



IPA Newsletter

A Note From Our President

As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply grateful for the continued support and dedication from people like you who helped us carry out the IPA's mission of promoting Polka Music. Thanks to your generosity, we've achieved significant milestones in our work. We are pleased to share some key highlights from our 2024 activities and the positive changes we've helped bring about in our Polka community.

Key Achievements in 2024:

Donations and support of Polka Dances

- Last year, we started an initiative to give back and support Polka Dances and events in the community. We have set aside \$5000 each year for donations. The donations that we provided back this year were:
 - Illinois Polka Fest
 - Way Out West Polka Events (4)
 - Polkamotion
 - TAPS Polish Summer Picnic
 - Seven Springs Polka Fireworks
 - MI Polka Music Hall of Fame Induction
 - Pulaski Polka Days
 - Smile Together - Polka Cleft Palate Benefit
 - Buffalo Music Hall of Fame Induction
 - Cohoes Hrukus Hellraisers Halloween event
 - iHeart Radio Show - Walt K's Polka Party
 - St. Petersburg Polish Club Hurricane Renovations

Polka Dances and Events

- In 2024, the IPA ran five nationwide events to promote polka dances. These included:
 - 55th Annual Chicago Festival of Polka Bands and the Warm-Up Dance Weekend
 - 12th Annual Unity Dance with the Let's Polka USA Club
 - Wisconsin Spring into Polkas Weekend
 - IPA's Parade of Polka Bands Picnic
 - 56th Annual IPA Polka Festival and Convention

Preserving the Memory of the IPA Hall of Famers

While we analyze the future of the IPA Hall of Fame

Museum, we embarked on a project several years ago to record videos of our Hall of Fame Members. This project, spearheaded by our Past President, Christy Krawisz, allows the public to know all of our IPA Hall of Famers more closely. We currently have 109 Hall of Famers videos posted on our YouTube Page at <https://www.youtube.com/@ipavideo>.



Partnerships & Collaborations

- The Cleveland Polka Association had an innovative idea to create a Polka Forum for our Polka Organizations to work closer together. All the major polka organizations meet monthly to learn from each other and help provide new innovative ideas to promote further the music that we love.
- We are running a Unity dance with the USPA in April in Western Pennsylvania to help get exposure for both polka organizations.

Other Polka Outreach

- Polka promotion via our IPA Newsletter, published 6 times a year.
- Weekly IPA Radio Shows on the Polka Jammer Network
- Ongoing Support of the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame
- Yearly Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet
- Young Songwriters Competition to help promote and amplify musicians and songwriters

Looking Ahead:

As we move into the new year, we remain committed to building on the successes of 2024. Our vision for 2025 includes:

- Further helping organizations and people promote their events.
- Creating a roadmap for the future of the IPA Hall of Fame.
- Continuing to forge relationships with other organizations.

We are excited about the future and the opportunities ahead, and we know that with your continued support, we can accomplish even more.

How You Can Help:

Your ongoing involvement—whether through a donation, membership, or attending our events—will help us continue to make a positive impact. If you haven't already, we encourage you to join or renew your membership to help us maintain the momentum we've built this year.

- **Donate:** Not only do we appreciate donations, but we also are always looking for volunteers to help us at our events and functions.
- **Become a Member:** Join the IPA us as a member to stay connected and involved in our work. Not only will your membership help support the initiatives above, but you will also stay connected with six editions of the IPA newsletter, allowing you to keep up to date on all the happenings within the polka world.
- **Attend:** Polkas still need attendance to survive. If there is a polka dance in your area, try to support it no matter the style.

Thank You!

We are deeply grateful for your trust and support over the past year. Together, we've made a real dif-

ference, and with your continued partnership, we will continue to bring positive change to our community. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or want to learn more about our work.

With gratitude and hope for the year ahead,



Chris

Happy 98th Birthday

Harriette Alfredson

from all of your

Florida Polka Friends



Happy Birthday



2025 IPA Newsletter Schedule

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

It's Always Sunny in Florida...

Witamy członków!

Szczerze życząc Nowego Roku ! Oby 2025 był dobrym rokiem, gdzie spełniają się marzenia, abyśmy byli otoczeni dobrą wolą i życzliwością. *(Happy New Year! May 2025 be a good year where dreams come true, for us to be surrounded by goodwill and kindness).*

We celebrated Christmas with my in-laws (Carl and Janice Prushinski) and were Blessed to share our favorite Polish traditions together. The breaking of the oplatek on Christmas Eve (my wife's favorite day of the year) was our most sacred tradition. Wigilia is always an emotional time, and I would say it was the most cherished night for our family.

FL Musician Spotlight:

This issue is dedicated to Robert Hoffman, a loyal IPA member who sadly passed away in September. Bob was born September 18, 1935, in Perth Amboy, NJ. He loved music (especially polkas) and began playing the accordion when he was 8 years old. He started his first polka band, "Bob Hoffman Trio" when he was a teenager and enjoyed performing throughout New Jersey.

In 1967 Bob was transferred to Illinois where he met his sweetheart, Dee. They got married in 1968 and had two children (Bobby and Michelle). They relocated to Florida in 1974, and Bob once again started a trio in the 80's playing local clubs. He took a break from playing while his children were young, but then began again after they were grown. He shared his love for Polka music performing at nursing homes for 15 years, while Dee danced and did sing-a-longs with the residents.

Bob and Dee were avid polka dancers best known for their many varieties of color-coordinated dress shirts, and always being the first dancers on the floor and the last dancers off the floor. They proudly attended every dance and festival possible and supported EVERY polka band at numerous clubs throughout Florida. Their loyalty and devotion to Polka music was commendable. Eddie Blazonczyk Sr. even referred to them as the "Polka Spark Plugs!"

It was an honor knowing Bob and having him as part of our 'Polka Family'. He will especially be remembered every year on September 18th, as he shares the same birthday as my wife.

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**: JanFeb. 9th KeyTones, Feb. 23rd Frank Moravcik Band from Ohio. March thru May dates will be scheduled soon. For dinner reservations call Irene (386)-258-7059. Please join their Facebook page to see additional dates that are in the process of being added to the calendar. You can also contact the club (386)-258-7059.



By Brad Turk

General K. Pulaski Citizens Club in Belleview Feb. 2nd Northern Sounds, March 16th Northern Sounds, April 20th Polka All Stars, May 11th Polka All Stars, June 8th Northern Sounds. Please contact Brad for more info.

SNPJ Lodge #603 in Samsula will be hosting their annual Florida SNPJ Days 2025/Samsula Polka Festival on February 21st- 22nd. Friday is 3's Company band 3-5PM and the Brewski Brothers 5-8PM. Saturday will feature Frank Moravcik band from Cleveland Ohio 1-5PM. For additional info. call the club (386)-428-3983, or visit their website: www.samsulasnpjilodge603.com. Join their Facebook page SNPJ Lodge 603 Official site for events, snpilodge603@gmail.com.

Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach. The Club is getting ready for their 2025 Polka season starting off on Feb. 9th with Eddie Forman Orchestra (EFO) from 2-5PM. For all events, please join their Facebook page, visit their website www.pacvbusa.org, call the club at (772)-778-0039, or email them at pascverobeach@gmail.com.

Polish American Society of St. Petersburg. The Club will be closed until March 2025 due to damages from Hurricane Helene & Milton. They are hoping to open up on March 2nd Paczki Day FL. Generation, March 9th Frank Moravcik from Ohio, March 16th Polka All Stars, March 23rd Northern Sounds, March 30th Gone Coastal, April 1st Polka All Stars, April 13th FL. Generation, April 20th Happy Easter Club Closed, April 21st Dyngus Day FL. Generation, April 27th Northern Sounds (last dance of the season).

Continued on next page

Please visit their website: www.polishsociety.org, join their FB page. Dinner reservations call Rita (727)-347-7944, club (727)-894-9908, or Jim (727)-214-8972 for more info. Dinner at 2pm Dancing 3-6pm.

January is National Polka Month:

Jan. 31st – Feb. 2nd: Greater Tampa Bay Downs Oktoberfest 11225 Race Track Road, Tampa with Northern Sounds & other Bands, Fri. 5-10pm, Sat. 12N-10pm, Sun. 11-6pm.

Feb. 7th: Polka Country Musicians (PCM) @ The Parrot Lounge, 911 Sunrise Lane, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. For info. & times, call Maryrose (954)-594-6883.

Feb. 08th: Eddie Forman Orch (EFO) @ Elks Lodge #2378, 401 N. Indiana Ave, Englewood FL, Call: Jerry (570)-650-0436, Elks (941)-474-1404 for tickets, dancing 6-9pm, doors open 4pm.

Feb. 08th: The Knewz Reunion & Polka Country Musicians (PCM) @ Senor Frogs, 225 South Fort Lauderdale FL. For info. & times, call Maryrose (954)-594-6883.

Feb. 08th: Pan Franek & the Polka Towners Band at St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church, 625 111th Ave. N. Naples, Polish Dinner Dance 4-9pm, email: sjeccpolishdinnerdance@gmail.com

Feb. 21st-22nd: SNPJ Florida Days/Samsula Polka Festival on Friday featuring: 3's Company Country Band 3-5pm, Brewski Brothers 6-8pm. On Saturday, **Frank Moravcik Band from Ohio** from 12N-5pm. Homemade food, cash bar, jam sessions, raffles, call (386)-428-3983.

Feb. 27th: Jimmy Sturr Band @ Strawberry Festival, 303 BerryFest Place, Plant City FL. Time: 10:30am. For more info. call (845)-651-4266.

Feb. 28th: Jimmy Sturr Band @ Orange Blossom Opry, 16439 SE 138th Terrace, Weirsdale, FL. Tickets call (352)-821-1201. Shows times 1pm & 4pm. Check Orange Blossom Opry website.

March 1st: Jimmy Sturr Band @ Polish American Social Club Inc., 343 Prima Vista Blvd, Port St. FL. Dance 12 noon. For info. call (854)-651-4266.

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

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



A message from Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, Inc.

SAVE OUR CLUB

By Jim Grinaker, President

What a year it has been.

2024 brought unprecedented challenges, but also many blessings. *Top of the list is you*— a friend of the Polish American Society! We are grateful for the kind words of encouragement, the many volunteers who helped dry thing out after our flood, and the urgent, generous response of nearly 90 donors to our Restoration Fund. Our spirits are lifted and we now see a path forward for the club!

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." Albert Einstein's wise words point to the revival we envision for 2025. We continue to work with contractors, now having signed contracts for roofing and flooring work. We can't promise a specific date yet, but feel confident that the club *will* reopen later this winter, better than ever. We appreciate everyone's understanding and patience.

Prior to the two hurricanes that so damaged the club, it was a banner year. Hosting live bands with dancing most Sundays Nov-April; several special events including Dyngus and Paczki Day celebrations; a monthly contra dance and dozens of neighborhood Thirsty Thursdays. Also notable is that our community raised \$14,275 to send to local relief organizations supporting Ukrainian refugees, many of whom landed in Poland.

There were good times with friends, memorable stories shared at the bar, upbeat music and dancing, great Polish dinners, and plenty of community spirit.

Yes, we still have much work to do to get the club back in shape. And many board members and others continue to remediate serious damage to their own homes. But in this moment, we are pausing to say "thank you!" to so many of you who have had our back!

CLUB RESTORATION FUND DRIVE

to make repairs & improvements to the club!

Goal: \$150,000 - raised so far: \$62,855

- Our historic, 67-year-old building remains structurally sound, but the historic storms Helene and Milton completely flooded the building and caused major damage to the dance floor, roof, ceiling and appliances, and much more.
- But we are not despairing, we're rebuilding! And need your help!

You can support via credit or debit card with the [link](#) below. If you prefer to mail us a check, please make it out to

"Polish American Society" c/o

Tom Rokosz, 7131 Whittlebury Tr, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202



(Clockwise from upper left)
Damage to wooden dance floor after dry out; Wooden dance floor boards lifting after dry out; Wooden dance floor immediately after flooding ; Wooden dance floor and hall prior to hurricanes and flooding; one of the many burnt out electrical outlets damaged by the flooding.



*Rest in
Peace*

Andy Day
Patricia Caldwell



Eileen Knopick, PA
Matthew Gregg, PA
Bernie Koslosky, MN
Trent Urbytes, FL
Joey Husain, IL

*thank
you*

Natalie Boyd, MD
Dee Dee Ogradny, TN

**Is your Membership
Current?**

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

zelle



Pete Mrozinski, MN
Robyn Mrozinski, MN
Nicole Mrozinski, MN
Lauren Scheer, IL

IPA® Annual Income and Expense Report

Fiscal Year 6/1/2023 - 5/31/2024

Income Categories			
Annual Festival Revenue	39,415.00	Membership Expense	428.70
Calendar Raffle Sales Income	17,300.00	Newsletter Expense	13,274.63
Chicago January Dance Revenue	5,405.00	Picnic Expenses	1,947.23
General Donations - Income	10,435.00	Postage General	458.51
Hall Of Fame Income	6,735.00	Promotion Expense	3,889.19
Investment Income	3,964.30	Radio Show Expense	210.00
Ludlow HOF Dance Revenue	2,924.68	Songwriters Competition Prize	1,100.00
Membership Dues Income	13,880.00	Sponsorship Expense	2,950.00
Newsletter Ad Revenue	710.00	Unity Dance Expense	117.05
Picnic Revenue	3,370.00	Website	331.00
Radio Show Revenue	2,245.00	Wisconsin May 2023 Dance Expense	216.00
T-Shirt Sales	314.00	Wisconsin May 2024 Dance Expense	3,644.69
Unity Dance Revenue	855.00	Total Expense Categories	98,628.07
Wisconsin 2024 Dance Income	3,365.00		
Total Income Categories	110,917.98	Net Gain For Year	12,289.91
IPA Statement of Fund Balances as of 8-16-2024			
Expense Categories			
Accounting Fees	629.00		8/16/2024
Advertising - General	1,052.90	CDs	
Annual Festival Expenses	34,543.79	Bank of America - 4.75% - Matures 6/17/25	\$105,903.57
Award Expenses	197.44		
Bank Charges	629.33	Checking	
Bills - Telephone, Office Expenses	559.89	Bank of America - Credit Card Account	\$2,174.58
Calendar Raffle Expense	1,103.22	Bank of America - Festival Account	\$13,026.47
Calendar Raffle Payout	5,260.00	PNC - General Checking	\$87,258.67
Chicago January Dance Expenses	5,360.26	PNC - Hall Of Fame Checking	\$1,485.38
Federal Income Tax Fee	2,043.82		
Hall Of Fame Operational Expense (includes \$5100 Rent)	17,842.87		
Insurance	761.50		
Ludlow HOF Dance Expense	77.05	Total	\$209,848.67

IPA® is a Proud Sponsor of:

24/7 PolkaHeaven
 Polka Jammer Network
 Polish New Castle Radio
 Seven Springs Polka Fireworks
 Pulaski Polka Days
 Buffalo Music Hall of Fame
 Cleveland Polka Association
 Way Out West Polka Events
 Illinois Polka Fest
 Let's Have A Goodtime Travel
 Polkamotion by the Ocean
 Michigan State Polka Music Hall of Fame
 Slovenefest - Pittsburgh, PA
 St. Petersburg Pol-Am Society
 Wisconsin Dells Polka Fest

Smile Together - Polka Cleft Palate Benefit
 Toledo Area Polka Society
 Hrukus Hellraisers - Cohoes, NY
 Walt K's Polka Party - iHeart Radio Show
 Our Lady of Czestochowa Polish American Festival -
 Doylestown, PA
 Hammond Mohawks - Hammond, IN

If you are interested in having the IPA sponsor one of your events, please fill out the form on our website at 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.

Azman Quality Meats Takes Both Titles at the Polka Hall of Fame Sausage Festival

More than 1,400 joined in the ultimate sausage party at the 20th Annual Slovenian Sausage Festival hosted by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame on Saturday, September 14, 2024. It was the distinctive savory-smoked recipe from Slovenia that drew folks to SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, on a sunny autumn day. They sampled several vendors' sausages, as did a panel of judges. Both came to the same conclusion: Azman Quality Meats of Euclid, Ohio, took titles as the People's Choice and the Best of Fest judges' prize for top Slovenian sausage.

Eight polka music ensembles volunteered to perform for the Polka Hall of Fame fund-raiser. Dancers worked off the calories from noon to nine in the evening. Many visitors brought accordions for pop-up jam sessions. About sixty musicians performed, including Walter Ostanek, Canada's Polka King.

"I grew up with polka music and Slovenian sausages," said Erin Lawrence of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. "It's a wonderful day of good food and good music that anyone can enjoy." Erin served on the jury as Miss SNPJ 2025, representing the Slovene National Benefit Society (SNPJ), the country's largest Slovenian-American organization.

By Joe Valencic

The Slovenian sausage (kranjska klobasa, in Slovenian) is made of coarse-ground pork, flavored with garlic, salt and pepper, and cured by smoking. Recipes were brought to America by immigrants from Slovenia a century ago. The unique sausage is found in Slovenian communities from coast to coast.

As winner of the event, Bill Azman's links were the official sausage sold at the 60th Thanksgiving Polka Weekend, presented by the Polka Hall of Fame at the Holiday Cleveland South in Independence, Ohio, Friday and Saturday, November 29 and 30, 2024.

The Slovenian Sausage Festival is held by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame, located in Euclid's historic original City Hall building. Audio exhibits, vintage photographs and celebrity accordions trace the story of the city's home-grown sound from its roots in the Slovenian neighborhoods to nationwide renown in the 1950s.

The Polka Hall of Fame and Museum is located at 605 East 222nd Street in Euclid, Ohio. For more information, check the website at PolkaFame.com. Contact PolkaShop@aol.com, or call (216) 621-FAME.

The IPA® is Proud to Support this Wonderful Cause

By Carlee W. Jones

For the 3rd straight year, the North Carolina Polka Time Allstars, led by William Dawson, played an Oktoberfest charity event in Durham, NC on Saturday, October 5th. The Allstars and the venue, the Blue Note Grill, partnered to raise funds for Smile Together (www.smiletogether.gives) a nonprofit that advances cleft and craniofacial research, education and patient care. Kids born with cleft lip and palate and other cranio-

facial conditions require surgery and ongoing care from before birth to young adulthood. This event furthers their mission that no child should ever be held back by a craniofacial difference. Attendees dressed up in lederhosen and dirndls, ate great food and danced to lively Polka tunes at this special event. A huge thank you to the International Polka Association for supporting the cause!





SAVE THE DATE



57th Annual International Polka Association Festival and Convention

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

August 29th – 31st, 2025

Labor Day Weekend

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel – Pittsburgh Cranberry
724-776-6900

4 Fun-filled days of Polka Entertainment by:

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

(Bands subject to change)

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



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

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





Crusade Invades Arizona February 28, 2024



Patrick Henry Presents!

Chula Vista
Resort

Wisconsin Dells Polka Fest! #13 & Expo!

May 9, 10 & 11, 2025

A Great Weekend of Family FUN!

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



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



SqueezeBox with Mollie B & Ted Lange

from Wisconsin - Saturday & Sunday

Polka Country Musicians

from Connecticut - Friday & Saturday



Michael Costa & The Beat Farewell Tour

from New Jersey - Saturday & Sunday

Alex Meixner Band

from Texas - Saturday

Craig Ebel & DyVersaCo

from Minnesota - Saturday

TNT - The Natural Talent

from Wisconsin - Friday

Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze

From Illinois - Friday

The Saturday Morning Monster Jam!

Polish/English Catholic Mass - Polka Dancing Lessons - Jam Sessions!
Weekend AMTRAK Trip Available! 2 Trains Daily! Fly into Milwaukee!

Band line-up and other events subject to change without notice.
For general festival information:

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

www.dellspolkafest.com

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

Weekend Package Available:

Only \$172 p/p Double Occupancy
Single Occupancy \$311+ tax & resort fee.

Includes:

2-Nights at Chula Vista Resort
Buffet Breakfast Saturday &
Sunday in the Market Fresh Buffet.
Breakfast Gratuity included.

Polka Fest Tickets NOT included.

*Each additional adult, \$16.50 /day + tax.
*Each additional child 3-15, \$12 /day + tax.
*Upgrades available for additional \$.

Room only prices starting at \$139/night.
Thursday or Sunday night only \$69!

Waterpark pass only \$10/person per day.

Call Chula Vista Resort directly at:
(877)624-0685 promo code:

K48899 - Polka Fest 2025

Discount code is not available online.
Rate Guaranteed until 04/10/25

Admission: Fri: \$25, Sat: \$30, Sun: \$20
Weekend Pass: \$65, Kids Under 18: Free! with
guardian. Plus Tax where applicable.
Huge Dance Floor By: Russ Napiwocki!



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



FEBRUARY

1st – Robert Guyette;
Wanda Guca

2nd – Don Hedeker;
Jody Maddie;
Cindy Fisher

4th – Rena Kapka

5th – Don Haderle; David Matuszewski

6th – Richie Gomulka; Ryan Lucotch

8th – Edward Kutas; Tiffany Miaso

9th – Ron Zywieciel; Evelyn Benbenek;
Al Jelinek

10th – Patty Kuzniar

11th – Jim Stanish

12th – Mario Joseph Kozak;
Deanna Hoffman

13th – Gerry Kaminski

14th – Fred Kendzierski; Lisa Jakubowski

15th – Frank Stetar

16th – Lori Lachner

17th – Marianne Gideon

18th – Linda Hurley; Ken Foldenauer;
Al Volek

19th – Anna Borowski; Tyler Janson;
Helen Bobeck

20th – Becky Livermore; Terry Popek;
Vincent Zandi; John Sklarsky;
Nate Wright

22nd – Steve Rodgers;
Sandy Mikrut;
Cathy Coblisch;
Mark Jirikovec

23rd – Jerry Halkoski;
Jan Dressler; Steve Piatkowski

24th – Eddie Zavaski, Jr; John Lesniewski;
Frank Proszowski; Sandy Bogdon;
Karen Lakota

25th – Trudie Mergen; Alex Alijewicz;
Kathleen Labuda-Zink; Linda Swiderski;
Gerry Kryk; Ashley Mach; Kathy Konek;
Eddy Meyers

26th – Ed Klancnik

27th – Robert Fidler; Dennis Mikolajewski;
Charlotte Tyk; Brenda Herz

28th – Keith Heffner

29th – Joe Dipyatic





**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



March

1st - Elaine Veverka; Kathy Prochot; Scott Maroszek

2nd - Todd Zaganiacz; James "Wigs" Weglicki; Karina Mayorga; Adam Socha

3rd - Tom Mrocza; Karen Danielczuk; Tony Rozek, Jr.; Frank Waltos; Mary Julia Drella; Nicholas Uram; Adam Socha; Mike Marek

4th - Ken Yagelski; Bill Thomas

5th - Dick Pillar

6th - Joan Pyzik; Rick Rzeszutko

7th - Robyn Kaczmarczyk

8th - Les Kapuscinski

9th - Joseph Mehorczyk; Eddie Siwec; Joseph Pusz; Linda Malachin

10th - Fred Ziwich; Alice Kapuscinski

11th - Fr. Dennis Bogusz; Walter Kazmierczak

12th - Garry Kuchenbecker; Jeff Gazdik; Josefina Kozak; Angela Piasecki; Chase Stanczewski; Thomas Wanderlich

13th - Frank Waltos

14th - Kyle Bushman

15th - Father Tom Aleksa

16th - Wojtek Kukielka; Michael Samars; Vincent Krzyzanowski; Nicole Mrozinski

17th - Larry Walk; Patrick Biniasz; Thomas Altenburg

18th - Mary Lou Brock; Patricia Passaro

19th - John Mysliwicz

20th - James Kaminski;

Timothy Kasprzyk; Brenda Fabian; Kevin Mach

21st - Roman Marsolek; Christine Turecek

22nd - Ted Lange; Debbie Jackinoski; Sue Krysa; Theresa Slipek; John H. Zelasko; Phyllis Checkalski; Andrea Arman; Cindy Lawton

23rd - Julie Ann Kurdys; Dianne Gora

24th - Mark Kohan; Katie Krawisz; Jon Payne

25th - Albert Lepousky

26th - Tony Winarz; Patricia Wojnowski; Steven Fenus

28th - Mike Kochanek; Frank Kosman; Antoinette Rozek; Zachary Janson

29th - Allan Maroszek;

30th - Mitch Piotrowski; James Glinski; Mary Ann Mysliwicz

31st - Judy Stringhill; Lori Lewandowski; Hank Walter; Sue Bieniek



**The International Polka Association and Let's Polka USA
Present the 13th Annual
UNITY DANCE**

Sunday, March 16, 2025

NEW LOCATION—Elements by the Odyssey Banquet Hall

16235 S. LaGrange Road, Orland Park, Illinois

Located behind and connected to the Homewood Suites Hotel



**Doors open at 12:30 pm
Music from 1 pm - 5 pm**



MUSIC 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

Cash Bar ▪ 50/50 Raffles ▪ Basket Raffles ▪ Food will be available for purchase

Visit www.ipapolkas.com or www.letspolkausaclub.com for more information

IPA/USPA Western PA Unity Dance



Saturday, April 26th, 2025

Featuring

LIVEwire

(Wisconsin)



Music from 5:00pm to 9:00pm

Doors Open at 4:00pm

Tickets: \$20 per person

**Kinloch Firehall
915 New York Ave
New Kensington, PA 15068**

All proceeds benefit IPA and USPA

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

For tickets, table reservations or more information contact:
Chris Bogdon - 412-260-9725 or chris@westernpapolkas.com
Cindy Fisher – 216-299-0934

19th Annual

IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Dance 2025

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

SAT
MARCH
8th
7pm-11pm
ADMISSION \$20

the DYNATONES



of **BUFFALO, NY**



In Memory of
Ken Macheliski

SUN
MARCH
9th
2pm-7pm
ADMISSION \$20

Honoring the music of *The* **G-Notes**



Special tribute to the G-Notes of Buffalo.
Guest of honor **John Karas**, former "G-Note"
& Hall of Fame Inductee.



John Karas



Lenny Gomulka

FOR TICKETS



Piatkowski Brothers



The Baltic Boys

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:

Ernie Daigle 413-519-7014
Peter Danielczuk 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: GPA
Special Room Rate (Sat. \$165)
Special Room Rate (Sun. \$143)

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

Polkas ON BROADWAY?

It could very well happen! IPA Director and Grammy nominated Composer and Producer, Stephen Kaminski has announced that "Big Famous, the Musical", a Broadway musical he co-wrote with his son, Nicholas Kaminski, has secured funding for a developmental workshop this March in New York City.

A workshop is where the final script and music are rehearsed and presented by Broadway actors and musicians in a studio environment in order to attract further funding for the next step, a full production of the show.

Big Famous is the true story of larger-than-life Polka entertainer, Jan Lewan, a Polish immigrant who built a Polka music empire in the 1990s. While Jan dreams of bringing Polka music to the masses, his songwriter, Pally, has dreams of Broadway and worries that being known as a "Polka guy" will hurt his chances of a career as a "serious" musician. The empire comes crashing down when it's discovered that Jan has been funding his endeavors with a Ponzi scheme that has been defrauding the elderly

out of their life savings.

Reactions to the show so far have been tremendous. The addition of polka music has only added to the buzz and excitement. Stay tuned for further updates!

In the meantime, if you don't have your copy of his latest project, Stephen Kaminski and the Dream Team Volume III "Legends and Fables", just scan the QR code below for more information.



Polka Party



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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025

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

Save the Date

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

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

Watch ipapolkas.com and social media for more details and band line up coming soon.

Save the Date

FUNDRAISER RAFFLE WINNERS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November</h1>					1 Jim Mohr, WI	2 Joe Sokol, NH
3 Christine Grzybala, MA	4 Michele Troczyński, MI	5 Missy Socha, WI	6 Judy Krason, IL	7 Julie Kurdys, NV	8 Dolores Kozlauska, MA	9 Susan Klacek, FL
10 Joseph Rupik, NJ	11 Sherri Ann Martin, CT	12 Tim Wysocki, NY	13 David Bonczkiewicz, AZ	14 Edward Lipka, DE	15 Gerry Kryk, FL	16 Barbara Brenek, TX
17 Ed Duhide, CA	18 Kathy Prochot, IL	19 Rich Bernier, CT	20 Peter Wojcik, NY	21 LaVern Schiefer, MI	22 Robert Guyette, MA	23 John Wojciechowski MA
24 Frank Piotrowski, MI	25 Dale Cribbins, MI	26 AJ Volek, PA	27 John Stanky, PA	28 John Smagowicz, PA	29 Donna Carron, MD	30 Helen Skolaut, TX

Enter to Win! Enter to Win!

FUNDRAISER RAFFLE WINNERS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Audry Szczygiel, IL	2 Greg Drust, WI	3 Lorraine Pusty, IL	4 Gerry Gorak, IL	5 Cindy Olszewski, PA	6 Melissa Moriarty, MA	7 Barbara Brenek, TX
8 Jean Sklarsky, PA	9 CW Benson, TX	10 Jeff Guyette, RI	11 Patricia Wojnowski, MA	12 Wilfreida Smith, WI	13 June Socha, WI	14 Andrew Krystopolski, FL
15 Christine Misiak, IN	16 Cherie Trzepacz, NY	17 Camille Hjelm, IL	18 Ron Palkowski, MI	19 Karen Mikrut, IL	20 Bob Frydryk, MA	21 James Mackiewicz, Jr., OH
22 Bernie Furin, PA	23 John Prytko, CT	24 Stan Pasko, MI	25 Carolyn Machelski, NY	26 Edward Stachura, FL	27 Danielle Deck, MO	28 Russ Leonard, IN
29 Phil Kozlak, CT	30 Patricia Kaminski, NY	31 Dee Dee Ogradny, TN				



Recipes from ... IPA Members

A past 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 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.

Just in time for Super Bowl Sunday..... **Pizza Dip**

- 8 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 clove garlic, grated
- 3/4 tsp. dried oregano
- Pinch of red pepper flakes
- Kosher salt
- 6 oz. mozzarella cheese, coarsely grated, divided
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan, divided
- 1 1/4 cups pizza or marinara sauce
- 2 oz. mini pepperoni slices
- 1 baguette, warmed and sliced



Step 1 - Heat oven to 400°F. In medium bowl, combine cream cheese, sour cream, garlic, oregano, red pepper flakes and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Fold in 1 cup mozzarella and all but 2 tablespoons Parmesan.

Step 2 - Transfer mixture to shallow 1-qt baking dish. Top with pizza sauce; sprinkle with remaining mozzarella and Parmesan, then pepperoni. Bake until bubbling and cheese begins to brown, about 15 minutes, broiling 1 to 2 minutes if needed. Let rest 5 minutes before serving. Serve with baguette slices for dipping.

Dip Tip - Want to give each person their own? Divide mixture in step 2 among eight 4-oz ramekins, then place on a rimmed baking sheet for easier handling. Bake until bubbling, 12 to 15 min.



Pittsburgh's Polka Hot Spot

Kinloch Fire Hall

2025 Polka Schedule

Sunday Mar 23 rd , 2025	Join the IPA/USPA Award-Winning Band DynaBrass	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person
Saturday Apr 26 th , 2025	Join the IPA and USPA as we hold a joint dance supporting both organizations LiveWire (from Wisconsin)	5:00pm – 9:00pm \$20.00 per person
Sunday June 8 th , 2025	First Western PA appearance Tony Blazonczyk and New Phaze	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person
Sunday Aug 17 th , 2025	First Appearance at Kinloch Firehall Crusade featuring Eddie Biegaj	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person
Sunday Sept 21, 2025	Join us with the Incomparable John Gora and Gorale	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person

The schedule is subject to change.

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

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

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

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

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IPA Newsletter

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

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

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

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



Current IPA Officers and Directors

Officers:

President: Chris Bogdon (PA)
1st Vice President: Jill Styczynski (WI)
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Jackie Libera
Mike Matousek
Jimmy Weber

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



IPA RADIO SHOW



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

Each show features IPA officers and directors.

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

WE NEED SPONSORS!



Saturday & Sunday, March 8th & 9th - IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Weekend (page 16)
Sunday, March 16th - IPA/Let's Polka USA 13th Annual Unity Dance (page 14)
Saturday, April 26th - IPA/USPA Western PA Unity Dance (page 15)

Advertise in the IPA Newsletter

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DEADLINE FOR April 2025 NEWSLETTER: February 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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