

## Zarządy Centralne Unji Polskiej w S. Z. P. A.

Wybrane Na Poszczególnych Sejmach—  
Począwszy od Sejmu VI-go w Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Poniżej podajemy osobno listę Zarządów Głównych i Centralnych, jakie były wybierane na poszczególnych Sejmach Unji Polskiej, która da dokładny sumaryczny przegląd, jacy urzędnicy byli wybierani na każdym Sejmie do Zarządu, a przedewszystkiem—którzy z nich byli powoływani wolą posłów sejmowych po kilkakroć do spełniania swych urzędów i w ten sposób zapisali się trwale w historii Organizacji.

### ZARZĄD GŁÓWNY UNJI POLSKIEJ W AMERYCE

Wybrany Na Sejmie VI-tym we Wrześniu, 1904  
w Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Prezes—Franciszek S. Jarmuż  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Pensylwanję—  
Franciszek Malyndziak  
Wice-Prezes na Stan New Jersey—  
Franciszek Węgliński  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Minnesota—Antoni Kubiak  
Sekretarz Generalny—Max J. Gebler  
Wice-Sekretarz—Józef Antczak  
Kasjer—Walenty Uliński  
Przewodniczący Zarządu Administracji—  
Antoni Wiśniewski  
Lekarz Naczelny—Dr. Franciszek N. Pitas  
Kapelan—Ks. Prałat Dominik Majer  
RADNI:  
Roch Lewański Franciszek Nagórski  
Ks. Kasprzak  
REWIZORZY:  
Antoni Bogacki Piotr Koprucki Karol Urban

**ZARZĄD GŁÓWNY  
UNJI POLSKIEJ W AMERYCE**  
Wybrany Na Sejmie VII-mym we Wrześniu, 1906  
w Buffalo, N. Y.

Prezes—Franciszek Węgliński  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Pensylwanję—  
B. W. Laskowski  
Wice-Prezes na Stan New York—  
Franciszek Wojciechowski  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Illinois—Fran. Kamiński  
Kapelan—Ks. Aug. Babiński  
Sekretarz Generalny—Jakób Dembiec  
Wice-Sekretarz—Jan Zdrajkowski  
Kasjer—Franciszek Malyndziak  
Przewodniczący Zarządu Administracji—  
Józef Stryjak  
Lekarz Naczelny—Dr. Franciszek N. Pitas  
RADNI:  
Ks. S. E. Szpotański Jan Kielar  
Paweł Kwolik  
REWIZORZY:  
Wincenty Kandarczyk Julian Gryczyński  
Andrzej Jesikiewicz

### ZARZĄD GŁÓWNY UNJI POLSKIEJ W AMERYCE

Wybrany Na Sejmie VIII-mym we Wrześniu, 1908  
w Chicago, Ill.

Prezes—Franciszek Węgliński  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Pensylwanję—  
B. W. Laskowski  
Wice-Prezes na Stan New York—Max J. Gebler  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Michigan—Tomasz Kuraś  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Illinois—Fran. Kamiński  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Wisconsin—Piotr Skroch  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Minnesota—A. Kruszewski  
Sekretarz Generalny—Jakób Dembiec  
Wice-Sekretarz—J. Goryca  
Kasjer—Piotr Koprucki  
Przewodniczący Zarządu Administracji—  
Antoni Wiśniewski  
Lekarz Naczelny—Dr. Franciszek N. Pitas  
Kapelan—Ks. Jakób Pacholski  
RADNI:  
Ks. Latocha Ks. Górczyński F. Langa  
REWIZORZY:  
A. Kowalewski T. Kajtanowski J. Knaszak

**ZARZĄD GŁÓWNY  
UNJI POLSKIEJ W AMERYCE**  
Wybrany Na Sejmie IX-tym we Wrześniu, 1910  
w Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Prezes—Franciszek Węgliński,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Pensylwanję—  
B. W. Laskowski,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan New York—  
Wincenty Grochowski,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan New Jersey—  
Józef Zieliński,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan New Hampshire—  
Ks. W. Szorc,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Michigan—Tomasz Kuraś,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Ohio—Jan Szymański,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Minnesota—  
August Okoniewski,  
Sekretarz Generalny—Jakób Dembiec,  
Wice-Sekretarz—Jan Zdrajkowski,  
Kasjer—Franciszek Malyndziak,  
Przewodniczący Zarządu Administracji—  
Józef Stryjak,  
Lekarz Naczelny—Dr. F. J. Krajewski,  
Doradca Prawny—Adw. T. Butkiewicz,  
Kapelan—Ks. Jakób Pacholski,  
RADCY:  
Ks. S. E. Szpotański Jan Kielar  
Franciszek Górski  
REWIZORZY:  
Wojciech Knoll Antoni Olszewski  
Paweł Kwolik  
KONTROLA NADZORCZA:  
Ks. S. C. Bubacz Franciszek Podkul  
B. Wilpiszewski



### Z Uroczystości Poświęcenia i Formalnego Otwarcia Domu Unijnego

Scena zdjęta podczas przemawiania J. E. Ks. Biskupa W. J. Hafey'a. W pierwszym rzędzie siedzą od lewej ku prawej: Ks. Radca F. X. Dominiak, Ks. Prałat S. E. Szpotński, J. E. Ks. Biskup Stefan S. Woźnicki, Ks. Prałat A. Zychowicz, Mayor Charles N. Loveland; za nim—Ks. Jan J. Podkul i Ks. P. Niebrzydowski; gubernator G. H. Earle i attache Konsulatu J. Pogorzelski. Za nimi i za Biskupem stoją: Jan Malinowski, Cenzor A. J. Gall, Pocztnistrz Jas. Law, Dr. E. Kielar, Rzecznik Z. Grabowski i Gen. Sekretarz S. W. Warakowski.

### ZARZĄD GŁÓWNY UNJI POLSKIEJ W AMERYCE

Wybrany Na Sejmie X-tym we Wrześniu, 1912  
w Milwaukee, Wis.

Prezes—Jan Tenerowicz,  
Wice-Prezes—Franciszek Węgliński,  
Przewodniczący Zarządu Administracji—  
Józef Stryjak,  
Sekretarz Generalny—Jakób Dembiec,  
Kasjer—Franciszek Malyndziak,  
Lekarz Naczelny—Dr. F. J. Krajewski,  
Doradca Prawny—Adw. T. Butkiewicz,  
Kapelan—Ks. Jakób Pacholski,

RADCY:

Ks. R. Aust Jan Kielar Łubiński

REWIZORZY:

Kloczko Białuszewski M. Feret  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Pensylwanję—

A. Długolecki,

Wice-Prezes na Stan New Jersey—Zieliński,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Michigan—Tomasz Kuraś,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Ohio—Szymański,  
Wice-Prezesi na Stan Illinois—  
F. Kamiński i Bojarska,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Wisconsin—Karol Kalawa,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Minnesotę—A. Kruszewski.

### ZARZĄD GŁÓWNY UNJI POLSKIEJ W AMERYCE

Wybrany Na Sejmie XI-tym we Wrześniu, 1914  
w Trenton, N. J.

Cenzor—Dr. R. G. Tenerowicz,  
Wice-Cenzorka—Józefina Białas,  
Wice-Cenzor—J. Zieliński,  
Kapelan—Ks. Jakób Pacholski,  
Wice-Kapelan—Ks. J. Guzdek,  
Przewodniczący Zarządu Administracji—  
Józef Stryjak,

Sekretarz Generalny—Jakób Dembiec  
Wice-Sekretarz—B. W. Laskowski,  
Kasjer—Franciszek Malyndziak,  
Lekarz Naczelny—Dr. J. J. Kocyan,  
Doradca Prawny—Adw. T. Butkiewicz,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Pensylwanję—  
Adw. Paweł Schmidt,

Wice-Prezes na Stan New Jersey—M. Błażejowski

Wice-Prezes na Stan Michigan—

Franciszek Jasiński,

Wice-Prezes na Stan New York—

Teodor Wachowicz,

Wice-Prezes na Stan Ohio—Jan Szymański,

Wice-Prezes na Stan Illinois—

Franciszek Kamiński,

Wice-Prezes na Stan Minnesotę—

Andrzej Kruszewski,

RADCY:

Ks. J. E. Gryczka Jan Kielar F. Wiśniewski

REWIZORZY:

F. Madajewski A. Jesikiewicz Michał Feret

### ZARZĄD GŁÓWNY UNJI POLSKIEJ W AMERYCE

Wybrany Na Sejmie XII-tym we Wrześniu, 1916  
w Nanticoke, Pa.

Cenzor—Dr. R. G. Tenerowicz,  
Wice-Cenzor—M. Młajejewski,

Wice-Cenzorka—Anna Borys,  
Kapelan—Ks. Jakób Pacholski,  
Prezes—J. W. Stryjak,  
Sekretarz Generalny—Jakób Dembiec,  
Kasjer—Franciszek Malyndziak,  
Lekarz Naczelny—Dr. F. J. Krajewski,  
Doradca Prawny—Adw. M. J. Torliński,  
Wice-Prezes na Wschodni Stan Pensylwanji—  
J. Kopicki,

Wice-Prezes na Zachodni Stan Pensylwanji—  
J. Stepek,

Wice-Prezes na Stan Massachusetts—

Adam Niewiński,

Wice-Prezes na Stan Minnesotę—A. Nowak,

RADCY:

A. Sypniewski K. Namiotko F. Woltański

REWIZORZY:

A. Kowalski S. Lewandowski M. Feret

### ZARZĄD GŁÓWNY UNJI POLSKIEJ W AMERYCE

Wybrany Na Sejmie XIII-tym we Wrześniu, 1918  
w St. Paul, Minn.

Cenzor—Antoni Nowak,

Wice-Cenzor—J. Stepek,

Kapelan—Ks. Prałat J. Pacholski,

Wice-Kapelan—Ks. S. Guzdek,

Prezes—Emil Malinowski,

Sekretarz Generalny—Jakób Dembiec,

Wice-Sekretarz—Andrzej Jesikiewicz,

Lekarz Naczelny—Dr. Z. Oborski,

Doradca Prawny—Adw. M. J. Torliński,

Wice-Prezes na Stan Pensylwanję—

Albert Emański,

Wice-Prezes na Stan New Jersey—

Tomasz Sajnoga,

Wice-Prezes na Stan Nebraskę—Hipolit Neneman,

Wice-Prezes na Stan Minnesotę—

August Okoniewski.

RADCY:

Ks. S. E. Szpotański Franciszek Rysz

Konstanty Namiotko

REWIZORZY:

Feliks Kloczko J. Wadziński F. Madajewski

### ZARZĄD CENTRALNY UNJI POLSKIEJ

w Stanach Zjednoczonych Północnej Ameryki  
Wybrany Na Sejmie XIV-tym we Wrześniu, 1921  
w Pittsburghu, Pa.

Cenzor—Józef Stepek,

Wice-Cenzor—Maciej Ryba,

Wice-Cenzorka—Anna Borys,

Kapelan—Ks. Prałat J. Pacholski,

Wice-Kapelan—Ks. N. S. Sosnowski,

Prezes—Jakób Dembiec,

Wice-Prezes—Marjan Podgórski,

Sekretarz Generalny—S. W. Warakomski,

Wice-Sekretarz—Andrzej Jesikiewicz,

Kasjer—Jan Stasik,

Lekarz Naczelny—D. J. J. Kocyan,

Doradca Prawny—Adw. M. J. Torliński,

RADCY:

Ks. S. E. Szpotański Adam Sypniewski

Franciszek Rysz



### Przy Głównym Stole Na Bankiecie, Urządzonym z Okazji Poświęcenia Domu Unijnego

Od lewej ku prawej siedzą: Lekarz Naczelny Dr. E. J. Kielar, Attache Konsulatu Jan Pogorzelski, Sekretarz Generalny S. W. Warakomski, Prezes Piotr E. Turek, Sędzia Powiatu Luzerne Jan J. Aponik, Ks. Biskup Stefan S. Woźnicki.

Od lewej ku prawej stoją: Architekt J. E. Fronczak, Skarbnik W. G. Krzywicki, Prokurator Powiatu Luzerne Leon Schwartz, Kapelan Ks. Prałat S. E. Szpotkański, Cenzor Andrzej J. Gall, Rzecznik Prawny Z. Grabowski, Radca Duchowny Ks. Fr. X. Dominiak.

**REWIZORZY:**

W. T. Knoll F. Wadziński Roman Kowalski  
 Wice-Prezes na Wschodnią Pennsylvanję—  
 Albert Emański,  
 Wice-Prezes na Zachodnią Pennsylvanję  
 Bronisław Olszewski,  
 Wice-Prezeska na Stan Pennsylvanję—  
 Emilja Laskowska,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan New York—Ignacy Boniecki,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan New Jersey—  
 Antoni Myśliński,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan Illinois—Jan Bunda,  
 Wice-Prezeska na Stan Illinois—  
 Antonina Tenerowicz,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan Wisconsin—  
 Walenty Jędrzejczyk,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan Michigan—  
 Franciszek Jasiński,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan Minnesotę—  
 Władysław Radecki.

**ZARZĄD CENTRALNY****UNJI POLSKIEJ**

w Stanach Zjednoczonych Północnej Ameryki

Wybrany Na Sejmie XV-tym we Wrześniu, 1924  
 w Scranton, Pa.

Cenzor—Józef Stepek,  
 Wice-Cenzor—Antoni Nowak,  
 Wice-Cenzorka—Karolina Bojarska-Wojtowicz,  
 Honorowy Kapelan—Ks. Prałat J. Pacholski,  
 Kapelan—Ks. S. E. Szpotański,  
 Wice-Kapelan—Ks. N. S. Sosnowski,  
 Prezes—Marjan Podgórski,  
 Wice-Prezeska—Wiktoria Mochelska,  
 Sekretarz Generalny—S. W. Warakowski,  
 Wice-Sekretarz—Czesław Lenczewski,  
 Kasjer—Jan Stasik,  
 Lekarz Naczelny—Dr. F. J. Krajewski,  
 Doradca Prawny—Adw. M. J. Torliński,

**RADCY:**

Ks. J. J. Kowalewski Adam Sypniewski  
 Franciszek Rysz

**REWIZORZY:**

Franciszek Wadziński Wojciech Knoll  
 Jan Ślaski  
 Wice-Prezes na Wschodnią Pennsylvanję—  
 Kazimierz Siemiński,  
 Wice-Prezes na Zachodnią Pennsylvanję  
 Jan Zdrajkowski,  
 Wice-Prezeska na Stan Pennsylvanję—  
 Amelja Laskowska,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan New York—Adw. J. H. Zator,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan New Jersey—  
 Franciszek Krolak,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan Wisconsin—  
 Walenty Jędrzejczak,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan Michigan—  
 Franciszek Jasiński,  
 Wice-Prezesi na Stan Illinois—  
 A. Kraśniewski i Marja Iwańska,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan Minnesotę—  
 Władysław Radecki.

**ZARZĄD CENTRALNY****UNJI POLSKIEJ**

w Stanach Zjednoczonych Północnej Ameryki

Wybrany Na Sejmie XVI-tym we Wrześniu, 1927  
 w Brooklyn, N. Y.

Cenzor—Andrzej J. Gall,  
 Wice-Cenzor—Marjan Błażewski,  
 Wice-Cenzorka—Regina Grajewska,  
 Honorowy Kapelan—Ks. Prałat J. Pacholski,  
 Kapelan—Ks. S. E. Szpotański,  
 Wice-Kapelan—Ks. N. S. Sosnowski,  
 Prezes—Emil Malinowski,  
 Wice-Prezeska—Wiktoria Mochelska,  
 Wice-Prezes—Marjan Podgórski,  
 Sekretarz Generalny—S. W. Warakowski,  
 Wice-Sekretarz—Czesław Lenczewski,  
 Kasjer—Jan Stasik,  
 Lekarz Naczelny—Dr. F. J. Krajewski,  
 Doradca Prawny—Adw. M. J. Torliński,

**RADCY:**

Ks. Roman Więziółowski Marja Makowska  
 Adam Sypniewski

**REWIZORZY:**

Aleks. Skużyński W. J. Bujno  
 Franciszek Podkul  
 Wice-Prezes na Wschodnią Pennsylvanję—  
 Kazimierz Siemiński,  
 Wice-Prezes na Zachodnią Pennsylvanję  
 B. W. Laskowski,  
 Wice-Prezeska na Stan Pennsylvanję—  
 Amelja Laskowska,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan New York—Adw. J. H. Zator,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan New Jersey—Maciej Ryba,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan Michigan—  
 Franciszek Jasiński,  
 Wice-Prezesi na Stan Illinois—  
 Antoni Kraśniewski i Marja Iwańska,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan Nebraskę—F. P. Kawa,  
 Wice-Prezes na Stan Minnesotę—  
 Władysław Radecki.

**ZARZĄD CENTRALNY****UNJI POLSKIEJ**

w Stanach Zjednoczonych Północnej Ameryki

Wybrany Na Sejmie XVII-tym we Wrześniu, 1930  
 w Chicago, Illinois

Cenzor—Andrzej J. Gall,  
 Wice-Cenzor—Wiktor Wilusz,  
 Wice-Cenzorka—Regina A. Grajewska,  
 Honorowy Kapelan—Ks. Prałat J. Pacholski,  
 Kapelan—Ks. S. E. Szpotański,  
 Wice-Kapelan—Ks. N. S. Sosnowski,  
 Prezes—Emil Malinowski,  
 Wice-Prezes—Marjan Podgórski,  
 Wice-Prezeska—Wiktoria Mochelska,  
 Sekretarz Generalny—S. W. Warakowski,  
 Wice-Sekretarz—Tomasz Talarski,  
 Kasjer—Jakób Dembiec,  
 Lekarz Naczelny—Dr. F. J. Krajewski,  
 Doradca Prawny—Adw. Z. Grabowski,

**RADCY:**

Ks. R. A. Więziółowski Antoni Murawski  
 Ignacy Górny

**REWIZORZY:**

Franciszek Podkul W. J. Bujno  
 Aleks. Skużyński



### Z Drugiej Wizyty Generała Hallera w Biurach Unji Polskiej

Siedzą od lewej ku prawej stronie: Ks. N. S. Sosnowski, wice-kapelan; S. W. Warakomski, sekr. gen.; Ks. Prałat S. E. Szpotański, kapelan; Gen. Józef Haller, Piotr E. Turek, prezes; Fr. Dziób, Witold G. Krzywicki, kasjer.

Stoją od lewej ku prawej stronie: M. J. Markiewicz, Józef Stryjak, Franciszek Podkul, Ignacy Górny, Ks. R. Wieziółowski, Wacław Bujno, Wiktorja Mochelska, wice-prezeska; Dr. Edward Kielar, lekarz naczelny; Zygmunt Grabowski, rzecznik prawny i Marjan Podgórski, wice-prezes.

Wice-Prezes na Wschodnią Pennsylvanję—  
Jan Tyburski,  
Wice-Prezes na Zachodnią Pennsylvanję  
B. W. Laskowski,  
Wice-Prezeska na Stan Pennsylvanję—  
Amelja Laskowska,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan New York—Adw. J. H. Zator,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan New Jersey—Maciej Ryba,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Michigan—  
Franciszek Jasiński,  
Wice-Prezesi na Stan Illinois—  
B. Knapczyk i Józefina Białas,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Wisconsin—  
W. Jędrzejczak  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Nebraskę—F. P. Kawa.

### ZARZĄD CENTRALNY

#### UNJI POLSKIEJ

w Stanach Zjednoczonych Północnej Ameryki

Wybrany Na Sejmie XVIII-m we Wrześniu, 1933  
w Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Cenzor—Andrzej J. Gall,  
Wice-Cenzor—S. J. Sikorski,  
Wice-Cenzorka—Henryka Mulewska,  
Kapelan—Ks. Prałat S. E. Szpotański,  
Wice-Kapelan—Ks. N. S. Sosnowski,  
Prezes—Piotr E. Turek,  
Wice-Prezes—Marjan Podgórski,  
Wice-Prezeska—Wiktoria Mochelska,  
Sekretarz Generalny—S. W. Warakomski,  
Wice-Sekretarz—Tomasz Talarski,  
Kasjer—Witold G. Krzywicki,  
Lekarz Naczelny—Dr. E. J. Kielar,  
Doradca Prawny—Adw. Z. Grabowski,

#### RADCY:

Ks. R. A. Więziółowski Józef Stryjak  
Ignacy Górny

#### REWIZORZY:

W. J. Bujno Franciszek Podkul  
Piotr Fabian  
Wice-Prezes na Wschodnią Pennsylvanję—  
Jan Tyburski,  
Wice-Prezes na Zachodnią Pennsylvanję  
B. W. Laskowski,  
Wice-Prezeska na Stan Pennsylvanję—  
Amelja Laskowska,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan New York—  
Antoni Umowski,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan New Jersey—Maciej Ryba,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Massachusetts—  
Alojzy Lasek,  
Wice-Prezesi na Stan Illinois—  
B. Knapczyk i Józefina Białas,

Wice-Prezes na Stan Michigan—J. Antoszkiewicz,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Wisconsin—  
W. Jędrzejczak,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Minnesotę—W. Radecki,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Nebraskę—Hipolit Neneman.

### ZARZĄD CENTRALNY

#### UNJI POLSKIEJ

w Stanach Zjednoczonych Północnej Ameryki

Wybrany Na Sejmie XIX-tym we Wrześniu, 1937  
w Detroit, Mich.

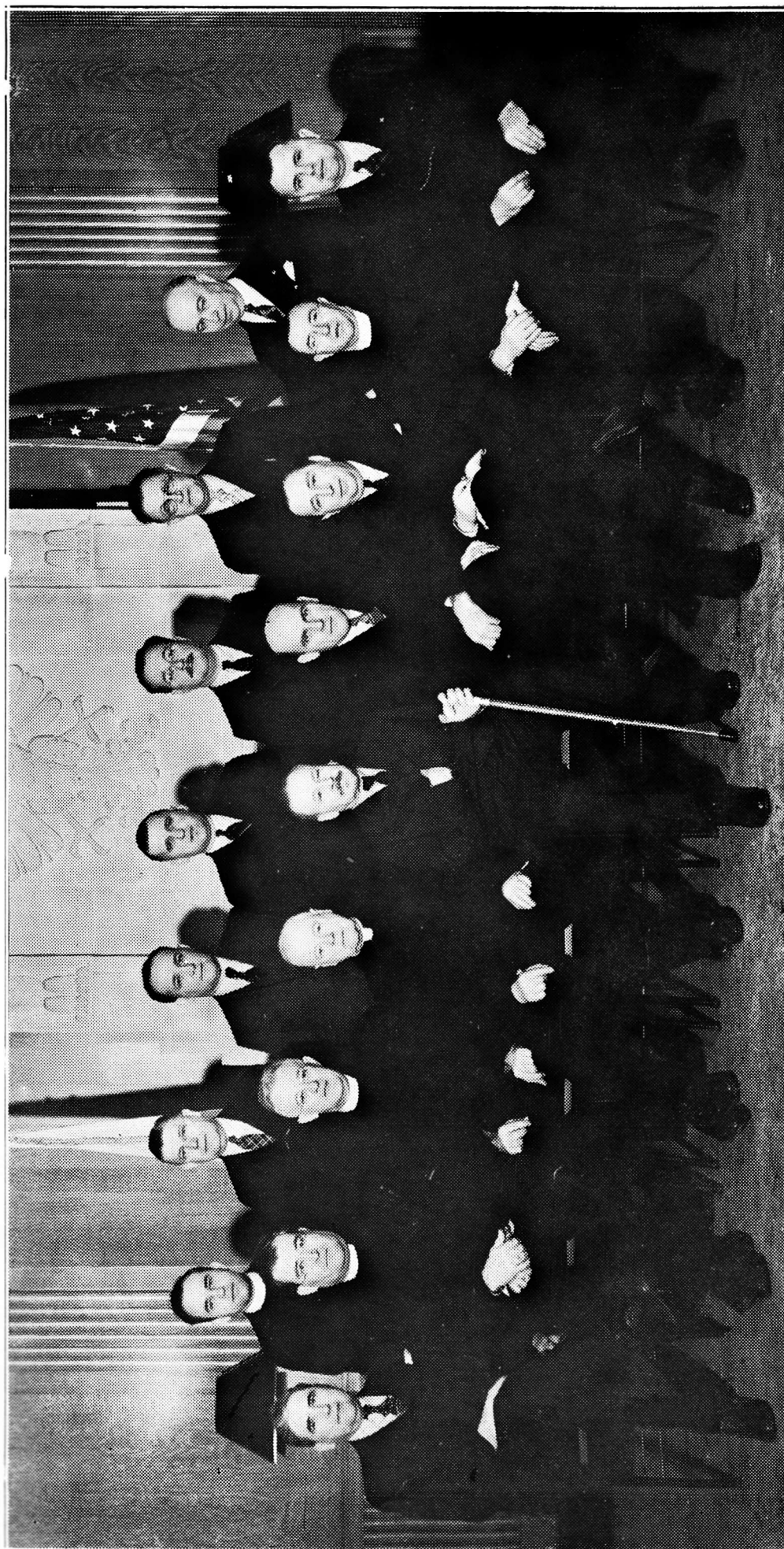
Cenzor—Andrzej J. Gall,  
Wice-Cenzor—Stanisław Sikorski,  
Wice-Cenzorka—Józefina Białas,  
Kapelan—Przew. Ks. Prałat S. E. Szpotański,  
Wice-Kapelan—Ks. W. L. Biczysko,  
Prezes—Adw. Piotr E. Turek,  
Wice-Prezes—Marjan Podgórski,  
Wice-Prezeska—Marja Krzywicka,  
Sekretarz Generalny—S. W. Warakomski,  
Wice-Sekretarz—Józef Kropiewnicki,  
Kasjer—Witold G. Krzywicki,  
Lekarz Naczelny—Dr. Edward J. Kielar,  
Doradca Prawny—Adw. Z. Grabowski,

#### RADCY:

Ks. F. X. Dominiak Józef W. Stryjak  
Ignacy Górny

#### REWIZORZY:

Wacław J. Bujno Jan Patronik  
Jan Wadziński  
Wice-Prezes na Wschodnią Pennsylvanję—  
Jan Tyburski,  
Wice-Prezes na Zachodnią Pennsylvanję  
J. S. Kaczmarek,  
Wice-Prezeska na Stan Pennsylvanję—  
Leokadja Zajkowska,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Illinois—B. Knapczyk,  
Wice-Prezeska na Stan Illinois—Marja Klimek,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Minnesota—  
Władysław Radecki,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Michigan—  
Józef Antoszkiewicz,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan New York—  
Walenty A. Podwojski,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan New Jersey—Wojciech Bara,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Nebraskę—Hipolit Neneman,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Wisconsin—  
Franciszek Kaźmierczak,  
Wice-Prezes na Stan Massachusetts—  
Alojzy Lasek.



### Z Pobytu Generała Ministra Józefa Hallera w Domu Unijnym

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# Polish Union of the United States of North America

## : A Product of Historic Necessity

### ITS BACKGROUND, ACHIEVEMENTS AND OBJECTIVES.

To understand the Polish Union of the United States of North America, to appraise its service and to appreciate its idealism, it is necessary to turn back the pages of history and to delve deeply into the character of the people of Poland. Not even the story of the Poles in America is enough, although it throws considerable light on the subject; no, it requires a study of the unhappy land of their forefathers, for it was there that the foundation of the organization was laid centuries ago, despite the fact that it actually came into being in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1890.

If the Polish Union of the United States of North America were merely a benefit society, there would be no occasion to concern ourselves with events prior to its formal establishment, but such is not the case. If it were just another fraternal body there would be no special purpose served in going beyond the period when the first groups were formed. But, again, the Polish Union is much more than that.

So, for the sake of clarity and accuracy, we must pause momentarily to reflect on the stirring past of Poland to examine in proper perspective the series of events that ultimately united 50,000 Americans of Polish descent under a single standard for the common good.

#### *Love For Liberty*

The people of Poland always have been known for their fierce love of liberty. Perhaps it was because they had so little of it that they prized it so highly and were so zealous in their efforts to preserve this treasure for posterity.

Although the land became a kingdom in 999 under Boleslaus, the crown was elective, not hereditary. The Dukes of Poland, who had been the rulers since 750, also were chosen by the people. Before that time, the country had been governed by Palatines or provincial chiefs.

When Poland fell on evil days toward the end of the Nineteenth Century as the last king, Stanislaus Augustus, the former Count Poniatowski, went into exile, a great citadel of freedom may have crashed, but the unconquerable spirit of the people remained.

Decades of persecution followed while Poland's oppressors sought to destroy the will of a proud nation as they absorbed the country. Revolutions were plotted and crushed in 1830, in 1846 and in 1863. With each failure came heavier burdens, but these seemed only to strengthen the determination of the people to preserve their faith, their language, their heritage for future generations. We know how they finally triumphed, only to be overwhelmed again after twenty years of peace following the World War. Today,

they are enduring hardships almost beyond human comprehension, as history repeats itself in tragic fashion.

#### *Early Interest In America*

It was economic necessity that brought the Poles to America in large numbers. Before this tide of immigration, those who came had been chiefly adventurers, soldiers, nobles and political exiles.

As early as 1476, there is evidence that sons of Poland were interested in America, for in that year John Scolvus led an expedition to our shores under the sponsorship of the King of Denmark. Scolvus was a native of Kolno.

Later, we find that one Francis Warnadowicz, under the name of Francisco Fernandez, sailed with Columbus on his historic voyage in 1492.

When the English settlement at Jamestown was founded in 1607 by the Virginia Company, Poles appeared immediately on the scene, being engaged to manufacture glass, pitch and other products for export to the mother country. This small band, incidentally, is given credit for saving the life of Captain John Smith when he was ambushed by unfriendly Indians.

The Poles came to New York when it still was New Holland, a Dutch colony. Many of them settled in Pennsylvania and even a few were to be found in New England, not particularly noted for its hospitality in that period. In all the colonies along the Atlantic seaboard, there was a sprinkling of them and the westward trek had started, particularly in the direction of Ohio and Kentucky. Settlement of the farms of the Middle West, like the rush to the mining regions of Pennsylvania, and like the establishment of large centers in such cities as Chicago, Detroit and Buffalo, was to wait until the period with which we are immediately concerned, beginning a half century ago. Even as recently as 1860, it was estimated that there were only between 30,000 and 45,000 Poles in America, as compared with 5,000,000 today.

#### *Dashing Figures*

While the Poles may have been few in numbers in those early days, they were outstanding figures. What they lacked in quantity, they made up in quality.

During the period of the American Revolution, when the United States severed its ties with England, the Poles played an important role. The contributions of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko and General Casimir Pulaski are well-known to every school boy in America. The latter's death in the Battle of Savannah enshrines him forever

in the eyes of this mighty Republic, the last great stronghold of democracy in the world today.

They were not the only Poles who participated in the Revolution. The list of officers contains such names as those of Lieutenant Colonel Baron De Botzen, Captain Joseph Baldeski, Captain John Zielinski, Colonel Michael Kowacz, Captain John Mieszkowski, Major John Polereski and a hundred others of lesser fame.

Nor was that the only help the United States received from Poland in that critical period. Russia and Prussia were prepared to give substantial aid to England, but they were restrained because Poland kept them engaged although, at the moment, she was almost prostrate. There was established, then, a kinship between these two countries that continues to this day, for just as Poland was sympathetic to the cause of America, so has the United States, time and again, shown its love for Poland. We need not go into that here.

Wherever freedom needed a friend, the Poles were sure to be. It is no surprise to hear that they served Texas in its battle for independence and took part in the War with Mexico in 1846.

### *5,000 Poles In Civil War*

Just as they fought for the liberation of America in the Revolution, so they struggled to preserve the Union in 1861, although there were many officers and soldiers who sincerely believed in the cause of the South and supported it with their fortunes and defended it with their lives. Approximately 4,000 Poles served in the Northern forces and 1,000 in the Confederate Army, which is not difficult to understand since the larger Polish population was in the States that were loyal to the Union. Then, too, Polish sympathies were with the North, for, again, it involved the vital issue of freedom for millions of colored folk. Kosciuszko himself had set example for his countrymen in his will which he left in the hands of Thomas Jefferson when he sailed from these shores. That inspiring document stipulated:

"I hereby authorize my friend, Thomas Jefferson, to employ the whole thereof (of his estate) in purchasing negroes from among his own or others, and giving them liberty in my name; in giving them an education in trade or otherwise; in having them instructed for their new condition in the duties of morality, which may make them good neighbors, good fathers and good mothers, husbands and wives, in their duty as citizens: teaching them to be defenders of their liberty and country, of the good order of society, and in whatsoever may make them happy and useful."

Such, briefly, is the historic background that gives us the setting for the Polish Union of the United States of North America.

### *Growth of Polish Communities*

While Chicago boasts today of a half million Poles and other cities have large Polish populations, these developments were never part of any planned program.

In fact, the only known attempt to transplant a part of Poland to America was the request of Paul Mostowski, Palatine of Masovia, to the Con-

tinental Congress for a county in one of the southern states. He planned to designate the colony New Poland, but his dream never materialized, for Congress did not act.

The nearest approach to the establishment of a Polish settlement in America was a community in Texas where peasants of Upper Silesia who, in the middle of the Nineteenth Century, banded together and sailed with all their earthly possessions, including farming equipment, to start life anew in this land of boundless opportunity.

Congress in the 1830's did authorize a grant for a Polish township in Illinois, but there were differences with settlers and the intended beneficiaries never gained possession.

So, those who came settled principally where they thought chances of survival best. The farm hand, and he was in the majority as the tide of immigration increased, headed for the open country where his progeny is found today. He was a tiller of the soil whether he was in the old world or the new. It explains why so many Americans of Polish ancestry cling to nature and are to be found in the rural districts, although they often have employment in the cities.

The plight of many of those who came was really heart-breaking. It is the lot of every immigrant who sets foot on foreign soil to be beset with difficulties. The Pole, especially the peasant, was no exception to the rule. But many of the upper class suffered, as well, and we find men with aristocratic backgrounds doing menial tasks. After all they were far from home and appetites had to be satisfied.

### *Thrown On Own Resources*

For a time, particularly after the revolutions forced large groups to seek asylum on these shores, sympathetic Americans collected funds and came to the assistance of thousands. But it was inevitable that this arrangement could not continue indefinitely and it did not. When the initial enthusiasm wore off and when the arrivals became so numerous that effective help was impossible, the Poles were thrown on their own resources.

Their first handicap was the language. More than any other factor, it drove them to contact their fellow countrymen and organize. In this respect, the city dweller was no better off than his rustic cousin; all found it a practical necessity as well as a convenience to co-operate wherever and whenever possible.

The Pole, on leaving his native land, brought with him a deep and abiding spirit of religion. Accustomed as he was to praise the Lord in the tongue that was dearer to him than life itself and which years of persecution failed to silence, the tongue in which he heard the Gospel preached from his earliest years, it is not surprising that he immediately set about erecting churches where he could worship God and hear the Divine Word preached.

After this great task was accomplished, he turned his attention to the parish school. Secular education provides for intellect, but fails to take cognizance of the spiritual side of man. The Polish immigrant, anxious to have his children