



2024 Member Survey

Summary of Results



2024 Member Survey

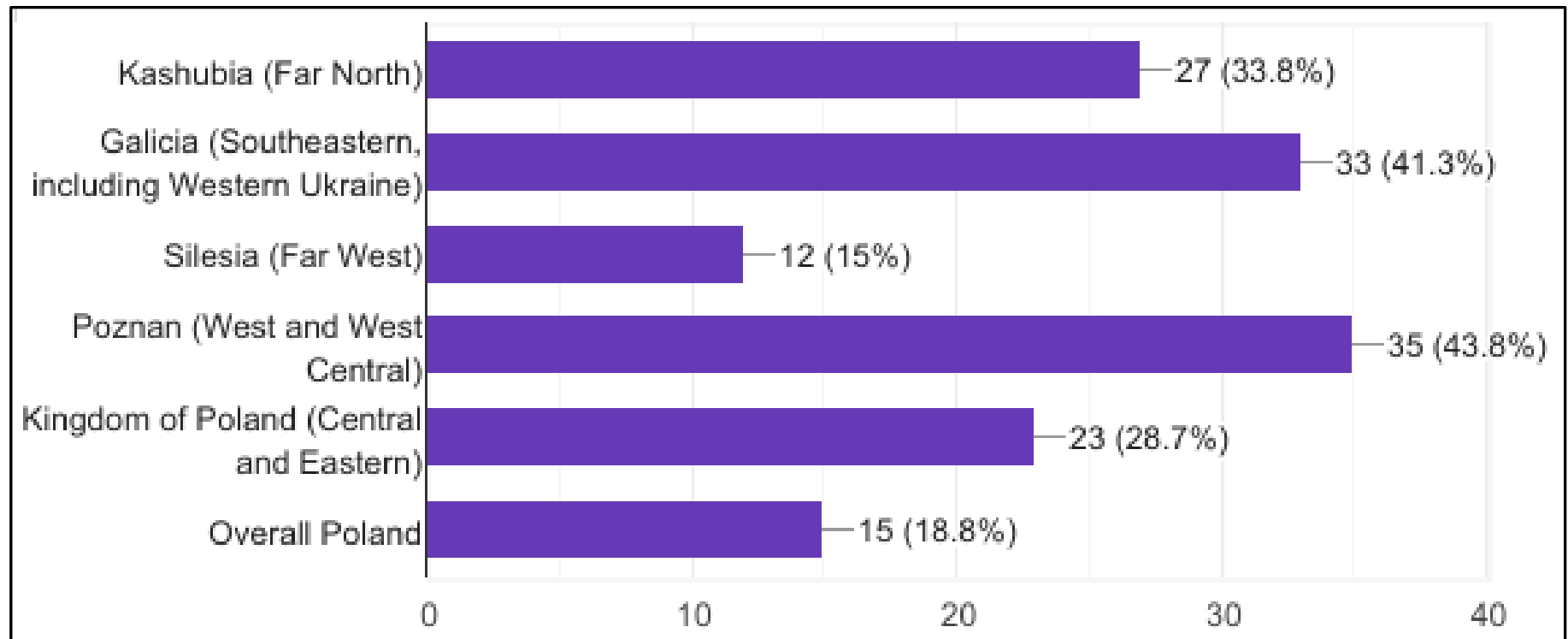
- Electronic survey sent to 220 PGS-MN Members in late June
 - A few members requested paper copy sent to them
- Response time closed at the end of July
- 84 PGS-MN Members (38%) completed the survey
 - This was an outstanding response rate!
- Incentive to complete was a drawing for free membership for 2025
 - Four free memberships were awarded (based on the threshold numbers established by the Board of Directors for number of members completing the survey)
- Great feedback received from PGS-MN Members

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO COMPLETED THE SURVEY



Member Survey Results - Researching

- 79% of PGS-MN Members are actively researching their family history
- Areas of Poland being researched:





Member Survey Results - Researching

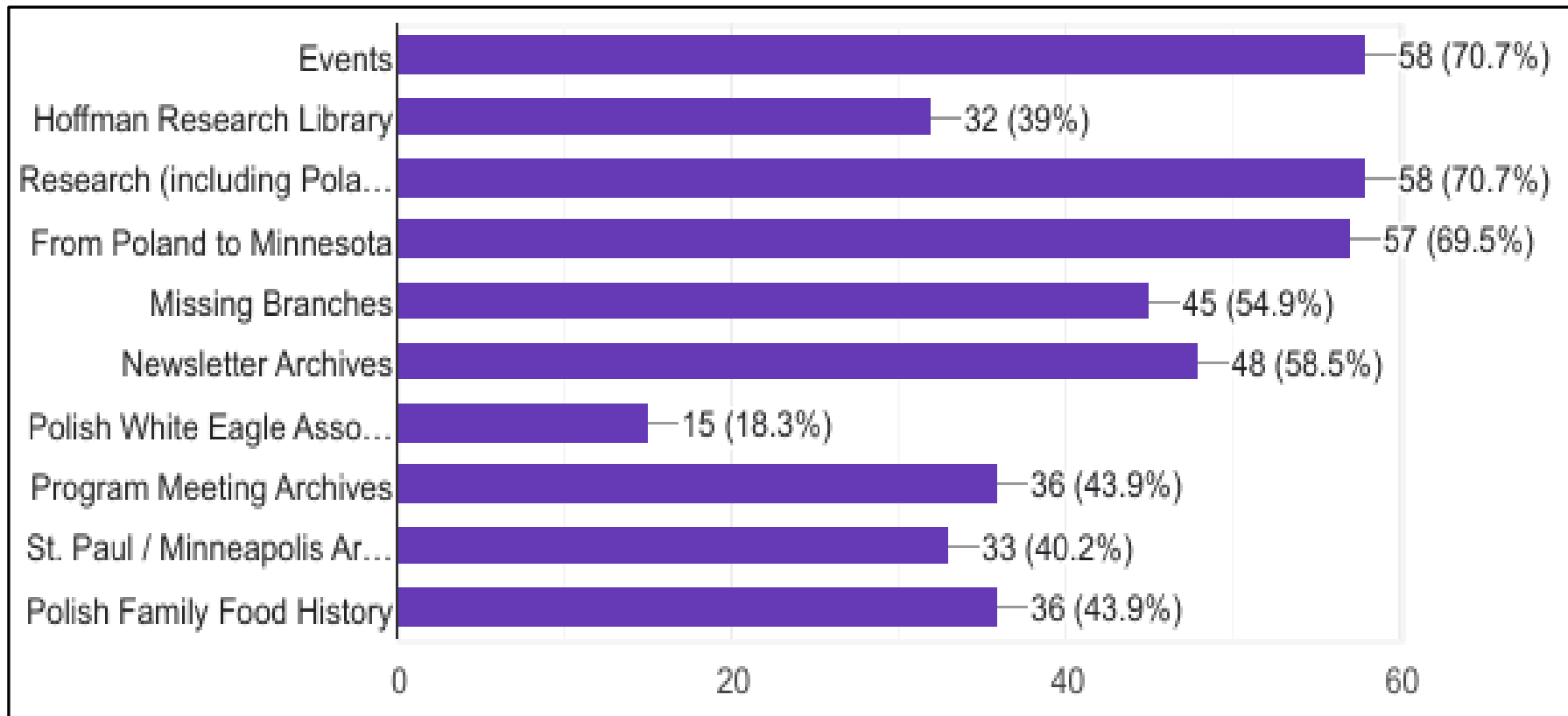
• How can PGS-MN help with your Polish Genealogy research?

- A lot of Polish research is in Polish which makes accessing info difficult for those of us who do not know the language. Hints for helping with this...
- A volunteer could be helpful to learn how to move forward on writing samples, organizing whether chronological or otherwise (*attend out the March 1, 2025 Program Meeting*)
- Connecting members that are researching a similar area in Poland (an expansion of the Networking groups that started this spring focusing on regions of MN where Poles settled)
- Are there translators/transcribers that can read a Polish document for me?
- How to use Polish genealogical websites?
- Are there any PGS members that have specific area information and willing to answer questions/point to research help?
- Maybe a “research buddy” to share information with (*check out the Networking Groups*)
- Speakers on research in specific areas



Member Survey - Website

- What parts of the Website do you find most useful:





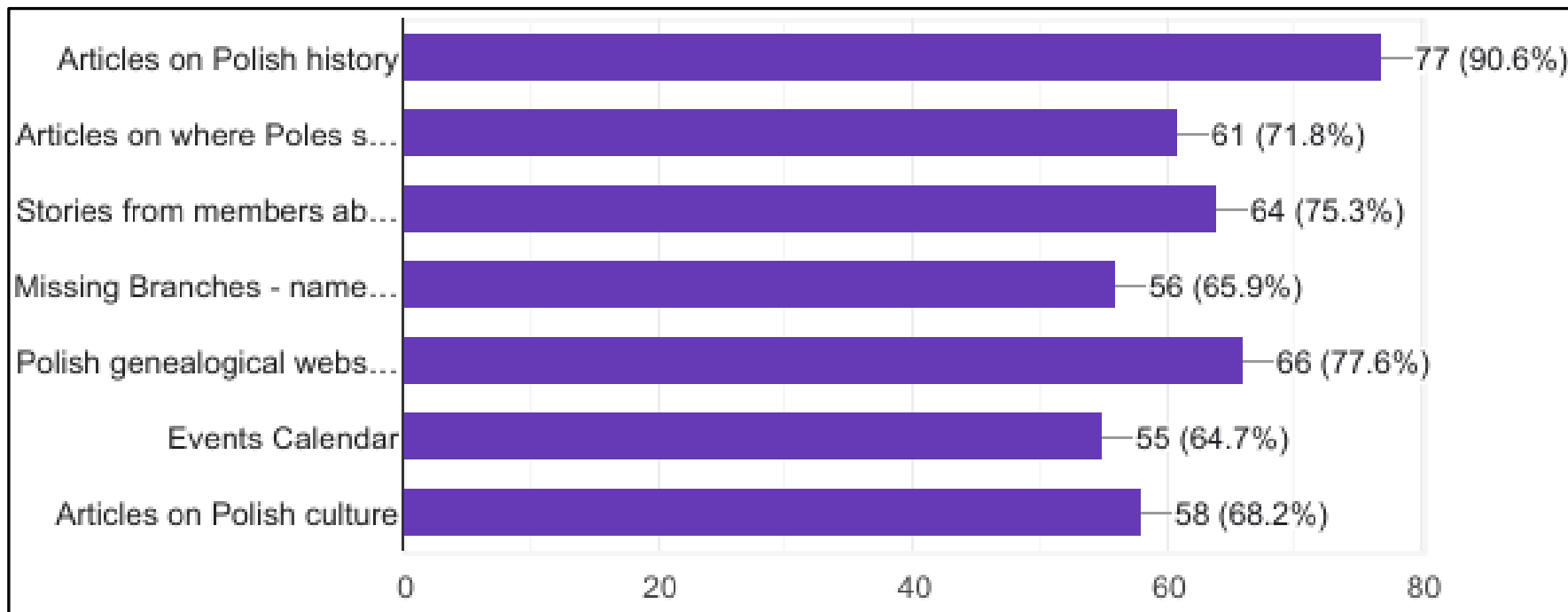
Member Survey - Website

- **What suggestions do you have for improving the website?**
 - I wasn't aware of all these sites
 - Continue adding to "From Poland to Minnesota"
 - More history of Poland
 - Some short tutorial videos about using different parts of the website (*check out the Overview Video on the homepage of the PGSMN.org website*)
 - Some way to prompt/remind me to check it out
 - More tips and tricks to doing on-line research, especially doing research in Poland
 - Provide some guidance for people with little knowledge on how to begin their research, without having to become a member of PGS-MN
 - Use some items from the "Members Only" section in the public area to encourage more participation, which could lead to membership
 - List of people researching ancestors (*check out Missing Branches in Members Only section*)



Member Survey - Newsletters

- What parts do you find most useful?





Member Survey - Newsletters

- **What suggestions do you have for improving the Newsletters?**
 - More articles from members on their genealogy research and on Polish history
 - Showcase a different region of Poland in each issue
 - Article to explain how members can find copies of the old newsletters on the website
 - Guidance on penmanship used in old records to help with transcribing documents
 - Include a “how-to” navigate various Polish genealogical websites
 - Recommendations on software to maintain a family tree
 - Updates to the webinars you have been giving at the regular meetings
 - Include recommended books to read about different Polish topics
 - Keep “Missing Branches” going, maybe expanding to include known families that are being researched other than just newer members
 - Consider a digital newsletter (*check out the Newsletter Archives in the Members Only section of the website for all issues going back to 1993*)



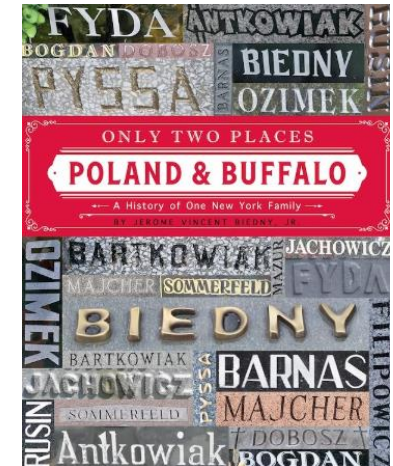
Member Survey – Program Meetings

- Great suggestions for topics for Program Meetings – many will be done in 2025
 - Continue to keep a “ZOOM” option for Program Meetings for members to watch remotely
 - Bring more awareness to the recording of Program Meetings saved on the Website for viewing anytime



Program Meeting Archives Summary

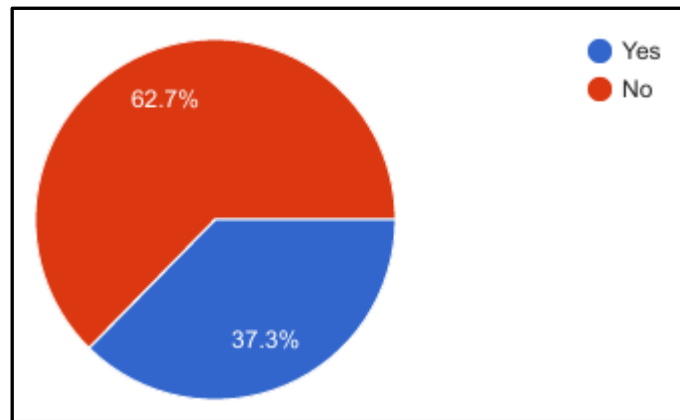
- Consider a session on basic Polish genealogy research and how to use technology
- How to make a family book (*attend the March 1st Program Meeting on “Publishing a Family History Book: The Process and Details” by Jay Biedny*)
- Travel to Poland (*attend the May 3^d Program Meeting*)
- Polish genealogy websites (*check out “Research” tab for links*)





Member Survey - Facebook

- Have you ever visited the Facebook site?

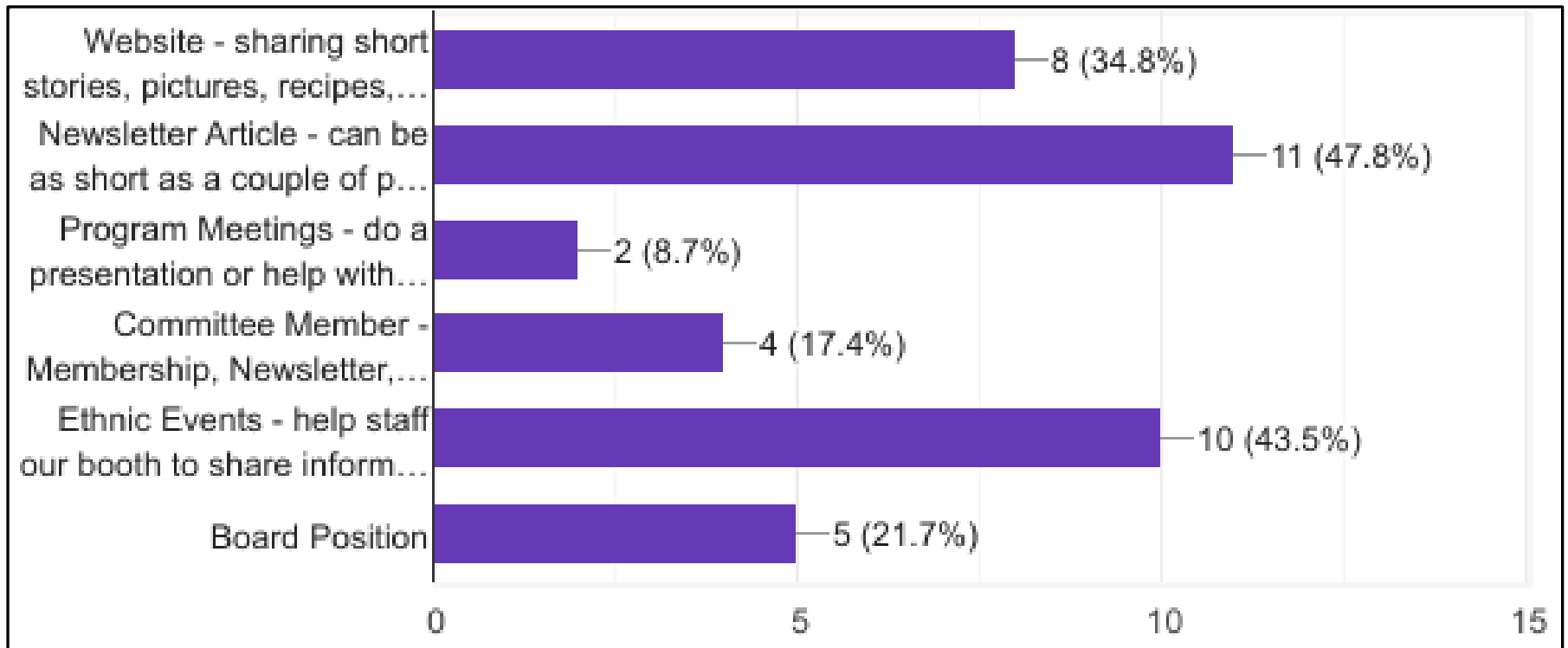


- What suggestions do you have for future content?
 - Member input on exciting finds in their research efforts
 - Events offered by other Polish organizations and websites
 - Continue to include links to other PGS-MN meetings
 - Pictures and narratives of those doing Polish research



Member Survey – Volunteer Opportunities

- Would you consider any of the following volunteer opportunities?





Member Survey – Volunteer Opportunities

- **Volunteers are very important for PGS-MN**
 - PGS-MN is a non-profit organization and all Committee and Board Members are volunteers
 - Members are welcome (and encouraged) to share their passion for Polish genealogy research and help our organization.
 - Member commitment can be very limited in time and many things can be done remotely
 - Please consider:
 - Website – Add to “From Poland to Minnesota” with pictures or stories about your family
 - Newsletter - Short article on your Polish family research/history, family stories, etc.
 - Ethnic Events – Help staffing a booth, many opportunities available in 2025
 - Join a committee (Membership, Newsletter, Programs and Website)
 - Future Board Position
 - If you are interested in volunteering, send an email to: PGSminnesota@gmail.com



Member Survey – Actions Being Taken

- Program Meetings for 2025
 - Many on topics recommended by members
 - Meetings will be recorded so members can view anytime (check out the “Program Meeting Archives” in the “Members Only” section of the website)
- Networking / Discussion Groups
 - 3 active groups (Northeast Minneapolis, Central Minnesota and Southeast Minnesota)
 - A 4th group to start this spring (Duluth)
 - A St. Paul group being considered
- Website – new content being added, especially in “From Poland to Minnesota” to help you with your research and share your stories
 - Check out the “Overview Video” on the home page of the website
- Newsletters – articles on Polish history and stories from members about their families



Feedback is welcome anytime:
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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO
PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY

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