**Polish Women’s Alliance of America Records**

**1900-2006, n.d.**

**Creator:** Polish Women’s Alliance of America  
**Extent:** 18 linear ft.  
**Processor:** Elyssa Northey, 2010; Updated by B. Smith, June 2011

### Administration Information

**Access Restrictions:** None  
**Usage Restrictions:** Copyright is retained by Polish Women’s Alliance of America and not transferred to the Women in Leadership Archives.  
**Preferred Citation:** Loyola University Chicago. Women & Leadership Archives. Polish Women’s Alliance of America Records. Box #, Folder #.

**Provenance:** Donated by Virginia Sikora, President and Barbara M. Miller, Treasurer to on November 20, 2006. (WLA2006.27, WLA2006.28, WLA2007.05)

**Separations:** Approximately 1.5 linear feet of duplicate and extraneous material was removed.  
**See Also:** Polish Women’s Alliance of America Records at the Newberry Library’s Local and Family History Department.

### Administrative History

The Polish Women’s Alliance of America was founded in 1898 as a fraternal benefit society for Polish Women in Chicago. It also had the goals of equality for women and the promotion of pride in Polish heritage. The first PWA Constitution and bylaws were created at the first national convention (SEJM) in Chicago in 1900. The convention planned educational work with youth and recognized the role of women in Polish culture and heritage. In its early years, the PWA began recognizing prominent Polish women as Honorary Members, was granted the right to sell life insurance, began publication of their newspaper, *Głos Polek* (The Polish Women’s Voice) and put on cultural programs at the local level. During the two world wars the PWA was active in humanitarian relief for Poland, and it helped form the Polish American Congress political action federation in 1944.

By 1991, the PWA had spread to seventeen states and had 60,000 members. The organization has continued to be a major force within the Polish-American community through cultural events, charitable aid, fundraising and political power. It has also proven that women are capable leaders and has provided insurance to thousands of people.

### Scope and Content

The Polish Women’s Alliance of America Records consists of records relating to national decisions and events, as well as some local records. The records span from 1900-2006, mostly from 1930-1975. Records contain correspondence, pamphlets, meeting minutes, ledgers, event information, newspapers and some AV and 3D material. Many of the records are in Polish. Items arranged chronologically within series.
Series 1: Administrative, 1932-2000, Box 1
This series contains a small amount of correspondence as well as pamphlets about the organization. Early correspondence is in Polish and later English correspondence refers to financial matters. Pamphlets contain history of the organization and cultural traditions.

Series 2: Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors, 1935-1967, Boxes 1-5
This series contains minutes of the Board of Director’s meetings, which occurred approximately every three weeks. These minutes include updates from committees, officers and regional or local chapters. Most records are in English, but some later records are copied in English and Polish.

Series 3: Events, 1918-2004, Boxes 6-7
This series contains pamphlets and booklets from events either sponsored by or attended by the PWAA. The majority of items are updated constitutions and bylaws from national conventions held throughout the country. Other events include dinners, debutante balls and the Polish American Congress. Some records in English, some in Polish and some are available in both languages.

Series 4: Ledgers/Diaries, 1900-1987, Boxes 8-13
This series contains bound books of handwritten notes, all in Polish. Some are in ledger format with columns and numbers while others are in paragraph form.

Series 5: Monographs, 1903-1978, Boxes 14-15
This series contains books published by the PWAA or PWAA members, and books of insurance reports on Illinois fraternal insurance societies. All are in English except one book which is copied in English and Polish.

This series contains two videos of PWA events, one CD of photographs and a PWA scarf.

Series 7: Newspapers, 1910-1996
This series contains 62 bound collections of newspapers, 61 of which are the PWAA paper Głos Polek (The Polish Women’s Voice). One is Tygodnik Ilustrowany (Illustrated Weekly) from 1929. Although the earliest papers are exclusively in Polish, they begin to incorporate English in the 1940s and are about half Polish and half English by the 1990s. These are unboxed (see location guide).

Subjects:
Fraternal Organizations
Polish Women’s Alliance of America
Polish Women’s Periodicals
Polski Dziedzictwo Kulturalne
Women
### Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago

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PWAA, pg. #3
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Loyola University Chicago

Meeting Minutes
1965
Meeting Minutes
1966
Meeting Minutes (Polish)
1966
Meeting Minutes
1967
Meeting Minutes (Polish)
1967

Series 3: Events, 1918-2003

6 1 National Convention 1918
2 National Convention 1927
3 National Convention 1931
4 National Convention 1935
5 National Convention 1940
6 National Convention 1947
7 National Convention 1955
8 National Convention 1959
9 National Convention 1963
10 National Convention 1967
11 National Convention 1971
12 National Convention 1975
13 National Convention 1979

7 1 National Convention 1983
2 National Convention 1987
3 National Convention 1991
4 National Convention 2003
5 Anniversary Events 1973, 78, 98
6 Recognition Events 1925, 95, 2001
7 Debutante Balls 2002, 2004
8 Polish American Congress 1994

Series 4: Ledgers/Diaries, 1900-1987

8 Janouskovec 1900-1916
Ksiazki Zwiwku Polek 1911-1916
Groupa No. 116, Maryi Koropricki 1911-1960

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PWAA, pg. #4
10  Rachunki Wice-Prezeszek  1923-1932
11  Tow. Polek z nad Desplaines Groupa No. 426  1924-1959
     Tow. Polek z nad Desplaines Groupa No. 426  1924-1962
     Tow. Sw. Jerery Groupa No. 598  1930-1964
     Zwiazek Polek Groupa No. 593  1930-1952
12  Protokół z dnia 29 gr Grudnia 1932  1932-1940
     Tow Wdna Polska Gr 298  1933-1977
     Ogloszeina en Głosie Polek  1946-1971
     Ofiary na zakupno domu dla Komisy #1  1953-1957
     Protokół z ___osiedzenia ___  1959-1966
     Towoarzystwow zajennej __omocy fod  1959-1973
     Protokół ___osiedzenia Koruisji Groupa Z.P.  1964-1965
13  Protokół. ___osiedzenia Komizji  1969-1977
     Ksiazka Rozchodów I Dochodów  1976-1987
     Ksiuzka Sekr. Fin.  1978-1984

Series 5: Mongraphs, 1903-1978
14  Insurance Report Part II: Life. Illinois  1903
     Insurance Report II. Park III: Casualty Surety
     Assessment, Fraternal  1911
     Insurance Report II. Park III: Casualty Surety
     Assessment, Fraternal  1912
     Insurance Report Part II: Life. Illinois  1915
15  Kromka Chleb  1973
     Our Daily Bread  1973
     The Wind and the Flame  1978

     Video; PWA  95th Anniversary Program  1993
     Video; Forward Together  2001
     CD  2006
16  PWAA Scarf  n.d.

Box  Folder  Title  Dates

Series 7: Newspapers, 1910-1996

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