

MINUTES OF THE 51ST CONGRESS OF DELEGATES OF THE

POLISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

held in Brisbane on the 18th & 19th May 2019

1) Opening by the Executive Committee and determination of the quorum by the Delegate Verification Committee (9.30am, Saturday 18.05.2019)

- Welcome by the President Małgorzata Kwiatkowska – HE Ambassador Michał Kołodziejcki, Honorary Consul in Brisbane Theresa Lauf, Father Grzegorz Gawęł, delegates and guests (9:06am).
- Admin matters addressed:
 - if handing over votes, provide proxy form to secretariat of meeting.
 - at 6pm there is a program of cultural events; awards by ambassador, PCCA medals, Chopin concert, hot dinner, film on last PolArt festival.

2) Election of a Chairperson, two Assessors and two (2) minutes takers

- Chairperson: Dr Zdzisław Derwiński elected unanimously.
- Assessors: Marysia Nowak; Dr Włodzimierz Wnuk elected unanimously.
- Minute takers: Robert Czernkowski; Henryk Kurylewski elected unanimously.
- Photographers: Bogumiła Filip, Bogdan Płatek and Jan Tkaczyk (delegates), Krzysztof Małek (guest) and Richard Federowicz (QLD Polonia photographer).
- Agreed that photography is approved.

3) Determination of the validity of the Congress on the basis of the report from the Delegate Verification Committee

- Iwona Rafalski, Chair of the Verification Committee, reported:
 - **86 mandates were issued at the entry point.**
 - 19 out of 21 organisations represented either by proxies or delegates.
- The quorum was confirmed.

4) Official opening of the Congress

- Dr Z. Derwiński declared the 51st Congress open and valid.

5) A short prayer, and a minute of silence in the memory of delegates, who passed away since the previous Congress

- Fr G. Gawęł led delegates in prayer.
- Delegates observed 1 minute's silence.

6) A word from the Ambassador of RP to Australia, HE Michał Kołodziejcki

The Ambassador:

- delivered an address of welcome and information about his mission and administration over the past year.
- introduced the new Honorary Polish Consul in Brisbane, Dr Theresa Lauf.
- expressed his gratitude for the cooperation and contribution of all Polish organisations in Australia.

- thanked the Polish community for their input in addressing issue of our watchfulness in relation to the press, e.g. regarding historical inaccuracies. Community pressure does make a difference.
- is impressed by activities that the Polish community do.
- assured those present of the Embassy's interest in and support for projects promoting Polish culture.
- explained ways in which embassy can help; if you have ideas for presentations in school, parliaments, etc., the embassy is always ready to help. The Polonia is also very helpful for the embassy in establishing and maintaining its high level inter-governmental contacts.
- conveyed the apologies from the acting Polish Consul General and presented information on her behalf:
 - 31 October is deadline for proposals to consulate for Polonia projects for 2020.
 - anniversary of WW2 - consulate can support projects on that subject.
 - suggested to consider a central calendar of Polish events across Australia.
 - asked to consider assistance in establishing regional electoral committees, Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra are being considered at the moment. No other cities, because turnout has been low in other states. Not always cost-effective.

Discussion (Q & A):

Questions:

- Adam Gajkowski - possibility of electronic voting rights for Polish diaspora in Australia.
- Sylwia Gręda-Bogusz - possibility of a consulate in Melbourne; also is registration prior to voting necessary, as this can cause problems discouraging people from voting?
- Teresa Grabek - lobby Australian governmental bodies for finances needed for aged care for older Polish migrants.

Answers:

- re Mr Gajkowski's question - agreed but can do nothing.
- re S. Gręda-Bogusz's question - registration is necessary to minimise possibility of multiple voting. Question is more a question how to do it more easily. Internet is *not* the only possibility for registering. Re Melbourne consulate: funding issue. Suggest this matter be taken up with Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Argues that perhaps a Polish Institute might be more valuable. Ultimately, these are Polish taxpayer's funds.
- re T. Grabek's question - Yes, the embassy/consulate can lobby. There is an honorary consul in Hobart who can assist. Ambassador collects info from Polonia about ways in which he can help in assisting the Polish community with its needs.

7) Announcement of 2019 PCCA Awards (6.30pm, Saturday 18.05.2019)

- It was announced during the official part of the evening program.
- Dr Z. Derwinski and hm. Chris Dutkowski were awarded with the Medal of RNPA.

8) Adjudication regarding appeals (if any) against the Delegate Verification Committee decisions as per § 50

- Following a successful appeal of 1 proxy vote, **87 mandates have been issued in total.**

- Appeal against the number of mandates issued to the Polish Club, Ashfield read by Mick Wykrota on behalf of Andrzej Kozek to suspend Polish Club Ashfield, or else to reduce the number of mandates that it has.
 - Ryszard Borysiewicz responded that number of members are a fact from the statutory declaration and they counted the number of financial members only. Other suggestions are only opinions.
 - Adam Gajkowski - questioned the validity of current membership numbers.
 - Robert Czernkowski – electronic database of members was verified as required by NSW laws.
 - Adam Grabek – Verification Committee is responsible for validating votes as per § 49 and should not be debated after the commencement of the Congress.
 - Chairperson Dr Z. Derwiński – reminded those present that exceeding the set time talk limit would receive a \$5 fine and a \$10 fine for vocal interruptions or outbursts.
 - Małgorzata Kwiatkowska reminded delegates of the pre-congress procedures; adhoc removal of a member organisation is unconstitutional.
 - W. Wnuk - it would be a shocking precedent to remove an organisation before the substance of the AGM has even commenced. The Rules involve a drawn out process for removing an organisation. If we are such sticklers for one organisation, perhaps we should be asking to check in detail all other organisations. He reminded A. Gajkowski that, in total, 7 people wrote the Constitution and that Dr Wnuk coordinated that process; removal of a member organisation cannot occur in any adhoc manner - as proposed by A. Gajkowski.
 - **Outcome 1: It was decided that Andrzej Kozek's motion is not valid in relation to the rules.**
 - Z. Derwiński would not entertain actions that attempt to derail or sabotage the dynamic of a congress. All matters for the Congress needed to be raised before the 31st March. This needs to be quite clear, and any resolutions arriving at the last moment and being internally inconsistent should not occur. He suggested very strict rules in relation to how mandates are given out. He also argued that the statutory declaration procedure is partially satisfactory. He foresaw for clarification of future verification processes, suggesting the need for tighter security of these processes.
 - Bożena Iwanowski requested a list of organisations and their number of mandates allocated.
 - Secretary Helena Andrusiewicz read out a list of organisations with the number of mandates granted:
 - Federation of Polish Organisations in South Australia: 5 mandates
 - Federation of Polish Organisations in New South Wales: 21 mandates
 - Polish Community Council in Victoria: 6 mandates
 - Council of Polish Organisations in ACT: 4 mandates
 - Polish Club Ashfield: 14 mandates
 - Polish Foundation in New South Wales: 1 mandate
 - Polish Education Commission in Australia (KOPA): 1 mandate
 - Kościuszko Heritage Inc: 1 mandate
 - Kresy-Siberia (Australia) Inc: 1 mandate
 - Polish Museum and Archives in Australia: 1 mandate
 - Polish Educational Society in New South Wales: 2 mandates

- Polish Ex-Servicemen’s Association in Australia: 7 mandates
- Polonia Polish Association of Queensland: 7 mandates
- Kościuszko Polish Association of Darra Inc.: 2 mandates
- Polish Association Hobart Inc.: 3 mandates
- Polish Scouting in Australia: 1 mandate
- Polish Association Newcastle: 4 mandates
- Polish School in Brisbane: 1 mandate.
- Polish Visual & Performing Arts in Australia and New Zealand (Polart Inc.): 1 mandate
- Polish Community Care Services Inc.: 2 mandates
- Additionally 3 members of the Executive Committee received 1 mandate each as per **§ 16 (d) of the PCCA Constitution.**

9) Confirmation of new member organisations earlier accepted by the Executive Committee as per § 16

- **Polonia WA Inc:** M. Kwiatkowska motioned that organisation named Polonia in WA Inc. has sought to join, Anna Niedźwiadek is here to present the organisation. Western Australia previously had the Polish Federation in WA, which no longer exists; thereafter there was no WA member in PCCA. We are glad to have a new organisation from Western Australia.
- Anna Niedźwiadek (president of Polonia in WA Inc) presented a comprehensive PowerPoint introduction to Polonia WA Inc.:
 - A. Niedźwiadek has been involved in a theatre group, ethnic radio, PolArt 2012/3. Now president of the Federation, which was formed in May 2018. 472 members from various organisations, including Bunbury Polish Association (outside of Perth). Goals are: Represent, Support, Uphold, Promote. Currently have 7 member organisations, and two observers. Working to coordinate Polish organisational activities, helping organisations access grants etc.
 - The observer organisations are: SPK WA cannot join as are already direct members of PCCA; Polish Roman Catholic Centre (parish council) cannot join due to its own rules.
 - Recent events: 800 people at Independence Day festival; The 3rd of May gala concert at Government House, including promotion of local Polish businesses.
 - Committee includes Anna Trajanovski who is the president of PolArt Inc. Internet: www.poloniawa.org
 - **10:05 the Ambassador and Honorary Consul left.**
- Vice-president PCCA Marian Radny requested a brief outline of the location/investment of funds received from the sale of the “Pole Kopernika” by Polish Youth Assn in WA relating to setting-up WA Foundation, how does it relate to Polonia WA Inc?.
- A. Niedźwiadek responded that the foundation has not yet been formalised. Funds raised from sale of “Pole Kopernika” has been entrusted to the Blum Foundation for management and distribution. Rules are still to be worked out.
- M. Wykrota - congratulated the young Polish diaspora in WA for this initiative.
- **Motion:** to accept Polonia WA Inc with 4 mandates.
- **Outcome 2: Polonia WA Inc. was accepted unanimously.**
- M. Kwiatkowska advised that **the number of mandates increased to 91.**

10) Removal of member organisations as per § 13

- **Zjednoczenie Polek w Australii:** membership fees have not been paid for last 4 years. The daughter of the organisation's president advised that the president Mrs. Jadwiga Solka-Krajewska cannot write a formal letter, but the organisation has ceased to exist.
- **Motion: remove "Zjednoczenie Polek w Australii" from PCCA.**
 - 86 votes in favour
 - 5 votes abstained
 - 0 votes against.
- **Outcome 3:** The organisation "Zjednoczenie Polek w Australii" is no longer a member of PCCA.
- Z. Derwinski remarked that a historically very significant Polish organisation has - regrettably - ceased to exist.

11) Determination of a new quorum, and the number of ballot papers issued

- **91 mandates were verified.**

12) Presentation, corrections, and acceptance of the Congress agenda

- T. Grabek - Point 6 (spelling of item 6) "A word from the Ambassador".
- Dr W. Wnuk – add taking of official photo to the agenda.
- Zosia Cyganiuk – questioned the total number of mandates as read out by the Secretary of PCCA; a recount confirmed the total number as **91**.
- **Motion: Approve the Agenda**
 - 91 votes in favour
 - 0 votes withheld
 - 0 votes against
 - **Outcome 4:** Agenda was approved unanimously.

13) Presentation, corrections, and acceptance of the minutes from the previous Congress (or Special Congress)

- Approved unanimously.

14) Presentation of the Annual Report by the PCCA President

- M. Kwiatkowska read out the Executive Committee Annual Report (Attachment 1).

15) Presentation of the Annual Financial Report by the PCCA Treasurer

- Iwona Rafalska read out her Annual Report (Attachment 2).

16) Presentation of Sub-Committee's annual reports

- Z. Cyganiuk read the Annual Report of the Gen. Juliusz Kleeberg Polish Community Fund in Australia (attached).
- R. Czernkowski presented the Financial Report of "Fundusz Wieczysty FWPA"(Attachment 3).

17) Presentation of Arbitration Committee' Report

- Dr W. Wnuk stated that no matters arose since the previous AGM (50. Congress of Delegates) and referred delegates to the Arbitration Committee's Report contained in delegates' folder (Attachment 4).

18) Presentation and Acceptance of Internal Audit Committee's and Auditor's Report

- Janina Kłoda read out the Internal Audit Committee's Report (IAC) (Attachment 5). They received all necessary documents for 1/4/18-31/3/19. IAC stated that reports agreed with underlying documents. Some minor issues were not reported in monthly reports (mainly transfer between PCCA accounts). Report of the "100th Independence Anniversary Concert in Sydney was also audited. IAC reminded that the Executive Committee needs to approve accounts at each meeting. Noted that FWPA statements were not provided to IAC. The FWPA only grown by around 1% in the last financial year.
- Iwona Rafalski read out the Auditor's Report (Attachment 6).

19) Presentation of Internal Audit Committee's a recommendation motion regarding the vote of approval or dismissal of the IAC report

- J. Kłoda recommended a motion to approve IAC reports:
 - 91 votes in favour
 - 0 votes withheld
 - 0 votes against
- **Outcome 5: IAC reports were approved.**

20) Discussion about all presented reports

- *Discussion #1*
- A. Gajkowski – grants from Perpetual Fund (Fundusz Wieczysty) was supported by NSW Federation.
- A. Grabek – questioned incongruity of financial report i.e. auditor report not agreeing with treasurer report; does auditor need to be in the ACT where PCCA is registered.
- M. Wykrota – questioned whose delegate President of PCCA is.
- R. Czernkowski – apologised for not getting books into the IAC on time. He offered to upload all documents electronically onto the PCCA website.
- Dr W. Wnuk – (a) questioned PCCA grants distribution listed in the financial report; assumed related to Independence concert in Sydney Town Hall and (b) discussed FWPA - Perpetual Fund: investing, grants, capital appreciation (inflation maintenance), opening surplus balance. FWPA ought to be reinvesting a set percentage of gains in the capital.
- B. Iwanowski – congratulated the financial management of PCCA but noted that no signatures are evident on the financial reports.

Responses:

- M. Kwiatkowska (MK):
 - re. A. Grabek's question – auditor does not need to be in the ACT, the public officer needs to be in the ACT.
 - re. M. Wykrota's question - she holds current membership in 5 PCCA organisations: 2 in NSW, 1 in QLD, 2 national organisations. She added that the Federation NSW did not invite the PCCA to any of its functions during the whole year.

- re. W. Wnuk's question – indeed, grants were used for the celebration of the Independence Day events. These events managed to create a small profit thanks to financial support received from sponsors.
 - R. Czernkowski - explained incongruences of financial statements of Perpetual Funds i.e. dates listed were incongruent; internal financial management issues were overruled.
- Discussion #2
 - Dr W. Wnuk – clarified his previous point re reinvesting a percentage in the capital; asked about the lack of representation of the Federation NSW during last year's Centenary celebrations during the 50th Congress.
 - B. Iwanowski – proposed a change in dates of the Congress if more time is required to obtain satisfactory financials.
 - T. Grabek – questioned which report was to be considered for absolution; no signatures are evident.
 - A. Gajkowski – questioned communication re 5th Congress of Poles abroad in Warsaw 2018, the selection criteria for attendees.

Responses:

- I. Rafalska – additional auditor's fees may be required; there is a very short timeframe in order to get ready for the Congress.
 - M. Kwiatkowska - proposed later dates for the Congress in order to allow sufficient time for reports finalisation; addressed concerns of A. Gajkowski re selection of people who participated in the 5th Congress of Poles abroad. MK- as a member of the Executive Committee of the World Polonia Council (*Rada Polonii Swiata*) (co-organiser) - asked leaders of all Federations, including Polonia in QLD and Polish Association in Hobart whether they wish to nominate anyone for the Congress. She did speak and sent follow-up email to A. Gajkowski but he did choose to not replay.
- Discussion #3
 - Marysia Nowak – raised a formal concern about the level of negative interactions of a personal nature.
 - T. Grabek – requested that the delegates receive a copy of the Audit report.
 - Marian Radny – appealed to the delegates to focus on matters pertaining to the Congress and refrain from making personal attacks or discussing matters pertaining to localised issues.

21) Voting on proposed motions regarding the absolution/dismissal of the *Executive Committee*

- 59 votes in favour of **absolution**
- 31 votes abstained
- 1 vote against
- **Outcome 6: The absolution of the Executive Committee was obtained.**

22) Nullification of special voting rights allocated to the members of the Council authorities

- 3 members of the PCCA Executive, who were not delegates, returned their mandates (Ita Szymańska, Andrzej Gokowski, Henryk Kurylewski).
- **The total number of mandates is now 88.**

23) The election of new Authorities of the Council as per

§1, § 15, § 27, §28, §29, §30, §31, §32, §33, §34, §35, § 43, § 45:

- President and Deputy President Roles (each candidate should present his/her background, aims and intentions)
 - Candidates for the role of President: **Małgorzata Kwiatkowska** and **Adam Gajkowski** – presented themselves.
 - Candidates for the Deputy President role: **Andrzej Kozek** presented by M. Wykrota and A. Gajkowski, **Marian Radny** presented himself.
 - Questions from delegates:
 - Z. Koch - does A. Gajkowski intend to do a *lustracja* of Polish community?
 - W. Wnuk - who does A. Gajkowski propose for his presidium (Executive Committee)?
 - A. Grabek - who is being proposed for the team?
 - R. Borysiewicz - Federation NSW was deregistered for a while a few years ago. Question to A. Gajkowski about how did this happen.
 - R. Borysiewicz – A. Kozek uses Puls Polonii website to misstate facts - what is a guarantee that he will not do this, if he is a deputy president of PCCA.
 - Replies from candidates:
 - MK: proposed the same Executive Committee as before, with one change i.e. A. Niedźwiadek from Polonia WA Inc. replaces A. Strzemieńczyk-Gołkowski, who will continue his duties as PCCA website administrator as a volunteer.
 - AGa: Lustracja is needed but it does not involve witch-hunting. AGa does not publicly mention names of communist agents. Proposed presidium (Executive Committee): secretary Bożena Szymańska, treasurer Zosia Cyganiuk, press officer Hubert Błaszczyk and a member from each state, not a bunch of “*kolesie*” (a clique). He was concerned about amount (decrease) of funds coming from Fundusz Wieczysty. Also believes that the organisation that pays the higher membership costs to PCCA should be represented in presidium (Executive Committee).
 - AGa: When Federation NSW was de-registered, its president was Richard Dzierzba. Past president Jerzy Krajewski neglected it, R. Dzierzba did not notice. Matter was sorted out.
- Votes collected: orange card for presidential vote, yellow for vice-presidential vote.
- Break to 2:45 pm (counting votes and a group photo).
- Results of voting:
 - Adam Gajkowski; **orange votes received: 25**
 - Małgorzata Kwiatkowska; **orange votes received: 60**
 - **1 vote was invalid**
 - **Outcome 7: Małgorzata Kwiatkowska (Sydney, NSW) was declared President.**
 - Andrzej Kozek; **yellow votes received: 30**
 - Marian Radny; **yellow votes received: 54**
 - **Outcome 8: Marian Radny (Newcastle, NSW) was declared Vice-President.**
- Approval of the Executive Committee members as chosen and presented by the elected President
 - Secretary: Helena Basia Andrusiewicz (QLD).
 - Treasurer: Iwona Rafalski (QLD).
 - Public Officer: Ita Szymańska (QLD).

- Committee: Marek Bartczak (NSW), Edward Dudziński (SA), Henryk Kurylewski (QLD), Joanna Merwart (VIC), Anna Niedźwiadek (WA), Leszek Wikarjusz (QLD).
- KOPA: Elżbieta Cesarska (NSW).

- A. Gajkowski asked that Fed NSW have a representative on the Executive Committee, proposing Andrzej Kozek, given that Federation in NSW pays a significant proportion of membership dues.

- Results of voting on the Executive Committee members presented by MK:
 - 71 votes in favour
 - 17 votes abstained
 - 0 votes against
 - **Outcome 9: Executive Members listed above accepted.**

- Internal Audit Committee:
 - Janina Kłoda (accepted nomination)
 - Jan Tkaczyk (accepted nomination)
 - Helena Żebrowska (accepted nomination)
 - Marian Pawlik (accepted nomination)
 - Zdzisław Jarentowski (accepted nomination)
 - Krzysztof Dutkowski (declined nomination)
 - **Outcome 10: Internal Audit Committee of 5 accepting members was elected.**

- Arbitration Committee
 - Dr Włodzimierz Wnuk (accepted nomination)
 - Michał Wykrota (accepted nomination)
 - Zdzisław Koch (accepted nomination)
 - Mieczysław Rataj (accepted nomination)
 - Edward Szczepański (accepted nomination)
 - Bogumiła Filip (accepted nomination)
 - Edward Włodarski (accepted nomination)
 - **Outcome 11: Arbitration Committee was elected as listed above.**

- PCCA Awards Committee (Kapituła Medali RPNA)
 - Janusz Rygielski (Life Member)
 - Krzysztof Łańcucki (Life Member)
 - Małgorzata Kwiatkowska (President, PCCA)
 - Jolanta Żurawska (NSW)
 - Fr. Tomasz Bujakowski (WA)
 - Adam Grabek (TAS)
 - Gosia Skalban (SA)
 - Marian Pawlik (VIC)
 - **Wanda Horky to confirm ACT representative; it was confirmed later that Wanda Horky agrees to represent ACT**
 - **Alice Langford (QLD - TBC)**
 - **Beata Mroczek (QLD - TBC)**

- Two people were nominated for QLD. Zdzislaw Derwinski suggested to have Langford/Mroczek swap after a year. Adam Gajkowski think that changing halfway through is not a good thing.
 - **Action:** Queensland organisations were to agree off-line who will represent them; it was confirmed later that **Beata Mroczek will represent QLD.**
- **Outcome 12:** PCCA Awards Committee was elected.

24) Presentation and discussion of a proposed budget for a new financial year

- Iwona Rafalska presented the proposed budget for 2019/2020: \$14,700 expected expenditure (attached).
- Discussion:
 - Z. Cyganiuk – questioned proposed grants from FWPA
 - A. Gajkowski – questioned interest
 - T. Grabek – if audit fee is likely to increase, we should increase planned expenditure.
 - Iwona Rafalski said that the planned income is lower than expenditure i.e. \$11,210.
 - A. Grabek – budget varies substantially from last year. Budgeting \$1000 more for next AGM than last AGM. Why are member fees expected to be a lot lower? Interest income is not that clear. Also why do we have a budget for expenditure that exceeds income by about 30%?
 - I. Rafalski - membership fees do not always come in a particular financial year. It can spread over end of one and start of next financial year. Additionally, in a non-election year membership revenue is usually noticeably lower.
 - M. Kwiatkowska - last year membership dues were first week of April, but this year end of March, so two lots got counted in one financial year.
- Motion that the proposed budget be accepted, as discussed:
 - 88 votes in favour
 - 0 votes withheld
 - 0 votes against
 - **Outcome 13:** The proposed budget was accepted unanimously.

25) Appointment of Auditor for the next financial year

There is no proposal at this state of the name of an alternative auditor. The treasurer is intending to seek a new auditor with good reputation and better price. Chairperson Z. Derwiński commented that delegates do not wish such a situation happened again. Agreed to vote on a permission for Executive Committee to find a new auditor.

- That the PCCA Executive sources an alternative Auditor:
 - 88 votes in favour
 - 0 votes withheld
 - 0 votes against
 - **Outcome 14:** PCCA Executive is allowed to find an alternative auditor.

26) Discussion and consideration of any motion of which prior notice has been given in accordance with this Constitution (specifically as per Art. VII § 20)

- Motions to introduce *Fundusz Wieczysty Polonii Australijskiej* (FWPA) terms, staggered in 2019 (rotation of FWPA administrators) Motion no. 1 - reduce FWPA administration committee from 9 to 7 (Attachment 7).
- Motion no. 2 – rotation of FWPA administrators (Attachment 8).
- Discussion:

- W. Horky – has the name been changed as per the earlier presentation?
- T. Grabek – the name is stated twice.
- A. Grabek – questioned the 6 years term and the wording of the suggested replacement.
- W. Horky – what are the implications of the name change.
- Justification has been discussed.
- M. Kwiatkowska said that 9 administrators are not really needed for such a small fund, and earning so little. It used to be 6 people (half of them replaced each term) before Mr Krajewski changed it by co-opting additional NSW people. For example, a much bigger Blum Foundation has 7 people in Assessment Committee, one from each state.
- Responses:
 - The name has NOT yet been changed.
 - The twice stated name is an error - will be corrected.
 - PCCA Executive determines the 7 administrators in order to guarantee a transparent rotation in place of an ad hoc term of service; The future aim is to have 1 member representing each state.
- That Motion no. 1 be rejected:
 - 42 votes in favour
 - 0 votes withheld
 - 46 votes against
 - **Outcome 15: Motion passed i.e. FWPA Administration Committee consists of 7 members.**
- That Motion no. 2 be rejected:
 - 20 votes in favour
 - 0 votes withheld
 - 68 votes against
 - **Outcome 16: Motion passed i.e. staggered commencements in 2019.**

27) Confirm names of all nominations for candidates to fill the vacancies of retiring Administrators of “Fundusz Wieczysty Polonii Australijskiej” as per § 53

- Current members are: Zosia Cyganiuk, Elżbieta Cesarska, Marysia Nowak, Bożena Iwanowska, Wanda Kijańska-Całka, Edward Dudziński.
- The following nominates to be considered by the Executive for one vacant position:
 - Robert Czernkowski
 - Andrzej Kozek
 - Mieczysław Rataj.
- All 7 Administrators to be nominated by the Executive Committee for the length of duty, as per Motion no. 1 and Motion No. 2 passed (point 26 above).

28) Determination of the level of donation from the PCCA funds needed for the approved PCCA budget

- The level of funding has been already agreed \$3,000 as part of budget votes.
- Vote that \$3000 from the Polish Fund (*Fundusz Wieczysty Polonii Australijskiej*) be granted to the PCCA budget:
 - 62 votes in favour
 - 26 votes abstained
 - 0 votes against

- **Outcome 17:** \$3,000 from the Gen. Juliusz Kleeberg Polish Community Fund in Australia (PCFA) to be donated to the PCCA budget.

29) Determination of the location (usually a state capital city) of the next Congress, taking into account the cost of transportation of the Council authorities members, as well as their documentation

- **Place:** four places have been proposed and votes received:
 - Brisbane: 26 votes
 - Canberra: **44 votes**
 - Melbourne: 6 votes
 - Perth: 12 votes
- **Outcome 18:** 52nd Congress of Delegates will be held in Canberra in 2020.
- **Date:** A. Gajkowski suggested the first weekend after the long weekend, i.e. 13/06, others 20/21 June 2020.
- **Outcome 19:** 52nd Congress will be held on 20-21 June 2020.
- T. Grabek raised a question - who is PCCA public officer. President M. Kwiatkowska informed that this decision belongs to the Executive Committee, and Marek Stawski from Canberra was appointed in 2018.

30) Future of the funds and foundations

Main discussion will be on Sunday 18th of May (Congress DAY 2)

31) Any other business, including desiderata

- Mick Wykrota delivered a motion to the chairperson, on behalf of Andrzej Kozek, re. no confidence in the President PCCA Małgorzata Kwiatkowska.
- Chairperson Zdzisław Derwiński responded that the election has just took place, the delegates voted and he will not take any action regarding this motion.
- Desiderata has been put that the Auditor Report be available a week prior to the next PCCA Congress, and that the Treasurer's Report reflect that of the Auditor's Report.
- Discussion #1:
 - Ryszard Borysiewicz raised an issue of the Polish Club Ashfield and remarked that Polvision is conducting a campaign aimed at destroying the Polish Club. That Polvision representative/delegate is here at the Congress, which gives him respect whereas he should be shown the door. He has also pointed out polarising publications circulating from Federation NSW, who is also a member of PCCA.
 - A. Gajkowski – president of the Federation NSW, defended his organisation.
 - Vice-president Marian Radny – PCCA Congress ought not be a forum for local / interstate conflicts.
 - R. Czernkowski – shared observations from the judiciary findings regarding the Polish Club in Ashfield, and apologised for others washing here the Sydney's laundry.
- Discussion #2:
 - Dr Z. Derwiński – the elected PCCA President ought to receive unilateral support and respect, irrespective of the incumbent; PCCA has yet to establish a stable, neutral administrative body; questioned the importance of personal objectives and egos over the interests of the greater

Polish diaspora in Australia. He has shared some ideas: Executive Committee to consider regular meetings of state organisations, permanent paid secretariat of the PCCA. Next year it will be 70th anniversary of the establishment of PCCA. Sooner or later we will need to have a professional staff. We are losing assets of the Polish community: Dom Polski, Melbourne, Millennium House, Footscray, Hindmarsh Island, SA.

- A. Grabek – asked PCCA to support promoting the Polish language; The Polish School in Hobart has been fee-free for 60 years. Also hard to get Polish priests to Australia because English language requirements are high.
- Z. Cyganiuk – thanked Dr Z. Derwiński for his earlier comments and asked everyone to take them to heart.
- A. Niedźwiadek – urged inclusion of younger generations in the operations of PCCA; suggested asking for the opinions of younger generations rather than take their input for granted; suggested providing a broad range of in-kind services and/or support including administration, budgeting/finances, education, also suggested transferring experience and knowledge to youth.
- M. Wykrota – suggested developing a cooperative network of Polish professionals in a form similar to “Perpetual Trustee”, and avoid any loans from the bank.
- R. Czernkowski – suggested electronic conferencing in lieu of face to face conferences / meetings; posed the questions: What motivates people to become members of a Polish diaspora organisation? How do we build the future of the Polish diaspora in Australia?
- Discussion #3
 - A. Gajkowski – acknowledged the lack of presence of descendants of Polish leaders in Australia; informed the delegates of his discussions supporting entry-visa applications of Polish citizens. Discussed government relationship with ethnic organisations. Federation of NSW had a meeting with regional director of Home Affairs. Addressed issue of religious visas. Priests can also apply for alternative visas, but the issue is that Polonia in Australia appears too small. Suggested that government should give additional immigration points for religious / social / charity needs. This would also help revitalise our community.
 - M. Nowak – a lot of young people are involved in Polish dance groups, Polish scouts and Polish schools. They are building the future of the Polish diaspora in Australia. If they were present here they would be discouraged. Youth doesn't like personal conflicts. Every year E. Cesarska takes a group of Polish students to Poland, and they return very satisfied. We need a different form of social actions.
 - B. Iwanowska – shared her initiative for the professional development of youth leaders and Polish school educators. Last year a pedagogic method centre was formed in Australia (LOM) with her being the only member in Australia. LOM gets funding for four sessions a year from Poland (Stowarzyszenie “Wspólnota Polska”). This year an Australian school will run an exchange with a Polish school.
 - Marian Radny – “V. Congress of Polonia and Poles from abroad” suggested to organisations in Poland who have links with Polonia to establish a “Polish Youth Academy” i.e. an academy of young people, engineers, academics living outside of Poland, in order to run partnership with youth in Poland. Such partnership can have purpose and attract people, especially to prevent them forgetting about Poland.
 - Małgorzata Kwiatkowska:
 - according to the PCCA Constitution there is an honorary position for the Rector of the Polish Mission in Australia, formerly Fr Wiesław Słowik; the position has now been

subsumed into the position of Pastoral Coordinator of Australia, currently Fr Tadeusz Przybylak has received this nomination. We plan to invite him to the Executive Committee. Down the track, we should replace the words “rector of Polish Catholic Mission” with “Pastoral coordinator” in the PCCA constitution.

- in September 2018, at the "V. Congress of Polonia and Poles from abroad", cardinal K. Nycz suggested that the Polish diaspora in the world would take care of the creation and decoration of the *Polonijnej Kaplicy Maryjnej* at the *Świątynia Opatrzności Bożej*, which was dedicated to the Polish diaspora. For this purpose, Polonia around the globe raises funds in the form of symbolic bricks. We will organise this in Australia, too.
- Krzysztof Dutkowski – thanked organisations for donations towards the new ZHP banner (*sztandar*) which will be on display this evening.

DAY 1 – CLOSURE

M. Kwiatkowska confirmed the next activities and the plan for Sunday, which is as follows:

Saturday, 6pm: evening program consists of the official part, dinner and K. Małek piano recital.

Sunday, 8am: Holy Mass at the church in Bowen Hills,

10am: Congress will resume in Milton, 12pm, Equity Trustees representative attending and presenting.

DAY 2 – 10am, Sunday 19.05.2019

30) Future of the Foundations under PCCA

- **88 mandates were verified.**
- Marian Radny: displayed PowerPoint presentation on the possible future of the Gen. Juliusz Kleeberg Polish Community Fund in Australia (PCFA), and Ewa Malewicz Foundation (EMF), both of which are administered by PCCA (Attachment 9):
 - PCFA and EMF were only used as sample models and were not the focal point of this presentation.
- General detailed discussion stressed negative consequences of the Fund's current investment strategy, being investing capital in bank term deposits.
- The principles, on the basis of which the Fund has operated until now, have been critically examined. Delegates have understood that at current levels of the Fund's annual income, it is unable to compensate for the inflationary impairment of its capital while complying with the obligation to distribute part of its investment profit among PCCA's member organizations. For over a dozen years, the Fund practically did not maintain the value of its capital, allocating almost all of its profits to financial support of the activities of Polish member organizations. Such practice, as demonstrated at the presentation, leads to a rapid disappearance of both the value of the Fund's capital and the value of subsidies awarded.
- In the last 5 years, the PCCA Executive repeatedly advised and warned the delegates at the PCCA Congresses of a serious issue with the financial and legal management of entrusted charitable community funds, which is bordering on negligence and/or financial laziness. So far, all attempts to reform this area of activity were met with unwillingness and resistance to change.

- Such a tardiness/delays cannot be tolerated any longer, because the investment returns are being whittling down to almost zero, and the PCCA Executive can be made legally responsible for the lost opportunities.
- However, today a successful investment is usually based on current professional knowledge and skills, provided by reputable companies, such as EQT (Equity Trustees) or Perpetual. These services are paid for via investment/management fees.
- One shining example of a suitable path to follow is a story about the Blum Foundation, who - for the last 20 years - has been the main distributor of grants to the Polish community in Australia. Not only this Foundation disperses the largest annual amount of grants but also grows the value of the Fund capital, so that the losses caused by inflation are nullified. This Foundation is managed by EQT.
- Having a Foundation managed by a large, reputable and registered professional company assures that all legal and tax compliance is adhered to, and generates good financial returns - all for a fee of about 1% of the capital value of the Fund under management.
- It was also pointed out that current bank accounts can be emptied by a rogue Executive, while funds under EQT umbrella are locked-away permanently.
- Delegates thanked M. Radny for a substantive presentation. The general discussions entailed at 12:00pm.
- Benieka Lythgo (Equity Trustees): displayed and guided the delegates through her PowerPoint presentation (Attachment 10), which plotted the typical financial returns from COMMON FUNDS under EQT administration versus the returns from bank deposits.
 - Equity Trustees is an independent company that specialises in charitable perpetual Trust Funds as opposed to other companies which operate Trust portfolios as part of their broader charter.
 - Equity Trustees is open to working with other advisory bodies in relation to investments and/or the design of trust fund regulations.
 - “Perpetual Charitable Trust” (does get tax deductions).
 - “ancillary” funds (illegible for tax deductions).
- The further discussion entailed voting with the motion, as per below:
 - The motion:
 - 51. Congress of Delegates of the Polish Community Council of Australia Inc. (PCCA) authorize and oblige the Executive Council of PCCA to take the following actions:
Transfer the capital of the Perpetual Fund of the PCCA named “General Juliusz Kleeberg Polish Community Fund in Australia” (PCFA) and the Fund named “Ewa Malewicz Foundation” (EMF) to the Equity Trustees (EQT) towards a creation of a charitable perpetual fund, i.e. one whose capital will be augmented annually by at least the rate of inflation (CPI). Investments shall be managed by Equity Trustees (EQT) according to the company's investment strategy, and the grant distribution system will be similar to that used at the St. Blum Foundation and / or by used currently in PCFA and EMF by existing Administrators.
- **Outcome 20: The motion put forward by PCCA was adopted unanimously.**
- Subsequently, the Congress of Delegates obliged the Executive Committee to implement the above decisions.

- A general discussion followed re a roadmap and transition to the new, more profitable, and a safer way of managing community funds entrusted to PCCA. It was agreed that this transition will be a gradual process, as term deposits mature at different dates. After the transfer, PCCA and EQT must design a suitable and binding Deed reflecting the current practices in PCFA and EMF.
- To encourage further donations/bequests, the composite Fund could have a multi-account structure, with sub-funds given the bequestors' names.
- Once the EQT-managed Foundation is established, the PCCA Constitution need be changed to reflect that. The new Rules of applying for the grants need to be specified and the Grant Assessment Committee established (aka Blum's Assessment Committee).
- The following people have been selected to form an Advisory Group: the appointed seven Administrators of FWPA and persons with investment experience, who are not members of the Executive Committee: Ryszard Borysiewicz (NSW), Robert Czernkowski (NSW), Andrzej Kozek (NSW) and Włodzimierz Wnuk (VIC).

31) Any other business, including desiderata (cont. from Day 1)

- Bożena Iwanowska proposed a discussion during the 52nd Congress in 2020 to consider strategies for promoting Polish language education in Australia, and options in overcoming existing problems. She suggested it would be worthwhile documenting the 60-70 year history of Polish language education by KOPA in association with MAPA. She undertook seeking financial support / funding to cover the costs of the proposed project.
- Closing comments by president Małgorzata Kwiatkowska:
 - addressed final comments
 - thanked delegates for their attendance
 - thanked Dr Z. Derwiński for chairing the Congress
 - expressed special thanks to the members of the PCCA Executive.

Closing with Polish National Anthem (2.25pm, Sunday 19.05.2019).