

**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.

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*Ann Ida Gannon, BVM, Center for Women and Leadership*  
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**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.

**Series 6: AV/3D, 1993-2006, n.d. Boxes 15-16**

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

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>	
<b>Series 1: Administrative, 1932-2000</b>				
1	1	Correspondence	1932-1968	
	2	Pamphlets	1995-2000	
<b>Series 2: Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors, 1935-1967</b>				
	3	Meeting Minutes	1935	
	4	Meeting Minutes	1936	
	5	Meeting Minutes	1937	
	6	Meeting Minutes	1938	
	7	Meeting Minutes	1939	
	2	1	Meeting Minutes	1940
		2	Meeting Minutes	1941
3		Meeting Minutes	1942	
4		Meeting Minutes	1943	
5		Meeting Minutes	1944	
6		Meeting Minutes	1945	
3	1	Meeting Minutes	1946	
	2	Meeting Minutes	1947	
	3	Meeting Minutes	1948	
	4	Meeting Minutes	1949	
	5	Meeting Minutes	1950	
	6	Meeting Minutes	1951	
	7	Meeting Minutes	1953	
4	1	Meeting Minutes	1954	
	2	Meeting Minutes	1955	
	3	Meeting Minutes	1956	
	4	Meeting Minutes	1957	
	5	Meeting Minutes (Polish)	1954-1957	
	6	Meeting Minutes (Polish)	1958-1960	
5	1	Meeting Minutes (Polish)	1961-1963	
	2	Meeting Minutes	1963	

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
	3	Meeting Minutes	1964
	4	Meeting Minutes	1965
	5	Meeting Minutes	1966
	6	Meeting Minutes (Polish)	1966
	7	Meeting Minutes	1967
	8	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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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
9		Tow. Mathi Baskey Kvolowy	1917-1970
10		Rachunki Wice-Prezesek	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. Ginowefy w Plains Pa. Groupa No. 362	1928-1976
		Tow. Sw. Jerery Groupa No. 598	1930-1964
		Zwiazek Polek Groupa No. 593	1930-1952
12		Protokól z dnia 29 gr Grudnia 1932	1932-1940
		Tow Wdna Polska Gr 298	1933-1977
		Ogloszeina en Głosie Polek	1946-1971
		Tow. Maryi Koroprückiey Groupa No. 116	1949-1973
		Ofiary na zakupno domu dla Komisji #1	1953-1957
		Protokól z __osiedzenia	1959-1966
		Towarzystwów zajennei __omocy fod	1959-1973
		Protokól __osiedzenia Koruisji Groupa Z.P.	1964-1965
13		Protokól, __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

**Series 6: AV/3D, 1993-2006, n.d.**

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

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<b>Series 7: Newspapers, 1910-1996</b>			
		Głos Polek	1910-1911
		Głos Polek	1915
		Głos Polek	1917
		Głos Polek	1918
		Głos Polek	1919
		Głos Polek	1920
		Głos Polek	1922
		Głos Polek	1925
		Głos Polek	1926
		Głos Polek	1927
		Tygodnik Ilustrowny (Illustrated Weekly)	1929
		Głos Polek	1930
		Głos Polek	1931
		Głos Polek	1933
		Głos Polek	1934
		Głos Polek	1935
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		Głos Polek	1941
		Głos Polek	1942
		Głos Polek	1945
		Głos Polek	1946
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		Głos Polek	1960
		Głos Polek	1961
		Głos Polek	1962

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
		Głos Polek	1963
		Głos Polek	1964
		Głos Polek	1965
		Głos Polek	1966
		Głos Polek	1967
		Głos Polek	1968
		Głos Polek	1968
		Głos Polek	1969
		Głos Polek	1970
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		Głos Polek	1973
		Głos Polek	1974
		Głos Polek	1977
		Głos Polek	1980
		Głos Polek	1981
		Głos Polek	1987
		Głos Polek	1990
		Głos Polek	1991
		Głos Polek	1992
		Głos Polek	1996