

2020 Elections: Board of Directors Nominees as of this printing. Additional nominees accepted before the Jan. 26 vote

VP/President Elect - 1 year 2020:

Kasia Virgell

I was born and raised in Poland between the late 70's and early 90's. I moved to this country in 1994 after earning my nursing degree in Poland. That I didn't know a word in English didn't stop me, my motto was to learn, adapt and build my future in America. Within 4 months I learned enough English to get a job, driver's license and a car. Now 26 years later I'm a successful master's prepared nursing professional living with my husband David in Sun Prairie, WI with 3 Boston Terriers: Maximus, Dilla and LaLa Roo.

My family dates back to 1500s and has two family crests: Leliwa (grandma side) and Sas (grandpa side). During every generation part of the family moved to United States and part stayed in Poland, or vice versa. My grandfather and his siblings were all born in United States. He and one of his siblings returned to Poland with their parents, another stayed in the US.

My Polish traditions and customs are deeply rooted and very precious to me. I enjoy sharing them with friends and strangers. I've been volunteering at Club events for the past few years. Many of you see me working in the kitchen cooking pierogi; I also manage the club's Facebook page posting pictures from our events and sharing many Polish traditions. I led a *bigos* cooking class, and I am proud to say my mom Czesia, who is very shy, also led a *pierogi* cooking class.

I enjoy volunteering my time for our Polish Heritage Club, and as a Vice President I would like to continue to share my love of Poland and Polish traditions.

SECRETARY - even year-2 years 2020-2021

Doris Graiewski

I have enjoyed my 2 years on the Board as a Director and currently as Vice President. I stepped up when Ted resigned and Diane moved to President.

While I am not Polish, I became interested in Polish culture when I celebrated Christmas with Stan's relatives in Poland. I have been a volunteer at the Spring Festival and Fall Bazaar for the past few years. 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 PHC 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. I have volunteered at Polish Fest for the past 2 years. If you have never attended, I recommend it.

I worked for the State of Wisconsin my entire career. I started with the Industrial Commission and remained there until they moved me to Children and Families. The name of the agency changed many times as did my job. I finished as a Data Security Officer. I would like your vote so I can further serve our organization.

DIRECTORS - even year-2 years 2020-2021 (vote for 2):

Eric Lewandowski Thank you for considering me for a PHC At-Large Directorship.

As a fifth generation American entirely of Polish descent, heritage always has been a key part of my life. As a professionally trained historian and genealogist, I closely identify with my extended family background and history in American Polonia and "the Old Country," where I have fond memories and close associations. As a retired non-profit affairs manager and fundraising specialist still active in cultural affairs tied to Poland and Central Europe, I also offer a varied skill set, hopefully of benefit to the Polish Heritage Club.

My wife, Gina, and I have been PHC members for at least a half-dozen years, regularly attend annual meetings and special events, and personally have worked at contributing to a better understanding and wider appreciation of our common Polish Experience. Since 2014, we have devoted much time and energy as teachers and co-directors of an English language camp in Bożków, Lower Silesia. We have travelled extensively throughout Poland and made many useful contacts and formed lasting relationships.

I have contributed articles about Poland to the PHC Newsletter, have helped at the spring International Festival and winter Bazaar, where I most recently promoted interest in conducting Polish-American genealogy and family history research. I have given many presentations on Poland and Polish themes over the years.

Serving as a director would allow me to honor my past while helping foster current activities and develop future aims and initiatives of our organization. I am grateful for this opportunity and welcome your support.

Michael Armiak

I am pleased to be considered for a Board seat of the Polish Heritage Club. I retired from a career in the natural gas industry and joined the Club to reconnect with my Polish heritage and traditions. I grew up with in a 100% Polish family. My grandparents emigrated from Poland and both English and Polish were spoken in my childhood home. Roots support our tree of life and it is my Polish roots that I hope to share with others seeking a connection with the past.

I have volunteered at our Polish festivals, attended the Club's Wigilia, monthly breakfasts, fish fries, Polish movie at the library and annual picnic. I spend my free time with my grandchildren as well as volunteering at a local school and participating in the Madison Friends of International Students programs. I welcome your support.

Dziękuję to the Nominating Committee: Alan Patek, Marge Morgan, Jack Cox

Thank you to those continuing on the Board: President 2020 - Diane Pillsbury
Treasurer 2019-20 - Linda Cagle Directors: Odd year 2019-20:
Past-President - Allan Patek Patricia Brinkman, Jack Cox

Thank you to those whose terms have expired: Secretary 2018-19 - Laurie Ross
Directors 2018-19: Elaine Schenborn, Gloria Welniak (filled in for Doris Graiewski),
VP/Pres-Doris Graiewski (filled in for Diane Pillsbury)