



IPA Newsletter

A Note From Our President

The National Polka Month of January was very busy for the IPA. We had a very successful Festival of Bands weekend on January 18th and 19th. Saturday night was excellent, with Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push making their Annual Trek to the Chicago Land area. Then, on Sunday, we had six great bands from the Chicago Area. Music was featured by: Polka Generations, EZ Tones, Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze, Music Company, Honky 1740, and the IPA Tribute Band. All the bands did a great job. We also had a fundraiser for the St. Petersburg Polish Club, which was damaged due to a hurricane last year. We raised \$230 for the club, and the IPA matched the donation to \$460. We also would like to thank all the officers and directors of the CPA, USPA, TAPS, Let's Polka USA, PRCU in Wyandotte, Polka Jammer Network, and Polka Radio for attending and supporting the weekend.

We recently released the schedule of bands for the 57th Annual IPA Festival and Convention Labor Day Weekend in Cranberry Twp., PA. The bands selected to perform at this year's schedule are Polka Country Musicians, The Natural Talent, Eddie Forman Orchestra, Frankie Liszka's Blue Magic, IPA Tribute Band, Klancnik and Friends, The Music Company, Dennis Polisky's Maestro's Men, Michael Costa and the Beat, Polka Family Band, Twin Cities Soundz, Mon Valley Push, John Stevens' Doubleshot and Special Guest Appearance by Mollie B. In addition, I will once again be running a fundraiser for the Cranberry Elks Veterans Committee on Thursday, August 28th, with the Alex Mexiner Band. Hotel reservations should be available shortly!

I will be making the trip to Ludlow, MA, for the 19th annual IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Dance. This year, the Dynatones will be performing on Saturday, March 8th, and then on Sunday, there will be a recognition honoring the music of the G-Notes. Music will also be provided by Lenny Gomulka, Piatkowski Brothers, and the Baltic Boys. I had a great time last year at this annual tradition, and we are really looking forward to the weekend in Ludlow.

Then, next week, I will be heading back to Chicago for the 13th Annual Unity Dance with the Let's Polka USA Organization. We will host the IPA Tribute Band with special guest vocalist John Gora. We are looking forward to this event as well.

If you are in the Western PA or Ohio area, the IPA and the USPA are partnering to sponsor a Western PA Unity Dance on Saturday, April 26th, featuring LiveWire from Wisconsin. This dance will be held at Western PA's Polka Hotspot, Kinloch Firehall, right north of Pittsburgh, PA. You can find all the details the information will be

found on the IPA Website.

As we look forward, we will be hosting two dances in Wisconsin this year. Join us on Sunday, April 6th, 2025, in Green Bay, WI, with the Steve Meisner Legacy Band. Then, the IPA will host a Polka Weekend on October 25th and 26th. These dances will be held at the Townline Pub and Grille in Suamico, WI. For more information, please check out our website at <https://www.ipapolkas.com>.

Does your organization or festival want to be sponsored by the IPA? The IPA sets aside yearly money to promote and support polka dances and events. All you need to do is go to <https://www.ipapolkas.com> and click About the IPA and "Sponsorship Opportunities." Just submit the data, and our Sponsorship team will take it from there.

Respectfully,

Chris



Save the Date

The Wisconsin IPA Polka Weekend is moving to October 25th & 26th, 2025.

Same great location: Townline Pub & Grill 2544 Lineville Rd, Suamico, WI 54313

Watch [ipapolkas.com](https://www.ipapolkas.com) and social media for more details and band line up coming soon.

Save the Date

It's Always Sunny in Florida...

Witamy członków!

Hope to see you at one of our upcoming Florida Dyngus Day polka parties. The Polka All Stars will be on the beach at Crabby Bill's Bar & Grill, and the Florida Generations Band will be performing at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg. These will surely be memorable events you won't want to miss! Remember... **EVERYONE'S Polish on Dyngus Day!**

FL Musician Spotlight:

This month, I would like to feature IPA Lifetime member Freddy "K" Kendzierski. He was born in The Bronx, New York, and has been a fixture in the polka scene for over thirty-five years. He began taking accordion lessons when he was seven years old and started his first band at the age of fifteen (with his neighbor Rich Sobizenski). That was the start of "Freddy K Band!" In the beginning, they played at local bars, clubs, and special events, and Freddy also filled in with various local bands such as Bernie Goydish, Pennsylvania Merry Makers, Johnny Stavins, and Krygier Brothers.

Freddy met his wife Linda in 1968 at "The Polonka" in Dover, New Jersey, at a Happy Louie dance, and they were married in October of 1970. Soon after that came the birth of their daughter Diana in December 1971 and Freddy Jr. in April 1974. Adding to the family fun, Freddy and Linda also started to arrange Polka bus trips and even a few Polka cruises so fans could attend the band performances.

During the 1970s, the band was featured in 16 states, including all of the major polka festivals throughout the country, and recorded the first album titled, "It's Polka Time." Freddy also started to become a polka promoter along with Roger Lichwala of "The New Brass". They ran several IPA benefit dances at "The Polonka" in addition to donating their talent playing for various charity events.

One of Freddy's proudest moments happened in 1992 when his son, Freddy Jr., joined the band full time as a well-skilled trumpet player. He quickly became one of the rising young stars in the polka industry. Fantastic memories were made as the band continued to become very popular. Then, an unimaginable tragedy struck in July of 1997 when Freddy Jr. died in an automobile accident. To honor his memory, Freddy and Linda started "The Freddy K. Jr. Music Scholarship Fund", (which was suggested

by close friend and band member, Joe Dziuba). With the help of Bernie Goydish, fellow musicians, DJs and wonderful polka fans, over \$20,000 was raised. To date, they have endowed 28 young musicians graduating from high school with \$1,000 scholarships to use towards their college education.



By Brad Turk

Freddy's contributions and accomplishments include serving as IPA Vice President and Director for over 30 years, being on the Hall of Fame Committee for 6 years, co-organizing IPA Hall of Fame Dances with Ed Szela for 14 years, and being inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2005. Some of the greatest hits from his 12 albums are "1-2-3 Polka with Me", "Two Mike's" polka, "I Play Music on the Squeezebox", and "Remember When" polka.

Freddy retired from playing in 1997 and moved to Bonita Springs, Florida, in 2017. He continues to share his love for polkas by attending festivals, but Linda is now the lucky one who still gets to enjoy him playing his impressive 1966 custom-built Bell-Sano accordion at home. Once a musician, always a musician.

I would like to personally thank Freddy K. for ALL he has achieved and contributed over the years to the IPA association and the entire Polka music industry!



Please continue to support our clubs & bands:

Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach is having Polka dances at **(NEW LOCATION) SNPJ Lodge #603 421 North Samsula Drive, New Smyrna Beach:** March 2nd Jim Wicks Duo, March 16th KeyTones, March 30th Polka All Stars, April 13th Jim Wicks Duo, April 27th Brewski Brothers, May 4th Polka All Stars, May 11th TBD, May 18th Brewski Brothers. For dinner reservations, call Irene (386)-258-7059. Please join their Facebook page to see additional dates that are in the process of being added to the calendar. You can also contact the club at (386)258-7059.

General K. Pulaski Citizens Club in Belleview next dance is March 16th Northern Sounds, April 20th Polka All Stars, May 11th Frank Moravcik from Ohio, and June 8th Northern Sounds. Please contact Brad for more info.

SNPJ Lodge #603 in Samsula. For additional info call (386) 428-3983 or visit their website: www.samsulasnpjlodge603.com. Join their Facebook page, *SNPJ Lodge 603*. The Official site for events is snpjldodge603@gmail.com.

Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach. For all events, please join their Facebook page, visit their website www.pacvbusa.org, call the club at (772)-778-0039, or email them at pascverobeach@gmail.com.

Polish American Society of St. Petersburg. The Club will be having its **GRAND OPENING** on March 23rd with the

Northern Sounds, March 30th Gone Coastal, April 6th Polka All Stars, April 13th Florida Generations, April 21st Dyngus Day with Florida Generations 5-8pm, and April 27th with Northern Sounds. Please visit their website, www.polishsociety.org, and join their FB page. For dinner reservations, call Rita (727)-347-7944, club (727)-894-9908, or Jim (727)-214-8972 for more info. Dinner at 2pm Dancing 3-6pm.

Polka Events:

March 1st: Jimmy Sturr Band @ Polish American Social Club Inc., 343 Prima Vista Blvd, Port St. FL. Dance at noon. For info. call (854)-651-4266.

April 21st: Dyngus Day at The Original Crabby Bill's featuring Polka All Stars. 401 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach FL. Call (727)-595-4825. Water balloons start at 12 noon, with music!

Please support Florida's Polka IJ's. Featured on the Polka Jammer Network, 2009 IPA Hall of Famer **Joe Oberaitis** with *Polkas 101* (Sat.), and *Slovenian Polka Blast* (Thur.) IPA member **Ray Skorka** can be heard on *Crankin' Polkas* (Fri.).

If you would like any additional information about our clubs, polka dances or special events, email me at bradturk@cox.net or call the **Polka Hot Line:** (352) 875-3961. **Please continue to support LIVE polka music and our clubs!**

Wesołego Alleluja!



2025 IPA Newsletter Schedule

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline for Submissions</u>
June - July 2025	April 15, 2025
August - September 2025	June 15, 2025
October - November 2025	August 15, 2025
December 2025 - January 2026	October 15, 2025



PRCUA #162 Sacred Heart of Jesus Society

Presents

The 7th Annual

POLKA BENEFIT DANCE

Proceeds Benefit The American Heart Association

Featuring Music by



Admission: \$25

Saturday, April 26, 2025

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Music from 6:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

PRCUA Hall

1430 Oak Street Wyandotte, MI 48192

Share the Wealth Raffles

Polish Kitchen - Cash Bar - No B.Y.O.B.

Hotel Info: Comfort Inn & Suites (734) 287-9200

For Additional Information Contact:

Staś Pasko (313) 815-5230

John Zelasko Sr. (734) 558-9457



Featuring "2:15", "Why Did He Die", "Six Beers In",
"Secret Agent Man", "My Heart, Your Heart" and more!

Available now for purchase at
PolkaConnection.com or JimmyKPolkas.com



or where ever polka CDs are
sold, downloaded or streamed!

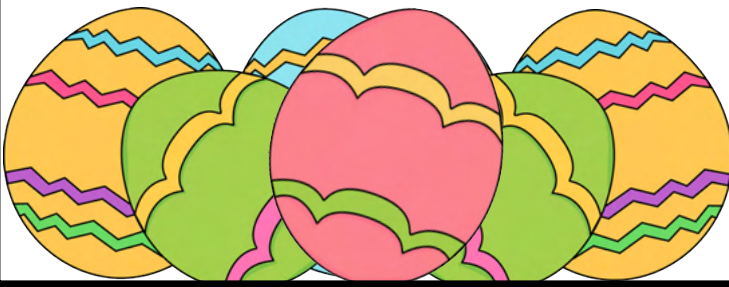
*thank
you*

Thomas Rokosz, FL
Ron & Eileen Zywickiel, IL
Catherine Hartenbower, IL



New Members

Jim Wicks, FL
Raymond Sadusky, PA
Betty Waypa, CT
Frank Mikl, IL
Laura Manke, WI
Jennifer Smith, MI
Lillian Schmidt, MI
Robert Anthony Lopez, MO



Is your Membership Current?

You can complete your
membership renewal on
the IPA website
and pay your
membership fee using

zelle



New Lifetime Members

Patrick Henry Cukierka, IL
Matt Lewandowski, NY
Catherine Hartenbower, IL

It's Here Again!

**We are so excited to
announce the 6th Annual...**



What's BRAND NEW?

- There is **NO MINIMUM** age limit. The competition is now open to all ages up to thirty-nine (39) years of age as of the July 1st, 2025 deadline.

What's still the same?

- It is open to amateur and professional songwriters of any polka genre.
- In our continued efforts to keep the competition as fair as possible, composers are limited to submitting only one song of their own, plus one additional song as a co-writer. So pick your best song and share it with the polka world!
- Remember, the first-place winner will receive one thousand (\$1,000) dollars! The second-place winner will receive one hundred (\$100) dollars. You have nothing to lose!

More information will be coming soon on the IPA website (www.IPApolkas.com) where you can submit your songs.



POLKA FIREWORKS

50TH ANNIVERSARY



SEVEN SPRINGS, PA • JULY 2-5, 2025



A POLKA PARTY AND A RESORT VACATION

WEDNESDAY JULY 2ND

Welcome Party
feat. Ryan Joseph (from Nashville) and
his All-Star Jam Band

THURSDAY JULY 3RD

Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push (MA)
Frank Liszka's Blue Magic (PA)
The Beat (NJ)

FRIDAY JULY 4TH

41st Annual Litwin Concertina Jam
Buffalo Concertina All-Stars (NY)
The DynaBrass (OH)
Crusade featuring Eddie Biegaj (OH)
John Gora & Gorale' (CAN)

SATURDAY JULY 5TH

Volleyball Tournament
feat. "Live Music" at the courts
provided by The DynaBrass
Larry Trojak's "Live It Up!" (MN)
The Maestro's Men (MA)
Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push (MA)
Polka Family (PA)

ADMISSIONS PRICING

Wednesday		\$10
Thursday	Adults \$25, Teens (13-17)	\$10
Friday	Adults \$30, Teens	\$10
Saturday	Adults \$30, Teens	\$10

Children 12 and under FREE if accompanied by an adult



The #1 Polka Party 50 Years & Counting



SEVEN SPRINGS

Seven Springs Mountain Resort
Champion, PA
855.947.0438
7springs.com



POLKAFIREWORKS.COM

FOR RESERVATIONS

Call (855) 947-0438 and ask for
"Polka Fireworks room rates"—
or use Group Code: **B7SPOL25**
rooms starting as low as \$155 for
Queen Lodge accommodations



SAVE THE DATE



57th Annual International Polka Association Festival and Convention

August 28th, 2025 – 7 -10 pm Kick Off Party
At the Cranberry Elks Lodge – Band TBD

August 29th – 31st, 2025
Labor Day Weekend
Double Tree by Hilton Hotel – Pittsburgh Cranberry
724-776-6900

4 Fun-filled days of Polka Entertainment by:

Polka Country Musicians, The Natural Talent, Eddie Forman Orchestra, Frankie Liszka's Blue Magic, IPA Tribute Band, Klancnik and Friends, The Music Company, Dennis Polisky's Maestro's Men, Michael Costa and the Beat, Polka Family Band, Twin Cities Soundz, Mon Valley Push, John Stevens Polka Band and Special Guest Appearance by Mollie B
(Bands subject to change)

Welcome Party, Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet, Pool Parties, Polka Mass, Election of Officers and Directors, and much more!



More details and information to follow.
Visit our website: www.ipapolkas.com

Be sure to listen to the IPA Radio Show:
Polka Jammer Network
Sunday's 11 am to 12 pm (CT)



\$1000 FREDDY K JR

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The **Freddy K Jr. Music Scholarship Committee** is now accepting requests for applications for the 2025 Scholarship award. Applicants must be high school seniors who have been accepted to an accredited college and play a musical instrument. Anyone interested in applying for this year's award can download an application on our website at www.freddykjrmusicscholarship.com or contact the Scholarship Committee at the following address:

The Freddy K Jr. Scholarship Fund
23850 Via Italia Circle, Apt #1104
Bonita Springs, Florida 34134

Freddy K Jr. played trumpet in his father's band, **The Freddy K Band**, when he died in an automobile accident in July of 1997. Music, especially Polka Music, was Fred's life and passion. His personality, sense of humor, and love of Polka Music affected all who knew him. The Music Scholarship Fund was set up to carry on where Fred left off by promoting polka music through the gift of a \$1,000 Scholarship to a deserving student every year. Each award will be given at one of the Polka Festivals during the summer.

WINNERS OF \$1000 SCHOLARSHIPS

2024 - Nicole Mrozinski, Hugo, Minnesota

- 2023 – Holly Rose Kolodziej Scarfone, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
- 2022 – Sebastian Pucowski, Hackettstown, New Jersey
- 2021- Syrena Prytko, Millbury, Massachusetts
- 2020 – Lucas Yash, Webster, Massachusetts
- 2019 – Emma Bogdan, Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania
- 2018 – Zachary Piatkowski, Canastota, New York
- 2017 – Veronica Prytko, Millbury, Massachusetts
- Joseph Blackburn, Troy, New York
- 2016 – Olivia Piatkowski, Canastota, New York
- 2015 – Adam Winiarz, Norton, Massachusetts
- 2014 – Jenna Libera, Charlton, Massachusetts
- 2013 – Eva Snyder, South Hadley, Massachusetts
- 2012 – Justin Kohan, Orchard Park, New York
- 2011 – Stephen Piatkowski, Canastota, New York
- 2010 - Kassandre Dardzinski, Saugus, Massachusetts and
Anita Marie Thomas, Balto, Maryland
- 2009 – David Raccis, Wilbreham, Massachusetts
- 2008 – Christopher Wanyo, Shillington, Pennsylvania
- 2007 – Kevin Martin, Hudson, New Hampshire
- 2006 – Lanelle Raccis, Wilbreham, Massachusetts
- 2005 – Nick Koryluk, Hicksville, New York
- 2004 – Michael D. Riel, II, Chicopee, Massachusetts
- 2003 – Ryan Ogrodny, White Oak, Pennsylvania
- 2002 – Brian Romianik, Millville, New Jersey
- 2001 – Melissa Mocadlo, Stevens Point, Wisconsin
- 2000 – Andrew Krystopolski, Wilmington, Delaware
- 1999 – William Lomnychuk, Reading, Pennsylvania
- 1998 – John Daigle, Chicopee, Massachusetts

Patrick Henry Presents!

Chula Vista
Resort

Wisconsin Dells Polka Fest! #13 & Expo!

May 9, 10 & 11, 2025

A Great Weekend of Family FUN!

Friday: 6pm-1am, Saturday: 12pm-1am, Sunday: 12pm-5pm



Mother's Day with Mollie B and SqueezeBox
+ Michael Costa & The Beat!



SqueezeBox with Mollie B & Ted Lange

from Wisconsin - Saturday & Sunday

Polka Country Musicians

from Connecticut - Friday & Saturday



Michael Costa & The Beat Farewell Tour

from New Jersey - Saturday & Sunday

Alex Meixner Band

from Texas - Saturday

Craig Ebel & DyVersaCo

from Minnesota - Saturday

TNT - The Natural Talent

from Wisconsin - Friday

Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze

From Illinois - Friday

The Saturday Morning Monster Jam!

Polish/English Catholic Mass - Polka Dancing Lessons - Jam Sessions!

Weekend AMTRAK Trip Available! 2 Trains Daily! Fly into Milwaukee!

Band line-up and other events subject to change without notice.

For general festival information:

Call Patrick Henry at (773)889-6811 or e-mail: info@dellspolkafest.com

www.dellspolkafest.com

Chula Vista Resort, 2501 River Road, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

Weekend Package Available:

Only \$172 p/p Double Occupancy

Single Occupancy \$311+ tax & resort fee.

Includes:

2-Nights at Chula Vista Resort

Buffet Breakfast Saturday &

Sunday in the Market Fresh Buffet.

Breakfast Gratuity included.

Polka Fest Tickets NOT included.

*Each additional adult, \$16.50 /day + tax.

*Each additional child 3-15, \$12 /day + tax.

*Upgrades available for additional \$.

Room only prices starting at \$139/night.

Thursday or Sunday night only \$69!

Waterpark pass only \$10/person per day.

Call Chula Vista Resort directly at:

(877)624-0685 promo code:

K48899 - Polka Fest 2025

Discount code is not available online.

Rate Guaranteed until 04/10/25

Admission: Fri: \$25, Sat: \$30, Sun: \$20

Weekend Pass: \$65, Kids Under 18: Free! with guardian. Plus Tax where applicable.

Huge Dance Floor By: Russ Napiwocki!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- 1st – Helenrae Budzilek
- 2nd – Joseph Witek
- 3rd – Dustin Ager
- 4th – Timothy Haselow;
Mary Lou Czerniak
- 5th – Steven Smith;
David Straup Slick
- 7th – Betty Downey;
Barbara Ann Adams
- 8th – Tom Reznickervitz; Carol Lash Budzyn;
Jerry Soliwoda
- 9th – Michelle Genrich; Sara Zelasko;
Cindy Loring
- 10th – Valerie Janson
- 11th – Roger Malinowski; Paul Chichin
- 13th – Louella Kundert;
- 14th – George Walker; Larry Trojak;
Debbie Horoschock
- 15th – Daniel Prigge
- 16th – Tamara Waner; Debbie Rutkowski

- 17th – Mack Martin; Tyler Zawatski;
Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk;
Diane Nowakowski
- 18th – Peter Wendlinger; Jackie Libera;
Dave Slivinski
- 19th – Mitch Gorz
- 20th – Michael Blaskowski; Walter Ostanek
- 21st – Tootsie Sobolak
- 22nd – Johnetta Vinka; Susan Krysa;
Phyllis Ripley
- 23rd – Brian Szumigalski; David Heise
- 25th – Janice Dziagwa Vincent; Marie Brado;
Robert Gawryla; Sally Rzeszutko;
Brian Urbanczyk
- 26th – Phyllis Videtich
- 27th – Michael Schrader; Jeff Powaski;
Debbie Rymanowski; Linda Plantz;
Linda Walczynski-Louie
- 28th – Joseph Price; Michael Bednarz;
Eric Kurowski
- 29th – Kim Cielecki; Candice Rebovich;
Stanley Czerminski
- 30th – James Goplin; Geri Chadwick





1st – Matthew Martin; Kimberly Uelmen

2nd – Judy Del Pozzo; Gary Rozak;
John Kostecki

3rd – Jennifer Pietranczyk; Shirley Sherpetis

4th – Stanley Dobrowolski; John Stanky

6th – Frank Gubala; Mashelle Pavey;
Robert Mazur

7th – Ray Pasinski; Richard Kozacko;
Sharon Goldyn; Hadley Kaminski;
Tom Zak

8th – Grace Mikrut; Kevin Oleniczak;
Lorraine "Travers" Truskolaski

9th – Janice Lochner; Colleen Van Ells;
Dan Bizon

10th – Mike Surratt; Jill Czerniak;
David Nowatzki; Bini Husain;
Lenny Zielinski

11th – Eleanor Grudi; Bill Horodecki

12th – Minnie Florio; Chester Sterczek

13th – Julia Figura, Connie Shemansky;
Bob Raica;

14th – Stacey Morris; Carolyn Blajda

15th – Krystin Benkowski; Bryan Koslosky;
Darlene Arneson; Patricia Kaminsky;
Dorothy Styczynski

16th – Christopher Bogdon; Eddie Korosa, Jr.;
Bob Zukowski; Bob Wojtowicz

17th – Linda Chesky-Fernandes; Mary Leja;
John Smagowicz; Tom Haslett;
Laura Manke

18th – Larry Stec; Fran Russo; Alex Vinecki;
Tracy Kapka

19th – Stan Soltys; Mindi Tietz

21st – Edwin Rajewski; Mitch Biskup

22nd – Raymond Skorka; Linda Kendzierski;
Scott Davenport; Paul Chojnacki;
Harold Otto

23rd – Ruth Lietz; Joan Stepzinski;
Matthew Gregg

24th – Mary Saber; Ron Palkowski;
John Rogers

25th – Robyn Mrozinski; Jim Letnick;

26th – Timothy Winiarz;
Thomas Lewandowski

27th – Rick Zarek, Jane Piotrowski

28th – Pauline Adelman; Gina Gomulka;
Eileen Knopick

29th – Martin Olshanski; Peter Siuda;
Bonnie Sergel; Kim Hedrich;
Andy Bojczuk

30th – Ricky Krew

31st – Bill Popek; Christopher Kovalcik





2025 International Polka Association Festival and Convention



5th Annual Kick-Off Polka Party

Thursday, August 28th, 2025

Grammy Award Winner, IPA Hall of Famer

Alex Meixner Band



Music from 7:00pm to 10:00pm

Doors Open at 6:00pm

Tickets: \$20 per person

Limited Number of Tickets Available for this Performance

Cranberry Elks Lodge #2249

20720 Route 19

Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

**All proceeds benefit the Veterans
Commission of the Elks Lodge #2249**

Food and Drinks will be available for purchase! No BYOB!

For tickets, table reservations, or more information contact:
Chris Bogdon - 412-260-9725 or chris@westernpapolkas.com

*For more information about the 57th Annual IPA Polka Festival and Convention
in Cranberry Twp., please see <https://www.ipapolkas.com>*

IPA/USPA Western PA Unity Dance



Saturday, April 26th, 2025

Featuring

LIVEwire

(Wisconsin)



Music from 5:00pm to 9:00pm

Doors Open at 4:00pm

Tickets: \$20 per person

Kinloch Firehall

915 New York Ave

New Kensington, PA 15068

All proceeds benefit IPA and USPA

Food and Drinks will be available for purchase! No BYOB!

**For tickets, table reservations or more information contact:
Chris Bogdon - 412-260-9725 or chris@westernpapolkas.com**

Cindy Fisher – 216-299-0934

24th Annual Polka Mania

The Hammond Mohawks

4040 Calumet Avenue
Hammond, IN
(219) 933-9823

Sunday, June 8, 2025

Gates open at 11:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

\$20.00 - Adults

Under 12 - Free

Authentic Polish Food, Desserts, and Beverages
Plus, Raffles and Polish Memorabilia
Available at an Additional Cost

Absolutely no BYOB or BYOF

Continuous
Music

FEATURING...

**Lenny Gomulka and
The Chicago Push**

AND...

**THE
POLKA FAMILY
BAND**



For Additional Information Contact: Alan Pala - (219) 677-3586

2024 Freddy K Jr. Scholarship Award Winner, Nicole Mrozinski

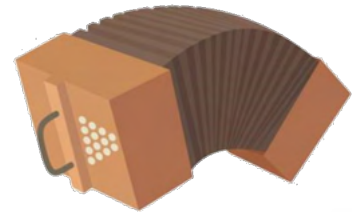
Nicole Mrozinski of Hugo, Minnesota, was the recipient of the Freddy K. Jr. Scholarship Award for 2024. She is the daughter of Pete and Robyn Mrozinski, and she accepted her check for \$1,000 this past summer. Nicole plays concertina, guitar, piano, drums, and bass and is the concertina player with the Twin Cities Soundz Polka band. She also maintained greenhouse plants, assisted in teaching dance classes, and helped train horses and give lessons at Lefever Training Centre. She has also been hired to show several different horses at highly competitive horse shows.

Nicole is the fourth generation in her family to play in a polka band. This past year marked the 80th year that her family has been involved in Polka music. As you can see, Nicole was an exceptional choice by our Judges this year.

The Freddy K. Jr. Music Scholarship Committee is now accepting requests for applications for the 2025 Scholarship award. Applicants must be high school seniors who have been accepted to an accredited college and play a musical instrument. The award is presented at the Polka Festival of their choice each summer.

Anyone interested in applying for the scholarship award can contact the Scholarship Committee at:

The Freddy K. Jr. Scholarship Fund
23850 Via Italia Circle, Apt #1104
Bonita Springs, Florida 34134



IPA Acknowledges Marv Nissel for 70 years of Preserving and Advancing the Polka Music Industry

Submitted by Lori Nissel Lachner

Marv Nissel (age 86) played his first dance job on concertina in 1953 at the age of 15. From New Ulm, Minnesota, a city rich in German-style polka music, Marv had the honor of performing with various bands such as Fezz Fritsche (1984 Hall of Fame Inductee) & The Goosetown Band, Lester Schuft & The Country Dutchmen, and Cliff Hermel (2014 Hall of Fame Inductee) and his Polka Party Band. One of Marv's most impressive honors was his performance for Vice President Hubert Humphrey at his campaign dance in Waverly, Minnesota, in 1968.

In 1978, Marv and his wife, Carol, started The Marv Nissel Band, which quickly became one of the most sought-after polka bands in the Midwest. In 1987, the Minnesota Ballroom Operators Association (MBOA) awarded the band as the "No. 1 Variety Band" for the State of Minnesota. Between 1981 and 2002, the band won MBOA awards 11 years for their outstanding contribution to the ballroom industry. During the mid-1990's, The Marv Nissel Band appeared at over 170 jobs annually and traveled nationally.

For over 40 years Marv taught concertina lessons to hundreds of students. In addition, he has handwritten over 500 arrangements for the concertina. Since 1995, The Marv Nissel Band has had a weekly radio show on AM 860 KNUJ. In 2005, Marv was inducted into the World Concertina Congress. In 2024, the band released Volume 28 entitled "Homecoming." Also, Marv is a 2025 Inductee into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame.

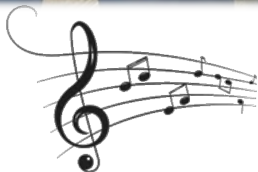
2000 Hall of Fame Inductee Al Piatkowski presented Marv with a "Certificate of Appreciation" January 25, 2025, at the 46th Annual Concertina Bowl in Blaine, Minnesota. Marv has performed in 21 states, traveled over a million miles, and for the past 70 years preserved and advanced the polka music industry. Congratulations Marv and thank you for your contributions to the music we all love!



Pictured here is Marv's family – his wife Carol, daughter Lori Nissel Lachner, and grandchildren Chris and Lorin Ebel.



2000 Hall of Fame Inductee Al Piatkowski presenting Marv with the IPA Certificate of Appreciation



Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, Inc **YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK...** **AN UPDATE ON RESTORATION REPAIRS**

Ongoing: Club Restoration

In addition to having a brand-new roof and ceiling, our beautiful floating wooden dance floor has been re-stored! A number of new boards had to be replaced. The entire floor was sanded and sealed with three coats of sealant. This week, our terrazzo floors are being cleaned and polished.

Other renovations are ongoing, including painting the kitchen cabinets, working on purchasing a new refrigerator, restoring our chairs, and myriad other items, all painstakingly done by indispensable members of our club like **Roger Telschow, Don and Alice Kohler, Cliff and Pat Hickock, Jim Grinaker, Kim Fin,** and others.

Special thanks go to **Mike Ayers**, a neighbor and building contractor who has donated dozens of hours doing electrical work and using a lift to scale and repair our 28' high flagpoles! Their dedication to the club, coupled with such generous contributions from so many other members and supporters, are a testament to the strength of our Polish American, Polka, and Old Southeast neighborhood communities!

Bill Dahl, a club member and professional photographer, took high resolution photos of the magnificent artwork gracing the walls of the club's dance hall. These images of polka dancers from the various provinces of Poland were hand painted by members **Wilma and Walter Walsek** over 50 years ago. Bill's photos could be used to digitally reproduce any of these paintings should they ever sustain future damage, thus ensuring that the club will never lose these iconic works of art! Thank you, Bill, for your work photographing, formatting, and archiving our history!

So, restoration and repairs are well underway, but we still have much to do and **continue to need your support**. We are using this time that we're closed to upgrade many other things at the club that have needed attention for a long time. Volunteer work is a huge help, but we still need to pay contractors!

Goal: \$150,000 - raised so far: \$79,588

- You can support via credit or debit card with the [link](#) below.
[Club Restoration \(Enter Amount\) - Polish American Society of St Petersburg](#)
- 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

\$1 to \$99-Teammate; \$100-Friend; \$250-Contributor; \$500-Supporter; \$1000-Patron; \$2500-Benefactor;
\$5000-Protector; \$10,000-Founder; \$25,000-Polish Angel



POLKA SUNDAY FUNDAY with the STEVE MEISNER LEGACY BAND



- Band subject to change without notice

Honoring the Memory of IPA Hall of
Fame Members

Vern Meisner (Inducted 1989)

Steve Meisner (Inducted 2019)

Lead by IPA 2021

Leon Kozicki Award Winner

Don Hunjadi

Making a rare appearance in the
Green Bay Area

The IPA is honored to bring the

***STEVE MEISNER
LEGACY BAND***

to the Townline Pub and Grill

2544 Lineville Rd.

Suamico, WI 54313

For more information visit

ipapolkas.com or scan
the code.



Admission

\$15.00

Sunday April 6, 2025

Time 1 – 5

Doors open at 12:30



Come early and stay late to enjoy a
fabulous meal from the Townline Grill

Choose from the wide variety of special
brews or a stacked Bloody Mary



Pittsburgh's Polka Hot Spot

Kinloch Fire Hall

2025 Polka Schedule

Saturday Apr 26 th , 2025	Join the IPA and USPA as we hold a joint dance supporting both organizations LiveWire (from Wisconsin)	5:00pm – 9:00pm \$20.00 per person
Sunday June 8 th , 2025	First Western PA appearance Tony Blazonczyk and New Phaze	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person
Sunday Aug 17 th , 2025	First Appearance at Kinloch Firehall Crusade featuring Eddie Biegaj	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person
Sunday Sept 21 st , 2025	Join us with the Incomparable John Gora and Gorale	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person
Sunday Oct 12 th , 2025	Join us for their final gig in Western PA Michael Costa and the Beat	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person

The schedule is subject to change.

**Kinloch Fire Hall
915 New York Ave
New Kensington, PA 15068**

Food and drinks will be available for purchase. No BYOB!

For table reservations or more information contact:
Chris Bogdon - 412-260-9725 or chris@westernpapolkas.com

***For a list of all polka happenings in Western PA, and sign up for our
mailing list, go to: <https://www.westernpapolkas.com>***

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IPA Newsletter

The "IPA Newsletter" is the official publication of the INTERNATIONAL POLKA ASSOCIATION, INC.®. The "IPA Newsletter" welcomes submissions from readers and will publish them with consideration to space and time requirements. Pictures are welcome but used only when budget and space constraints allow. All items become the property of the IPA. If you would like a photograph returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Editor:

Lynn Kaminski
newsletter@ipapolkas.com

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Membership

Dues are \$15.00 per person for all members. You can also purchase a lifetime membership for only \$200.00 per person. If you would like to join the IPA, please send your check or money order to:

Lynn Kaminski, Financial Secretary
International Polka Association
PO Box 1484
Plainfield, IL 60544
Email: membership@ipapolkas.com

Renew your membership online!
Visit: www.ipapolkas.com/store



Current IPA Officers and Directors

Officers:

President: Chris Bogdon (PA)
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Media Advisor: Keith Pietranczyk (IL)
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Jeff Yash (NY)
John Zelasko (MI)

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Craig Ebel
Jackie Libera
Mike Matousek
Jimmy Weber

Would you like your newsletter emailed to you?

The IPA would like to go green! Help us save money on printing costs and postage. If you would like your newsletter emailed to you, please send an email to: newsletter@ipapolkas.com.



IPA RADIO SHOW



Don't forget to listen to the IPA Radio Show on the Polka Jammer Network on Sundays, 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon Central Time and also available in the Polka Jammer archives. Be sure to tune in! Visit www.polkajammernetwork.org

Each show features IPA officers and directors.

The IPA Radio Show is also broadcast Please call 1-800-TO-POLKA if you are interesting in advertising on the IPA Radio Show.
WE NEED SPONSORS!



Saturday, April 26th - IPA/USPA Western PA Unity Dance
(page 15)

Advertise in the IPA Newsletter

One Issue

Full Page	\$75.00 per issue
Half Page.....	\$55.00 per issue
Quarter Page	\$40.00 per issue
Eighth Page.....	\$25.00 per issue

Three Issues

Full Page	\$67.00 per issue
Half Page.....	\$45.00 per issue
Quarter Page	\$36.00 per issue
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Six Issues

Full Page	\$60.00 per issue
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Eighth Page.....	\$20.00 per issue

DEADLINE FOR June 2025 NEWSLETTER: April 15

Email ad files to Lynn Kaminski using:

newsletter@ipapolkas.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!!

As reminders for membership renewals are mailed out, it would be greatly appreciated if these could be returned **as soon as possible**. Not only are these fees used to allocate printing and mailing expenses, but for various other causes. **So please return your renewals in a timely matter.**

International Polka Association, Inc.®
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1-800-TO-POLKA (1-800-867-6552)
Website: www.ipapolkas.com

