

A Call for Volunteers!

By Richard Panek

The last 2 years have been challenging, but the Polish Heritage Society is poised to rebound further this year. As reported in the January Newsletter, your PHS Board and multiple volunteers were able to provide meaningful events, programming and scholarship support. However, we need your help to keep up the momentum.

On Monday, January 17th, the PHS Board voted to implement a membership engagement initiative. The PHS needs more volunteer support in order to continue the mission of the Society.

There are seven mission-specific areas for which the Board has established formal committees. They are listed

as follows:

1. Festival Committee
2. Wigilia Committee
3. Matka Boska Committee
4. Scholarship Committee
5. Social Events Committee (picnic, membership meeting planning, etc.)
6. Membership Committee
7. Communications Committee (includes social media and website as well newsletter)

Individual Board members and trustees have committed to participate in some of these committees but the board members cannot continue to do all the work. Each of the seven committees needs individuals who are interested and willing to participate in the success of the PHS.

Please consider contrib-

uting one to two hours a month of committee work for the PHS. You will help the mission of the society plus get to meet and work with some fantastic people.

We all have a talent or skill that can be used to help out. Committee work may involve program planning, event setup, arranging rental and catering, recruiting sponsors, conducting programs, representing the PHS at community events, posting on social media, writing news articles and so on. You decide where you can do the most good (and have the most fun!)

If you can help sustain the vitality of the Polish Heritage Society by helping a committee, please let us know by emailing phsgrandrapids@gmail.com

Board Elections

Management of the PHS (Incorporated as the Polish Heritage Education Society Inc.) is vested in the Executive Board.

As per the PHS bylaws, board elections take place in May with installation of new officers at the June board meeting. The term of office is 2 years. The Board consists of 6 officers and 5 general directors.

(See roster on pg. 2)

Paid up members are eligible to serve on the Board. If you are interested in running for a Board position, email your name and desired position to phsgrandrapids@gmail.com

Nominations are due by the March Board meeting!

**Polish Heritage Society of
Grand Rapids
PO Box 1844
Grand Rapids MI
49501-1844**

<https://polishheritagesociety.com>

Email us at phsgrandrapids@gmail.com.

The Polish Heritage Society of Grand Rapids promotes an appreciation of the Polish and Lithuanian culture in the metro Grand Rapids. The Society publishes this newsletter monthly. We invite story ideas and content contributions. For more information, please contact Richard Panek or Marilyn Lignell by writing to phsgrandrapids@gmail.com.

PHS Executive Board

President
Adam Porczynski

1st VP
John Theisen

2nd VP
Anthony Zasuwa

Treasurer
Mary Ann Bergevin

Corresponding Secretary
Elena Chaidez

Recording Secretary
Dennis Ziomkowski

Director
Teresa Bonham

Director
Angela Walejewski-Zasuwa

Director
Michael Jasperse

Director
Richard Panek

Director
Martin Rogalski



Pączki Time Coming Soon!

It's that time of year again! March first is Fat Tuesday, or as it is lovingly called in many areas of Michigan, Pączki Day.

This day is celebrated by indulging in the traditional Polish jelly-filled pastry known as a pączek (PON-

check). The more commonly used name for these is pączki (POONCH-kee), which is the plural pronunciation for this sweet treat.

Pączki are made from richer yeast dough that won't collapse when you bite into it. Pączki are pastries made from deep-fried flat dough with fruit or cream filling and are topped with a light dusting of sugar. The traditional fruit filling is prune, but others include apricot, lemon, blueberry, raspberry and custard.

In larger cities in Poland, pączki are sold in numerous bakeries every day, but are much smaller than the ones made in America. Pączki are a specialty pastry reserved for once a year in honor of Fat Tuesday. It is a Catholic day of celebration as it is the precursor to the Lenten season, and the last day to indulge in foods before the traditional 40-day period of fasting before Easter. Polish immigrants brought those traditions with them to the United States, so places with strong Polish roots hold on to those important celebrations.

Keep an eye out for these treats at your favorite neighborhood bakery!

From Jennifer Polasek of The Awesome Mitten

PHS Scholarship Reminder

If you know any local college students of Polish descent, have them check out the PHS Scholarship Program.

The deadline for applications is March 15, so students should contact their counselors to obtain forms and compile the necessary documents for the application process.

To view the scholarship guidelines and application form, visit the PHS website at <https://polishheritagesociety.com/scholarships>.



Membership News *by Marilyn Lignell*

The Polish Heritage Society thanks all of you that have sent in your membership dues. We ask that dues be paid by February 28, 2022 so there is no interruption in receiving your newsletter and we can mail out 2022 membership cards. Please use the form on this newsletter to send in your dues.

The Polish Heritage Society would like to congratulate Nicholas Klak on his successful Junior year at Aquinas Col-



lege. Nick was the PHS 2021 Aquinas scholarship winner and his 4.0 GPA for the semester supports that he was a good choice. "I am very grateful for your scholarship support," Nick said. Keep up the good work Nick!

Please join us in welcoming new member Kathleen Guider. All four of Kathleen's grandparents arrived here from Poland between 1907 and 1910. Kathleen's work on her genealogy sparked her interest in the Polish Heritage Society.

Also joining as a student member is Maria Kasperek. Student memberships are discounted and it is a great way for young adults to learn more about their heritage and offer volunteer opportunities in our Grand Rapids and Polish communities.

--POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY – BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 15, 2021

A meeting of the Polish Heritage Society was held on November 15, 2021 in person at Polish Falcons Hall.

President Adam Porczynski called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Roll Call: Quorum Present? YES

Attendance: Adam Porczynski, Mary Ann Bergevin, Elena Chaidez, Anthony Zasuwa, Michael Jasperse, Martin Rogalski

Absent: Richard Panek, Theresa Bonham, Dennis Ziomkowski, John Theisen, Angela Zasuwa

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed. Minutes were sent via e-mail to the board. Motion to waive reading of minutes made by Anthony Zasuwa seconded by Elana. Motion passed. Motion was made by to approve by Elena and seconded by Michael to accept. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: The financial report was given. From the numbers it looks like we incurred a small loss for festival this year. Motion to accept was made by Michael Jasperse seconded by Martin Rogalski to accept the report. Motion passed.

Correspondence: Thank you notes were sent out to sponsors. IRS Estimate and 2019 form 990 EZ may not have been received. Martin Rogalski is going to follow up on this matter.

Nothing else to report.

Old Business:

Festival – Blue print, succession plan, festival deadlines and to do list to be put in minutes. Calder Plaza booked for next year's festival.

Wigilia – Still going forward as planned. Will follow CDC guidelines for Kent County at time of event for indoor social gatherings.

Election Process – Fine tuning of by-laws. General meeting will also be the March board meeting. Proposed changes to be put in February's news letter for member review 30 days prior to meeting.

Polish Night at Griffins – Anthony Zasuwa has finalized date February 4th, 2022. Code and link to purchase tickets should be active this week or early next. Will be inviting Malbork to perform pre-game.

New Business:

Scholarships – General 1000.00, Aquinas 2000.00, Grand Vallet 2000.00, GRCC 1000.00, Davenport 1000.00. Motion to approve amounts made by Elena Chaidez seconded by Anthony Zasuwa. Motion passed.

Bulk mail – permit due date. Jension chamber of commerce allows for use of their permit. Martin Rogalski to follow up.

Close meeting: Motion by Elena Chaidez second by Michael Jasperse. Meeting ended at 6:47pm. Motion carried

Next meeting is our general membership meeting on January 17, 2022 at 6 PM

Join the Polish Heritage Society to receive our monthly newsletter and other benefits!

Annual Student Membership for full-time students through college \$5

Annual Adult Membership \$20

Annual Family or Business Membership \$35

Lifetime Membership \$150

ONLINE

You can join the Polish Heritage Society online by going to our website at <https://polishheritagesociety.com/>, filling out the Membership form and paying by using the PayPal Button.

MAIL

Fill out this form and send a personal check made out to the Polish Heritage Society to this address:

Polish Heritage Society of Grand Rapids

P.O. Box 1844

Grand Rapids MI 49501-1844

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____