

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.

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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Loyola University Chicago*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Series 1: Administrative, 1932-2000			
1	1	Correspondence	1932-1968
	2	Pamphlets	1995-2000
Series 2: Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors, 1935-1967			
	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
<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
	3	Meeting Minutes	1964

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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 Koropricksi	1911-1960

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
9		Tow. Mathi Baskey Kvolowy	1917-1970

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10	Rachunki Wice-Prezesek	1923-1932
11	Tow. Polek z nad Desplaines Groupa No. 426 Tow. Polek z nad Desplaines Groupa No. 426 Tow. Sw. Ginowefy w Plains Pa. Groupa No. 362 Tow. Sw. Jerery Groupa No. 598 Zwiazek Polek Groupa No. 593	1924-1959 1924-1962 1928-1976 1930-1964 1930-1952
12	Protokól z dnia 29 gr Grudnia 1932 Tow Wdna Polska Gr 298 Ogloszeina en Głosie Polek Tow. Maryi Koroprückiey Groupa No. 116 Ofiary na zakupno domu dla Komisyi #1 Protokól z __osiedzenia Towoarzystwów zajennei __omocy fod Protokól __osiedzenia Koruisji Groupa Z.P.	1932-1940 1933-1977 1946-1971 1949-1973 1953-1957 1959-1966 1959-1973 1964-1965
13	Protokól, __osiedzenia Komizji Ksiuzka Rozchodów I Dochodów Ksiuzka Sekr. Fin.	1969-1977 1976-1987 1978-1984

Series 5: Mongraphs, 1903-1978

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

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

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

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
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Series 7: Newspapers, 1910-1996

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	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	
	Głos Polek	1936	
	Głos Polek	1937	
	Głos Polek	1938	
	Głos Polek	1939	
	Głos Polek	1940	
	Głos Polek	1941	
	Głos Polek	1942	
	Głos Polek	1945	
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	Głos Polek	1957	
	Głos Polek	1958	
	Głos Polek	1959	
	Głos Polek	1960	
	Głos Polek	1961	
	Głos Polek	1962	
<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
		Głos Polek	1963
		Głos Polek	1964
		Głos Polek	1965
		Głos Polek	1966

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Głos Polek	1967
Głos Polek	1968
Głos Polek	1968
Głos Polek	1969
Głos Polek	1970
Głos Polek	1971
Głos Polek	1972
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