

# Nominee Statements for 2025 Board of Directors as of this printing

Additional nominees accepted before the January 26 vote.

## **VP / PRESIDENT ELECT - 1 year 2025:**

**Stephanie Karwacki** - Hello I am running for the Vice-President position after having served two years as a Board Director. I enjoy contributing to the club and promoting connection between our many interesting members and the community as we share our rich and varied Polish heritage and culture. Serving in the role of Assistant Treasurer the past 2 yrs. has afforded me the opportunity to understand the club finances, our events productions, membership renewals and new member interests. I am also learning and having some fun, and enjoyed attending the Wianki and Genealogy Workshops, the *Footprints of Polonia* book event, and a fabulous PHC co-sponsored Polish touring jazz trio music concert.



I have been honored to interview or help to coordinate the newsletter *Member Spotlight* articles with Rosie Meinholz. Meeting founding and early member families, and new and continuing members who share their stories adds to our current collective club chronicles. The club will celebrate the 45th anniversary of incorporation in 2025.

If elected, I will help continue the club missions to promote knowledge, appreciation and connection with Polish heritage and each other. On a personal note, my Polish family comes from the southeast mountain region of Poland, and I hope to uncover more information about my own ancestry and pick up some travel tips from the club for a second visit to Poland.

## **DIRECTOR - odd year-2 years 2025-26:**

**John "Skip" Benninghouse** - I'm happy to have been nominated to serve on the PHC board once again. I have been a member of the PHC for so long I cannot remember when I joined. I live with my wife, Jennifer, and cat, Piper, on the east side of Madison and have two stepsons in the area. During the week I can be found working at the



Wisconsin Department of Transportation where I am System Administrator. When I am not working, I like to spend time with Jennifer and Piper. And when I am not doing that, I enjoy hiking, writing, gaming, going to the movies, listening to music, and spending time with friends.

My maternal grandmother was Polish, and it was from her that I got my interest in Polish food and cooking. Sadly, I have not yet been to Poland but hope to soon. As I got older, I gained an interest in my family heritage and so I joined the PHC to learn more of the Polish side of my family as well as what Poland is like today.

Long ago in the dim and distant past I served on the PHC Board and served a term as President. For the past several years I've been cooking at the Spring Festival and Christmas Bazaar and showing up at the summer picnic when I can. While I have some catching up to do, I hope to use my experience as a board member to once again help the PHC grow and spread Polish culture throughout the Madison area.

## **DIRECTOR - odd year-2 years 2025-26:**

**Ruth Bruskiwitz** - I am honored to be considered for the Board of Directors of PHC. I joined the PHC several years ago but wasn't an active member until volunteering at the Christmas and Spring events. I was born and raised in Milwaukee, and I am second generation Polish on my maternal side, (my mother's first language was Polish), and third generation on my paternal side. I love Polish food and created a family cookbook by asking my busia to translate her recipes to standard measures. My maternal grandparents came from small towns outside of Warsaw, but it has been harder to locate where my paternal great grands were born. I visited Poland by train in 2010 with a friend who was born in Poznan, and I will be travelling to Poland again in 2025



I am a pharmacist by training, having attended Marquette University and UW Madison. After graduation I worked in Chicago before moving back to Madison where I eventually retired as a Professor from the UW School of Pharmacy. My hobbies include raising, training and showing Irish Water Spaniels in conformation and performance events, traveling, paper crafting and jigsaw puzzles.

Although I have not served in any capacity with the PHC, I have held leadership positions in pharmacy organizations and dog clubs. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the PHC as a Director. I hope to support the mission of PHC to promote Polish culture and traditions.

## **TREASURER- odd year-2 years 2025-26:**

**Dorie Luick** - After decades of being a PHC member, I am pleased to be nominated for the treasurer position. I am not Polish, but have enjoyed helping with club activities since I married my husband Butch 45 years ago. His parents, Josephine and Leon Luick, PHC founding members, were making things happen in the club for many years. This included shopping for Polish supplies and rallying volunteers for club events. We also loved the bus trips that Leon organized to Chicago, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and even our two boys helped sell tickets at the events.



Leon served as the PHC President (2001-03), and in 2012 Butch was elected President, after serving on the board since 2009. His special contributions included club participation in summer parades and cooking at picnics and other events. He is temporarily unable to continue with those activities, but I am ready to carry on his enthusiasm for serving the club.

Professionally, I am a retired nurse, and after serving in the US military for 25 years, I enjoy taking care of my grandchildren, attending their sport activities and gardening. But I am looking forward to stepping in and continuing with the Luick family's contributions to the club.

### **Continuing on the Board:**

VP-PRES ELECT-2024 becomes **PRESIDENT 2025 Alan Patek**  
PRESIDENT-2024 becomes **PAST PRESIDENT Beata Wierzba**  
Elected even yr. serve 2024-25: **SECRETARY Janice Zmrzek,**  
**DIRECTORS Sue Janczak and Tom Radoszewski**

### **Leaving the Board** with our thank you for their service:

PAST-PRESIDENT 2024 **Irena Frączek**, TREASURER 2023-24 **Carl Kopplin**, DIRECTOR 2024 **Basia Packham**.

**Thank you to the Nominees for their willingness to serve, and to the Nominating Committee:**  
**Irena Frączek, Bonnie Gudmandsen and John Hagen.**