

FAITH • FAMILY
COMMUNITY



POLISH
HERITAGE
CENTER USA
PANNA MARIA, TEXAS

Visitor Experience #60



May 3rd Constitution (painting by **Jan Matejko**, 1891)

King Stanisław August (left, in regal ermine-trimmed cloak) enters St. John's Cathedral, where Sejm deputies will swear to uphold the new Constitution; in background is Warsaw's Royal Castle where the Constitution has just been adopted.

Image and description from:
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Poland

Job Opportunity at the Polish Heritage Center

Part-Time Visitor Services Associate

Reports to:

Executive Director of the Polish Heritage Center

Requirements:

- Experience preferred in customer service, retail, in a cultural institution such as a museum, theater or performing arts organization.
- Previous experience with selling memberships or subscriptions desired.
- Preferable knowledge of visitor service principles, practices, and procedures; and museum/attraction audiences. Excellent organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills, both oral and written, and computer knowledge.
- Must possess the ability to work with significant autonomy, and collaboratively, as part of a goal-oriented team.
- Ability and willingness to work a flexible schedule, including weekends, evenings, and holidays as needed.

Responsibilities:

- Working closely with staff, the Part Time Visitor Services Assistant will assist to ensure all guests have a comfortable, enjoyable, and memorable experience during their visit, and seeing that all visitors experience excellent customer service and encounter a welcoming, visitor-centric atmosphere, and be able to help sale memberships.
- This position will also ensure correct procedures are followed to open and to close the Center; cash controls; end of day close outs; and reconciliations, as well as in the Center's booking and point-of-sale systems for admission, gift shop sales, and memberships.
- This position would require working on a rotation shift that includes weekends, holidays, and special events after hours. This position may be required to perform other duties as required by the Executive Director.

Salary:

Hourly pay rate \$15.00 - \$20.00

Schedule:

Saturday, Sunday, and occasional evenings and holidays up to 19 hrs. per week

This position description is illustrative and does not necessarily specify all tasks and duties of this position. The Executive Director reserves the right to change this position description at its sole discretion at any time.

The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria is an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, age, national origin, disability status, genetic information, protected veterans' status, or any other characteristic protected by the law.

If you are interested in this position, please send your resume to Angelica Docog, Executive Director at angelicad@polishheritagecentertx.org

(830) 310-8612

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 25, Panna Maria, Texas 78144

Thank you

Job Opportunity at the Polish Heritage Center

Director of Business Operations

Reports to: Executive Director of the Polish Heritage Center

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or Business
- Preferred minimum of three years' experience as an operations and business manager.
- Demonstrated success in budget development and management.
- Demonstrated planning skills including experience in managing staff, and volunteers.
- Experience in oversight of facility and technology management.
- Possess exceptional written and verbal communication skills.
- Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office Suite products, including databases and spreadsheet applications in a Windows environment.
- Proficient in the use of QuickBooks.
- Demonstrated skills in accounting and payroll.
- Preferred knowledge and appreciation of the Polish immigration to the oldest permanent Polish settlement in Texas and of the history of Poland.

Responsibilities:

- Assists the Executive Director in the preparation, monitoring, and reporting on the annual budget that details forecasted expenses, and recommendations for all pricing and fees, including memberships.
- Prepares financial reports as requested by the Executive Director.
- Manages budget transfers and prepares and presents budget transfer information to the Board.
- Manages the day-to-day operations and all business functions of the office including, but not limited to: getting the mail, making deposits to Falls City National Bank, reviewing invoices for accuracy, submitting invoices to the Executive Director's for approval, preparing payments for the Executive Director for approval, processing the payments via QuickBooks.
- Research and resolve donor and accounting issues.
- Administration of the payroll system including the entering payroll hours, running payroll, and ensuring accuracy of payments and reporting.
- Ensuring that all Federal and State payroll reports are accurate and filed on time.
- Collecting and managing 1099 data from vendors.
- Responsible for working with the accounting firm to ensure accuracy in the accounting records.
- Responsible for developing business policies, business procedures and operations manuals
- Assist the Executive Director in the oversight of PHC operations including the exhibits, library, archives, genealogy lab, marketing, programs, and retail and physical plant operations.
- Works with the Executive Director to develop fundraising strategies, to generate sufficient operational revenue from public, corporate, foundation and individual sources.
- Serves as the DonorPerfect Administrator

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Thank you

The Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791

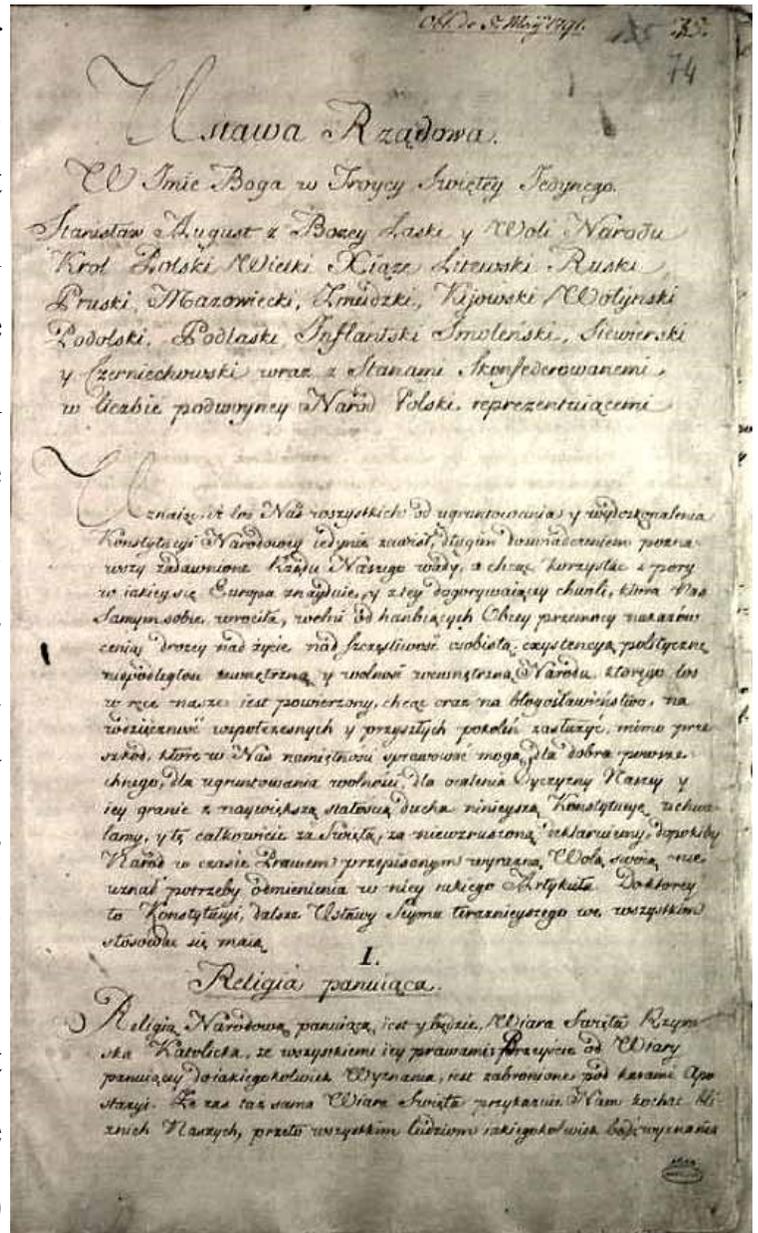
THE FIRST TWO CONSTITUTIONS

Witold J. Lukaszewski

Professor Emeritus of Department of Political Science,
Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas

This year we celebrate 233rd and 231st anniversaries of the first two written constitutions in world history: the US Constitution of 1789 and the Polish Constitution of 1791. The US Constitution is the first written constitution in the world; the Polish May 3, 1791, Constitution is the first written constitution in Europe, and second oldest in the world. Although the two constitutions emerged in very different domestic, international and geographic circumstances there are some interesting similarities between them. Both were written in response to the malfunctioning of their respective states: in the American case it was to achieve a “more perfect union” among the confederated states, and in the Polish case the reasons were to bring under control regional Lords and discipline the anarchical use of the “liberum veto” by the local petty nobility; in both cases the constitution bestowed citizenship rights, although still in unequal measures, on all members of their respective societies; in both cases the major impulse for the reforms were threats to national security coming from abroad; and, finally, in both cases the initiators of the constitutional reforms was the respective elite in both countries.

However, we need to remember that Poland's constitutional tradition, i.e., the struggles of subjects to limit arbitrary powers of kings and to obtain justice, reaches times before the emergence of the United States as an independent country, and even before the discovery of America. For example, the Charter of Koszyce of 1374 obligated the king to consult local Sejmiks (Diets) before levying new taxes; the establishment of the principle of NEMINEM CAPTIVABIMUS (Polish Habeas Corpus) of 1430-1433 protected nobility from arbitrary arrest or expropriation; NIHIL NOVI (the well-known Polish "nic o nas bez nas") of 1505 prohibited introduction of new laws without the consent of the country's Chamber of Deputies and Senate.



Ustawa Rządowa – Government Act – 1st Page
 First Page of the Constitution of May 3
 Image from: www.polishfoodutica.com/polish-constitution-day-may-3rd.html

Finally, we need to take a brief look at what we can call triumph and tragedy, and triumph again, of Poland's 3rd of May, 1791, Constitution. Its triumph was that in that moment of Europe's history, when all the surrounding countries were moving toward strong, centralized authoritarian monarchies, Poland was granting

all its classes full protection of the law: nobility remained dominant, towns people were given full citizenship and the right of political participation, the peasants were granted full protection of the law, and the king was denied all legislative power. The tragedy of the Polish May 3 Constitution was that it did not have the time needed for these farsighted reforms to take root. The three surrounding monarchies (Russia, Prussia, and Austria), felt threatened by these “subversive” democratic ideas and attacked and eventually conquered Poland. The ultimate triumph is that, with the exception of England’s Magna Carta of 1215, Poland’s constitutionalism can claim to be the oldest in Europe and that its principles have in the end prevailed. Those in the West who say that Poland is a young and inexperienced democracy need to review some facts which they should have learned in history classes.



Tadeusz Kościuszko
Painting from:
polishworld.com/polemb/const/

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION MAY 3, 1791

In the preamble to the Constitution, the authors prominently refer to Poland’s domestic and international environments which persuaded them to establish this fundamental document. Then they continue, “prizing more than life...the existence, external independence, and internal liberty of the nation...[and] for the sake of public good, for securing our liberty, and maintaining our kingdom and our possessions... [and] exert our natural rights...we do solemnly establish the present Constitution...”

Article I

The Dominant National Religion

“The Holy Roman-Catholic Faith, with all its privileges and immunities, shall be the dominant religion. ...but as the same holy religion commands us to love our neighbors, we therefore owe to all people of whatever persuasion, peace in matters of faith, and the protection of government,...freedom and liberty, according to the laws of the country...”



Photo Credit To Wikipedia Commons / In 1791 the "Great" (Four-Year) Sejm (1788–92) and Senate adopted the Constitution at Warsaw's Royal Castle
history.info/on-this-day/1791-the-first-modern-constitution-in-europe-got-poland-not-france/

Article II

Nobility, or the Equestrian Order

“Revering the memory of our ancestors with gratitude as the first founders of our liberties, it is but just to acknowledge...that all the preeminence and prerogatives of liberty...should be insured to this order...”

Article III

Towns and Citizens

Before the establishment of the Constitution, there had been certain cities, towns, and areas that had been erected with special rights and considerations. This article states that these areas would maintain their status and be protected by the state.

Article IV

Peasants and Villagers

Historically, the European social structure was broadly built around those who owned the land and those who merely worked the land. To protect the latter, “... from whose hands flows the source of our riches,...” from arbitrary treatment by the former, “...we publish and proclaim a perfect and entire liberty to all people...” Articles III and IV of the Constitution assure equality to these two broad classes and seek to protect all peoples, no matter what your status is in the social structure.

Article V

Form of Government, or the Definition of Public Powers

As does the Constitution of the United States, this Article establishes the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial that their powers are derived from the will of the people.

Article VI

The Diet, or the Legislative Power

The legislative branch was to be composed of two Houses: the House of Deputies and the Senate, the latter to be presided over by the King (In the US, the Vice President presides over Senate deliberations). The House of Deputies was to be “... representative and central point of supreme national authority...” where all laws initiated and decided first. The Senate, like the British House of



Image connected with the celebration of the May 3 Constitution

polishatheart.com/what-is-the-3rd-may-all-about

Lords, was to consist of the most prominent secular and religious individuals in the country.

Article VII Executive Power

The King, the Chief Executive of the state, was to be assisted by an Inspection Council designed to ensure that all enacted laws would be duly implemented.

Article VIII Judicial Power

The Judicial Power was to be separate and independent from the Legislative and the Executive branches. The framers of the Constitution also provided for the establishment of the country's court system and its proper jurisdictions.

Article IX Regency

In cases of death or disability of the King, the role of Regent (similar to our Vice President) would be exercised the Queen or the Catholic Primate of the Kingdom.

Article XI National Force, or the Army

“The nation is bound to preserve its possessions against invasion; therefore all inhabitants are natural defenders of their country and its liberties.” The framers thus provided legal basis for the establishment of the national defense force and, by implication, universal military service.

**With thanks and appreciation, the Polish Heritage Center
wishes to acknowledge the following donations:**

David & Martha Kincaid

Bishop John W. Yanta

Famous Poles in America



Jared Padalecki
[www.pinterest.com/
pin/557953841329997746/](http://www.pinterest.com/pin/557953841329997746/)

A Texan talent, Jared Padalecki, was born and raised in San Antonio. **Jared Padalecki** worked his way up first by winning a contest on Fox called “A Claim to Fame” in 1999. This was his launch into over twenty-two movies and made-for-TV appearances. **Jared** proved himself along the way and landed one of two main characters in *Supernatural*. Currently, **Jared Padalecki** is starring in a remake of *Walker, Texas Ranger* called *Walker*, playing the role Cordell Walker



Father Casimir Zeglen
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casimir_Zeglen

Perhaps the only people who may be familiar with **Father Casimir Zeglen** are those in law enforcement. In fact, a great number of those in law enforcement and in the military owe their life today to this Catholic priest. Aside from offering spiritual strength and support, as many priests do, this one offered something else to defend the body. He developed the bulletproof vest in 1897! He was born in 1869 near Tarnopol (present-day Ternopil, Ukraine). He later joined the Congregation of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, aka The Resurrectionists. He immigrated to the United States and for a time was assigned to St. Stanislaus Kostka Roman Catholic Church in Chicago. Aiding **Father Zeglen** in his inventive work was a Pole, **Jan Szczepanik**, who has been dubbed the Polish Edison.

Calendar of Events

April 9: PHC Family Day - Celebrating Polish Easter Traditions and Heritage, with paid admission

April 16: Easter Basket Blessing -
Our Lady of Czestochowa,
Houston, Texas

April 29 - May 1: Polish Festival Houston -
Our Lady of Czestochowa, Houston, Texas

May 3: PHC Program - 3pm, Polish Folk Group,
Tekla Klebetnica, complementary admission

June 24 - 25: Polski Dzień in Bremond, Texas

November 12: 2022 PACT ANNUAL MEETING,
Annunciation of the BVM Catholic Parish, St. Hedwig, Texas



Historical Highlights

April 14, 966 - Baptism of Poland

April 17 - 2022, Easter Sunday

April 19, 1943 - Warsaw Ghetto Uprising begins

April 22, 2022 - Divine Mercy Sunday

April 27, 2014 - Canonization of Pope John Paul II

May 3, 1791 - Polish Constitution Day

May 8, 1945 - World War II Ends

May 12, 1364 - Founding of Jagiellonian University

May 29, 2022 - Ascension of the Lord

May 30, 2022 - Memorial Day

By the time this newsletter reaches you, there is no way to know what the scope and depth of the Russian invasion and war with Ukraine will be. This is a reminder why we must always pray for peace. For when we do not and let our guard down, is when tragedy is most likely to occur. Because of our human



Though late in its development, the *Trident of Ukraine*, is the national insignia and represents the Holy Trinity.

Image from: destinations.com.ua/travel/places/688-national-symbols-of-ukraine-history-and-facts

condition, we can never take for granted that peace will ever be everlasting. We must never tire or cease; this is our call from Jesus Christ. *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Children of God!* We join the entire human community in the call for peace, healing, and restoration of Ukraine. We cannot forget to pray for Russia. The Russian people are also suffering at the hands of their leader. They too are our brothers and sisters in Christ. They too need to be healed. This may be difficult for us to embrace. Christ commands us to do the difficult, not the easy, to pray for persecutors. This Cross we carry in the faith of Christ. Pray for Ukraine. Pray for Russia.

May God bless you and yours,

Bishop John W. Yanta