



IPA Newsletter



A Message from our President

On behalf of the Officers and Directors of the International Polka Association, we would like to thank everyone who attended our 54th Annual International Polka Festival and Convention last weekend at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh Cranberry. Despite some very unfortunate events, we hope you had a great time.

We would also like to thank the following people.

To Jill Styczynski for your countless hours working on the hotel reservations and during the festival.

To Brian Kapka for being the Band Chairperson this year.

To Lynn Kaminski for her work on the Ad Book.

To Lindsey Mateja, Christy Nowakowski, and Lori Lewandowski for all the time spent making the banquet such a beautiful event and for helping throughout the weekend.

To Cheryl Furmaniak and John Krawisz for your countless hours the weeks before and during the festival with help anywhere I needed.

To Chris Bogdon, Dan Mateja, Randy Koslosky, Emma Bogdon, Henry Lenard, Dennis Mikolajewski, Sue Szela, Brad Turk, and Keith Pietranczyk, your help throughout the weekend was greatly appreciated.

Officers and Directors, I look forward to being

your President for another year, and I hope we can continue to do great things for the organization in the future. Your hard work and dedication to the organization make life easier for me. Congratulations to the new Director, Rich Zebrowski, and Thank you to Mark Trezpacz for your service on the board.

Everyone who attended and supported the Kick-off Party at the Cranberry Elks Lodge, Chris Bogdon, and Mon Valley Push.

The bands that performed for us that weekend, The Buffalo Concertina All Stars, The Dynabass, The Jack Tady Band, Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push, Seven, IPA Tribute Band, Klancnik and Friends, The Boys, The NuTones, Michael Costa and the Beat, John Gora and Goral, New Generations and Polka Country Musicians, without you, there is no festival. Thank you for sharing your musical talents with all of us music fans.

To the Polka Jammer Network, Mark Trezpacz, Billy Belina, Keith Pietranczyk, and Cherie Trezpacz, thank you for doing a live remote from IPA again this year. We greatly appreciate your time doing these remotes and promoting polka music.



Make your plans to attend the
54th Annual IPA Polka Festival and Convention

SEPTEMBER 1-3, 2023

910 Sheraton Drive
Mars, PA 16046

To the volunteers, Jim and Rosemary Bogdon, Shari Olszewski, Johnetta Vinka, Sandy Bogdon, Sara Zelasko, Laura Mateja, Katie Krawisz, Hayley Krawisz, Karen Hudy, Diane Bulanda, Ashley and Kevin Mach, Diana Kosinski, Corinne Turk, Alivia Bogdon, Kayla Rosinski, Mike Nowakowski, Adam Biskup, and if I forgot someone, I am truly sorry, we greatly appreciate all the time you donated to us this past weekend and appreciate your support of the organization.

To Father Dennis Bogusz, for celebrating the Polka Mass, Basia Adams, Kathy Blazonczyk for the readings, Tish Blazonczyk for some of the announcements, all who helped with the collections, Shari and Matt Olszewski for serving as Eucharistic Ministers, and Randy Koslosky and The Kosmix for the beautiful music.

To Frank Steter, for being our DJ at the banquet this year.

To Jeff Yash, for hosting the 2nd Annual Jerry

and Richie Tokarz golf outing, which is loved by all the golfers.

To Kate Knecht and the entire staff at the DoubleTree, we appreciate all you do for us and look forward to our festival next year at your location.

Congratulations to all the Hall of Fame Inductees, Alex Meixner, Don "The Polish Kid" Cialkoszewski, the Family and Friends of Don Galak, Stan Wolowic, and Anthony W. Zebrowski. I truly enjoy listening to all your history and accomplishment in the polka industry.

Congratulations to all the Music Award winners, Lenny Gomulka, Laura Mateja, Ted Lange, Mollie Busta Lange, Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push, Michael Costa and The Beat, The Alex Meixner Band, and Nicola "Nicky D" DiSebastiano. We greatly appreciate all you do for polka music.

Christy



Emma Bogdon appointed Director from Pennsylvania

Emma Bogdon comes from a long line of polka musicians. Both of her grandfathers, Jim Bogdon and Bernard Koslosky Sr., played instruments and stressed the importance of playing music to their children, instilling a love of many types of music. Emma's uncles were always playing polkas, whether with Energy or Henny and the Versa J's or her dad and uncle playing with the Polka Country Musicians. Being exposed to her heritage and polka music at such an early age

caused Emma to become proud of her heritage and passionate about polka music. In 2018, Emma was crowned Teen Miss United States Polka Association at the Association's festival over Memorial Day weekend. During that year, she traveled all over the country, talking to everyone about why polka music meant so much to her. In 2019, Emma decided to look to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award by promoting polkas to the youth. That year, Emma became an IJ for the Polka Jammer and created her show, The Polka Lovin' Girl Show, which airs Monday nights 6-7 PM EST. Her show has been on the Polka Jammer Network for almost four years. Currently, Emma is a Senior at Duquesne University and studies Marketing and Information Systems. She is excited to be an IPA director to continue supporting and promoting the music that connects us all to our heritage.



It's Always Sunny in Florida...

Willkommene Mitglieder!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting this year's IPA convention. As the Florida IPA Director, I would especially like to recognize all of those polka fans that traveled from the Sunshine State. Your attendance definitely added to the success of this memorable event! Congratulations to all of the Polka Hall of Fame inductees and IPA music award winners. Your love of polka music is valued and appreciated. Please make plans on attending in 2023.

Oktoberfest season is upon us! Get ready to raise your beer steins at these Florida events:

Oct. 1: Northern Sounds @ Plantation's Oktoberfest @ Ponte Vedra Beach

Oct. 8: Joe Oberaitis and the Oktoberfest Express @ St. Sebastian C.C.

Oct. 10: Frank Maravcik @ The Polka Lovers Club Oktoberfest, The Villages

Oct. 14-15: Joe Oberaitis and the Oktoberfest Express @ German Club Pinellas Park

Oct. 21-22: The Midwest Allstars @ Upper Tampa Bay Oldsmar

Oct. 22-23: Joe Oberaitis and the Oktoberfest Express @ Upper Tampa Bay Oldsmar

Oct. 22-23: The Midwest Allstars @ Starkey Market Odessa

Please continue to support our clubs:

Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach is having Polka dances at The Elks Lodge, 285 Wilmette Avenue, Ormond Beach. On Sept. 11th is Northern Sounds, Sept. 25th is Joe Oberaitis, Oct. 9th is Polka Classic, Oct. 23rd TBD, Oct. 30th the John Wicks Trio, Nov. 13th the Melotones, Nov. 20th is Joe Oberaitis, Dec. 18th is Polka Classic. For more information, call the club at (386)-258-7059. Check out their Facebook page, email: pulaskidaytonaclub@yahoo.com or their website at: www.polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.org.

German American Club of Marion County will be celebrating Oktoberfest on Oct. 23rd with

"Bavarian Ron, the Music Man & accordionist Angie", Nov. 7th is their Fall Festival with music by Eva Adams and Dec. 19th is the annual Christmas Party, featuring the popular Tanenbaums Band. For tickets/information, please call Mary (352)-789-6499 or visit their website: www.gacmarioncounty.com.



By Brad Turk

General K. Pulaski Citizens Club in Belleview will celebrate General Pulaski Memorial Day with Northern Sounds on Oct. 9th. Nov. 13th they will honor Veterans Day/Thanksgiving with Northern Sounds. The annual Christmas Kolendy party is Dec. 11th featuring Northern Sounds along with some special guests! Please contact Brad for more information.

SNPJ Lodge #603 in Samsula will be having a Canal Street Nights Oktoberfest event on Thursday Oct. 20th from 5:30-8:30 PM in downtown New Smyrna Beach featuring the Brewski Brothers. This event is FREE! For more information, give Cindy a call at: (386)-689-9454. Join their Facebook page, email the club: [snjplodge603@gmail.com](mailto:snpjlodge603@gmail.com) or visit their website: www.samsulasnpjlodge603.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. The club has also scheduled a Polka Dance on Nov. 6th with Northern Sounds, in addition to their annual Kolendy Christmas Polka dance in December. Their New Year's Eve Gala will feature Northern Sounds along with DJ Daski. Get your tickets early! You DO NOT want to miss this fantastic event! For dates and information please join their Facebook page, visit their website 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 6:00-8:00 with a full bar featuring

special drink prices! The club will be re-opening on Nov. 6th with the Northern Sounds, followed by Florida Generations on Nov. 20th, Polka All Stars on Dec. 4th and the Nu Soundz at their Christmas party on Dec. 18th. Please visit their website: www.polishsociety.org or check out their Facebook page for more info.

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

If you would like any additional information about our clubs, polka dances or special events, email me at bradturk@cox.net or call: (352) 875-3961. See everyone at our Oktoberfest events!

Auf Wiedersehen!



Pictures courtesy of Les Kapuscinski



IPA Festival and Convention 2022

Pictures courtesy of Les Kapuscinski



Richie Zebrowski elected as Director from Pennsylvania

Richie Zebrowski was born into a family deeply immersed in Polish tradition and polka music. His father, IPA Hall Of Fame inductee A.W. Zebrowski, a nationally known polka promoter, musician, and disc jockey in Cleveland Ohio, ensured that the entire family was raised knowing their heritage.

Richie, like his seven brothers and sisters, began his polka career on the radio. To be accurate, Richie and most of his siblings began at such young ages; they were doing holiday specials and advertising commercials from the time they were able to speak.

As might be expected, he eventually started to play and sing the music he loved and had been surrounded by. At age six he began playing the accordion and drums. As a young child he had the fortune of sitting in with local Cleveland area bands and national polka legends such as Frank Wojnarowski, Joe Oberaitis, and Wanda & Stephanie.

On New Year's Eve 1976, he played his first polka job as a full time member of Cleveland's The Grand Masters. During the next few years he played with other local Cleveland bands as well as Bruno Mikos & The Harmony Stars, and Jimmy Weber & The Sounds.

In 1983 Richie resigned from The Sounds and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Upon discharge from active duty, he and Vicki were married. They went on to have two sons Brandon and Travis and a daughter Randi. He also picked up right where he left off musically and began playing polka music again. It was then that he joined The Brass Connection. Since that time with TBC he has also been a full time member of The Trel-Tones, Henny & The Versa J's, The NuTones, and Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push.

During his music career he has performed with some of polka music's other greatest individuals and bands including; The Ray Budzilek Orchestra, Eddie Blazonczyk and The Versatones, Scrubby and The Dynatones, The Knewz, The Boys, Jan Cyman, Stas Golanka and His Chica-

go Masters, Fred Bulinski, Ray Jay and The Carousels, Alvin Styczynski, Buffalo Concertina All Stars, The Burgh Boys, Lil John's



ATM Band, Polka Country Musicians, Bud Hundenski, John Gora and Gorale, Marion Lush, and Lil Wally. He also appeared and performed in a live theatre production of "Evelyn And The Polka King" with polka music by Bob Lucas and Carl Finch of Brave Combo.

Richie's recordings and original compositions include studio and live sessions with The Dynasounds, Bruno Mikos, The Sounds, The Brass Connection, The Trel-Tones, energy, Ray Jay, The Versa J's, Party Time, The NuTones, "Honky Heaven", and again most recently Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push.

Richie also revisited the radio airwaves with a polka program on 540am WWCS radio in western Pennsylvania. That program was eventually turned over to Matt Wasielewski.

In addition to radio and live event disc jockeying and parade appearances, Richie is currently performing with The NuTones and touring with Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push. He continues to promote and contribute to the preservation of polka music as an IPA Director, entertainer, sound man, emcee, and promoter hosting polka dances and festivals. The holidays are also times where he volunteers at various locations performing songs of the season. He has donated his time and use of his pa sound equipment helping to mentor and support young polka musicians in new youth polka bands as well as the ProAm Jam at various polka conventions.



IPA represented in Eastern Pennsylvania

On Sunday, August 14th, IPA Financial Secretary and Director, Lynn and Stephen Kaminski, stopped by the 46th Annual Polish Picnic sponsored by St. Stephen's Parish in Plowville, PA.

Polka Hall of Famer, Eddie Forman was entertaining the crowd of over 1,000 when we showed up in front of the stage to join the festivities. As always, Eddie and the guys sounded outstanding, and along with the near perfect weather, the day was simply amazing.



Pulaski Polka Days

2022

It's time to celebrate the Wisconsin State Dance Contest, Fireworks Display, The Polka and Pulaski Polka Days is the place to be. Let's celebrate for four amazing days in July, in three areas to dance the days away to many different styles of polka music, including Polish, German, Slovenian, and many more.

The festival gets the favorites in local bands like Chad Przybylski and his Polka Rhythms, Maroszek Brothers, Jerry Voelker and the Jolly Gents and The Goodtime Dutchmen and many others, to mix in with the national bands like Lenny Gomulka & The Chicago Push, Michael Costa and The Beat, and Polka Country Musicians just to name a few, who shared their love of the music with the loyal polka fans from across the county. There were over 20 bands to entertain the polka visitors from Florida, Massachusetts, Illinois, and everywhere in between.

There are many other activities to enjoy beside the polka music. There is a huge Arts & Craft Fair, Garden Walk, Ms. Pulaski Polka Days

Parade, Worship Services, and Pancake & Porkie Breakfast. Let's not forget about the amazing Ethnic Polish Foods to go along with the American favorites to keep you full and your energy high to last all weekend. Do you need something to remember your visit to Pulaski Polka Days, stop by the souvenir stand and pick up a T-shirt, hat, can cooler, or another one of the unique items they have for sale.

The event is organized by community organizations sponsors and all the proceeds go back into the community through these organizations: American Legion, Tri-County Optimist Club, Pulaski Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, Pulaski FFA Alumni & FFA, and Pulaski VFW. These are all volunteers, who work countless hours to hold a successful annual event.



by Jill Styczynski
Director, Wisconsin



IPA Honors Wicka's Bar

The IPA took time out of the busy Pulaski Polka Days weekend to give a "Na Zdrowie" to Bernie and Joanie Wicka. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to them for their 50 years of being in business and in supporting polkas music.

I was fortunate and lucky to have my parents live in the house right behind the bar; I grew up knowing the Wickas. In my younger age, I would go and help to stock the coolers, fill the chip rack, and help clean the glasses. On occasion Bernie would let me pour him a beer. Now, I go in to catch up with them and have a cocktail. I have many wonderful memories of Wicka's Bar.

The polka music could be heard coming from the bar, either it was on the jukebox or there was a live performance taking place. Many Pulaski greats put on a show including Mike Ryba (it goes somethin' lika dis), Tom Rodgers, Alvin Styczynski, Dick Rodgers, Dick Metko, Chad Przybylski, the Maroszek's (lots of generations), are just a few mention, but not to forget about the big name band members that would stop down and sit in on a song or two during Pulaski Polka

Days. Bernie and Joanie were so surprised and honored to receive the award. They couldn't believe that a national organization would think about a small, hometown bar. They thanked the IPA over and over for the certificate, which they proudly display in the bar.

Congratulations to Bernie and Joanie on a successful 50 years, wishing you continued success in many years to come. Health and Blessing for you.



by Jill Styczynski
Director, Wisconsin



FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

WINNERS

There is still time to be included in the drawing. Visit www.ipapolkas.com for more information.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Steve Swiader, RI	2 Edward Guca Canada	3 Robert Bonaczi, CO
4 Jody Maddie, OH	5 Lori Young, IL	6 John Freidhoff, PA	7 Hannah Yash, MA	8 Basia Lynn, OH	9 Lori Lewandowski, IL	10 Lea Kosinski, NJ
11 John J. Mikrut, IL	12 Gerrie Basukiewicz, NY	13 Sally Rzeszutko, IL	14 Donna & Al Piatkowski, NY	15 Ed Tylka, IL	16 Ed Turecek, CT	17 Mary Keosaian, NY
18 David Maduzia, IL	19 Ashley Mach, WI	20 Bob Mularz, NJ	21 Bob Earl, OH	22 Judith Leveille, MA	23 Kathy Blazonczyk, IL	24 Cathy Coblisch, NY
25 Joseph Kubicar, PA	26 Fran Russo, OH	27 Cindy Olszewski, PA	28 Ken Yash, MA	29 Mark Komar, NY	30 Diane Nowakowski, IL	

Enter to Win!





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 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.

Hot Kielbasa Dip

by

Krystin (Bentkowski) Powers

Ingredients:

- 1 8oz pkg cream cheese
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sliced green onions
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 T mayo
- 1/2 t Worcestershire
- 8 oz finely chopped cooked kielbasa

Soften cream cheese (can microwave for 1 min.).

Stir in sour cream, milk, mayo, and Worcestershire.

Add kielbasa plus 1/2 Parmesan cheese and 1/2 onions.

Microwave uncovered for 4-5 minutes.

Sprinkle rest of onions and Parmesan cheese on top.

Apple Cider Old Fashioned

by

Lynn Kaminski

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup apple cider
 - 2 ounces good quality bourbon or whiskey
 - 1 teaspoon maple syrup
 - 3 drops of bitters
 - 1 apple slice, for garnish
 - 1 orange slice, for garnish
- Cinnamon stick for garnish (optional)

In a lowball glass, stir together the apple cider, whiskey, maple syrup and bitters until combined. Add in a large ice cube and top with an apple and orange slice and a cinnamon stick.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Oct. 1st – Donna Pociask

Oct. 2nd – Jim Kilian;
Phil Kozlak; Kathleen Stricker;
Cheryl Wodzisz

Oct. 3rd – Mike Rozegnal;
Bill Malinowski;
Ronald J. Wichman, Jr.

Oct. 4th – Karen Hudy;
Jean Pala; Ray Rzeszutko; Ryan Koenig;
Kayla Rosinski-Urbanczyk

Oct. 5th – Dr. Robert Dutka; Bruno Mikos;
John Gembka

Oct. 6th – Richard Kula; Bob Borowski;
Alan Andrascik; Thomas Nadolski;
Sandra Pratas; Michael Krupa

Oct. 7th – Lindsey Mateja; Dave Raccis

Oct. 8th – Brian Lesiewicz; Joe Kalinowski;
Edgar Skolaut

Oct. 9th – Craig Ebel; Barb Benkowski;
Dave Morris; Andy Fenus; Carole Kryk;
Dan Moroski; Dave Zychowski;
Andrew Kozlowski; John Okrzesik, Sr.

Oct. 10th – Trudy Patek; Al Kania; Dave Morris

Oct. 11th – Marie Jagiella; Mike DeArruda;
Pam Jendrysik; Jimmy “K” Krzeszewski

Oct. 12th – Nancy Bain

Oct. 13th – Marian Betley; Jake Mikrut

Oct. 15th – Michael Ziemski; Lawrence Kutas

Oct. 16th – ; Andrew Makarewicz;
Frank Maroszek; Dawn Mikrut Bartolini



Oct. 17th – Christy Krawisz;
Alice Szczur

Oct. 19th – Tish Blazonczyk;
Floyd Grocholski; Ed Tylka;
Carolyn Machelski;
Eugene Murawski;

Oct. 20th – John Punola;
Jarrod Vrazel; Jerome Scherr

Oct. 21st – Alan Pala; Rob Czech;
Edward Dulude

Oct. 22nd - Joseph Heger

Oct. 23rd – Patricia Walker; Arnold Checkalski;
Chris Hedrich

Oct. 24th – Joe Brozowski;
Barbara Lewarndrowski

Oct. 25th – Denise Skorik; Randy Koslosky

Oct. 26th – Brent Iskra

Oct. 27th – Linda Lee Brown; Jessie Barczak

Oct. 28th – Dale Cribbins; Richard Kovalski;
William Dawson

Oct. 29th – Paul Raczkowski

Oct. 30th – Zach Piatkowski;
Michele Wojtowicz

Oct. 31st – Kaila Blaskowski; Alfred Grajek;
Sara Fern





HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Nov. 1st – Kevin Adams; Wally Stanczyk; Charles Curtin; LaVern Schiefer

Nov. 2nd – Matt Prochot; Walter Rognerud

Nov. 3rd – Mark Trzepacz; Ray “Ray Jay” Jarusinski

Nov. 4th – Jane Honn; Cindy Koretsky

Nov. 6th – James Witulski

Nov. 7th – Linda Jelinek; Arlene Krzeminski; Stan Simms; Kaitlin Daubert

Nov. 8th – Jill Styczynski; Bill Ellis

Nov. 9th – Frank Styfurak; Anthony Szczur

Nov. 10th – Thomas Zimnowski; Joe Sokol

Nov. 11th – Joan Griffin

Nov. 12th – Kathy Cernosek

Nov. 13th – Ray Jurusinski; Pete Wojcik

Nov. 14th – June Sherry Ingram; Dennis Ostowicz; Robert Kujawa; John Struziak; Janice Dipytic

Nov. 15th – Sue Szela; Irene Lizzio; Carl Lucas; Kathie Warco; Bob Lube; Harry Schroeder; Diane Kapka; Jennifer Jordan

Nov. 17th – Chris Tanski; Paul Futa, Jr.

Nov. 18th – Marty Dzik

Nov. 19th – Angela Biskup; Kenny Olowin; James Motyka

Nov. 20th – James “Whitey” Ryniec; Barry Juhasz



Nov. 21st – Renda Cribbins; George Koczwarra; Tom Sauers

Nov. 22nd – Sally Sendra; My-na Sadowski; Sylvia Skowronek; Annie Faucher

Nov. 23rd – Sandy Simunek; Robert Wojnowski; Mary Komurek; Shirley Paull

Nov. 24th – Diane Hamlin; Anita Herrmann; Charlie Tansek; Josephine Malinowski

Nov. 25th – Mitch Moskal; Mary Wolski; Lynn Thull; Peter Danielczuk

Nov. 26th – Andrew Dziagwa

Nov. 27th – Carol Stasila; Sandra Lewandowski; Myfanwy Morgan; Val Bakowski

Nov. 28th – Kathy Weglicki; David Bezdziecki

Nov. 29th – Angela Biskup; Mark Grochowski; Carl Finch; Nick DiSebastiano; Frania Yakima; Lenny Kapka; John Szydelko; Ray Wodzisz

Nov. 30th – Ray Barsukiewicz, Randy Ski



Polka Fireworks at Seven Springs 2022

We made the ride to Seven Springs on Friday morning and, upon our arrival, were excited to see so many of our friends there on the first day. It was great seeing people from Canada that made the trip in after not seeing them for the last couple of years. The pool area was loaded with polka people. The only thing missing...was polka music. No polka band allowed at the pool this year per the previous owner. This was the only disappointment. The weather was beautiful and drinks were going down as we mingled and chatted with everyone.

On Friday, music started in the hall with Old School, Eddie Forman Orchestra, and Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push. For a Friday night it was a very nice crowd and all the bands sounded great. Nice to see Old School who I don't get to see very often and they did a very nice job playing honky style music all night long. Also nice to hear the Eddie Forman Orchestra which is another band I don't get to see very often. They did a very nice job as always. Of course Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push did a fantastic job kicking off the weekend.

On Saturday morning you had the annual Litwin Concertina Jam which is always fun to see. To me the only thing missing on Saturday is Big Dan's Party which was always a staple. We can only hope it will be back next year if allowed by the new owners. Music in the hall started with Dynabrass and Buffalo Concertina All-Stars in the afternoon. Both bands sounded great and were nice again seeing Buffalo Concertina All-Stars which is another band I don't get to see often. They tend to mix in push style and honky style music and was a nice mix of music. Dynabrass did a great job over the weekend as well. We got a special treat seeing Jeff Mleczo as well as Paul Goodmen who played accordion with the original Dynabrass both go up and played and sang their songs with the current Dynabrass. It was a long time since we had

seen Paul and was nice catching up with him and seeing him on stage again. Saturday evening had the fine sounds of The Boys along with John Gora and Gorale. Both bands did a fantastic job entertaining all evening long.

Sunday had a fun filled lineup that started with Polka Family along with local Pennsylvania favorite Ray Jay and the Carousels. Ray Jay did what he does best...play to his crowd. He is a crowd pleaser and plays a lot of old time tunes that many people love. He's been doing it for years and still draws a large crowd. Polka Family just absolutely rocked the house. Hank had the crowd in the palm of his hand as usual. The evening portion started with Energy and they were exciting and energetic! (How appropriate) They did a very nice job and the young crowd enjoyed seeing them. The anticipating part of the weekend however was now here!! As many of us heard, Ryan Joseph or as many of you may remember him as Ryan Ogradny along with his mother Dee Dee Ogradny were going to be taking the stage with Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push. Both of them are on the brand new recording with Lenny Gomulka and let me tell you if you don't have it you need to pick this one up!! Ryan and Dee Dee put on a show with Lenny and the guys playing songs from their new recording along with other tunes from Lenny's regular set list as well as his "Medley" Let's just say it was simply awesome!! What a way to end the weekend.

So many people are wondering...will Polka Fireworks be back at 7-Springs? If so will we have some of the things that we so missed this past year like the pool parties and Big Dan's Party? We'll just have to wait and see.



Brian Kapka
Illinois Director

JPA 2021 Polka Music Awards Notice

Polka Recording Companies and Artists Must Submit Nominations by **January 14, 2023**

Each year, the International Polka Association recognizes deserving polka artists with music awards that include *Favorite Album*, *Favorite Song*, *Favorite Band*, *Favorite Male Vocalist*, and *Favorite Female Vocalist* for Polish and International (Slovenian, Czech, German, Dutchmen, etc.) polka styles. An academy of 195 electors from across the country determines the award winners by casting their votes on ballots generated by submissions from those artists.

In order to be listed on the ballot, independent artists, bandleaders, executive producers, or record label representatives must complete the electronic *IPA Polka Music Awards Application*. Recording artists must submit the musical tracks of the recording and related artwork with liner notes as instructed in the form. Recordings must be released between January 1st and December 31st of a given year and the submission received by the following January 14th to be considered in the next voting cycle. (**Right CLICK HERE** and choose Open Hyperlink) to be taken directly to the *IPA Polka Music Awards Application* or type in www.ipapolkas.com/application-musicawards/ in your favorite browser. Any questions concerning this process should be directed to MusicAwards@ipapolkas.com.



Adam Hembel, WI



John Szydelko, IL
 Jennifer Szweda Jordan, PA
 Marie Stanczyk, NY
 Sharon Parrish, PA
 Sharon Ianham, OH
 John Dutch, NJ
 Sara Fern, WI
 Frank Powaski, PA
 Barbara Hoff, IL
 Arthur Hoff, IL
 Candice Rebovich, PA
 Cindy Loring, MI
 Dustin Ager, PA
 Judy Nowak, NE
 John Smagowicz, PA

Shirley Paull, PA
 Nicolas Uram, PA
 Stephen Prejsnar, OH
 John Rogers, NY
 Jeanette Tonski, PA
 Ray Wodzisz, OH
 Cheryl Wodzisz, OH
 Sue Bieniek, Canada
 Tom Sauers, NY
 David Yankuskie, PA
 Mary Kay Obecny, WV
 LaVern Schiefer, MI
 Melisa Powers, WV
 Julianna Makuch, TX



Ronald and Eileen Zywieciel, IL
 Natalie Boyd, MD
 Jan Sweet, IL
 Butch Pajak, NY

\$1000 FREDDY K JR MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The **Freddy K Jr. Music Scholarship Committee** is now accepting requests for applications for the 2022 Scholarship award. Applicants must be high school seniors who have been accepted to an accredited college and play a musical instrument. Anyone who is interested in applying for this year's award can download an application on our website at www.freddykjrmusicscholarship.com or contact the Scholarship Committee at the following address:

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

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

WINNERS OF \$1000 SCHOLARSHIPS

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 Moadlo, Stevens Point, Wisconsin
- 2000 – Andrew Krystopolski, Wilmington, Delaware
- 1999 – William Lomnychuk, Reading, Pennsylvania
- 1998 – John Daigle, Chicopee, Massachusetts

In Deep Thought.... By Randy Koslosky

Permission to Dance (Badly)

I sometimes hear people say that they don't know how to polka. Sometimes I hear that as a reason (or excuse) to not go to a polka dance or to not dance when a polka is playing at an event. There are a few aspects of this that could be explored. First of all, you don't have to dance to enjoy the music and the atmosphere and camaraderie of a polka dance. Second, this shows that we polka folk have work to do in order to help people learn to dance the polka. I hope to write about that in the future. But for now, I would like to share a few circumstances that illustrate a different point.

Playing in the waves

Over the past months I've played church festivals with The KOSMIX and Mon Valley Push where there have been a ton of kids. The kids automatically and happily move to the music. We all know this, right? Kids naturally move to music. And polka music, with its upbeat nature, has a special power to move them. I submit this as evidence that people innately like polka music. That is the starting point. Later on, some people un-learn that. I guess they need to be more childlike in order to enter polkaland....

The kids at these festivals were not dancing "the polka" per se. They were simply moving to the music. Think of a child playing in the waves of the ocean. That's all they were doing: playing in the waves – sound waves. Sound waves may be invisible, but they are waves nonetheless. And they are awesome and powerful and can move us. That analogy really works. There isn't a "right" or "wrong" way to play in the waves. Just move with them. Have fun in them. That is what the kids naturally do in the (sound) waves when a polka plays.

So, what does this show? The starting point is just moving to the waves. Let the music make you move. The kids dancing to the polka music may not have had any 1-2-3 footwork. Who cares? That could be learned. But, the starting point is simply moving to the music. Taking the analogy of playing in the waves of the ocean to moving to the sound waves at a polka dance a step further, there may be those that learn how to ride the waves with a surfboard. In the analogy, those are people who can really dance the polka with all the footwork and all of that. That's awesome. But that doesn't take away from the simple awesomeness of kids just playing in the waves.... So, the memo to people who may not dance is this: So what? Don't worry about it. Just move the music. We can work on the footwork later.

Is that all it took?

While playing with **energy** at the Milwaukee Polish Fest, I noticed that there was a smattering of kids in the crowd. I thought "why not have a song specifically for the kids to dance". There was nothing keeping kids from dancing any of the songs. But, when we may the proclamation of a song as the song for kids to dance, the result was pretty crazy. Dozens of kids took over the dance floor. Here again, they were just having a good time to the music. It was awesome. We were surprised at what happened – how many kids came out of the woodwork and onto the dance floor – and at the realization that all it took was to invite them. That simple step had an amazing result.

Now let's talk bigger kids – adults even

Mon Valley Push was playing at a local festival in California, PA. Frank Stetar (leader of Mon Valley Push) is the director of bands at Penn West University (a.k.a. California U.). There were a bunch of college students there who were part of the marching band. They were enjoying the music, and you could see that some were thinking about trying to dance. Obviously no one was stopping them from dancing. So, I invited them to dance. But, I added the permission to dance badly. Like I've said above, just move to the music. It was fun to see how that evolved with different ones trying different moves that fit the music. It took various forms including some that kind of had a little backup singers in a Motown band move going on. Whatever. It was all good. The permission to dance badly provided a bunch of college "kids" to have the freedom to just move to the music.



Christy,

Just a word of thanks and congratulations for a great weekend. Your entire organization and board did a fantastic job. Looking forward to next year.

Thanks,

Stas Pasko



September, 2022 – Taste of Polonia

In recognition of your 40th Anniversary, the International Polka Association would like to congratulate you and we salute your efforts during this important milestone. Congratulations!

September, 2022 – Penn Ohio Polka Pals

In recognition of your 50th Anniversary, the International Polka Association would like to congratulate you and all of your members, and we salute your efforts during this important milestone. Congratulations!

Polka Party

FEATURING: EFO - Eddie Forman Orchestra

Saturday, February 11, 2023

5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

\$16 per ticket in advance

\$18 at the door

Cash or Money Order

FREE DANCE LESSONS 4pm-5pm

Doors and Kitchen Open at

4:30pm - Food Available



Place: Englewood Elks Lodge

401 N. Indiana Avenue

Englewood, FL

Phone: (941) 474-1404

The IPA Board and
Directors wish you all a very
Happy Thanksgiving



Welcome to the Summer Music Festival!

On August 9-13, polka fans gathered from near and far for the Frankenmuth Summer Music Fest in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

Mollie B and Squeezebox with Ted Lange kicked off the Summer Music Festival on August 9 & 10! The crowd was entertained by the wonderful music! On Thursday August 11, the weekend crowd started to arrive to see America's Polka Sweetheart Stephanie, DynaBrass, New Brass Express and Polka Family. Then on Friday August 12, Polka Family, Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push, Polka Country Musicians, and The Boys rocked the house!

Saturday started with a party held by the Michigan Polka Militia

By Christy Nowakowski & Kayla Urbanczyk

which included a beautiful tribute to the late CJ Lackowski. The Summer Music Fest weekend ended on such a high note featuring John Gora & Gorale, The Boys, Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push, and Polka County Musicians! It was one heck of a party!

Congratulations to Mark Janson and his team for another successful festival! Cannot wait for the next one!

2022 IPA Newsletter Schedule

Issue

Deadline for Submissions

December 2022 - January 2023

November 1, 2022

2022 Kinloch Fire Hall **"Pittsburgh's Polka Hot Spot"** **Polka Schedule**

Sunday Feb 27 th , 2022	Join us for the Fun Energy	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$17.00 per person
Sunday Apr 10 th , 2022	IPA & USPA Award Winning Polka Country Musicians	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$17.00 per person
Sunday May 15 th , 2022	IPA & USPA Award Winning DynaBrass	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$17.00 per person
Saturday Sep 10 th , 2022	Join Chris Bogdon with PA Musicians Burgh Boys	5:00pm - 9:00pm \$12.00 per person
Sunday Oct 2 nd , 2022	IPA Hall of Famer Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$17.00 per person
Sunday Nov 13 th , 2022	The hottest band in the nation The Beat	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$17.00 per person
Sunday Nov 20 th , 2022	Special Thansgiving Dance Jack Tady and JTB	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$12.00 per person
Sunday Dec 18 th , 2022	DTO Christmas Celebration Dick Tady and the DTO	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$12.00 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@westernpolkas.com

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

IPA's POLKA MUSIC IS ESSENTIAL AVAILABLE NOW



Polka music is Essential is the latest IPA t-shirt designed by IPA member Hayley Krawisz. Scan the QR code to take you directly to the store to purchase yours now, or you can visit the store at IPAPolkas.com.

You can pay your IPA membership using

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WE NEED YOUR EMAIL

In an effort to curb postage costs associated with membership renewals and to also make the system more efficient, the IPA will begin sending out Membership Renewal Notices via email beginning in January 2021. Typically, members receive three renewal reminders via postal service. Starting in January, members with email addresses on file will begin receiving their first two reminders via email with a link that takes you directly to the IPA store. The third reminder, which is the final reminder, will be sent through the postal service. Please send your email information to membership@ipapolkas.com.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Preserving our Polka Legacy

The IPA is embarking on a journey to archive any IPA Hall of Fame induction speeches from the past. These moments are essential to preserving the music history that we love. If anyone has any IPA Hall of Fame induction videos on VCR tapes, we would like to borrow them and convert them to digital format. The IPA will then publicly post the videos on our website. All the VCR tapes will be returned after we completed the process. If you already have the videos in digital format, we would gladly take these as well. For more information, you can contact the IPA at archives@ipapolkas.com or you can mail the VCR tapes to the following address: **International Polka Association, Inc., PO Box 1484, Plainfield, IL 60544.**

Subscribe TODAY to IPA's YouTube Channel

The International Polka Association has a YouTube Channel. There, you can find Interviews with Hall of Fame® members such as **John Stanky, Wally Dombrowski, and Jimmy Weber** just to name a few.

You can also find the entire 3-day IPA Virtual Festival that aired September 2020 and the Festival of Bands that was broadcasted in January, in case you missed it or just want to watch it again.

Brush up on your polka knowledge by playing along with the gameshows hosted by Keith Stras with a variety of polka celebrities as contestants.

Take a virtual walk through the IPA Hall of Fame or better understand how your membership dues and donations are utilized.

Search up performances of your favorite bands or watch those you may not be so familiar with.

Let us know if you may have any polka memories in your archives that could be included in by by contacting us at archives@ipapolkas.com. Please see above for more information.

To subscribe, just go to YouTube.com, search up IPA Videos, and hit subscribe.

17th Annual



IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Dance 2023



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

SAT
MARCH
4th
7pm-11pm
ADMISSION \$15

featuring



of Maryland

2 days!

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5th
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ADMISSION \$20



Honoring the music of
Freddy K Kendzierski
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Plus a special musical tribute to
the NEW BRASS



Music by



Lenny Gomulka



Eddie Forman Orchestra



Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men

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

Ernest Daigle
12 Whitin Ave.
Chicopee, MA 01013

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Rooms Available
Call: 413-589-9300

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Ludlow, MA
Code: IPA

Special Room Rate (\$135.)
Expires Feb. 16, 2023



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

WAY OUT WEST ARIZONA POLKA DANCE FEST. 2022



WHEN:

Jan. 15th, & 16th, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

Feb. 19th, & 20th, Mike Costa & The Beat

Mar. 19th, & 20th, The Natural Talent (T.N.T.)

Nov. 12th, & 13th, Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men

WHERE:

PULASKI CLUB 4331 E. MCDOWELL RD PHOENIX, AZ. 85008

TIME:

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SATURDAY NIGHT 5 TO 9PM \$15.00

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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

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Visit: www.ipapolkas.com/store

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If you would like your newsletter emailed to you, please send an email to:
newsletter@ipapolkas.com.



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PLEASE EMAIL MY NEWSLETTER.



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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.

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Email ad files to Lynn Kaminski using:
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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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