

BIOGRAPHICAL RESUME OF "GOOD JOE" – RAYMOND J. GRABOW



"Ray" was born in the old "Poznan" section of Cleveland, Ohio, to parents who had emigrated from Poland to a new life in America. The youngest of four children, he attended the former St. Casimir Catholic Church; East High School; and Kent State University, where he earned a "Bachelor's Degree", concentrating his interest in business, economics and political science.

Following his college career he served two years in the United States Army, during the Korean Conflict, but having been stationed in Germany where he was assigned to a special unit of the Army, "The Alien Enlistment Section", recruiting and training young men who were "escapees" from Russian controlled Eastern Europe – the men being recruited into the United States Army under a special Act of Congress entitled the "Lodge Act". The intent of the Act being to have a cadre of Eastern European young men of various nationalities, to be available to return to their homeland as "Agents" in the event of any conflict with Russia, serving the interests of their new country of citizenship.

Following military service, he obtained a Bachelor of Law Degree from Western Reserve University, and thereafter commenced his legal interests in civil law, with emphasis on business issues, estate and probate service, real estate and litigation. Over the course of years he has represented the Northern Ohio Petroleum Retailers Association, and Independent Garage Owners Association, trade associations of independent business owners. In 1972 he received the "NOPRA" "Man of the Year Award" for his successes in advancing and protecting interests of small business operators, having achieved significant legal success against major petroleum companies for violating dealer operating contract rights, control of hours of business operations, gasoline pricing policies and the like.

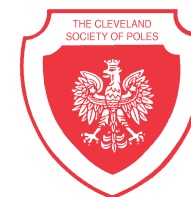
During the course of his career, and what he terms as an "avocation", he entered the political arena, being elected a Councilman in the City of Warrensville Heights for two terms; then being elected in 1969, to the Office of Mayor of the City where he served eight consecutive terms, and thirty years in the Office while also being permitted under the City Charter to continue a full-time legal career.

In the early 1970's, he became the General Legal Counsel for the Alliance of Poles of America, serving continuously until merger of the Alliance with the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. Over the years his interests in matters "Polonia", have included serving on the Alliance Federal Credit Union Board; as a Trustee of the Polonia Foundation of Ohio; which also bestowed upon him the honor of "Knight of Pulaski"; the Polish American Congress; The Polish National Alliance; the Cleveland Society of Poles; Polish Americans, Inc.; the Parma Polish American League; the Polish Legion of American Veterans; the American Legion; and The Order of Alhambra; his other service and involvements include serving on the Board of Trustees of Brentwood Hospital; the Meridia Southpointe Hospital; and the Brentwood Foundation, which supports medical training and education of Osteopathic Physicians; he also serves on the Community Advisory Board at Marymount Hospital. Also, over the years, he has served as the Safety Director of the City of Warrensville Heights; as a Trustee of the Warrensville Heights Chamber of Commerce; a member of the Ohio Association of Public Safety Directors; the Ohio Municipal League; the Municipal Treasurers Association; and the National League of Cities along with the Cuyahoga County Mayors Association and the U. S. Conference of Mayors.

His continuing legal interests have included being a member of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, as well as the Ohio State Bar Association, where he is a "Lifetime Member"; he is also a Lifetime Member of the Ohio Judicial Conference; and a Federal Panelist of the United States District Court.

He is also a member of the "Directors Club", a meeting with fourteen other members of the Club, composed of a diverse number of individuals having backgrounds in a vast variety of work and interest, who usually at our monthly meeting, settle all the world's problems. To say the least these colleagues are an inspiration and fun!

Presently Ray resides in North Royalton, Ohio, with his wife – Peggy. His daughter Rachel is a corporate attorney, and his son Ryan is an Orthopedic Surgeon residing in Las Vegas, Nevada. In his "spare time", he enjoys boating, fishing, hunting, gardening, reading of all types; and recollecting his early days as a musician, playing the accordion in a dance band; and always enjoying and cherishing time with his family and friends.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Please mark your calendars for the following very important dates presented in chronological order:

All members are encouraged to attend and participate. It will be held at Sokolowski's University Inn.

- Trustees and Officers Meeting**
Sokolowski's University Inn
Thursday, January 10, 2013 – 5:00 p.m.
- Monthly Membership Meeting**
Sokolowski's University Inn
Thursday, January 10, 2013
- Cocktails – 5:30 p.m. • Dinner – 6:30 p.m.**
Program – 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN WHO KNOW THEIR PLACE

Barbara Walters, of 20/20, did a story on gender roles in Kabul, Afghanistan several years before the Afghan conflict. She noted that women customarily walked five paces behind their husbands.

She recently returned to Kabul and observed that women still walk behind their husbands. Despite the overthrow of the oppressive Taliban regime, the women now seem happy to maintain the old custom.

Ms. Walters approached one of the Afghan women and asked, 'Why do you now seem happy with an old custom that you once tried so desperately to change?'

The woman looked Ms. Walters straight in the eyes, and without hesitation said, 'Land Mines.'

Moral of the story is (no matter what language you speak or where you go):

BEHIND EVERY MAN, THERE'S A SMART WOMAN

CLEVELAND SOCIETY OF POLES OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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- JULIAN BORYCZEWSKI, Vice President
- WALTER BORKOWSKI, Recording Secretary
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- AND BOB GREEN

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Eugenia Stolarczyk
- 6 John W. Kanieski
- 6 Richard George Witkowski
- 6 Tami Trivonivich
- 9 Jacek Sobieski
- 11 Victoria Janke-Mousty
- 12 Chet Kaye
- 12 Carol Stafinski
- 15 Ryszard Romaniuk
- 16 Michael P. Sokolowski
- 23 Marvin D. Pozdol
- 27 Raymond J. Grabow

STO LAT!

The Cleveland Society of Poles

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS MEETING

Thursday, December 6, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 5:23 p.m. at the Polish American Cultural Center on Lansing Avenue in Cleveland. Officers and Trustees present were President Mark Relovsky, Vice President Julian Boryczewski, Treasurer Francis Rutkowski, Financial Secretary Allan Szufkada, Sergeant at Arms Kevin Mousty, and Trustee Joseph Lecznar. Trustees George Sobieraj, Bob Green and Recording Secretary Walter Borkowski were excused from the meeting. The minutes from the November 1, 2012 meeting were approved by the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: CORRESPONDENCE / DONATION REQUESTS

Renewal of membership in WCPN was approved subject to verification by Financial Secretary Allan Szufkada.

Renewal of membership in the Kosciuszko Foundation was approved.

A thank you letter was received from Orchard Lake for the Society's donation.

The monthly newsletter was received from the Polish American Cultural Center.

A donation to Chaplain Rev. Fr. Eric Orzech was approved in the amount of \$100.

SICK AND RELIEF

We continue to pray for our members who may have health issues and for the Armed Services protecting our country.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Secretary Allan Szufkada presented the financial reports. A copy is on file with the Recording Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

John Borkowski, Chairman of the Membership Committee, will have a first reading for Dr. Mary Kay Pieski and Maria Shonert Binienda. Mary Kay Pieski is sponsored by Vice President Julian Boryczewski and Joseph Fornal. Maria Shonert Binienda is sponsored by Eugene Bak and John Borkowski.

GOOD JOE COMMITTEE

Francis Rutkowski and John Borkowski will be the co-chairman of the Good Joe banquet honoring long time Society member and Polonia supporter, Raymond Grabow. Tammi Trivonovich will also help with the arrangements. The Good Joe banquet will be held at St. Michael's Woodside Party Center on Saturday, March 23, 2013.

OLD BUSINESS

Revisions to the Society's web site are being made. Revisions need to be reviewed and acted upon. The website will enable Society members who have businesses to provide a link to their website. Existing links to charitable organizations will be reviewed and edited for content. Board members were asked to provide a picture and a short biography to include in the website.

NEW BUSINESS

Surveys have been received. The results will be discussed at the January meeting.

The Board moved the date of the January meeting to the second Thursday, January 10, 2013.

The Board meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Relovsky at 7:35 p.m.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved by the members.

The members were informed of correspondence received and donations approved by the Board.

Financial Secretary Allan Szufkada reported on the income and expenses since the November meeting.

A first reading was held for Dr. Mary Kay Pieski and Maria Shonert Binienda.

Maria Shonert Binienda addressed the meeting with updates concerning the Smolensk disaster and the progress made on the Kresy Siberia Virtual Museum.

The raffle was conducted by Stanley Stobierski.

The meeting adjourned so that the Honorable Mayor of Strongsville, Tom Perciak, his wife Debbie and Father Bob Craig could lead the members and guests in Christmas Carols.

IN CLOSING

The next meeting of the Cleveland Society of Poles will be January 10, 2013 at Sokolowski's University Inn.

Please remember the goals and mission of the Cleveland Society of Poles cannot be fully realized without the full support from all its members.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mark Relovsky, President
Cleveland Society of Poles**

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

On behalf of the officers and trustees of the Cleveland Society of Poles, we hope everyone had a joyous Christmas and we all enjoy a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

It is with great pleasure that the Society honors Ray Grabow as the 2013 "Good Joe". Please take the time to read his biography and marvel at the number of organizations that benefit from his participation and expertise. The awards he has received and the contributions he has made to further Polonia are staggering. He is truly deserving of being our "Good Joe". The banquet will be held on March 23, 2013 at St. Michael's Woodside Party Center. Francis Rutkowski and John Borkowski are the co-chairman of the banquet. Tammi Trivonovich has volunteered to assist in the preparations and planning. This is always a wonderful event and this year's honoree deserves the participation from all the Society members.

I am looking forward to 2013. I have received many responses to the survey included with last month's newsletter. The comments and suggestions will be discussed by the Board and changes will be made where possible and appropriate. Thanks to everyone who responded.

Please remember the January meeting will be the second Thursday of January. Having a meeting so near to New Year's Day would not allow the dust to settle from celebrating. I hope to see everyone on January 10th at Sokolowski's University Inn. We need to have more members attend the monthly meetings, so please make the effort to join us for a pleasant evening out.

**Mark Relovsky, President
mjrmtu@cox.net
216-970-0507**