



Hello Members,

It has been my pleasure to have served as your president the past six years. My job was made easier with the help of the PFDAA Board & committee members who served with me. Thanks to Maciej Smusz for continually working on the website and other technical issues for the PFDAA. Daniel Smela for working on the grants, Donna Skurski for putting out the newsletter, Duane Tomka for reaching out and trying to recruit new groups and organizing the gala at Milwaukee Polish Fest. Also to the other volunteer committee members, Jessica Urban, Marcin Niemiec, Andrzej Wisniewski, Eric Pierce for their work and suggestions on a myriad of topics related to the association.

Thanks to all the members that voted and joined the general meeting on October 16, 2022. I appreciate your involvement in the Association.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers that will begin their 3 year term on January 1, 2023:

Maciej Smusz - President, Mazury – Atlanta, GA  
Dan Smela - Vice President, Polonia -Regina, SK  
Matthew Schmidt - Treasurer Lajkonik,- Tucson AZ  
Yessica Krozel - Secretary Wawel - Houston, Texas  
Jakub Gubala – Sgt at Arms, Sokol, -Winnipeg, MB

2023 will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association and hopefully we will celebrate the milestone with various events. Possible cruise workshop in the Caribbean, a pre- Rzeszow Festival concert tour in Poland, maybe regional concerts. If you have any other suggestions or ideas, please feel free email your suggestion to: [pfdaacontact@gmail.com](mailto:pfdaacontact@gmail.com)

Please check out the 2 workshops that the Association is hosting. Please try to send members to attend these great workshops if you are able to.

Again, it has been my pleasure to have served as your president for the past 6 years. Keep dancing, keep sharing ideas and please continue to support your Association!

Edward Rajtar



Dear Fellow PFDAAMembers and Friends,

It is with great honor to write to you as the newly elected president of the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas. Our organization, celebrating its 40 year anniversary next year, is one of friendship and camaraderie through our mutual love of Polish folk dance. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who came together and entrusted me with this responsibility, especially our past president Edward Rajtar, who has devoted his life to the organization for the past six years.

I would also like to thank our outgoing members Duane Tomka and Donna Skurski, who have selflessly donated their time and contributed greatly to our organization. On that note, I would also like to welcome our new board members, Matthew Schmit - Treasurer, Yessica Krozel - Secretary, and Jakub Gubała- Sgt. at Arms. I would also like to welcome returning member Daniel Smela as Vice President. I'm looking forward to many years of fruitful collaboration and continued support of our outgoing board.

As we all know, the past three years have not been particularly easy. Having to navigate through COVID and constant changes in state and federal protocols created massive challenges for our member groups in terms of member engagement, financial standings, and dance instruction. Faced with different approaches and solutions to these challenges, the PFDAAM organized two COVID panels with member groups, coming together and finding creative ways to overcome. Despite the regulations, we managed to host the Bambrzy Poznańskie/Dąbrówka Wielkopolska/Biskupizna workshop in Milwaukee and Warmia workshop in Winnipeg in 2020, and another two coming up in Atlanta and Windsor this year. We also received funding for two more workshops to be held next year. In addition to Rzeszów 2023 and the PFDAAM's 40th anniversary, it's shaping up to be a very busy year!

We must also bear in mind our current political climate. Tensions in Eastern Europe are at an all time high. Russian invasion and occupation of Ukraine have really brought the spotlight on our two countries and it is up to our groups to show solidarity with Ukraine. Poland and Ukraine have unique historical ties, the villages and cities were never 100% this or that ethnicity, but rather a unique blend, one resulting in Krakowiaks being danced as far east as Kyiv and Kozaki being danced in Eastern Poland. On a personal note, I danced in a Ukrainian group for quite a while in my youth. I learned some of the language and nowadays also teach Ukrainian dance at the Ukrainian School of Atlanta. The Ukrainian community has banded together and despite the war find comfort in knowing that their culture will live on in the hearts and souls of the people.

I look forward to serving as your president for the next three years. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or comments, feel free to drop us a line or email us at [pfdaacontact@gmail.com](mailto:pfdaacontact@gmail.com).

Best wishes,  
Maciej Smusz

# MEET THE NEW PFDAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## **PRESIDENT**

**Maciej Smusz**

Mazury – Atlanta, GA  
Karpanty – Salt Lake City Utah



## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Daniel Smela**

Polonia – Regina  
Saskatchewan, CA



## **TREASURER**

**Matthew Schmidt**

Lajkonik  
Tuscon, AZ



## **SECRETARY**

**Yessica Krozel**

Wawel  
Houston, TX



## **SERGEANT AT ARMS**

**Jakub Gubala**

Sokol  
Winnipeg, Manitoba



# UPCOMING PFDAА WORKSHOPS

The PFDAА received notice that we have been granted funds to host a choreographer and 2 workshops by the end of 2022. Below is the information regarding both workshops being held.

**USA– Location- November 11 - 13, 2022**



## Bilgoraj and Chelm Workshop

The PFDAА would like to invite you to the bilgoraj and Chelm workshop, held from November 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> in Atlanta, Georgia

**Choreographer:** Anna Iskra  
**Date:** November 11, 12, 13, 2022  
**Location:** Atlanta, Georgia  
**Organizer:** PFDAА / Mazury Polish Folk Dance Ensemble

### **WORKSHOP SCHEDULE** *(Subject to Change):*

#### **Friday, November 11, 2022**

5:00 – 9:00 pm

North Atlanta Dance Academy

10700 State Bridge Rod. #13, Alpharetta, GA 30022

#### **Saturday, November 12, 2022**

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Volga Dance Academy,

3855 Presidential Pkwy., Atlanta, GA 30340

#### **Sunday, November, 13, 2022**

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Volga Dance Academy

3855 Presidential Pkwy., Atlanta, GA 30340

# Bilgoraj and Chelm Workshop - *continued*

## **OPTIONAL EVENTS:**

**Saturday, November 12, 2022**

7:30 pm Dinner: Dancers' Social

*Likely outing to Brave Wojtek, Polish Restaurant*

**Sunday, November, 13, 2022**

**2:00 pm – Polish Mass , St. Marguerita D'Yourville Catholic Church**

85, Gloster Rd NW, Lawrenceville, GA 30044

**Sunday, November 13, 2022**

After Workshop – Tour of Atlanta

**PFDA Member Registration Fee - \$70 USD / \$95 CAD**

**Non-Member Registration Fee - \$90 USD / \$120 CAD**

## **Registration Link:**

[docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdonb9b84nyFi-hLduu585ZcppQZmsfFg8169\\_VM3NGikHHFA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdonb9b84nyFi-hLduu585ZcppQZmsfFg8169_VM3NGikHHFA/viewform)

## **Registration Fee includes the following:**

- Workshop led by a specialized choreographer from Poland: Pani Anna Iskra
- Lunch on Saturday
- Light breakfast on Sunday
- Social on Saturday Evening
- Workshop Shirt

## **Additional Costs (Responsibility of Participant)**

Accommodations: Sonesta Select Atlanta Norcross

6235 McDonough Dr.

Norcross, GA 30093

ReservationDesk.com / 833-456-0821

**\*\* Meals outside the workshop hours will be the responsibility of the participant**

**Registration ends NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>! Don't delay!**



## **Łuku Karpat (Spisz) Workshop**



The Tatrzy Song & Dance Ensemble of Windsor Canada is hosting the Canadian location PFDAAsponsored workshop featuring dances from Łuku Karpat (Spisz) with Pani Maria Wnek from Poland. Participation in the workshop will be limited to 1-2 couples per member group initially, to accommodate representation from all member groups of the PFDAAs. Those groups wanting to send more than 1-2 couples will be added to a waitlist until we can confirm participant numbers.

**Please register using the link below before November 1st, so that we can accommodate those groups wanting to send more than 1 or 2 couples.**

### **Registration Link:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScettFha0IAgwf\\_dLzw4Kh0oOo3tppZHXNb3g2cKBwGOrM\\_6A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScettFha0IAgwf_dLzw4Kh0oOo3tppZHXNb3g2cKBwGOrM_6A/viewform)

### **Registration Fee:**

PFDAAs Member Groups \$100 CDN/ \$70 USD / Non-Members \$125 CDN / \$100 USD.

In addition to the workshops, the host group Tatrzy has planned a number of social events so that participants can also relax and visit old friends and make new friends.

Below is the tentative schedule for the weekend.

### **WORKSHOP SCHEDULE (Subject To Change):**

#### **Friday – November 25, 2022**

- 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 P.M. - WORKSHOP
- 9:30 p.m. - Meet & Greet (pizza party)

#### **Saturday – November 26, 2022**

- arrive at 7:15 a.m. - Breakfast On- Site
- 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. - **WORKSHOP** - (1 hour break for lunch on-site)
- 7:00 p.m. - Social & Supper

# Łuku Karpat (Spisz) Workshop - *continued*

## Sunday – November 27, 2022

- 8:15 a.m. - Breakfast On- Site
- 9:00 a.m. - English Mass at Holy Trinity Church (optional)
- 9:00-1:00 p.m. - WORKSHOP
- 1:00 p.m. - Lunch and Departure of Groups

## Accommodations:

For accommodations, during the workshop, the host group secured a special rate at the:  
Best Western Plus Waterfront Hotel  
277 Riverside Dr W, Windsor, ON N9A 5K4  
Phone: (519) 973-5555 / Reservations 1(877)973 7829.

To take advantage of this special rate please use the **CODE " TATRY "** when making your reservation. Hotel units will be reserved **until November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**  
Rate: \$139.00 plus taxes per night in CAD (per room per double occupancy).

If any groups have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the host group directly or the PFDA: Host Group Coordinator: Tatry Song & Dance Ensemble - Windsor - [mrkulesza@hotmail.com](mailto:mrkulesza@hotmail.com) / PFDA Contact: [pfdacontact@gmail.com](mailto:pfdacontact@gmail.com)



## 2023 RZESZOW FESTIVAL INFORMATION



The Festival is being held from July 13 – 19. For more information regarding the Festival, please use the link below.

[Program and organizational assumptions – Rzeszów Branch of the POLISH COMMUNITY Association. Accommodation Rzeszów, accommodation in the center, conference rooms in Rzeszów. Welcome! \(\[wspolnota-polska.rzeszow.pl\]\(http://wspolnota-polska.rzeszow.pl\)\)](#)

# NEWS FROM – ISKRY WINNIPEG, CA



SPK Iskry traveled to North Vancouver this past Labour Day long weekend to attend the North Shore Polish Association Belweder's Polish Festival at Shipbuilder's Square!





# NEWS FROM – LAJKONIK – TUCSON



We had the privilege of performing at the Yorba Linda, California Dożynki Harvest Festival on September 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>!

Dancing alongside fellow dance groups, Piast from Las Vegas, & Krakusy from Los Angeles, was a blast! We had so much fun dancing our newest suite that features both

Łowicz & Opoczno .



**TUCSON** meet  
**YOURSELF**

*a folklife festival*

**October 7-9**  
Downtown Tucson, AZ

Upcoming event – October 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>  
**TUCSON MEET YOURSELF**

Performing on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>  
on the Alameda stage at 2:30 pm.



## NEWS FROM – POLISH AMERICAN FOLK DANCE COMPANY - NY



This past Saturday, PAFDC was delighted to perform at the 85th annual Pulaski Day Parade Gala Banquet at the Marriott Marquis Hotel!

*85th Annual Pulaski Parade Banquet*



**Polish American Folk Dance Company is at Frost School of Music at the University of Miami.**

It was a pleasure to lead workshops on the national dances of Poland at the Frost Chopin Academy and Festival in Miami!

Polish folk music and dances influenced much of Fryderyk Chopin's compositional output. In the workshop, participants observed and learned steps to dances that inspired Chopin when he spent his summers at the Dziewanowski manor in Szafarnia..





# NEWS FROM PKM – POLISH FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE OF PHILADELPHIA, PA

2022 has been a very busy year for PKM, and is still not over yet. In this record performance requested year, some of the recent highlights included performances at the 56th Annual Polish American Family Festival & Country Fair at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA, and the Ukrainian Food & Culture Fall Festival in Jenkintown, PA. Both were located in Philadelphia suburbs.



# NEWS FROM SOKOŁ – WINNIPEG, CA

On July 31st, the Sokół Polish Dance Ensemble was invited to perform at the Ukraine-Kyiv Folklorama Pavilion, as a show of solidarity between the countries of Poland and Ukraine. The Ensemble performed the dances Trojak and Biłgoraj with much heart and enthusiasm, and were honoured to share the stage with many talented artists. It was especially exciting for the dancers to be the first Polish dance group in Manitoba to perform Biłgoraj.



The Ensemble had the joy of being invited back the next night to perform for Her Excellency, Magdalena Pszczółkowska, Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto. Her Excellency was particularly touched by the dance Trojak, as the dance originated from her home region in Poland.





# NEWS FROM SOKOŁ – WINNIPEG, CA

*continued*

## COOKS CREEK HERITAGE DAY

August 28, 2022

### Sokol Polish Dance Ensemble is at Cooks Creek Heritage Museum - CCHM

On August 28th, the Sokół Polish Dance Ensemble had great fun performing at the Cooks Creek Heritage

Museum's 50th Annual Heritage Day celebration. This year, the Ensemble was joined by the students of the Sokół Polish School of Dance. The groups spent the day entertaining the crowd and showcasing the

talents of multiple generations of Sokół Polish dancers.

Heritage Day was also a great opportunity for the

Ensemble to sell crafts and merchandise made by members of the group for those present to enjoy,

spreading the spirit of Sokół beyond the Heritage Day celebration!





# NEWS FROM WAWEL – HOUSTON, TX

The Polish community in Houston hosted the annual Polish Harvest Festival, also known as Dozynki, from September 9<sup>th</sup> to September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church. The Houston Polish Harvest Festival is celebrated every year during the month of September, in honor Poland's national harvest season.

The Festival features authentic homecooked

Polish

food, music, dance, and vendors. The Polish Festival is an unforgettable celebration, an event packed with color, music, flavors, and excitement. Year after year, visitors from all over join us - and our community keeps growing. Our very own Dance Group Wawel, Mini Wawel, and Babcia Wawel engaged the crowd all weekend long.





# NEWS FROM WAWEL – HOUSTON, TX

*continued*





# MR. STANLEY “SKIPPY” PELC



In 1969, Ms. Wesołowska-Popławska turned over direction of the Polish American Folk Dance Company to her most promising dancers, Stanley Pelc and Ursula Bestecka, and soon after the group moved from Manhattan to Greenpoint, Brooklyn. This began a period of tremendous growth, during which the company was transformed into an accomplished performance ensemble. Mr. Pelc and Ms. Bestecka focused particularly on the authenticity of the dances and costumes, and to that end did extensive research here and abroad. They also served as the company's choreographers.

Mr. Pelc studied Polish folk dance and choreography in Warsaw, and his goal was to expand the group's repertoire and reputation. He taught Polish folk dance to children across New York and New Jersey, with the hope that they could then be recruited into PAFDC. He also became the general manager of the company- Stanley Pelc has been honored by the Polish government for propagating Polish folk culture in the United States and sharing his knowledge to the company and others, thus keeping its beauty alive outside Poland. For his hard work, Mr. Pelc was presented with his own Oskar Kolberg Award in 1980. A year later, he



**PAFDC with Lech Wałęsa**

received the Order of the Merit of Culture from the Polish government. PAFDC would not be the group it is today without the hard work and vision of Mr. Pelc, and for his passion and involvement the group is forever grateful. Years later, in 2003, the company received their own Order of the Merit of Culture, for preserving Polish culture in the United States, a mark of Mr. Pelc's lasting influence upon the group.

Stanley was elected as the 1<sup>st</sup> President of PFDA and re-elected to serve again as President in 1991. He was a mentor and a great friend to many and will be truly missed by all.





*Memories of Stanley "Skippy" shared by Misia Jaminska,, Wesoly Lud*



2002



Stanley with His mom and sisters



Maria Jaminska with  
Carol and Stanley in  
New York



1990 Long Island  
PFDA Festival



1983 Rzeszów



2003 New York - PFDA



A visit to New York

# **PFDAA WEBMASTER ASSISTANCE**

We are looking for additional help with the tech side of our organization. Our webmaster is looking for someone in a member group that has experience with the following tech stack.

Qualifications:

- VueJS
- Javascript
- Firebase (Firestore, Auth, Storage)
- SCSS

If you or someone in your organization is interested in a bit of volunteer work for our organization, please let us know, [PFDAAContact@gmail.com](mailto:PFDAAContact@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).

## **PFDAA WEBSITE**

Please don't forget to visit our [pfdaa.org](http://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.*

## **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 Matthew Schmidt  
5708 E 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Tucson, AZ 85711**

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 Matthew Schmidt 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.

---

### **PFDAA BOD**

*Edziu Rajtar*  
*President*

*Duane Tomka*  
*Vice-President*

*Maciej Smusz*  
*Secretary*

*Daniel Smela*  
*Treasurer*

*Donna Skurski*  
*Sargaent-at-Arms*

