

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND  
Minutes of the Meeting  
October 6, 2020

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

The meeting began with guest speaker Sunny Morton on the topic "Comparing the Genealogy Giants: Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, Findmypast.com and MyHeritage.com". Ms. Morton's comprehensive presentation compared the merits of four major genealogy websites on the basis of amount of records, scope, DNA ethnicity makeup and matching, and family trees. The presentation was not recorded due to copyright restrictions, but the handout for the presentation was emailed to members previous to the meeting. Refer to the handout for links to more helpful info. Members may also email Ms. Morton with questions related to her presentation at sunny@sunnymorton.com.

After the presentation, the business portion of the meeting proceeded. Minutes of the September 2020 meeting were previously emailed to members so were not read aloud.

Ben Kman's treasurer's report indicated that we currently have a balance of \$3,315.43. Income was generated through dues of \$28.00 and interest of \$1.37 for a total income of \$29.37 from June 2020 to present. Expenses were \$382: \$100 for speaker John Grabowski, \$32 for two months of Zoom payments for our video meetings, \$135 for newsletter labor, \$90 for newsletter printing, and \$25 for administrative costs (State of Ohio Form 580 Unincorporated Nonprofit organization registration), reflecting a loss of \$352.53 for roughly four months time.

In addition, Ben stated administrative clean-up is needed for our account. The need was discovered when updating the signatories for our new board members. Ben found that our EIN number was deactivated, which he then worked with the IRS to remedy. Thank you, Ben! Also, Third Federal notified him that they are discontinuing multiple signer accounts, making them no longer appropriate for our organization. Ben is in the process of choosing a new bank and will keep us posted.

Vice President Michael Speare reported that we currently have 64 members. Since our last in person meeting the following members have joined: Mary Louise and Philip Hill, Buffalo, NY, Laura and Mark Karendal, Kernersville, NC, Robert and Sharen Jarzen, Akron, OH, Georgene Bramlage, Roanoke, VA, Doris and Walter Slivinsky, Stow, OH, and Owen M. McCafferty II, North Olmsted, OH. New member Laura Karendal attended tonight's meeting. Additionally, Len Pryer absent for 2020 has already rejoined for 2021. Welcome, new and returning members!

Dues will remain at \$24 for the 2021 year. Michael encourages members to send in next year's dues early. Dues should be mailed directly to Michael. He will email the membership form and his address after tonight's meeting. He will also follow-up with past members encouraging them to renew for 2021.

## New Business:

President Anthonette Baciak announced that in the month of October we must begin the election process for the 2021 year. A committee was formed of Ron Krain, Richard Szczepiński, and Paul Zimny to nominate new board members for next year.

Richard Szczepiński stated that the nominating committee will email information about the nomination and election process to members along with a blank ballot. Members can nominate any member even themselves. Please verify with the person being nominated that they have interest before submitting their name.

Richard asks that members email the ballots back to him by October 23, 2020 so that the preliminary ballot can be presented at the November meeting. Additional nominations from the floor will also be allowed at the November meeting. The final ballot will then be emailed to members, and the election will be conducted at the December meeting per the organization's bylaws.

Richard also remarked that the bylaws seem out of date and asked that the executive committee consider reviewing the bylaws for possible updating. Anthonette will add this consideration to her to-do list.

Secretary Lucia Wicinski reported that she is in ill health and with great regret will need to resign as secretary. Thank you, Lucia, for all you've given to the organization over the years! We all wish Lucia well and pray for her recovery.

Reminder that all meetings will continue virtually for now due to Covid precautions. This may continue well into next year. So far virtual meetings are going well. Our annual holiday dinner is also canceled next month due to the pandemic.

If anyone has suggestions for future meeting topics, please email them to Ben Kman.

Elaine Weiss shouted out Richard Szczepiński for giving a seminar on beginner's Polish genealogy to the Richland Family Center. Elaine also reported she received her first email from Poland through MyHeritage, and it was promising.

Patricia Bakaitis asked if anyone has used Babble for Polish lessons. A discussion followed about different language programs members have tried, including Duolingo and Rosetta Stone.

The meeting was concluded at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Corina Messenger