



# Chairman's Column

By: Aloys Notzon, PHC Chairman and President

On March 1, the successful White and Red Gala in Panna Maria was an outstanding example of faith, family and community. Allow me to describe it for you.

The evening began with a Mass at the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. After Mass, we walked to Panna Maria Hall, where everyone was greeted at the door by the unique Dolce Vita Beverage Wagon, named Francesca, that Alice Poore's daughter, Kristin Tatsch, provided. The Hall had been beautifully decorated in White and Red, and guests encountered an extensive charcutier table of meats, cheeses, vegetables, fruits and nuts, along with the delicious pierogis courtesy of our friends from Apolonia Catering. Guests were also treated to a well-stocked bar of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages with expert servers. The welcoming reception was delightful, with guests mingling and trading stories, as the AllDęte band was interacting with the attendees, making it fun for everyone.



The meal featured large, delicious Ribeye steaks, provided by Zach Yanta and his son, Zach Jr. We thank them again for their generous contribution. We are very grateful.

Our Executive Director Alice Poore gave an engaging speech on the many accomplishments of the Polish Heritage Center. She also introduced Lauren Dziuk, the first recipient of the Bishop Yanta Scholarship, who spoke of college life and expressed her appreciation to Bishop Yanta and the PHC.

During a live auction with an array of wonderful, donated items, the auctioneer was entertaining, his jokes and conduct of the auction was enjoyed by bidders and spectators with great results. Our entertainment, the AllDęte Band, was so gifted, and their enthusiasm, selection of music, danceable tunes, and interaction with the audience made it a fun evening celebration.

This Annual White and Red Gala outdid last year's successful inaugural event, increased the number of table sponsors and attendees, the decorations, food and drink and entertainment were enjoyed by all. We are so appreciative of the support of all these generous sponsors.

We look forward to next year's Gala.





# AllDęte's Most Excellent Texas Adventure

By: Susan Moczygamba-McKinsey, PHC Board Member

The musical group AllDęte journeyed to Panna Maria to headline the second annual White and Red Gala for the Polish Heritage Center. But much more than a performance at a fundraiser, this would be six days of cultural exchange, creating beautiful memories for all. AllDęte means All Brass, which is the group's signature. They are nine – Wiktor, Jakub, Dominik, Kacper, Kamil, Miłosz, Michał, Lech and Tobiasz – all in their 20s and 30s, except for Lech, who at age 77 was coaxed out of retirement to join a group set on making music for the world. They come from all over Poland and have played extensively in their home country and in Europe. They've also performed in America, but this was their first trip to South Texas. And it was a whirlwind.

## Wednesday

After a morning tour of NASA in Houston, the band traveled four hours by Greyhound Bus to San Antonio, where PHC Executive Director Alice Poore met them, driving a 15-person van...their travel for the next six days. As Alice got used to negotiating city streets, the band got a quick tour of downtown San Antonio, followed by dinner with PHC President Al Notzon at the Pearl. Then it was off to Panna Maria, where board member George Kowalik opened his home to them for the duration. We thank George and several folks in Panna Maria who ensured the boys were well-fed.

## Thursday

Their morning was spent touring Panna Maria, Immaculate Conception Church and the Polish Heritage Center. Community members joined them for lunch at the PHC, including many from the Banduch family, who are related to brothers Wiktor and Jakub from Boronów. Band members wanted to tour an American school, so it was off to Falls City, where they performed for grades K-7. The students were wonderfully loud and appreciative, and the band was amazed, saying they don't get nearly as boisterous a reception from students in Poland. Back to Panna Maria, where the boys got up close to some mighty big longhorns at board member Randy Pawelek's home. This would kick off their big ranch adventure.

## Friday

The band got to be cowboys for the day at the Pawelek Ranch near Charco in Goliad County. They rode through the fields, played by the San Antonio River, and ate well. They also made a music video, where they tumbled out of the beds of pickup trucks, bellied up to a bar and played Texas Hold 'Em. Dinner at the ranch featured fajitas, grilled onsite, and enchiladas. The music and laughter lasted well into the night.

## Saturday

Ahead of their evening performance at the Gala, the band spent hours in rehearsal and sound checks. They are great professionals, and it is evident in the care they take in ensuring each performance meets their high standards. So it was no surprise their Gala performance was magnificent. The crowd loved the music and the musicians equally. Alice wants to adopt them.

## Sunday/Monday

Morning Mass at Immaculate Conception was extra special as several band members accompanied the Panna Maria choir. It was beautiful and blessed. After church, it was off to San Antonio, where the boys got to roam the River Walk for several hours. They then went back to Panna Maria for a final evening and fond farewells. AllDęte flew home Monday, leaving behind new friends and great memories. We look forward to their return one day.





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**News from the Heritage Communities**

*We are grateful to you!*



The Gala was a huge success! The evening was filled with wonderful fellowship, delicious food, and fabulous music. My staff and I want to thank all who attended and all who contributed to making this Gala a memorable evening!

- Alice