



IPA Newsletter

A Note From Our President



Hello IPA Members,

Happy Spring and Happy Easter. It's time to get ready for another exciting polka festival season. I urge everyone to continue to support all the polka promoters, polka bands, DJs and IJs, and the polka organizations. If we continue to work together, we can and will achieve great things.

The 2024 IPA Hall of Fame® and 2023 Music Awards election cycle has been announced. Be on the lookout for more details and information in the next newsletter. For complete biographies of our inductees, make sure to see our Special Festival Edition of the newsletter in the August/September publication. As always, our website has a plethora of information so be sure to check that out too. Thank you to the Hall of Fame Committee, Trustees, and Electors for all their hard work.

Special Thanks to Ernie Daigle and Peter Danielczuk for running the IPA Hall of Fame® Benefit Dance in Ludlow at the Polish American Citizens Club the beginning of March. Thanks to the bands who performed at this event. We appreciate it! Saturday, Polka Country Musicians did a fantastic job entertaining the crowd and Sunday it was time to party with the fine sounds of the Eddie Forman Orchestra, Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men with special guest Lenny Gomulka. This year they honored the music of the Krew Brothers from Buffalo, NY. There were 3 brothers present, Dennis Krupski, Ricky Krew Krupski, and Gary Krupski. They were backed by Al Piatkowski, Richie Bernier, Brian

Urbanczyk, and Ken Yash, who all did an amazing job! Todd Zaganiacz had an informative history on Krew Brothers before introducing each song. Thanks Todd! Patricia Daigle ran a delicious kitchen with her volunteers and thank you so much. It was announced that on the same weekend of March 2025 they will be honoring the music of Dick Pillar. Mark your calendars now! Thank you to all the polka fans who attended the event and for supporting the IPA benefit.

On St. Patrick's Day, the IPA and Let's Polka USA hosted its 12th Annual Unity Dance. Thank you to Mary Leja and all the officers of Let's Polka USA, as well as the IPA Officers and Directors for all of your help in making this event successful. Pictures and more details will be in the next newsletter.

Inside this newsletter you will find some IPA up and coming events, information on sponsorship requests and articles from events that board members have attended. There is also only a limited number of hotel rooms available at the DoubleTree so if you haven't booked a room yet, please consider doing it soon. Please visit our website at ipapolkas.com for more information.

Hope to see you all at some of the polka events in the next few months. Take care and Thank you for your continued support of the IPA.

Christy

IPA offers Sponsorship Opportunities

By II Director Christy Nowakowski

The International Polka Association® is excited to announce a new initiative to support polka events and activities. As part of our commitment to promoting polka music, we are delighted to offer financial support to groups and organizations.

There is a limited amount of funding available each year so we ask that you submit your request for sponsorship as early as possible. You must apply at least three (3) months before your event or festival. All sponsorship requests will be considered, and the IPA reserves the right to adjust the final amount per our discretion. Also, if you're looking for sponsorship each year for your event, you must submit a new request

each year.

In return for the sponsorship, we ask that you display the IPA logo on your flier, website, and during your event.

If you are interested in exploring this sponsorship opportunity further, please fill out the form on our website at <https://www.ipapolkas.com/sponsorship-opportunities/> and your application will be reviewed during the next monthly board meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact the IPA at sponsorship@ipapolkas.com

It's Always Sunny in Florida...

Witamy członków!

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!' "(Robin Williams), so I wanted to remind everyone 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 are sure to be memorable events that you won't want to miss! Remember... **EVERYONE'S Polish on Dyngus Day!**

I would like to send out a BIG SUNSHINE welcome to our newest retired musician, Mike Matousek. Mike was the leader of the fabulous polka band "The Boys". Mike and his family moved down from Maryland to Palmetto FL. (north of Bradenton), a few months ago. Mike's official last polka job was on the Panama Canal Polka Brews Cruise last month, along with Polka Country Musicians. A group of 200+ celebrated him with a champagne toast following his last performance. It was an unforgettable tear-filled moment that was an honor to witness. I want to congratulate Mike for promoting and performing polka music since 1973!

Florida's Snowbird Schedule:

Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach

is having Polka dances at (**NEW LOCATION**)

SNPJ Lodge #603 421 North Samsula Drive,

New Smyrna Beach: April 7th Brewski Bros; April 21st KeyTones; May 5th Northern Sounds; May 19th KeyTones; June 2nd Northern Sounds; June 16th Jim Wick's trio; July 28th Brewski Bros., and Aug. 25th KeyTones. For dinner reservations call Irene (386)-258-7059. For additional info. call the club (386)-258-7059 or visit their FB or website:

www.polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.org.

General K. Pulaski Citizens Club in Belleview

Dinner Dances will include: March 10th Northern Sounds; April 14th Jim Wicks Band; May 12th a special Mother's Day celebration featuring Frank Moravcik Band from Ohio, and June 9th Northern Sounds. Please contact Brad for more info.

SNPJ Lodge #603 in Samsula will be hosting the

Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach Sunday dinner/dances for 2024. For additional info. call the club (386)-428-3983, or visit their website: www.samsulasnpjlodge603.com. Join their Facebook page, snpjldodge603@gmail.com.

Polish American Social Club of

Vero Beach will feature the

Southernmost Polka Band on March 10th. For other dance/band information, please join their Facebook page, visit their website www.pacvbusa.org, email:

pascverobeach@gmail.com or call the club at (772)-778-0039.



By Brad Turk

Polish American Society of St. Petersburg has a

Time Change: Dinner at 1pm & Dancing 2-

5pm. Upcoming dances include: March 17th Polka

All Stars; March 24th Northern Sounds; **April 1st**

Dyngus Day from 5-8pm with FL Generations;

April 7th Northern Sounds; April 14th Polka All

Stars; April 21st Polka All Stars, and April 28th (last

dance of the season) featuring Northern Sounds.

Please visit their website: www.polishsociety.org,

join their FB page. Dinner reservations call Rita

(727)-347-7944, club (727)-894-9908 for more

info.

Special Events:

March 24th - Spring Fling Dance at Polish American

Society of Port St. Lucie, 343 Prima Vista Blvd.,

featuring Sunshine State Express & The South-

ernmost Polka Band 12 to 5:30pm. tickets/info.

call Ed: (828)-516-7995.

April 1st Dyngus Day: Polka All Stars at Crabby

Bill's Bar & Grill. 401 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks

Beach. from 12-4pm. Call (727)-595-4825 for in-

fo. /Tickets.

April 1st Dyngus Day: Florida Generations at

Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343

Beach Drive, SE St. Pete. Doors open 4pm,

Dancing 5-8pm.

Oct. 31-Nov. 2nd:

"SPOOKTACULAR" Polka Weekend @ Daytona

Beach Oceanfront Resort, 100 N. Atlantic Ave.

Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze, America's Polka

Sweetheart Stephanie, Sunshine State Express

and The Southernmost Polka Band. Info. call Ed:

(828)-516-7995.

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.).

The IPA members of The Southern FL Polka Assoc. are LIVE on Polish New Castle Radio with High on Polkas (Sat).

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!

I would like to wish everyone a Wesolego Alleluja and safe holiday travels!

(FL Director Brad Turk, IPA Polka HOF Mike Matousek, IPA member Corinne Turk)



HAPPY HOUR Oktoberfest BAND



www.happy-hour-oktoberfestband.de
booking@happy-hour-band.de

2024 30th Anniversary
HAPPY HOUR
 Oktoberfest
 BAND



www.happy-hour-oktoberfestband.de

The NuTones Celebrate 40 years

By 2nd VP Chris Bogdon

On February 24th, we kicked off our 2024 Polka Season at Western Pennsylvania's Polka Hotspot, Kinloch Firehall with the NuTones. At this dance, we celebrated the 40th year of the NuTones performing. We had a great crowd and friends and family came from near and far to celebrate this achievement.

The IPA gave the NuTones a Certificate of Appreciation for their achievement. In addition, Janice Lochner from the Baltimore, MD area, provided all the members of the NuTones with a special poem that she wrote honoring the music of the NuTones.

On behalf of everyone from the IPA, we would like to thank Stacy, Tammy, Vicky, Rich, Dave, and

Frank for continuing to provide polka music in Western Pennsylvania.



IPA President, Christy Krawisz, visits the Pulaski Club of Arizona

Johnny, Katie, and I got into our van and traveled West on Route 66, making a few stops along the way in Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and finally, in Arizona (Without stops this trip would have been over 24 hours). We stayed in Glendale for a week, where Hayley flew in from Indiana to join us. Then we headed over to Phoenix, only about 25 minutes from where we were staying to the Pulaski Club of Arizona. Michael Costa and the Beat performed, and Johnny (IL IPA Director) filled in with them that weekend.

Dave Bonczkiewicz, his wife Princess, Pat Jayo, and everyone at the Club were so kind, welcoming, and friendly. They always have a Meet and Greet on Friday evenings, and it was great just walking around the club and talking with so many wonderful, friendly people. I got to meet a couple who traveled from Minnesota, Greg and Basia Zebro and got to know Don and Gail Haderle who are huge supporters of the club and polka music.

Thank you, Don and Gail, for all that you do, it is so appreciated! I met Mary Saber, talked with Gene and Bo Swick, and was also able to catch up with Michael and Veronica (Ronnie) Costa, Michael Pucowski, Carla and Syndey Jasinski, just to name a few.

As always, the Beat sounded fantastic and everyone who attended had a wonderful time. The weekend went by so fast! I was also excited that my brother Johnny and his family were in Arizona that weekend and were able to come to the Club on Saturday to enjoy the music where everyone danced a lot. My niece Sydney and her boyfriend Shane live in Arizona, and we all got to spend time with them, which was nice.

Congratulations to the Pulaski Club of Arizona for continuing to bring polka music out west! If you ever have the opportunity to travel to Arizona, be sure to look them up! You are guaranteed to have a great time.

Special thanks to the Polish American Social Club, Kaz Tysiac, President, as well as all the Officers and Directors as well. Please enjoy a few of my photos from this weekend.



4th Annual Golf Outing with Friends

Honoring Richie & Jerry Tokarz along with all polka friends that have passed recently.

IPA Weekend—Friday, August 30, 2024

Strawberry Ridge Golf Course

135 McNulty Lane

Harmony, PA 16037

Shotgun Start—8:00 am/Scramble Format

Golfers must be ready to go at 7:45am.



Price per golfer—\$60

Venmo—@Jeffrey-Yash

RSVP to Jeff Yash

jeffreyyash@gmail.com

518.281.1587

****Please RSVP by August 16, 2024****





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!

The Pulaski Club

Spring Fling Polka Dance

with

DENNIS POLISKY & MAESTRO'S MEN

April 27th, & 28th, 2024

Saturday Night 5pm to 9pm

Sunday 2pm to 6pm

(doors open 1 hr. before event)

\$15.00 admission at the door, kids under 12 FREE

(table reservations of 8 or more contact Nickelcity Dave 602.741.8214)

Kick off the festivities Friday night, April 26th, "Meet & Greet" with the Variety Soundz of DJ "Nickelcity Dave" @ 6pm. FREE Admission

This is a Non B.Y.O.B. affair the Pulaski Club has a full bar available, and the Polish Kitchen will be open.

Hotel reservations: Holiday Inn & Suites Phoenix Airport North

1515 N. 44th, St. Phoenix, Az 85008

(p) 602-358-0909 (ask for reservation # Pulaskiclub) www.hiphoenixsuites.com

The Pulaski Polish / American Club at 4331 E. McDowell Rd. Phoenix Arizona 85008, 602.275.9329

www.facebook.com/pulaskiclub"page www.pulaskiclubaz.com



SAVE THE DATE



56th Annual International Polka Association Festival & Convention

**August 29, 2024 - 7-11 pm - Kick Off Party
at the Cranberry Elks Lodge—Band TBD**

**August 30 — September 1, 2024
Labor Day Weekend
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel—Pittsburgh Cranberry
724-776-6900**

3 Fun-filled days of Polka Entertainment by:

Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push, John Gora &
Gorale, IPA Tribute Band, Michael Costa & The Beat,
Klancnik & Friends, Crusade, Frank Liszka & Blue Magic,
Maroszek Brothers, Polka Family, The Natural Talent,
EZ Tones, The Zolkas Polka Band, Special Delivery,
and The Kosmix
(Bands subject to change)

Welcome Party, Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet,
Pool Parties, Polka Mass, Election of Officers and Directors
plus much, 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 11am to 12 pm (CT)





Wisconsin Spring Into Polkas

Saturday May 4, 2024

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 or
scan the code.



DynaBrass

*All bands subject to change
without notice.



Sunday May 5, 2024

12 pm – 5 pm

Doors Open at 11:30 am

Pulaski Area Festival of Bands



The New Generation



The Mix



Zander and his
Music'Ray'Makers



Aaron Socha & Livewire



Maroszek Brothers

LOCATION

Townline Pub & Grill

2544 Lineville Rd.

Suamico, WI 54313

*Food and Drink
available for purchase.

Rooms Available

Country Inn & Suites

2308 Lineville Rd.

Green Bay, WI 54313

920-301-7030

Mention: **IPA Polka**

Rooms held until 4-4-2024.



Missing your favorite
band recording?
Check out Bel-Aire for all
your recording needs.

**Make plans to attend our 49th Annual Polka Fireworks Festival
at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, PA**



**Wed, July 3rd
thru
Sat, July 6th**

**Featuring 12 of the
Nation's Top Polka Bands**

The Nu-Tones
Jody Maddie's Uptown Sound
The DynaVersaStickToneAires
John Gora & Gorale
Polka Family
Darrell Weltin's New Brass Express
The DynaBrass
The Beat
Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze
Eddie Biegaj & Crusade
Frankie Liszka & Blue Magic



Don't Delay... Make Your Reservations Today!

**For Room Reservations,
Contact Seven Springs (855) 947-0438
Be sure to ask for the
Polka Fireworks Group Rate.**

**For General Information
contact Bel-Aire (708) 594-5182**



Welcome Party
Celebrating 40 years
of The Nu-Tones



Wednesday, July 3 • 7pm - 11pm
Matterhorn Lounge - \$10 Admission

40th Anniversary Concertina Jam
This year hosted by
Dave Dombrowski of Ray Jay & the Carousels

Friday, July 5
12pm - 1:30pm
Alpine Room
Free Admission



POLKAFIREWORKS.COM

***USPA & CPA
together!***

Feb. 25, 2024

featuring music by

The Burgh Boys

Doors open at Noon • Music 1pm - 5pm

Admission \$16.00 per person

Holiday Inn Lounge

6001 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH

For more information contact:

Anna Slepecky, CPA President at 330-461-1772

Cindy Fisher, USPA President at 216-299-0934

***Join USPA to
welcome spring!***

March 16, 2024

featuring music by

***Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
and DynaBrass***

Doors open at 5pm • Music 6pm - 12am

Admission \$20.00 per person

Crowne Plaza Hotel

7230 Engle Rd., Middleburg Hts., OH

Special USPA room rate of \$110 per night

call 440-243-4040 • Code - P02

For more information contact: Cindy Fisher at 216-299-0934

or Cheryl Wodzisz at 440-570-3407

***55th Annual
USPA Festival
and Convention***

May 23 - 26, 2024

featuring the best in polka music!

Jack Beachly's Jam Band • NuTones

Crusade • Maestro's Men • New Generation

Jody Maddie's Uptown Sound • The Beat

Frankie Liszka's Blue Magic

TNT (The Natural Talent) • John Gora

Polka Country Musicians and Polka Family

Plus special events including USPA Queen Pageant,

Awards Banquet and Polka Mass

Crowne Plaza • 7230 Engle Road, Middleburg Heights, Ohio

440-243-4040 • 1-877-227-6963

Special USPA Room Rate \$110 • (use Group Code USP)

Cindy @ 216-299-0934 or Cheryl @ 440-570-3407

3-Day pass info - Joanne Piotrowski at 330-410-5568

Illinois Polkafest Celebrated 35 Years of Supporting Polka Music

By Christy Krawisz, IPA President

The weekend of February 2-4, 2024, the Illinois Polkafest celebrated its 35 years supporting polka music at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg-Chicago, featuring the fine sounds of Klancnik and Friends, Steve Meisner Legacy Band, Eddie Rodick Orchestra, Garrett Tatano Band, Alex Meixner, Jeff Winard and Joey Miskulin, Eddie Rodick with LynnMarie and guest appearances by Ted Lange and Mollie Busta. Also on stage with his grandfather Joey Miskulin was little Joey O'Boyle who wowed the crowd with his vocal talents and the cutest mini accordion.

Bob Doszak started the festival back in 1988 and Chris Doszak took over running this annual event in 2016, with the help of his family members. Sadly, Bob passed away in October of 2023, but was hon-

ored at this year's festival with a memory table as you walked into the event. The IPA has made a donation to this event for several years through sponsorship and if you haven't attended this event, please try to do so in the future. IPA President Christy Krawisz attended the event this year on Saturday night along with IPA Director Johnny Krawisz, Brian Kapka, and Past President Rick Rzeszutko. Other officers, directors and past presidents have also supported this event for several years. Look them up on facebook – Illinois Polkafest, email them at ilpolkafest@yahoo.com or visit their website at www.illinoispolkafest.com. Congratulations to the Doszak family on a wonderful and successful event.



It's Here Again!



We are so excited to announce the 5th Annual.....



Young Songwriter's Competition

What's new?

- In our continued efforts to keep the competition as fair as possible, composers will now be 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!

What's still the same?

- The competition is open to anyone between the ages of sixteen (16) and thirty-nine (39) years of age as of the July 1st, 2024 deadline. It is open to amateur and professional songwriters of any polka genre.
- 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.**

Let's Polka USA celebrates 20 Years

Let's Polka USA celebrated their 20th anniversary on Sunday February 18th at Royalty West Banquets in Willow Springs, IL. The EZ Tones provided Polka and American music for all to enjoy. Many raffles and door prizes were given out that day. It was a very nice crowd for the event and a good time had by all.

By IL Director Brian Kapka

The International Polka Association presented current Let's Polka USA President, Mary Leja, with a Certificate of Recognition Congratulating Let's Polka USA on their 20 years in supporting polka music.



\$1000 FREDDY K JR

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The **Freddy K Jr. Music Scholarship Committee** is now accepting requests for applications for the 2024 Scholarship award. Applicants must be high school seniors who have been accepted to an accredited college and play a musical instrument. Anyone who is 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

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



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1st – Helenrae Budzilek | 22nd – Debbie Rymanowski; Johnetta Vinka; Susan Krysa |
| 2nd – Joseph Witek; Chouinard Chimniak | 23rd – Brian Szumigalski; David Heise |
| 3rd – Dustin Ager | 25th – Sally Rzeszutko; Brian Urbanczyk; Marie Brado; Robert Gawryla; Janice Dziagwa Vincent |
| 4th – Timothy Haselow; Mary Lou Czerniak; Felicia Reilly | 26th – Phyllis Videtich |
| 5th – Steven Smith; David Straup Slick; Nicole Peterson | 27th – Michael Schrader; Linda Plantz; Debbie Rymanowski; Jeff Powaski; Linda Walczynski-Louie |
| 7th – Betty Downey; Barbara Ann Adams | 28th – Joseph Price; Michael Bednarz; Eric Kurowski |
| 8th – Tom Reznikervitz; Carol Lash Budzyn; Jerry Soliwoda | 29th – Kim Cielecki; Candice Rebovich |
| 9th – Michelle Genrich; Sara Zelasko; Cindy Loring | 30th – James Goplin; Geri Chadwick |
| 10th – Valerie Janson | |
| 11th – Roger Malinowski; Paul Chichin | |
| 13th – Louella Kundert; Stephen Brown | |
| 14th – George Walker; Larry Trojak | |
| 15th – Daniel Prigge | |
| 16th – Tamara Waner; Debbie Rutkowski | |
| 17th – Diane Nowakowski; Mack Martin; Tyler Zawatski; Margaret Zotkiewicz | |
| 18th – Peter Wendlinger; Jackie Libera; Dave Slivinski | |
| 19th – Mitch Gorz | |
| 20th – Michael Blaskowski; Sam Sokolik; Gary Zielinski; Walter Ostanek | |
| 21st – Tootsie Sobolak; Mark Slota | |





1st – Matthew Martin;
Kimberly Uelmen; Roscoe Powell

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

3rd – Jennifer Pietranczyk

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

10th – Mike Surratt; Jill Czerniak;
Bini Husain; David Nowatzki; 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; Bob Zukowski;
Eddie Korosa, Jr.; Bob Wojtowicz

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

18th – Larry Stec; Fran Russo; Alex Vinecki

19th – Stuart Popp; Stan Soltys; Mindi Tietz

21st – Edwin Rajewski; Mitch Biskup

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

23rd – Ruth Lietz; Melanie Ellis;
Joan Stepzinski

24th – Mary Saber; Ron Palkowski;
John Rogers

25th – Robyn Mrozinski; Arlene Talbot;
Jim Letnick; Greg Griffin, Jr.;
Robert Szymczak

26th – Timothy Winiarz;
Thomas Lewandowski

27th – Rick Zarek, Jane Piotrowski;
Pat Caldwell

28th – Pauline Adelman; Gina Gomulka

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

30th – Eric Krupski (Ricky Krew)

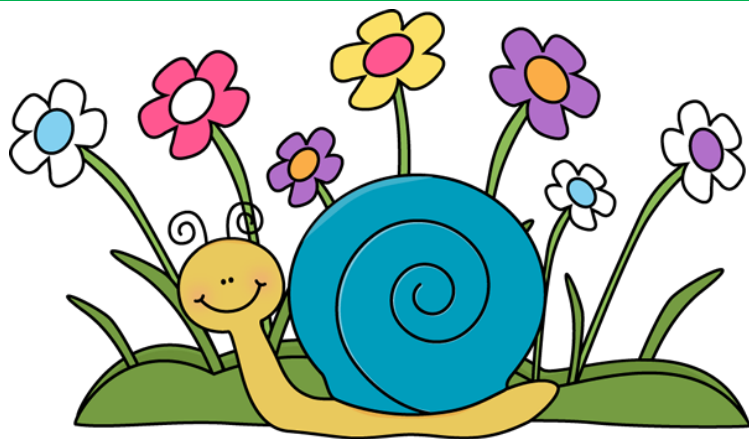
31st – Bill Popek; George Dums;
Christopher Kovalcik





New Members

Richard Bernier, CT
Bernice Furin, PA



New Lifetime Members

David Mac Murry, WI
Zander Raymaker, WI
Jeff Powaski, FL
David Bezdziecki, MI

*Rest in
Peace*

John Gembka, NY
Raymond Serafin, NY

*Thank
you!*

Kenneth Foldenauer, NC

2024 IPA Newsletter Schedule

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline for Submissions</u>
June - July 2024	May 1, 2024
August - September 2024	July 1, 2024
October - November 2024	September 1, 2024
December 2024 - January 2025	November 1, 2024

23rd Annual Polka Mania

The Hammond Mohawks

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

Sunday, June 9, 2024

Gates open at 11:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

\$15.00 – 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...

The DynaVersaStickToneAires



AND...

**Michael Costa &
The Beat**



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

Eddie Biegaj and Crusade head west.... To Arizona

As Eddie put it “WOW, WOW, WOW” what a great time in Phoenix Arizona and the warm welcome and wonderful Polka weekend. February kicked off with a great weekend of entertainment, good food, friends old and new and polka dancing, Crusade with Eddie Biegaj kept the dance floor full all weekend long.

By Dave Bonczkiewicz

A few birthday celebrations, Don Haderle celebrated 80 years and Jean Jorgensen a wonderful 90th birthday, “Sto-Lat” to you both.



GRAB YOUR SANTA HATS AND CANDY CANES, WE'RE HAVING

A SUMMER CHRISTMAS PARTY!

CHRISTMAS IN JULY DANCE

MUSIC BY: LENNY GOMULKA & CHICAGO PUSH

Sunday July 14, 2024

Doors open at noon, music 1-5

Royalty West Banquets

8675 Archer Ave

Willow Springs, IL



Christmas sing along, raffles & surprises!

Food and beverages available for purchase

Limited advance tickets: \$15 / At the door: \$20

For more information or advance tickets

Contact Jen Ruitenbergh 773-936-7014

Patrick Henry Presents!

Wisconsin Dells Polka Fest! #12

& Expo!

Chula Vista Resort



May 10-12, 2024

The party returns to the huge Conference Center!
A Great Weekend of Family FUN!



**Mother's Day with Mollie B with
The Music Connection + Frank Liszka & Blue Magic**



The Beat

from New Jersey - **Friday & Saturday**

Frank Liszka & Blue Magic

from Ohio - **Saturday & Sunday**

Twin City Soundz

from Minnesota - **Friday**

Live Wire

from Wisconsin - **Friday**

I.P.A. Tribute Band

From Illinois - **Saturday**

Live it Up! A Tribute to Lil' Wally!

from Minnesota - **Saturday**

Cynor Classics

from Wisconsin - **Saturday**

The Saturday Morning Monster Jam!

with Kevin Altenburg & Friends

Polish/English Catholic Mass - Polka Dancing Lessons!

Weekend AMTRAK Trip Available!

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

For general festival information: Call (773)889-6811

www.dellspolkafest.com

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

Weekend Hotel Package:

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 direct at

(877)624-0685 promo code:

J-38552 Polka Fest 2024

Discount code is not available online.

Rate Guaranteed until 04/15/24

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

Weekend Pass: \$60, Kids Under 18: Free! with

guardian. Plus Tax where applicable.

Huge Dance Floor By: Russ Napiwocki!

Polka Brews Cruised through the Panama Canal

By 2nd VP Chris Bogdon

In early February, over two hundred people participated in the current installment of the Polka Brews Cruise. This Polka Brews Cruise went to one of the bucket list destinations, the Panama Canal. The 11-day cruise on the Norwegian Gem was initially scheduled for 2021 but unfortunately got canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, due to the excitement from many Polka Brews Cruise regulars, the cruise was moved to 2024. The cruise featured Polka Country Musicians as well as the Boys.

The trip started in Fort Lauderdale, FL, with the great sounds of Polka Country Musicians at the Parrot Bar, a great local bar only one block from the ocean. Then, Polka Country Musicians and the Boys took over Senor Frogs in Fort Lauderdale for a fabulous polka party. Senor Frogs was packed with so many polka fans, and everyone showed management that polka people knew how to have a good time.

The cruise then left Miami and featured stops in Cartagena - Columbia, Puerto Limon - Costa Rica, Cost Maya - Mexico, Harvest Caye Belize, and the ultimate destination, the Panama Canal. Many of the people on the cruise took the excursion to traverse the entire Canal and ended up in the Pacific Ocean. It is one of the few places in the world where you can see both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans within a few hours of each other.

The music on the ship was at the Bliss Ultra Lounge and Night Club, which provided an excellent venue for both bands. In addition, one night, they got to perform on the top deck for a polka party open to

everyone on the ship. It was so fun meeting people from Chicago who grew up with polkas and had no idea they got the bonus of listening to polkas on the ship. Even the ship's comedian participated in the festivities and included some fun with the polka people at his show.

The music was, unfortunately, bittersweet because it was the last public performance of the Boys. It was the end of an era, and the Boys' incredible performance really moved the crowd. It was an honor sharing the bandstand with this final performance.

The IPA was well represented on the cruise, with 5 Hall of Famers joining us: Wally Dombrowski, Mike Matousek, Frank Liszka, Kevin Adams, and Peter J Danielczuk. In addition, IPA Directors and Officers on the trip were Chris Bogdon, Dan Mateja, Brad Turk, Rich Zebrowski, and Dennis Mikolajewski. Finally, many IPA members joined us for this great trip.

If you want more information about future Polka Brews Cruises, please check the website at <https://www.polkabrewscruise.com>.



Official Notification of Proposed Changes to IPA By-Laws

This notice officially proposes changes to IPA By-Laws that have already been reviewed by the IPA Executive Board. Per procedure, they are being published in this newsletter for consideration by our general membership. From May 1, 2024 to May 20, 2024, our general membership will vote on whether to approve these changes. Members may use one of the following voting methods: 1.) Calling in their "yes" or "no" vote to the IPA – 800-867-6552, leave a message providing their name, membership number and their yes or no vote; 2.) Emailing their vote to: vote@ipapolkas.com, providing their name, membership number and their yes or no vote; or completing and mailing the attached voting form to IPA, PO Box 1484, Plainfield, IL 60585. All amendments so presented must be approved by 2/3rds of the voting membership to be implemented.

Concerning the issue of Officers and Administration (Constitution), Article IV of the by-laws currently state:

ARTICLE IV Officers and Administration

Section 1. The administrative affairs and management of this association shall be vested in the executive board.

Section 2. The executive board shall include a president, two vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, financial secretary, sergeant-at-arms and twelve directors. It is mandatory that the president, one vice president, secretary, treasurer, financial secretary and six directors be elected from the immediate area where the main IPA executive office is located. No more than two members of a family residing in the same household shall hold office in the IPA at the same time. Six directors from outside where the charter state is located may be elected as at-large directors, but no more than two of the at-large directors may be from any one state.

Section 3. The above-named officers shall be elected by secret ballot at such time and place as the by-laws provide."

The proposed amendment would change Article IV to read as follows:

Section 1. The Executive Board shall be vested with full authority and responsibility for the executive and business administration of all Association affairs.

Section 2. The executive board shall include a president, two vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, financial secretary, sergeant-at-arms and twelve directors. No more than two members of a family residing in the same household shall hold office in the IPA at the same time.

Section 3. The above-named officers shall be elected by secret ballot at such time and place as the by-laws provide."

Note that the proposed changes would remove the following language:

"The administrative affairs and management of this association shall be vested in the executive board" and replace it with "The Executive Board shall be vested with full authority and responsibility for the executive and business administration of all Association affairs."

"It is mandatory that the president, one vice president, secretary, treasurer, financial secretary and six directors be elected from the immediate area where the main IPA executive office is located. from outside where the charter state is located. Six directors may be elected as at-large directors, but no more than two of the at-large directors may be from any one state."

On the issue of Meetings (By-Laws), Article VIII currently states:

ARTICLE VIII Meetings

Section 1. The annual meeting of this association shall be held each August and should coincide with the annual festival at a time and location determined by the executive board.

Section 1B. In addition to the general monthly meeting, the local executive board (of the state of incorporation – Illinois) shall meet at least once a month at the office of this association.

Section 1C. The entire executive board shall meet at least once a year to discuss the administrative affairs and management of this association. Section 1D. Quorum will consist of 50% of the elected officers and directors, plus one.

Section 2. In an emergency, special meeting shall be called by the president. The purpose for which the meeting is called must accompany the request, and all members must be notified by mail not less than ten (10) days prior to such special meetings.

Section 3. The president shall have the authority to submit questions by mail to members of the executive board. A majority of votes received within ten (10) days shall decide the question. The vote shall be recorded in the executive board minutes and shall have the same effect as if taken at a meeting.

The proposed amendment would change Article VIII to read as follows:

ARTICLE VIII Meetings

Section 1. An annual meeting of this association shall be held and should coincide with the annual festival at a time and location determined by the executive board.

Section 1B. In addition to the general monthly meeting, the executive board shall meet at least once a month at the office of this association.

Section 1C. Quorum will consist of 50% of the elected officers and directors, plus one.

Section 2. In an emergency, special meeting shall be called by the president. The purpose for which the meeting is called must accompany the request, and all members must be notified by mail not less than ten (10) days prior to such special meetings.

Section 3. The president shall have the authority to submit questions by mail to members of the executive board. A majority of votes received within ten (10) days shall decide the question. The vote shall be recorded in the executive board minutes and shall have the same effect as if taken at a meeting.

Note that the proposed changes would remove the following language:

"The annual meeting of this association shall be held each August and should coincide with the annual festival at a time and location determined by the executive board." Replaced with "An annual meeting of this association shall be held and should coincide with the annual festival at a time and location determined by the executive board."

"Local"

"(of the state of incorporation – Illinois)"

"The entire executive board shall meet at least once a year to discuss the administrative affairs and management of this association."

On the issue of Election of Officers (By-Laws), Article X currently states:

ARTICLE X Election of Officers

Section 1. The election of officers of the International Polka Association shall be by secret ballot at the annual convention meeting in August of each year according to established tradition and custom. Nomination of candidates for office shall be made from the floor. A nominee, to be eligible as a candidate for election, must be a general member of this association in good standing for a period of at least one year immediately prior to Election Day. All nominees seeking election to office in this association shall not occupy any appointed or elected office in any other polka association. No nomination shall be valid unless agreed to by the nominee, either orally or in writing at the time of his/her nomination.

Section 2. The term of office for the President of this association shall be for one year.

Section 2B. To initiate the stagger system of elections the following officers and directors shall be elected for a term of two (2) years commencing with the 1971 election: 1st Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Directors (3) Illinois (State of Incorporation), Directors (3) other. All other officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years commencing with the 1972 election, namely: 2nd Vice President, Financial Secretary, Directors (3) Illinois (State of Incorporation), and Directors (3) other.

Section 2C. Anyone seeking the office of the President or 1st Vice President of this association must have served at least two or more years on the executive board of this association but not less than two years.

Section 3. The officers who have been elected shall assume office on September 1st of the year elected. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie vote for any office, there shall be another ballot taken which will be limited to voting for only those candidates involved in the tie vote.

Section 4. When only one candidate is nominated for office, a voice vote may be taken.

Section 5. Every member has an equal vote to vote on every issue.

The proposed amendment would change Article X to read as follows:

ARTICLE X Election of Officers

Section 1. The election of officers of the International Polka Association shall be by secret ballot at the annual convention meeting in August of each year according to established tradition and custom. Nomination of candidates for office shall be made from the floor. A nominee, to be eligible as a candidate for election, must be a general member of this association in good standing for a period of at least one year immediately prior to Election Day. All nominees seeking election to office in this association shall not occupy any appointed or elected office in any other polka association. No nomination shall be valid unless agreed to by the nominee, either orally or in writing at the time of his/her nomination.

Section 2. The term of office for the President of this association shall be for one year.

Section 2B. To initiate the stagger system of elections the following officers and directors shall be elected for a term of two (2) years commencing with the 2024 election: 1st Vice | President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, (6) Directors. All other officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years commencing with the 2025 election, namely, 2nd Vice President, Financial Secretary, (6) Directors.

Section 2C. Anyone seeking the office of the President or 1st Vice President of this association must have served at least two or more years on the executive board of this association but not less than two years.

Section 3. The officers who have been elected shall assume office on September 1st of the year elected. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie vote for any office, there shall be another ballot taken which will be limited to voting for only those candidates involved in the tie vote.

Section 4. When only one candidate is nominated for office, a voice vote may be taken.

Section 5. Every member has an equal vote to vote on every issue.

Note that the proposed changes would edit the following language:

Replace "1971" with "2024"

Delete "(3) Illinois (State of Incorporation), Directors (3) other"

Replace "1972" with "2025"

Delete "(3) Illinois (State of Incorporation), and Directors (3) other"

Please fill out the form below and mail it to: IPA, PO Box 1484, Plainfield, IL 60544

Members Name: _____

Membership Number: _____

☐

Yes Vote

☐

No Vote

BALLOT MUST BE POSTMARKED BY May 20, 2024

Pittsburgh's Polka Hot Spot

Kinloch Fire Hall

2024 Polka Schedule

Saturday Feb 24th, 2024	Join us to celebrate 40 Years of performing in Western PA The NuTones	5:00pm – 9:00pm \$12.00 per person
Sunday April 21st, 2024	You asked for it, and we got them! Join us for a reunion of one of the hottest bands around! The Knewz Reunion	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$18.00 per person
Saturday May 4th, 2024	IPA Hall of Famer and award-winning polka band Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push	5:00pm – 9:00pm \$18.00 per person
Sunday June 30th, 2024	USPA/IPA Award-winning band Polka Country Musicians	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$18.00 per person
Saturday Sept 7th, 2024	Join us with some of the best Western PA Polka Musicians Burgh Boys	5:00pm – 9:00pm \$12.00 per person
Sunday Sept 22nd, 2024	The incomparable award winning John Gora and Gorale	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$18.00 per person

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>**



2024 International Polka Association **Festival and Convention**



4th Annual Kick-Off Polka Party

Thursday, August 29th, 2024

Grammy Award Winner, IPA Hall of Famer, In Netflix's "Polka King", Over 50 Albums Recorded

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 Elks Lodge #2249

Drinks will be available for purchase! No BYOB!

For tickets, table reservations or more information contact:

Chris Bogdon - 412-260-9725 or chris@bogdonfamily.com

For more information about the 56th Annual IPA Polka Festival and Convention in Cranberry Twp., please see <https://www.ipapolkas.com>

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IPA Newsletter

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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

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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

**2024 IPA Officers and Directors****Officers:**

President: Christy Krawisz (IL)
1st Vice President: Lori Lewandowski (IL)
2nd Vice President: Chris Bogdon (PA)
Treasurer: Dan Mateja (IL)
Secretary: Cheryl Furmaniak (IL)
Financial Secretary: Lynn Kaminski (IL)
Media Advisor: Keith Pietranczyk (IL)
Youth Advisor: Chris Ebel (MN)
Sergeant at Arms: Randy Koslosky (PA)
Chaplain: Fr. Dennis Bogusz (PA)

Directors:

Emma Bogdon (PA)
Stephen Kaminski (IL)
Brian Kapka (IL)
Johnny Krawisz (IL)
Henry Lenard (DE)
Lindsey Mateja (IL)
Dennis Mikołajewski (IL)
Christy Nowakowski (IL)
Jill Styczynski (WI)
Sue Szela (MA)
Brad Turk (FL)
Rich Zebrowski (PA)

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.

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

**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-Sunday, May 4th-5th - Pulaski Festival of Bands
Thursday, August 29th - IPA Kick-Off Party
Friday-Sunday, August 30th - September 1 - 56th Annual IPA Festival

A portion of this newsletter is sponsored for by the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), that selected the International Polka Association as one of its grant recipients.

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DEADLINE FOR June 2024 NEWSLETTER: May 1

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.®
 PO Box 1484, Plainfield, IL 60544
 1-800-TO-POLKA (1-800-867-6552)
 Website: www.ipapolkas.com

