



Dear PAC Members and Friends,

As the date of December 25 approaches, we are witnessing various celebrations. This year, 2011, is a bit different than others. This year we will have two days off work, December 25 and December 26. In a way, this will bring us closer to our Old Country, because people in Poland have each year 2 days off work for the Christmas jubilation.

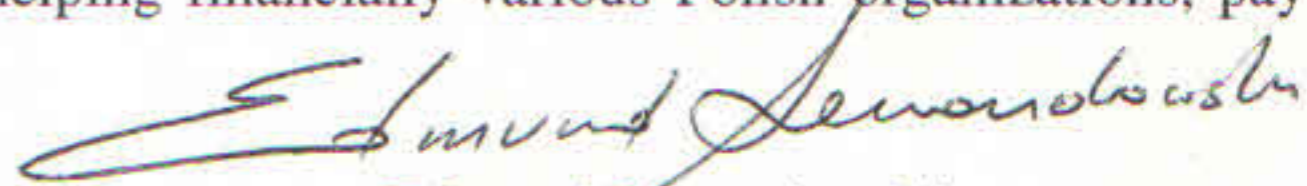
As we all enjoy the days off work due to Christmas, let's remember and respect persons celebrating other Holidays: Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Ramadan and the non religious. I wish all of you good health, prosperity and happiness.

The Polish American Congress is a volunteer organization pursuing causes that have to do with people of Polish descent and/or matters connected with Poland. As such, the PAC Northern California Division took part in many projects: visa waiver for Poles, Polish passport local application days, May 3 Constitution Day celebrations at the City Hall and the Golden Gate Park concert, 3 Polish Festivals (Martinez, San Francisco, San Jose), PAC National Raffle, organizing the local polling place in Polish election, Polish Independence Day, and other celebrations with various Polish American organizations. Please visit www.PACNorCal.org for more information.

The most time consuming project was the Polish Festival at the Golden Gate Park. In April we formed the Polish Festival Organizing Committee with Andrzej Szafranski as a Chairman. I would like to extend special thanks to Mr. Szafranski for his hard work in bringing this event to a big success. I extend thanks to all PAC Board Members for their respective involvement and in particular to spouses Elzbieta Kobierski and Thelma Szafranski, for their extraordinary effort. There were many volunteers helping, I do not know all the names, because many came spontaneously asked to help by others, so I would like to thank each and every one of them for all the help they extended in organizing of the Polish Festival. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to POLAM Credit Union for their generous donation; Lowiczanie, Polish Schools in Walnut Creek and Union City, PolMuz for great entertainment; Bona Restaurant for serving delicious food.

I resumed the Presidency of the Northern California Division practically in April 2011. Over the last few years the membership has diminished dramatically, to the point that the former Board of Directors voiced serious concerns that this Division might cease to exist. I would like to assure you that I will do everything in my ability to reach out to the community in bringing the message of the original idea of PAC being a unifying organization for the Polish American community. I thank you, all current members for holding on, and I am asking former members and friends to come on board so we can extend common effort to work for the Polish American community. Most people do not volunteer due to various reasons. Please support the cause. The least you can do is to become a member, which will fund in part expenses we have in day-to-day operations, printing, postage, helping financially various Polish organizations, pay dues to National PAC, etc. Thank you!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Edmund Lewandowski
President
Polish American Congress,
Northern California Division

