

# Greater Poland Uprising 1918-1919

<https://greaterpolanduprising.eu/pwe/memory/greater-poland-uprising/3549>  
15.06.2026, 10:37

## Continuation of the memory of history of the Greater Poland Uprising, its tradition and meaning.

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During the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the Greater Poland Uprising, the question arose among its veterans of who would be responsible for the further cultivation of the memory of their victorious uprising, who would popularise the knowledge of it and the traditions and values which accompanied the independence outburst of the years 1918-1919.



Age, and as a result of this, the inevitable decline in the number of insurgents and their deteriorating health conditions started to limit the activities of the National Committee for Veterans of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918-1919 operating within the Society of Fighters for Freedom and Democracy.

The expectations of the veteran circles, as well as social demand, gave rise to the idea of the establishment of a society which should take over the current traditions and continue the popularisation of the memory of and knowledge of the victorious uprising. At that time, only 80 insurgents were still alive in Poland. A few years later, on 23 March 2005, the last veteran of the Greater Poland Uprising died - Lieutenant Jan Rzepa from Wronki.

Hence, a group, which consisted of 25 people who were members of the Organisational Committee for the anniversary celebrations in the year 1988, responded to these concerns raised by the veterans with a specific proposal. On 30 January 1989, the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918/1919 was established with the seat of the Main Board located in Poznań. The members of the Society included descendants of insurgents and representatives of families of the Greater Poland Uprising participants. These are the core members of the organisation - regardless of their place of residence. Furthermore, people who hold the history and values of the victorious effort of the Greater Poland residents in the years 1918-1919 very close and who actively participate in different ways in the popularisation of this uprising are also members of the society.

The main objective of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918/1919 is, as the name indicates, to maintain the memory and shape the historical awareness of society - especially among the younger generation, of the significance of the victorious independence effort for our Home Country - the Second Republic of Poland reborn after many years of partitioning.

The victory accomplished by the insurgents had major impacts on:

- the liberation of the Greater Poland region, the territory which is considered the cradle of Polish statehood, and also the shape of the western border of the Second Republic of Poland;
- the integration of Greater Poland with the previously liberated regions of the country, making a great contribution in the form of a highly developed economy, including effective agriculture and a modern agri-food industry along with thriving trade
- the formation of an organised, well-trained and well-equipped Greater Poland Army in a short time, counting approx. 100000 people, and the incorporation of a large amount of military equipment, captured during battles with the partitioning country, including aeroplanes, thus strengthening the emerging Polish Army both quantitatively and qualitatively.

On top of this, the insurgents - the subsequent soldiers of the Greater Poland Army, took part in battles fought to shape the second border - the border in the east, often straight after leaving the

insurgent trenches.

They also fought in the eastern regions of the country, for Lviv and Vilnius, being distinguished by their organisation and valour during the Polish-Bolshevik war.

The victorious acts of the Greater Poland residents also awakened the patriotism and inspired the activities of the Poles who lived in Silesia and Pomerania.

A significant group of Greater Poland insurgents participated in the liberation battles of the inhabitants of Silesia. Some of them had taken part in the organisation of plebiscites in that area.

The objectives of the Society are accomplished, among other things, by:

- organising readings, lectures and scientific conferences which popularise the history of the uprising and the profiles of its participants among society, especially the younger generation,
- inspiring research and publishing activities and cooperating with scientific institutions and mass media in this respect,
- organising contests, exhibitions and other events which popularise the Greater Poland Uprising, and also providing support for schools and scouting and other organisations whose patrons are the heroes of the Greater Poland Uprising, in the field of educational activity, among other things, by organising national historical-educational rallies and meetings, and distributing historical publications and materials

etc.

- keeping records regarding the history of the Greater Poland Uprising (through the acquisition of documents and tokens related to the uprising) in cooperation with museums and scientific and cultural institutions,

- cooperating with state and local government authorities and units of the Polish Army in the organisation of anniversary ceremonies and care of the Greater Poland Uprising remembrance sites as well as insurgent quarters and tombs.

During the 1st National Congress of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918/1919, which took place on 19 November 1994, the 93-year-old Lieutenant Colonel Stanisław Zenkteler said: "What we, the insurgents, did, contributed to the strengthening of the subsequent power of Poland. This must not be forgotten and today's Congress of the Society proves that this feat is remembered and will be remembered."

Presently the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918/1919 consists of 2608 members who organise their activities in 113 Youth Circles and Clubs.

As well as ordinary members, the Society is composed of schools and units of the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association which bear the names of Greater Poland Insurgents.

The activities of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising cover the western part of Poland, especially the Kuyavian-Pomerania,

Lubusz and Greater Poland provinces. There are also circles of the society active in Szczecin, Legnica and Warsaw. In the capital city, there is also a complex of schools which bear the names of Greater Poland Insurgents.

Since 6 October 2004, the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918/1919 has had the status of a public utility organisation.

In the year 2019, the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising celebrated the 30th anniversary of its existence.

The achievements of the Society in the past years consist of many projects and initiatives.

One important element of the activities of the Society was the introduction of an inspirational-incentive system for the promoters of the memory of the Greater Poland Uprising and those who organise various forms of popularisation of historical knowledge about the uprising and commemoration of the sites related to the insurgent fighting.

The year 1995 marked the publication of the first issue of the historical-educational yearbook, "Wielkopolski Powstaniec", whose aim was to present the history of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918 - 1919 and the course of the insurgent activities in the respective cities and communes, to inform people about initiatives regarding the commemoration of the uprising among various circles, and to exchange experiences between, among others, the Circles of the Society for the Memory of the Greater

Poland Uprising and Schools in their educational work, especially those schools which have heroes of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918-1919 as their patrons.

24 issues of "Wielkopolski Powstaniec" have been published so far. Another initiative in this system was the establishment of an Honorary Award of the Main Board of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising in the year 1996 - this is a statuette of "The Drummer of the Greater Poland Uprising".

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The statuette is a miniature of a fragment of a monument devoted to the Greater Poland Insurgents. The monument of the "Drummer" was placed on the Śrem market square on 15 November 1925. It was erected according to a design prepared by Władysław Marcinkowski. It was then destroyed by the Germans on 11 September 1939. The monument was rebuilt and unveiled again in the Greater Poland Insurgents Park in the year 1961 and the sculpture of the drummer was reproduced by Jerzy Sobociński.

The original statuette was made by the then Odlewnia Żeliw Śrem S.A. and this Honorary Award - "the Drummer of the Greater Poland Uprising" - is granted once a year before the ceremonious celebrations of the anniversary of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918-1919.

The “Drummer .....” statuettes are presented in the Działyński Palace in Poznań as a summary of the yearly activities aimed at commemoration of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918-1919.

The “Drummer...” is awarded to persons and institutions that made particular contributions to the popularisation of the memory, knowledge and traditions of the independence effort of the Greater Poland residents through:

- popular-scientific activities regarding the history of the Greater Poland Uprising, research and publication initiatives, published books, journalism, etc.
- presentation of the subject of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918-1919 in their creative work (literature, film, music, art etc.).
- broad popularisation activities including scientific and popular-scientific conferences, museology and any other forms of a lasting nature which have national and regional significance.

The first winners of the “Drummer of the Greater Poland Uprising” were as follows:

Prof. Antonii Czubiński – a historian, Gerard Górnicki – a literary man, and the International Poznań Fair.

The prestigious title of the “Drummer of the Greater Poland Uprising”, including the statuette, has so far been awarded to 71 people and 27 institutions.

These include historians, literary people, regional

activists, museum workers and educational institutions.

Furthermore, since the year 2009, the Main Board has awarded distinguished activists of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising, and supporters and friends who are proponents of the idea and programme of the activities Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising, with the Honorary Badge "Faithful to Tradition".

Much importance in the activity of the Main Board and the provincial branches of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising is given to scientific and popular-scientific conferences which are aimed not only at deepening the knowledge about the Greater Poland Uprising, but also the current state of research and historiography related to the uprising and historical awareness of its significance in the society.

The following subjects may be mentioned as examples: The Greater Poland Uprising - an unappreciated success (Zielona Góra), The state and prospects of historiography regarding the Greater Poland Uprising (Gniezno), The inhabitants of rural areas in the Greater Poland Uprising (Museum of Agriculture and Agri-food Industry in Szreniawa), Scouts in the Greater Poland Uprising 1918-1919 (Poznań), The Greater Poland Uprising 1918-1919 in the Kuyavia, Pałuki and Pomerania regions (Inowrocław), and The participation of pharmacists in the Greater Poland Uprising (Polish Society of Friends of Learning in Poznań). A conference regarding historiography

and school education, organised by the Main Board of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising and the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, was of particular significance as the subject of evaluation at the conference covered contents related to Greater Poland in the history teaching curricula and history books. Also, the contents of some history books were evaluated critically.

Analysis carried out by scientists and practitioners – teachers, was not too optimistic. It was found that the educational contents and achievements of students related to the Greater Poland Uprising were progressively reduced and the importance of the Greater Poland Uprising was narrowed down to a regional dimension. Thus, it was pointed out that there was a real threat that a student, especially at primary school level - in another region of the country, would not know anything about the Greater Poland Uprising.

The conference got a lot of publicity in the press and on the internet. Conclusions reached during the conference, in the form of a resolution, were sent to the Ministry of National Education. This was the year 2010.

The subsequent educational reforms have not changed much. In the year 2017, the Main Board of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising, historians from the Adam Mickiewicz University and members of parliament from Poznań had to intervene at the level of the Ministry of National Education to include the history of the Greater Poland Uprising in the

school curricula, in a form relevant for the range and significance of this event for a country reborn after partitioning. The requests were only partially fulfilled.

On the initiative of organisational units of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918/19, popular-scientific conferences were held in many cities and schools.

An important role in the popularisation of the memory and knowledge of the Greater Poland Uprising is played by publishing companies, and the Main Board of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising, as has already been mentioned, publishes the historical-educational yearbook entitled "Wielkopolski Powstanie".

On top of this it is the publisher of insurgent biographical notes "Powstańcy Wielkopolscy. Biogramy uczestników powstania wielkopolskiego 1918-1919" edited by Professor Bogusław Polak. 14 volumes have already been published and the 15th volume will be published to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the Greater Poland Uprising. So far, this work has covered about 5000 profiles of participants of the uprising; it presents insurgents of various ranks - privates and commanders, as well as people who played supporting roles in the uprising.

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The society is also the publisher of many other

historical publications, including:

- "Powstanie Wielkopolskie 1918-1919. Katalog źródeł i materiałów" edited by Prof. Stanisław Sierpowski,
- "Zachowane mogiły powstańców wielkopolskich, poległych i zmarłych w czasie walk powstańczych 1918/1919" - Zdzisław Kościański Ph.D. and Zenon Wartel Ph.D.
- "Kobiety w Powstaniu Wielkopolskim 1918-1919" - Anna Barłóg-Mitmańska.
- "Mogiły powstańców wielkopolskich na cmentarzu junikowskim" - Stefan Psik and Danuta Kossobudzka.
- "Powstańcy Wielkopolscy wzorem dla młodzieży"  
- Stefan Barłóg, Stefan Wojtkiewicz and Małgorzata Wróbel.

Also the respective branches and circles of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising can boast a few publications. Here it is possible to mention the following titles:

- "Wierni Powstańczym Tradycjom. XX lat Oddziału Lubuskiego TPPW 1918/1919w Zielonej Górze".
- The Greater Poland Uprising in Mrocza and the surrounding areas.
- Inhabitants of the Dopiewo commune in the Greater Poland Uprising.
- The Return of the Eagle. The Greater Poland Uprising in the Polish Territory

- The biographical dictionary of Greater Poland insurgents in the Wielichowo area.

- Września and the Greater Poland Uprising

and many others. All these studies are of regional natures and refer to specific communities.

They make a contribution, among other things, in the form of so far undiscovered events and trivia, thus being a starting point for researchers and scientific studies devoted to the problems of the history of the Greater Poland Uprising.

The Main Board of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising and the Raczyński Library are co-organisers of three exhibitions of books related to the Greater Poland Uprising, presenting their publications in this regard.

The last exhibition took place in the year 2013 and at that time, 200 publications devoted to the independence effort of the Greater Poland residents in the years 1918-1919 were presented. The oldest presented publication was a book by Karol Rzepecki from the year 1919 entitled: "Powstanie grudniowe w Wielkopolsce". Wojciech Speleniak, the then director of the Raczyński Library said: "Currently there are about 6000 publications of various natures, regarding the Greater Poland Uprising."

While organising the exhibition, the objective was set to present selected publications - the oldest ones in the library collections, and also those which were of particular importance in the post-war period. It must also be mentioned that plenty of regional publications have appeared in recent

years, contributing to the enrichment of the historical literature about the Greater Poland Uprising 1918-1919. The opening of the aforementioned exhibition was accompanied by a meeting of the authors of books, historians and regionalists, at which, during a debate - sometimes polemic, the current achievements were discussed. Attention was also paid to deficiencies in certain thematic areas and literary forms. Also the social need to prepare and publish an Encyclopaedia of the Greater Poland Uprising was emphasised.

The Society also takes care of the material commemoration of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918-1919. Its organisational units, in cooperation with local councils, have been the initiators of the renovation and establishment of a number of new memorial sites dedicated to insurgents, monuments, obelisks, memorial plaques etc. in the recent years. Here are some of them.

Among others, one of the oldest monuments in Bydgoszcz - The Tomb of the Unknown Greater Poland Insurgent was renovated. An unknown insurgent, killed on 16 April 1919 in the battle of Murowaniec, lies within.

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Also, the monuments in Czerniejewo, Kramsk and Środa Wielkopolska were renovated.

A new monument, of particular importance - The Monument of the Drummer of the Greater Poland Uprising - was unveiled on 19 December 2013 in Zielona Góra; it was erected on Powstańców Wielkopolskich Square in the city centre. The Zielona Góra drummer is slightly different from "his brother" in Śrem in that the sticks which he holds are raised, however, it represents the same ideals. It was built by Romuald Wiśniewski and the artistic inspiration for him was the work of Paulina Gąsiorowska from Sulechów - the winner of a student contest regarding the subject of the Greater Poland Uprising, entitled "The Drummer of the Uprising". The monument is devoted to the Greater Poland Uprising, and at the same time, to the young people who participated in the fight for independence. The monument of the Drummer was unveiled, during a ceremony, by children, adults and representatives of the authorities.

This monument is also a symbol which connects the traditions of the Lubusz province with Greater Poland, the ideals of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising and the values of the Greater Poland Uprising. Furthermore, new monuments and obelisks, also with great ideological and patriotic values, were erected in many other towns, related especially to insurgent events, i.e.: Budzyń, Czerniejewo, Janikowo, Kruszewo, Kargowa, Krosno Odrzańskie, Krobia, Kruszewo, Mrocza, Mieleszyn, Piła, Rzywno near Łabiszyn, Strzelno, Szamocin, Sulechów, Szubin, Trzemeszno, Wolsztyn, Wysoka - Walachówka, Złotniki Kujawskie and Żagań.

Meanwhile, memorial plaques were placed in Buk, Dopiewo, Dębno, Gniezno, Inowrocław,

Kalisz, Koźmin Wlkp., Międzychód, Powidz, Piła, Skoki, Wolsztyn and Żnin.

Another precious initiative is that of naming streets and squares after heroes of the Greater Poland Uprising, e.g.:

- gen. Józefa Dowbora-Muśnickiego Square in Szczecin

- płk Stanisława Siudy Square in Błonnice near Przemęt

- Władysława Rybakowskiego Square- a Greater Poland insurgent from Krotoszyn

- Wincentego i Jana Wierzejewskich Square in Poznań.

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It is also necessary to mention another initiative of the Greater Poland Board of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising and the Poznań Municipal Office as well as the circle of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising in Wronki - that is, the marking of the tombs of Greater Poland Insurgents on cemeteries with commemorative notices about the person who rests in the tomb "Greater Poland Insurgent 1918-1919".

At present this initiative is implemented by many circles of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising together with local

councils.

The examples given, perhaps incomplete, represent the range of the activities of the Society for the material commemoration of the Greater Poland Uprising and its participants, and the achievements in this area are significant.

It is also worth observing that the plans for the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the Greater Poland Uprising also take into account other initiatives.

The Society places great emphasis in its activities on the patriotic-educational work among the school youth, popularising the knowledge and tradition of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918-1919 in different forms.

There is a Club which functions in association with the Main Board of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising - the "Family" of schools bearing the names of heroes of the Greater Poland Uprising.

The "Family" was formed even before the establishment of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising in Kalisz, during the 1st National Rally of Schools which were all bound by the joint patron of the school -that is, heroes of the Greater Poland Uprising. The organiser of the Rally was Primary School No. 16 in Kalisz, which bears the name "Greater Poland Insurgents". At present the club brings together 105 schools and 15 organisational units of the Scouting and Guiding Association.

During the last school year, because of the

liquidation of lower secondary schools as a result of governmental reforms, several schools bearing the names of Greater Poland Insurgents disappeared. However, the process of choosing heroes of the Greater Poland Uprising as patrons of the new educational institutions established in place of the lower secondary schools is continuing.

The achievements of the "Family" include national rallies of schools, in which scouting units also often participate. So far, eight such rallies have already been organised:

I. Kalisz - 1978. Organiser - Society of Fighters for Freedom and Democracy and Greater Poland Insurgents Primary School No. 16 in Kalisz

II. Poznań- 1988. Organiser - Society of Fighters for Freedom and Democracy and Polish Scouting and Guiding Association.

III. Poznań Ławica- 1993. Organiser - Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising and the 4th Aviation Corps of the Polish Armed Forces in Ławica

IV. Warsaw- 1998. Organiser - Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising and Greater Poland Insurgents Primary School No. 263 in Warsaw.

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V. Poznań - 2003. Organiser - Greater Poland

Marshal's Office and Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising.

VI. Gniezno - Zdziechowa- 2004. Organiser - Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising, a Youth Centre in Gniezno and the Greater Poland Insurgents Primary School in Zdziechowa.

VII. Września - 2008. Organiser - Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising, Września Staroste and the Greater Poland Insurgents Complex of Vocational Schools in Września.

VIII. Lusowo, Poznań - 2014. Organiser - Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising, Society for the Memory of General Józef Dowbór-Muśnicki in Lusowo and the General Józef Dowbór-Muśnicki Primary School in Lusowo.

During the year 2019, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Greater Poland Uprising, another Rally in Gniezno was held.

Furthermore, schools which have the same hero as their patron, pay visits to each other and participate in ceremonies concerning the "Patron's Feast Day" organised by them, as well as other events.

One particular example is the organisation of an event under the slogan "Meeting of Friends" by the Board of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Branch, during which the selected school organises meetings and presents its achievements as well as educational-didactic, sports and artistic accomplishments etc.

All Rallies, congresses and meetings of the schools are aimed at exchanging their experiences in the educational work about the patron of the school and presenting their achievements in this respect. Furthermore, they make the participants of the rallies more familiar with the historical sites which are connected to the Greater Poland Uprising 1918-1919, and so for instance the 3rd Rally in Poznań, Ławica - with its traditions related to the capturing of this German-held airport and the ensuing formation of the insurgent air squadron. On the other hand, the 4th Rally in Warsaw presented the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with a monument and a dedicated quarter devoted to the Greater Poland and Silesian Insurgents in the Powązki Cemetery. Later, the 7th Rally in Września familiarised participants with the history of the struggle of the children from Września for their Polishness, through a monument to the children of Września and Maria Konopnicka - the author of the insurgent song called "Rota" [Oath]. Later, the 8th Lusowo-Poznań Rally familiarised participants with the history of the commanders of the Greater Poland Uprising - General Stanisław Taczak and General Józef Dowbor-Muśnicki and their tombs in Poznań and Lusowo.

The national rallies have become a traditional form of contact between schools and organisational units of the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association. Owing to these meetings and the exchange of experiences, the new institutions are quickly assimilated into the "family of schools" with their joint patrons.

Important roles in the popularisation of the

knowledge of the Greater Poland Uprising among young people are played by all kinds of contests, trips and tours along the trails of the Greater Poland Uprising, exhibitions and plays - historical reconstructions. Among the many contests organised by the organisational units of the Society, the following contests of the Main Board of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising aroused great interest:

a contest for the school patron's website  
-“The Greater Poland Insurgents”.

a literary contest for a poem and story about the Greater Poland Uprising, organised under the auspices of Gerard Górnicki, a well-known literary man from Poznań.

a film contest for youths and teachers “A visit to memorial sites devoted to the Greater Poland Uprising, with a camera”.

In the year 2007, the Main Board of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising, with the co-participation of the Educational Authorities and the Museum of the Greater Poland Uprising in Poznań, organised for the first time an on-line contest regarding general knowledge of, and memorial sites devoted to, the Greater Poland Uprising. More than 2000 students from all types of school participated in (logged in) the contest. However, not everyone was able to stay till the very end.

Subsequent on-line contests organised by the Main Board of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918/1919 include the

following: A contest entitled "The Colours and weapons of the soldiers of the Greater Poland Uprising" and also the "Greater Poland Soldiers" contest - organised jointly with the Greater Poland Military Museum.

Furthermore, a contest entitled "We are just like Them" was organised under the auspices of the Minister of National Education and addressed to student councils. Its purpose was to refer to the values which were dear to the participants of the insurgent fight, and to draw comparisons between the patriotism of the past years and contemporary patriotism.

Also, art contests organised, in principle, by all the organisational units of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising and schools bearing the names of Greater Poland Insurgents were popular. Of special relevance are the art contests organised by the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Board and the National Art Contest entitled "The Greater Poland Uprising in the eyes of children."

It is also necessary to mention that every contest organised by the Main Board of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising has its own patron, for instance:

Roman Wilkanowicz - poet, journalist and satirist - literary contest 'In honour of a Greater Poland Insurgent'..

Leon Prauziński- painter and illustrator -  
Art Contests 'In honour of a Greater  
Poland Insurgent' a.

As part of a tradition, representatives of the family of L. Prauziński participate in the summary of this contest.

One of the more attractive activities for the youth, which is characterised by great educational qualities, are trips and broadly understood tourism. These forms of popularisation of the history of the Greater Poland Uprising are organised jointly by the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising and Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society (Polish PTTK), which have signed a cooperation agreement between each other.

Additionally, there is a circle of our Society which functions at the Poznań branch of Tour Leaders of the Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society.

A great initiative in this field is also demonstrated by the Kuyavian-Pomeranian and Lubusz Branches.

An interesting initiative is implemented by a circle of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising in Sulechów, this particular circle organises repeated historical-educational trips and rallies and inspires other circles and schools through its own example.

These include thematic; hiking, biking rallies along the trails of insurgent activities, and runs

through Babimost, Kargowa and Nowe Kramsko. The circles in Brzoza, Inowrocław, Nakło, Pakość, Rynarzewo and Złotniki Kujawskie are organisers of various trips in the Kuyavian-Pomeranian province.

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Furthermore, within the Greater Poland region, another distinguished organiser is the circle in Wronki - the initiator of a marathon under the slogan: "Following the footsteps of the Greater Poland Uprising for the schools in Wronki and the neighbouring communes". Also Nowy Tomyśl and Rogoźno Wlkp. can boast considerable achievements in this area.

Exhibitions, especially those commonly organised in schools bearing the names of Greater Poland Insurgents, serve the purpose of popularisation of the history of the Greater Poland Uprising. They often present materials and exhibits obtained from families of the participants of the Greater Poland Uprising and also various works from the different contests related to the Uprising.

Among many other initiatives of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising, one should not ignore:

the posthumous awarding of the Grand Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta by the President of the Republic of Poland, at the request of the Main Board

of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising, to the commanders of the Greater Poland Uprising - General Stanisław Taczak and General Józef Dowbor-Muśnicki. The awards were given symbolically during the ceremonious celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the Greater Poland Uprising in Poznań. The awards were then delivered to the Museum of the Greater Poland Uprising in Poznań by the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising, being the depository of the awards.

the activities supported by Poznań residents with regards to the establishment of the Museum of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918/1919 in the centre of the Old City Square in Poznań, resulting in its opening in the year 2001. The Main Board of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising signed a cooperation agreement with the Museum administration.

The Historical Commission of the Main Board of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising, together with the Museum, is the organiser of open historical meetings in Poznań city centre, whose subjects include various aspects of the events of the Greater Poland Uprising in the respective cities and communes, the participation of different social-professional groups in

these historical events and the varying fortunes of the participants of the independence effort.

the introduction of a military setting being ensured during ceremonies associated with the Greater Poland Uprising as well as a guard of honour in insurgent uniforms specially sewn for this specific occasion. The insurgent uniforms were financed by the Greater Poland Province Governor Włodzimierz Łęcki. Then, the Main Board of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising delivered the uniforms to the aviation unit of the Polish Armed Forces in Ławica which put this guard of honour in front of the Monument of Greater Poland Insurgents at that time.

meetings with the families of participants of the Greater Poland Uprising - organised open meetings of circles of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising. Periodical meetings with the families of participants of the Greater Poland Uprising were initiated in Śrem under the title of "Meeting of generations" and in Opalenica as the "Meetings of families of uprising participants." The meetings, organised over coffee, are devoted to the memories of insurgents coming from given families, presented on the forum in different forms (stories, photos, documents, books, films, etc.). They also involve singing patriotic, insurgent songs together,

artistic performances of schoolchildren and conversations regarding the family history, which are appreciated by everyone. The meetings with the families of the participants of the uprising have become more popular, they are organised by circles of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising in many environments and they are often attended by representatives of local councils.

The Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland uprising has been distinguished for its patriotic activities popularising the history of the Greater Poland independence movement by, among other things:

receipt of an organisational standard, founded by the Poznań community, receipt of an Honorary Badge "For Merits to the Greater Poland Province" given by the Greater Poland Marshal's Office (2009). On top of this, it is important to mention that such a badge had also been previously awarded to the last six Greater Poland insurgents alive. The badge was awarded during the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Greater Poland Uprising, and the aforementioned insurgents received their badges as some of the first Greater Poland residents.

the HIPOLIT statuette for the popularisation of knowledge related to the tradition of organic work and the

fight of the Greater Poland residents for independence, awarded by the Hipolit Cegielski Society (2003).

the Medal of Merit awarded by the Main Board of the Association of Veterans of the Republic of Poland and Former Political Prisoners (1999).

the Honorary Badge “Semper vigilant”, awarded by the Main Board of the Association of Voluntary Fire Brigades (2013).

the “Legacy of the Eastern Territories” Medal for the historical merits of the Greater Poland armies in the fighting for the eastern territories and for their participation in the settlement, awarded by the Association of Families of Military and Civil Settlers in Eastern Territories (2017).

Receipt of the title “Distinguished Poznań Citizen” awarded by the Poznań City Council (2018).

One vitally important element of the activities of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918/1919, as a special symbol of the memory and the honouring of the participants of the Greater Poland Uprising, includes the celebrations of the outbreak of the Greater Poland Uprising.

Hence, from the very beginning of its activity, not only is the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising the inspiration, but also the organiser or co-organiser of ceremonies, with

local councils and state authorities. Traditionally, the central anniversary ceremonies regarding the Greater Poland Uprising take place on 27 December in Poznań, at the Monument of Greater Poland Insurgents. One day before, the arrival of I. J. Paderewski to Poznań is staged at the Main Railway Station in Poznań. Since 1998, anniversary ceremonies have also been held in Warsaw.

Initially, the Main Board was the co-organiser of the anniversary ceremonies together with Poznań City Hall, but since 1998, it has cooperated with the Greater Poland Marshal's Office.

The provincial ceremonies in Bydgoszcz - in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Insurgent - and in Zielona Góra-in front of the new Monument of the Drummer of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918/1919 are held with similar relations.

Insurgent ceremonies of various natures take place in Legnica, Szczecin, Warsaw, Gniezno, Kalisz and many other cities and communes of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian, Lubusz and Greater Poland provinces.

Frequently the anniversary celebrations in the various cities and communes take place on the date of liberation of the given town, by insurgents, referring in this way to the pre-war tradition.

Also a rule of patronage over the central ceremonies in Poznań has been adopted.

In 1993, the anniversary celebrations of the Greater Poland Uprising were organised under

the auspices of the Minister of National Defence, Admiral Piotr Kołodziejczyk. The patron of the celebrations of the 80th and 85th anniversary was the President of the Republic of Poland Aleksander Kwaśniewski.

The celebrations of the 90th anniversary of the Greater Poland Uprising were solemn in their nature, and they were attended by the President of the Republic of Poland Lech Kaczyński and Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

Furthermore, on the same day, together with the Greater Poland Province Governor - Piotr Florek and the co-participation of the Marshal's Office, a trip of the Poznań delegations to Warsaw took place. There, in reference to the pre-war tradition, a ceremony was held before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Then, the second part of the celebrations was organised in the Powązki Cemetery in front of the Monument to the Greater Poland and Silesian Insurgents.

Since the year 2009, the main organiser of the trip and the ceremony in Warsaw has been the Marshal of the Greater Poland Province, Mr. Marek Woźniak, with the co-participation of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising. Also, delegations from Bydgoszcz and Zielona Góra take part in the Warsaw ceremonies.

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All the events are very solemn and of great

patriotic import. Great initiative in all of this is demonstrated by the Greater Poland Marshal's Office, local governments and of course the various circles of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland Uprising and, more and more frequently, the families of the participants of the Greater Poland Uprising. In this way, they confirm their return to their family roots and consideration of the traditions and values of the past years in their contemporary life.

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Leaders of the Society for the Memory of the Greater Poland



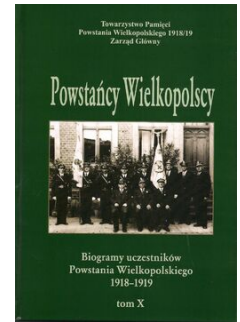
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