



Meet your CPA Officers and Board

5 Questions for Treasurer Gloria Mikolic

When did you join the CPA and how long have you been the Treasurer?

I have been a member of the CPA for over 20 years! I used to attend meetings with Shirley Siwiec back when she was Secretary since she lived nearby and gave me a ride. Then later I would go with my parents to the meetings at the old Ampol Hall. I loved when we would have music and so many people attending and hope someday to have that again! I would encourage people to attend the general meetings as they are fun, with raffles, food and a chance to visit with polka friends and express your thoughts, if you wish, to the Board. I was asked to be acting Treasurer in 2013 to cover for Don Maringo when he wintered in Arizona. Paul Namitka can be very persuasive, you just can't say no to him! Then in 2014 I became the elected Treasurer and have been so ever since. I guess it was inevitable, my sister Sandy Maddie is Secretary, my uncle Doc Kucharski was Sgt at Arms and my aunt Helen Kucharski was Sunshine Chairperson. Over the years I have gotten to know many wonderful people who have been on the Board and I would encourage anyone who has interest to consider serving in some capacity. It is a great group of people and an important job to promote and preserve our polka and Polish culture!

What is something that a CPA member would find surprising about the Treasurer's position?

Wow, hmm, let me think.....well, even when we have no event I still have things to do. I prepare a monthly financial report, a report for each dance we have and for our golf outing and write checks to pay the bills. I think my favorite part, though, is selling the bar tickets! Then I get to talk with and greet just about everyone who attends our events. The people are what makes it special.

What would you say is your favorite CPA activity and why?

That's a tough question! I love the January lounge party because it is so totally different from our usual dances. It reminds me of the good old days when so many neighborhood bars had polka bands every weekend and you had your pick of where to go. Brookstate, Karbe's, Stash's, Polish Village, it was a fun time for polka music! I also really enjoy our golf outing, it is the only time I play golf, lol! I hope we can have other different types of events in the future and would encourage our members to think about what they might want to attend and help with suggestions.

Your daughter and granddaughters often attend CPA events. What are some other ways you share your heritage with them?

I do love for them to come to our events! The picnics and early dances are great for the kids to attend. We try to encourage them to be aware of their ethnic heritage from all sides of their family. We attend different ethnic events and encourage them to learn about the culture. At every birthday celebration we sing Happy Birthday followed by Sto Lat, (some of my daughter's non-Polish friends have learned to sing that now too). We have had family pierogi making, which they love! They also love to participate in the Polish Constitution Day parade. I also look for any Polish library books for children that we can read together, (in English, lol).

How would you spend your perfect day?

I have to say, it would depend on the day! I enjoy family time most of all so anything where I can share it with my family is the best. A sunny day cheers me too and, throw in some good food and I am happy.