

Ann S. Bankowski, B.A., M.S.W., was born in Detroit and grew up in Dearborn in a very active Polonian family, where she learned Polish and was raised in a patriotic, Polish-Catholic culture, among several generations of Polish immigrants. She received a B.A from the University of Detroit and a Masters in Social Work from Wayne State University. She worked as a professional social worker in various settings, often assisting Polish immigrants.

While raising 3 children, she and her husband Wladyslaw continued the tradition of instilling a love of Polish language and heritage in the home. They all speak the language fluently, have travelled to Poland, and strongly identify with their heritage. For over 20 years Ann was a teacher of Polish language at a Saturday school and earned the designation of scout master in the Polish Scouting Organization, while leading a Hamtramck based brownie troop and many camps with that organization, as well as taking on the role of leader of the Girls Division of PSO in Michigan in 2019. From 1999- 2018 she worked for Wayne State University School of Medicine as a research interviewer and then project coordinator of a number of studies in their population-based cancer research program.

Since retirement she has been active in Polish American Congress-Michigan, serving as its president since 2015, and serves on the board of Friends of Polish Art, the Orchard Lake Schools Board of Regents, the OLS Seminary Board, and currently serves on the Trustees Board of the Polish Institute of Culture and Research.

She and her husband have been married 50 years, are members of St. Genevieve parish in Livonia, and are the proud grandparents of four.