

2018 BOD Nominees

VP-PRES.ELECT-1 year (vote for 1)
Ted Ceplina, Diane Pillsbury

SECRETARY-even year-2 years
(vote for 1)
Patricia Brinkman, Laurie Ross

2 DIRECTORS odd year-2 years
(vote for 2):
Anne Evans
Doris Graiewski
Sharon Pasowicz
Elaine Schenborn

CONTINUING ON THE BOARD:

VP-PRES. ELECT-2017 **Allan Patek**
becomes PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT-2017 **Marge Morgan**
becomes PAST PRESIDENT

TREASURER-odd year-2 yrs. 2017-18
Linda Cagle

DIRECTOR- odd year-2 yrs. 2017-18
Stephen Pienkos

DIRECTOR- odd year-2 yrs.2017-18
Gloria Welniak

VP-PRES.ELECT-1 year 2018

Theodore Ceplina A love for playing polka music and the craft of pisanki led me to discover my Polish roots. I am originally from Portage County, WI, one of the largest Kaszubian populations outside of Poland. I am named after my great grand-fathers, who came from the Kosciierzyna area in Kaszuby.

I discovered the PHC when I attended the 2015 spring event and joined on the spot, very quickly getting in touch about volunteering at the next event. The club is a great venue to share my knowledge of Polish folk arts and music and also a means to learn more.

I served as the director of the UWMC (Marathon Co.) Multi-cultural Resource Center and founded the UWMC Cultural Festival in 2012, an event that had 500 participants in its very first year. I have 20 years of experience volunteering and demonstrating at numerous other multicultural events. My degree in Human Geography also ties into this.

My passion is cultural preservation and my hope is to take the resources and expertise I have and find ways in which the club can have more cultural enrichment/outreach activities within our community. I would love to see Polish music, dance, and craft workshops. I possess the ambition and knowledge to make these sort of events happen.

Diane M. (Spott) Pillsbury I am completely Polish and proud of it! My paternal grandmother's father fled Poland to avoid serving in the Russian army. Her family later escaped by hiding in a hay wagon. She was also instrumental in the beginnings of the Milwaukee International Folk Festival. My paternal grandfather served in the Polish Blue Army during WWI and was also at the decisive Battle of Vistula in 1920 which repelled the Russian Communist Army.

I grew up in Milwaukee, graduated from UW-Stevens Point in environmental education, worked at nature centers in Wisconsin, Iowa and Philadelphia, married my Vermont Yankee husband, Brian, and moved to Vermont where our three children were born. I remind them of their better half by serving them pierogis and performing the opłatek ceremony on Christmas Eve. 21 years ago we moved to Baraboo.

I attended my first PHC Spring Sale. It became a yearly event for me and I finally joined the organization 4 years ago. Now that the kids are grown I really enjoy getting involved in PHC and look forward to serving it more as a Board member.

SECRETARY-even year-2 yrs 2018-19 (vote for 1 out of 2)

Patricia Brinkman *(PHCWI Secretary 2012-14, Director 2015-16)*

From Patricia's 2015 statement since she's out of town at deadline)

Born in West Warwick, RI, I moved to Madison in 1968, which was to be only for a few "short" I may not be 100% Polish, but I do identify/feel very Polish. My maiden name is Leszkiewicz. I was raised in the City of South Milwaukee's Polish neighborhood. My grandparents came to WI via Chester PA before the turn of the 20th century. Grandma was from the Warsaw area and Grandpa from Vilnius. Grandma was a well-educated woman, wrote and spoke seven languages. She became a young widow, was self-sufficient, raised seven children, but did live in poverty during that time.

When I moved to Madison, I served on the YMCA Board and this was the beginning of my community service. Since then I helped settle numerous Hmong, and worked extensively with the International Peace Council and Kiwanis International at both the local and district level.

The following projects are dear to my heart: building a dental clinic in Poland, helping with the Academic Learning Center on the Southside of Madison, and assuring that all ambulances in WI have size appropriate equipment for children. My most recent projects include the International Kiwanis Eliminate project – eliminate maternal and pediatric tetanus deaths in the world and developing a memorial series of community talks. I am a proud resident of the Northside and was an active member of the Northside Planning Council for years.

Laurie Ross *(PHCWI Director 2016-17)*

Greetings Polish family! I live on Madison's far-east side. I have two daughters (married) and am blessed to have both families living in the Madison area. I work full time for the state of Wisconsin and have the pleasure of spending each Thursday with my two darling grandchildren. I am passionate about the great outdoors and our natural resources. I love traveling, hiking, reading, biking, outdoor time, and spending time with family and friends.

I am currently a Director on the PHC Board and am on the Wigilia Committee. I believe I add a business and efficiency perspective to the Board. I have extensive experience in documenting Board actions and directives and am customer service driven. I volunteer at the Spring Festival and Fall Bazaar, the International Fest at Overture, am excited about being part of the group rejuvenating the Club's Szopka, and hope to organize some non-work PHC outings (purely social!) to Polish events and locations in the years to come.

My dad (100% Polish) is the youngest in his family. Unfortunately, he is the last of his siblings. As my Ross (Rozmenoski) family ages and declines, my PHC family grows with each passing year. Na zdrowie!

2 DIRECTORS even year-2 years (vote for 2 out of 4)

Ann Evans *(PHCWI Secretary 2016-2017)*

I am interested in the Polish Heritage Club of Madison because of my interest in family history. I think I can be an asset to the club with my computer, listening, organizing and interpersonal skills. I enjoy talking to people and working with people in groups. I have spent the last two years as Board Secretary of the PHCWI-Madison and enjoyed it immensely.

I first went to the Polish Heritage Club Christmas Bazaar several years ago and had a lot of fun, and bought some lovely amber jewelry. After a few years I joined the Club and have enjoyed helping set up, work and pack up two Bazaars. I have met several incredibly interesting people. I have also helped plan the Wigilia in 2016 and 2017.

I really enjoy traveling and experiencing new cultures. I have traveled extensively throughout Europe including, Ireland, England, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic. I have also traveled to Morocco, South Korea (and the DMZ) and Israel. My favorite cities include London, Marrakesh and Budapest. I am currently a volunteer Red Cross CPR instructor and am working part time at the YMCA of Dane Co. I enjoy cooking, attending football games and imagining all of the fun places I have yet to visit.

Doris Graiewski

I became interested in Polish culture when I celebrated Christmas with relatives in Poland.

For the past few years I have been a volunteer at the Spring Festival and Fall Bazaar. In the past I have volunteered at the International Festival and Portage County Festival. Currently I am serving on the Inventory Committee. In addition to being a member of the PHCWI-Madison, I am a member of the Polish American Congress Wisconsin Division and the Polish Heritage Alliance. Both of these groups meet in Franklin Wisconsin. Last June I worked at Polish Fest in Milwaukee for 3 days.

My experience serving on a Board of Directors is for our condo association. I served 2 separate stints with the last being 5 years. My position on that board was as secretary. I would like your vote so I can further serve the Polish Heritage Club..

Sharon Pasowicz

I was born in Fort Sam Houston, TX and grew up traveling around the U.S. as my father was in the Army (TX, AK, WI). After High School, I served 11 years in the Army: school in SC and VA, and stationed in TX, Germany, Honduras, Panama, Italy, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Saudi Arabia (Desert Shield/Desert Storm). I belong to the Disabled American Veterans Organization and have served as Post Chaplain and Quartermaster with the Armstrong Creek, WI VFW Post.

I am single, live in Verona and I am currently retired from nursing. To broaden my knowledge of what I learned in the military and what I have taught myself, I'm taking classes at Madison College in various spreadsheet programs. I enjoy music, mixing CD's, gardening, cooking and trying new recipes.

My family on my father's side comes from Mała, Poland, my mother's side from Gdansk/ Gdynia/Sopot. I still have family in Poland and one day hope to meet them. From my father's side of the family, I am second generation. I never knew my grandparents on my father's side and never gained their knowledge of Poland or Polish history.

I joined the PHC to learn the rich history and customs of our Polish ancestors and to honor them. I have volunteered for several years at the International Fest, the Spring Fest, and the Christmas Bazaar.

Elaine Schenborn

I was born and raised in Chicago, 100% Polish - my maiden name is Wojkowski. Each of my grand-parents emigrated to Chicago in the early 1900's from the Czystochowa and Bialystok regions of Poland. I have many fond memories of Polish delicatessens and bakeries in my neighborhood, and Saturday mornings spent at "Polish school" learning language, songs and dance.

After college I earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry from UW Madison. While in graduate school, I married Dennis and we decided to stay in the Madison area. I worked for many years in Research and Development at Promega. My interests include playing piano (Chopin is my favorite composer) and harp, sewing, cooking, reading and travel.

In Madison, we continued many Polish Christmas and Easter traditions with our family. We have two daughters who live in opposite directions from here: one in Washington D.C. and the other in Denver, CO.

The Polish Heritage Club provides for me a connection to people with similar roots and reminds me of my own ancestral heritage. I enjoy volunteering at the Christmas and Easter bazaars, and attending Book Club. It's been wonderful meeting new friends and learning more about Polish history, its heroes, artists and customs. As a Director I would look forward to many more opportunities for sharing ideas and contributing to the continued success of the Polish Heritage Club.