

51 Congress of the Polish Community Council in Australia Inc

18th and 19th May 2019

On the 18-19 May 2019, the 51st congress of the Polish Community Council of Australia was held in Brisbane, Queensland. The actual congress was held at the 'Dom Polski Polonii Stowarzyszenia Polakow' Milton.

The following 21 organizations of the PCCA sent delegates to attended the meeting, with a total of 91 mandates being issued as follows - NSW 41, QLD 10, VIC 9, SA 5, TAS 3, ACT 4 and WA 12. In accordance with the statute (section 17 (d) 3 additional mandates were given to the Presidium.

The meeting was opened by Mrs Malgorzata Kwiatkowska (President) in the presence of honored guests - the Polish Ambassador Mr Michael Kolodziejski, Honorable Konsul RP in Qld Mrs Theresa Lauf as well as Father Greg Gawla from Brisbane.

Ambassador Kolodziejski said a few words thanking for being asked to be present and hoped that the 51st Congress would be fruitful and achieve all that was to be discussed.

With the formalities over the Chair Person was elected to lead the meeting. This difficult (at times) position was given to Dr Zdzislaw Dervinski from Vic by unanimous vote of all present.

During the first days sitting of the Congress the President submitted her statement as to the achievements of the PCCA over the last 12 months and what they hoped would be achieved over the next 12 months. A statement from the Treasurer was also submitted to all delegates present. The entire Presidium then stood down from their perspective positions and a secret ballot was taken for all major positions.

President - Malgorzata Kwiatkowska (NSW) (60 votes for and 31 votes against)

Vice President - Marian Radny (NSW) (54 votes for and 37 votes against)

The President then put forward her propositions for the following office bearers -

Treasurer - Iwona Rafalska (QLD) Secretary - Helena Andrusiewicz (QLD)

Spokesperson - Ita Szymanska (QLD)

Board members - Henry Kurylewski (QLD), Leszek Wikarjusz (QLD), Joanna Merwart (VIC), Ania

Niedzwiadek (WA), Marek Bartczak (NSW), Ted Dudzinski (SA), Elzbieta

Cesarka (NSW)

The delegates present made the following decisions -

1. A new direct member was allowed to join the PCCA which was Polonia WA Inc. from Perth; they were allotted 4 mandates, while the following organisation was deleted as a member due to non payment of membership for the last 4 years - Zjednoczenie Polek in Australia.

- 2. The Auditing Committee was elected Zdzislaw Jarentowski, Janina Kloda, Marian Pawlik, Jan Tkaczyk and Helena Zebrowska.
- 3. The Arbitrary Committee was elected Bogumila Filip, Zdzislaw Koch, Mieczyslaw Rataj, Edward Szczepanski, Edward Wlodarski, Dr Wlodzimierz Wnuk and Mick Wykrota.

The first days Congress closed with a special dinner that night, at which the Polish Ambassador Mr Michal Kolodziejski handed to Mrs Theresa Lauf the official document authorising her as the new Honorary Konsul RP in Queensland. PCCA Medals of Distinction, for work within the Polish Community was awarded to - Dr Zdzislaw Derwinski (VIC), Krzysztof Dutkowski (QLD) and Father Wieslaw Slowik SJ (VIC). During this dinner, Krzysztof Malek gave a piano concert, playing the works of Frederyk Chopin.

The most important note for the second day of the Congress was the discussion to reform the way Fundusz Wieczysty Polonii Australijskiej im. Gen Julisza Kleberga and Fundusz im. Ewy Malewicz were to be invested and subsequently handled in the future. After many hours of deliberation it was decided that the avenue of Equity Trust should be looked at to invest the Foundations for the future use within the Polish Community.

The PCCA Congress came to a close and a vote was taken as to where the 2020 congress should be held. It was put to a vote and Canberra was the winner with the dates of 20-21 June 2020.

Report by Jolanta Zurawski