

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 56th CONGRESS OF DELEGATES VIA ZOOM

Saturday, 15th June 2024

ZOOM log on: 08:30
ZOOM meeting began: 09:00

Reports will not be read aloud during the Congress. Delegates should read reports circulated electronically prior to the commencement of this Congress.

1. Welcome by the PCCA Executive Committee: PCCA President.
 - a. Mr Henryk Kurylewski welcomed delegates and thanked everyone for their attendance, especially those attending from Europe.
2. Determination of the Quorum and the number of ballot papers to be issued: Chair of the Delegate Verification Committee.
 - a. Dr Robert Czernkowski reported that according to the meeting of Delegate Verification Committee held 14th May 2024 via Zoom, 80 Delegate ballot papers were verified plus 4 Special Delegate allocated, giving a total of **84 Delegate ballot papers (48 delegates registered to attend via Zoom)**
3. Election of a Chairperson, two Assessors and three (3) Minutes takers: PCCA President
 - a. Candidates for the Chair:
 - i. Dr Robert Czernkowski
 1. **Outcome: Dr Robert Czernkowski was elected Chair**
 - b. Candidates for two Assessors:
 - i. Zbyszek Słomowski
 - ii. Edward Dudziński
 1. **Outcome: Zbyszek Słomowski and Edward Dudziński were elected Assessors**
 - c. Candidates for three Minute takers
 - i. Małgorzata Wray
 - ii. Anna Waldon-Rodzoś
 - iii. Ania Cietrzewska
 - iv. Adam Gajkowski proposed recording the meeting
 1. **Outcome: Małgorzata Wray, Anna Waldon-Rodzoś and Ania Cietrzewska were elected Minute takers**
 2. **Delegates unanimously agreed to record the meeting**
4. Determination of the validity of the Congress on the basis of the report from the Delegate Verification Committee: Elected Chair
 - a. Based on the report of the Delegate Verification Committee, (more than 1/3 of the members are present; representatives from more than 3 states are in attendance; quorum achieved with 33 people present; a total of 73 mandates are represented at the meeting, out of a maximum of 84) **Dr Robert Czernkowski determined the Congress was valid and able to proceed.**
5. Official opening of the Congress: Elected Chair.
 - a. The elected Chair welcomed the Delegates and presented the rules for the meeting.
6. A short prayer, and a minute of silence in memory of delegates, who passed away since the previous Congress: Coordinator of the Polish Catholic Mission in Australia and New Zealand.
 - a. Fr Tadeusz Przybylak offered a short prayer of intention at the beginning of the Congress, after which Delegates observed a minute's silence in memory of passed delegates.
7. Adjudication regarding appeals (if any) against the Delegate Verification Committee decisions as per § 50: Elected Chair.
 - a. NA as no appeals were lodged.
8. Confirmation of new member organisations earlier accepted by the Executive Committee: Elected Chair.
 - a. No new member organisation applications have been received.
9. Determination of a new quorum, and the number of ballot papers issued: Elected Chair.
 - a. Not applicable (as per 8a).
10. Presentation, corrections and acceptance of the Congress agenda: Elected Chair.

- a. Dr Robert Czernkowski presented the proposed Congress agenda and asked for corrections.
 - i. **No corrections were made.**
 - b. Dr Robert Czernkowski presented the proposed Congress agenda and asked for its acceptance.
 - i. **In favour: 73; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0**
11. Presentation, corrections and acceptance of the minutes from the previous Congress: Elected Chair.
 - a. Dr Robert Czernkowski presented the minutes of the previous Congress agenda (emailed to member organisations 28.11.2023) and asked for corrections.
 - i. **No corrections were made.**
 - b. Dr Robert Czernkowski presented the minutes of the previous Congress agenda and asked for its acceptance.
 - i. **In favour: 73; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0**
12. Presentation of Annual Report (circulated electronically for reading prior to this Congress): PCCA President.
 - a. Mr Henryk Kurylewski tabled the PCCA Annual Report (emailed to member organisations and delegates 10.06.2024)
13. Presentation of Annual Financial Report, including PCCA Perpetual Fund update (circulated electronically for reading prior to this Congress): PCCA Treasurer.
 - a. Dr Robert Czernkowski tabled the PCCA Annual Financial Report (emailed to member organisations and delegates 10.06.2024)
14. Presentation of Sub-Committees' Annual Reports (circulated electronically for reading prior to this Congress): Sub-Committee Chairs.
 - a. Mrs Zosia Cyganiuk tabled the PCCA Perpetual Fund Report (emailed to member organisations and delegates 10.06.2024)
 - b. Mr Henryk Kurylewski tabled the Constitution Committee Report (emailed to member organisations and delegates 10.06.2024)
15. Presentation of Arbitration Committee's Report (circulated electronically for reading prior to this Congress): Committee Chair.
 - a. Ms Basia Czech tabled the Arbitration Committee's Report (emailed to member organisations and delegates 10.06.2024)
16. Presentation and acceptance of Internal Audit Committee's and Auditor's Report, as per legal requirements: Committee Chair (note: Auditor's Report not required this year).
 - a. Mrs Janina Kłoda tabled the Internal Audit Committee's Report (emailed to member organisations and delegates 10.06.2024)
 - b. It was noted that an Auditor's Report is not applicable in a non-election year
17. Presentation of Internal Audit Committee's recommendation motion regarding the vote of approval or dismissal: Committee Chair.
 - a. It was noted that a motion for approval or dismissal is not applicable in a non-election year.
18. Discussion of circulated reports: Elected Chair.
 - a. Mr Adam Gajkowski asked, "The Arbitration Commission mentioned that there was a case regarding Mr. Koch and Mr. Tkaczyk. What were the results of these decisions and what are the implications?"
 - b. Ms Basia Czech responded to the question, confirming the Arbitration Commission deemed Mr. Tkaczyk eligible to hold the role of SPK National President.
 - c. Mr Bogdan Płatek proposed that the Arbitration Commission reconsider their decision regarding Mr Tkaczyk claiming he had already served as president for three consecutive terms, which contradicts the SPK Statute in Australia.
 - d. Ms Agatha Satala stated that the Arbitration Commission's decision was made based on the documents submitted for their consideration. The SPK Statute specifies that one can serve as president for a maximum of two terms. The Arbitration Commission determined Mr Tkaczyk was duly elected for a third time after the required interval between his second and third terms in office.
 - e. Dr Robert Czernkowski suggested that the Arbitration Commission prepare a detailed report.
19. Voting on motions regarding approval of the activities of PCCA Executive during the previous year: Elected Chair.
 - a. It was noted that a motion for approval is not applicable in a non-election year

20. PCCA Perpetual Fund: replacement of three Fund Administrators, as per operational requirements: Elected Chair.
- a. Stepping down are: Mrs Bożena Iwanowska (VIC), Mr Edward Dudziński (SA) and Mr Adam Grabek (TAS).
 - b. Proposed replacements are: Ms Barbara Czech (VIC), Mr Marek Kobylecki (SA) and Mrs Teresa Grabek (TAS) .
 - i. **In favour: 73; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0**
21. Presentation and discussion of the proposed PCCA budget for the next financial year: PCCA Treasurer.
- a. Dr Robert Czernkowski tabled the PCCA budget for the next financial year (emailed to member organisations and delegates 10.06.2024).
 - i. **In favour: 73; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0**
22. Appointment of Auditor for the next financial year, as per legal requirements: Elected Chair.
- a. It was noted that a motion for approval is not applicable in a non-election year
23. Discussion and consideration of any motion of which prior notice has been given in accordance with this Constitution (specifically as per Art. VII § 20): Elected Chair.
- a. NA as no motions were lodged.
24. Determination of the location of the next Congress: Elected Chair.
- a. Cities nominated to host the 57th PCCA Congress of Delegate
 - i. Mrs Małgorzata Kwiatkowska proposed Sydney as it would be the 75th Anniversary of the PCCA which was inaugurated in Sydney
 - ii. Mr Richard Borysiewicz offered to host the Congress at the Polish Club, Ashfield and proposed a concert to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the PCCA and the 56th Anniversary of the Polish Club, Ashfield
 - iii. Dr Andrzej Kozek queried everyone's access to the Polish Club, Ashfield
 - iv. Mr Richard Borysiewicz confirmed all delegates would be granted access to the Polish Club, Ashfield for the duration of the Congress
 - v. **In favour: 73; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0**
25. Announcement of PCCA Medals approved by the PCCA Award Committee: PCCA President.
- a. Mr Kurylewski announced the 2023 recipients of the PCCA Award:
 - i. Mr Piotr Antonik (ACT)
 - ii. Mr Andrzej Bajkowski (ACT)
 - iii. Mrs Małgorzata Kwiatkowska (NSW)
 - iv. Mr Edward Sulikowski (ACT)
 - v. Mrs Ita Szymańska (QLD)
 - b. Mr Kurylewski reminded delegates that nominations for each following year close on 31st December of the current year and that the relevant forms and process details can be found on the PCCA website
26. Reminder / brief outline of the "in person" Congress of PCCA Delegates, to be held in Canberra (Friday, 20th – Sunday, 22nd September, 2024): PCCA President.
- a. Mr Kurylewski encouraged member organisations to attend the "in person" Conference in Canberra, for which planning had commenced, in collaboration with the Polish Embassy and the Polish Community Council of the ACT.
 - b. Friday 18:00 – 21:00: Welcome hosted by Mr Maciej Chmieliński, Ambassador of the RP: Embassy of the RP in Canberra
 - c. Saturday 09:00 – 16:00: A series of interactive workshops for Polish community organisations: White Eagle Club, Canberra
 - d. Saturday 19:00 – 21:00: 40th Anniversary Concert: White Eagle Club, Canberra
 - e. Sunday 09:00 – 10:00: Holy Mass: St. John Paul II Catholic Centre, Narrabunbah
 - f. Sunday 11:00 – 13:00: Sightseeing
 - g. Mr Kurylewski encouraged member organisations to book hotel reservations as soon as possible due to the "Floriada Festival" occurring in Canberra at the same time as the PCCA Conference
 - h. Mrs Kwiatkowska clarified that the 56th Congress of Delegates officially concludes today whereas the Conference in Canberra will be a series of workshops and networking opportunities coinciding with the 40th Anniversary of the Polish Community Council in the ACT
27. Presentation by PolOz: PolOz representative.
- a. Ms Basia Czech lead a discussion of the presentation sent to delegates

- b. Mr Marek Kobylecki asked if this was going to become a national initiative or just local to Victoria
- c. Ms Basia Czech clarified that it would develop at a local level with a view to national involvement
- d. Mrs Ania Niedźwiadek requested further clarification of the aims and objectives of this initiative, its envisaged modality and the types of events it would run
- e. Ms Basia Czech explained it was aimed at increasing the engagement of younger generations of Polish Australians within our community structures whose command of the Polish language may be limited but whose roots were firmly and proudly Polish; the use of virtual and in-person contact is envisaged; activities and events are open-ended
- f. Further enquiries may be forwarded by email to Ms Basia Czech at:
bczech@optusnet.com.au

28. Any other business (Executive Committee not to be bound by the result of any voting taken:
Elected Chair.

- a. **Mrs Małgorzata Kwiatkowska**
 - i. **Perpetual Fund:** Please note the comments outlined in the report; Applications contained outdated email addresses (which has occurred several times in previous years)
 - ii. **Financial Report:** It is a necessary condition of applying for further funding. Anyone who hasn't submitted a financial report for their previous grant won't receive future grants
 - iii. **Promotion of Perpetual Fund:** Recipient organizations of this grant are obligated to publicly promote the RNPA Perpetual Fund on their social media and websites, by displaying its official logo
 - iv. **Year of Polish Olympians:** Photographic exhibition planned at the Polish Club in Plumpton. PCCA received honorary patronage from the Polish Olympic Committee
- b. **Dr Andrzej Kozek**
 - i. **Constitution Committee:** Previously, there was no appointed president of this committee; proposal to appoint a Committee Chair
 - ii. **Year of Strzelecki:** A very successful year with a series of events. We still have an unresolved issue regarding the name of Kosciuszko Mountain.
 - iii. **Polish Club, Ashfield:** Proposal to lift the entry ban for the Polish community at the club.
- c. **Mrs Ania Niedźwiadek**
 - i. **New Henryk Kitaszewski Fund:** Information on how to apply for funding from this fund will be available from July
- d. **Mr Adam Gajkowski**
 - i. **Question regarding the Constitution Committee:** Endorsed Mr. Kozek's proposal to appoint a Committee Chair
- e. **Mr Roman Sawko**
 - i. **Apology for late arrival and explained giving his proxy** to Mr David Babula
 - ii. Validated by both Dr Robert Czernkowski and Mr Henryk Kurylewski
- f. **Ms Ania Cietrzewska**
 - i. **Enquired about proposed changes** to the PCCA Constitution
- g. **Mr Henryk Kurylewski**
 - i. **Mr Jurek Wojtkowski** led statutory matters of the PCCA until he resigned (for health reasons) creating a casual vacancy which, in accordance with the PCCA Constitution, is currently filled by Ms. Ania Cietrzewska
 - ii. **All comments and proposed changes** regarding the PCCA Constitution should be sent to the secretariat's email
- h. **Mrs Małgorzata Kwiatkowska**
 - i. **Constitution Committee** is elected during an electoral year of the PCCA Congress (at the previous Congress). Ms Ania Cietrzewska assumed the casual vacancy created by Mr Wojtkowski until the next Congress of Delegates
- i. **Mr Henryk Kurylewski**
 - i. **Casual Vacancy Endorsement:** Ms Ania Cietrzewska requires the endorsement of this Congress of Delegates as a member of the PCCA

Executive Committee and invited Ms Cietrzewska to introduce herself to the Delegates

- ii. **Ms Ania Cietrzewska** informed Delegates she was born in Poland where she spend the first half of her life before emigrating to Australia where she completed her schooling. She is a lawyer with a double degree in Commerce and Law. She works in a legal firm in Melbourne and is studying for a Graduate Diploma in Migration Law. She is active in the Polish Club Albion and involved in the Polish community in Melbourne
 - iii. **Casual Vacancy Proposal:** Mr Kurylewski moved the endorsement of Ms Cietrzewska as a member of the PCCA Executive Committee
 - iv. **In favour: 73; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0**
- j. **Mr Adam Gajkowski**
- i. proposed Ms Cietrzewska familiarises herself with the minutes from previous meetings of the Constitution Committee
 - ii. Both Dr Czernkowski and Mr Kurylewski endorsed this proposal and undertook to forward the relevant files to Ms Cietrzewska in due course
29. Vote of thanks: PCCA President.
- a. Mr Kurylewski thanked the elected Chair, assessors and minute takers for their diligence in running today's Congress
 - b. Mr Kurylewski thanked delegates for their participation and commitment to today's deliberations
 - c. Mrs Kwiatkowska commended Mr Kurylewski for his extensive preparations for this online Congress of Delegates and congratulated him on its smooth and timely running
30. Closing (with Polish National Anthem).
- a. Congress closed at 10:45 AEST
 - b. Polish National Anthem was played online and sung by Delegates