

President's Report – 2017

Our members worked at and enjoyed many local cultural festivals including **The International Festival**, **The Spring Festival**, **The Willy Street Fair**, and **The Christmas Bazaar**. These events generated revenue of over \$50,000 to support our mission. Both the Spring Festival and the Christmas Bazaar included educational displays. The one at the Spring Festival involved the *Treasure of Poland Water*, which the club borrowed from **Polanki** Milwaukee Women's Cultural Club. The Christmas Bazaar had two items: An 18-panel display describing the life of *Thaddeus Kosciuszko*, also on loan from the Polanki club, and club member **Gloria Welniak**'s quilt which won the *Friends of Kosciuszko Award* in Sydney, Australia.

Our regular activities continue to be strong. The Breakfast group meets on the First Friday of the Month, and the Book Club meets four times a year to discuss the latest book selection. The newsletter, under **Rosie Meinholz**'s leadership, continues to keep members informed of club happenings. And our website under **Irena Frączek**'s direction and our Facebook pages under **Kasia Virgell** continue to expand. We once again had a strong field of scholarship candidates, and we awarded two \$1000 scholarships in June. Other club activities included:

- On June 10, we hosted a Pierogi making class. Thanks to **Kasia Virgell** and her mother **Czesia Czajkowska** for the good fun and better Pierogi. Check out the club's Facebook page or website for pictures.
- On July 4, members represented the club participating in the **Evansville parade**.
- On August 13, we held our annual picnic in Lakeview Park in Middleton. Perfect weather allowed time for fellowship and conversation. Scholarship winner **Raya Lukesic Castronova** gave a talk about her interview with her grandmother and her college plans.
- On September 14, we sponsored and provided funds for a CREECA Lecture "Who was Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Why we should remember him?" **Professor Don Pienkos** gave the lecture facilitated by his nephew **Stephen Pienkos** (a club board member).
- On December 2, we held our **annual Wigilia** a great reflection on our culture as well as a time of sharing and thanksgiving. The **Zolnik family** demonstrated sharing of the Oplatek. Thanks to "Team Wigilia" including **Shelle Michalak**, **Laurie Ross**, and **Ann Evans** for their wonderful work. We also had the opportunity to meet scholarship winner **James Kolono**, who thanked the club for his award. And Santa distributed gifts to all the little children.

I want to thank all our members who contributed their time and talent to all our events and fundraising throughout the year. We are truly blessed with active and involved members.

We honor the memory of our members who are no longer with us.

As of December 31, 2017, we had **200 voting members**: 53 Family, 86 Individual, and 8 Honorary members. I am honored to work with this wonderful club of exceptional people that enjoy each other and rejoice in all things Polish.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Morgan, President