

Piast Institute attends Ancestry/Census meeting

Dr. Thaddeus C. Radzilowski, President of the Piast Institute, and Ms. Virginia Skrzyniarz, the Institute's Executive Director, were invited to attend the Ancestry/Census 2006 meeting in Washington, D.C. on February 13, 2006 to discuss the configuration of the new short form for the 2010 census. The key issue for the group was the addition of the ancestry question to the form. The Piast Institute was the only Polish American national organization in attendance to address Polonia's interests at the meeting.

The U.S. Census Bureau has eliminated the long form from the dicennial census. This was the form which contained the

ancestry question. A version of the ancestry question was placed in the new American Community Survey (ACS) which is a "rolling" five-year sample of the entire country. ACS is seen as a replacement for the long form by the Census Bureau. In conjunction with the end of the long form, which like ACS, was also based on a sample, the U.S. Census Bureau is redoing the short form to be filled out by the entire population. This reconfiguration, if instituted, will allow us to get a more accurate count of the Polish American community and better supplementary data relevant to our population. It is thus important that the ancestry question be added to the new

short form.

The Piast Institute will coordinate efforts to get information on this important issue to interested parties and to mobilize support for a higher-level recognition of the importance of ethnicity in American life, which the addition of ancestry to the short form represents. The political, social, economic and cultural work of Polonia will be enhanced significantly if we can develop more accurate and useful information on our community. This is an interest we share with other groups and can form the basis of useful coalition efforts.

For more information, call Ms. Virginia Skrzyniarz at the Piast Institute: 313-664-0321.