



POLISH-AMERICAN SOCIETY

Newsletter

<http://www.pasofmemphis.com>

February 2024

Memphis, TN

ELECTIONS RESULTS FOR THE 2024 - 2026 PAS BOARD

The newly elected board members met in January and board positions for years 2024-2026 are as follows:

President	Magda Dutkiewicz Vaughan	magdvon@gmail.com	
Vice President	Beata Gaye	beatakgaye@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Dana Zabielski	dzabielski@gmail.com	
Secretary	Justyna Żyłka O'Brien	justynazyłkaobrien@gmail.com	
Event Coordinator	Magdalena Mazur	magdalenam4@yahoo.com	

WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR - NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear PAS Members and Supporters,

I want to welcome you all to the first edition of the Polish-American Society's Newsletter in 2024.

We are excited to work together towards our organization's goals of strengthening bonds, solidarity, and mutual support within our Polish community and its supporters. We are also focused on cultivating Polish traditions, culture, language, and promoting our Polish values. We want to support all initiatives taken on by anyone in our Memphis Polish Community that aim to achieve these goals.

In past years we have supported valuable initiatives such as Polish lessons, camping trips for families, book clubs, bridge clubs, and many others. We have also coordinated many traditional social gatherings such as Polish Independence Day cookouts and Wigilia dinner. This year, we are expanding the list of these types of activities which we hope you come to and participate in.

We encourage all our members to also come out to support other Polish organizations that have similar goals to ours, such as the Polish Catholic Mission and the Memphis in Poland Festival.

Magda Dutkiewicz Vaughan, President, PAS Board

EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2024

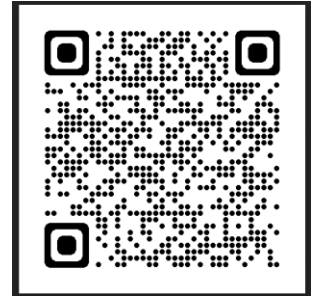
We encourage the local Polish community to participate in the offered events and events. In addition to the meetings offered in previous years, such as Christmas Eve, Spring and Autumn Picnic, Family Day and Independence Day, we have new proposals. Before Easter and Christmas, we organize meetings for decorating Easter eggs and making Christmas tree decorations. In spring and summer, we invite PAS members and supporters on trips to nearby strawberry farms and peach orchards. Walks through the fairy-tale forest at the Pink Palace will put us in the Christmas spirit, where, among others, we will be able to see the PAS Christmas tree.

We invite you to follow our website, register your participation in events, complete the survey and share your ideas that will serve to strengthen our community.

PAS SURVEY

We encourage everyone to actively participate in the PAS organization, therefore it is very important to complete the survey attached to this Newsletter. Please return the completed survey by March 15. Questionnaire can be completed electronically by scanning this [QR code](#) or logging in to pasofmemphis.com.

The opinions are very valued and will be considered in future activity planning and overall approach to attaining our goals.



WEBSITE AND VIRTUAL NEWS

We would like to encourage you to sign up for digital only ways of receiving newsletter. It would bring substantial savings for our organization, but regardless of the option you choose - we will respect individual preferences in this matter. Everybody who will not declare the preference will receive bulletin as in the previous years.

Virtual form will always be available on pasofmemphis.com. We will keep events updated and that way inform you about everything that happens in our organization.

REFLECTIONS FROM CHRISTMAS EVE

Our Polish Christmas Eve is a very important annual PAS event. The evening began with a performance by children led by Magda Teodorowicz. Of course, the carolers and our talented musical group did not disappoint us.

However, the greatest joy among children and adults was caused by Santa Claus, who had already promised a similar visit next year. Contribution of each of you has made the event a great success. Thank you all very much!

JURAND'S SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS

In May, another competition for a scholarship for students - Members of the Association will be announced.

Zbyszek Stroiński became the [Scholarship Coordinator](#) and will act as an intermediary between the PAS board and the scholarship committee.

As in previous years, information about the rules and theme of this year's competition will be sent to the organization's members by email in the first days of May. The Scholarship Council will anonymously award one work, and the PAS Board will deliver a check to the author of the work in August this year.

Due to the positive opinions about the scholarship, we encourage you to financially support the fund. Any, even the minimum donation, apart from the membership fee, is a great gift extending the scholarship program and an investment in our Polish youth.

EVENTS

All our events are updated on the website pasofmemphis.com. We are encouraging all our members and friends to RSVP to each of the events on our website or contact the meeting organizer at least a week before the planned event. RSVPing will help us better accommodate all participants by arranging proper amounts of supplies, food etc. During the events we will be setting up **Welcome/Check-in Stations**. Please be sure to visit these stations upon your arrival to check-in and be welcomed by one of the board members.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 - WALK IN THE PARK AT MEEMAN - SHELBY FOREST STATE PARK

The first hike this year will be led by Gosia Stroińska on Sunday, February 25. Meeting spot is in front of the Visitor Center at 9 am. For details regarding the park or directions on how to get there please visit www.tennessee.gov/environment/parks/MeemanShelby

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 - PAINTING OF EASTER EGGS

Both children and adults are invited to participate in this event. Easter egg painting will take place at the Bert Ferguson Center at 11 am. PAS will provide decorating supplies and light refreshments. Please [bring cooked eggs for decoration](#). Direct all questions to Magdalena Mazur.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31 - EASTER

All interested in celebrating Easter in polish language please visit Polish Catholic Mission website: <http://www.polskamisjakatolicka.org/web/home-pol.htm>

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 - WALK IN THE PARK AT PARSONS LAKE

The hike around Herb Parsons Lake will be led by Miłka Mitchell.

The 6.5-mile trail is in Fayette County, near Collierville. We will meet in the parking lot at 10:30 am. More about park on the website: www.alltrails.com/trail/us/tennessee/herb-parsons-lake-trail

SATURDAY, APRIL 27 - SPRING PICNIC

The traditional Polish Spring Picnic will take place on Saturday, April 27 from 4 pm to 8 pm at Cameron Brown Park Germantown (entrance from Farmington Blvd). All PAS members, supporters and friends are invited. The organization will provide grilled Polish sausage and drinks. Please bring a dish to share. For questions, contact Magdalena Mazur. See you soon!

SATURDAY, MAY 4 - POLAND REPRESENTED AT THE BOTANIC GARDENS “WORLD OF PLANTS”

This year PAS members will be representing Poland at the Botanic Garden’s “World of Plants” festival. During this event we will share how Poles use herbs for health and wellness purposes. The event will take place on Saturday, May 4th from 10 am to 2 pm. Everyone is invited to either participate or stop by to support and visit. For questions, please contact Magda D Vaughan by email magdvon@gmail.com

SATURDAY, MAY 11 - STRAWBERRY PICKING

All members and friends are invited to join us for a trip to a local farm for strawberry picking. The event will take place at Jones Orchard 7170 Hwy 51 in Millington, TN at 10 am. The organization will provide refreshments for all participants and will fund a basket of picked strawberries for each PAS family who participate.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 - FAMILY DAY AND CHILDREN'S DAY (MEMBER ONLY EVENT)

This year, Family Day will be combined with Children’s Day Celebration and will be held for PAS members only. The ceremony will take place at Shelby Farms in field across the stables at 11 am.

SATURDAY, JULY 13 - PEACH PICKING

All members and friends are invited for peach picking. This event will take place at Jones Orchard 6824 Big Creek Church in Millington, TN at 9 am. Peaches picked by participants will not be funded by PAS; however, all will be hosted with refreshments sponsored by our organization.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The fiscal year for PAS ended on the last day of January 2024. All members of the organization have access to the financial summary report for 2023 which is attached to this Newsletter. The details of the financial records of the organization are available upon request.

HIGHLIGHTS OF EXPENSES IN 2023

The operational costs for PAS in 2023 are as follows: \$260 printing and sending the newsletter, \$250 maintenance costs for the PO box, \$180 maintaining the PAS website, \$300 spring and autumn picnic, \$710 Family Day and PAS anniversary, \$280 Camping for children, \$1520 Elections and Election Dinner, \$190 Independence Day, and \$1,310 Christmas Eve.

MEMBERSHIP



To become member of Polish-American Society, please pay \$25 per individual or \$50 per family (children under 18 are exempt from membership fees). Full-time students pay \$12 per year. Members who have paid their dues will benefit from exclusive to PAS members events or from discounted fees for events.

Please send checks or money orders along with your completed/signed membership form to: Polish American Society, P.O. Box 770927, Memphis, TN 38177-0927. A paper form is attached to this Newsletter. If you prefer to complete this form and pay membership fees electronically, please log in to our website pasofmemphis.com.

PAS MEMBERS

In 2023, our organization had 123 members (including 5 honorary members and 4 students). We welcomed 24 new people and their families. The new members are Kasia Bielanska and her husband, Joanna and Scott Haefer, Kristi and Brian Hall, Jessica and Edward Kime, Marzena and John Krahel, Sonia and John McGuire, Jerry Miczek, Marta I Pawel Misiun, Matthew Pudzisz, Christopher Rusin, Ela Skorupska and Claude Stevens, Karol Szlacha with his wife, Aneta and Ryan Sweeney, and Paweł Wójtowicz. The PAS board welcomes you all and we are excited to see you at this year's events!

CONGRATULATIONS

On January 10, Szymon Kaminski was born, son of Asia and Mac Kaminski. This sweet boy weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces. We wish the family happiness and health.

DONATIONS

As a non-profit we very much cherish donations provided by members and non-members. Last year we received donations from Marilyn and Radosław Bieniek, Ruth and Jerry Jurand, and Alicja Michaud. Thank you very much for your generosity!

LIBRARY

We received quite a large collection of books in Polish, and we found someone who shares the passion for books and is willing to help us organize them. The books will be cataloged and detailed. Stay tuned on how to check out the books in future communication. For questions you can also contact Edek Kozłowski.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POLISH LESSONS

The second semester of Polish language classes began in January and will end on May 18, 2024 with the ceremonial presentation of diplomas for participation and awards for diligent students. Classes are held at Bert Ferguson Community Center, 8505 Trinity Rd in Cordova, for four groups of appropriate age and level of Polish language proficiency on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the 2023/2024 school year. For more information, please contact Magda Teodorowicz by email: magdalenateodorowicz@yahoo.com.

PAS EVENT CALENDAR FOR 2024

PAS members and our supporters are asked to RSVP on the website pasofmemphis.com for us to properly accommodate each event. For specific details about events, you can also contact the meeting organizer. **Please submit your RSVP at least a week before the planned event.** We look forward to seeing you!

January	February	March
	February 25 - Meeman Park Hike	March 23 - Easter egg painting at Bert Ferguson (A)
April	May	June
April 13 - Herb Parsons Lake Hike April 27 - Spring Picnic at Cameron Brown Park Germantown (B)	May 4 - Poland represented at World of Plants - Botanic Gardens May 11 - Strawberry picking at Jones Orchard (C) May 30 - Scholarship Competition	June 1 - Family Day and Children's Day at Shelby Farms Park (D)
July	August	September
July 13 - Peach picking in Jones Orchard(E)	TBD Germantown International Festival	September 14 - Autumn picnic (B) September 20-22 - Family Camping (F)
October	November	December
October 19 - Pumpkin Patch at Menagerie Farms (G)	November 2 - Making Christmas tree decorations (H) November 9 - Polish Independence Day (I)	December 8 - Festival of Trees at the Pink Palace Museum December 14 - Polish Christmas Eve

- (A) We provide paints and drinks. Please bring cooked eggs for decorations.
- (B) Potluck type party. The organization provides sausages for barbecue, bread, and drinks.
- (C) PAS will provide drinks and one basket of strawberries for each PAS member family.
- (D) The holiday is for PAS members only. The organization provides pizza, drinks, and attractions.
- (E) PAS will provide drinks. Buying your own fruit.
- (F) Trip only for PAS members. We cover camping site reservations from our budget.
- (G) PAS will pay the admission fee for a child - a PAS member. Non-members benefit from group tickets.
- (H) The organization provides materials and drinks.
- (I) Potluck type party. Pea soup and bread will be purchased from the PAS budget.