



## Meet your CPA Officers and Board

### 5 Questions for Trustee Ken Piechowski

That's Ken During a Trip to Greenland

***When did you join the CPA and how long have you been a Trustee?***

I've been a member of the CPA for almost 40 years. I recently came across some photos of myself supervising the kid's games at a 1983 CPA picnic. I wasn't always as involved as I am now but I kept my membership renewed. I began as a polka ambassador in 2018 then about 9 months later became a trustee. It's an honor to be part of the board and I am humbled to be in the company of such a dedicated, creative, intelligent group of people. I'm always amazed at all the hard work, effort and time they contribute to make our events as enjoyable as possible.

***What would you say is your favorite annual polka event?***

I really enjoy our CPA Christmas party. It's so festive, people are all in the Christmas spirit, everyone is dressed up, our CPA choir sings koledy and the food is always delicious. A truly memorable time!

***What sparked your interest in polkas?***

I was born into a polka loving family. I have old home movies from the time I was 4 years old dancing with my Busia, aunts and my Mom. We always had polkas playing at our family gatherings. I grew up to the tunes of Lil Wally, Ray Budzilek and Stan Wolowic. My Mom taught me how to do the Chicago hop when I was a teenager. It became a routine for my family to go to the Brookstate Inn after a wedding. I loved the atmosphere and the wonderful music. I was hooked. Polkas have been a part of my Polish heritage and I was taught at an early age to be proud of my ethnicity. Polka dancing is also a fun form of heart healthy aerobics.

***Who were some of your favorite polka bands or individual performers from your past?***

That's a hard question to answer as I enjoyed most polka bands. I followed Marion Lush when I first got involved with polkas. I also had a special affinity for Scrubby and his Dynatones and Frank Liszka's TBC.

***I understand you have done quite a bit of traveling! What is a place you remember with special fondness and why?***

I have two especially memorable places: Australia and Greenland. Australia's people are very welcoming and personable. The cities such as Melbourne and Sydney have a special charm. I'm very big into animals and wildlife so it was a special treat to feed kangaroos from my hand, hold a koala in my arms and see the Tasmanian devil and platypus up close in their natural environment. Greenland's scenery is breathtaking. The air is so fresh you could actually feel it in your lungs. Watching humpback whales in the water and viewing colonies of puffins in their rookeries was spectacular. Greenland has few tourists other than Scandinavians so there are no crowds, long lines or traffic.