



## A Note From Our President

Hello IPA Members,

We hope you and your family had a great Thanksgiving and you were able to celebrate with family and friends.

The IPA Board has been busy in the last few months with looking for another location to house our Hall of Fame as well as booking the bands for our 56<sup>th</sup> Annual IPA Festival and Convention. There are several other events that are happening throughout the year, be sure to check our website at [ipapolkas.com](http://ipapolkas.com) for more information as well as inside this newsletter. I have been busy scanning old IPA Newsletters from 1969 to 1990's. I am so fascinated to read some of the articles as well as looking at some of the photos. We are going to add them to our website for you to enjoy as well. We have also implemented a new way to request sponsorship from the IPA. There is a link on our website to fill out and we have a three-person sponsorship committee that will review the requests and present them to the board for a vote. Please see inside this newsletter for more information.

Johnny and I have been doing a lot of traveling in 2023, a majority of them polka/band related and some a combination of him playing and then us traveling to other locations. Johnny had the opportunity to perform with the Beat November 18th and 19<sup>th</sup> for the Pulaski Club of Arizona's Fall Festival, (I will share pictures in the next newsletter). We had such an amazing time with all the people in attendance. This was my first time in Arizona, and I loved it! After Johnny was done performing, we drove to Anaheim, California to Disneyland with our two daughters, Katie and Hayley. The last time I was there was in 2002. We enjoyed three fun filled days in California before we headed to Las Vegas. The last time we were in Las Vegas was 2005. Boy has it changed.

As you celebrate Christmas, make wonderful memories that will linger in your home, make great friendships that will last a lifetime and may this season be filled with peace and joy. On behalf of the Officers and Directors of the International Polka Association, we want to wish each and every one of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2024. God Bless you all.

Hope to see you all at our January Festival of Bands Weekend.

*Christy*



# It's Always Sunny in Florida...

## Witamy członków!

**WOW...** It is hard to believe that Oktoberfest season is already over. I can tell you our band had a great time entertaining at numerous events throughout the state. I hope you had the opportunity to join in the fun, and will continue the good times this holiday season. Wishing everyone a Blessed **TURK**-ey day and a cherished Christmas!

## 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**: Sunday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> is Brewski Brothers, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> featuring IPA Polka Hall of Famer Joe Oberaitis, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Christmas dinner dance with Northern Sounds. For more information, call the club at (386)-258-7059 or email: [pulaski-daytonaclub@yahoo.com](mailto:pulaski-daytonaclub@yahoo.com). Join their Facebook page or visit their website: [www.polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.org](http://www.polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.org).

**General K. Pulaski Citizens Club in Belleview** is having their annual Thanksgiving dinner dance with Northern Sounds on Sunday Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. The Christmas Kolendy party featuring Northern Sounds is on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. They are currently working on their 2024 dance schedule. 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 the remainder of this year. Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> SNPJ's annual Christmas parade. **Florida SNPJ Days 2024 Festival** is Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> featuring Frank Moravcik Band from Ohio, along with homemade delicious food, full bar & Jam sessions. For additional info. give Cindy a call at (386)-689-9454. Join their Facebook page, [snpjlodge603@gmail.com](mailto:snpjlodge603@gmail.com) or visit their website: [www.samsulasnpjlodge603.com](http://www.samsulasnpjlodge603.com)

**Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach** is having other events during the Fall months with dances on Friday & Saturday nights. 2024 Polka Dances include: Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> Frank Moravcik Band from Cleveland Ohio; Jan 28<sup>th</sup> Polka All Stars; Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> Eddie Forman Orch. (EFO), and March 16<sup>th</sup>

SO-FLA-Pa Band. For information, please join their Facebook page, visit their website [www.pacvbusa.org](http://www.pacvbusa.org), email: [pascverobeach@gmail.com](mailto:pascverobeach@gmail.com) or call the club at (772)-778-0039.



By Brad Turk

## **Polish American Society of St. Petersburg** has a **Time Change: Dinners 1pm & Dancing 2-5pm.**

On Sunday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> the Northern Sounds will be playing for the clubs "**Grand OPENING**" with free admission! Upcoming dances include: Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> FL. Generations; Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jam-N-Jive; Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Polka All Stars; Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> Northern Sounds; Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> FL. Generations; Jan 21<sup>st</sup> Frank Moravcik; Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> Buffalo Touch; Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> Northern Sounds; Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> Annual **Paczki Day** event with FL. Generations; Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> Jam-N-Jive; Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> Polka All Stars; March 3<sup>rd</sup> Frank Moravcik; March 10<sup>th</sup> Buffalo Touch; March 17<sup>th</sup> Polka All Stars, and March 24<sup>th</sup> Northern Sounds. Please visit their website: [www.polishsociety.org](http://www.polishsociety.org), join their Facebook page, or call the club (772)-894-9908 for more info.

## **Polkas in 2024:**

**Jan. 10** – Mollie B & Squeeze Box at Lake Miona Rec. Center, The Villages 6-9pm.

**Jan. 21** - Mollie B & Squeeze Box at Rohan Rec. Center, The Villages 6-9pm.

**Jan. 22-** Mollie B & Squeeze Box at German Am. Friendship Society of Pinellas Co. 8098 66<sup>th</sup> St. North, Pinellas Park...Info. call club: (727)-350-6520

**Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>** - Polka Party with Eddie Forman Orch. (EFO), at Englewood Elks Lodge, 401 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood from 5-9pm. Call (941)-474-1404 for info.

**Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>** – Florida SNPJ Days Festival Featuring Frank Moravcik Band from Ohio at SNPJ Lodge #603, 421 North Samsula Drive, New Smyrna Beach. Fri. 5-8pm, Sat. 12N-5pm. Call Cindy (386)-689-9454 for info., email: [Cjgriswoldcfl.rr.com](mailto:Cjgriswoldcfl.rr.com), check out their Facebook page.

**Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>** -Annual Strawberry Festival in Plant City, FL. will be featuring the Jimmy Sturr band at 10:30am. Check out Jimmy Sturr's Band schedule for more info.



**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](mailto:bradturk@cox.net) or call the **Polka Hot Line:** (352) 875-3961. **Wishing everyone a Wonderful Holiday Season!**

**Wesolych Swiat i szczesliwego  
Nowego Roku!**



( from L to R - Stan Simms, FL Director Brad Turk, & Ray Skorka)



We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy, Healthy and New Year

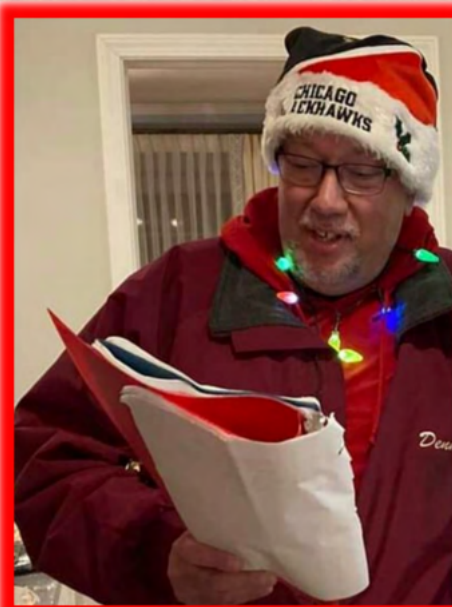
Zyczymy wszystkim Wesolych Swiat  
Bozego Narodzenia i Szczesliwego Nowego  
Roku.

DE Director  
Henry Lenard & Diana K

Singing a Polish Christmas carol  
from my heart, I wish all of my polka  
friends and family from near and far a  
wonderful holiday season blessed with good  
health and polka happiness!

Please have a Na Zdrowie with me in 2024!

Wesolych Swiat, Bozego Narodzenia!  
IL Director  
Dennis Mikolajewski





*Welcome New  
Members*

Thomas Altenburg, WI

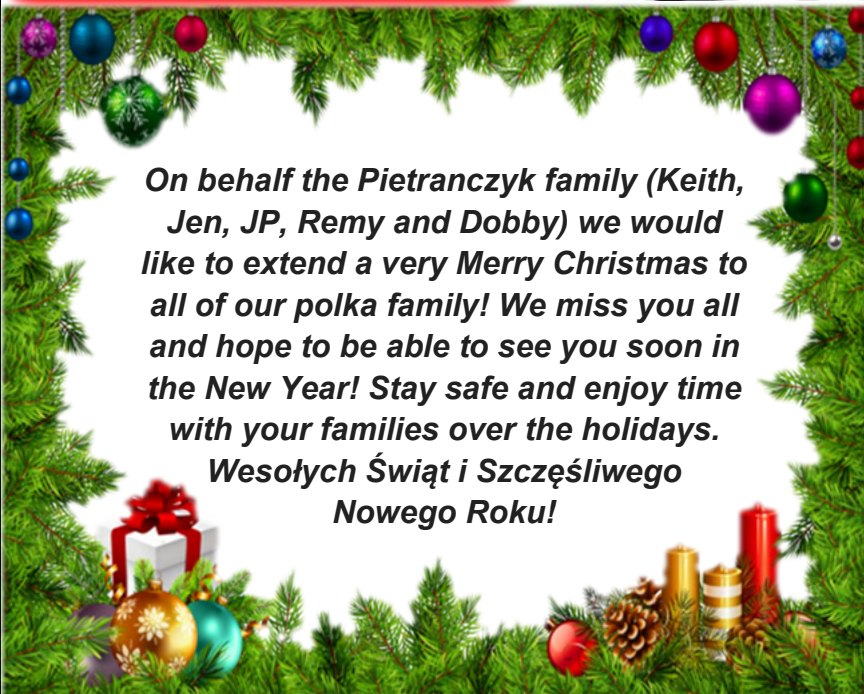
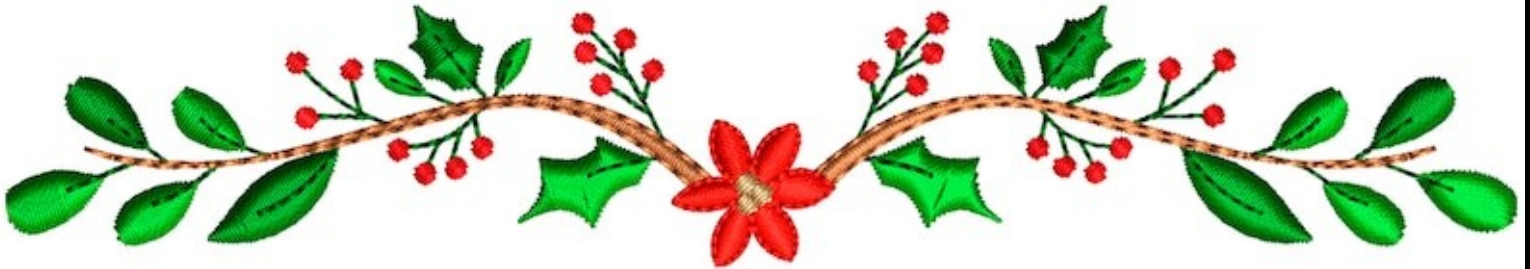
*Rest in  
Peace*

Ken Nicol

*thank  
you*

Eric Kurowski, WI

"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."







It's a  
GIRL!



**Congratulations to Ryan and Danika Ogradny  
on the birth of their second daughter,  
Lucina Josephine Ogradny.**

**Lucy was born on May 6, 2023, and was  
welcomed by big sister Cecilia (CeCe) and  
recent Hall of Fame Inductee,  
Grandma Dee-Dee Ogradny.**





# **Join the International Polka Association in Celebrating January as National Polka Month**

## **Elements by the Odyssey Banquet Hall**

**16235 S. LaGrange Road, Orland Park, Illinois**  
**Located behind and connected to the Homewood Suites Hotel**

### **Festival of Bands - Warm Up Dance**

**Saturday, January 13, 2024**

Music by: Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push

Doors open at 5:30 pm - Music: 6 pm - 10 pm

**ADMISSION: \$20 at the Door**

**\*\*A Special 2-Day pass will be available for \$40\*\***

## **55th Annual Chicago Festival of Polka Bands**

**Sunday, January 14, 2024**

**The Music Company**

**Tony Blazonczyk and New Phaze**

**I.P.A. Tribute Band**

**EZ Tones**

**Polka Generations**

**Eddie Korosa Jr and**

**the Boys & Girl from Illinois**

(Bands subject to change without notice)

Doors open at 11:30 am — Music: Noon –7 pm

**ADMISSION: \$25 at the door**

Cash Bar and food available for purchase





**The International Polka Association and Let's Polka USA**

present the  
**12th Annual**

**UNITY/ST. PATRICK'S DAY DANCE**

**Sunday, March 17, 2024**



**Royalty West Banquets**

**8675 S. Archer Ave.**

**Willow Springs, Illinois**

**Doors open at 12:30 pm**

**Music from 1 pm - 5 pm**



**BY THE IPA TRIBUTE BAND**

Featuring Polka Music Hall of Famer **Rick Rzeszutko** and  
special guest vocalist Polka Music Hall of Famer from Canada

**John Gora**



**Admission \$20**

Food will be available for purchase

Visit [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com) or [www.letspolkausclub.com](http://www.letspolkausclub.com) for more information



May your Krupnik be spiked with  
plenty of JOY to get you through  
this holiday season.

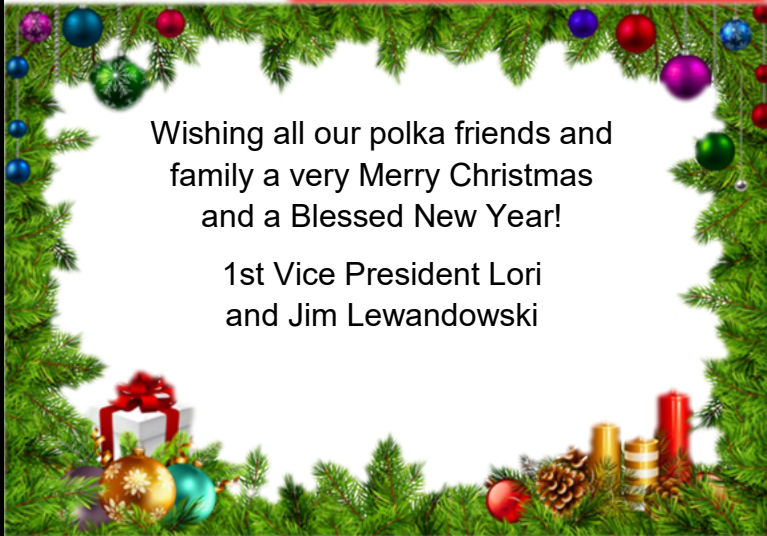
Wishing everyone a very  
Merry Christmas and a Blessed New  
Year!

Na Zdrowie,  
FL Director Brad &  
Corinne Turk



Wishing all our polka friends and  
family a very Merry Christmas  
and a Blessed New Year!

1st Vice President Lori  
and Jim Lewandowski



Happy  
New Year

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## **DEADLINE for AWARD SUBMISSIONS**

# **JANUARY 14, 2024**

Polka artists interested in possible music awards recognition now have an easy electronic method to get on the ballot! Beginning this year, all working polka artists seeking IPA awards for the current year must go online to [www.ipapolkas.com/application-musicawards](http://www.ipapolkas.com/application-musicawards) to submit their information. All those who register are eligible for the IPA's *Favorite Band* and *Favorite Vocalist* award categories. Recording artists have a special section to upload their musical tracks and graphics to be considered for their additional awards. In all, deserving polka artists are recognized with music awards that include *Favorite Album*, *Favorite Song*, *Favorite Band*, *Favorite Male Vocalist*, and *Favorite Female Vocalist* for Polish and Inter-

national (Slovenian, Czech, German, Dutchmen, etc.) polka styles. An academy of 195 electors from across the country determines the award winners by casting their votes on annual ballots. The lists of polka artists on these ballots will be generated by the submissions received through the new electronic process. So, you've got to submit every year to win! Complete instructions are available on the website. **The deadline to submit for consideration in the next voting cycle is January 14, 2024.** Eligible recordings must have been released between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Questions may be directed to [MusicAwards@ipapolkas.com](mailto:MusicAwards@ipapolkas.com).



To our Polka Family, may your Christmas be blessed with much love, fun, peace, joy, & happiness!

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, & Happy New Year.

IL Director Christy, Mike, Diane, Steven, and Elif Nowakowski



On behalf of my family, I would like to wish all my polka family and friends a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May the New Year bring you good health, happiness and many blessings all year long.

Wisconsin Director Jill and the entire Styczynski family.



## Deadline for IPA Hall of Fame Submissions is December 31st

Each year, the International Polka Association recognizes select polka professionals, living and deceased, with induction into the IPA Polka Hall of Fame. The Board of Trustees reviews the qualifications of Hall of Fame nominees to determine if they meet the criteria for placement on the ballot. An academy of 195 electors from across the country uses these ballots to determine those to be inducted in the annual voting cycle. **Nominations must be submitted by December 31st.** Visit [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com) for the complete list of details.

## Deadline for Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award Submission is December 31st

Many years ago, the late Joseph Jozwiak, a director of the IPA, made a suggestion that an award be bestowed upon an individual or group of individuals who have made a significant contribution or endeavor to enhance the promotion of polka music. After much discussion, the IPA voted to honor those worthy individuals with the establishment of the Special Achievement Award. To pay tribute to Joe Jozwiak, following his passing, this award was renamed the Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award.

Members of the IPA are invited to send in their nominations to recognize polka personalities who might not otherwise be acknowledged for their dauntless contributions. Nominees can include DJs, polka writers, promoters, ballroom operators, etc. **Bands and musicians are excluded.**

To submit a nomination, complete the form below, include a short biography of the nominees' accomplishments that qualify him or her for this award. Nominations **MUST** be received **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31st**. The IPA Board of Directors and Officers will then determine a winner. Visit [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com) for the complete list of details.



## 2024 IPA Newsletter Schedule

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





Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego  
Nowego Roku

PA Director Rich Zebrowski and the entire  
Zebrowski Family

Christmas is a season of enjoying  
the simple things that make life beautiful and  
should be filled with warmth from friendships  
and comfort from loved ones.  
May you have great memories that will  
permanently touch your heart.

We wish you so much joy during this season  
and all through to the New Year.

President Christy, IL Director Johnny,  
Katie, and Hayley Krawisz



Wesołych Świąt to all of our IPA members!  
We wish you a blessed holiday season and  
hope you are able to spend it with the ones  
your love. We look forward to seeing you all  
in the New Year!

IL Director Lindsey Mateja  
and Jonathan Payne





# NEW YEAR'S DAY "POT LUCK" DANCE PARTY



MONDAY JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2024  
STARTING AT 2PM,

VARIETY OF MUSIC WILL BE PLAYED  
(MUSICIANS BRING YOUR INSTRUMENT)  
(DRUM SET WILL BE PROVIDED)

\$5.00 per guest & a dish to share on the buffet

For more info. Contact  
David @ 602.741.8214



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

[www.facebook.com/pulaskiclubofArizona](https://www.facebook.com/pulaskiclubofArizona) page , [www.pulaskiclubaz.com](http://www.pulaskiclubaz.com)





On behalf of everyone in the Bogdon Family, we would like to wish yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to being with everyone in 2024 at another Polka Weekend.

2nd Vice President Chris, Sandy,  
PA Director Emma, and Andrew

During this Christmas Season,  
we wish you Joy, Love and  
Peace.

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!

IPA Secretary Cheryl Furmaniak



The best part of this time of year is the  
memories we make.

May this Christmas season bring peace,  
love, and joy to your family.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Financial Secretary Lynn,  
IL Director Stephen,  
Aleya, Hadley, Bynxi, Stampy,  
and Yogi





**1<sup>st</sup>** – Joseph J. Dembeck, Jr.; Andrew Citkowicz; Elaine Libert

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – Eileen Kumpon; Greg Zebro

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – Joseph Rupnik, James Sajkowicz, Jr.; Alice Kovarik; Richard Styczynski; John Yokim

**4<sup>th</sup>** – Christine Kucher; M. Daniel Hakos; Bill Miston; Darryl Troczynski

**5<sup>th</sup>** – Chris Rose; Cherie Hafeman

**6<sup>th</sup>** – Dick Zavodny; Rebecca Jurevis; Sandy Motyka; Kathy Raczkowski

**7<sup>th</sup>** – Myrna Filipczak

**8<sup>th</sup>** – Steve Coblisch; Darlene Kender; Kathy Futa; Jack Walsh; Alex Meixner

**9<sup>th</sup>** – Erma Kazmierczak; Jerome Machej

**10<sup>th</sup>** – Frank Piotrowski; Hannah Yash; Bev Koziej; Claudia Winiarz

**11<sup>th</sup>** – Neil Makatenas; Richard Kujawa

**13<sup>th</sup>** – John Piotrowski; Steve Novosel

**14<sup>th</sup>** – Olivia Piatkowski; Larry Hirschak; Tara Weber; Chase Mackiewicz

**15<sup>th</sup>** – Darrell Weltin; Logan Stanczewski; Zander Raymakers

**16<sup>th</sup>** – Chet Kizewski; Daniel Warner

**17<sup>th</sup>** – Mark Janson; Dennis Motyka; Andrew Bogdon

**18<sup>th</sup>** – Ken Kendra; Marla Kunke; Ray Budzilek, Jr.; Michael Biela; Allan Rutkowski

**19<sup>th</sup>** – Diane Pojedynski; Thomas Goldyn

**20<sup>th</sup>** – Jessica Jurevis

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – Paul Wanas

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – John S. Mikrut, Carol Kibelbek, Michael Iwasiwka

**25<sup>th</sup>** – Joseph Niemietz; Leonard Schrank; Paul Janeczek

**26<sup>th</sup>** – Richard Wisniewski; Maria Kula; Stanley Papuga

**27<sup>th</sup>** – Claude Wiatrowski; Helga Leonard; Jessica Agin; Jason Anschutz; Gary Rhamy; Diana Kosinski

**28<sup>th</sup>** – Kevin Altenburg; Manuel Misarski

**29<sup>th</sup>** – Marsha Bulinski; Mary Masse; Chris Doszak; Anne Stec; Ernest Stetz

**30<sup>th</sup>** – Tim Okrzesik

**31<sup>st</sup>** – Kathy Blazonczyk; Gerry Gorak; Maryann Jarusinski; Gail Cerva







# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## January

- |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> – John Kaiser                                                                                          | <b>21<sup>st</sup></b> – Basia Lynn; Jeff Maroszek                                                |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> – Donna Inglot; Lucas Yash; Patty Lesczynski                                                           | <b>22<sup>nd</sup></b> – Ann Marie Matousek; Tom Radecki;<br>James “JP” Pietranczyk               |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> – Ernest Daigle; Bob Lynn; Kevin Kurdziel;<br>Aleya Kaminski; Adam Hembel                              | <b>24<sup>th</sup></b> – Michael Hakos; Stephen Prejsnar                                          |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup></b> – Jerry Fabian; Rick Kunke                                                                             | <b>25<sup>th</sup></b> – Craig Marsolek; Walter Maduzia;<br>Bill Dobrucki; Eric Brill; Judy Nowak |
| <b>5<sup>th</sup></b> – Nancy Szmyd                                                                                          | <b>26<sup>th</sup></b> – Wayne Machnicki; Bren Wrona-Norris                                       |
| <b>6<sup>th</sup></b> – John Freidhoff; Michele Troczynski                                                                   | <b>28<sup>th</sup></b> – Ray Kanoza; Don Maduzia; RJ Bogdon                                       |
| <b>7<sup>th</sup></b> – Suellen Gomulka; Candy Bonnin;<br>Erv Wisniewski; Stephen Kaminski;<br>Pat Makuch; Marianne Buzinski | <b>29<sup>th</sup></b> – Mary Anne Robinson                                                       |
| <b>8<sup>th</sup></b> – Laura Mateja; Eddie Rodick III                                                                       | <b>30<sup>th</sup></b> – Edward Grudi Jr.                                                         |
| <b>9<sup>th</sup></b> – Jeff Yash; James Sefcik                                                                              | <b>31<sup>st</sup></b> – Richard Leach; Linda Lubaczewski                                         |
| <b>10<sup>th</sup></b> – Pat Stanek; Les Motyka; Brian Chenkus;<br>Anthony Glaza; Debora Jones                               |                                                                                                   |
| <b>11<sup>th</sup></b> – Frank Liszka                                                                                        |                                                                                                   |
| <b>12<sup>th</sup></b> – Vince Ashman; Richie Dombrowski;<br>Paul Brozek; Sean Byrne                                         |                                                                                                   |
| <b>13<sup>th</sup></b> – Barbara Szydowski                                                                                   |                                                                                                   |
| <b>14<sup>th</sup></b> – Stanley Raiczky; Mike Cielecki                                                                      |                                                                                                   |
| <b>15<sup>th</sup></b> – David Dobrzinski; Joseph Kubicar;<br>John Jaworsk                                                   |                                                                                                   |
| <b>16<sup>th</sup></b> – James Lewandowski; Emma Bogdon                                                                      |                                                                                                   |
| <b>17<sup>th</sup></b> – Al Piatkowski; John C. Mikrut; Joann Sklarsky<br>Zachary Mikrut; Mike Kocieniewski;                 |                                                                                                   |
| <b>18<sup>th</sup></b> – Lucille Marsolek; Brian Kapka; Duane Mijal;<br>Valerie Zielinski                                    |                                                                                                   |
| <b>19<sup>th</sup></b> – Hayley Krawisz; Christy Nowakowski;<br>Amber Alberts                                                |                                                                                                   |
| <b>20<sup>th</sup></b> – Richard Tady; Goran Lukic;<br>Dave Burnatowski;                                                     |                                                                                                   |

# Happy New Year!



## Das Beste Oktoberfest in La Crosse, WI

By Christy Krawisz

Voted one of the top Oktoberfest in the Midwest, I was able to attend the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Das Beste Oktoberfest in La Crosse Wisconsin the weekend of September 28 to 30, 2023. Johnny and I headed to Wisconsin on Friday afternoon and made it in time to hear IPA Hall of Fame Inductee, Gary Brueggen and his Ridgeland Dutchman Band perform, as always, the band sounded fantastic and his son Mason on drum, has grown up so fast and is extremely talented. Johnny and I even had a chance to catch up with Jim Busta, who was also in attendance. On Saturday, the Bratwurst Brothers performed on the main stage, the same time that Brian Brueggen and the Mississippi Valley Dutchman were performing. I was able to sneak over to hear them perform to a full tent of Oktoberfest attendees. The Bratwurst Brothers were on fire, playing all of the crowd's favorites as they sang and danced the afternoon away. Brian and the Band also sounded amazing and had their tent dancing to every tune! There were three stages of music all weekend long. A little history of this festival was published on the Tasting Table website.

The Das Beste Oktoberfest in La Crosse, Wisconsin is undoubtedly the best in the state and maybe even the best in the Midwest. The first

Oktoberfest in La Crosse was held back in 1961. Originally organized out of necessity for a community-wide event in the city, considering the German-American population, an Oktoberfest was the obvious choice.

The original objectives of the first La Crosse Oktoberfest were to promote local pride in La Crosse, obtain national publicity, promote tourism, involve a large number of people, and break even financially (it's run by a non-profit organization). What started as a small festival to bring the local community together has blossomed into a massive celebration that draws visitors from all over. It continues to sustain and thrive as the longest-running annual Oktoberfest in the region.

Events included in Das Beste Oktoberfest include a craft beer night, tapping of the golden keg, and a fireworks celebration on Saturday night. Hundreds of beers from all over the country and world are available on tap, as well as locally-made brats and other German staples. As dozens of musical acts perform one after the other all three days, the fun never stops. This Oktoberfest is a must-visit for anyone living in the region, and it may just warrant a visit from beyond.





# Congratulations...

Amanda Mytych and  
Aaron Slivinski on their  
engagement on  
July 2, 2023 at  
Mount Magazine in  
Paris, Arkansas.



Samantha Pirucki and  
Robert Goodwin on their  
engagement on  
March 21, 2022 in  
Charleston.







**Congratulations to IPA member  
Becca Jurevis-Anglim and her husband Sean,  
and grandparents, IPA Member  
Susan Jurevis, and her husband Tom,  
as well as the Krason family on the birth of  
Penelope Rose Anglim born on August 13, 2023.**





**September 18, 2023 – Richie Machey – Golden Tones** - In recognition of your efforts for promoting and performing Polka Music for 50 years, the International Polka Association hereby present this Certificate of Appreciation. Thank you and Congratulations.

**September 18, 2023 – Jerome Machey – Golden Tones** - In recognition of your efforts for promoting and performing Polka Music for 50 years, the International Polka Association hereby present this Certificate of Appreciation. Thank you and Congratulations.

**September 30, 2023 - Suzanne Herbelin** - In recognition of your 37 years as the Executive Director at Wurstfest, the largest Polka Festival in the Country, the International Polka Association would like to thank you, congratulate you and salute your efforts during this important milestone. Best wishes to you on your future endeavors.

**October 18, 2023 - Toledo Area Polka Society (TAPS)** - In recognition of your 40th Anniversary, the International Polka Association would like to congratulate you and all of your members, and we salute your efforts during this important milestone. Thank you for all you do for Polka Music.

**October 29, 2023 - Mike Matousek** - In recognition of your retirement from The Boys, originally formed 43 years ago, The International Polka Association would like to thank you for your entertainment and many accomplishments. Thank you also for your tireless efforts and for all you have done on and off the stage promoting Polka music.

**October 29, 2023 - Nicky DiSebastiano, Dave Morris, Jeff Yash, Frank Liszka, and Mike Evan** - In recognition of the retirement of The Boys, The International Polka Association would like to thank the band for all you have done, and your significant contributions to Polka music. As your music has become part of us, it will never leave us.



# Polka Party



at Englewood Elks Lodge  
401 N. Indiana Avenue, Englewood, FL.  
Elks Lodge #: 941-474-1404

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024**

5:00 pm to 9:00 p.m.

E.F.O. - Eddie Forman Orchestra

\$16.00 per ticket advanced – \$18.00 at door

Cash or Money Order

Free Dance Lessons at 4:00 pm

Doors and Kitchen Open at 4:30 p.m. - Food Available

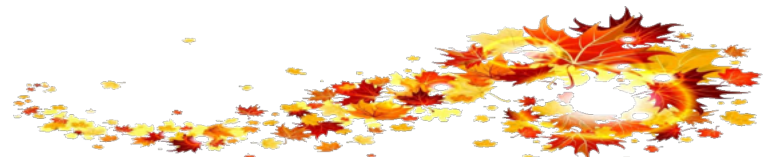




# FUNDRAISER RAFFLE WINNERS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  Wallace Stancyk, WI	2  Leonard & Barbara Palkowski, MI
3  James Witulski, NC	4  Sandy Earl, OH	5  Jill Styczynski, WI	6  Edward Grudi, PA	7  Adam Biskup, Canada	8  Fr. Dennis Bogusz, PA	9  Edward Sienkowski, IN
10  Rob Piatkowski, NY	11  Nancy Kikel, PA	12  Dick Kozacko, NC	13  Kevin Weinstock. WI	14  Stan Simms, FL	15  Jason Furmaniak, IL	16  Edziu Turecek, CT
17  Carol Alsheimer, NY	18  Ronald Petro, PA	19  Michelle Robinson, MI	20  Robert Banoczi, CO	21  Bob Lynn, Jr., OH	22  Michelle Troczyński, MI	23  Chris & Doris Benson, TX
24  Mary Lou Czerniak, MN	25  Paul Fura, IN	26  Ronald Wichman, Jr., WI	27  John Rogers, NY	28  Judy Kwiatkowski, OH	29  Olivia Maroszek, WI	30  Gerry Gorak, IL

*Enter to Win!*





# FUNDRAISER RAFFLE WINNERS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Vincent Krzyzanowski, FL	2 Laura Mateja, IL	3 Larry Walk, OH	4 Kenneth Koscinski, PA	5 Andrea Arman, ID	6 Michael Nowakowski, IL	7 Kathy Urbanczyk, NY
8 Harry Parsons, OH	9 Michael Biela, WV	10 Mike Kowalski, IN	11 Ron Swiderski, OH	12 Karen Lakota, OH	13 Joseph Wondolowski, IL	14 Cherie Trzepacz, NY
15 Cindy Fisher, OH	16 Cindy Olszewski, PA	17 Jack Libera, MA	18 Joanne Jones, IL	19 Edward & Karen Stachura, FL	20 James Mackiewicz, Jr, OH	21 Sally Sendra, IL
22 Emma Bogdon, PA	23 Mary Leja, IL	24 Jeff Tomczak, MD	25 Ken Kendra, IL	26 Patricia Walker, SC	27 Denise Gilwa, IL	28 Raymond Elleven, TX
29 Leonard Wolski, IL	30 Chris Bauer, NY	31 Andy Mocek, WI				







## Recipes from ... IPA Members

IPA President, Christy Krawisz, thought it would be a great idea to share some of our members favorite recipes with the membership. So, we will spotlight food and drink recipes submitted to us by our members. To share your favorite recipe, please email it to [info@ipapolkas.com](mailto:info@ipapolkas.com) and **include your name in your email**. Please send it in a word document or directly in the email. PDF's won't work, sorry. We look forward to sharing some great recipes with you! Enjoy.

### Angela's Toffee Dip submitted by *Angela Biskup*

1 package cream cheese (regular or light)  
1/4 cup brown sugar  
caramel sauce  
2 Skor bars (Heath bars)

#### **(version two)**

3/4 cup packed brown sugar  
1/2 cup powdered (icing) sugar  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 pkg cream cheese, softened (regular or light)  
3/4 cup toffee bits (skor bits)

#### **Prepare sliced apples:**

1 cup pineapple juice  
3-4 Red delicious apples, cored, cut into wedges  
3-4 granny smith apples, cored, cut into wedges

Combine juice and apples in bowl, toss well. (Pineapple juice stops apples from turning brown)

Drain apples.

Place apples in airtight container, seal, chill.

Serve dip with apples.

Make up to 12 hours ahead.

Beat cream cheese with brown sugar until smooth.  
Layer in low serving dish.  
Spread layer of caramel sauce.  
Crush Skor bars and sprinkle on top.  
Chill if desired.  
Serve with sliced apples.

Combine first 4 ingredients in a bowl mixing in mixer at medium speed until smooth.  
Add toffee bits, mix well.  
Cover and chill.  
Serve with sliced apples.







October, 2023  
General update/thank you's  
from Jim Busta

Greetings:

Celebration of 45 Years of the Jim Busta Band. This was a great celebration held at the La Crosse Oktoberfest Grounds on Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. It was attended by an estimated crowd of 550-600 people. Thanks to the La Crosse Oktoberfest people, Chad Busta and Mollie Busta for putting this together on a 10-day notice of time. We had people from 10 different states in attendance (including from the states of California and New York). Many musicians were present who have played in the band over the years....and many other musicians, as well. Even though we requested no gifts, some gifts were given anyway – so thank you. A cash bar was also available provided by the La Crosse Oktoberfest. A complimentary light meal and water/soft drinks were provided, and donations were accepted for these. After expenses, we (Mary Lou and I) were able to provide \$1,500 in donations of \$500 each to the following charitable organizations: The La Crosse Salvation Army, St Jude's Children's Research Hospital, and Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Other: My primary "nurse/doctor" at our house, my wife - Mary Lou, had hip surgery on September 18<sup>th</sup>. She is doing very well and came home the day after surgery. She is restricted from driving for a while, but that restriction has been lifted. So a big thank you to our family/extended family for providing arrangements to have our transportation needs met.

We celebrated our 52<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

My cancer has either come back, or never left. I am in the middle of more chemo treatments. I had two treatments in September, and then I will have more later. Then some assessments will be made, and if appropriate, I will be given radiation. Thanks for all for your support, well wishes, prayers, other contributions, and acts of kindness.

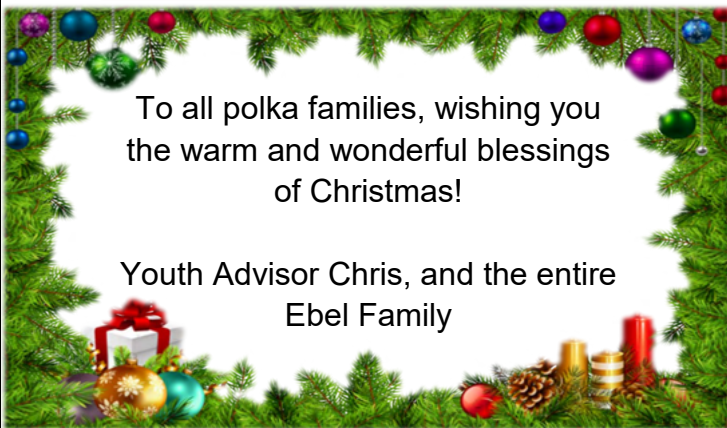
It's a Good Day to Be Alive.....

Once again, Thanks to all,  
Jim (& Mary Lou) Busta

*Thanks for the nice recognition. A wonderful framed Certificate.*

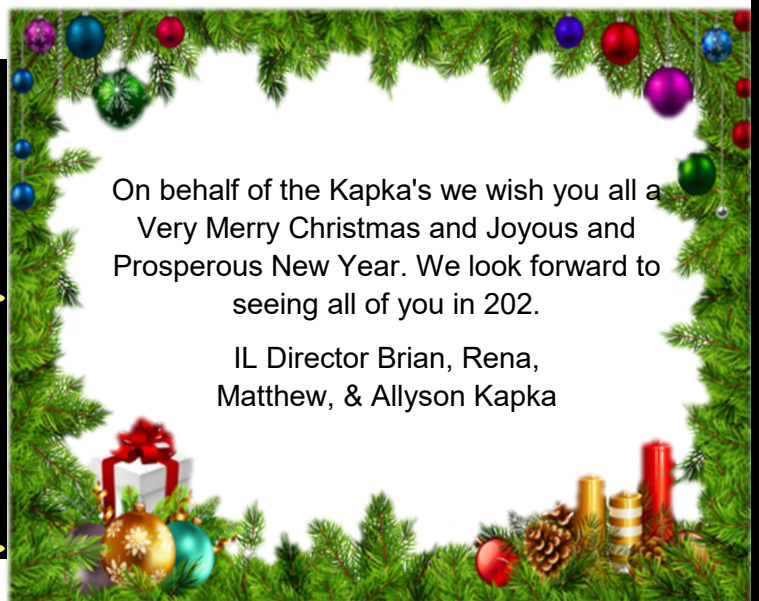
To all polka families, wishing you  
the warm and wonderful blessings  
of Christmas!

Youth Advisor Chris, and the entire  
Ebel Family



On behalf of the Kapka's we wish you all a  
Very Merry Christmas and Joyous and  
Prosperous New Year. We look forward to  
seeing all of you in 202.

IL Director Brian, Rena,  
Matthew, & Allyson Kapka





# The End of an Era..

By Chris Bogdon

On Sunday, October 29th, the end of an Era occurred in Western Pennsylvania. This was the day that the Boys played their last public job. Founded in 1980, the Boys went on and changed polka music for years. With their signature sound, tight horns, rocking rhythm, and amazing vocals, they were a fixture of polka festivals for years.

It was fitting that Frank Powaski, polka DJ in western PA for over 50 years, was the one who brought the Boys in at the Mt. Pleasant Polish Falcons. The legendary Fiedor's Grove, where the Boys played many gigs, was only a few miles away. So many polka fans came out to celebrate the legacy of this band.

Rich Zebrowski, Director for Pennsylvania, and Chris Bogdon, 2nd Vice President of the IPA, were on hand to give each member of the Boys Certificate of Appreciations for their contributions to polka music. In addition, Mike Matousek was given a Certificate of Appreciation for his retirement from the Boys and his tireless efforts on and off the stage for promoting polka music.

The IPA would like to congratulate the Boys and wish them luck with their future endeavors.



## Mark Your Calendars and Save the Days

Saturday and Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2024

Green Bay WI

Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> DynaBrass

Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> Pulaski Area Festival of Bands

New Generation, The Mix, Aaron Socha and LiveWire

More bands to be confirmed and announced soon

All events will be held at Townline Pub & Grill in Suamico, WI.

Hotel Block will be available at The Country Inn & Suites. Details soon.

Check [ipapolkas.com](http://ipapolkas.com) for updates

## Make your plans to attend



17<sup>th</sup> Annual

# IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Dance 2024



Polish American Citizens Center • 355 East Street, Ludlow, MA 01056



2 days!

**SAT  
MARCH  
9th**  
7pm-11pm  
ADMISSION \$15

featuring  
**Polka  
Country  
Musicians**



**SUN  
MARCH  
10th**  
2pm-7pm  
ADMISSION \$20

Honoring the music of  
**The Krew  
Brothers**

of Buffalo, New York  
Music by



**Lenny Gomulka**



**Eddie Forman  
Orchestra**



**Dennis Polisky  
& Maestro's Men**

## FOR TICKETS

Call Ernie Daigle 413-519-7014

Send Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope and  
Check Made Payable to Ernest Daigle to:

Ernest Daigle  
12 Whitin Ave.  
Chicopee, MA 01013



or call:

Patty Daigle 413-592-0367

Peter Danielczyk 203-231-1819

For Tables of 8 or More Call:

Carol Blajda - 413-549-6997



**Rooms Available**

Call: 413-589-9300

321 Center Street

Ludlow, MA

Code: IPA

Special Room Rate:

3/7 & 3/10 - \$149.

3/8 & 3/9 - \$109.

Expires Feb. 22, 2024

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY • NO TICKETS HELD AT DOOR • Tickets are NOT REFUNDABLE



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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:

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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)



## 2023 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](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!**



**Saturday, Jan 13th** - Warm-up Dance  
**Sunday, Jan 14h** - Chicago's Festival of Bands  
**Saturday-Sunday, March 9th & 10th** - Ludlow Benefit Dance Weekend  
**Sunday, March 17th** - IPA & Let's Polka USA Unity Dance  
**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

## Advertise in the IPA Newsletter

### One Issue

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

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### Six Issues

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Quarter Page .....	\$32.00 per issue
Eighth Page.....	\$20.00 per issue

### **DEADLINE FOR February 2024 NEWSLETTER: January 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.®  
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1-800-TO-POLKA (1-800-867-6552)  
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