



# IPA Newsletter

## A Note From Our President



Hello Polka Fans,  
Summer is here!

We hope you have had fun at the several polka events that have already taken place over the spring and will continue to attend all of the events over the summer. If you missed them, we have a few pictures and articles in this newsletter from different events our board members have attended and supported. It is amazing how fast time is going by!

Our IPA festival is quickly approaching and we look forward to celebrating with the 2023 Hall of Fame Inductees and Music Award Winners. Please see inside the newsletter for more information regarding the festival and visit our website, [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com), to purchase your banquet tickets and find out more about our golf outing, plus much more! Our room block is currently full, but there is a waiting list. There are other hotels in the area and are listed on our website. We can't wait to see you there... We also urge everyone to keep supporting the polka promoters in your area, the church fests, polka clubs and organizations, locally and nationally. Polka music needs your support.

Thank you to all of these polka promoters, organizations and polka bands for providing all of these events and amazing musical entertainment. We truly appreciate all you do for the music we love.

Take care and see you soon!

*Christy*

## IPA Hall of Fame Selectees 2023



**David "Nigel"  
Kurdziel**



**Peter J.  
Danielczuk**



**Dee-Dee  
Ogrodny**



**Gene Swick**



**Li'l John  
Nalevanko**

The national Academy of IPA® Electors just concluded their annual voting cycle to select the 2022 Polka Music Award winners. The results are as follows:

## 2022 Polish Style Polka Music Award Winners



### Favorite Male Vocalist:

**Lenny Gomulka**



### Favorite Female Vocalist:

**Dee Dee Ogradny**

### Favorite Band:

**Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push**



### Favorite Album:

***To the Moon and Back* by Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push**

### Favorite Song:

***Only Me* by Matt Lewandowski & the Alliance**



## 2022 International Style Polka Music Award Winners



### Favorite Male Vocalist:

**Ted Lange**

### Favorite Female Vocalist:

**Mollie Busta Lange**



### Favorite Band:

**Alex Meixner Band**

### Favorite Album:

***Penn-Ohio Polka Pals 50th Anniversary Edition*  
by the Penn-Ohio Polka Pals**



### Favorite Song:

***Chicago Larry's Polka* by the Alex Meixner Band**



# It's Always Sunny in Florida...

## Witamy członków!

Dyngus Day was a huge success in the Sunshine State! The St. Pete Polish club had a record-breaking crowd of 220 people, Crabby Bill's Bar & Grill had a full house all day long, and the Villages Polka Lovers club was sold out! If you didn't have a chance to join in the events this year, I hope you can add it to your calendar for 2024. You won't be disappointed!

I would like to Congratulate Ray Skorka, who was recognized by the IPA this month for promoting and performing polka music for the past 60 years. Ray's band "The Ablemen", entertained crowds for 50 years in New Jersey. He continues to share his talent by playing with the "Northern Sounds" band in FL, and is also an IJ on the Polka Jammer with "Crankin Polkas" LIVE every Friday. Ray would love to have you join in the chat room and share his enthusiasm for Polka music!

## 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**: May 7<sup>th</sup> Polka All Stars, May 21<sup>st</sup> Melotones, June 11<sup>th</sup> John Wicks Trio, July 23<sup>rd</sup> Polka Classics, Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> TBD, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> Northern Sounds, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> Joe "O" Oberatis, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> Brewski Bros, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> Joe "O" Oberatis Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> Brewski Bros, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> Joe "O" Oberatis, and Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Polka Classics. For more information, call the club at (386)-258-7059 or email: [pulaskidaytonaclub@yahoo.com](mailto:pulaskidaytonaclub@yahoo.com). Join their Facebook page or visit their website: [www.polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.org](http://www.polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.org).

### German American Club of Marion County

will sadly be closing their club this year. The club was started back in 1997 and peaked at 360 members. Today unfortunately, their membership has declined to 66 and can no longer operate. The farewell dance was April 29<sup>th</sup> with Ava Adams. A sincere **thank you** to all of the members, officers and board of directors for the past 26 years of wonderful memories!

### General K. Pulaski Citizens

**Club in Belleview** is having their annual Mother's & Father's Day celebration will be on May 14<sup>th</sup> with the Polka All Stars. The club will be closed for the summer months. They will re-open on Sunday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> for their annual Oktoberfest dinner dance featuring Northern Sounds. Please contact Brad for more info.



By Brad Turk  
Florida Director

### 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. For additional info. give Cindy a call at (386)-689-9454. Join their Facebook page, [snpjldodge603@gmail.com](mailto:snpjldodge603@gmail.com) or visit their website: [www.samsulasnpjldodge603.com](http://www.samsulasnpjldodge603.com)

### Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach

is currently having "Friendly Friday" (one Friday a month), featuring happy hour drink prices and food along with FREE admission. For other events and information, please join their Facebook page, visit their website [www.pacvbusa.org](http://www.pacvbusa.org), or call the club at (772)-778-0039.

### Polish American Society of St. Petersburg

is having "Thirsty Thursdays" every Thursday evening from 5:30-9:00 PM. Polish dinners will be served from 6:00-8:30 PM with a full bar featuring special drink prices. Sunday Polka dances will begin on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> with Northern Sounds, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> FL. Generations, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Polka All Stars. Please visit their website: [www.polishsociety.org](http://www.polishsociety.org) and join their Facebook page, call the club (772)-894-9908.



IPA FL.  
Director  
Brad Turk  
with Buffalo  
Touch Band

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next page



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**Please continue to support Florida's 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 Association 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.

Special Thank you to our Radio Show Sponsor  
for their many years of support



**EDWARD "Eddie" TYLKA**  
Manager/Director of  
**Ridge Funeral Home**  
6620 W. Archer Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60638  
Phone #773-586-7900  
and  
**Malec & Sons Funeral Home**  
6000 N. Milwaukee Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60646  
Phone #773-774-4100

The next issue of the IPA®

Newsletter will be the *Festival and Convention Edition*. This special issue will include the complete bios of all of the 2023 inductees and more information about the  
**54th Annual International Polka Association Festival and Convention.**

Stay Tuned.....

Join us for the 3rd Annual Golf Outing with Friends  
Honoring Richie and Jerry Tokarz  
Friday, September 1, 2023—IPA Weekend  
Strawberry Ridge Golf Course  
135 McNulty Lane  
Harmony, PA 16037



**Tee Times will start at 8am**  
**Scramble Format**  
**Cost—\$ 50**  
**18 Holes/Cart**  
**Venmo—@Jeffrey-Yash**  
**Contact Jeff Yash by Saturday, August 20, 2023**  
**518-281-1587**

## 2023 IPA Newsletter Schedule

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline for Submissions</u>
<b>August - September 2023</b>	<b>July 1, 2023</b>
<b>October - November 2023</b>	<b>September 1, 2023</b>
<b>December 2022 - January 2024</b>	<b>November 1, 2023</b>



## 55<sup>th</sup> Annual International Polka Association Festival & Convention



Make your plans now to attend the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual  
IPA Festival and Convention

**September 1 – September 3, 2023**  
**Labor Day Weekend**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry**  
<https://www.ipapolkas.com/go/2023ipafestival/>

If you prefer to call to make your reservation, you can do so by calling the hotel directly at 724-776-6900. Press 1 to be connected to the Front Desk at the hotel and mention the group name: IPA Attendee Block

### **3 Fun-filled days of Polka Entertainment**

**Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push, The Beat, John Gora and Gorale, Polka Country Musicians, Klancnik & Friends, Polka Family, IPA Tribute Band, Old School, New Brass Express, Garrett Tatano Band, Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze, Phocus, Dennis Polisky and the Maestro's Men, and The Kosmix Band**

(Band line up subject to change without notice)

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

### **Bonus Event:**

**Thursday August 31, 2023 – Pre-Festival IPA Welcome Party at the Cranberry Elks Lodge #2449 with music by 2022 IPA Hall of Fame Inductee Alex Meixner and his band**  
**All proceeds to benefit the Elks Lodge**

Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ipapolkas](http://www.facebook.com/ipapolkas)

Visit our website: [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com)

For more information email: [info@ipapolkas.com](mailto:info@ipapolkas.com)

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







Mary Leja, IL  
 David Leja, IL  
 Thomas Mazurowski, NY  
 Adam Socha, WI  
 Britt Ann Trifone, MA  
 Jim Mackiewicz, OH  
 Tanya Mackiewicz, OH  
 Chase Mackiewicz, OH  
 Rick Buechler, WI

*New  
 Lifetime  
 Members*

**Candice Rebovich, PA**

*thank you!*

Judith and Britt Anne Trifone, MA  
 Donna Carron, MD

## Polka Benefit Dance in Wyandotte, MI

On Saturday April 30th, the PRCUA #162 in Wyandotte, MI hosted its 5th Annual Polka Benefit Dance featuring two fabulous bands: The Boys and John Gora & Go-rare. Proceeds from this yearly event go to The American Heart Association. Myself, several board members, and people from across the country as well as Canada came out to support the dance. It was a fabulous time with great music, great food, and great friends. PRCUA has already announced that there will be a 6th Annual Benefit dance in 2024 with the sounds of Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push and The Beat. I definitely plan to be there next year!

By Lindsey Mateja  
 Director, Illinois



Photo: (Richie Zebrowski-Director, Lindsey Mateja-Director, Brian Kapka-Director, Danny Mateja-Treasurer, Christy Nowakowski-Director, Dennis Mikolajewski-Director)



## 2023 Kinloch Fire Hall

### "Pittsburgh's Polka Hot Spot" Polka Schedule

Saturday June 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Join us for some great fun <b>The KOSMIX Band</b>	5:00pm - 9:00pm \$12.00 per person
Sunday Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2023	Join us to hear this great Slovenian Band <b>The Zolkas</b>	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$12.00 per person
Sunday Nov 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Join the newest Buffalo band featuring members from the Krew Brothers and Knewz <b>Seven</b>	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$18.00 per person
Sunday Nov 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	To Be Determined	

*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](mailto: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>



Dear Christy,

Just a short thank you for the achievement recommendation from the IPA I received recently. Your well-chosen words were a big boost to my confidence to continue promoting polka music. Thank you.

Polkatively,

Frank Powaski, DJ  
620 WKHB - 92.3, 94.1, 102.1  
Pittsburgh, PA



## Jammin' in our Jammies

By Christy Krawisz



On April 29, 2023, the International Polka Association Board and IJs along with IPA Hall of Famer Keith Stras & Polka Confetti and IPA Hall of Famer [Rick Rzeszutko](#) & Polka Mojo hosted a three hour, "Jammin' in our Jammies" party as part of Jammerthon 2023, held at Graphic Pallet and Transport, which is owned by John and Christy Krawisz. We hope you were able to join us for this event. Here are a few photos from that evening. A huge thank you to all that were involved!



**IPA® Festival & Convention**  
**September 1 - 3, 2023**



Visit our website for hotel updates  
[www.IPAPOLKAS.com](http://www.IPAPOLKAS.com)

### 2023 Joe Jozwiak Award



**Gus Kosior**

### 2023 Leon Kozicki Trustees Award



**Richie Zebrowski**

Please join the International Polka Association in celebrating the  
**53rd Annual IPA Hall of Fame & Music Awards Banquet!**



**Saturday, September 3rd**  
**10:45 AM Arrival & Seating**  
**11:00 AM Luncheon**

Location: DoubleTree Hotel in Pittsburgh-Cranberry, PA  
 Tickets are **\$45 per person** by advance reservation only.

**Reservations must be made by August 19th, 2023.**

***Banquet Ticket/Reservation Purchasing Options:***

**Option 1: IPA Website Store**

Purchase your IPA Hall of Fame & Music Awards  
 Banquet Tickets  
 via **Paypal on the IPA store.**

**<https://www.ipapolkas.com/store/>**

**Option 2: Zelle**

Purchase your IPA Hall of Fame® & Music Awards  
 Banquet Tickets via Zelle.

Zelle your Banquet Ticket money to  
**[banquet@ipapolkas.com](mailto:banquet@ipapolkas.com)**

**Option 3: Mail a Check**

Purchase your IPA Hall of Fame & Music Award  
 Banquet tickets via Mail:

Download the IPA Banquet Reservation Form here:  
**<https://www.ipapolkas.com/go/banquetform/>**

Send your completed form and check to:

**International Polka Association  
 Polka Music Hall of Fame and  
 Music Awards Banquet  
 PO Box 1484  
 Plainfield, IL 60544**

You will receive a follow-up email to confirm your reservation and table information.

**Questions? Please contact: [banquet@ipapolkas.com](mailto:banquet@ipapolkas.com)**







**INTERNATIONAL POLKA ASSOCIATION**  
**PO Box 1484 Plainfield, IL 60544 · Phone 1-800-TO-POLKA**  
**www.IPAPOLKAS.com**



Dear 2023 IPA Program Book Advertiser:

We would like to ask for your support as the International Polka Association presents its **55th Annual Polka Festival and Convention**, Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup> through Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry in Mars, Pennsylvania. We are currently in the process of soliciting ads for our Festival Souvenir Program Book.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full Page 8.5 x 5.5 (.25 border on all sides) <b>\$80</b>	1/2 Page 4.25 x 5.5 (.25 border on all sides) <b>\$50</b>	1/4 Page 2.125 x 5.5 (.25 border on all sides) <b>\$35</b>	Well Wisher  <b>\$1 each</b>

**Submission Deadline: Sunday, July 16th, 2023**

**Payment or Proof of Payment MUST accompany advertisement at time submission, or it WILL NOT be printed!**

**Acceptable Files:**

Supply files in the appropriate dimension size as listed above.

PDF's, JPG's, PNG's (300 dpi MINIMUM - include all fonts & graphic support if applicable)

**ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE EMAILED AND/OR UPLOADED TO THE WEBSITE.**

**\*\*NO HARD COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED\*\***

**2 ways to submit and pay for your ad**

**OPTION 1\*\***

Email to: [adbook@ipapolkas.com](mailto:adbook@ipapolkas.com)

**ATTACH ALL APPLICABLE FILES**

Send Checks to the address to

**PO BOX 1484**

**Plainfield, IL 60544**

**Make check payable to the**

**"International Polka Association"**

**OPTION 2\*\***

**Submit online at**

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

**\*\*Payment option**

*(Instead of paying online or sending check)*

**Zelle the payment**

Ensure to include your name and a brief message about submission

I understand that by returning this entire signed agreement with payment no later than the deadline date, I will be assured of advertising space in the IPA Festival Souvenir Program Book. I also understand that the International Polka Association reserves the right to reject any ad it deems unsuitable for its publication.

Submitter \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
 Lynn Kaminski  
 IPA Program Ad Book Chairperson



## 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.

### Raspberry Lemonade

2 cups fresh lemon juice (from about 15 lemons)  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
1/2 10-ounce bag frozen raspberries  
\*\*Vodka to taste

#### Directions

1. Put the lemon juice in a pitcher. Mix the sugar and 1 1/2 cups water to make a syrup, stirring well until the sugar dissolves. Add the sugar syrup to the lemon juice and top with 4 cups water. Taste to make sure it's sweet enough for you, then add the raspberries. (Keep in mind that the raspberries are tart, so be sure to sweeten enough!) Stir the lemonade, then chill in the fridge.
2. Fill mason jars with ice cubes and top them off with the lemonade.



### Blueberry French Toast Casserole with Whipped Cream and Strawberries

2 tablespoons unsalted butter, plus extra for buttering the dish  
One 1-pound day-old loaf challah or white bread, unsliced  
Two 6-ounce containers blueberries (about 2 1/4 cups)  
6 large eggs  
3 cups milk  
1 1/4 cups heavy cream  
2/3 cup plus 2 tablespoons granulated sugar  
1/2 teaspoon pure almond extract  
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt  
One 16-ounce container strawberries, sliced  
One 6-ounce container raspberries  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
Confectioners' sugar, for dusting, optional



1. Grease the bottom and sides of a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with butter. Slice the bread into 3/4-to-1-inch-thick slices. If your bread is very fresh, lightly toast the slices before assembling. Tile all the bread in the dish, each slice overlapping the next. Scatter the blueberries over the bread, letting some fall to the bottom of the dish. Whisk the eggs, milk, 1/2 cup cream, 2/3 cup granulated sugar, almond extract and salt in a medium bowl until the sugar is dissolved. Pour over the bread and berries and press gently to help the bread start soaking in the egg mixture. Cut the 2 tablespoons butter into small pieces and dot over the top of the casserole. Cover with plastic wrap and let stand in the refrigerator 8 hours or overnight. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Remove and discard the plastic wrap. Bake the casserole until golden brown and set in the center, 45 to 50 minutes, tenting with foil if the bread starts to become too dark. Let stand 10 minutes. Dust with confectioners' sugar if desired. While the casserole bakes, toss the strawberries and raspberries with 1 tablespoon granulated sugar in a medium bowl and let stand until juicy. Before serving, whip the remaining 3/4 cup cream with the remaining 1 tablespoon granulated sugar and vanilla until soft peaks form. Serve the casserole with a dollop of whipped cream and a generous spoonful of the berries with their juices.



# The IPA and Let's Polka USA join unite to present the St. Joe's Unity Dance

By Christy Nowakowski  
Director, Illinois

For 11 years now, the International Polka Association has co-hosted a Unity Dance with Let's Polka USA, a polka club based out of Chicago. This year, the Unity/St. Joseph's Day Dance took place on March 19, 2023 at Royalty West Banquets in Willow Springs, Illinois. The IPA Tribute Band entertained the crowd along with Polka Music Hall of Fame alumnus Rick Rzeszutko and special guest vocalist John Gora from Canada. A great time was had by all! Congratulations to both clubs for a successful event!





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

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

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – Bernie Gorak, Sr

**4<sup>th</sup>** – Richard Sendra; Bob Jakubielski;  
April Burclaw

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

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

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

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

**9<sup>th</sup>** – Lambert Lasecki

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

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

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

**13<sup>th</sup>** – Walter Berkowicz; Pamela Reed;  
Teddy Gomulka; Leon Matczak

**14<sup>th</sup>** – Judy Kwiatkowski; Zupe; Rick Buechler

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

**16<sup>th</sup>** – Jill Comras

**17<sup>th</sup>** – Micheal Kott; Anthony Zupanchick

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

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

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

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

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

**24<sup>th</sup>** – Kenneth Dunaj; Mollie Busta; Julie Matus;  
Marianne Cramer

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

**26<sup>th</sup>** – Mary Ann Makatenas; John Filipczak;  
Joe Zalewski; Ronald Petro; Ann Szymanski;  
Wayne Machnicki

**27<sup>th</sup>** – Joseph Wondolowski

**28<sup>th</sup>** – Julcia Dusseault; Frank Blajda; Marilyn Pell;  
Bob Kalin; Ed Turecek

**29<sup>th</sup>** – Bob Frydryk; Robin Chimniak;  
Michael Pisarski







**1<sup>st</sup>** – Adam Biskup; Betty Lange  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** – Al Betley; Sam Roller; Lola Johnson  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** – Ken Yash; Keith Wesolek; Mick Pyznarski; Paul Sinchak  
**4<sup>th</sup>** – Hank Haller; CW Benson; Ronald Latawiec; Sara Latawiec; Denise Gliwa; Marie Stanczyk  
**5<sup>th</sup>** – Jan Sweet; Michael Costa  
**6<sup>th</sup>** – Jennifer Bulanda-Ruitenbergh; Dennis Polisky; Elizabeth Rozek  
**7<sup>th</sup>** – Benita Szymanski; Jerry Romanowski; Andrew Putz  
**8<sup>th</sup>** – Eugene Retka; Carl Prushinski; Greg Jankowski  
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**13<sup>th</sup>** – Theresa Pawlicki; Marie Marek; Ivan Latoski; Mark Komar  
**14<sup>th</sup>** – William Stasila; Ronald Ziemba; Sophie Skinger; Donna Carron  
**15<sup>th</sup>** – Arthur Kalena; Wally Dombrowski; Robert Moon; Joe Gilewski  
**16<sup>th</sup>** – Cheryl Furmaniak; Ted Woytowicz  
**17<sup>th</sup>** – Thomas Kalinowski; Fred Potzer; Brian Hafeman  
**18<sup>th</sup>** – Maggie Zabielski; Lori Yash; Stephen Swiader; David Yankuskie  
**19<sup>th</sup>** – Sue Conway; Bill Gliwa; Fred Pisarski; Nick Chmielewski

**20<sup>th</sup>** – Randy Cernosek; Andrew Krystopolski  
**21<sup>st</sup>** – Donna Piatkowski; Joe Macielag; Eugene Maroszek; Mary Dombrowski  
**22<sup>nd</sup>** – Bonnie Potoniec; Steven Sopko; Roman (Travers) Truskolaski; Catherine Hartenbower  
**23<sup>rd</sup>** – Lawrence M. Stec; Hank Dymerski  
**24<sup>th</sup>** – Mary Kay Obecny; James Banaszak, Sr.  
**25<sup>th</sup>** – Eddie Labuda; Anne Loeffler  
**26<sup>th</sup>** – Karen Mikrut; Ed Nicoski; Katie Moroski  
**27<sup>th</sup>** – John Gora, Dr. Ann Hetzel Gunkel; Estelle Gomulka; Michelle Robinson; Mary Ellen Egbert  
**28<sup>th</sup>** – Lorraine Matusovich; Mirosław Antas; Lynn Kizewski; Greg Winiarz  
**29<sup>th</sup>** – Kathy Urbanczyk; Jane Gelineau; Henry Lenard; George Rosinski  
**30<sup>th</sup>** – Bob Sendra; Arthur Kott; Alan Bush  
**31<sup>st</sup>** – Len Fornek



# Celebrating 50 Years of Spreading Holiday Cheer!

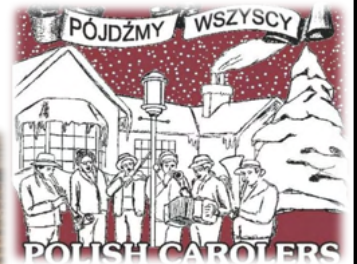
On February 26, 2023 at Royalty West Banquets in Willow Springs, Illinois, many gathered to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Chicago Polish Carolers. Entertainment was provided by the Music Company as well as The Chicago Polish Carolers themselves.

By Christy Nowakowski  
Director, Illinois

For those you may not know, the Chicago Polish Carolers began back in 1972 when Chet Kowalkowski and Stas Bulanda wanted to bring back the tradition of caroling during the holiday season as generations before used to do. They played traditional koledy at a few lounges in Chicago with just a trumpet and a concertina. Since they received such a great response, they continued the tradition year after year, adding more carolers to the group. They expanded the locations they visited to the homebound, veterans, nursing homes, local businesses, lounges and friends' holiday parties. Now 50 years later, under the continued leadership of Chet Kowalkowski and Tony Blazonczyk, the Chicago Polish Carolers have over 80 polka musicians in the Chicagoland area who spend every weekend in December caroling for friends, families, and the less fortunate. In recent years they even started visiting other states to spread the Christmas spirit.

Being from the Chicago area, I've been extremely lucky to see the Chicago Polish Carolers countless times. Since my dad joined the carolers 10+ years ago, I always look forward to the stories he would tell about the reactions of who they would visit. I was blessed to be at my Grandmother's nursing home for a few holiday seasons when the carolers came to sing. To see the faces of the elderly just light up with pure joy was truly amazing and heartwarming. I get goosebumps just thinking about it! I also have memories from when I was young of the carolers showing up at my house because they were in the neighborhood and wanted to come play for my family.

Congratulations to the Chicago Polish Carolers on 50 years of spreading holiday cheer and keeping this amazing tradition alive!



50th Anniversary  
of the  
Chicago's  
Polish Carolers





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## We are so excited to announce the 4th Annual.....



### **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, 2023 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](http://www.IPAPolkas.com)) where you can submit your songs.



# 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Polka Mania

## The Hammond Mohawks

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

Sunday, June 11, 2023

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

\$15.00 - Adults  
Under 12 - Free

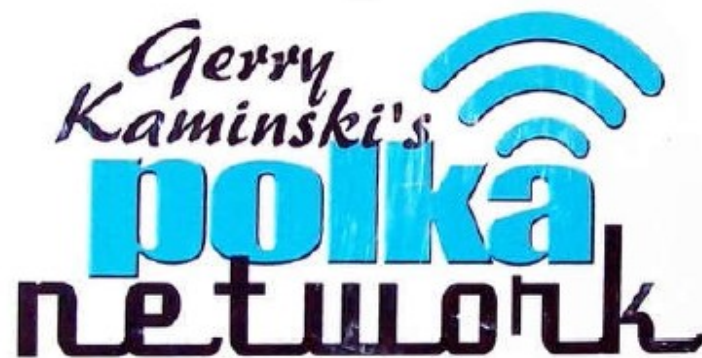
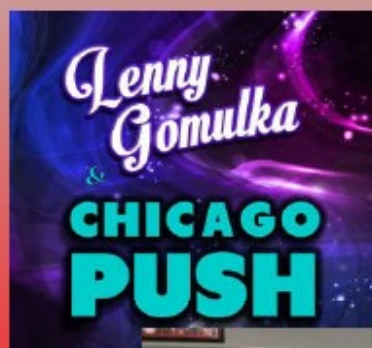


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## The Parade of Polka Bands Picnic! Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023



Hammond Mohawks Picnic Grove

4040 Calumet Ave., Hammond, IN



- Doors open at 12:30pm - Polka Music from 1pm until 6pm
- Admission: \$15 Payable at the Door

\*Polka Bands Scheduled to appear\*



Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze



IPA Tribute Band



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# IPA's Pulaski Area Festival of Bands was a Great Success

Jill Styczynski

Director, Wisconsin

He's back.... After 10 years Eddie Biegaj and Crusade make their way back to Wisconsin. On Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> they packed the Townline Pub and Grill, playing some traditional polkas, along with the many Crusade favorites that we all have grown to love. The tease of the new songs to be released on the upcoming CD, kept everyone wanting more. There is never a dull moment with Crusade on the band stage. The high energy of the band kept everyone entertained with the choreographed dance moves and play along songs on the wash boards.

The dance floor was packed from the first note. People came from Minnesota, Illinois, Utah, Missouri, and Michigan and of course Wisconsin to enjoy a fabulous evening of polka music.

The fun times didn't stop at the end of Saturday night. Sunday brought the Pulaski Area Festival of Bands. The afternoon began with the hometown boys celebrating 50 years of entertaining, The Marsozek Brothers. They kicked off the afternoon with a huge bang. 50 years of entertaining, they have a classic, smooth sound that never disappoints. Congratulations on your success and wishing you many more years of playing adventures.

The next band up on the band stand was the NuTymes. A few members from the former Polka-Town Sounds, the memories came back from those fun days. They kept the music flowing with some classics.

The middle of the day, let's bring up Aaron Socha and LiveWire to the stage. There is no slow-down in entertainment when it comes to this talented group. They add a special twist to some classic polkas and bring in a little bit of a country flare to mix it up a bit.

The new kids on the polka circuit, The Mix hit the stage ready to go. Everyone has their curiosity peaked on who are these young guys. They didn't disappoint. They hit the notes on the traditional tunes and spiced it up some to create their unique style.

The evening closed out with The New Generation Band. Although they have been playing for 26 years, they will always be kids to me. (I know this makes me feel old). They closed out the weekend of polkas on a positive note, leaving everyone asking for more. So, an encore was given. Tommy Bulanda brought back some classic tunes from his dad, Stas, which adds to the special sound of the band. Kimberly gave TNG an added boost with her energetic singing and dancing on stage. Good Luck to Kimberly on her nomination for Female Vocalist with USPA.

The energy level was high all weekend. The bands were on fire and did a wonderful job of entertaining the crowds. The young and young at heart had a fantastic time, catching up with family and friends, dancing and listening to some amazing music, and having a Na Zdrowie or two. Polkas are alive and well in the Pulaski area.

Many of the fans attending the dance really liked the location of Townline Pub and Grill, with ease of access to the highway, hotels and convenience of being able to grab a bite to eat. Thank You to Dave and the staff for providing a great venue and taking care of the Polka Fans.

Thank You for coming out to support the IPA in Wisconsin.







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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  
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If you would like your newsletter emailed to you, please send an email to:

[newsletter@ipapolkas.com](mailto:newsletter@ipapolkas.com).

Please put in the subject line:

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## 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.

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

## WE NEED SPONSORS!



Sunday, August 6 - Parade of Polka Bands

Thursday, August 31st - IPA Kick-Off Party

Friday-Sunday, Sept 1-3 - 55th Annual IPA Festival

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### DEADLINE FOR AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER: JULY 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.**

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