

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND  
Minutes of the Meeting  
June 1, 2021

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. Approximately 15 participants attended virtually.

The May 2021 meeting minutes were read aloud and approved.

Treasurer Ben Kman reported that our balance as of May 4, 2021 was \$3,940.14. Income was \$24.00 dues. Expenses were \$16.00 for rent (Zoom) and \$55.85 for marketing (brochures) for a total of \$71.85 in expenses. We had a net loss for the month of \$47.85, leaving our current balance at \$3,892.29. The treasurer's report was approved.

Vice President Michael Speare reported a total membership of 62.

#### Old Business

The new PGSGC brochures were printed and shipped to President Anthonette Baciak.

Anthonette attended member Len Pryer's funeral services. Len will be missed!

The newsletter will likely be late this quarter. Anthonette reported that Michael's printer is giving up an improved rate for a nice quality newsletter.

#### New Business

The board met to discuss several topics, including a possible in-person return for our September meeting. Also discussed was the idea of an electronic welcome packet for new members and whether to resume efforts on a PGSGC t-shirt.

Art Lauterer shared that he has been helping family with southern roots explore African American genealogy in the slave era.

Mary Ellen Paduch noticed her surname in a PBS special about Auschwitz. She wondered which website to search for a possible family connection. Ben demonstrated searching the Arolsen Archives for this type of query.

Lucia Dominick is researching her grandfather who served in the Russian cavalry. Ben searched for her known locations on [Szukacz.pl](http://Szukacz.pl).

Laura Karendal updated us that there is no charge to provide our brochures to the Ohio Genealogical Society for their April OGS conference.

Ben Kman shared the following research tips:

Try searching the website of your ancestral Polish parish for new leads. For example, Ben's parish shares the history of the parish, dates of record holdings, and lists current marriage bans, deaths, and mass intentions. Information about living relatives might also be found this way.

Ben recommended two Polish cemetery search sites: [Mogily.pl](http://Mogily.pl) and [Grobonet.com](http://Grobonet.com). He explained that graves in Poland are term graves, meaning they are rented for a period of time. As long as the rent is paid, the body will remain in the plot. When the rent ceases to be paid, the remains are exhumed. The grave is then re-rented to a different person.

Cori Mesenger asked about Polish obituaries and whether Poland has a website like Legacy.com. Ben explained newspaper obituaries are not common practice in Poland. He experienced family of the deceased posting death notice flyers around town.

Ben demonstrated using the wild card search for names in Geneteka by substituting an asterisk for the unknown letters in a name.

Anthonette mentioned that she was invited to a family reunion in July for descendants of her great-great aunt. She's been tasked with identifying funeral cards for the family and is excited to meet these relations.

Reminder that we take the months of July and August off from our monthly meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Minutes submitted by Corina Mesenger