



Barbara Lemecha

Barbara Lemecha was born in Katowice, Poland and came to the U.S. at age 18 to New York, and 3 years later married and settled in Michigan. Until her two children finished High School, Barbara was very involved with their schools' as a room mother, Girl Scout and Boy Scout leader, worked at the school library, and served for five years on the Parent Faculty Association at the children's Dearborn High School.

Once the children were off to college, she pursued other interests.

She enrolled in college classes to study English, psychology and the humanities and subsequently, Continuing Education Credit Hours through the Michigan Association for Activity Professionals. She started a new career as an Activity Director in a Retirement Residence where she worked for many years. She served on Dearborn Heights' Neighborhood Beautification Committee, Homeowners Association Board and as a President of the Military Hills Garden Club.

Ms. Lemecha's involvement in Michigan's Polonia started when she joined the Friends of Polish Art in 2002 and took on the job of recording secretary. The following year she attended the American Council for Polish Culture Convention (ACPC) and was elected to the Board. That same year she was assigned to chair the National Conference for the Social Studies (NCSS) project which she accepted with great commitment. For 8 years, under the auspices of ACPC, Barbara co-chaired an exhibit, "Polish Perspectives" at the annual National Conference for the Social Studies, which promoted Polish Culture and Polish accomplishments to the world.

For many years she served on the Board of the American Polish Cultural Center/Society as a board member and a corresponding secretary. In 2023, she co-chaired a memorable convention celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the American Council for Polish Culture. The proceeds of this event augmented the Society's Scholarship Fund which she also chairs.

In 2003 Barbara joined the Polish American Congress of Michigan (PAC-MI) where she devoted over 20 years serving as a recording secretary, Vice President for Polish Affairs and lately as its Executive Vice President and its National Director. Also, for the past 10 years she is a member of the Polish Day Parade Committee where she serves as its treasurer. In addition to her memberships in the Friends of Polish Art, Polish American Congress of Michigan, American Council for Polish Culture, American Polish Cultural Society, she's also a member of the Kosciuszko Foundation, Polish Museum of America in Chicago and the Chopin Society of Chicago.

For a hobby, Barbara's passion is flower arranging which she does with great love for the craft. She participated in flower arranging competitions and received many recognitions. Barbara's other interest is traveling which she does extensively. However, her greatest joy are her children, and her grandson who is her ultimate pride. Her daughter is an emergency physician and her son, who is the father of her only grandson, is a telecommunications engineer.

Barbara received various awards and certificates for her involvement in Polonia for which she is truly appreciative. She received a Certificate of Recognition for serving as a member of the Lieutenant Colonel Matt L. Urban Memorial Committee, also the Founders Award from the American Council for Polish Culture, the Polish American Central Citizens Committee's Pulaski Medal, American Polish Cultural Society and the Gold Cross of Merit *Złoty Krzyż Zasługi* from the Polish Government.