



# Chairman's Column

By: Aloys Notzon,  
PHC Chairman and President

The Polish Heritage Center's 2026 White and Red Gala was another huge success! We extend our thanks to the many people who made it possible, headed up by Alice Poore and her staff who once again performed miracles for the PHC's event of the year. We are grateful to the Polish band AllDęta for entertaining us and sharing their talents with students and other Polish organizations in the area. Everyone enjoyed the band's music, including many dancers.

We thank our table sponsors, those who purchased tickets and those who secured the sponsorships. We thank Zach and Linda, Zach II and Jeri Lynn Yanta for providing the delicious large organic/non-gmo steaks that, for the third straight year, were a highlight of the Gala, and Duane Korzekwa and his staff for preparing those steaks to perfection. We thank Gerri and Alfred Rakowitz for the beautifully decorated bundt cakes and Emily's Edibles for the charcuterie table. It was wonderful seeing Asia and her crew from Apolonia Catering, who provided the ever-popular pierogies. Thanks to Mel Bartending, and a shout-out to Kristin and Chris Tatsch for the Gala's signature Poppy Margarita. We thank Tammy Felux, Vivian Janysek and Hatti Amsler who collaborated in creating a wonderful setting for the Gala. It was stunning!



We thank everyone who contributed items for our live auction; those who ran the auction and our auctioneer Cullen Beck who made it a great time and fun for everyone; and especially those so generous in their bidding. A special thanks to our wonderful student volunteers who helped make the event seem effortless and to Pat and Dora Pastore who are always so attentive to our guests' needs. Again, it was a marvelous evening and a grand success!



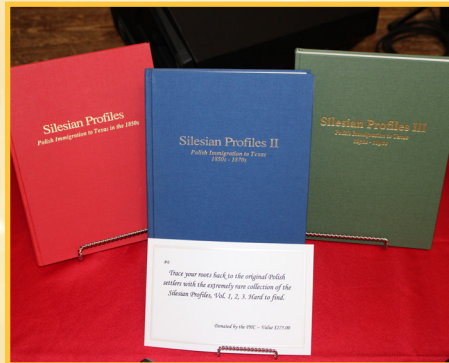
The PHC was honored to host Igor Janke, President of the Warsaw Freedom Foundation, which seeks to strengthen ties between the United States and Poland. He is also president of the Freedom Institute (in Poland), which is an independent, non-partisan Polish think tank that has run a Leadership School for over ten years, with more than 1,000 alumni. It is always a pleasure to drive from San Antonio to Panna Maria and to get our visitor's impression of our South Texas landscape. Igor got a personally guided tour of the Czerner House by Vice Chairman George Kowalik, a tour of the Center, and enjoyed a working luncheon with several PHC Board members and community members.

Randy Pawelek took him to his home ranch to see his Longhorns and then gave him an educational tour of the Panna Maria Cemetery. Joyce Rives, representing the Panna Maria Historical Society, gave him a tour of the Church and the Museum. It was great to get his positive feedback on his impressions of Panna Maria, the Center, and Texas. It was also very interesting to hear of the role of Poland in world activities, the outstanding growth of the Polish economy, and plans for even closer relations between Poland and the United States. We look forward to a continuing relationship between the Center and the Institute.

Wishing you a happy and blessed Easter season.



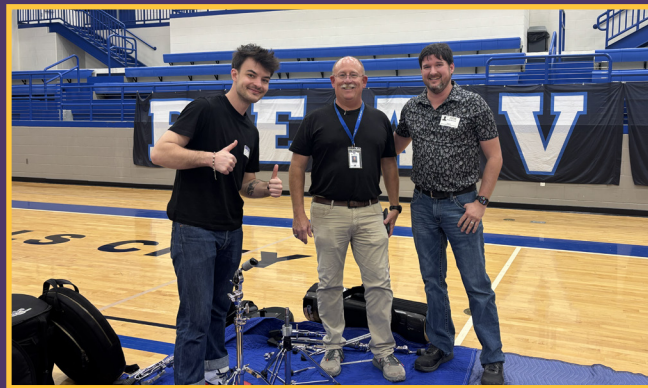
# 2026 White and Red Gala



# | School Concerts with AllDęte

By Alice Poore, PHC Executive Director

After ten days of experiencing Texas, including concerts in Houston, Austin and Panna Maria, AllDęte, the popular brass band from Poland, made sure to reciprocate by performing for two of the school districts that partner with the PHC. On Monday, March 9, over 200 students at Falls City ISD enjoyed a live concert, jamming in the stands to the sounds of each brass instrument and learning about Polish culture.



On the following day, March 10, AllDęte shared more Polish hits by performing for over 400 students at Yorktown ISD. Kindergarten through 4th grade, 5th grade through 8th grade, and the high school students each got their own concert. The band members demonstrated how to compose a song and showed students the similarity between the Polish Polka beat, with an accordion, and Tejano music. It was an awesome two days filled with excitement for both the band members, students and teachers. Thank you, Falls City ISD and Yorktown ISD, for the wonderful hospitality the band members received.





**THE  
POLISH HERITAGE CENTER  
AT PANNA MARIA**

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PHC Hours: Tues. – Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
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The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria  
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### News from the Heritage Communities

## Safe Travels to our Friends from Poland

