



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

BY-LAWS

Amended: October, 2011

ARTICLE I

Purpose and Objectives

Section 1. The Polish American Congress, ever mindful of its unswerving past record of civic action in its successful commitment to its founding aims, is dedicated to:

- a) Provide national leadership for expanding and sustaining organized Polish American political and cultural life in the United States.
- b) Support Poland as a loyal ally and proven friend of the United States, and work to strengthen the United States – Poland relationship.
- c) Work with all Americans to enhance their knowledge and appreciation of the rich Polish and Polish American heritage.
- d) Defend the good name of Polish Americans and Poland from their detractors.
- e) Support candidates for elected office on all levels of American government who advocate for the goals and objectives of the Polish American Congress and Polonia.
- f) Encourage Polish Americans to be involved in the American political process, including exercising their constitutional right to vote in the interests of the Polish American community.
- g) Educate and engage elected officials on all levels of American government in proposing legislation in support of the aims and objectives of the Polish American Congress and Polish American citizens.

Section 2. The original Article of the Polish American Congress By-Laws was approved at the founding meeting of the Polish American Congress in Buffalo, New York May 28, 1944 – June 1, 1944. Successive generations of the Polish American Congress members selflessly dedicated themselves to its fulfillment. The original Article I will be placed as an Addendum to the By-Laws to honor and be mindful of the patriotic efforts and achievements on behalf of the United States of American and of Poland of our founding members.

ARTICLE II

Members

Section 1. Classes of Members.

The members of the Congress (corporation) shall be divided into five (5) classes as follows: Polish-American Organizations, National Polish-American Organizations, Honorary, Individual, and Associate.

- a) Polish-American Organization shall be defined as any organization consisting of a substantial number of persons of Polish origin or of Polish ancestry.
- b) National Polish-American Organization shall be defined as an organization with chapters, clubs, or groups in at least four (4) states.

- c) Honorary membership may be conferred by the Executive Council upon prominent persons who have distinguished themselves in organizational, patriotic, civic, educational, scientific, professional and religious fields.
- d) Individual member is defined as any individual person of Polish ancestry, or any one related by blood or marriage to a person of Polish ancestry.
- e) Associate member is defined as a supporting member without the right to vote. This class may include individuals, corporations and labor organizations.

Section 2. Qualifications for Membership.

The qualification for each class shall be the definition of that specific class and in addition all members must be either citizens or permanent residents of the United States of America, except members of the class listed in subsection 1(e) and all members must be members of a State Division, unless for geographical reasons their membership in a State Division is approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Acceptance of Members.

All applications for membership of classes (a) and (d) shall be on a form supplied by the Congress, which shall include such information as shall be deemed necessary by the Executive Committee. The application for membership, together with a check in the amount of the applicable dues, shall be submitted to the State Division in which the organization is located or where the individual resides. In the event there is no State Division in such location, then such application shall be submitted directly to the Executive Committee.

- a) The State Division shall consider the application and make its recommendation by simple majority vote.
- b) After consideration by the State Division the application and its recommendations shall be forwarded to the Executive Committee to accept and certify the applicant as a member. If the recommendation is for rejection, no reason need be given. All applications shall be treated and considered in a confidential manner.
- c) The Executive Committee shall notify the applicant and the State Division of its decision and issue membership cards upon receipt of dues and its membership roll.

Section 4. Voting Rights.

Each member of classes a, b, and d in Section 1, in good standing, shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members.

Section 5. Termination of Membership.

The State Division, by affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all the members of the executive committee, may suspend or expel a member for cause after an appropriate hearing, and, by a majority vote of those present at any regularly constituted meeting of the State Division, may terminate the membership of any member who becomes ineligible for

membership or suspend or expel any member who shall be delinquent in the payment of dues. Procedure for said termination shall be pursuant to Article IX.

Section 6. Transfer of Membership.

Membership in the Polish-American Congress is not transferable or assignable to another individual.

ARTICLE III

The Executive Committee & National Executive Council

Section 1. Officers of the National Executive Council.

The officers of the National Executive Council shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Vice-President for American Affairs, a Vice-President for Financial Development, a Vice-President for Membership Development, a Vice-President for Polish Affairs, a Vice-President for Public Relations, a Vice-President for Cultural Activities, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, and shall be collectively known as the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Election and Term of Office.

The officers of the Executive Council shall be elected biennially by the Council of National Directors for a two (2) year term or until their successor is elected.

Section 3. Nomination of Officers.

No later than three (3) months prior to each biennial election meeting of the Council of National Directors of the Congress. The President shall appoint a chairperson and a nominating committee of four (4) additional members, and a Chairperson of the Election, who in turn shall appoint a secretary, parliamentarian and two (2) election judges.

- a) The written nominations with the names of the candidates for the elected offices shall be submitted to the Secretary of the National Executive Council postmarked not later than thirty (30) days before the set date of the Election.
- b) These nominations shall be submitted either by a State Division or by a National Organization.
- c) The Secretary of the National Executive Council, upon receipt of the candidate nominations, shall verify the eligibility of the candidates and their acceptance and shall prepare the list of the eligible candidates in an alphabetical order and present the list to the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.
- d) The Nominating Committee shall make its report presenting said list to the Council of National Directors. Such submission shall be deemed a nomination of each person named.
- e) Then the Chairperson of the Election shall proceed with the election of the candidates listed in the report of the Nominating Committee separately for each respective office by secret ballot.

Section 4. Membership of the National Executive Council.

The National Executive Council shall be composed of: The Executive Committee, the National Executive Director, who shall have no vote, and the Presidents of the State Divisions; provided, however, that said National Officers and State Divisions are in good standing with regard to their membership dues and assessments.

- a) The National Executive Council members shall be members ex-officio of the Council of National Directors and shall have equal standing and authority of a National Director.
- b) The National Executive Council shall meet at least twice each year at the direction of the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Power and Duties of the National Executive Council.

The National Executive Council shall conduct the affairs of the Congress between the session of the Council of National Directors. Among its duties shall be, but not limited to, the following:

- a) To devise ways and means for financing including dues for the funding of the purposes and objectives of the Congress;
- b) To coordinate directives to the State Division or to Officers thereof;
- c) To assign or delegate to State President's specific duties, tasks and committees deemed necessary and appropriate for the Congress;
- d) To organize new State Divisions; and,
- e) The enforcement of the By-Laws of the Congress.

Section 6. Meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall meet at least once every two (2) months to conduct the affairs of the Congress between sessions of the Council of National Directors and the National Executive Council. When the necessity arises, specific State Division, Presidents and committee chairpersons may be invited to participate in the bi-monthly meetings.

ARTICLE IV
Officers - Powers and Duties

Section 1. Powers and Duties of President.

The President of the Polish American Congress, Inc. shall be the corporation's principal executive officer and shall exercise general supervision and control over all the business and affairs of the Congress. The President shall have the following specific powers and duties:

- a) To preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee, National Executive Council, and Council of National Directors.
- b) To have general and active management of the business of the corporation;
- c) To see that all decisions and resolutions of the Council of National Directors are enforced;
- d) To execute bonds, mortgages, and other contracts requiring a seal, under the seal of the Congress;

- e) To have general superintendence and direction of all the other officers and of the agents and employees thereof and to see that their respective duties are properly performed;
- f) To operate and conduct the business and affairs of the Congress according to the orders and resolutions of the Council of National Directors and according to his own discretion whenever and wherever it is not expressly limited by such orders and resolutions;
- g) To submit a report of the operation of the Congress at each meeting of the Council of National Directors and from time to time to report to the National Directors all matters within his knowledge that should be brought to their attention;
- h) To appoint as needed and direct the permanent commissions and committees and assist in their activities;
- i) In addition to the foregoing shall have such other powers, duties, and authority as may be set forth elsewhere in these by-laws and as may be prescribed by the Council of National Directors.

Section 2. Powers and Duties of Vice-Presidents.

The Vice-Presidents of the Congress shall be the First Vice-President, the Vice-President for American Affairs: (promotes the interests of Polish Americans in the United States of America), the Vice-President for Financial Development: (seeks contributions, fund-raising activities, and obtains grants), Vice-President for Membership Development: (coordinates Division development and membership recruitment), the Vice-President for Polish Affairs: (presents policy options on matters affecting Poland), the Vice-President for Public Relations: (establishes communications inside and outside of the organization), and the Vice-President for Cultural Activities: (develops and coordinates cultural activities and events.) Each Vice-President shall have the authority, duties, and functions as specified by the Executive Committee.

- a) The First Vice-President shall have the powers and shall exercise the duties of the President whenever the President, by reason of illness or other disability or absence, is unable to act.
- b) A Vice-President who acts as President under this by-law shall report fully to the President on the President's return to duty and to the Executive Committee and to the Council of National Directors with respect to all actions taken by the Vice-President during the absence or disability of the President.

Section 3. Powers and Duties of Secretary. The Secretary of the Congress shall be the custodian of and shall maintain the corporate books and records and shall be the recorder of the Congress' formal actions and transactions. The Secretary shall have the following specified powers and duties:

- a) To record or see to the proper recording of the minutes and transactions of all meetings of the Executive Committee, and Council of National Directors, and to maintain separate minute books at the principal office of the

- corporation, or such other place as the Council of National Directors may order, of all such meetings in the form and manner required by law;
- b) To keep at the principal office, open to inspection by members at all reasonable times, the original or a certified copy of the by-laws of the corporation as amended or otherwise altered to date;
 - c) To keep the corporate seal and affix it to all papers and documents requiring a seal, and to attest by his signature all corporate documents requiring the same;
 - d) To attend to the giving and serving of all notices of the corporation required by law or these by-laws to be given;
 - e) To attend to such correspondence and to make such reports as may be assigned to him; and,
 - f) In addition to the foregoing, the Secretary shall have such other powers, duties, and authority as may be set forth elsewhere in these by-laws and as may be prescribed by the President, Executive Committee, or National Executive Council or National Directors from time to time.

Section 4. Powers and Duties of Treasurer.

The Treasurer of the Congress shall be its chief fiscal officer and the custodian of its funds, securities, and property. The Treasurer shall have the following specific powers and duties:

- a) To keep and maintain, open to inspection by any member of the Executive Committee and any National Director at all reasonable times, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the corporation; which shall include all matters required by-law and which shall be in form as required by-law;
- b) To have the care and custody of the funds and valuables of the corporation and deposit the same in the name and to the credit of the corporation with such depositories as the Executive Committee may designate;
- c) To maintain accurate lists and descriptions of all capital assets of the corporation;
- d) To see to the proper drafting of all checks, drafts, notes, and orders for the payment of money as required in the business of the corporation, and to sign such instruments with the President;
- e) To disburse the funds of the corporation for proper expenses, and to take proper vouchers for such disbursements;
- f) To render to the President and Secretary or to the Executive Committee, National Executive Council or Council of National Directors, whenever they may require it, an account of all his transactions as Treasurer, and a financial statement in form satisfactory to them, showing the condition of the corporation; and,
- g) In addition to the foregoing, the Treasurer shall be commercially bonded and have such other powers, duties, and authority as may be set forth elsewhere in these by-laws and as may be prescribed by the President, Executive Committee, National Executive Council, or Council of National Directors from time to time.

Section 5. Presidential Succession.

In the vent of the death, resignation, incapacity, or removal of the President, the First Vice-President s all perform the President's duties and assume all rights and privileges as heretofore prescribed until he next regularly scheduled or special meeting of the Council of National Directors elect a new President to succeed to the balance of the unexpired term.

Section 6. Filling Vacancies.

When any office shall become vacant by reason of the death, resignation, incapacity, or removal of the incumbent, or for any other cause, the Council of National Directors, by majority vote of the whole council, shah elect a successor who shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of that predecessor, al the next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting.

ARTICLE V
The Council of National Directors

Section 1. Composition of Council of National Directors.

The Council of National Directors shall consist of National Directors, elected by the state Divisions or appointed by the National Organization for a two (2) year term or until their successor's are elected or appointed, of which the National Executive Council shall be ex-officio members, and an additional ten (10) Directors at Large may be appointed by the President and confirmed by the National Executive Council.

Section 2. Election of National Directors From State Divisions.

The allocation of National Directors for the State Divisions shall be based on the number of organizations and individual members which are members of the State Division.

- a) The allocations for organizations shall be as follows:

1 to 10 organizations	1 Director
11 to 25 organizations	2 Directors
26 to 50 organizations	3 Directors
51 to 75 organizations	4 Directors
76 to 100 organizations	5 Directors
Over 100 organizations	6 Directors
- b) The allocations for individual members shall be one (1) Director for each one hundred (100) individual members.
- c) The State Division shall elect their Directors at the State Division's Annual Meeting held on or before June 30th for a two (2) year term and shall submit the name, address, and telephone numbers of the duly elected to the Secretary of the Congress within thirty (30) days of said election.
- d) The State Division may elect at the State Division's Annual Meeting, one (1) Alternate National Director. In event a duly elected National Director is unable to attend a Council of National Director's Meeting, then the Alternate National Director may attend and participate at said meeting with the full

rights as the National Director, provided a mandate is submitted to the National President by the President and attested to by the Secretary of said State Division no later than seven (7) days prior to said meeting.

Section 3. Appointment of National Directors for National Organization.

The allocation of National Directors for the National Organizations shall be based on the number of their members.

a) The allocation shall be as follows:

1,000 to 10,000 members	1 Director
10,001 to 25,000 members	2 Directors
25,001 to 50,000 members	3 Directors
50,001 to 100,000 members	4 Directors
100,001 to 150,000 members	5 Directors
150,001 to 200,000 members	6 Directors
200,001 to 250,000 members	7 Directors
250,001 upward members	8 Directors

b) The qualifying National Organizations shall appoint their Directors on or before June 30th for a two (2) year term and shall submit the name, address and telephone number of the duly appointed to the Secretary of the Congress within thirty (30) days of said appointment.

Section 4. Director: Qualifications.

A National Director must be a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident. Membership in the security apparatus of any subversive organization of any communist government shall disqualify said individual from the position of National Director.

Section 5. Limitation on Holding Offices Concurrently and Proxies.

A person selected to be a National Director can only represent either a National Organization or a State Division, but cannot represent both organizations concurrently. No proxies can be issued at any meetings, National or State Division.

Section 6. Removal and Vacancy.

The removal of a National Director for failure to attend two (2) unexcused consecutive meetings will not ordinarily be the function of the Council of the National Directors, but of the Executive Committee. The Secretary will notify the particular National Organization or State Division of the absence of their National Director for removal and replacement.

Section 7. National Director: Duties and Powers.

The duties and powers of the Council of National Directors shall be to:

- a) Carry on the purposes and objectives of the Polish-American Congress;
- b) Elect the Officers of the National Executive Council.
- c) Create from within the Council of National Directors Committees to accomplish the goals and undertaking the activities and the achievement of its prescribed purposes and goals.

Section 8. Meetings and Quorum.

The Annual Meeting of the Council of National Directors shall be held in October or November of each year and a plenary meeting in April or May. A quorum for a meeting of the Council of National Directors shall consist of one-third (1/3) of the members of the Council.

ARTICLE VI **State Divisions**

Section 1. Composition of State Division.

The State Divisions shall be composed of members of the Congress residing within a particular state or in close geographical proximity to a particular state. Only organization members or individuals certified to be members of the Congress by the Executive Committee shall be members of a State Division.

Representation of Organizational Members in State Division. Organization members shall be represented in the State Division by delegates in the number listed hereinafter:

- a) Parishes and representative component sections of National Organizations, i.e. branches, posts, councils, nests, lodges and groups shall be entitled to three (3) Delegates plus one (1) for each 100 members, but no more than ten (10) Delegates.
- b) All independent societies, clubs, and various other not-for-profit organizations shall be entitled to two (2) Delegates and one for each 100 members, but no more than ten (10) Delegates.
- c) Educational institutions, monasteries, convents, charitable institutions, etc. shall be entitled to two (2) Delegates.

Section 2. Requirement for Incorporation of All State Divisions.

All State Divisions shall be required to incorporate their organization as a not-for-profit corporation under the existing laws of the State of their domicile. A certified copy of the Articles of Incorporation together with current by-laws of the State Division shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Congress. A copy of the State Division's annual corporation report shall be mailed yearly to the Congress' Secretary as well as a yearly treasurer's report of the State Division and a complete membership report.

Section 3. Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of each State Division shall be held no later than June 30th of each year.

- a) The State Division shall elect its officers and National Directors to the Council of National Directors pursuant to these by-laws.
- b) To participate in an annual election, a member shall have been a member in the Congress at least three (3) months prior to the day of the Annual Meeting.

Section 4. State Division Officers.

The officers of the State Division shall be as follows: President, Secretary, Treasurer, and as many Vice-Presidents, Directors and other officers as the particular State Division deems necessary. To be eligible for election as an officer or National Director, a person shall be a Delegate or individual member for at least one (1) year and in good standing, and a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

Section 5. General Duties of State Division Officers.

The general duties of the officers for a State Division are as follows:

- a) To carry out the purpose and objectives of the Congress within the State Division;
- b) To represent the State Division in local community affairs;
- c) To strive to increase the membership of the State Division as well as the establishment of State Chapters;
- d) To cooperate and communicate with the Executive Committee and National Executive Council of the Congress concerning activities of the State Division;
- e) Submit brief annual written reports to the Council of National Directors; and,
- f) To hold at least one membership meeting each quarter by and through written notice.
- g) Proxy voting shall not be allowed.

Section 6. A State Division, or any of its subordinates, shall not take a conflicting position concerning policy matters and internal administration established by either the Executive Committee, the National Executive Council, or the Council of National Directors.

Section 7. Establishment and Administration of Chapters.

State Divisions shall be authorized to establish and to administer sections within their State territory known as chapters.

- a) Within one (1) year of the establishment of a Chapter, a protocol shall be signed by the officers of the State Division and the officers of the Chapter outlining the administration of the Chapter and its responsibility to the State Division which protocol shall include but not be limited to the following areas: Financial, dues, organizational structure, geographic boundaries, and program coordination. A certified copy of their protocol shall be delivered by the State Division to the Secretary of the Congress.
- b) Chapter Officers. The officers of the Chapter shall be as follows: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Directors and other officers, except President, as the particular Chapter deems necessary. The presiding officer of the Chapter shall be a Vice-President of the State Division and shall be required to attend at least the Annual Meeting of the State Division and report as to the Chapter's activities and functions.
- c) Mediation of Disputes. The mediation of any disputes between the State Division and the Chapter shall be adjudicated by the Executive Committee

which decision, may be appealed to the National Executive Council whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties thereto.

Section 8. Dissolution of State Division.

In the event that a State Division shall become inactive or fails to perform the duties pursuant to these by-laws, then upon written notice to the presiding officer of the State Division, the national Executive Committee has the right, power, and responsibility to reactivate or to dissolve said State Division.

Upon the dissolution of a State Division by act of the National Executive Committee or by other cause, the funds and assets of said State Division shall be transferred and assigned to the Congress, consideration being given to the geographic area upon disposition of the funds.

ARTICLE VII

Dues

Section 1. Annual Dues.

The National Executive Council shall determine from time to time the amount of the annual dues payable to the Congress by the members of each class, and shall give appropriate notice to the members.

Section 2. Payment of Dues.

Dues shall be payable in advance to the Treasurer of the Congress on or before April 30th of each year. Membership chairpersons of the various State Divisions and Chapters shall collect the dues from their members and submit the authorized dues to the Treasurer of the State Division who shall then transmit said dues directly to the Treasurer of the Congress.

Section 3. Delinquent Dues.

Members found more than thirty (30) days delinquent in the payment of any dues or assessments levied against them shall be given notice in writing of such delinquency. In the event payment in full is not made within thirty (30) days after such written notice is sent, such member shall be suspended.

ARTICLE VIII

Grievance Procedures

Section 1. Written Complaint.

Any grievance against any member, delegate, officer, Chapter, or State Division shall be initiated by a written complaint signed by three (3) members of Congress in good standing.

- a) The complaint shall be verified or notarized and shall have attached to it any and all affidavits, exhibits, transcripts (tapes of meetings must be transcribed

in written form) and any other document which the complainant shall base its grievance.

- b) The complaint with all attachments shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Congress. The grievance shall then be investigated by the specifically selected Grievance Committee for findings of fact and conclusions of law to the Executive Committee.
- c) Adoption of the Grievance Committee's findings of fact and conclusions of law by the Executive Committee shall be final. In the event the National Executive Committee fails to adopt the Grievance Committee's Report, the appeal shall then be heard by the Executive Council which decision shall be final.

Section 2. State Divisions are required to follow the procedures set up in these by-laws for the handling of grievances arising among its members and any of its Chapters.

Section 3. No member, Delegate, officer, Chapter or State Division shall institute any litigation with respect to any matter properly recognized under the broad provisions of this Article, until all administrative remedies have been exhausted.

ARTICLE IX

Termination or Suspension of Membership

Section 1. Discipline and Expulsion of Member.

Membership in the Congress, the State Division, or the Chapter and all rights incident thereto, shall be terminated by one of the following:

- a) Written resignation of the member or Delegate submitted to the Secretary of the Congress.
- b) That not less than ten (10) days' written notice, by certified mail, of such hearing shall be given to the member or Delegate for the expulsion, removal from office, reprimand, suspension, following a hearing of a member or Delegate for a willful violation of or failure to comply with the Articles of Incorporation, by-laws, or the duly promulgated rules and regulations of the Congress or State Division
- c) A member or Delegate may be suspended for cause, including conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Congress, for a period not to exceed one (1) year by the National Executive Committee of the State Division or the National Executive Council of Congress, as provided in the Rules and Regulations of Article VIII, and provided, further that on the expiration of the period of suspension or following the hearing, whichever shall sooner occur, the member or Delegate shall either be restored to membership or his membership shall be terminated.
- d) A member or Delegate may also be suspended for non-payment of dues following ninety (90) days' notice of delinquency therein. If a delinquent member fails to pay all arrearages, for ninety (90) days after mailing of

notice of delinquency, he shall be dropped from membership. Such member may be reinstated only on payment of all unpaid dues. During a period of suspension, a member or Delegate shall not be entitled to participate in any membership meeting or serve on any committee.

Section 2. Termination or Suspension of State Division or Chapter.

Membership in the Congress of a State Division or a Chapter and all rights incident thereto, shall be terminated by one of the following:

The expulsion following a hearing for a willful violation or failure to comply with the Articles of Incorporation, by-laws or the duly promulgated rules, regulations and decisions of the Congress through the actions of the Council of National Directors or the National Executive Council, or Executive Committee as well as the State's Division by-laws and protocols; following the procedures of Article IX.

ARTICLE X
Rules of Order

Robert's Revised Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings at meetings of the Congress, the State Divisions and Chapters, except where the by-laws of the Congress otherwise provide.

ARTICLE XI
Amendments to the By-Laws

Section 1. The Congress through the Council of the National Directors shall have the right and authority to make such changes and amendments to the by-laws as it shall deem right and proper.

Section 2. Procedure to Amend the By-Laws.

The following procedures to amend the by-laws:

- a) Proposals to amend the by-laws must be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the by-laws committee sixty (60) days before the meeting of the Council of National Directors.
- b) Following a review of the submitted amendments by the chairperson of the by-laws committee and members of the Executive Committee a report of the submitted amendments will be distributed to members of the Council of National Directors thirty (30) days before the meeting of the Council of National Directors.
- c) The by-laws committee shall meet prior to the meeting of the Council of National Directors and prepare a report recommending action by the Council of National Directors.

d) All amendments to the by-laws shall require a two thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members present of the Council of National Directors assembled.

Section 3. Article I of the By-Laws (Purposes and Objectives) is not to be changed without the approval of the Council of National Directors.

ARTICLE XII **The Convention**

A convention of the Polish American Congress is a meeting of all classes of membership of the general organization to be held every four (4) years for the purpose of assisting and promoting the purposes and objectives of Polonia in the areas of education, government, culture and social activities. The Convention is a non-legislative assembly. Members registered for the Convention can participate in a forum for the presentation and consideration of resolutions.

Section 1. A Convention of the Polish American Congress shall be held every four (4) years in October/November, starting in 1992.

Section 2. At the Convention a concurrent meeting of the Council of National Directors shall take place to elect the officers of the Congress and to conduct any other business that shall come before that Council at such meeting. Only National Directors shall have a voice and/or vote on such matters.

Section 3. Special meetings of the Convention shall be called:

- 1) Upon the recommendation of the President and approval by a majority of the Council of National Directors; or,
- 2) By a demand in writing of a majority of the State Divisions directed to the President.

Section 4. The National Executive Council may designate any place within the United States as the site of any regular or special meeting of the Convention.

Section 5. Written or printed notice stating the place, date, hour, and proposed agenda of any meeting of the Convention shall be delivered either personally or by mail to each member entitled to attend the Convention, not less than thirty (30) nor more than ninety (90) days before the date of such meeting. Such notice shall be given by or at the direction of the President. In the case of a special meeting or when required by the By-Laws, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be stated in the notice. If mailed, the notice of the meeting shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the member at the member's address as it appears in the records of the Congress, with proper postage prepaid.

Section 6. The Executive Committee shall set a registration fee prior to the Convention for each attendee.

Section 7. Any member of the Congress, as provided in Article II, shall be allowed to attend the Convention.

Section 8. At least one (1) year prior to the date set for the Convention, the President shall appoint a chairperson and ten (10) members to the General Convention Committee. This Committee shall organize within thirty (30) days after appointment and its activities shall include the necessary preparations for the meeting of the Convention and it shall be governed by the guidelines established by the National Executive Council.

Section 9. The President of the Congress shall appoint a chairperson and committee members to all Pre-Convention and Convention Committees not later than ninety (90) days prior to the date set for the Convention. Each Pre-Convention and Convention Committee shall consist of a chairperson and no less than two (2) nor more than ten (10) members selected from the Delegates to the Convention.

ARTICLE XIII **Dissolution of Congress**

In the event of the dissolution of the congress, all remaining funds in the Treasury of the Congress and the State Division and Chapter shall be assigned to the PAC Charitable Foundation for humanitarian purposes in the Polish-American community by the Council of National Directors.

PAC By-Laws

Voted & Amended: Oct. 2011

ADDENDUM

Purpose and Objectives of the Polish American Congress as approved at the founding meeting of the Polish American Congress in Buffalo, New York May 28, 1944 – June 1, 1944

Section 1. To give complete support to the Government of the United States in its efforts to win and maintain a just and durable peace and to fight the infiltration of communism, Nazism, and other subversive ideologies.

Section 2. To stimulate and unify action of persons of Polish ancestry in the United States within the lawful limit of their rights and duties as citizens, permanent residents and visitors of this country.

Section 3. To concern itself with the welfare of Americans of Polish ancestry in political, religious, ethnic, educational, social and economic matters with the view of encouraging the growth of their fraternal, professional, ideological and civic associations.

- a) To support and protect their publications, schools, parishes, particularly those which teach the Polish language, history and culture.
- b) To support the industry and trade in the United States conducted by persons of Polish ancestry.
- c) To educate and instruct persons of Polish ancestry with their rights, privileges and duties of American citizenship.
- d) To support the efforts of Americans of Polish heritage in their effort to achieve those goals as guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

Section 4. To protect the good name of Americans of Polish ancestry and the people of Poland against defamation and discrimination.

Section 5. To take a positive stand in matters pertaining to the people of Poland and to assist them in demanding and establishing their national independence, civic, religious and cultural developments, free from any interference from their neighbors.

Section 6. To furnish information to the American public of Poland's historic role, her aims, needs, rights to independence and integrity of her frontiers.

Section 7. To be active in the direction of closer and deeper cooperation of American democracy with the people of Poland in the fields of civic, ideological, cultural, social and economic life.

Section 8. To establish a special fund for the purpose of carrying out the aims and objectives defined by the Polish American Congress.