



# IPA Newsletter

## A Note From Our President

It has been a hectic spring, attending as many polka dances as I could, and the IPA was running. Sandy and I started by attending the 19th Annual IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Dance in Ludlow, MA. As always, this was a great event; this year, the Dynatones were featured on Saturday. Then, on Sunday, there was a great tribute to the G-Notes featuring IPA Hall of Famer Johnny Karas. I enjoyed watching Johnny Karas do his emotional tribute to the GNotes. I wanted to thank Ernie Daigle, Patty Daigle, and Peter Danielczuk for once again running this great weekend at Ludlow, MA.

From there, we headed to Chicago to run a dance with the Let's Polka USA Club. This dance featured the IPA Tribute Band and IPA Hall of Famer John Gora. It was at the exact location of our Festival of Bands weekend. Returning to Chicago is always great for enjoying the dances, seeing old friends, and meeting new ones. Thanks to all the officers and directors who helped at the dance.

Finally, we rounded out April by heading to the Green Bay area, where we ran a dance featuring the Steve Meisner Legacy Band. If you ever get a chance, watch this band live. They are continuing the tradition of IPA Hall of Famer Steve Meisner and playing a great mix of music. I wanted to thank Jill

Styczynski, Ashley Mach, and Kevin Mach, who ran the dance.

I'm also excited to announce the **2025 IPA Hall of Fame Selectees**. The following candidates will be inducted into the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame:

**Living Category:** John Krawisz and Mark Janson

**Deceased Category:** Bob Earl and Chester Pala

**Pioneer Category:** Richard Sendra

Congratulations to the excellent IPA Hall of Fame Selectees class. I also want to thank all the Trustees and Electors who had another successful year of voting. In addition, I want to thank Mike Matousek and Jimmy Weber for all they do for the voting process.

Be part of polka history by attending the IPA Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet **on August 30, 2025**, during the 57th Annual IPA Festival and Convention at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh -Cranberry this Labor Day weekend.

Hope to see you soon at another polka dance!

*Chris*



## IPA Hall of Fame Selectees 2025



**Johnny Krawisz**



**Mark Janson**



**Bob Earl, Sr.**



**Chester Pala**



**Richard Sendra**

# It's Always Sunny in Florida...

Witamy członków!

I hope everyone had a wonderful, blessed Easter with family and friends.

Since EVERYONE'S Polish on Dyngus Day...The Polka All Stars were on the beach at Crabby Bill's Original Bar & Grill Monday afternoon. The weather was hot but breezy, with over 300 people and hundreds of squirt guns. There was not a single dry person in the house. I have never seen so much: water balloons, water blasters, super soakers, mega soakers, storm drenchers, motor soakers, and water cannons in my life. What a Dyngus Day! You had to be there to experience the action! I should have brought my Fire Truck to the rescue!

After playing, we all went to St. Pete's Polish American Club to see Gone Coastal. What an AMAZING crowd! The place was standing room only. The Club served over 200 dinners, and the bar ran out of drinks. There were 29 door prizes for their silent auction. It was the Club's largest Dyngus Day event in 8 years. What a great time! These are definitely memorable events that you don't want to miss next year! Make plans to attend them!

## FL Musician Spotlight:

This month, I want to feature IPA and Hall of Fame member Jimmy Weber, who is originally from Western Pennsylvania. Jimmy's interest in polkas began the first time Jimmy went to Fiedor's Grove in Mount Pleasant, PA, to see and hear Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones along with Little Ronnie and the Carousels. He started playing the sax at age twelve in 1970, and at fourteen, he began playing polkas. Learning clarinet, trumpet, concertina, and bass as his polka career progressed, he has been a member of many bands such as the Trel Tones, Joe Fiedor and the Polish All-stars, The Dynasticks, The Brass Connection, Polka Family, and The Knewz. Finally, in 1977, Jimmy formed The Sounds, one of the most popular bands then and now. Don't tell me you don't sing "Those Pennsylvania Hills are calling me home..." while traveling through western Pennsylvania.

That band separated in 1981 due to family commit-

ments. In 1985, Jimmy and the Sounds picked up where the original band left off. From 1985 through 1990, the band grew in popularity and prowess, recording another four albums and racking up additional IPA and USPA awards, as well as two Grammy nominations. Again, in late 1990, the band took a leave of absence.

In 2003, at the request of all of their polka fans, Jimmy reorganized The Sounds. He produced The Sounds Alive Again 2003 Reunion Tour, which included all of the major festivals and events throughout the country. During that year, The Sounds once again demonstrated their polka talents. Despite not being on the stage for thirteen years, Polka fans got more "Pounds of Sounds" for their polka dollars. The Sounds proved they can still "bring the house down" with the best of them and recorded their ninth album "Live". The reunion tour was a huge success.

The Sounds overall recorded nine albums, winning many awards from the IPA and USPA, plus receiving 2 Grammy award nominations. Jimmy has written dozens of songs and arranged many old standards to have a modern flair. His most popular arrangement was "Up In The Attic" polka medleys, which paid tribute to bands past and present that impacted polka music and polka musicians.

Jimmy's IPA contributions and accomplishments include being inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2006, serving as Co-Master of Ceremonies at the IPA Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquets, and serving on the Hall of Fame and Music Awards Committees for the past five years. He was the driving force behind introducing modern technology, Election Buddy software, for the annual Hall of Fame voting categories.

Jim has been married to his wife Tara for 4 years. They make their home in Boca Raton, Florida, where Jimmy is happily retired. He has four children and one grandson. He can be seen around the state playing with various bands such as The Southernmost Polka Band, Florida Honky Polka Band, Northern Sounds and a new variety band with fellow Hall of Famer Mike Matousek in Gone Coastal. This summer, Jimmy Weber and The Sounds will appear at Summer Music Fest in



By Brad Turk



(continued on next page)

Frankmuth, MI where they will remind polka fans...  
The Sounds are Still Alive in 2025!

I would personally like to give Jimmy a very special "Thank You" for keeping "Up In The Attic" medley alive, since it's my favorite polka medley and the memories of The Sounds playing at Fiedor's Grove and 7 Springs Polka Fireworks over the years. It is always an honor to share the stage with you occasionally.

Please continue to support our Club & Bands:

**Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach** is having its Dinner/Dances at the SNPJ Lodge #603, 421 North Samsula Drive, New Smyrna Beach. May 4th Northern Sounds; May 18th Brewski Brothers; June 8th Jim Wicks; June 22nd Key-Tones; July 27th Brewski Bros.; Aug. 24th TrentTunes & the polka sound; Sept. 7th Jim Wicks; Sept. 21st Northern Sounds. For dinner reservations, call Irene/Club (386)-258-7059 for additional info. Visit their Facebook page.

**General K. Pulaski Citizens Club of Belleview.** June 8th, Father's Day, with Northern Sounds. Please get in touch with Brad for more info.

**Polish American Society of St. Petersburg.** The Club plans to start its Polka Dance season on

Nov. 2nd. Please visit their website: [www.polishsociety.org](http://www.polishsociety.org) or their Facebook page.

**Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach.** For all events, please join their Facebook page, visit their website [www.pacvbusa.org](http://www.pacvbusa.org), or email: [pascverobeach@gmail.com](mailto:pascverobeach@gmail.com). Call the Club at (772) -778-0039.

**SNPJ Lodge #603 is in Samsula.** For information, call the Club at (386) -428-3983 or visit their website at [www.samsulasnpjlodge603.com](http://www.samsulasnpjlodge603.com). Join their Facebook page, SNPJ Lodge 603, the Official site for all their events, at [snpjldodge603@gmail.com](mailto:snpjldodge603@gmail.com).

**Please support Florida's Polka IJs.** Featured on the Polka Jammer Network, 2009 IPA Hall of Famer Joe Oberaitis with Polkas 101 (Sat.), and Slovenian Polka Blast (Thur.) Listen to IPA member Ray Skorka on Crankin' Polkas (Fri.). High on Polka's every (Sat.) on PolkaRadio.org featuring IPA members Tara, Diane, Jimmy, and Billy.

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

See you at a Dance!

# IPA Membership Raffle

**MEMBERSHIP@IPAPOLKAS.COM**

We have some exciting news to share! If you join us as a new member or renew your membership between September 1, 2024, and August 31, 2025, you'll automatically be entered into a fantastic raffle!

One lucky winner will receive a **Lifetime Membership** valued at \$200! That's right - lifetime access to all the fantastic benefits and connections of being part of the IPA community. The drawing will take place during the IPA Festival and Convention, Labor Day Weekend 2025 in Cranberry Township, PA.

Make sure to email us at the above address with any questions.

Thank you for being part of the IPA community. Good luck to everyone - let's make this an unforgettable year together!





# Polkas in the Public Eye at Church Festivals - Zabawa

By Randy Koslosky

For many decades, church festivals have been one of the great ways that polkas have been in the public eye. That continues to be the case even though there are fewer of these.

I've played many of these over the years and continue to do so. I want to take a few minutes to explore the opportunity these represent from a few angles. There are churches with strong ethnic histories and those that aren't as strong. For this article, I'd like to focus on church festivals where the parish has an ethnic heritage.

One that stands out over the past 20-30 years is Zabawa (the festival of Holy Trinity Church in Erie, PA). This church festival is held the last weekend in August, near the Feast of Our Lady of Czestochowa (August 26th). Several thousand people attend this festival every year.

While the parish and neighborhood demographics no longer have a strong Polish connection, the church festival is a chance for people to reconnect with that heritage.

Kenny Olowin described the origins of this festival. In the early 1990s, Kenny was summoned to the church to meet the pastor, Fr. David Maciukiewicz. The pastor envisioned a church bazaar with a Polish theme, polka music, and Polish food. The pastor said he wanted the music to start at 5 o'clock on Friday and not stop until Sunday at 6. He said, "I want continuous polka music and LOUD." One key takeaway from this is that he wasn't just messing around. He was going for something great. Norb, Dee Madura, and Kenny Olowin teamed up to work on bringing top bands to the festival. That vision has blossomed into a truly great festival that brings out thousands from the local community every year

and is an excellent festival for out-of-town polka fans to attend.

Another takeaway is that such an event is possible. There was a time when this festival didn't happen. Then it did. The vision was fulfilled. The festival has grown over the past few decades. Even though the demographics have changed (as in many ethnic parishes of the 1900s), the nostalgia of that was a key to this working so well for Zabawa.

I've enjoyed playing at this festival for many years with Henny & the Versa J's and, more recently, The KOSMIX. It has struck me how wonderful it has been for the Mass to be a centerpiece of the festival, even accompanied by a good old-fashioned procession with Our Lady of Czestochowa out of the church and in the street around the block.

Add it all up, and you have a tremendously successful festival and an example of what is possible. Every year, this festival gives thousands of people a great exposure and experience to polka music.

In future articles, I plan to discuss more topics about polka bands playing at church festivals, including other categories of church festivals, why polka music fits for festivals, etc.



## 2025 IPA Newsletter Schedule

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

The National Academy of IPA® Electors just concluded their annual voting cycle to select the 2024 Polka Music Award winners. The results are as follows:

## **2024 Polish Style Polka Music Award Winners**



### **Male Vocalist of the Year:**

**Lenny Gomulka**

### **Female Vocalist of the Year:**

**Kimberly Uelmen**



### **Band of the Year:**

**Frankie Liszka and Blue Magic**

### **Album of the Year:**

***Thanks A Lot* by Frankie Liszka and Blue Magic**



### **Song of the Year:**

***Bella Ciao* by Frankie Liszka and Blue Magic**



## **2024 International Style Polka Music Award Winners**



### **Male Vocalist of the Year:**

**Ted Lange**

### **Female Vocalist of the Year:**

**Mollie Busta Lange**

### **Band of the Year:**

**Alex Meixner Band**

### **Album of the Year:**

***Fest* by Alex Meixner Band**



### **Song of the Year:**

***Beer Medley* by Alex Meixner Band**





## New Members

Edie Blaire, FL  
Janice Burick, PA  
David Joseph Flack, FL  
Nicole Sinkiewicz, FL  
Elaine Kulak-Bagby, FL  
Mark Kotlarczyk, FL  
Ronald Marcissuk, FL  
Don Kohler, FL  
Doreen Handzlik, IL  
Julie Czerniak, MI  
Emily Czerniak, MI  
Greg Laabs, WI  
Carl Hoynoski, FL

## Bel-Aire Enterprises

May 1, 2025

International Polka Association  
PO Box 1484  
Plainfield, IL 60455

Dear IPA Officers,

I would like to sincerely Thank You for the sponsorship donation toward the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Polka Fireworks Festival at Seven Springs. We appreciate your support.

Wishing the IPA continued success in all endeavors to promote polka music!

Best Wishes Always,

*Tish Blazonczyk*  
Tish Blazonczyk & Family

*thank you*

P.O. BOX 520 • PALOS PARK, ILLINOIS 60464 • (708) 594-5182

## Is your Membership Current?

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

# zelle



## New Lifetime Members

Floyd Grocholski, MI  
Veronica Grocholski, MI  
Jake Mikrut, FL  
Carol Stasila, WI  
William Stasila, WI  
Darrell Weltin, MI





# **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](http://www.IPapolkas.com)) where you can submit your songs.



# POLKA FIREWORKS

50<sup>TH</sup> 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**



# **57<sup>th</sup> Annual International Polka Association Festival and Convention**

**August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 7 -10 pm Kick Off Party  
with Alex Meixner**

**August 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 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](http://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](http://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 Winiaz, 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

**The International Polka Association Proudly Presents  
The Parade of Polka Bands Picnic  
Sunday, August 3rd, 2025**



**Hammond Mohawks Picnic Grove  
4040 Calumet Ave., Hammond, IN**

**Gate opens at 12:30pm – Polka Music from 1pm until 6pm  
Admission: \$20 Payable at the grove**

**\*Polka Bands Scheduled to Appear\***



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**Rain or Shine!**

**[www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com)**

**Refreshing Beverages!**

**Indoor Restrooms!**





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**1<sup>st</sup>** – Michael Skalecki;  
Krysta Latawiec;  
Alicia Bliznik; Dottie Stanky;  
Alex Yash

**19<sup>th</sup>** – Tony Crispo;  
Bernard Krygowski;  
Roberta Polovick;  
Jimmy Homel

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – Jack Sanocki; Keith Werwas, Jr.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – Bernie Gorak, Sr

**4<sup>th</sup>** – Richard Sendra

**5<sup>th</sup>** – Jeannette Ziobro; Stan Pasko;  
Richard Biela; Adam Bujanowski;

**6<sup>th</sup>** – Joseph Heier; Bob Banoczi

**7<sup>th</sup>** – Joe Kizior; Rich Benkowski;  
Bob Jakubielski

**8<sup>th</sup>** – Alex Saltanovitz, Jr.; Carol Alsheimer;  
Bruce Brzeczowski; Richie Yurkovich;

**9<sup>th</sup>** – Lambert Lasecki; Bob Earl

**10<sup>th</sup>** – John Baras; Johnny Karas;  
Jasiu Klocek; Karen Talik

**11<sup>th</sup>** – Eddie Ostry; Thomas Rokosz;  
Helen Skolaut

**12<sup>th</sup>** – Butch Herrmann; Chet Kowalkowski

**13<sup>th</sup>** – Walter Berkowicz; Leon Matczak

**14<sup>th</sup>** – Judy Kwiatkowski; Anna Slepecky;  
Zupe

**15<sup>th</sup>** – Kevin Cornell; Ed Izyk

**17<sup>th</sup>** – Micheal Kott; John Stevens

**18<sup>th</sup>** – Kevin Weinstock; Dave Walczak

**20<sup>th</sup>** – Karen Dekoski; Paul Rite; Joey Falch

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – Joanne Kozleski Jones;  
Jerry Rymanowski

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – Ed Krupinski; John Gajewski;

**24<sup>th</sup>** – Kenneth Dunaj; Marianne Cramer;  
Nicole Sinkiewicz; Mollie Busta-Lange

**25<sup>th</sup>** – Dave Parcheta; Ron Kuta;  
Rosemary Bogdon; Bernice Furin

**26<sup>th</sup>** – Mary Ann Makatenas; John Filipczak,  
Sr.; Joe Zalewski; Wayne Machnicki

**27<sup>th</sup>** – Joseph Wondolowski; Don Kohler

**28<sup>th</sup>** – Julcia Dusseault; Frank Blajda;  
Ed Turecek; David Goclowski

**29<sup>th</sup>** – Bob Frydryk; Mitchell Socha





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**1<sup>st</sup>** – Adam Biskup; Betty Lange

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – Lola Johnson

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – Ken Yash; Keith Wesolek;  
Mick Pyznarski; Paul Sinchak;  
Nadine Sokoluk

**4<sup>th</sup>** – CW Benson; Ronald  
Latawiec; Sara Latawiec; Richard Nitka;  
Frank Urbanovitch; Denise Gliwa

**5<sup>th</sup>** – Jan Sweet; Michael Costa;

**6<sup>th</sup>** – Dennis Polisky; Elizabeth Rozek;  
Douglas Busch

**7<sup>th</sup>** – Benita Szymanski; Jerry Romanowski;  
Andrew Putz

**8<sup>th</sup>** – Eugene Retka; Carl Prushinski;  
Greg Jankowski

**9<sup>th</sup>** – John Wisneski; Jack Tady

**10<sup>th</sup>** – John Matyjas; Christine Misiak;  
Thomas Mazurowski; Richard Sonoski

**11<sup>th</sup>** – Joe Kvitek, Elizabeth Sadus

**12<sup>th</sup>** – Danny Fabeck; Frank Mikl

**13<sup>th</sup>** – Theresa Pawlicki; Mark Komar;  
Marie Marek

**14<sup>th</sup>** – William Stasila; Donna Carron

**15<sup>th</sup>** – Wally Dombrowski; Robert Moon;  
Joe Gilewski; Cathy Simms; Laurine Scheer

**16<sup>th</sup>** – Cheryl Furmaniak; Ted Woytowicz;  
Carol Croll

**17<sup>th</sup>** – Thomas Kalinowski; Brian Hafeman

**18<sup>th</sup>** – Maggie Zabielski; Lori Yash;  
Stephen Swiader; David Yankuskie;  
Emily Czerniak

**19<sup>th</sup>** – Sue Conway; Bill Gliwa;  
Fred Pisarski; Nick Chmielewski

**20<sup>th</sup>** – Randy Cernosek;  
Andrew Krystopolski;  
Mark Hamlin

**21<sup>st</sup>** – Donna Piatkowski;  
Joe Macielag;  
Mary Dombrowski

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – Steven Sopko; Catherine Harten-  
bower

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – Lawrence M. Stec; Hank Dymerski

**24<sup>th</sup>** – James Banaszak, Sr.

**25<sup>th</sup>** – Eddie Labuda;

**26<sup>th</sup>** – Karen Mikrut; Katie Moroski;  
Marcia Socha

**27<sup>th</sup>** – John Gora, Dr. Ann Hetzel Gunkel;  
Michelle Robinson; Mary Ellen Egbert

**28<sup>th</sup>** – Miroslaw Antas; Lynn Kizewski;  
Greg Winiaz

**29<sup>th</sup>** – Kathy Urbanczyk; Jane Gelineau;  
Henry Lenard; George Rosinski

**30<sup>th</sup>** – Bob Sendra; Arthur Kott; Alan Bush

**31<sup>st</sup>** – Len Fornek; Stasio Stetar





**2025 International Polka Association**  
**Festival and Convention**



**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Kick-Off Polka Party**

**Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

*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](mailto:chris@westernpapolkas.com)

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



# **Pulaski Polka Days**

**Pulaski Polka Days**  
**46th Annual • July 17, 18, 19, & 20**



**Pulaski Polka Days Grounds**  
**(Pulaski Community Park)**  
**429 E Pulaski Street**  
**Pulaski, WI 54162**

**Thursday July 17<sup>th</sup> \$5 Admission Gates open at 4pm - Music - 5pm -11pm**

Chad Przyblyski & Polka Rhythms - Aaron Socha Livewire - The New Generation - Marsoszek Brothers  
Zander's Music Raymakers - Nu Tymes

**Friday July 18<sup>th</sup> \$20 Admission Gates open at 1pm - Music - 2pm -12:45am**

Polish Connection - Craig Ebel's DyVersaCo - Dynabass - Frankie Liszka & Blue Magic - The Mix  
The New Generation - Polka Country Musicians - The Beat - Ryan Kautzer Band - Jerry Voelker Orchestra

**Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup> \$20 Admission Gates open at 11am - Music - 12:30pm - 12:30am**

Live it Up - Chad Przyblyski & Polka Rhythms - Twin City Sound - Polka Family - The Beat- Aaron Socha Livewire - Polka  
Country Musicians- Frankie Liszka & Blue Magic - World Concertina Congress Jam Session  
Music Connection - Goodtime Dutchmen

**Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup> FREE Admission Gates open at 8am - Music - 12:30pm - 6pm**

The Natural Talent - Polka Family - Maroszek Brothers - Steve Burclaw's New Polish Sound

**Events Throughout the Weekend: Camping - Polish Food - Souvenirs**



**For more information Contact:**

**Mail:** PO Box 268 Pulaski WI 54162

**Email:** [info@pulaskipolkadays.com](mailto:info@pulaskipolkadays.com)

**Website:** [Pulaskipolkadays.com](http://Pulaskipolkadays.com)

**Call:** Mike @ 920-819-1168

*Pulaski Polka Days is a non-profit organization. All bands, events and scheduled subject to change*



# Pulaski Polka Palooza

**Saturday October 25, 2025**

**6pm-10pm**

*Doors open at 5:30 pm*

## ADMISSION

**Saturday: \$20**

**Sunday: \$20**

*\*18 and under free  
with paid adult*

For more  
information visit  
[ipapolkas.com](http://ipapolkas.com) or  
scan the code.



## Polka Country Musicians

*\*All bands subject to change  
without notice.*



**Sunday October 26, 2025**

**12 pm – 5 pm**

*Doors Open at 11:30 am*

## Pulaski Area Festival of Bands

### LOCATION

Townline Pub & Grill

2544 Lineville Rd.

Suamico, WI 54313

*\*Food and Drink available for  
purchase.*



The Mix



The Natural Talent



Aaron Socha & Livewire



Maroszek Brothers



The New Generation



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## Join PucoYashu for Polkamotion by the Ocean 2025!

**September 18—20**

**Rehoboth Beach Convention Center  
229 Rehoboth Avenue  
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971**

**Wednesday Night Welcome Party with The Burgh Boys!**

**Wednesday, September 17th 7pm—11pm**

**Conch Island Key West Bar and Grill**

**37169 Rehoboth Ave Ext Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971**

**Happy Hour with DJ Bruce Z 4:30pm—7pm**

**Admission \$5**

Join our mailing list!



**For More Information:**

**Michael Pucowski—908.209.9843**

**michael.pucowski@gmail.com**

**Jeff Yash—518.281.1587**

**jeffreyyash@gmail.com**

**\*\*Band schedule subject to change.\*\***

**Food and Beverage available for purchase.**

**NO BYOB/NO BYOF**

**Thursday, September 18**

**Polka Family Band**

**Frankie Liszka & Blue Magic**

**Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**

**Doors Open 4pm**

**Music & Dancing 5pm—12:30am**

**Admission \$25**

**Friday, September 19**

**Above the Dunes**

**DJ Party with John Cieplik**

**11:30am—2pm**

**Frankie Liszka & Blue Magic**

**Eddie Forman Orchestra**

**Polka Country Musicians**

**Doors Open 4pm**

**Music & Dancing 5pm—12:30am**

**Admission \$25**

**Saturday, September 20**

**Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**

**Michael Costa & The Beat**

**Doors Open 5pm**

**Music & Dancing 6pm—12:30am**

**Admission \$20**

**Future Dates for Polkamotion**

**Sept 17—19, 2026**

**Sept 16—18, 2027**

**Sept 14—16, 2028**

**3/4 Day Pass \$65  
Buy in advance,  
or at the door**



**Hotels in the Area:**

**Holiday Inn Express—302.500.2415**

**Atlantis—302.227.9446**

**Brighton Suites—302.227.5780**

**Breakers—302.227.6688**

**Sleep Inn—302.645.6464**







**Steve Coblisch** - In recognition of your efforts in promoting polka music for 60 years! Thank you and Congratulations.

**Uniontown Polish Club** - In recognition of your efforts in promoting polka music for 100 years! Thank you and congratulations.

**Rodney "Peanuts" Esser** - In recognition of your efforts to promote polka music by educating your students through workshops and lunchtime music exposure at Cross Plains Elementary for multiple years, as well as having polka events for school fundraisers for the Music and Special Needs Programs. Thank you and Congratulations.



April 2, 2025

Mr. Chris Bogdon  
International Polka Association  
P.O. Box 1484  
Plainfield IL 60544

Dear Chris,

On behalf of the Toledo Area Polka Society, we want to THANK YOU and IPA for supporting our tenth annual Polish Summer Picnic being held June 13, & 14, 2025, with your sponsorship gift of \$200.00. We are deeply grateful!

Your support plays a key role in our success. Your gift supports us in continuing our mission to promote live Polish style polka music and educate future generations on our Polish heritage.

We wouldn't exist without the support of a caring community; a community made up of generous people like you! Your donation tells us that you value our mission and have faith in our organization to preserve our heritage while providing a safe family atmosphere.

Thank you again! I have enclosed the picnic flyer that gives an overview of the times, bands and other highlights of the event.

**We will be sending you your complimentary tickets a few weeks before the event.**

With Deep Gratitude,

Michael D. Marek  
Sponsorship Chairman  
408 Hayes Road  
Toledo, Ohio 43615  
419-345-5928  
[michaeldmarek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:michaeldmarek@sbcglobal.net)  
Visit us at: [www.TapsPolkas.com](http://www.TapsPolkas.com)

Debbie Rutkowski TAPS President	Dave Glaza Vice President	Alyssa Graczyk Secretary	Joe Zalewski Treasurer & Entertainment	Open Position Sergeant-at-Arms	Karla & Harry Parsons Raffle Chair	Cindy Ratkowski Trustee & Pierogi Contest Chair	Bob Lynn Security & Transportation	Basia Lynn & Dan Nodog Bakery & Baking Chairs
Mike Marek Sponsorship	Kevin Kwiatkowski Logistics	Dave & Pauline Glaza Admissions Chair	Kevin & Judy Kwiatkowski Volunteer Chair	Open Position Food & Bev. Chair	Marie Marek Apparel & Novelties	Bill Klatt Advertising & Media Consultant		

Toledo Area Polka Society (TAPS) is a 501 C (3) not for profit organization. The full amount of your donation is deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.

## Bel-Aire Enterprises

May 1, 2025

International Polka Association  
PO Box 1484  
Plainfield, IL 60455

Dear IPA Officers,

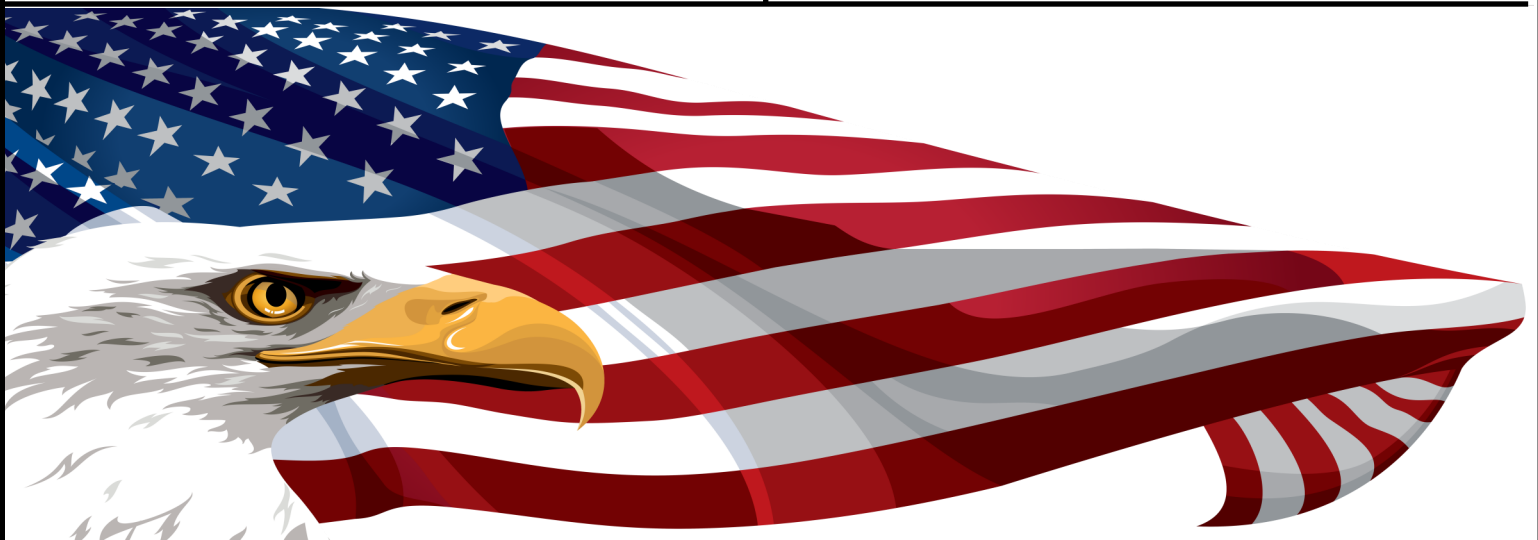
Sending a most grateful Thank You to the IPA & Four Seasons for your continued support and sponsorship of the Eddie Blazonczyk Polka Radio Shows. We are proud to advertise for both the International Polka Association and Four Seasons.

Our vast listening audience is happy to stay informed about upcoming IPA events and happy to hear about the goods and services offered and available by Four Seasons.

Thank you,

Tish Blazonczyk

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## IPA Members “BAND” Together to Restore Club

As reported in past issues of the IPA Newsletter, the historic Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, FL Club suffered catastrophic flood and wind damage from Hurricanes Helene and Milton. The more than 6 inches storm surge from Helene caused the most damage to the original Floating dance floor made of Canadian maple wood installed in the 1950s.

After the flood, there was little hope of saving the prized possession, which is one of a kind in the area. After pumping out thousands of gallons of water, the floor was found to be warped and buckled, with whole sections popping up.

Members generously donated their time to help save the floor by bringing shop vacs and pulling up any salvageable floorboards. However, there was other damage as well. The wind of Helene damaged the roof, and a few mere weeks later, Hurricane Milton destroyed even more. Air conditioning units and the kitchen's refrigeration unit also needed replacing. The total for all the repairs and replacements was over \$150,000.

Brad Turk, IPA Director from Florida and member of the club, sprung into action with an idea to assist in collecting money for the club's Restoration Fund. In partnership with the Polish American Society's annual Paczki Day celebration, Brad brought together polka musicians from all over Florida to donate their time to the cause.

IPA Hall of Fame members Mike Matousek, “Freddie K” Kendzierski, Joe Oberaitis, and 2025 Inductee Johnny Krawisz led an all-star cast of polka musicians to entertain the crowd.

The IPA Board, represented by Ex-Officio Christy Krawisz and past Secretary Cheryl Furmaniak, was also in attendance. The IPA donated toward the event's hall rental and provided the Paczki for all in attendance to enjoy before the start of the Lenten season.

Recently, the organization has raised about \$92,000 of the \$150,000 goal. We are excited to say that the venue reopened to the public in March and hosted a record crowd for its Dyngus Day celebration.









# **Pittsburgh's Polka Hot Spot** **Kinloch Fire Hall**

## **2025 Polka Schedule**

Sunday June 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	First Western PA appearance <b>Tony Blazonczyk and New Phaze</b>	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person
Sunday Aug 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	First Appearance at Kinloch Firehall <b>Crusade featuring Eddie Biegaj</b>	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person
Sunday Sept 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2025	Join us with the Incomparable <b>John Gora and Gorale</b>	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person
Sunday Oct 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Join us for their final gig in Western PA <b>Michael Costa and the Beat</b>	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person
Sunday Nov 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	We welcome one of the best back to Kinloch <b>Polka Family</b>	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@westernpolkas.com](mailto:chris@westernpolkas.com)

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

### Contact us:

International Polka Association, Inc.®  
PO Box 1484  
Plainfield, IL 60544  
1-800-TO-POLKA  
(1-800-867-6552)  
Website: [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.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](mailto:membership@ipapolkas.com)

Renew your membership online!  
Visit: [www.ipapolkas.com/store](http://www.ipapolkas.com/store)



## Current IPA Officers and Directors

### Officers:

President: Chris Bogdon (PA)  
1st Vice President: Jill Styczynski (WI)  
2nd Vice President: Henry Lenard (DE)  
Treasurer: Matt Olszewski (PA)  
Secretary: Cindy Olszewski (PA)  
Financial Secretary: Lynn Kaminski (IL)  
Sergeant at Arms: Randy Koslosky (PA)  
Ex-Officio: Christy Krawisz (IL)

### Advisors:

Advisor: Lori Hudy-Lewandowski (IL)  
Media Advisor: Keith Pietranczyk (IL)  
Chaplain: Fr. Dennis Bogusz (PA)

### Directors:

Andy Bojczuk (NY)  
Emma Bogdon (PA)  
Stephen Kaminski (IL)  
Brian Kapka (IL)  
Dan Mateja (IL)  
Lindsey Mateja (IL)  
Christy Nowakowski (IL)  
Sue Szela (MA)  
Brad Turk (FL)  
Brian Urbanczyk (NY)  
Jeff Yash (NY)  
John Zelasko (MI)

## Current IPA Hall of Fame and Awards Committee

Gary Brueggen \* 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](mailto:newsletter@ipapolkas.com).

Please put in the subject line:  
**PLEASE EMAIL MY NEWSLETTER.**



## IPA RADIO SHOW



Don't forget to listen to the IPA Radio Show on  
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](http://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!**



**Tuesday, July 1st** - Young Songwriter's Competition Deadline  
(page 7)

**Sunday, August 3rd** - Parade of Polka Bands Picnic  
(page 11)

**Thursday, August 28th** - IPA Kick-Off Polka Party  
(page 14)

**Friday, August 29th to Sunday, August 31st** -  
IPA 57th Annual Festival and Convention  
(page 9)

**Saturday, October 25th & Sunday, October 26th** -  
Wisconsin's Polka Palooza  
(page 16)

## Advertise in the IPA Newsletter

### One Issue

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

**DEADLINE FOR August 2025 NEWSLETTER: June 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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