

Mary Ann Mlynarski

Mary Ann Mlynarski has been nurtured to love and appreciate her Polish heritage since the age of 6. It is only natural since she is following in the footsteps of her family members who started the Polish Arts Club of Youngstown more than 75 years ago. She has personally been a member for more than 48 years. She has held the office of President for the past 10 years.

During her years of active and devoted membership, Mary Ann has served as an officer in every position and chaired most every event at least once. In doing so, she has helped raise thousands of dollars for her Club and its scholarship fund. The local club has also hosted several ACPC board meetings, most recently in fall 2012.

In recent years, Mary Ann has led her Club to reach out into the community by chairing its participation in events with Polish Youngstown, Simply Slavic and Youngstown State University's Festival of the Arts.

She has served as Vice-President and Secretary of the Mahoning Valley International, Cultural and Civic Society, which sponsors cultural displays at the region's annual Labor Day must-go event, the Canfield Fair. At this event, each year the Polish Arts Club of Youngstown creates a different educational display reflecting our colorful culture. Straw art, pottery, crystal, amber, dolls, *wycinanki* and *pisanki* have all been the focus at this event. In 2012, fellow ACPC member Marcia Lewandowski joined in the event and for two days demonstrated and show-cased her *wycinanki* eggs for a very

stunning exhibit.

On a national level, Mary Ann has played an integral role in hosting the ACPC Convention at Youngstown State University in 1961. In fact, her family hosted the entire Convention Delegation at their home for a steak fry! She also assisted with the conventions that were held at Alliance College in 1965, 1969, 1974 and 1986 sponsored in collaboration with the Kosciuszko Foundation and Buffalo and Pittsburgh Clubs. Currently, she serves as Chair of the Nominating Committee and is on the Fundraising Committee.

Mary Ann attended Ursuline High School in Youngstown, Ohio. After graduation, she enrolled at Alliance College in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania, and attended the Polish-based college for two years. She finished her college education at Youngstown State University with a BS in Elementary Education. She taught for five years in the parochial schools—St. Casimir's, Holy Trinity and St. Nicholas. After working Christmas seasons and summers at the United States Postal Service, she began a permanent career with them in 1975, retiring in 1999. Never one to relax for too long, Mary Ann works as an STNA in several area nursing homes as well as a private duty senior aide so that the elderly can remain in their homes.

She feels truly blessed by her involvement in her Polish heritage and by the friendships she has made in ACPC.



*May the 66th
ACPC Convention
be a great success!*

Congratulations to
American Council for Polish Culture
Founder's Award recipients

**Mary Ann Mlynarski
and
Ange Iwanczyk**

Matt and Carolyn Meleski

*Congratulations
& Thank You*

MARY ANN MLYNARSKI
for years of service to
Mahoning Valley Polonia
from your friends at

Polish
YOUNGSTOWN

www.polishyoungstown.org