PA Newsletter

July - August, 2016

Official Publication of the International Polka Association, Inc. ®

#### A Letter From The President...

Greetings!

The summer polka season is upon us. I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather. It's time to get out and support all of the great polka events that will be taking place this summer.

Congratulations to Barb Haselow and the USPA on another fantastic USPA Festival, as well as Rich & Wally Dombrowski on another successful Ocean Beach Park Polka Days.

I would like to invite everyone to keep supporting each and every polka organization, polka promoter, church and town festivals that support polka music in your area. Listen to all of the polka radio and internet shows and support the DJs and IJs who bring you great music and information.

Visit our website, www.ipapolkas.com, and our calendar of events to keep up on all of the activities, wherever they may be. You can enter your event to be included on our website.

Congratulations to the newly elected IPA Polka Hall of Famers who will be inducted Labor Day weekend at our festival in Buffalo. I hope everyone can attend this fantastic event. More information about the Hall of Fame inductees will be in the September - October newsletter.

I would also like to invite everyone to attend the IPA Picnic taking place Saturday, August 6 at the Hammond Mohawks Picnic Grove, located at 4040 Calumet Ave. in Hammond, Indiana. Two bands will be playing for your listening pleasure: D Street and Great Lakes Sounds.

Have a fun and safe summer,

Rick Rzeszutko President

## IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame Inductees and Award Winners

IPA Hall of Fame inductees

Living Category Stanley "Stas" Golonka Carl Finch Dean Hansen

Deceased Category Don Jodlowski

Pioneer Category Richard Midura IPA 2015 Polka Music Award Winners

Favorite Band – The Knewz (NY) Favorite Male Vocalist – Lenny Gomulka (MA) Favorite Female Vocalist – Mollie Busta Lange (OH) Favorite Polish Polka Album – "Breaking Knewz" by The Knewz (NY) Favorite International Polka Album – "Thank You Music Lovers" by Steve Meisner (WI) Favorite Song – "Root Beer Rag" by The Knewz (NY)

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Official Publication of the International Polka Association, Inc. ®

#### **IPA Newsletter**

2015-2016 IPA Officers and Directors

#### The "IPA Newsletter" is the official Officers: Directors: publication of the INTERNATIONAL POLKA ASSOCIATION, INC.<sup>®</sup>. The "IPA Patrick Henry Cukierka (IL) Newsletter" welcomes submissions from President: Rick Rzeszutko (IL) Debbie Dunaj (WI) readers and will publish them with 1st Vice President: Christy Krawisz (IL) consideration to space and time Ed Guca (Canada) 2nd Vice President: Fred Kendzierski (NJ) requirements. Pictures are welcome but Mike Maduzia (IL) Treasurer: Linda Niewierowski (IL) used only when budget and space Dan Mateja (IL) Financial Secretary: John Krawisz (IL) constraints allow. All items become the Laura Mateja (IL) Keith Pietranczyk (IL) Secretary: property of the IPA. If you would like a Mike Matousek (MD) photograph returned, please include a Sergeant-At-Arms: Peter Danielczuk (CT) Dennis Mikolajewski (IL) Youth Advisor: Jake Mikrut (IL) self-addressed, stamped envelope. Bonnie Ryniec (IL) Media Advisor: Jerry Wantroba (IL) Ed Szela (MA) Editor: Lori Urbanczyk (NY) Debbie Dunaj - dunajda07@yahoo.com John Zelasko (MI) Contact us: Would you like your newsletter emailed International Polka Association, Inc.® to you? PO Box 57758 Chicago, IL 60657 The IPA would like to go green! Help us 1-800-TO-POLKA save money on printing costs and (1-800-867-6552)postage. Website: www.ipapolkas.com If you would like your newsletter emailed to you, please send an email to christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net. The IPA logo, "INTERNATIONAL POLKA FESTIVAL" and "POLKA MUSIC HALL OF Please put in the subject line: PLEASE FAME" are registered in the U.S. Patent EMAIL MY NEWSLETTER. and Trademark office. All three trademarks of the International Polka Association and their use, without written permission, is strictly prohibited.

#### 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:

John Krawisz, Financial Secretary International Polka Association PO Box 1484 Plainfield, IL 60585 Phone: 630-204-1793 Email: christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net

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

# **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.radiowpna.com. Each show features IPA officers and directors including Rick Rzeszutko, Linda Niewierowski, Laura Mateja, Mike Maduzia, Christy Krawisz, John Krawisz, Bonnie Ryniec, 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!

# 48th Annual IPA Festival & Convention



Millennium Hotel – Buffalo, New York 716-681-2400 www.millenniumhotels.com/buffalo

Labor Day Weekend 2016 - Mark Your Calendars!

Friday,	Saturday,	Sunday,
September 2	September 3	September 4
John Gora &	Buffalo Concertina	Eddie Forman
Gorale	All Stars	Orchestra
Mike Costa & The Beat	IPA Tribute Band The Boys The Knewz	Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push Music Company Polka Country Musicians

Tower rooms are available for \$139 plus tax, per night when mentioning the IPA Polka Festival.

www.ipapolkas.com or www.facebook.com/ipapolk

# Mark Your Calendars! Saturday, August 6 IPA Picnic

Hammond Mohawks 4040 Calumet Ave Hammond, Indiana

# Sunday, October 23 IPA Dance with The Boys

Glendora Banquets 10225 S Harlem Ave Chicago Ridge, Illinois

...more details coming soon...

Mark your calendars! We hope you can join us Labor Day weekend in Buffalo, New York, for the 48th annual International Polka Association Festival & Convention to be held once again at the Millennium Hotel in Buffalo.

Call today to reserve your room at the newly renovated Millennium Hotel. Don't wait — our first block of rooms has already sold out, and our second block of rooms only have a small number left. It is sure to be another fun, successful, and wellattended event. Mention the IPA Polka Festival to receive the group room rate.

A full brochure is enclosed with complete details including a welcome party with music provided by Five Officers and a Gentleman on Friday, September 2; IPA Hall of Fame & Awards Banquet and pool party on Saturday, September 3; and Polka Mass and Pro Am Jam on Sunday, September 4.

Watch ipapolkas.com and facebook.com/ipapolkas for more information to come!



SATURDAY August 6, 2016

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: D-Street and Great Lake Sounds

Gates open at 1:30 pm General Meeting 2-3 pm (members only) Music from 3-9 pm

Admission: \$15.00

Cash Bar Food Available for purchase Grilling by "Chef Keith"

Rain or Shine as we will be under tents

## IPA Ad Book

The International Polka Association will present its 48th Annual Polka Festival and Convention, Friday-Sunday, September 2-4 at the Millennium Hotel in Buffalo, New York We are currently in the process of soliciting ads for our 2016 Festival Souvenir Program Book. The ads placed in the Program Book will be viewed by many people and are distributed 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 <u>August 5</u>. 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.

## **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. Raffle tickets were mailed in a separate mailing and can be returned with the envelope enclosed 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 <u>August 18</u>.

Drawing will be held Sunday evening, September 4.

Prizes include:

First Prize:	\$300
Second Prize:	\$150
Third Prize:	\$100
Fourth Prize:	\$50

## **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 2016. Elections will be held Sunday, September 4, during the IPA Convention in Buffalo, New York.

<u>All Positions</u>: 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 2nd Vice President (2-year term): Nominee must have served at least <u>two</u> 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 <u>one full year</u>:

- 2nd Vice President
- Financial Secretary
- Treasurer
- 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.

## Festival Information

New this year! Three-day passes will be available ONLY at the door on Friday, September 2 for \$50.

Make your hotel reservations now! A very limited number of our additional block of hotel rooms are left at the Millennium Hotel in Buffalo. Courtyard rooms are sold out, but select Tower rooms are still available for \$139/night. Call 716-681-2400 to make your reservation, and mention the IPA Polka Festival to receive the reduced rate.

The 47th annual IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, September 3. Tickets are \$40 by advance reservation only.

For more information about all events happening at this year's IPA Festival & Convention, check out the brochure enclosed with this newsletter.

## Pro Am Jam at IPA Festival

Back by popular demand! Once again this year, the IPA will be hosting a Pro Am Jam for young adults at the IPA Festival on Sunday afternoon, September 4 from 12:30 - 1:30 PM at the Millennium Hotel in Buffalo, New York. All young adults under the age of 18 are encouraged to participate. This jam session will include polka musicians, some IPA Hall of Famers, and most importantly, young musicians who can help keep this music we all love alive. And best of all, this event is FREE to all participants and attendees



For more information, and to register online, visit ipapolkas.com.

## Dennis Polisky & The Maestro's Men Celebrate 20 Years

Dennis Polisky & The Maestro's Men recently celebrated 20 years of performing polka music. A 20th anniversary party was held on Saturday, June 4 at the PACC in Webster, Massachusetts, the first venue they played as a band 20 years ago. The celebration was a huge success with several IPA Polka Hall of Famers in attendance. Below are photos of IPA Director Ed Szela and Sargeant-at-Arms Peter Danielczuk presenting Dennis Polisky with a certificate, recognizing their anniversary.





## IPA 50th Anniversary - 2018

In preparation for our 50th anniversary celebration in 2018, we are looking for photos from IPA events throughout the years. Please help us by submitting your photos of your experiences at IPA events. Any help you can give us would be greatly appreciated.

Pictures can be scanned and emailed to Christy Krawisz: Christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net.

Copies of pictures can also be mailed to: IPA 50th Anniversary Photos P0 Box 1484 Plainfield, IL 60585

Photos mailed will not be returned. Thank you for your continued support!

# Thank You

#### Dear IPA,

On May 15th 2016, an event was held in honor of my 30th anniversary in polka music. During that event I was surprised to received recognition from the International Polka Association regarding this milestone. I just wanted to let you know how appreciative I am to have received this recognition.

Thank you so much, I am so honored.

Sincerely, Kenny Olowin Polka Jammer Network WERG FM Erie 247 Polka Heaven

# **IPA Radio Shows**

Don't forget! The IPA broadcasts two weekly polka shows, and both are available to listen to online. Below is the tentative schedule of IPA directors and officers hosting the shows. (DJs/IJs and broadcast times are subject to change.)

#### Polka Jammer IJs

Saturdays 4:00-5:00 pm, Central Time www.polkajammernetwork.org

July 9:	Keith Pietranczyk
July 16:	Freddy "K" Kendzierski
July 23:	Mike Maduzia and Rick Rzeszutko
July 30:	Linda Niewierowski and Jerry Wantroba
August 6:	John Zelasko
August 13:	John & Christy Krawisz
August 20:	Bonnie Ryniec, Dennis Mikolajewski, and
	Dan & Laura Mateja
August 27:	Peter Danielczuk
September 3:	Ed Guca

#### WPNA Radio Shows DJ's

Sundays, 11:00-12 noon Central Time 1490 AM Chicago or online at www.radiowpna.com

July 10:	Mike Maduzia and Rick Rzeszutko
July 17:	Linda Niewierowski and Jerry Wantroba
July 24:	John & Christy Krawisz
July 31:	Keith Pietranczyk
August 7:	Bonnie Ryniec, Dennis Mikolajewski, and
	Dan & Laura Mateja
August 14:	Mike Maduzia and Rick Rzeszutko
August 21:	Linda Niewierowski and Jerry Wantroba
August 28:	John & Christy Krawisz
September 4:	Keith Pietranczyk

Sn Memoriam

The IPA extends their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the following IPA members:

Richard Kuciemba Helen Dudek Tomsic Edward Jakubowski



"Like" us on Facebook! For all the latest news and information, visit: facebook.com/ipapolkas

# Welcome New Members!

Elaine Nowak (IL) Lori Young (IL) Kenny Habrack (NJ) Jim Miller (WI) Richard Stech (IL) Bill Ellis (IN)

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. Renew online at www.ipapolkas.com.

# Thank You

Thank you for the nice writeup regarding Chet's passing in the newsletter.

The IPA has been cordial to Chet and me throughout the years to which I am thankful.

Thank you also for your donation to Heath First Hospice in his memory. Chet suffered with Alzheimer's for 13 years.

God Bless the IPA. Mary Lou Dragon

# **Birthday Wishes**

Belated birthday wishes to Bill Kozlauska on April 6 and Fran Russo on May 19.

# Thank You

Thank you to Erika Danner for her monetary donation.

### July - August, 2016



- 1: Adam Biskup
- 2: Judy Nowak
- 3: Ken Yash
- 4: Hank Haller: Leon Kozicki
- 5: Jan Sweet; Brian Pordash
- 6: Steve Litwin; Rita Niewierowski; Erika Danner; Jennifer Bulanda Ruitenberg; Tom Frydryk;
- 7: Andrew Putz; Felix Sobecki; Benita Szymanski; Jerry Romanowski
- 8: Eugene Retka
- 9: Bea Zawada; John Wisneski
- 10: Mona Sus; Jerry Wantroba; Brian Talaske;
- 11: John Kupka
- 12: Danny Fabeck; William Mueller
- **13:** Theresa Pawlicki
- 14: William Stasila; Ronald Ziemba; Sophie Skinger
- 15: Arthur Kalena; Wally Dombrowski
- 16: Thomas Hartwig; Cheryl Furmaniak; Janet Kovacs
- 17: Thomas Kalinowski; Pat Mikos
- 18: Steve Swiader; Hedy Wozniak; Maggie Zabielski; Lori Yash
- 19: Sue Conway; Sue Skurzewski
- 20: Gary McKee
- 21: Donna Piatkowski
- 22: Bonnie Potoniec; Steven Sopko; **Richard Rogers**
- 23: Carol Dzieglowicz
- 24: Richard Stech
- 25: Eddie Labuda
- 26: Karen Mikrut; Ed Nicoski
- 27: John Gora, Dr. Ann Hetzel Gunkel
- 28: Lorraine Matusovich; George Rosinski; **Miroslaw Antas**
- 29: Kathy Urbanczyk; George Hess; Jane Gelineau; Peter Bezler
- 30: Bob Sendra
- **31:** Len Fornek

- 1: Mary Lesniak; Sandy Schuster; Maryann Cuglewski; Frank Stanger; Gary Stewart
- 2: Chuck Stastny; Patty Daigle; Tony Blazonczyk
- 3: Mike Stapinski
- 4: Susan Matysiewicz; Kathleen Zielinski; Happy Louie Dusseault; Lynn Kaminski; **Bonnie Ryniec**
- 5: Rose Marie Tynski; Dianne Zawisza; Max Kawa; Wally Czaska
- 6: MaryAnn Jukubielski; Marcia Muscato
- 7: John "Foo" Furmaniak; Ed Guca; Camille Hjelm; Berne Locke; Pete Jend;
- 8: Walter Mendel
- 9: Kellv Stec
- 10: Helen Curtin; Jim Kucharski
- 11: Dave Ulczycki: John Robinson: Keith Pietranczyk
- 12: Leonard Wolski
- 13: Carol Forman: Steve Zalewski
- 14: Wanda Kowalik; Barry Niccolai; Marcia Kitrys
- **15:** Ed Svoboda; Edward Burczy; Michelle Bojczuk
- 17: Tim Wolter
- 18: Carol Trzebiatowski: Valerie Nidoh
- **19:** Mike Matousek
- 20: Ken Machelski; Patricia Huch
- 21: Mike Maduzia; Tony Petkovsek; Wesley Matus; Carolyn Baras; Tammy Arnes; Gregorio Martinez, Jr.
- 22: Julianne Mossak; Michelle Eron; Katie Greene-Schultz
- 23: Stas Golembewski; Randy Vokral
- 25: Rose Marie Sukacz; Steve Wejrowski
- 26: Mary Ann Moon
- 27: Martin Babich
- 28: Joyce Fornek; Judy Krason; Pat Wagner
- 29: Doug Dunaj; Keith Gennerman
- 30: Dianne Winiarz; Grazyna Danielczuk;
- 31: Sue Biskup

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





# July 15, 16, & 17, 2016

*"Fun for the German in everyone!"* Friday/Saturday \$10 • Sunday \$5

# Entertainment

Austrian Express • Mollie B & Squeezebox Music Connection • Larry Olsen Wendinger Band • Concord Singers Matt Hodek & the Dakota Dutchmen • Dale Dahmen Alpensterne • New Ulm Municipal Band Danny Witucki & Mein Hematland Musikanten Enjoy the variety building!

Pre-Fest Party 6:00 PM – Transit Authority 8:00 PM – Fabulous Armadillos Thursday, July 14, 2016

Brown County Fairgrounds • 507-359-2999 • www.bavarianblast.com





# **\$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 2016 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 <u>www.freddykjrmusicscholarship.com</u> or contact the Scholarship Committee at the following address:

> The Freddy K Jr. Scholarship Fund 50 Totten Drive Bridgewater, NJ 08807

## WINNERS OF \$1000 SCHOLARSHIPS

#### 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

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**IPA Dates to Remember** Advertise in the IPA Newsletter One Issue August 6: IPA Picnic - Hammond Mohawks Full Page ......\$75.00 per issue Hammond, IN Half Page......\$55.00 per issue September 2-4: IPA Festival & Convention Quarter Page ......\$40.00 per Issue Eighth Page ...... \$25.00 per issue Millennium Hotel-Buffalo, NY October 23: IPA Dance with The Boys Three Issues Glendora Banquets; Chicago Ridge, IL Half Page.....\$45.00 per issue Quarter Page ......\$36.00 per issue Eighth Page ...... \$22.00 per issue Six Issues Full Page ......\$60.00 per issue Half Page.....\$40.00 per issue Visit www.ipapolkas.com and Quarter Page ......\$32.00 per issue Eighth Page ...... \$20.00 per issue www.facebook.com/ipapolkas to stay up-to-date with all IPA events. Email .jpg or .pdf ad files to Debbie Dunaj: dunajda07@yahoo.com.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!!

As reminders for membership renewals are mailed out, it would be greatly appreciated if these could be returned <u>as soon as</u> <u>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**.

