

Dearest Friends,

It has been a while since we have contacted you and today I am writing to thank you for being with us during the past years.

The Polish American Congress, Northern California Division, **celebrates its 70 years** anniversary. We remain as active and busy as ever! Everything that kept us occupied since March last year is going to be presented at the Annual Meeting in March this year.

It is my sincere belief that there exists a “silent majority” of Polish Americans who are deeply concerned about a number of issues but may feel that they **have no forum to voice** their **opinions**. Many of them believe that as an entity they are not accorded the same public respect as other ethnic groups. They privately voice privately their frustrations about the failures of the community to exercise adequate political and social influence matching with its size, education, and economic status. How this can be addressed?

At the PAC we take ourselves and our ancestry seriously and have been trying to better enlighten others about our heritage and the wartime conditions which the people of Poland had forcibly endured. Public disclosures and public discussions, as well as adequate prominence accorded to our traditional celebrations like the May 3rd Constitution Day, November 11 Independence Day, in August anniversaries of the Battle of Warsaw, the Warsaw Uprising, founding Solidarity, etc. serve our aim.

However, we need to find additional new ways to reach our goals.

As the PAC, we are supposed to be the premier social and political force of the Polonia, but we cannot achieve these goals without you. Right now it is again time to stand up for concerns and the common good of Polonia, but for that we first have **to clearly identify our goals** for the changing times and changing aspirations of Polish Americans.

Your involvement and participation, starting with **open debates and discussions** we shall have at the forthcoming Annual Meeting in March, is of paramount importance. There is plenty of room and opportunity for everyone willing to share their talents and energy to move forward with our goals. **Acting together**, we will become **a powerful voice** that elected officials, other players, and mass media **cannot ignore**.

It takes commitment, strong civic spirit and generosity to be a Polish American Congress member. **Your support** and financial contributions in the way of annual membership dues have been **extremely important** in helping us maintain our activities. Your **ongoing support** as part of **sustainable membership is incredibly critical**, so **I strongly urge you** to act now and **renew your membership for 2014**.

We are as strong as we are Many!

W jedności siła!

Yours sincerely,

Andrzej Prokopczuk, President