



Welcome to the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Annual Meeting - 2025

Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne Minnesoty

pgsminnesota@gmail.com
www.pgsmn.org
1385 Mendota Heights Rd
Suite 100
Mendota Heights, MN
55120



2025 Annual Meeting Agenda

Call to Order

- Welcome & Updates– Terry Kita
- Meet the PGS-MN Board Members

Financials

- 2024 Financial Summary & 2025 Budget – Gary Wolf

New Business

- 2025 Nominations & Elections – Jay Biedny
- Bylaws - Kay Freund
- 2024 Achievement Award – Terry Kita

Committee Reports

- Membership – Karen Brill
- Program Meetings – Terry Kita
- Website – Paula Colwell & Joe Hughes
- Newsletter – Marie Przyński

Other Reports

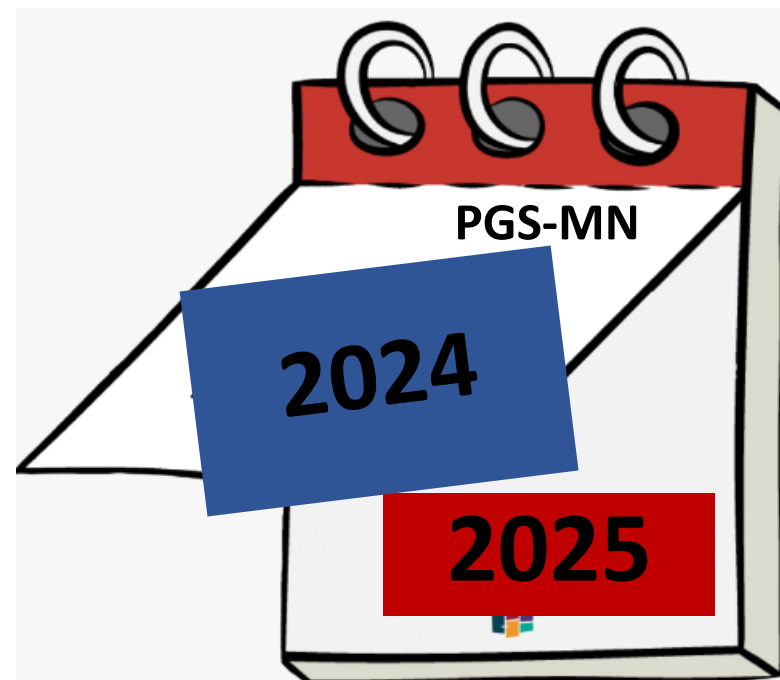
- Facebook – Marie Przyński
- Events - Mike Stodolka
- Library

2024 Member Survey

- Summary of Results– Kay Freund

Open Discussion

Adjourn





Call to Order – Welcome!

Terry Kita



Call to Order

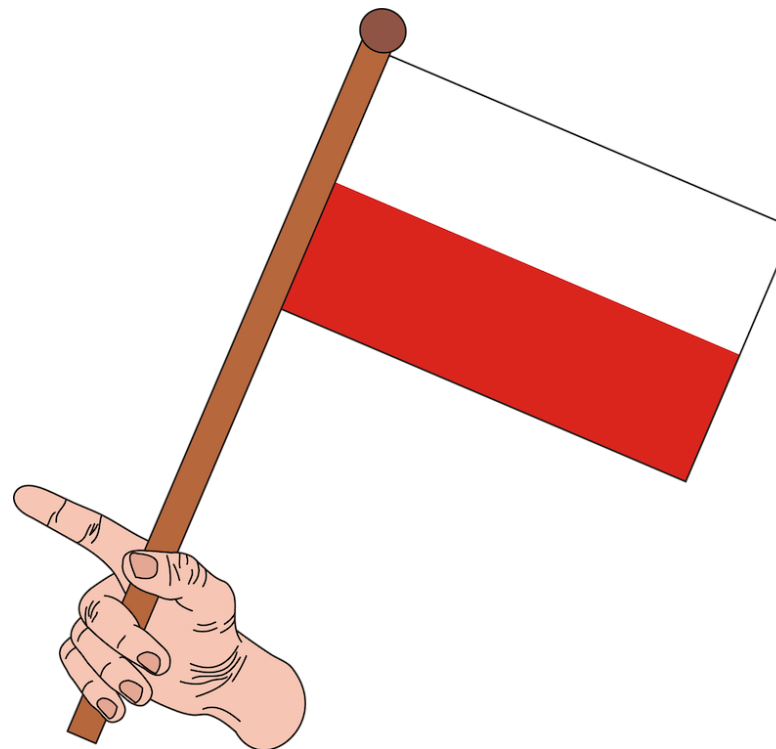
Welcome!

- Thank you for joining us today

Updates

- Future PGS-MN Structure Changes
- Other Updates

Meet the Board Members





2024 Financials & 2025 Budget

Gary Wolf



2024 Financials

Highlights

- Managed expenses for break-even
- Membership – Annual dues are \$25
- Newsletter – Quarterly newsletters published and mailed to members
- Website – Wordpress restored
- Charitable donations are always appreciated

PGS-MN 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENT	2024 Budget	2024 Actual
RECEIPTS		
Donations	\$ 1,500	\$ 160
Membership dues - New	\$ 625	\$ 758
Membership dues - Renewing	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,626
Program meeting (from attendee fees)	\$ 40	\$ -
Other Income	\$ 248	\$ -
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 7,413	\$ 5,544
DISBURSEMENTS		
Marketing (Outside Events)	\$ (500)	\$ -
Annual Meeting	\$ (100)	\$ -
Program Meeting (Honorarium)	\$ (450)	\$ (50)
Membership - Printing & Mail	\$ (150)	\$ -
Membership - Office Supplies, Postage	\$ (550)	\$ -
Newsletter - Postage	\$ (584)	\$ (617)
Newsletter - Mailing Service	\$ (560)	\$ (579)
Newsletter - Printing	\$ (1,340)	\$ (1,387)
ZOOM Renewal	\$ (150)	\$ (173)
Website: GoDaddy	\$ -	\$ -
Website: WordPress	\$ (400)	\$ (137)
Website: Dreamhost	\$ -	\$ (199)
Website: Consultant / Training	\$ (400)	\$ (360)
Rent / Insurance MSG	\$ (1,991)	\$ (1,991)
Board Memberships to MGS (3 people)	\$ (160)	\$ -
Other Fees	\$ -	\$ -
P.O. Box Rental	\$ (100)	\$ (102)
Member Ties		
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ (7,435)	\$ (5,595)
NET INCOME (EXPENSE FOR THE YEAR)	\$ (22)	\$ (51)

ASSETS as of 12/31/2024	Amount
Cash in Checking Account	\$ 9,530
PayPal	\$ 716
Huntington CD	\$ 5,222
Mairs & Power Balanced Fund	\$ 11,132
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 26,600



2025 Budget

Highlights

- Donations – Based on 2024 actual received; donations greatly appreciated
- Membership – Annual dues remain \$25 (Members: 220 renewals and 28 new)
- Events & Festivals – Great outreach! We plan to continue attending in 2025
- Newsletter – Budget similar to 2024
- Website – Consultant to be used only if more complicated skills are needed
- MGS Rent – Remains the same as 2024
- Computer – Extra-ordinary expense (Funds from prior donations were used)
- Deficit – Result of lower donations in budget and new computer purchased

2025 PGS-MN BUDGET		Amount
RECEIPTS	Donations	\$ 160
	Dues - New	\$ 700
	Dues - Renewal	\$ 5,500
	Annual Meeting	\$ -
	Program Meetings	\$ 40
	Other Income (from savings)	\$ 248
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 6,648
DISBURSEMENTS	Outside Events	\$ (100)
	Marketing	\$ (50)
	Annual Meeting	\$ (100)
	Program Meeting Honorarium	\$ (100)
	Membership - Print & Mail	\$ (150)
	Office Supplies / Postage	\$ (550)
	Newsletter: Postage	\$ (680)
	Newsletter: Mailing Service	\$ (604)
	Newsletter: Printing	\$ (1,523)
	ZOOM Annual Fee	\$ (150)
	Website: GoDaddy (3 yrs)	\$ (70)
	Website: WordPress	\$ -
	Website: Consultant/Training	\$ (400)
	Website: Dreamhost (3 yrs)	\$ (427)
	MGS - Rent	\$ (1,991)
	MGS - Officer Membership	\$ (180)
	Computer	\$ (565)
	PO Box	\$ (102)
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ (7,742)
NET		\$ (1,094)



2025 Nominations & Election

Jay Biedny



2025 Officers and Board of Directors Candidate Slate

- President - Jim Warzonek
- Vice President - Vacant and Available!
- Director I - Jerry Bambenek (incumbent)
- Director III - Mike Stodolka (incumbent)

Each position is for a two-year term, from January 2025 - January 2027

If you have interest in any officer or committee roles, please let us know!



Bylaws

Kay Freund



Bylaws

- Article III – Membership
 - Sections 1 and 2: Clarification that “Organizations” are not members of PGS-MN
 - Section 5: Termination of Membership for the new year will occur if Renewal Dues are not received by February 1st
- Article VII – Standing Committees
 - Section 3: Removal of two committees no longer needed
 - Research & Library Committee – activity handled volunteer members
 - Annual Meeting & Awards Committee – activity handled by the Board
- The Board of Directors support these changes to the Bylaws
- Member Vote





2024 Achievement Award

Terry Kita



Membership Committee

Karen Brill



Membership Summary 2024

2024 Details:

- **244** Active Members (01/01/25) vs **225** last year.
- **62** members are in other states, one is in Canada, one in Columbia with **180 folks in Minnesota**.
- **41** new members in 2024 vs **23** in 2023.
- **One-third** of our members have been active since 2008!
- PGS-MN Breakout of **Membership by Residency**.

	2024 Year End	
<u>Area</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Minnesota metro	138	56.6%
Minnesota outstate	42	17.2%
Other states	63	25.8%
<u>Canada</u>	1	<1%
TOTAL	244	100%



Polish Passport (Wikipedia)



*****New this past year***** ***Networking Group Zoom Calls***

Three Networking groups were created due to member requests for more interactive activities. Five Zoom calls were held for each group during the same months as program meetings starting in April. Plan is six per year.

- **Northeast Mpls/Anoka Group** (facilitator: Connie Waldherr) – about five members
- **Central Minnesota Group** (facilitator: Mike Stodolka) – about five members
- **SE Minnesota Group** (Winona, MN & Pine Creek, WI) (facilitator: Karen Brill) – 15 members

Discussion topics included:

- Research wins/challenges
- How to use the From Poland to Minnesota section of our website
- Polish family traditions
- How to self-publish a family history book or cookbook
- Trips to Poland
- Funny stories and more!

Benefits included meeting other members, discussing Polish genealogy with others whose ancestors settled in the same area, helping each other learn about genealogy resources and connecting with others who might be researching the same family names.

A Duluth group will be added in March 2025. We are looking for a facilitator for that group. We'll provide a simple training and take care of scheduling the Zoom calls.



Program Committee

Terry Kita



Program Meetings - 2024

Spring Programs

- March 2 - Tracing Religion in Polish History (*Gordon Pueschner*)
- April 13 - Tour of Borchert Library - U of M
- May 11 - Wieczorek Family Tree (*Peggy Larson*)

Fall Programs

- September 7 - My Grandfather's Story (*Marge Runakko*)
- October 5 - Kashubians in MN (*Joe Hughes*)
- November 2 - Finding My Ancestral Village (*Kay Freund*) and Using Land Records (*Chris Dewuske*)





Programs Planned for 2025

Spring

- March 1 - Publishing a Family History Book (*Jay Biedny*)
- April 9 (Wednesday) - Research at the Gale Library (MNHS)
- May 3 - Travel to Poland (*Tom Losinski and Laura Hunter*)

Fall

September 6 - Family Research (*Colleen Zenk*)

October 4 - Poland Partitions through WW1 (*Gordon Pueschner*)

November 1 - Immigration Between Countries (*Jim Warzonek, Alicia Byzewski*)





Website Committee

Paula Colwell and Joe Hughes



Website Committee 2024

Home Page Refreshed

- New photos
- Overview video

Latest News

- Added Drobne Echa article each quarter

Website Hack

- Repaired/Restored
- 2-factor authentication instituted



Missing Branches - added PDF document

- Shows where our Polish ancestors came from and where settled in MN



Website Committee 2025

2025 Primary Focus

- How to help members use/navigate the PGS-MN website for research

From Poland to MN

- Looking for members interested in helping to develop a Russian Poland section
- Adding a Kociewie section with the Kashubia tab





Newsletter Committee

Marie Przynski



Newsletter Committee

- Quarterly issues printed and mailed to membership (average 265 copies per run.) Electronic copy to Website for inclusion in “Members Only” section.
- 2025 print rates will increase slightly, but no postal increases announced for 01/19/2025. Next USPS rate announcement scheduled for July 2025. Minuteman Print to be maintained as print vendor.
- Newsletter committee established. Committee meeting to be scheduled and held prior to newsletter submission deadlines. Next Deadline submission date is 03/01/25.
- Ongoing discussion regarding advertising, rates, policy, etc. Ongoing discussion about electronic, print or both available to PGS-MN members.
- Positive feedback on various non-genealogical articles. Ongoing solicitation of articles and items of interest.



Please renew your membership today



Facebook

Marie Przynski

pgsminnesota@gmail.com
www.pgsmn.org
1385 Mendota Heights Rd
Suite 100
Mendota Heights, MN
55120



Facebook



769 followers on PGS-MN Facebook page

- 62% female (predominantly in the 65+ group)/38% male, 85% of followers from U.S.
- Outreach increased over 291% in 2024
- Follower responses well received/liked, positive comments received
- PGSMN content being "shared" on other pages, groups and personally
- Ongoing outreach for new followers automatic through META
- "Cross-pollination" with other Polish genealogical groups, as well as general Polish Cultural and Historical groups.

Postings

- Membership solicitation and renewal information continuous
- Polish calendar of events - Polish and general genealogical information and other Polish events and topics of interest - Polish history, culture, heritage information

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PGSMINNESOTA



Events

Mike Stodolka



2024 Festivals and Events

- Morrison County Fair - Little Falls, MN
- Sobieski Fest - Sobieski, MN
- Bowlus Fun Day - Bowlus, MN
- Sacred Heart Polish Fest - Mpls, MN
- Randall Fest - Randall, MN
- MN State Fair - St. Paul, MN
- Smaczne Jabłka/Apple Fest - Winona, MN





2025 Potential Events and Festivals

- Morrison County Fair (Little Falls) - June
- Sobieski Polish Fest - June
- Bowlus Days - July
- St. John Cantius Church Fest (Wilno) - July
- Royalton Platte Day - August
- Randall Fest - August
- Sacred Heart Polish Fest Mpls - August
- North Star Genealogy Conference - Fall
- Minnesota State Fair (MGS) - late August
- Slavic Festival (St. Louis Park) - August
- Winona Apple Festival - October



If you have a festival or event you want us to consider, email us!



Library

Bob Kraska/Terry Kita



Research Help at the Library

PGS-MN Volunteer Researcher

- 1st Saturday of Month (10am-4pm)
- 2nd Thursday of Month (3pm-6pm)

Always check mngs.org to be sure the library is open!

Address:

1385 Mendota Heights Rd, Suite 100,
Mendota Heights, MN 55120





Member Survey

Kay Freund

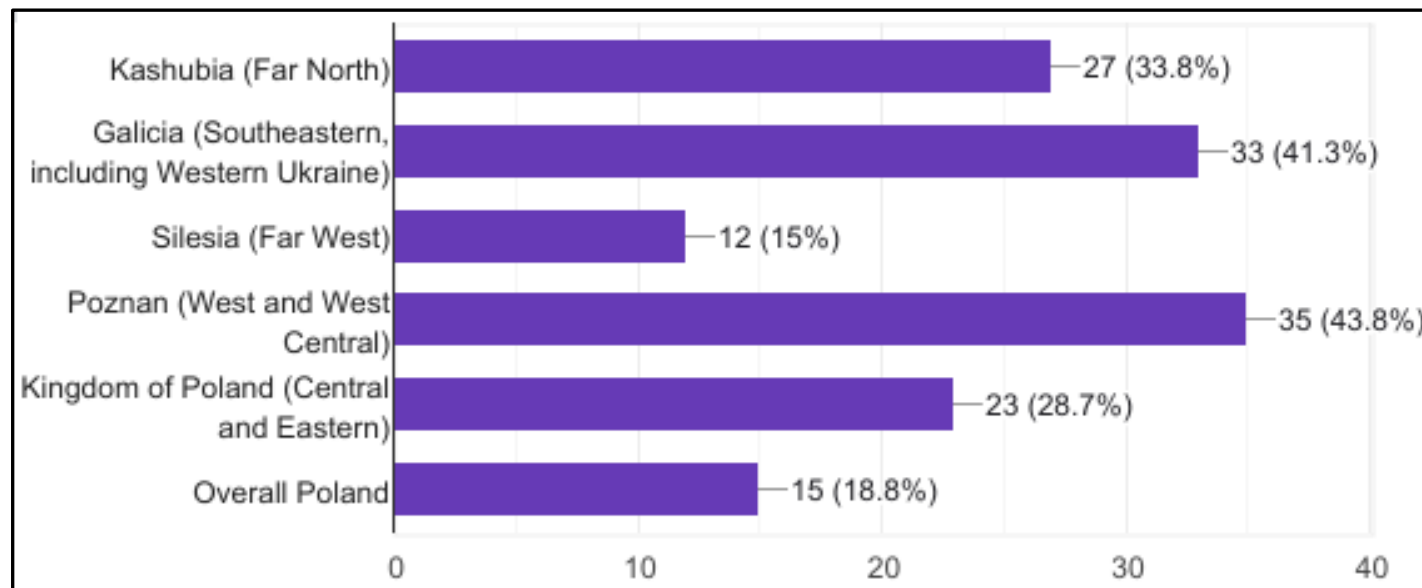


Member Survey

- **84 PGS-MN Members (38%) completed the survey!**

- **Results – Researching**

- 79% of members are actively researching their family history
- Regions where researching



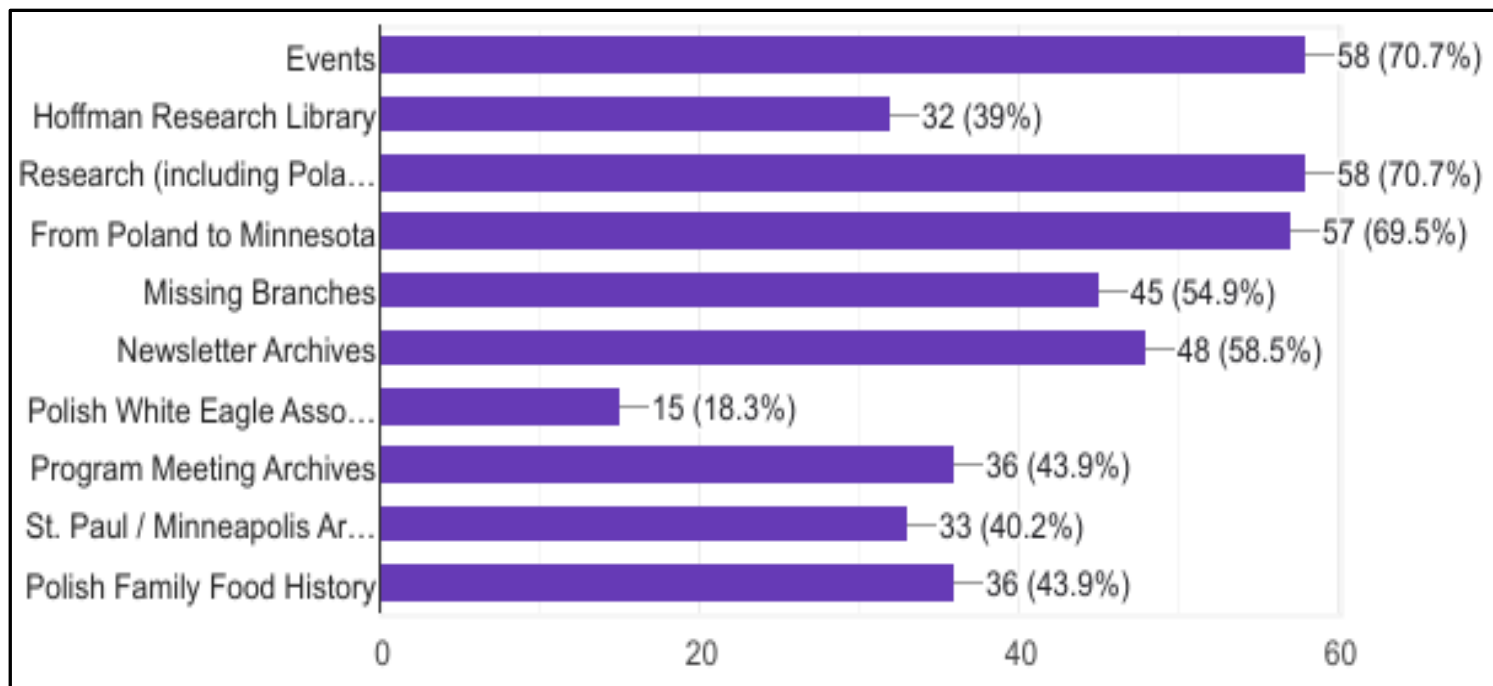
- Comments: Help with writing family history, using Polish genealogy websites, understanding the regions of Poland, translating documents and organizing “research buddies”



Member Survey

- **Results - Website**

- What parts do you find most useful:



Comments:

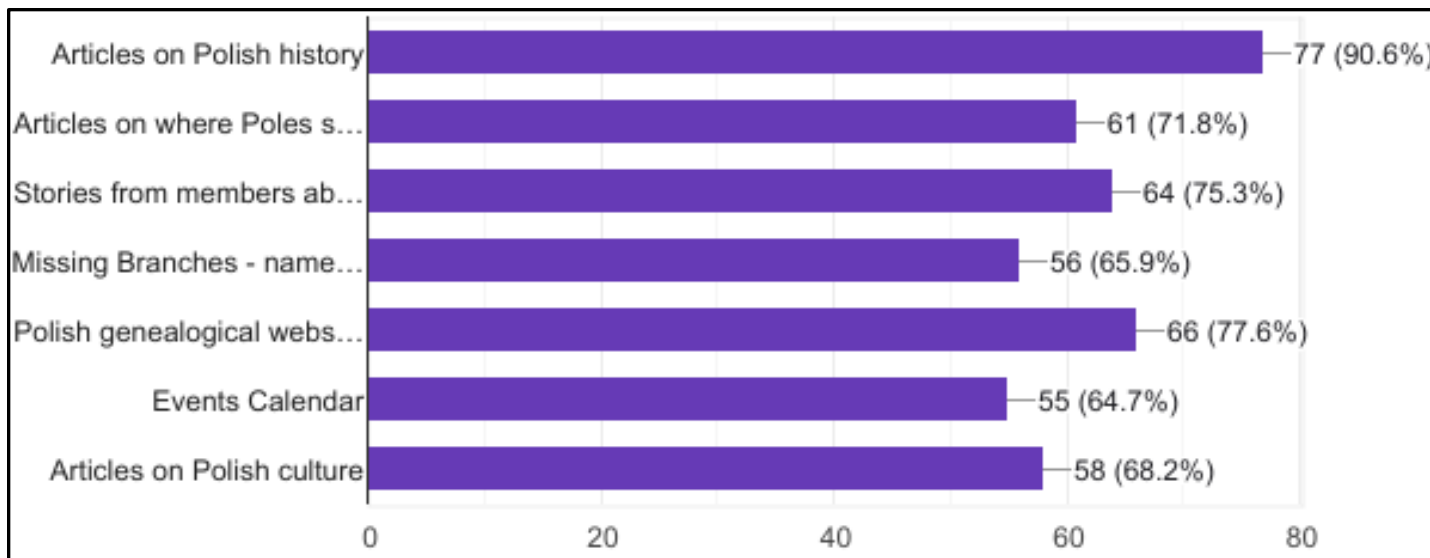
- Provide tips for members just starting to do Polish genealogy research
- Help members better understand how to use the website



Member Survey

- **Results - Newsletters**

- What parts do you find most useful?



- **Comments**

- 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 (Fall 2024 issue)



Member Survey

• Results – 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

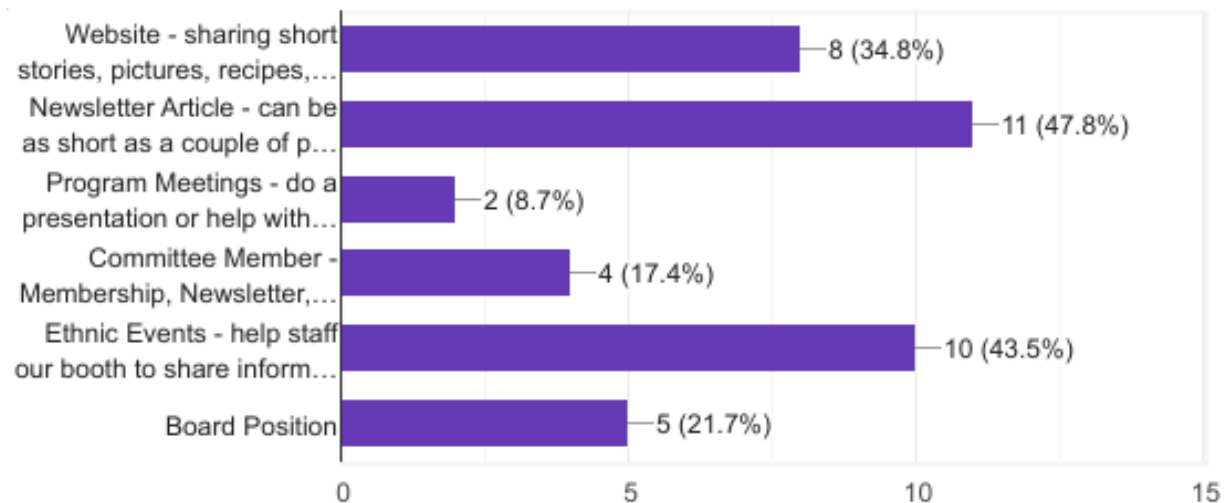
- Consider a session on basic Polish genealogy research and how to use technology
- How to make a family book – attend the March 1st Program Meeting on “Publishing a Family History Book: The Process and Details” by Jay Biedny
- Travel to Poland – attend the May 3rd Program Meeting
- Polish genealogy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





Member Survey

- **Results – Volunteer Opportunities**



Volunteers are very important for PGS-MN

- 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
- Committee or Board Position



Member Survey

- **Actions Being Taken**

- Program Meetings for 2025 – many on topics recommended by members, meetings will be recorded so members can view anytime
- Networking / Discussion Groups – 3 active groups (Northeast Minneapolis, Central Minnesota and Southeast Minnesota) and a 4th to start this spring (Duluth)
- Website – new content being added, especially in “From Poland to Minnesota” to help you with your research and share your stories
- Newsletters – articles on Polish history and stories from members about their families
- Volunteers – we will continue to reach out to those that expressed interest in helping

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE MEMBER SURVEY!



Open Discussion

All



Meeting Adjourned

**Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!
(Happy New Year!)**

pgsminnesota@gmail.com
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