

## 2019 Elections: Board of Directors Nominees

as of this printing. Additional nominees accepted before the Jan. 13 vote

**VP-PRES.ELECT**-1 year: Diane Pilsbury, **TREASURER**- 2 yrs: Linda Cagle  
**2 DIRECTORS**-odd year-2 yrs. (vote for 2): Patricia Brinkman and Jack Cox

### VP-PRES.ELECT-1 year 2019

**Diane Pilsbury** I am 100% Polish and proud of it! My maiden name is Spott corrupted, on my paternal great grandfather's arrival to Ellis Island, from Szpot. He came from Czerlejno, served in the Polish Blue Army during WWI and was at the pivotal Battle of Vistula River in 1920. My paternal grandmother came in 1909 from the area under Russian rule. The story is that her father fled to avoid serving in the Russian military and the rest of her family escaped from by hiding in a hay wagon. She helped to start the Milwaukee Folk Festival.

My 3 children are only half Polish. I remind them of their better half by serving kielbasa, home-made pierogis and performing the oplatek ceremony every Christmas.

I grew up in the heavily Polish south side of Milwaukee, thinking everybody was Polish. After my Environmental Education degree from UW-Stevens Point (lots of Poles there!) and graduate school at the University of Idaho, I worked at nature centers in Wisconsin, Iowa and Philadelphia. I hiked the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine, married, and settled in Vermont for 10 years where our children were born. In Baraboo, where I currently reside with my husband Brian, I now serve as the director of the Senior Center.

For 5 years I've helped with the Spring Festivals and Christmas Bazaars, and currently serving as Chairperson of the PHC Scholarship Committee. Now that the children have grown, I hope to become even more involved in the Club.

### TREASURER-odd year-2 years 2019-2020:

**Linda Cagle** I am currently Treasurer of the Polish Heritage Club and have been involved in many of our club's events, including the International Festival, Spring Festival, Willy Street Fair and the Christmas Bazaar.

In 1968, I moved to Madison from Rhode Island. My maiden name is Pojda (not shortened or changed). My family came from Warzyce and Wadowice, Poland in 1900 via Bremen to New York City, to Castle Garden at the time.

I have one daughter and two grandchildren who live in Madison. My occupation before retiring in 2004 was as an Administrative Assistant/ Event & Meeting Planner at CUNA Mutual Group. I was also an Office Manager/ Assistant Warehouse Manager at Central Storage & Warehouse. Genealogy is one of my many hobbies, and thanks to Facebook have been able to keep in contact with my Polish relatives I discovered through genealogy.

I look forward to getting involved with more cultural and educational events, as well as more detailed Polish genealogy as there is a definite interest in this area from our members and who want to be members.

### 2 DIRECTORS- odd year-2 years 2019-2020:

**Patricia Brinkman** 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 America (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.

I was a secondary education teacher, one of the first Certified Records Managers and a State Employee for over 25 years. I am very active in Kiwanis and am a Past Kiwanis Governor for the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan District.

The following are projects dear to my heart: Building a dental clinic in Poland, helping establish the South Madison's Learning Center, and assuring that all ambulances in WI have equipment for children. My newest project is to raise money to replace our church's heating system. I am a proud resident of the Northside, was an active member of the Northside Planning Council and helped to start and named the North Star Awards. I volunteer as often as I can and hope my talents are a blessing. I love flowers, gardening, traveling, my children and my grandchildren. At the Alliant Energy Center, my small part-time job, don't be surprised if I sell you your parking ticket.

*Besides volunteering at events and with the Scholarship Committee, Patricia was Secretary 2012-14 and Director 2015-16.*

**Cox, Jack "Janek Koxinski"** I was born to a German heritage mother and an English heritage father. I suspect that if I were to try the 23 and ME test, I would not find 1% Polish in me. I'm even told that my children are eligible for Daughters of the American Revolution. Where I grew up, the only thing mentioned Polish was sauerkraut and it wasn't until college age that I was even exposed to a kielbasa. Fast forward another twenty years and I was served by first gołąbki. Well from that moment I started paying attention! Another 20 years passed and I discovered my real Polish passion and delight, my 100% Polish wife, whom I treasure. Since that time, I have grown to love the traditions, the treats and the hospitality of the Polish heritage. Though I will never be able to speak a word of the language, I appreciate the culture.

Having now attended festivals, and then volunteered to help at the Bazaar, I feel a part of the community. I'd love to see the community grow with more such events. What can I bring to the board? Well I served two years as the president of the high school band boosters club for my children, directing fund raising. So, I know my way around budgeting, organizing and executing.

I am a working engineer, serve on the board of trustees of two international commissions, and I am a principal with the nation's oldest architectural design firm.

**Dziękuję to the Nominating Committee:** Chair: Marge Morgan, Kasia Virgell, Ann Evans and to those continuing on the Board:  
Ted Ceplina becomes **PRESIDENT**, Allan Patek becomes **PAST PRES. 2018-19**,  
**SECRETARY**- Laurie Ross; **DIRECTORS** - Doris Graiewski & Elaine Schenborn