

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
Minutes of the Meeting
November 3, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Member Ben Kman hosted the meeting on Zoom. Approximately sixteen participants attended virtually.

The October 2020 meeting minutes were read aloud by Cori Messenger and approved.

Treasurer Ben Kman gave the treasurer's report. Our beginning balance as of October 6, 2020 was \$3,315.43. Income for the month was \$281.43, with \$281.00 in dues and \$0.43 interest. Expenses were \$177.20 with \$100.00 for speaker, \$16.00 for rent (Zoom dues), \$11.20 for postage, and \$50.00 for administrative. The \$50.00 administrative expense was a donation in the club's name to Benedictine High School in memory of former PGSGC president John Szuch, who recently passed away. The net income for the month was \$104.23, leaving a current balance of \$3,419.66.

Vice President Michael Speare reported membership holds steady at 65. Sixteen people already renewed for next year since last meeting.

Old Business:

President Anthonette Baciak shared that she had spoken with John Szuch's son since his passing. John Jr. spoke of the importance of Polish Genealogy to his father. The family will be donating some artifacts to the club. Ben Kman attended the funeral mass and reported that the service was very nice and well attended. Bishop Gries officiated. Members reminisced about John and Benedictine High School.

Following up on last month's notice that we need a new bank, Treasurer Ben Kman announced that he and Vice President Michael Speare are opening a new account for the club at Huntington Bank.

New Business:

Ron Kraine gave updates on the upcoming board election. President Anthonette Baciak, Vice President Michael Speare, Treasurer Ben Kman, and interim-secretary Cori Messenger were nominated for roles. Ron reported that there was not a large response to the nominations email. Nominations can still be submitted for the election next month.

Richard Szczepiński was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to poll work. Anthonette followed up on his suggestion to form a bylaw updating committee. Kim Demor volunteered to assist. Ben Kman, Michael Speare, and Anthonette Baciak will also participate. Ben reported that he downloaded the PGSA bylaws to see if they can be useful to our organization. To be continued.

Anthonette announced that this is our 30th year as an organization! She checked the archives and ensured we have a copy of every newsletter in our library. When looking at old issues, she discovered that our first meeting had 22 people, including a young Ben Kman. When the pandemic ends, Anthonette suggests we have a photo taken to commemorate our anniversary as was done in past years.

Member Trina Galauner recently secured a professional genealogy job with Legacy Tree as an Eastern European researcher. Congratulations, Trina! Trina may no longer be able to attend all monthly meetings, but she plans to continue editing our newsletter.

We will continue with virtual meetings for the time being.

Vice President Michael Speare identified the need to manage our website. We need tech savvy volunteers to help with updating the website. Please send an email to Michael if interested in helping.

Michael also reported that 13 people who belonged in 2019, but didn't renew for 2020, would be contacted to seek their 2021 membership renewal.

Ed Ostry is updating our surname list with the intention of reissuing the updated list after the New Year. Thank you, Ed! Michael will email the current surname list to members after the meeting. There are about 550 surnames. He asks that members check their surnames and reply with any needed updates.

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Ben Kman began his presentation entitled "Ski-ing in Boston Mills: Getting Back to Poland, A Case Study". The presentation displayed his step-by-step process for beginning research through the steps of first locating US records then following them to the ancestral village, Parish, and Polish records. Ben used a Wierzbicki family obituary as a starting point to explain the steps of his process. A handout was also emailed to members previous to the meeting with Ben's recommended Polish Genealogy resources. Thank you, Ben!

Anthonette asked for clarification on using the Cleveland Catholic Diocese archives to find records for closed churches. Al Figler explained that the Catholic Diocese has a record request form, which he will provide to Michael Speare for reference. Cori Mesenger added that the form is also available online on the Cleveland Catholic Diocese website.

Kim Demor asked about naming conventions after noticing many relatives with the same given name. Ben mentioned naming after grandparents was common as well as using the name of a deceased child to name a subsequent child. Anthonette added that children were also sometimes named after the closest Catholic feast day to when they were born.

Ron Kraine introduced the topic of English equivalents to Polish given names, and it was discussed.

The meeting ended at 8:53 pm.

Minutes submitted by Corina Mesenger