



How We Began
Recollections of Past CPA President
Helenrae Budzilek

(That's Helenrae right with her daughter
Carli)

When the CPA started I was 15 so I was not part of the meetings as a member. I do remember the hustle and bustle and the excitement of those involved at the inception. I was always involved in Polka Music due to my Dad (I even sang on TV with him when I was 4 - he was a brave man!) so I didn't think much of a group of people getting together making plans for something big. There was plenty of conversation about the direction of the club. The dedication to get the CPA off the ground is evident as they were able to start having meetings, recruiting members and even having a Christmas Party in the first year.

I'm lucky enough to have found a-bit of CPA history while going through my Dad's archives so I thought it would be a cool piece of history to follow Mike and Linda's (editor's note: Helenrae is referencing Mike and Linda Pezo, founding members' article found in the January issue of this newsletter) lead into how the CPA started. I have the meeting notes which look to be from the first general meeting, and the State of Ohio Articles of Incorporation I wish it could bring back memories to all who were there however that group is getting smaller so to those who were present from the beginning, thank you for your love and dedication to the music we love.

I know today's Officers will mark the 50th Anniversary with the style, class and same pride as those Officers who preceded them, especially the original 5!

(Editor's note: the documents Helenrae referenced can be found on the CPA website at this link: <https://www.cpapolkas.com/50-year-anniversar>. The page will continue to evolve with new content. Also, in April, the Massillon Knight's Foundation will be hosting a dance in honor of Helenrae's late father, Ray Budzelik. Keep an eye out for more info. Thank you, Helenrae!)