

2017 BOD Nominees

VP-PRES.ELECT-1 year Allan Patek

TREASURER-odd year-2 years
(vote for 1)

Linda Cagle, Sharon Pasowicz

2 DIRECTORS odd year-2 years
(vote for 2):

**Laura Jasiczek, Stephen Pienkos
Diane Pillsbury, Elaine Schenborn,
Gloria Welniak,**

**Additional nominees will be accepted
before voting**

CONTINUING ON THE BOARD:

**VP-PRES. ELECT-2016 Marge
Morgan becomes PRESIDENT**

**PRESIDENT-2016 Ryszard Zolnik
becomes PAST PRESIDENT**

**SECRETARY-even year-2 yrs. 2016-17
Anne Evans**

**DIRECTOR- even year-2 yrs. 2016-17
Michelle Michalak**

**DIRECTOR- even year-2 yrs.2016-17
Laurie Ross**

VP-PRES.ELECT-1 year

Allan Patek I am very proud of the four branches of my family (Piatek, Demski, Bruski and Recek). My grandparents helped me develop a deep appreciation for being Polish American. My paternal great-grandfather Jan Piatek was a founding member of St Hedwig's in Kewaunee County in 1879. My great uncle Frank Demski, an aged soft spoken farmer when I knew him, volunteered to serve in the General Haller's Polish Blue Army in France. My grandmother Helen gave me an appreciation for little things in the home, garden and kitchen that she did to keep a little of Poland alive. She stayed in touch with her Paskiewicz cousins in a small farming village called Lekno until her death. The Polish flag proudly flies in front of our home on May 3rd and November 11th.

My wife Patricia (Benkert) and I have two sons - Zebulon at the University of Wisconsin, and Casimir at Madison West. I have a bachelor's degree in history and political science from the UW-Eau Claire. Today, I'm putting my 20 years' experience in insurance to work as the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Insurance Security Fund.

I was a member of Green Bay's Polish Heritage Society, and joined Madison's Polish Club when we moved here in 2014. Poles have played an important role in our nation's and Wisconsin's history. I see our organization as not only one to support fellowship among those of Polish heritage, but also to help educate the community and build bonds between our country and Poland.

TREASURER-odd year-2 yrs. (vote for 1 out of 2)

Linda Cagle Born in West Warwick, RI, I moved to Madison in 1968, which was to be only for a few "short" years. I have a daughter, Kristin, and two grandchildren, Alia and Evan who are my pride and joy. My ancestry is Polish (50%) and French Canadian (50%). My grandfather and grandmother emigrated from southeast Poland in 1900, via Budapest, Hungary, then Bremen, Germany to Ellis Island. Unfortunately, I never knew them because they died before I was born. My maiden name is Pojda (not shortened or changed) and genealogy is one of my many hobbies so I can find out more about my Polish roots. I have enjoyed serving on the Board of Directors as Treasurer.

I have chaired/co-chaired many events, as well as assisted with the inventory process. It has truly been a pleasure meeting many members who have become my Polish community of friends and wish to out of 2help make the Polish Heritage Club a "household name". Thank you for the opportunity to continue to be of service to the PHCWI.

Sharon Pasowicz *(Nominated by Joanna Pasowicz)* My family hails from Mala, Poland on my father's side and Gdansk/Gdynia/Sopot, Poland on my mother's side. I am second generation American on my father's side. I am a U.S. Army and Desert Shield/Storm veteran and belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars & Disabled American Veterans Organizations. My career outside of the military is that of a nurse. I have/currently volunteer with the Ronald Mc-Donald House, Port St. Vincent, Special Olympics, bike-a-thon (100mi), roller-skate-a-thon (100 mi equiv) and with the PHC until recently due to complications after my knee replacement.

I joined the PHC to learn more of my Polish heritage. I have enjoyed working with the folks in the club at the events and during the end of the year inventory this month. I am serving on the Inventory Committee and would welcome the opportunity to serve as your treasurer. I have been attending meetings since 2013 and firmly believe we need younger/ newer members to join the leadership positions within the PHC, hence one of the reasons I am asking to be your new treasurer. Thank you.

2 DIRECTORS odd year-2 years (vote for 2 out of 5)

Laura Jasiczek I live on the Northside of Madison with my boyfriend Colin, daughter Pamella Agnieszka Jasiczek, and my boyfriend's son, Axl. I work at Lakeview Lutheran Church as the office administrator. I have been a member of the Polish originally from Chicago, who was quite interested and engaged in his Polish heritage and so this was passed on to me. I spent my last semester in college (2006) studying in Warsaw and, during that time, got to travel around Poland quite a bit. My father also came over and we spent a couple weeks, during Easter, traveling and visiting our family that still lives there, around Czermna. I also grew up polka dancing with my father and we still try to make it to at least one festival a year. I am now passing my love of polka on to my daughter, who at 3 can hold her own! It would be fun to join the Board and help to shape the future of the Polish Heritage Club of Wisconsin.

Stephen Pienkos I am pleased to have your consideration for an At-Large Director position. I grew up in southeastern Wisconsin and graduated from UW-Madison in 2009. After working a few years in the Milwaukee area, I was happy to return to Madison when I began working for a State Senator in the Capitol where I have been for the past 5 years.

My mother was born near Warsaw and my father's grandfather was born in Rzeszow. All of his grandparents were born in Poland and came to America through Ellis Island in the early 1900s. I have been a member of the Polish Heritage Club for 3 years. I have been active in the Polish American Congress-Wisconsin Division as a Director and I have served as the Vice-President for Membership for the past 3 years. I am also a member of the Polish National Alliance and I have volunteered at Polish Fest in Milwaukee.

I would like to be able to share more of my time and talents, as well as to deepen my participation with the Polish Heritage Club and it would be a privilege to serve the Club in a leadership role.

Diane M. (Spott) Pillsbury I am 100% Polish and proud of it! I'm the kind that would defiantly wear red on St. Patrick's Day in honor of my heritage. My maiden name is Spott corrupted, on my paternal great grandfather's arrival to Ellis Island, from Szpot. He came from Czerlejno. 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. My regret is that my three children are only half Polish. I remind them of their better half by serving kielbasa, homemade pierogis and performing the oplatek ceremony every Christmas Eve.

I grew up in the heavily Polish south side of Milwaukee, thinking everybody was Polish. I went to college at UW Stevens Point (lots of Poles there!) obtained a degree in Environmental Education and attended graduate school at University of Idaho. I worked at nature centers in Wisconsin, Iowa and Philadelphia, hiked the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine, married, settled in Vermont for 10 years where our children were born, before moving to Baraboo where I currently reside with my husband, Brian. I now serve as the director of the Baraboo Senior Center. I have been involved in the PHCWI for 3 years and have helped with the Spring Festival and Christmas Bazaar. Now that the children have left, I hope to become even more involved in the Club.

Elaine Schenborn I was born and raised in Chicago, and am 100% Polish - my maiden name is Wojkowski. Each of my grandparents immigrated to Chicago in the early 1900's from the Czestochowa and Lomza regions of Poland. I have fond memories of Polish delis and bakeries in my neighborhood and many Saturday mornings were 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, I 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. Our Club provides a connection to people with similar roots and reminds me of my own ancestral heritage. I enjoy volunteering at the Christmas Bazaars and attending Book Club. It's been wonderful meeting new friends and learning more about Polish history, its heroes, artists and customs. I look forward to continued opportunities, to share ideas and contribute to the continued success of the PHC.

Gloria Welniak My parents are both of Polish ancestry, my father having emigrated with his family from the Pila region in 1903. I was raised on a farm in central Wisconsin and earned graduate degrees in art and recreation therapy from the UW Madison. Since retirement, I have volunteered at the Pinney Library, Agrace Hospice Thrift Store, Madison Audubon Society and the Monona Senior Center. I am still active as a teacher of arts and crafts with a specialty in teaching Polish crafts in workshops co-sponsored by the Polish Heritage Club.

I have been a member of PHC since 2010 and have volunteered at fundraisers and donated my hand-crafted wianki, eggs, postage stamp bookmarks, quilts, and other items. Co-chairing the planning committees for the Christmas Bazaar and Spring Festival the past few years has been very gratifying. I have helped with stock inventories several years and have been recently appointed to the Inventory Committee. During the summers, I have enjoyed riding our 'red truck' in community parades.

I would like to serve on the PHC Board of Directors in order to work with our talented executive members and to contribute my vision and perspective as an artist to the preservation and dissemination of Polish culture.