

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

( October 19, 2015 through to October 29, 2016 )

Reported below is a summary of the activities of Pennsylvania Partnerships Abroad, Ltd. ( PPA ) for the above period of time. This report was submitted to the PPA Board of Directors and the Advisory Board on October 29, 2016, from the PPA headquarters office in Linglestown, PA.

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM** - No students are participating in this year's program. It would have been the 30<sup>th</sup> yearly program. It is becoming increasingly more and more difficult to find business and organizational sponsors.

Since this Internship Program began in 1990, 258 Polish students have now participated in this absolutely unique activity for Poland. These Interns continue to become the business leaders of the new Poland.

**SHIPMENTS OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS** - Cases of educational and fire service materials continue to be collected and processed here, and then shipped to 39 locations in Poland, and also one location each in Ukraine and Moldova. During the period of this report, three shipments, totaling 31 cases of materials, were shipped. The cost of shipping these cases was \$ 1,707.94. Since the legal incorporation of PPA in 1992, a grand total of 108 shipments, totaling 2,185 cases of materials, weighing 78,737 pounds, have been sent to Poland, Ukraine, and Moldova at a cost of \$ 65,155.93.

Currently, materials are being collected and sent to 28 schools, colleges, universities, and city libraries; and 13 fire organizations. To the educational Institutions, 160 different magazine titles are being gathered here and sent, as donated by many persons and organizations in central Pennsylvania, together with other materials, such as flags of four "English"-speaking countries, "English" grammar textbooks, maps, library books, dictionaries, books on tape, and videos.

In 1996, a "sponsor" program was created to attract contributors of donations, each donation in amounts of \$ 25.00 ( or multiples ), to assist in paying the shipping cost of cases of materials being sent to Poland, Ukraine, and Moldova. To date, 145 persons and organizations have given 1,807 donations of \$ 25.00 ( or multiples ), totaling at least \$ 45,175 toward the overall shipping costs listed above.

**POLAND-USA STUDENT EXCHANGE** - After 11 years of planning and proposing, the first PPA-organized 1-semester university student exchange was successfully completed for the 2010-'11 academic year between my Wrocław University of Economics ( W-w UE ) and Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania ( SU ). This student exchange, involving four students from each university, is planned to occur annually.

Currently, two W-w UE students ( Piotr Bieleń and Bart Kiejrys ) are studying at SU during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester, and they will return to Poland in January, 2017 for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester study. A total of twenty-one Polish students have now participated in this program.

Financially, each student pays the normal full-year educational expenses, half of which pays the expenses for the exchange student's tuition, fees, and housing. Costs for airfare and local transport, visa, food, books, insurance, and incidentals are extra. In support of this program, SU has created the possibility of a grant to pay for a portion of the airfare of the SU students.

Resulting from a PPA 2-year initiative, and beginning with the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester Exchange Program this past spring, a training / observation / project / scholarship program was organized with the huge VOLVO operations in both Shippensburg and Wrocław to permit the exchange students to obtain foreign hands-on experience connected to their foreign study. There exists with this program a \$ 450 scholarship per student, provided by VOLVO, to give \$ 200 toward each student's airfare, and \$ 50 for each of five months of the program for food. Full-time employment in VOLVO is a possibility for each exchange student following graduation from the home university.

For the 2016-'17 academic year, activities are now underway to recruit Polish and American students from each university for the eighth year of the Student Exchange Program.

( continued )

**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CONTACTS** - Interactive educational contacts continue from the past ten years between the Wrocław University of Economics and Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. Interactive educational activities, both under development and underway, involve live tele-conferencing; curriculum development; summer class trips to Poland; student-empowerment activities connected to student government and book store creation; alumni affairs; foundation development for fund-raising; the creation of a dual-diploma study program; and student, staff, and professor exchanges.

**TEACHER RECRUITMENT** - For the past three academic years - 2014-'15, 2015-'16, and 2016-'17, ( the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> years of this program ), there were no recruits by PPA for and sent to any educational institution in Poland to work as an "English" language native speaker high school teacher or university professor. Recently, no interest has been shown by Polish schools nor American teachers in this recruitment program. This program will continue, with added emphasis on finding interested American teachers to be employed in Poland, and securing teaching positions for American teachers within the Polish schools and universities connected to PPA.

Since the T.O.P.P.S. ( "Teaching Opportunities from Pennsylvania in Polish Schools" ) Program's inception in 1992, a total of 49 teachers from the USA and Canada have been recruited to fill 69 teaching positions in 21 educational institutions within Poland's secondary high school and university systems. The "TOPPS Program" is advertised on the world-wide Internet on PPA's website, at this address - [www.ppa-ltd.org](http://www.ppa-ltd.org) .

**"POLAND" PROGRAMS** – During the period of this report, one display and discussion program was presented to a Central Pennsylvania organization. The two Polish students currently enrolled at SU in the Student Exchange Program were involved with this activity, and monetary and material contributions for PPA expenses and projects were requested and received from this organization. To date, 271 "Poland" programs have been presented since 1987.

**FINANCING** - As reported each year in the past, financial concerns continue to be a major challenge for this organization, and are its largest inhibitor of further progress. Funding also continues to be provided as a loan from my private funds ( \$ 4,000.00 during the year of this report ), together with the contributions arising from various PPA activities.

| During the period of this report, funds were spent, with receipts on file,<br>in the listed categories shown below : | These listed assets<br>are now currently available : |
|--|--|
| 1. Postage .....   | Savings account --- \$ 352.36                        |
| 2. Phone and internet .....  | Checking account - \$ 170.80                         |
| 3. PPA travel expenses .....   | <b>\$ 523.16</b>                                     |
| 4. Student Internship Program .....  | "Hershey Co." stock- 200 shares                      |
| 5. Materials shipments to Polish/Ukrainian/Moldovan schools ...  |  |
| 6. Office supplies and equipment .....   |  |
| 7. PPA organization items .....  |  |
| 8. Student Exchange Program.....   |  |
| 9. PPA program items.....  |  |
| <b>\$ 11,260.57</b>  |  |

Additional anticipated expenditures to those items above within the next three months connected especially to the Phone/Internet, Student Exchange Program, the Materials Shipments Program, and Travel Expenses categories are expected to reach an estimated \$ 2,400.00. This will create a deficit of approximately \$ 1,876.84.

On January 27, 2017, I again eagerly and excitedly return to Poland for the 49<sup>th</sup> time, to teach during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester for the 27<sup>th</sup> time in Wrocław at the University of Economics. My plans call for the continuation of these activities for a minimum of an additional two years, so as to reach my professional goal of educational work for a total of 51 years. As I say in this closing each year, I am very grateful for the continuing support of the members of the Board of Directors, of the Advisory Board, and from individuals and organizations in the central Pennsylvania community for their willingness to remain a part of all of this.

William E. Minsker  
President