



# Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, Inc.

1343 Beach Drive SE  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

## Update on Club Restoration Campaign

December 7, 2024

Dear Members and Friends -

The busy holiday season is upon us! And we are doubly busy at the club! We've consulted over 15 contractors and experts to assess damage and cost out repairs due to the impact of hurricanes Helene and Milton.

We continue to reach out for assistance in funding the restorations underway. Our goal is \$150,000. It is an ambitious goal, but will fund emergency repairs as well as capital improvements long needing attention. A big "thank you!" to those who have generously donated, bringing our total to \$55,165, a little more than a third of the way there. ***But we must be honest that the need continues to be great.***

Projects include: **Roof** and guttering (contractor selected and replacement scheduled late December); inside **ceiling** water damage; two **air conditioner** motors out (replaced); exterior emergency **doors**; saltwater intrusion into portions of the **electrical system** (repaired); a non-functioning kitchen **cooler**; damage to **furniture** and cabinets; restoration of **terrazzo** flooring; creating a concrete water diversion barrier at the perimeter of the parking lot (complete).

Last but certainly not least is the **restoration** of our 67-year-old historic **dance floor**. The maple hardwood boards continue to slowly dry out, reducing the buckling and warping evident after the flooding.

We have sought out a contractor who specializes in restoration--not replacement--of historic floors like ours. He believes ours is a good candidate, being crafted from high quality maple. Some new wood will be required, but amazingly, we went into the club attic and--lo and behold--found two usable bundles of the **original maple** floor boards, extras from the original 1957 installation! So, we're hopeful that we'll be able to bring St. Pete's most beautiful dance floor back to life!

So, slowly--but surely--the work continues as we work toward a club re-opening sometime later this winter. There are several of our favorite polka bands at the ready to help us celebrate.

Why is restoration so important? The Polish American Society is one of the last standing traditional social clubs in St. Petersburg. It has been designated a Historic Landmark by the city council, and has served not only to preserve Polish traditions, but as a community gathering spot, making the nearby Old Southeast one of the few neighborhoods with such a unique resource.

So, in this season of giving, please consider supporting our mission to give the club life for another 70 years! If you've already contributed--or want to increase your previous gift--thank you! Just think of what the club has meant to you these past years, *and what it could offer to future generations.*

Join with other members, friends and neighbors who've contributed. Their names appear below, for whom we're deeply grateful.

Just click on the **"Yes! I'll Help!"** button, or mail a check if you prefer. Thank you. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

--Polish American Society Board of Directors

### CLUB RESTORATION FUND DRIVE

to make repairs to the club!

**Goal: \$150,000 - raised so far: \$55,165**

- **Our historic, 67-year-old building remains structurally sound, but the historic storms Helene and Milton completely flooded the building and caused major damage to the dance floor, roof, ceiling and appliances, and much more.**
- **But we are not despairing, we're rebuilding! And need your help!**

You can support via credit or debit card with the [link](#) below. If you prefer to mail us a check, please make it out to  
"Polish American Society" c/o  
Tom Rokosz, 7131 Whittlebury Tr, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

[Yes! I'll help!](#)

Add your name to this list! Donors of \$100 or more will be acknowledged in a giving tree plaque, displayed at the club.

### Our deepest thanks to these current contributors:

#### \$25,000 - Polish Angel

#### \$10,000 - Founder

Anonymous, Tom Rokosz

#### \$5,000 - Protector

Jeff Fleming, Don & Alice Kohler

#### \$2,500 - Benefactor

Larry & Laine Bagby

#### \$1,000 - Patron

Jim & MaryJane Fowkes, Thomas Galbraith, Clifford & Patricia Hickok, Roger & Ruth Jimenez, Mark & Joan Johnson, Paul & Susan Kohler, Stephanie Martin, Ed Rygula, in memory of Joan Rygula, Joe & Donna Smolinski, Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance

#### \$500 - Supporter

Anonymous, Jerry Carreno & Pam Gilzow, International Polka Assn, Tom & Sue Jennings, Robert Karczewski, Mark & JoAnn Kohler, David Muczynski, David Obremski, Frank & Jean Stojak, James Thaler

#### \$250 - Contributor

Edward D. Fergus, Chris & Greg Filipowicz, Glenn Gabrielle, Jerry & Darlene Kender, John and Christy Krawisz, Linda Kremkau, Amy Krill, Gerald & Carole Kryk, Richard Kurdziel, Louis Lyman, Mike and Ann Marie Matousek, Roger Telschow & Frances Gatz,  
Polish National Alliance

#### \$100 - Friend

Marilyn Chaffin, Bill Dahl, Albert Drexler, Jack & Diana Grados, Eric

Pamela Lindemann, Elizabeth Lindzy, John Lober, Josh Looper, Allen Loyd, Francine Michel, Erin Miller, Mark Pienkos, Pamela Reeder, Ronald Smarch, Betsy Troy, Bob Van Goor, Carrie Waite, Lisa Wolfe, Ray Wolski

**to \$99 - Teammate**

Christine Barker, Amy Baxter, Andrew Foertsch, Mary McClead, Robin O'Dell, Victoria Paradise, Deborah Robertson, JoEllen Schilke, Audrey Sendrowski, Nick and Kara Weaver

**Yes! I'll help!**



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Instagram

Our mailing address is:

**1343 Beach Drive SE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701**

For club information, please call: **(727) 894-9908**

Website: [polishsociety.org](http://polishsociety.org) | Email: [polishsociety1951@gmail.com](mailto:polishsociety1951@gmail.com)

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