



# POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF GRAND RAPIDS

August 2020

## Active PHS Members to Receive Membership Cards, Pins



Your membership card is inside in the PHS Member News

By Matthew Gryczan

After a hiatus of several years, the Polish Heritage Society has reinstated its program of giving each active member an annual or lifetime membership card and an attractive lapel

pin to proudly celebrate his or her support of the organization.

And as an added bonus, several popular local businesses will extend a discount on selected purchases to active

members who show their cards!

If you are an active member of the PHS, you will find your membership card in the Member News section of this newsletter. If you are not an active member and have been receiving this newsletter on a complementary basis, you will find a reminder card to join. This will be the final complementary issue to those who are not active members, as annual dues defray the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter.

Anyone who is an active member and has not received a card should write an email to [phsgrandrapids@gmail.com](mailto:phsgrandrapids@gmail.com)

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“We are so pleased to restart issuing cards and pins,” PHS Membership Chairperson Marilyn Lignell said. “It’s just one of several steps we are and will be taking in coming months to re-engage with our members.

“It’s wonderful that our local businesses are supporting our mission as well. We only started to contact them a week ago about offering a discount to cardholders, so I’m sure the list will grow throughout the year. All of the businesses we contacted so far have said yes!” (See Page 2)

## General Meeting of PHS on Sept. 20

By Matthew Gryczan

Active or prospective members of the Polish Heritage Society are encouraged to attend the general meeting of the organization on Sept. 20, where there will be short formal meeting of the board, time for public input, and an interesting presentation on Casimir Pulaski.

on Pulaski,” PHS Director and history aficionado Richard Panek said. “He was quite a figure in history, quite a swashbuckler.”

The general meeting will be held at 2 p.m. at Eastern Avenue Hall, 506 Eastern Ave NE. Active members and anyone interested in becoming a member are invited.

“We thought this would be a good time – just before Pulaski Days in Grand Rapids – to do a presentation

The meeting will be held in accordance with the state executive order 2020-147, which states that individu-



General meeting to be held at Eastern Avenue Hall

als congregating at an indoor public space are required to wear masks and maintain a safe social distance. **Those who attend the meeting are being**

**asked to bring their own masks.**

Panek said that Eastern Avenue Hall will have more that sufficient room for

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

[https://  
polishheritagesociety.com](https://polishheritagesociety.com)

Email us at [phsgrandrapids@gmail.com](mailto: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 Matthew Gryczan or Marilyn Lignell by writing to [phsgrandrapids@gmail.com](mailto:phsgrandrapids@gmail.com).

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**Director**  
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Richard Panek

**Director**  
Greg Rosloniec

## General Meeting: Public Comment and Pulaski

everyone to practice safe social distancing, if attendance follows similar meetings in past years.

Normally the society holds two general meeting annu-

ally, usually a picnic and a fall meeting. The picnic was not held due to the COVID pandemic, which also caused cancellation of the Dozynki Polish Harvest Festival downtown.

PHS President Adan Porczynski said the formal board meeting will be kept short, leaving the bulk of the time for public comments and the presentation on Pulaski.

## Active Members: Get Cards and Pins

(From Page 1) Starting this month, the following businesses are offering a 5% discount on purchases made at their stores to customers who show their PHS membership cards: **Sobie Meats**, 3450 Remembrance Rd NW; **Lewandoski Meats**, 1107 Walker Ave NW; **Frank's Market**, 1021 Fulton St. W; **Rylee's Ace Hardware – West Side**, 1205 Fulton St W; and **Ball Park Floral & Gifts**, 8 Valley Ave NW.

The discounts are given at the discretion of each business, can be ended at any time and are meant for non-commercial use.

Tim Sobie, owner of Sobie Meats, said he was pleased to be able to support the mission of the PHS, particularly given his lineage and that of his wife, Teresa, who is of Lithuanian descent. Fritz Stanitzek, owner of Frank's Market, said the discount program is a great way to connect with the community.

Businesses that are interested in joining the discount program should send an email with contact information to [phsgrandrapids@gmail.com](mailto:phsgrandrapids@gmail.com). Companies that also become business members of the



**Gary Szotko, owner of Lewandoski's, shows off street improvements at the store.**

society will also have their logos and short descriptions included on the PHS website at no cost.

Active PHS members will be able to obtain their lapel pins emblazoned with the Polish eagle and PHS logo by attending any one of the board meetings held on the third Monday of each month, at the general board meeting to be held at 2 p.m. on Sept. 20 at Eastern Avenue Hall, 506 Eastern Ave NE. (See related story this issue) and at gatherings such as the Wigilia dinner and Dozynki Polish Festival.

The PHS membership committee also is in discussions with businesses

that may agree to act as locations where active members can pick up their pins while they are in the area. Locations and dates of pin pick-ups will be posted in future newsletters and on the PHS website.

After checking on postage and packaging, the membership committee concluded that sending pins individually to each member was cost prohibitive. Existing active members are entitled to one pin each, and new members will be issued a pin when they join. The pins are not issued every year when memberships are renewed.

## PHS Member News

By Marilyn Lignell

We welcome James Jendrasiak as a new life member. Jim's interest in the Polish Heritage Society was sparked by his father's parents who came to America from Poznan, Poland.



In 2001, Jim had the distinct honor of representing the City of Grand Rapids at the 15th Anniversary of our relationship with our Sister City Bielsko-Biala in Poland. He found the countryside of Poland exceptionally beautiful and felt the climate was much like Michigan. Jim has been active in volunteering for PHS at festival each year and attending other functions like the Whitecaps Polish Night.

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of member Violette (Vi) Adomaitis on July 20th at 97. Vi was a longtime member of the Polish Heritage Society



and the Great Aunt of past president Andy Budnick.

Andy remembered his aunt with loving fondness. "Vi was my Great Aunt, my paternal Grandfather's sister. She was the last of eight siblings, the first generation of my family born in this country. Gone now is an incredible wealth of history, experience, and wisdom. I never took for granted the rare opportunity I had to be able to hear first-hand accounts of the

origins of my family in America." Char Czarnecki remembered her as, "a lovely person and always

working and volunteering for the Polish Heritage Society."



## Meeting Minutes — June 15

By Dennis Ziomkowski

**(Abbreviated for space)** A meeting of the Polish Heritage Society was held on June 15, 2020 via a Zoom meeting. President Adam Porczynski called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.

Attendance: Mary Ann Bergevin, Adam Porczynski, Dennis Ziomkowski, Anthony Zasuwa, John Theisen, Matt Gryczan, Richard Panek, Theresa Bonham, Michael Jasperse. Absent: Elena Chaidez, Greg Rosloniec

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed with a correction the last name of Dennis, should be spelled Ziomkowski.

Minutes were sent via e-mail to the board. Motion was made by Richard and seconded by Michael to accept. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: The financial report was given. Approximate balance in the check book is \$48,000. Motion was made by Richard, seconded by Matt to accept the report. Motion passed.

Correspondence: The checks from renewals were given to Mary Ann for deposit. Member information is going to Marilyn. There were two more thank you notes from the scholarship winners.

Old business: 501(C) 3 update, the society is approved, back dated to January 6, 2020.

Thanks to all involved to make this happen.

Adam introduced our newest board member, Theresa Bonham. We welcome her to the board.

Computer Accounting Software – After much discussion, the committee will do more research on the Quick book and Aplos accounting systems. Total costs, per month costs, and ease of using the systems are some of the things being looked at. Plus more... Information from January 6, 2020 to present will have to be loaded into the system we purchase. Any further discussions on this are tabled till the next board meeting.

New Business: The spring and summer general membership meetings are cancelled due to the pandemic and social distancing. A motion by Matt, seconded by John, that we try to have one on September 20th. Location TBA with Richard taking the lead. Lots more to follow. The motion was passed.

Jackie from Eastern Ave. Hall inquired about a partnership with the society to have a polish food pick up since most of the polish events are cancelled. The board tabled the request for now.

Close meeting: Motion by Dennis, second by Matt. Meeting ended at 6:55pm. Motion carried

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 \_\_\_\_\_