

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
Minutes of the Meeting
Oct. 5, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. Twelve participants attended in-person, and eight attended virtually.

The September 2021 meeting minutes were read aloud and approved.

Treasurer Ben Kman gave the treasurer's report. Our balance as of September 7, 2021 was \$3,620.99. Income was \$30.00 for dues. Expenses were \$100 for speaker, \$16.00 for rent, \$6.88 for postage, \$135.00 for the newsletter, and \$51.24 for printing. Our total expenses were \$309.12, leaving a net loss for the month of \$279.12. Our current balance as of October 5, 2021 is \$3,341.87. The treasurer's report was approved.

Vice President Michael Speare reported that we have 64 members. Welcome to new member Judy A. Kelly of Hudson, OH.

Old Business

The Pierogi Festival scheduled for Oct. 10, 2021 was cancelled due to Covid issues, so we will not have a booth as planned. Thank you to Al Figler, Richard Szczepinski, Ron Kraine, and Kim Dmor who had volunteered to help.

Our library is open for business, self-serve. Please check out/in items while our Librarian Pat Bakaitis is on the mend.

New Business

We received a request from member Kim Dmor to sponsor the 2022 Ohio Genealogical Society Conference. We declined at this time due to cost.

Genealogist Steve Szabados advertised his lecture services to President Anthonette Baciak. However, his fees exceed our designated speaker fee of \$100 per presentation. Ben Kman will follow-up.

Anthonette mentioned the website polishshirtstore.com. The site, run by a local Polish genealogist Mike Mierzwa, sells Polish themed shirts and gifts.

Thank you to Lucia Dominick for donating laminated items of Polish interest for use in our event booths. Lucia also donated three plates to potentially be raffled as a fundraiser.

The Executive Committee met on Sept. 20, 2021. The Committee is evaluating how we can raise funds to cover the new ongoing technology costs of Zoom and website fees. Items

considered were raising dues, charging a premium for printed newsletters, or holding fundraisers. Anthonette opened the issue to the floor for comments.

Michael Speare clarified our plan for the new website as it pertains to cost. We already purchased a domain name and host that will have a yearly fee. One plan for the new website is to have a *Members Only* log in section with added benefits. This will hopefully be an incentive to grow membership by delivering more value from our organization.

Anthonette recognized Michael Speare for the generous gift of three years of website hosting fees from his own pocket. Thank you, Michael!

Per our bylaws, a Nomination Committee has been formed for our upcoming elections. Richard Szczepinski, Ron Kraine, and Kim Dmor are this year's committee members. Anyone interested in running for office please contact Richard Szczepinski at linenman@hotmail.com before the November meeting. President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary will be voted upon.

The 50/50 raffle returned at this evening's meeting! Congratulations to the winner of the \$20 pot, Les Rachocki, who kindly donated his winnings back to the club. \$41 was raised for the club in the raffle.

The business portion of the meeting ended at 7:45 pm.

Tonight's presentation topic was "Ethnic Germans in Russian Poland" by Ben Kman. The presentation introduced how to research German Lutherans in Poland. The presentation handout was emailed to members prior to the meeting.

Next month's topic will be a show-and-tell of our Polish heirlooms. Please bring your items to the meeting, both virtual and in-person.

Anthonette shared that Family Search has now digitized its entire microfilm collection. Reminder that though all will be digitized, not all will be available to us online due to contractual matters. This does not mean the entire collection is indexed. Happy hunting!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.