TICKETS PLEASE CALL:

ANIA KRASZEWSKI-WINKLER (773) 972-0012



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.

PFDAA UPCOMING ELECTIONS

In the Fall, the term of the current Board of Directors will come to an end. Please consider running for one of the following positions; President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sargeant of Arms. To be eligible to run for any of these positions, your group must be in good standing and you are listed on the PFDAA Roster as 1st contact, or alternate contact. The Board of Directors serve a three (3) year term.



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.



PFDAA WEBSITE



Please don't forget to visit our pfdaa.org website for access to our library of videos, and music from past workshops and the costume Market Place. The website also includes book and costume resources. *Also, our most current Workshop videos from Warmia and Wielkopolska (2021), will be available on the website in the very near future.*

2022 FALL WORKSHOP REGION QUESTIONNAIRE

We would like to hear from you. In the Fall PFDAA is planning a Workshop, the link is to help us determine the region(s) most of the groups are interested in. Please copy and paste this is a link to submit your request. <https://forms.gle/Rpomis9mkjeGid9V8>

FESTIVALS IN YOUR AREA

We would like to create a Polish Festival Database to post on our website. Please use this link to submit your Festival(s). <https://forms.gle/trdbKtvNTMjCwiuMA>



ANNUAL PFDAA DUES

Your PFDAA Annual Membership for 2022 is now due. 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, (there is an additional charge of \$2.00), please use the following link and indicate on your 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 to 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 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 15th of the previous month of publication.

PFDAA BOD

Edziu Rajtar
President

Duane Tomka
Vice-President

Maciej Smusz
Secretary

Daniel Smela
Treasurer

Donna Skurski
Sargaent-at-Arms

