



IPA Newsletter

July - August, 2014

Official Publication of the International Polka Association, Inc. ®

A Letter From The President...

Greetings Polka Fans,

Can you believe it? Summer is here.

Just a few months ago, most of us were knee deep in snow and freezing. Finally it's summer and time for some great polka festivals.

USPA started off the season with another fantastic polka weekend. The Polish Fest in Milwaukee featured great polka music on the lakefront. The new Ocean Beach festival in Connecticut received great reviews and polka fans are still talking about the great time they had. The 40th Anniversary of Polka Fireworks at Seven Springs was another outstanding event and continues to be one of the best.

I urge everyone to keep supporting the polka promoters in your area, the church fests, polka clubs and organizations wherever you reside. Polka music needs your support.

Thank you to all of the polka promoters and polka bands for providing such great events and performances. Thank you, polka fans, for supporting the music we all love.

I hope everyone can join us for the IPA Festival over Labor Day Weekend in Independence, Ohio. We are looking forward to another great polka weekend.

Polkatively Yours,
Rick Rzeszutko

IPA Overflow Hotel—Holiday Inn Cleveland

The Embassy Suites is now officially sold out for our festival weekend, as we have far exceeded our original room block. Thank you to all who have made plans to join us. It looks like our event will be the place to be on Labor Day weekend!

For those who still need a room, no worries. The IPA has arranged an alternate hotel for our weekend's festivities. It is the Holiday Inn, which is the closest hotel to the Embassy Suites in the area. We will have shuttle service to and from the Embassy for our attendees all weekend.

It's almost here!!

46th Annual IPA Festival & Convention

Labor Day Weekend
August 29-31, 2014

Embassy Suites
Independence, Ohio

John Góra & Górale
The Knewz
Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
The Boys
IPA Tribute Band
Polka Country Musicians
The Project
Full Circle

Any bands interested in being considered for the 2015 IPA Festival & Convention in Buffalo, NY should contact Peter Danielczuk via email at polkapete1@aol.com by July 31, 2014.

Holiday Inn Cleveland South
6001 Rockside Rd
Independence, OH 44131
216-524-8050
www.hirockside.com

Mention the IPA to receive the \$91/night rate, plus tax.

We thank you for your support and look forward to spending the weekend with all of you!

IPA Newsletter

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

Editor:

Debbie Dunaj - dunajda07@yahoo.com

Photo Credits:

Debbie Dunaj, Laura Mateja

Contact us:

International Polka Association, Inc.®

4608 S. Archer Avenue

Chicago, IL 60632

1-800-TO-POLKA

(1-800-867-6552)

Website: www.internationalpolka.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:

Christy Krawisz, Financial Secretary

International Polka Association

PO Box 1484

Plainfield, IL 60585

Phone: 630-204-1793

Email: christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net

2013-2014 IPA Officers and Directors**Officers:**

Acting President: Rick Rzeszutko (IL)
 1st Vice President: Christy Krawisz (IL)
 2nd Vice President: Fred Kendzierski (NJ)
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 Joni Zychowski Minehart (PA)

Would you like your newsletter emailed to you?

The IPA would like to go green! Help us save money on printing costs and postage.

If you would like your newsletter emailed to you, please send an email to christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net

Please put in the subject line: PLEASE EMAIL MY NEWSLETTER.

**IPA RADIO SHOW**

Don't forget to listen to the IPA Radio Show on Sundays, 11:00 a.m.—12 noon Central Time on WPNA (1490 AM) in Chicago or via the internet at www.wpna1490am.com. Each show features IPA officers and directors including Rick Rzeszutko, Pat Maduzia, Linda Niewierowski, Laura Mateja, Christy Krawisz, John Krawisz, T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, Dennis Mikolajewski, Keith Pietranczyk, Jerry Wantroba, and Dan Mateja.

The IPA Radio Show is also broadcast on the Polka Jammer Network on Saturdays from 4-5 p.m. Central Time and also available in the Polka Jammer archives. Be sure to tune in!

Visit www.polkajammernetwork.org

Please Call 1-800-TO-POLKA if you are interesting in advertising on the IPA Radio Show. WE NEED SPONSORS!

IPA Polka Music Awards & Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

The International Polka Association would like to officially announce this year's Polka Music Hall of Fame inductees and the 2013 Polka Music Award winners. Each year two prominent living personalities and one deceased celebrity, who have made outstanding contributions toward the advancement of the polka music industry, are elected into the Polka Music Hall of Fame. An academy of over 165 qualified electors from across the country select the Hall of Fame inductees and music awards recipients. The voting is tabulated by the Institute of Industrial Relations of Loyola University of Chicago, and the entire process is administered by an eleven-member Board of Trustees.

The results are as follows:

2014 IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame Inductees

Living Category:

Kevin Adams (OH)

Eddie Biegaj (NJ)

Deceased Category:

Cliff Hermel (MN)

Pioneer Category:

Alfred Vrazel (TX)

2013 IPA Polka Music Award Winners

Favorite Male Vocalist:

Lenny Gomulka

Favorite Female Vocalist:

Mollie Busta Lange

Favorite Instrumental Group:

Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men

Favorite CD:

"Save The Music" - Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

Favorite Song:

"Rose Colored Glasses" - Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push



The induction ceremonies and award presentations will be conducted at the IPA's Polka Hall of Fame & Music Awards Banquet held this year on August 30th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Independence, Ohio. Contact Linda Niewierowski at 773-489-3987 to make your banquet reservations. The banquet is just part of the 46th Annual IPA Polka Festival and Convention that takes place from August 29-31, 2014. During the festival, fantastic polka music will be provided by John Gora & Gorale, The Knewz, The Boys, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, IPA Tribute Band with special appearances by IPA Polka Hall of Famers, Full Circle, The Project, and Polka Country Musicians. A Polka Mass followed by a convention with election of IPA officers will take place on Sunday, August 31.

For all the details about the festival, banquet, and convention, visit www.internationalpolka.com. To make hotel reservations, call (216) 986-9900 and mention "IPA Polka Festival" to get the special \$101 room rate. Room reservations must be made before August 18.

IPA Hall of Fame Inductee Alfred Vrazel



Alfred Vrazel was born to parents of Moravian descent on September 6, 1940 on their family farm near Cameron, Texas. His interest in music started early in life. At the age of 10 he persuaded his parents into buying him a 2-row Hohner button accordion. Three years later and after a lot of practice, Alfred, along with his brother Anton, and their three cousins, started a band they named "Vrazels' Playboys" later becoming, as it would be known for the next 50+ years, "Vrazels' Polka Band." The band began playing at small events around the Central Texas area receiving no regular salary but small monetary donations from appreciative listeners and dancers.

In 1955 radio station KMIL in Cameron, Texas broadcast on the air and the band was engaged for a Sunday afternoon program. At that time the band had no recordings so they gathered at the radio station for a live performance with Alfred serving as band leader and announcer. Around the 1960 era the format for the program changed from their live performing to the use of their polka recordings. Due to its popularity over the years, his show has increased from a 30 minute time slot to 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Alfred has his own media room at KMIL where he produces his weekly program. It is pre-recorded and features a variety of music by polka bands locally and nationwide. His polka show has received numerous awards and proclamations over the years including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Music Association, continuously broadcasting every Sunday afternoon from 12:15 to 2:30 p.m. on 105.1 FM streaming on the internet at kmil.com. Alfred Vrazel's Polka Show is in its 59th year and is believed to be the longest running weekly Sunday Polka Radio program with the same host in the nation.

Alfred, along with his brother Anton, managed Vrazels Polka Band. Alfred was the bandleader, played the button accordion, alto and tenor saxophone and was the lead vocalist. Anton was the band manager and played the piano accordion. The band developed their own unique sound which was emulated by other bands. They and their fellow musicians were proud recipients of the following awards from the Texas Polka Music Association: Lifetime Achievement Award—1991; Song of the Year "Once on a Sunday Waltz"—1992; Band of the Year—1993; Alfred Vrazel-Vocalist of the Year—1993; Song of the Year "No One Knows Waltz"—1996; Alfred Vrazel, Vocalist of the Year—1996; plus numerous other awards and proclamations throughout the years.

The band's out-of-state performances representing Czech Polka Music from Texas by invitation include: Smithsonian Institution of America Folklife Bicentennial celebration in Washington, DC in 1976; Texas Festival at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, DC in 1991; Barns of the Wolf Trap Foundation in Vienna, Virginia in 1992; plus performances at polka festivals in Las Vegas, Nevada; Tucson, Arizona; Wichita, Kansas and the Caribbean and Alaskan cruises.

The band made its first recording in 1959 and since has recorded twenty 45 RPM records, thirteen 33 1/3 albums, nine 8-track tapes, six cassettes, ten CDs and three videos.

After 55 years of continuous performances, Alfred & Anton decided to retire the band at the end of 2008. In appreciation to their many dedicated fans, the band held a final performance on January 24, 2009 at the Mayborn Convention Center in Temple, Texas where over 2600 fans were in attendance, a grand finale and fitting tribute.

IPA Hall of Fame Inductee Cliff Hermel

Musician and ballroom owner Cliff Hermel was born March 18, 1918 in Mankato, Minnesota. He graduated from high school in 1934 and entered the wholesale business with his father A.H. Hermel. He was on the road in that business for 17 years, all the while though being very active and well known as a drummer. He worked with most territorial bands and started his own in 1945. Cliff was best known for his unique and entertaining style of drumming including his trademark “marching cadence” between polkas and rudiments on woodblocks, rims, and even walls.



Cliff owned and operated the Gibbon Ballroom in Gibbon, Minnesota from 1961 until 1999 (38 years). The Gibbon Ballroom was actually an entertainment complex consisting of three ballrooms (Ballroom, Boom Room, South 80) and a restaurant (Pumpnickel Room). Cliff made the Gibbon Ballroom famous for its annual “Polka Days & Concertina Jamboree” held the last weekend in July. The festival held a daily parade of musicians at 4 p.m. where the “Schneider & Sauerkraut Polka Medley” was played in all four venues with Cliff leading the parade and beating out drum cadence between the two polkas and while marching. In addition, the festival featured an all-day concertina jamboree that allowed all concertina players an opportunity to perform in front of an audience with a backup band. Not only did the concertina player receive a free drink, but Cliff also gave each one six silver dollars! Due to Cliff’s efforts to promote polka music, in 1975 the city of Gibbon had painted on the water tower “The Polka City.” The festival grew into a seven-day event with campers showing up a week in advance to get their parking spot. It drew crowds from across the United States and became known as “The Granddaddy of Them All!”

Cliff was a past president of the Minnesota Ballroom Operators Association and board member for many years. He was also the secretary of the Local 602 American Federation of Musicians for 16 years and a member for 65 years. Cliff was a past president of the St. Peter Drum & Bugle Corps, and he and his wife Katie organized and operated two Junior Drum and Bugle Corps called “The Crusaders” and “Black Knights” for 16 years.

Cliff died October 29, 1999 at the age of 81. He dedicated his life to promoting polka music and will be remembered by all those who attended Gibbon Polka Days. His slogan was “Stay Young, Go Dancing.” And with that slogan he brought happiness to thousands of polka music fans preserving the music for as long as he could.

IPA Hall of Fame Inductee Kevin Adams



Kevin Adams is an accomplished musician, composer, producer and recording artist, having recorded on Trumpet, Clarinet, Guitar and Piano. His work is featured on over 40 recordings of which 11 have received Grammy® nominations from the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences. Kevin has been performing polka music across the country for nearly 40 years with numerous nationally touring polka bands including lengthy stints of extensive road work with the band of IPA Hall of Famers Dick Pillar, Eddie Blazonczyk and Lenny Gomulka. Other bands that he has played or recorded with include IPA Hall of Famers Joe Czerniak and Eddie Skinger as well as the Swinging Brass, Dobosenski Brothers and the Cavaliers, Brass Dimension, Pete Shalins, and the Michigan Connection.

Over 30 original compositions are published and licensed by his Buzimuzik Publishing, BMI and have been recorded by other bands as well, such as Polkatown Sound, Toledo Polkamotion, Mark Janson's Brass Express, and Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze.

Born in Duluth, Minnesota in 1957, Kevin was introduced to music early on and showed both talent and a love of playing all styles of music. He played his first jobs as a teenager in 1973 playing with local friends under the name of Polka Country. Shortly after that, while still in high school, he joined the Dobosenski Brothers & the Cavaliers. He did his first professional recording with them. He studied music at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and formed his own band, The Polish Express. During that time he also played with Joe Czerniak's Polka Dots.

He moved to New England to continue his music studies and while living there played and recorded an album with the Swinging Brass, which featured 3 of his original songs. He was offered a job to play with Dick Pillar's Polkabration Band, which allowed him to develop as a songwriter and arranger. This was Kevin's first exposure on the national scene, as Dick and the band traveled fairly extensively at that time. He recorded 4 albums with the band, and also recorded albums at that time with Pete Shallins and Eddie Skinger.

In 1987, he accepted a job with Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones playing with him for 7 years, averaging nearly 200 dates per year all over the country. He was Eddie's primary back-up vocalist and continued writing and arranging while recording on many Versatone recording sessions. He then took a break from touring, got married and moved to Cleveland. In the next few years, he performed with the Michigan Connection and recorded several more of his original tunes with them. In 1996 he produced one of the most beautiful recordings of Polish Kolendy on the market: "A Child Is Born." He arranged and played all the music and narrated the story of Christmas throughout. It was well-received nationally by the Polish American community. An offer came from Lenny Gomulka in 1998 to join his band and he proudly accepted. In his tenure with Chicago Push, he has recorded 5 more albums and continues to serve as Lenny's trumpeter and harmony vocalist on selected dates throughout the country.

From the late 70's to the present day he has been entertaining polka fans. His musical travels have led him to appearances at virtually every major polka festival, having appeared in 27 states and 6 countries. He is a consummate musician, is well-respected by his fellow musicians and is one of the most highly sought after trumpet players in the industry today. He still maintains a heavy playing schedule on the road as well as locally.

His hobbies include video editing and production, and he has found a way of incorporating it into the promotion of polka music. His six-part tribute to his friend and fellow Versatone Jerry Darlak is popular on YouTube. His touching memorial tribute to bandleader Eddie Blazonczyk: "Saying Goodbye" was recently awarded the Best Polka Video of 2012 by the United States Polka Association. He also created a short promotional piece for Lenny Gomulka to help promote his latest recording "Save The Music". These video pieces have been viewed by thousands online extending the reach of polka music.

Kevin has taught trumpet privately for many years and can also be seen volunteering at Christmas time for the Salvation Army. You'll see him playing the trumpet or ringing the bell beside a red kettle. Kevin is a Lifetime Member of the International Polka Association. He is employed by a major firm in the financial services industry and lives with his wife, Barbara, in the Cleveland, Ohio area.

IPA Hall of Fame Inductee Eddie Biegaj

Eddie was born in Toledo, Ohio to a musical family. Mother Gina is a trained clarinetist and vocalist while father, Dionysius “Danny” Biegaj, played trumpet and sang. With the help of “Busia” Helen (his maternal grandmother) at a young age Eddie started his love for polka and Polish culture and heritage by singing along to the 78 RPMs and 45’s of such greats as Frank Wojnarowski, the “Connecticut Twins” and “The Naturals.” He started formal training on drums in second grade.

Eddie started performing professionally in fifth grade, both singing and drumming with a trio. By eighth grade, he passed auditions to join other bands and began performing with adult musicians. His father bought him a used Giuletto accordion for Christmas – the very same accordion he has played his entire career.

High school was a great time for musical and physical growth. Eddie borrowed \$400 from his “Dziadzia” to buy his first concertina, he started his own band, played soccer, ran cross-country, coached basketball and soccer, had starring roles in the musicals “Funny Girl” and “Anything Goes,” recorded his first album with The Troubadors, and met his life long colleague in music—Randy Krajewski. Their friendship would grow, and the two would challenge each other’s musical talent to reach new heights and direction. Eddie was invited by Randy to join Barb Zielinski’s The Holy Toledo Polka Stars band. This short musical exploration set the ground work for the innovative and unique creations that would emerge over a decade later.



Eddie began voice training in college under the tutelage of the late Professor Tom East who propelled Eddie’s voice to venture in a new direction – the world of opera. Eddie was only able to take on a few select roles in opera productions, but his love of the genre was already well-rooted and continues to this day!

Eddie was instrumental in forming the band known as Toledo Polkamotion which afforded Eddie the forum to aptly display his extraordinary vocal ability (He is one of only two recorded vocalists – he and Stas Jaworski – who can hit “high-C” full voice) but to write original material and to arrange music – in addition to playing concertina, accordion, drums and piano. The polka legend, Joe Oberaitis, has deemed Eddie “The Polish Caruso.” His charm, good looks, and vibrant midwest personality quickly intensified the popularity of the band.

The recipient of numerous awards, including the coveted USPA’s “Male Vocalist of the Year,” IPA’s “Male Vocalist of the Year” – as well as receiving a Grammy nomination in 1990 for TPM’s “Grand Illusion” album—featuring Eddie’s own arrangement and his memorable and resounding delivery of “Red Berries,” Eddie is noted for his unique style of playing— not only the popular “Chicago Push” and “Honky” style polka, but remaining ever-cognizant of his roots, playing “Eastern” style as well. It was his courageous exploration of polka in new as well as time honored tradition that earned Eddie the title – “Polka Bad Boy.”

Utilizing the best of each polka style, Eddie formed his own band, Crusade. which quickly achieved notoriety as the leading group to explore new frontier in polka while resurrecting some of the greatest traditional polkas. One of his most notable recordings, the album “In Response to Exile” by “Crusade” pushed not only the boundaries of polka music with the intent of interesting polka to a new and sometimes younger audience, but inspired the talented musicians who performed this work to seek and achieve totally new levels of concept, creativity, and performance.

In 2006 Eddie moved to New Jersey. After a brief hiatus, his versatile voice returned to not only cantor in church, but also to perform and record with several East Coast bands and choirs as well as to do solo appearances.

Eddie can be heard on recent albums by such notables as Bud Hudenski & the Corsairs, RBO, John Stevens Double-shot, and the legendary Joe Oberaitis – to name a few.

Ever-dedicated to preserving and promoting Polish culture, heritage and polka music, he also is heard weekly performing as the popular IJ (Internet Jockey) known as “The Bad Boy” on internet radio “Polka Jammer Network” as well as on AM-station WWCB and FM station WERG. His shows highlight both the new recordings of today’s artists as well as featuring “the greats” from the past. Additionally, Eddie’s unsurpassed knowledge of polka “trivia” and nostalgia is readily shared in lively interviews with polish celebrities and in the “Jammer’s” chat room.

Most recently Eddie has joined a German-inspired band known as “Bavarski” which performs Polish, German, Slovene, Czech, Rock-n-Roll, Pop and Classical music – again in a traditional venue – with a twist of creativity and, in the inimitable “Bad Boy” style of pushing the boundaries of creativity and design.

46th Annual IPA Festival and Convention

It's never too early to mark your calendars for the 46th annual IPA Festival and Convention! We hope you can join us on a new weekend—Labor Day weekend, August 29, 30, and 31 at the Embassy Suites Cleveland-Rockside; 5800 Rockside Woods Blvd in Independence, Ohio. Same location, new weekend.

Friday, August 29 starts the festival and convention with an afternoon welcome party and polka karaoke from 2:00-5:00 pm, while the fine sounds of **John Góra & Górale** and **The Knewz** will be alternating during the evening hours.

The annual Polka Music Hall of Fame and Awards banquet will start the festivities on Saturday, August 30. Music will begin in the afternoon and continue to the wee hours of the morning by **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**, **The Boys**, and **The IPA Tribute Band**, who will also be featuring several IPA Hall of Famers.

The festival concludes on Sunday, August 31 but has lots of events scheduled in the final day. Polka Mass will be held, the annual convention meeting and elections will commence, and more fantastic polka music will conclude the three-day event. **Polka Country Musicians**, **The Project**, and **Full Circle** will provide some excellent polka music on Sunday afternoon and evening.

If you have not attended the IPA Festival and Convention in the past few years, the Embassy Suites is an all-suites hotel. All suites have a private bedroom and separate living rooms, a wet bar, microwave, refrigerator, coffeemaker, and two flat-screen TVs. Also included is a complimentary, cooked-to-order breakfast each morning, a nightly complimentary manager's reception with light snacks and beverages, and such amenities including indoor pool, whirlpool, and fitness center.

For hotel reservations, call 216-986-9900. The hotel rate is \$101 per night when you mention the IPA Polka Festival.

Friday Kickoff Party!!

Join us on Friday afternoon, August 29, from 2:00-5:00 pm as we welcome our IPA members, polka fans, and attendees to the 46th annual IPA Festival and Convention.



Wear your favorite football team apparel to the party, sing your favorite tunes with the polka karaoke band, and enjoy the live broadcast over the Polka Jammer Network!



International Polka Association Festival & Convention



**Same
location!
NEW
weekend!**

**August
29, 30, 31
2014**

Embassy Suites – Independence, Ohio
216-986-9900
www.clevelandindependence.embassysuites.com

Friday, August 29	Saturday, August 30	Sunday, August 31
John Góra & Górale	Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push	Polka Country Musicians
The Knewz	The Boys	The Project
	IPA Tribute Band	Full Circle

Labor Day Weekend – Mark Your Calendars!!

Rooms are available at the Embassy Suites for \$101 plus tax,
per night when mentioning the IPA Polka Festival.

46th Annual IPA Festival and Convention

IPA Ad Book

The International Polka Association will present its 46th Annual Polka Festival and Convention, Friday-Sunday, August 29-31, 2014 at the Embassy Suites in Independence, Ohio. We are currently in the process of soliciting ads for our 2014 Festival Souvenir Program Book. The ads placed in the Program Book will be viewed by many people and are given away during the weekend. The Program Book serves as a good channel for individuals to congratulate or memorialize friends and family members. It also serves as a great resource for you to promote a business or venture to other members and guests who will be there from all over the country. We ask for your consideration in taking out an ad in this year's program ad book. Ad rates are as follows:

Full Page Ad - \$65
 Half Page Ad - \$40
 Qtr. Page Ad - \$30
 Well Wishers - \$1 per line

Deadline for submissions is August 8. If you have any questions regarding the Program Book (ads, contract, content criteria, layout, costs, formats, etc.) please contact the Program Ad Book Chairperson:

Keith Pietranczyk
 polkadancinman@comcast.net
 630.908.0350

Thank you for your continued support of the International Polka Association.

Advanced 3-Day Pass

An advance 3-day pass is available for purchase. Daily admission is \$15 at the door; the 3-day pass is \$40.00 and must be purchased by August 18.

Mail payments to:

Linda Niewierowski
 1916 N Hermitage Avenue
 Chicago, IL 60622

IPA Board Requirements

Listed below are the requirements for candidacy for the IPA Board of Directors. Also listed are the positions that are up for re-election in 2014.

All Positions: Nominees shall not occupy any appointed or elected office of any other polka association. No nomination shall be valid unless agreed to by the nominee, either orally or in writing, at the time of the nomination.

President (1-year term) and 1st Vice President (2-year term): Nominee must have served at least two or more years on the Executive Board.

The following positions are a 2-year term and require nominees to be a member in good standing for one full year:

- 2nd Vice President
- Treasurer
- Financial Secretary
- 3 Illinois Directors
- 3 Non-Illinois Directors

Requirements: Nominees must have the capability to communicate using e-mail **and** dial-in conference calls. Meetings are generally held on Tuesdays, but flexibility in this regard is appreciated.

Raffle Tickets

The IPA will be holding a raffle drawing during the festival and convention. Tickets are \$1 each or a book of 6 for \$5. Tickets can be returned in the envelope included in the newsletter or turned in at the festival.

Additional tickets will also be available for purchase at the festival. Please send in money and ticket stubs no later than August 18.

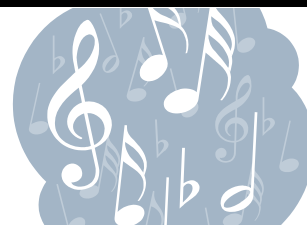
Drawing will be held Sunday evening, August 31.

Prizes include:

First Prize:	\$330
Second Prize:	\$150
Third Prize:	\$100
Fourth Prize:	\$50



News & Notes



SATURDAY August 16, 2014

Hammond Mohawks Picnic Grove
4040 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, IN 46320

Directly off of the Indiana Toll Road Exit 5, Calumet Avenue
Only 30 minutes from Chicago

Music by:
Bill Gula and the Chicago Image

Gates open at 2:00 pm ~ Music from 3-7 pm

Admission: \$10.00
(\$1.00 off if you show your current I.P.A. membership card)

Cash Bar

Food Available for purchase
Grilling by "Chef Keith"

Rain or Shine as we will be under tents



IPA General Meeting

Tuesday - July 15, 2014 at Mabenka Banquets,
7844 South Cicero Avenue, Burbank, IL
Doors open at 6:30 pm—Meeting at 7 PM Sharp
Free Food and Live Music to follow meeting
Musician's please bring your instruments.

Sunday - September 21, 2014 at Stardust Banquets,
5688 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL
Doors Open at 12:30 pm, Meeting at 1 PM Sharp

Free Food and Admission to All Current IPA Members

Dance from 2-6 pm by Polka Generations

Non-Members Admission \$18.00 (including food)

Admission if you join IPA that day \$15.00

Polish Heritage Night at U. S. Cellular Field

The White Sox hosted a night of music and dance as they celebrated Polish Heritage Night at the U.S. Cellular Field on Tuesday, July 1, 2014! Polish food was sold in honor of this annual event. Musical entertainment was provided by the Chicago Polka All Stars, featuring IPA President Rick Rzeszutko, Directors Dan Mateja, Jake Mikrut, and Johnny Krawisz, and also Andrew Okrzesik. The band performed for the fans while entering the park before the game. A warm and sunny day helped to make this outdoor event very enjoyable!



Welcome New Members!

We would like to welcome our newest members:

Carl Simchena	Judy Rosinski
Dr. Ronald Cichy	Joseph Kapinos
Gene Mikolajewski	Bob Figurski
Stanley Szezponik	Tom Reznekevitz
Chris Sikorski	Joe Kalinowski
Frank Kupidlowski	Robert Mularz

Did You Know?

Did you know the International Polka Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization as recognized by the IRS? All donations to the IPA are tax-deductible.

Have you moved? Have you updated your email address? Would you like your birthday listed in the newsletter? Would you like your newsletter emailed to you?

Please email your updated information to Christy Krawisz: christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net

In Memoriam

The IPA extends their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Past President, Ken Gill, who passed away June 29. A full biography will be published in the next newsletter edition.

Can't get enough polka on regular broadcast radio? The alternative is polka internet radio, where the music never stops. Most, if not all, archive their shows as MP3 files, so that you may download and listen at your leisure. Some of the polka sites you should be aware of are:

<http://www.247polkaheaven.com>,
<http://www.polkajammernetwork.org>,
<http://www.polishnewcastleradio.com>
<http://wbcb1490.com/the-denny-o-polka-show>

Used with permission from Polonia Today

Members are very important to the International Polka Association! If your membership is up for renewal, please send your renewal and dues as soon as possible. Membership dues are \$15.00 per year or \$200.00 for a lifetime membership.

Upcoming Festivals

July 17-20:	Pulaski Polka Days; Pulaski, WI
July 18-20:	Bavarian Blast; New Ulm, MN
August 7-9 August 14-16	Summer Music Fest; Frankenmuth, MI
August 29-31	IPA Festival; Independence, OH
September 11-14:	Polkamotion by the Ocean; Rehoboth Beach, DE

IPA Calendar of Events

August 16:	IPA Picnic Hammond Mohawks Hammond, Indiana
August 29-31:	IPA Festival & Convention Embassy Suites Independence, Ohio
September 21:	IPA General Member Meeting and Dance Stardust Banquets, Chicago

Please Remember Us In Your Will Or Trust

To assure the future of the IPA and polka music, your assistance is needed. When you write or review your Will or Trust, please consider leaving a charitable request. Ask your attorney to include the International Polka Association.

Getting to Know Your IPA Board Members



Christy Krawisz, 1st Vice President

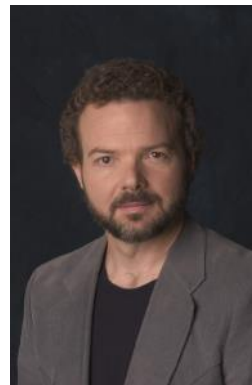
Christy is no stranger to the IPA Executive Board. She was previously on the board from 1993-1996 as the financial secretary. She rejoined the IPA board in 2010, again as the financial secretary. In February, she was appointed the position of 1st Vice President and is continuing to administer the membership duties until August 2014.

Christy became involved in polkas before she was even born. Her father, John Furmaniak, Sr., had a band called the Dial-A-Tones, when she was just a baby. Her mom and dad would take her to all the great polka events in the Chicagoland area. Growing up, she didn't enjoy it as much as she does now. She wishes she would have enjoyed more of the jobs she attended where her father was playing with Marion Lush & the White Eagles, and she wishes she would have made it a point to enjoy the wonderful vocals of Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr. more.

Born in Petersburg, Virginia where her father was stationed in the US Army, they then moved back to Illinois when Christy was a little over a year old. Married to John Krawisz, Christy and John currently reside in Plainfield, IL with their two daughters, Katie and Hayley.

Being on the IPA board, Christy wants to do whatever she can to preserve the music she loves so much. She hopes to help in the efforts to keep polkas going so her children, and maybe even grandchildren can grow up and enjoy it as much as she does. She wants them to experience all of the wonderful places she has traveled and to get to meet great friends like she has in the polka music industry.

Christy enjoys spending time with her husband, two children, two stepchildren, and her extended family as well. She also enjoys volunteering and chairing benefits for friends and their families in need. She was involved in two Center for Independence fundraisers, two Stas Bulanda benefits, and chaired the All4All benefit for good friend Alan Zawislak.



Mike Matousek, IPA Director from Maryland

Mike became an IPA member in the early 1980s and was first elected as a director around 1988. His mother insisted that he, his brother, and his sister learn how to polka while they were still very young, around 7 or 8 years old. She also taught them to sing and harmonize so they could perform at Polish events. Inspired by his dad, who still plays in a polka band, he, his siblings, and a cousin formed a polka band called the Polka Cousins when they were young teenagers and got paid to play for the first time in 1970.

Mike has performed with such bands including the Polka Cousins, The Royal Cavaliers, Brass Works, Choice, The Boys, and Full Circle. He plays bass guitar and dabbles on the banjo, mandolin, and harmonica.

Mike hopes his involvement in the IPA will help to foster goodwill among all polka organizations, broaden the audience for polka music, enhance the image of polka music as an art form, and encourage young artists and professionals to ensure the future viability of polka music.

Originally from Baltimore, MD and currently residing in Millersville, MD, Mike says, "Polka music has been a blessing to me in so many ways. Playing music that uplifts and excites others is very rewarding. The exceptional hospitality, generosity, and fraternity of polka people is priceless and unmatched in any other music genre."



IPA Birthdays



July

- 3: Edward Nowak; Ken Yash
- 4: Hank Haller; Leon Kozicki
- 5: Jan Sweet; Brian Pordash
- 6: Steve Litwin; Rita Niewierowski;
Jennifer Bulanda; Tom Frydryk
- 7: Andrew Putz; Felix Sobocki;
Benita Szymanski; Jerry Romanowski
- 9: Bea Zawada; John Wisneski
- 10: Mona Sus; Jerry Wantroba; Brian Talaske;
Marge Ziemiński
- 11: John Kupka
- 12: Jacob Dill
- 13: Theresa Jagielski; Theresa Pawlicki
- 14: William Stasila; Ronald Ziemia
- 15: Arthur Kalena; Wally Dombrowski
- 16: Thomas Hartwig; Cheryl Furmaniak
- 17: Thomas Kalinowski; Pat Mikos
- 18: Steve Swiader; Hedy Wozniak;
Maggie Zabielski; Lori Yash
- 19: Sue Conway
- 22: Bonnie Potoniec
- 23: Carol Dziegłowicz
- 25: Eddie Labuda
- 26: Karen Mikrut
- 27: John Gora, Dr. Ann Hetzel Gunkel
- 28: Lorraine Matusovich; Bob Wojtowicz
- 29: Kathy Urbanczyk; George Hess;
Jane Gelineau
- 30: Bob Sendra
- 31: Len Fornek

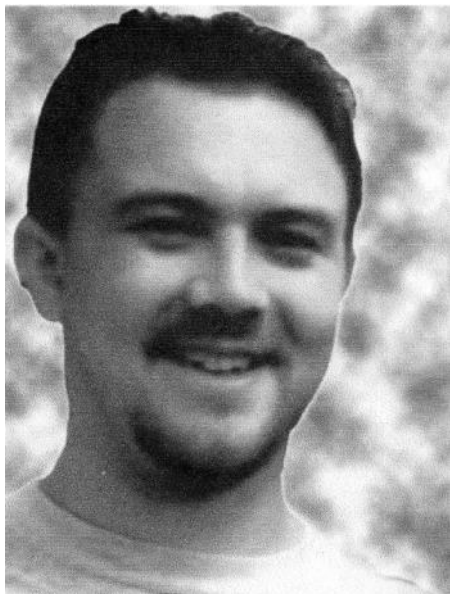
August

- 1: Eugene Bryda, Mary Lesniak;
Sandy Schuster; Maryann Cuglewski
- 2: Tony Blazonczyk; Chuck Stastny
- 3: Mike Stapinski
- 4: Susan Matysiewicz; Kathleen Zielinski;
Happy Louie Dusseault; Lynn Kaminski;
Bonnie Ryniec
- 5: Rose Marie Tynski; Frances Ziemia;
Dianne Zawisza
- 6: Jeff Veverka; MaryAnn Jukubielski;
Marcia Muscato
- 7: John "Foo" Furmaniak; Edward Guca;
Bob Zima; Camille Hjelm; Berne Locke;
Pete Jend
- 10: Helen Curtin; Jim Kucharski
- 11: Chester Kmiec; Dave Ulczycki;
John Robinson; Keith Pietranczyk
- 12: Leonard Wolski
- 13: Carol Forman; Steve Zalewski
- 14: Wanda Kowalik; Barry Niccolai
- 15: Ed Svoboda; Edward Burczy;
Michelle Bojczuk
- 16: Diana Walk
- 17: Tim Wolter
- 18: Rena Blazonczyk; Tom Czyzewski
- 19: Michael Matousek
- 20: Ed Cygan; Ken Machelski
- 21: Mike Maduzia; Tony Petkovsek;
Carolyn Baras; Tammy Arnes
- 22: Julianne Mossak; Michelle Eron
- 23: Stas Golembewski; Randy Vokral
- 24: Connie Hvizdos
- 25: Rose Marie Sukacz; Steve Wejrowski
- 26: Mary Ann Moon
- 27: Martin Babich
- 28: Joyce Fornek; Judy Krason; Pat Wagner
- 30: Dianne Winiarz; Grazyna Danielczuk;
Don Jodlowski

If you wish to have your birthday listed, please send an email to: christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net or send it to: Christy Krawisz, IPA Birthdays, PO Box 1484 — Plainfield, IL 60585

Please remember, you must be an IPA member.

\$1000 FREDDY K JR MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



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.

The Freddy K Jr. Music Scholarship Committee is now accepting requests for applications for the 2014 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
50 Totten Drive
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

WINNERS OF \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS:

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 Ogradny; 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

New Time for IPA Polka Show on WPNA!

The IPA Radio Show is moving to a full hour-long show in Chicago!

IPA Radio Show will now be broadcast on Sundays, beginning at 11:00 a.m.—12 noon Central Time on WPNA (1490 AM) in Chicago or via the internet at www.wpna1490am.com.

Each show features IPA officers and directors including Rick Rzeszutko, Pat Maduzia, Linda Niewierowski, Laura Mateja, Christy Krawisz, John Krawisz, T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, Dennis Mikolajewski, Keith Pietranczyk, Jerry Wantroba, and Dan Mateja.

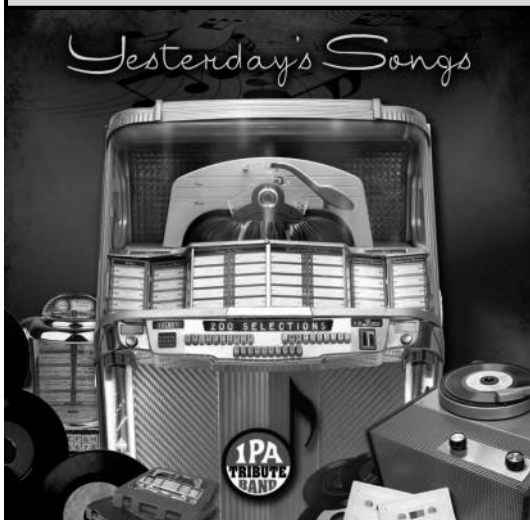
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www.polkasunited.com

THE IPA RADIO SHOW IS ON THE POLKA JAMMER NETWORK

The IPA Radio Show is on the Polka Jammer Network from 4:00—5:00 p.m. Central time, every Saturday afternoon.

www.polkajammernetwork.org



To purchase a copy of this CD, please send a check or money order made payable to the IPA, for \$18.00 (\$15.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling). Mail it to: International Polka Association, 4608 S. Archer Avenue, Chicago, IL 60632.

PLEASE BE SURE TO SEND YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE so we can mail the CD to you.

You can also purchase a copy of this CD from any IPA Tribute Band Member.


A portion of the proceeds from this recording are being donated to the International Polka Association.



Rich Bobinski - 26 Classic Hits from the Past

New CD Release! Co-Producer & Sound File Enhancement by Peter J. Danielczuk, IPA Sgt. At Arms. A portion of the proceeds from this recording are being donated to the International Polka Association. The IPA is instrumental in the preservation and promotion of polka music throughout the United States.

Distributor and Co-Producer is Jimmy K Polkas, 440-846-0404 or visit www.jimmykpolkas.com.

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PRESS RELEASE:

Polka Cruise with the Knewz, Polka Country Musicians & the P.D.A.S. Band!!!

Our 2015 "Polka Dreams @ Sea" Polka Cruise is filling quickly, so don't wait to sign up. Do it now while you are thinking about it.

"A Dream Trip 4 U" is excited to announce more details about our next polka cruise adventure in sunny paradise. "Polka Dreams @ Sea" Polka Cruise will sail **January 31 thru February 7, 2015**, to the **Western Caribbean** from **Ft. Lauderdale** on board the beautiful **Caribbean Princess®**! Be sure to mark your calendar for this one as it promises to be the best cruise of the year!

Our featured bands this year are 2 of the **hottest** bands on the polka scene - "**Polka Country Musicians**" from CT and "**The Knewz**" from Buffalo, NY. We will also have the "**Polka Dreams All-Star Band**" (**P.D.A.S.**) featuring some of the biggest & hottest polka stars in the country - **Jeff Mleczko** (Dynabass, TPM, Marion Lush), **Dave Morris** (The Nu-Tones, The Boys, The Sounds), **Joe Zalewski** (Dynabass, TPM, Holy Toledo), **Rich Zebrowski**, (Nu-Tones, TBC, The Sounds), and 2 **IPA Polka Hall of Famers** - **Eddie Siwiec** (New Brass Express, TPM) & **Frankie Liszka** (The Boys, TBC, The Sounds). **Stacey Morris** – **2012 & 2013 USPA Female Vocalist of the Year**, will also join fellow **2012 USPA Male Vocalist of the Year** – **Frankie Liszka** & **2013 USPA Male Vocalist of the Year** – **Wally Dombrowski** and others. We will have the "**best of the best**" live polka music all week long on one of the biggest dance floors at sea.

We'll also have a **Polka Jam** session where **YOU** can be the star; and we will have some fun **themes** such as "**All Country – Day & Night**", "**Ladies Night Out**", "**Pajama Party**", and more. The day after we get onto the ship is "**Super Bowl Sunday**", and you can watch the **BIG** game on a **BIG** outdoor screen by the pool or in the **Club Fusion Lounge**, so get ready to root for your favorite team – wearing your favorite sport outfit.

As usual, our affable polka **DJ @ Sea** - **Kenny Olowin** will join us to host his fun-filled parties and spin some of your favorite polka tunes, and our **Priest @ Sea** - **Father Tom Aleksa** will be there to conduct an uplifting **Polka Mass**.

In between all the polka excitement, our adventures will take us to the exotic tropical islands of **Grand Cayman**, **Roatan** (Honduras), **Cozumel** (Mexico) and Princess' private playground **Princess Cays®**!

As anyone who has sailed with us on one of our previous Polka Cruises can attest, you'll be treated like royalty on this fabulous trip! For more information and to get a cruise brochure, contact **Helga Leonard** of "**A Dream Trip 4 U**" at **724-234-2033** or email Helga at helga@adreamtrip4u.com. You can also download a brochure at www.polka-cruise.com.

YES!!! There is a DRINK PACKAGE!!! Call for details.

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6. The New Clarinet Polka
7. School Days Accapella Singers
8. Alexander's Ragtime Band
9. Music Speaks Polka
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IPA Dates to Remember	Advertise in the IPA Newsletter
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<p style="text-align: center;">IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!!</p> <p>As reminders for membership renewals are mailed out, it would be greatly appreciated if these could be returned <u>as soon as possible</u>. 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.</p>	



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