

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE JUNE, 2009 POLISH ARTS CLUB OF TRENTON
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

Prepared by William Muszynski, President, in consultation with John Bogdan, Treasurer and Linda Everett, Recording Secretary

At the request of the membership present at the June and November 2015 meetings, I prepared draft amendments to the June 2009 Constitution and Bylaws of the Polish Arts Club of Trenton (PACT) that provides:

- the flexibility for the membership to approve for PACT membership person(s) who are not of Polish extraction or related by marriage to a person of Polish ancestry that have provided extraordinary service or made extensive contributions to the Club; and
- the option of holding membership meetings less frequently than monthly.

The last time the Constitution and By-laws were amended was in June 2009. While preparing and reviewing the draft amendments with several of the officers, we realized there are several other sections of the Constitution and By-laws that also need to be amended to conform to the way that the club has evolved and conducted its operations over the years. Therefore, draft amendments to the Constitution and By-laws have also been prepared to address those issues as well. This document describes all of the proposed amendments to June 2009 Constitution and By-laws. A copy of this Notice, the Constitution and By-laws of the Polish Arts Club of Trenton, New Jersey, approved June, 2009 and a draft Constitution and By-laws with the draft amendments is on our website www.trentonpolisharts.org

A copy of this document is being sent to all members by either email or regular mail. The draft amendments will also be presented for discussion at our regular Business Meetings in February 1 & March 7, 2016, and will be scheduled for a vote at our May 2, 2016 Business Meeting. If you have any questions or comments regarding the draft amendments or the Constitution and By-laws, please contact me by email wjmuszynski@aol.com or regular mail 22 Beechcroft Drive, East Windsor, NJ 08520. You are also encouraged to attend the Business Meetings in February and March to participate in the discussions and present your comments. The comment period will close at the close of the March 7, 2016 Business Meeting to allow for any changes to draft amendments to be sent to the membership in preparation for a vote at the May, 2, 2016 Business Meeting.

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the PACT can be made in accordance with Constitution and By-laws ARTICLE XII – Amendments which provides:

“This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of active members. Notice of a proposed amendment, signed by at least two members, shall be given in writing at the previous regular meeting. All proposed amendments shall be sent to the Corresponding Secretary for mailing to active members at least ten days prior to the first meeting. The President and the Board of Trustees shall be responsible for the guardianship of this constitution and all amendments.”

In accordance with ARTICLE XII, I am providing the following proposed amendments for your review and comment:

1. Amendments to ARTICLE III – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

a. Section 1

Current Wording: “The Board of Trustees shall be composed of three active members elected by the membership at the annual meeting.”

Amended Wording: “The Board of Trustees shall be composed no more than three active members elected by the membership at the annual meeting.”

b. Section 2

Current Wording: “The Board shall be responsible for all assets of the organization.”

Amended Wording: “The Board of Trustees shall be responsible to monitor the assets of the organization.”

Purpose of Amendments to ARTICLE III: PACT has not had Trustees in recent memory and has difficulty getting “active members”, as defined in ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP, Section 1., run for office. The result of the amendments to Article III will be to encourage at least one “active member” agree to run for Trustee and to clarify the Trustee’s responsibility.

2. Amendments to ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

a. Section 1. Active Membership:

Current Wording: “a) Shall consist of persons of Polish extraction or those related by marriage to a person of Polish ancestry.”

Amended Wording: “a) Shall consist of persons of Polish extraction or those related by marriage to a person of Polish ancestry, or of persons not of Polish ancestry or those not related by marriage to a person of Polish ancestry, that the membership vote into the club because of their extraordinary contributions or service to the club and Polonia.”

b. Section 2. Inactive Membership:

Current Wording: “a) Shall consist of persons of Polish extraction or those related by marriage to a person of Polish ancestry.”

Amended Wording: “a) Shall consist of persons of Polish extraction or those related by marriage to a person of Polish ancestry, or of persons not of Polish ancestry or those not related by marriage to a person of Polish ancestry, that the membership vote into the club because of their extraordinary contributions or service to the club and Polonia.”

c. last sentence

Current Wording: “All applicants for membership must be approved by current active members.”

Amended Wording: “All applicants for membership must be approved by a majority vote of the active members present at a regular, special or annual meeting of the members.”

Purpose of the Amendments to Article IV: At the June 1, 2015 meeting the members present voted to offer membership to an individual that was not of Polish ancestry or related to a person of Polish ancestry by marriage that made extraordinary contributions to the club and Polonia over many years. The members also requested that an amendment be made to the PACT Constitution and By-laws to provide the club with the opportunity to vote membership to individual that provide such service in the future. This draft amendment fulfills the request of the membership. The proposed amendments to the “last sentence” are to recognize the club decisions are based on the votes are taken at our meetings.

3. Amendment to ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

Section 4.

Current Wording: First sentence: “At the March meeting, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of at least three active members. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate for the succeeding year at the April meeting. Any further nominations may be made from the floor on the day of election.”

Amended Wording: “At the February meeting, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of at least one but no more than three active members. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate for the succeeding year at the April, May and June meetings. Any further nominations may be made from the floor at each of the three meetings.”

Purpose of the Amendment to Article V, Section 4: In recent years PACT has experienced difficulty obtaining volunteers for its committees. This amendment recognizes that in recent years the Nominating Committee has been comprised of one member. The club has also followed the practice of have the slate presented at the April, May and June meetings and allowed nominations from the floor at each of the three meetings. The President will continue to encourage active members to participate in committees and run for office.

4. Amendment to ARTICLE VI – Duties of Officers

a. Section 1.d)

Current Wording: “Appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms.”

Amended Wording: “Appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms. (Discretionary).”

b. Section 1.e)

Current Wording: “Appoint a Historian.”

Amended Wording: “Appoint a Historian. (Discretionary).”

c. Section 3.d)

Current Wording: “All checks written by the Treasurer must be signed by a combination of any of the following two signatures: President, Vice-President, or Financial Secretary.”

Amended Wording: “All checks written by the Treasurer must also be signed by either the President or Vice President.”

Purpose of the Amendment to ARTICLE VI: In recent years PACT has experienced difficulty obtaining volunteers for its committees. This amendment provides the discretion to appoint a Sergeant-of-Arms and a Historian. The President will continue to encourage active members to

volunteer or accept these positions. The amendment to Section 3.d recognizes the way the Financial Secretary has not been authorized to sign checks for many years.

5. Amendments ARTICLE XI – Meetings

a. Section 2.

Current wording: “Regular meetings shall be held monthly excluding the months of July and August.”

Amended wording: “Regular meetings shall be held no less than every other month excluding the months of July and August.”

b. Section 5.

Current Wording: “A majority of the active members shall constitute a quorum to conduct all business.

Amended Wording: “A majority of the active members present at a regular or special meeting shall constitute a quorum to conduct all business.”

Purpose of the Amendments to ARTICLE XI:The club has always conducted its business at its meetings based on the majority of active members present at its meetings. Votes are decided by the majority vote of the members at membership meetings. These amendments better reflect the actual way the club has conducted its business.

6. Amendments ARTICLE XII - Amendments.

Current Wording:“This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of active members. Notice of a proposed amendment, signed by at least two members, shall be given in writing at the previous regular meeting. All proposed amendments shall be sent to the Corresponding Secretary for mailing to active members at least ten days prior to the first meeting. The President and the Board of Trustees shall be responsible for the guardianship of this constitution and all amendments.”

Amended Wording:“This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of active memberspresent at the meeting. Notice of a proposed amendment, signed by at least two members, shall be given in writing at the previous regular meeting. All proposed amendments shall be sent to the Corresponding Secretary for mailing to active members at least ten days prior to the first meeting. The President and the Board of Trustees shall be responsible for the guardianship of this constitution and all amendments.”

Purpose on Amendment to ARTICLE XII. The club has always conducted its business at its meetings based on the majority of active members present at its meetings. Votes are decided by the majority vote of the members at membership meetings. This amendment better reflects the actual way the club has conducted its business.

Submitted and Signed by:

Amendments to the PACT Constitutional and By-laws
Draft January 20, 2016

William Muszynski _____ Date _____
President

John Bogdan _____ Date _____
Treasurer

Linda Everett _____ Date _____
Recording Secretary