



# IPA Newsletter

## A Note From Our President



Hello Polka Fans,

Summer is here and with it comes the mountains of memories to be made with family and friends, whether at home, or at all of the festivals throughout the land.

It has been great seeing and catching up with so many people during our travels to the several polka events that have already taken place and I look forward to doing the same with those that I have yet to see in the coming summer months. For those of you that have been unable to attend any of the events so far, we have a few pictures and articles in this newsletter from different events our board members have attended and supported.

We also urge everyone to continue supporting the polka promoters in your area, the church festivals, polka clubs and organizations, locally and nationally. Polka music needs your support.

Speaking of support, as mentioned in our previous newsletter, the IPA announced a new initiative to support polka events and activities. Any promotor or organization interested in receiving sponsorship for their event can go to the website and complete the request form. Once your application is received, it will be reviewed during the next monthly board meeting. If you have any questions, you can contact the Sponsorship Committee at [sponsorship@ipapolkas.com](mailto:sponsorship@ipapolkas.com).

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.

Our IPA festival is quickly approaching and we are excited to celebrate with the 2024 Hall of Fame® Inductees and Music Award Winners. Please see inside the newsletter for more information regarding the festival and make sure to visit our website, [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com), to purchase your banquet tickets, Ad Book information, information about the golf outing, plus much more!

Once again, I look forward to seeing everyone on the Polka Road!

*Christy*

## IPA Hall of Fame Selectees 2024



**Richie Bernier**



**John Zelasko**



**Joe Zalewski**



**Dan Gury**



**Peter  
Wendinger**

# It's Always Sunny in Florida...

## Witamy członków!

Dyngus Day was a huge success in the Sunshine State! The St. Pete Polish club 7<sup>th</sup> Annual event had a record-breaking crowd of 230 people plus, sold over 190 dinners and ran out of Piwo! Crabby Bill's Bar & Grill had a full house of 300 plus people with super soaker squirt guns and water balloons. If you didn't have a chance to join in the events this year, I hope you can add it to your calendar for 2025. You are guaranteed having a great time at either place!

## FL Musician Spotlight:

In this issue I would like to feature Mr. Bobby Sendra. Bobby is originally from Chicago, ILL. and was born into a musical family. His father played drums for the Chuck Stevens Orchestra and was a big influence on his developing years. When Bobby was 9, his dad passed away and he picked up his dad's drum set and started playing, setting into motion the trajectory of his storied music career.

When Bobby was 14 his stepfather, Joe Novak, took him to Roy Knapp Studios in downtown Chicago for professional lessons. For the next 9 years he learned to read musical charts and developed his own style and techniques, just like his drummer idol Buddy Rich. Bobby and his brother Rich, who was learning the accordion at the time, became a duo. They played for various local events like house parties, weddings, picnics and many other events. Bobby was also at this time, playing in his high band, for which he received the John Phillips Souza award for excellent musicianship.

Bobby and Rich met up with musicians Jerry Chocholek and Peter Drungle and they both joined the band. The band diversified their sounds and ventured into the rock & roll genre, playing more gigs. Along the way they entered a Chicago-area local band contest. When entering the contest, the promoter asked them for the band's name. Bobby and the guys didn't have a band name, so the promoter suggested they call themselves "The Versatones" and that is how the name was born. The Versatones won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the contest cementing the band as local legends. The following year, The Versatones entered another band contest sponsored by Downbeat Magazine and they finished in the top 3.

Gradually, the young Versatones shifted back to polka music and Bobby, Rich and Jerry became a

trio. Chet Kowalkowski joined the band shortly after on trumpet. They began doing radio broadcast on Chet Schaeffer & Chet Gulinski shows, and Club 505. In 1963 Eddie Blazonczyk joined the band playing bass and singing. The band became a power house and took off playing in many states. In 1964, the band became nationally known thru out the polka hot spots, changing their name to Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones. Bobby was working a fulltime job but still managing to travel to PA, NY, Ohio, WI, Mich., MD, NJ, Del., and Canada.



By Brad Turk

In 1967 the band was still going strong, continuing to play gigs across the US. Bobby was already married, had a family, and was working for Standard Oil Co. The traveling became too much for him and he had to end his career with Eddie, Rich, Jerry and Chet. He played 10 years with The Versatones, recorded 6 albums, along with the #1 song "Twinkletoes". Bobby played locally with Musicales, The Dynamics, Naturals and other local bands for many years after The Versatones.

In 2010 Bobby retired. Him and his wife Judy move to sunny Inverness, Florida. Bobby, still itching to play polka music, hooks up with The Florida New Generation Band. Today, Bobby is still active in the local polka scene, playing with some of the Northern Polka bands that come to Florida during snowbird season.

I would personally like to send Bobby a very special "Thank You" for keeping polka beat alive in the state, and I wish him the very best of luck in the future. Bobby has created a unique style of playing polka music along with his whistle, for special effects. You can catch Bobby filling in with Polka Bands throughout the year and even teaching me a few drum lessons, from time to time.

## **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 5<sup>th</sup> Northern Sounds; May 19<sup>th</sup> KeyTones; June 2<sup>nd</sup> Northern Sounds; June 16<sup>th</sup> Jim Wick's trio; July 28<sup>th</sup> Brewski Bros; Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> KeyTones; Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> Joey "O" Oberaitis; Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>



Northern Sounds; Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> KeyTones; Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> Jim Wick's trio; Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> Brewski Bros; Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Joey "O" Oberaitis, and Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Christmas Kolendy party with Northern Sounds. For dinner reservations call Irene (386)-258-7059. For additional info. call the club (386)-258-7059 or visit their FB or website:

[www.polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.org](http://www.polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.org).

### **General K. Pulaski Citizens Club in Belleview**

Dinner Dances will include: May 12<sup>th</sup> a special Mother's Day celebration featuring Frank Moravcik Band from Ohio, June 9<sup>th</sup> Northern Sounds; Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> TBA; Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> Northern Sounds, and Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> Christmas Kolendy party featuring Northern Sounds. Please contact Brad for more info.

**SNPJ Lodge #603 in Samsula** will be hosting the **Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach** Sunday dinner/dances for 2024. For additional info. call the club (386)-428-3983, or visit their website: [www.samsulasnpjlodge603.com](http://www.samsulasnpjlodge603.com). Join their Facebook page, [snpjlodge603@gmail.com](mailto:snpjlodge603@gmail.com).

**Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach** will be celebrating Polish Constitution Day on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 6-9pm; May 11<sup>th</sup> Latin night dance 8-11pm; May 17<sup>th</sup> California Mix 7-10pm; May 31<sup>st</sup> Argentine Tango-Milonga 7-10pm. For all events, 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.

**Polish American Society of St. Petersburg. Time Changing for 2024-25: Dinner at 2pm & Dancing 3-6pm.** Upcoming dances include: April 28<sup>th</sup> was the last dance of the season featuring Northern Sounds, they had a great crowd and even had a few guess star musicians on the band stand. The Club will be taking a summer break to get prepared for annual "Grand Opening" on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>., stay tune for more info. coming in the next few months. The club will remain open for "Thirsty Thursdays" happy hour from 5:30-9pm, for their local neighbors to stop by and have a cold one. Please visit their website: [www.polishsociety.org](http://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.

### **Special/Oktobefest Events:**

**Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. Oktoberfest @ New Smyrna Beach starting at 5:30-9:30pm with Northern Sounds.**

**Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>:** Oktoberfest event at OTOW-Ocala from

4-9pm. featuring Northern Sounds.

**Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>:** Oktoberfest @ New Smyrna Beach main street, 5:30-8:30pm with Oktoberfest Express.

**Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>:** Starkey Market Oktoberfest 3460 Starkey Blvd., New Port Riche, with Midwest All-stars Polka band. Fri. 5-10pm, Sat. 12-4pm

**Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>:** Greater Tampa Bay Oktoberfest with Midwest All Stars, Sat. 12-10pm, Sun. 12-6pm

**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. **Please continue to support LIVE polka music and our clubs!**

*Hope to see everyone at a festival!!*



*Chicago's own Bobby Sendra keeping the polka beat alive in Florida*

The national Academy of IPA® Electors just concluded their annual voting cycle to select the 2023 Polka Music Award winners. The results are as follows:

## 2023 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:

***Better Things to Come* by Polka Country Musicians**

### Favorite Song:

***Polka Party* by Polka Country Musicians**



## 2023 International Style Polka Music Award Winners



### Favorite Male Vocalist:

**Ted Lange**

### Favorite Female Vocalist:

**Mollie Busta Lange**

### Favorite Band:

**Alex Meixner Band**

### Favorite Album:

***70th Birthday - 3rd in the Trilogy*  
by Fred Ziwich and his International Sound Machine**

### Favorite Song:

***There's Music In Every Heart* by Fred Ziwich and  
his International Sound Machine**





# **4th Annual Golf Outing with Friends**

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

**IPA Weekend—Friday, August 30, 2024**

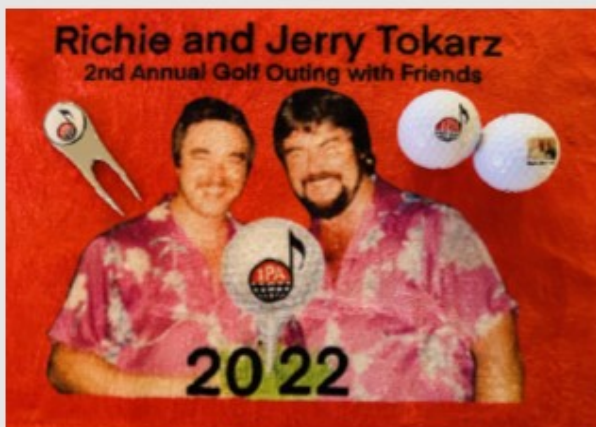
**Strawberry Ridge Golf Course**

**135 McNulty Lane**

**Harmony, PA 16037**

**Shotgun Start—8:00 am/Scramble Format**

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



**Price per golfer—\$60**

**Venmo—@Jeffrey-Yash**

**RSVP to Jeff Yash**

**jeffreyyash@gmail.com**

**518.281.1587**

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





Featuring "2:15", "Why Did He Die", "Six Beers In",  
"Secret Agent Man", "My Heart, Your Heart" and more!

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[PolkaConnection.com](http://PolkaConnection.com) or [JimmyKPolkas.com](http://JimmyKPolkas.com)

or where ever polka CDs are  
sold, downloaded or streamed!



# Please join the International Polka Association in celebrating the 54th Annual IPA Hall of Fame & Music Awards Banquet!



**Saturday, August 31st**  
**10:45 AM Arrival & Seating**  
**11:00 AM Luncheon**

Location: DoubleTree Hotel in Pittsburgh-Cranberry, PA  
Tickets are **\$50 per person** by advance reservation only.

**Reservations must be made by August 16th, 2024.**

## ***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 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/>**

### **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)**

**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)**





## **SAVE THE DATE**



### **56th Annual International Polka Association Festival & Convention**

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

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

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

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

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

More details and information to follow.  
Visit our website: [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com)

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





# congratulations

**March 2024 - Walt Kazmierczak** - In recognition for your more than 45 years of supporting and promoting polka music, the last 14 years on your show "Walt the K's Polka Party" heard every Sunday on Reading, PA's 1340AM WRAW and internationally on iHeart Radio, the International Polka Association hereby presents this Certificate of Appreciation. Thank you and Congratulations.

**May 2024 - Joseph Manjack "Polka Joe" and the Magic Polka Machine** - In recognition of your untiring efforts in the promotion and advancement of Polka entertainment for 50 years of Broadcasting. Thank you and Congratulations.

**April - Frank Powaski** - In recognition of your untiring efforts in the promotion and advancement of Polka Entertainment for over 55 years of Broadcasting. Thank you and Congratulations.

To the entire IPA Board....what great news! The PucowYashu team can't thank you all enough! We are so very excited to take over Polkamotion by the Ocean and keeping the music we all love alive through this festival. You're a class act IPA! We can't thank you enough! God Bless!

Sincerely,

The PucowYashu Team  
Michael Pucowski  
Jeff Yash  
Carla Jasinski  
Jill Czerniak

# Thank You!

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

International Polka Association  
PO Box 1484  
Plainfield, IL 60544

Attn: President Christy Krawisz

Dear Christy & IPA Board Members,

I would like to sincerely thank you for your \$400 Sponsorship for our Polka Fireworks Festival. We appreciate your generous contribution that will be helpful in defraying some of the operating expenses of the fest.

Wishing you continued success in your upcoming events.

*Tish Blazoneczyk*  
Tish Blazoneczyk

## 2021 IPA HOF Inductee, Mike Costa and wife, Veronica, welcome two new grandchildren



Veronica holding Luke and Mike holding Alessia

Alessia Eden Scialampo born December 30, 2023 to Amanda (Costa) and Joe Scialampo



Luke Walker Pivko born November 10, 2023 to Courtney (Costa) and Scott Pivko.



Veronica and Mike with grandson, Michael Pivko (parents Courtney & Scott) on 2nd Birthday 2/27/24



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



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

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

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



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

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

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



*Welcome Party*  
Celebrating 40 years  
of The Nu-Tones



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

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

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



# POLKAFIREWORKS.COM



**The International Polka Association Proudly Presents**  
**The Parade of Polka Bands Picnic**  
**Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Hammond Mohawks Picnic Grove**  
**4040 Calumet Ave., Hammond, IN**

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

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

*Tony*  
*Blazonezyk's*  
**New Phaze**



**E-Z**  
**Tones**



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# **Travel** with **JOHN GORA**

**AUGUST 14 to 27, 2024**

## **GRAND TOUR of POLAND**

From the Tatra Mountains to the Baltic sea and many places in between

**SEP. 29 to OCT. 11, 2024**

## **TOUR of ITALY & SLOVENIA**

**NOVEMBER 3 to 9, 2024**

## **Western Caribbean Polka Cruise**

On Carnival Cruise Lines from Miami, FL with

an **ALLSTAR POLKA BAND** Eddie Forman, John Cieplik,

Ed Blazonczyk Jr. Bob Frydryk, Rich Zebrowski, Bob Wojtowicz, John Gora & DJ John Baras

**To: Jamaica, Cayman Islands and Cozumel**

**JUNE 17 – 30, 2025**

## **GRAND TOUR OF POLAND**

From the Tatra Mountains to the Baltic sea and many places in between

Please call or text John 905-902-1345  
or Email: [john@johngora.com](mailto:john@johngora.com)  
or visit: [www.johngora.com](http://www.johngora.com) to view flyer

or call our travel expert Wanda  
1-800-533-0369





# It's Here Again!



## We are so excited to announce the 5th 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, 2024 deadline. It is open to amateur and professional songwriters of any polka genre.
- Remember, the first-place winner will receive one thousand (\$1,000) dollars! The second-place winner will receive one hundred (\$100) dollars. You have nothing to lose!

More information will be coming soon on the IPA website  
([www.IPAPolkas.com](http://www.IPAPolkas.com)) where you can submit your songs.



## Bel-Aire Enterprises celebrates Polish Constitution Day & Cinco de Mayo during The Polka Jammer Networks Jammerthon

Congratulations to Bel-Aire Enterprises and the Blazonczyk Family on a very successful Combination Celebration, Polish Constitution Day & Cinco de Mayo held on Sunday, April 28, 2024, at the Royalty West Banquets in Willow Springs, Illinois. Entertainment was provided by the Polka Family Band of Pennsylvania. There was a live broadcast during the Polka Jammer Networks – Jammerthon for three hours that afternoon. A special Thank You to the IJ's that afternoon, Rick Rzeszutko, Dennis Mikolajewski, Gary & Val Zielinski, and all the guest IJ's, as well as Randy and Roberta

Polovick for taking the donations at the event.

Congratulations are also extended to Todd Zaganiacz and everyone involved with the Jammerthon 2024 on raising \$101,900.00.



### More pictures from Holy Toledo Days 2024



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 2024 inductees and more information about the **55th Annual International Polka Association Festival and Convention**.

*Stay Tuned.....*



# \$1000 FREDDY K JR

## MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The **Freddy K Jr. Music Scholarship Committee** is now accepting requests for applications for the 2024 Scholarship award. Applicants must be high school seniors who have been accepted to an accredited college and play a musical instrument. Anyone who is interested in applying for this year's award can download an application on our website at [www.freddykjrmusicscholarship.com](http://www.freddykjrmusicscholarship.com) or contact the Scholarship Committee at the following address:

The Freddy K Jr. Scholarship Fund  
23850 Via Italia Circle, Apt #1104  
Bonita Springs, Florida 34134

**Freddy K Jr.** played trumpet in his father's band, **The Freddy K Band**, when he died in an automobile accident in July of 1997. Music, especially Polka Music, was Fred's life and passion. His personality, sense of humor and love of Polka Music affected all who knew him. The Music Scholarship Fund was set up to carry on where Fred left off by promoting polka music through the gift of a \$1,000 Scholarship to a deserving student every year. Each award will be given at one of the polka Festivals during the summer.

### WINNERS OF \$1000 SCHOLARSHIPS

#### 2023 – Holly Rose Kolodziej Scarfone, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

2022 – Sebastian Pucowski, Hackettstown, New Jersey

2021- Syrena Prytko, Millbury, Massachusetts

2020 – Lucas Yash, Webster, Massachusetts

2019 – Emma Bogdan, Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania

2018 – Zachary Piatkowski, Canastota, New York

2017 – Veronica Prytko, Millbury, Massachusetts

Joseph Blackburn, Troy, New York

2016 – Olivia Piatkowski, Canastota, New York

2015 – Adam Winiarz, Norton, Massachusetts

2014 – Jenna Libera, Charlton, Massachusetts

2013 – Eva Snyder, South Hadley, Massachusetts

2012 – Justin Kohan, Orchard Park, New York

2011 – Stephen Piatkowski, Canastota, New York

2010 - Kassandre Dardzinski, Saugus, Massachusetts and

Anita Marie Thomas, Balto, Maryland

2009 – David Raccis, Wilbreham, Massachusetts

2008 – Christopher Wanyo, Shillington, Pennsylvania

2007 – Kevin Martin, Hudson, New Hampshire

2006 – Lanelle Raccis, Wilbreham, Massachusetts

2005 – Nick Koryluk, Hicksville, New York

2004 – Michael D. Riel, II, Chicopee, Massachusetts

2003 – Ryan Ogrodny, White Oak, Pennsylvania

2002 – Brian Romianik, Millville, New Jersey

2001 – Melissa Mocadlo, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

2000 – Andrew Krystopolski, Wilmington, Delaware

1999 – William Lomnychuk, Reading, Pennsylvania

1998 – John Daigle, Chicopee, Massachusetts



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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

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

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – Bernie Gorak, Sr

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

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

**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.; Bruce Brzeczowski; Richie Yurkovich; Carol Alsheimer

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

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

**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;

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

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

**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; Bernice Furin

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

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

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

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







# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – Al Betley; Lola Johnson

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

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

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

**6<sup>th</sup>** – Jennifer Bulanda-Ruitenber; Dennis Polisky;  
Elizabeth Rozek; Douglas Busch

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

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

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

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

**12<sup>th</sup>** – Danny Fabeck

**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>** – Wally Dombrowski; Robert Moon;  
Joe Gilewski

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

**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; Frank Liszka

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

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – Bonnie Potoniec;  
Steven Sopko; Catherine Hartenbower;  
Roman (Travers) Truskolaski;

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

**24<sup>th</sup>** – 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; Miroslaw Antas;  
Lynn Kizewski; Greg Winiarz

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

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

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





## New Members

Trudy Patek, IL  
 Duane Morrison, SD  
 Richard Sonoski, PA  
 Tiffany Miaso, IL  
 Douglas Busch, FL  
 Seth Drzewicki, MI  
 Michael Pucowski, NJ  
 Tracy Kapka, IL  
 Karter Maroszek, WI



## New Lifetime Members

Maryann Cuglewski, OH  
 CW Benson, TX  
 Doris Benson, TX  
 Andrew Krystopolski, FL  
 Eddie Siwiec, MI  
 Frank Urbanovitch, NY  
 Jeanne Henderson, PA  
 Andrew Kuczarski, NY

*Rest in  
 Peace*

Jim Miller, WI  
 Helen Szywala, TX  
 Florian W. Chmielewski, Sr.

*Thank  
 you!*

Special thank you to Kathy and Tish Blazonczyk, Bel-Aire Records, and Mike, Diane, and Christy Nowakowski for donating raffle baskets to the IPA/ Let's Polka USA Unity Dance.

*Thank  
 you!*

Special thank you to Ernie and Patti Daigle, Peter Danielczuk, Red & Carol Blyda, John Diotelevi, Cynthia Ciejek, Lynn Cieplik, and Lorrain Carreira for donating their time ensuring that the IPA Benefit Dance held in Ludlow, MA in March was a success. Also, thank you to Estelle Gomulka for her artwork and expertise on the dance flier.

## 2024 IPA Newsletter Schedule

### Issue

### Deadline for Submissions

**August - September 2024**

**July 1, 2024**

**October - November 2024**

**September 1, 2024**

**December 2024 - January 2025**

**November 1, 2024**



# 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Polka Mania

**The Hammond Mohawks**

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

**Sunday, June 9, 2024**

Gates open at 11:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**\$15.00 – Adults**

**Under 12 - Free**

Authentic Polish Food, Desserts, and Beverages  
Plus, Raffles and Polish Memorabilia  
Available at an Additional Cost

**Absolutely no BYOB or BYOF**

**Continuous  
Music**

## FEATURING...

### The DynaVersaStickToneAires



**AND...**

### Michael Costa & The Beat



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



## PRCUA – Wyandotte, Michigan - 6th Annual Polka Benefit Dance benefitting the American Heart Association



Congratulations to the PRCUA in Wyandotte, Michigan, its President, Stanley Pasko Jr, and everyone involved with their 6th Annual Polka Benefit Dance benefitting the American Heart Association. Music was provided by the fine sounds of Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push along with Michael Costa & The Beat. It was a great event and everyone in attendance had a wonderful time.

Save the date for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Polka Benefit dance, Saturday, April 26, 2025. Music will be provided by fine sounds of Seven from Buffalo, New York and Gerry Kaminski's Polka network from Grand Rapids. Hope to see you all there.



## PNA Lodge #1134 Celebrates 115th Year Anniversary

The Polish National Alliance lodge #1134 celebrated their 115th year anniversary dance on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at the Polish Heritage Center in downtown St. Louis, Missouri. Music was provided by the IPA Tribute Band with special guest, IPA Hall of Fame inducted John Gora from Canada. Congratulations to John and Carolyn Baras and the entire committee on such a wonderful event. We wish you continued success.





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

**A SUMMER CHRISTMAS PARTY!**

# **CHRISTMAS IN JULY DANCE**

**MUSIC BY: LENNY GOMULKA & CHICAGO PUSH**

**Sunday July 14, 2024**

**Doors open at noon, music 1-5**

**Royalty West Banquets**

**8675 Archer Ave**

**Willow Springs, IL**

Christmas sing along, raffles & surprises!

Food and beverages available for purchase

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

**For more information or advance tickets**

**Contact Jen Ruitenbergh 773-936-7014**



## Holy Toledo Day 2024

By Christy Krawisz

Johnny, my mom Cheryl, and I attend the 2024 Holy Toledo Days, and we truly had an amazing time. We were there as Johnny was performing with PolkaMojo on Saturday night and they didn't disappoint! It was great that they brought back some of the FreezeDried favorites and the crowd went crazy when they started to play "Angelina". There were so many friends that we haven't seen in several months and even met a few people that we haven't met before. Lots of laughs, drinks, and wonderful polka music!

I had the opportunity to personally congratulate Joe Zalewski on his upcoming induction into the IPA Hall of Fame as well as congratulate him on such a successful event. Also in attendance was John Zelasko so I was able to congratulate him on his induction to the Hall of Fame as he was performing with Seven and Gerry Kaminski's Polka Network that weekend. The Polka Country Musician were also there to perform on Saturday night, and I was able to congratulate the entire band on winning the 2023 Polish Style Album of the Year – Better Things to Come and on their award winning hit song "Pool Party" - (face it when you read that you started singing it, didn't you??). I was also able to spend some time with Taps President, Debra Rutkowski (I didn't mean to take all your soplica, lol), her husband Allan, and President of the PRCUA in Wyandotte, Stanley Pasko. It was great to meet and talk with Indiana Nana and her daughter Kiki, as well as chat for a while with the USPA President, Cindy Fisher.

To Joe Zalewski and your entire staff "Thank You" for putting on an amazing Holy Toledo Days 2024, and for all your hard work and dedication to this event! All of the bands sounded amazing, playing all of the crowd favorites throughout the weekend, and it was truly a great event.

In addition to those already mentioned, the entertainment line-up also included Lenny Gomulka's Chicago Push, The DynaBrass, Holy Toledo Jam Band, and DJ Kenny Olowin.

Starting things off on Thursday, April 11, 2024 was the Opening Night Polka Party at Six Fifths Distilling in Perrysburg, OH featuring the music of the Holy Toledo Jam Band from 8:00-11:00PM. On Friday April 12, 2024, there were two Hot American Polka Parties for the weekend from 1:00PM until 4:00PM at Pizza Pub 516 Perrysburg located across the parking lot in the Kroger Plaza. Polka Music was provided by internationally renowned polka DJ Kenny Olowin. In addition, Kenny has a "Live" Broadcast on the Polka Jammer Network during this event at [www.polkajammernetwork.org](http://www.polkajammernetwork.org). The evening was wrapped by the sounds of live music in the ballroom of

the Holiday Inn. What a fantastic evening!

On Saturday, April 13, 2024, there was another Hot American Polka Party from 10:00AM until 1:00PM at Ground Round Bar & Grill, located in the Holiday Inn Lobby. Polka Music was provided again by internationally renowned polka DJ Kenny Olowin. In addition, Kenny had another "Live" Broadcast on the Polka Jammer Network during this event at [www.polkajammernetwork.org](http://www.polkajammernetwork.org). Once again, it was an afternoon and evening of amazing live polka music.

On Sunday April 14, 2024 The Holy Toledo Sunday Dance In conjunction with the Toledo Area Polka Society - TAPS, held a dance at the Conn-Weissenberger Hall located at 2020 W. Alexis Road in Toledo, Ohio. Music and dancing was from 1:00PM until 5:00PM featuring Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push.

**About TAPS:** The Toledo Area Polka Society was founded in 1982 when a group of polka enthusiasts first met in a garage in Oregon, Ohio to develop greater interest in polka dancing, to promote fellowship among polka music fans, and to secure nationally known talent in the polka music industry. The membership was officially formed in 1983. Today, TAPS dances are held at the Conn-Weissenberger American Legion Hall in Toledo and Oak Shade Grove Hall in Oregon. The TAPS Annual Polish Summer Picnic is held at Oak Shade Grove Pavilion in Oregon, Ohio which has evolved into a must-attend event. Visit the TAPS website at [www.tapspolkas.com](http://www.tapspolkas.com)

Visit the website at [www.holytoledopolkadays.com](http://www.holytoledopolkadays.com) for more details.





## Dyngus Day 2024, South Bend, Indiana: a retrospective by Dennis Mikolajewski

Thousands of Polish friends from the US and Canada descend annually to Buffalo, NY to enjoy a multitude of Dyngus day activities. Buffalo and vicinity are by far the epicenter for our Polish holiday.

However, my hometown of South Bend, Indiana is not to be outdone. Where South Bend may lack in the number of celebrations, the intensity, quality and overall revelry of the day is second to none.

A bit of backstory; South Bend, IN is where I was born, raised and educated for the first 25 years of my life. It is where I cut my polka teeth as it were. So I have much Indiana 'polka history' to draw upon.

So back to Dyngus Day in South Bend 2024: My day started at 6:30am Chicago time with a 90-minute drive to Crumstown, IN; which is about 8 miles west of South Bend. The small farming community of Crumstown is not known for much other than fantastic sweet corn and fresh strawberries, but it is the first stop for Dyngus celebrations. The Crumstown Conservation Club has been hosting Dyngus day parties for as long as I can remember. Originally Eddie Blazonczyk and the Versatones started the day with Eddie bellowing out a hearty 'Ha-Lo Everybody' at 9am eastern time. Over the past 10 – 15 years Tony B and his New Phaze band have taken over without missing a beat.

When talking to the musicians at 8:30am they are a bit grumpy and ask themselves why they are doing this. But, when 9am comes around, and a crowd of well over 500 screaming polka fans come to life, their eyes light up and they perform to the highest quality. Thank you, Tony and band, for getting up in the middle of the night and making Dyngus day a morning and afternoon to remember!

Next stop, after a brief lunch time out, is the ZB Polish Falcons. Once again, an organization that has been sponsoring Dyngus day celebration for at least 40 to 50 years. Believe it or not, Eddie B and the Versatones made this their second gig of the day. They would pack up their gear at Crumstown around 2pm then unpack it at the Falcons hall to be ready to go by 4pm. Crazy; but they did it and did it

well!

Currently, we have the dynamic sounds of the Dynaversasticktoneaires to keep the party going! Aaron Slivinski and his guys provided the musical energy to get the hall in a frenzy. A hall so packed that the dance floor became nonexistent. Those who dared to dance had to navigate through the crowd. But that's OK; we polka people like our dances packed!

So, at this point, you would think that my day is over. Well, not so fast. The EZ Tones, an Indiana band that, once again, I remember from 40+ years ago, were performing at the American Legion; about 5 miles away. Well, let's go!

I may sound like I'm repeating myself, but once again the Legion had a packed house of Dyngus party people dancing, singing, and enjoying the music. What more could we want? Well, how about a sausage sandwich and some pierogi; a Dyngus day standard; along with a zymnie piwo or two.

So, at this point, it's time to begin the 90-minute trek back to Illinois. Yes, my ears were buzzing, and my knees were sore from standing and dancing a few, but it was worth it! In fact, I am counting the days until Dyngus Day 2025. Admittedly, my favorite holiday of the year!





## ***Over 750 Polka Fans Join Jimmy, Mollie B & More on the Sail Away Polka Cruise 2024!***

Submitted by Gus Kosier

Over 750 Polka fans joined Jimmy Sturr, Mollie B and others this past January on the Sail Away Polka Cruise. Joining Jimmy & Mollie & Squeezebox were Barefoot Becky from Iowa, The Music Connection, the Steve Meisner Tribute Band, Jim Busta and the winners of last year's TV show The Voice, "A Girl Named Tom."

Matt and Elaine were there teaching dance classes and Keith Stras was the MC for the week. The cruise visited Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos; the Dominican Republic; and the Bahamas on the beautiful Sky Princess.

There were several locations throughout the ship where the bands performed including Jimmy doing a special concert in the Princess Theater. Mollie B and Squeezebox along with all the other bands performed for Caribbean Night out on the deck overlooking the pool. Imagine . . . over 800 Polka fans doing the polka in front of the other guests on the

ship. Everyone on the ship started doing the Polka! What a time it was!

On the final day, Jimmy & The Band performed for the whole ship overlooking the pool area. There were several thousand people in attendance all doing the polka!

Next year's Polka in Paradise cruise takes place January 12th to January 19th, 2025, once again on the Sky Princess leaving from Ft. Lauderdale. There are already over 650 people signed up for the cruise. It will be a fantastic cruise that will include the music of Mollie B & Ted & Squeezebox, Jimmy Sturr, and returning from Iowa, Barefoot Becky plus the Buffalo Concertina All Stars, the Music Connection, Jim Busta, the Garrett Tatano Band, and the Zweifel Bros. plus our MC Keith Stras and dance instructors, Matt & Elaine.

For more information and to make a reservation call 845-651-4266.





## IPA Polka Hall of Fame Member Florian W. Chmielewski, Sr. Passes

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of 2015 Hall of Fame Inductee Florian Chmielewski. Our deepest condolences and sympathies to his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and all his polka friends and fans.

Florian W. Chmielewski, Sr., age 97, of Sturgeon Lake, Minnesota passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by his family. Florian was one of 15 children, born to Tony and Tillie Chmielewski on the family farm in Sturgeon Lake, MN on February 10th, 1927. He was a dairy farmer, a world-renowned Minnesota musician, and a State Senator for 26 years. Florian's special legislative concerns focused on employment, education, health care, housing, and Veterans. He was a member of a wide range of committees and subcommittees including Veteran's Affairs, Jobs, Energy, Community Development, Rules and Administration, Transportation and Public Transit, Employment, Local Government, Taxes and Tax Laws, Health and Human Services, and Agriculture. Throughout his musical career, Florian received many awards including the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame, Ironworld USA Hall of Fame, International Polka Association Hall of Fame, Northeast Accordion Lifetime Achievement, Nine Grammys from the Minnesota Music Academy, Honorary Doctorate of Law and Music Degree, Honorary Doctorate of Musicology and an International Merit Award. His love of polka music also inspired him to launch the International Polka Festival for 40 years and the Chmielewski Funtime Television Show for 35 years, seen across the United States and Canada. Florian lived his whole life carrying on his family legacy and did so with a sense of responsibility and pride even while living the past several years with congestive heart failure. He lived life to its fullest

and put his faith in God and his religion. Florian is survived by his children; Florian Jr (Cheryl) Chmielewski and Patty (Michael Bell) Chmielewski, 10 Grandchildren; Tony (Jamie), Tiffany (Seth), Jodi (Dan), Amanda (Paul), Ashley, Amber (Jake), Alisha (Geoff), Nick, Lexy and Kati, and 19 Great Grandchildren. Florian is preceded in death by his loving and devoted wife Pat (Stolquist) for 47 years and son's: Jeff and Mark Chmielewski. He was the last remaining sibling of the 3rd generation Chmielewski Family.



**2024 Joe Jozwiak Award**



**Raymond Kanoza**

**2024 Leon Kozicki  
Trustees Award**



**Nicky DiSebastiano**



# Buffalo Concertina All-Stars visit the Phoenix, AZ

Submitted by Dave Bonczkiewicz

"Polkas Sunny Side Up" once again, the Buffalo Concertina All Stars made another appearance (4) at the Pulaski Club in Phoenix Arizona. All eight (8) musicians on stage at one time put on a great show and had the people dancing and cheering to all their favorite songs.

St. Patrick's Day Polka style weekend with a Polish and Irish style meal on the menu, drinks, our famous "Jezy Bombers", and some out-of-town guests, Cleveland, Chicago and New York enjoyed the mu-

sic and meeting up with friend old and new.

Thank you, Gregg Chwojdak, Gary Krewpski, Troy Gowlak and the rest of the Band for the fantastic "honky style" music and memories to live on at our Polish Home. Until next month when we have the Maestro's men on stage, make plans for one of our events.

for update info. See the Pulaski club web page at [www.pulaskiclubaz.com](http://www.pulaskiclubaz.com). Or at [www.facebook.com/pulaskiclubofarizona](https://www.facebook.com/pulaskiclubofarizona) page.







## Voting has been extended through June 20, 2024

If you are a member of the International Polka Association, then your voice needs to be heard and opinion recorded.

In the previous newsletter, per procedure, the IPA published a notice to officially propose changes to the IPA By-Laws for consideration by our general membership. **The deadline for the membership's vote has been extended through June 20, 2024.**

To review the changes, please visit our website at [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com) or you can refer to the **April - May, 2024 IPA Newsletter**.

Members may use one of the following voting methods:

- 1) **Calling in your "yes" or "no" vote to the IPA – [800-867-6552](tel:800-867-6552), leave a message providing your name, membership number and your yes or no vote; OR**
- 2) **Emailing your vote to: [vote@ipapolkas.com](mailto:vote@ipapolkas.com), providing your name, membership number and your yes or no vote; OR**
- 3) **Completing and mailing the attached voting form.**

**Your membership number is important to ensure that only IPA Members will be allowed to vote on this proposal.**

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*** All amendments presented must be approved by 2/3<sup>rds</sup> of the voting membership to be implemented.

---

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

Members Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

☐

Yes Vote

☐

No Vote

**BALLOT MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JUNE 20, 2024**

# **Pittsburgh's Polka Hot Spot**

## **Kinloch Fire Hall**

### **2024 Polka Schedule**

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

*Schedule is subject to change*

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

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

For table reservations or more information, contact:  
Chris Bogdon - 412-260-9725 or [chris@westernpapolkas.com](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>**





# **2024 International Polka Association** **Festival and Convention**



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

**Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

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

# **Alex Meixner Band**



**Music from 7:00pm to 10:00pm**

**Doors Open at 6:00pm**

**Tickets: \$20 per person**

**Limited Number of Tickets Available for this Performance**

**Cranberry Elks Lodge #2249**

**20720 Route 19**

**Cranberry Twp., PA 16066**

**All proceeds benefit the Elks Lodge #2249**

**Drinks will be available for purchase! No BYOB!**

**For tickets, table reservations or more information contact:**

**Chris Bogdon - 412-260-9725 or [chris@bogdonfamily.com](mailto:chris@bogdonfamily.com)**

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



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**IPA Newsletter**

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**Editor:**

Lynn Kaminski  
newsletter@ipapolkas.com

**Contact us:**

International Polka Association, Inc.®  
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Website: [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com)

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**Membership**

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

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

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

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

President: Christy Krawisz (IL)  
1st Vice President: Lori Lewandowski (IL)  
2nd Vice President: Chris Bogdon (PA)  
Treasurer: Dan Mateja (IL)  
Secretary: Cheryl Furmaniak (IL)  
Financial Secretary: Lynn Kaminski (IL)  
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Brian Kapka (IL)  
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**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!**



**Thursday, August 29th** - IPA Kick-Off Party  
**Friday-Sunday, August 30th - September 1** - 56th Annual IPA Festival

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

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### **DEADLINE FOR August 2024 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.**

International Polka Association, Inc.®  
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 1-800-TO-POLKA (1-800-867-6552)  
 Website: [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com)

