



IPA Newsletter

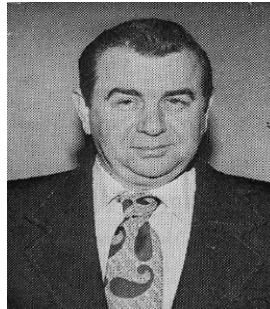
50th Anniversary Edition, 2018

Official Publication of the International Polka Association, Inc. ®

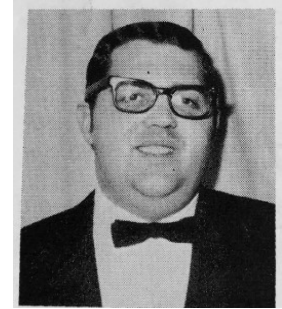
International Polka Association Founders



Leon Kozicki



Johnny Hzyny



Don Jodlowski



Joe Salomon



Jean Salomon



Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr.

The concept of a national polka convention had been developed and pioneered originally in Chicago. From the popular yearly moonlight dances starting in 1960, which attracted thousands of polka lovers from all sections of the United States and Canada — the first polka convention emerged in 1963. This developed into the International Polka Convention which was presented each succeeding year in Chicago, Detroit and Buffalo, New York.

In January 1968, a steering committee comprised of Johnny Hzyny, Leon Kozicki, Joe and Jean Salomon, Eddie Blazonczyk and Don Jodlowski met to discuss plans for the next convention. After a series of meetings they began preparations for the formation of the International Polka Association. The Association was officially chartered by the State of Illinois as a “not-for-profit” corporation and was registered with the County of Cook (Chicago) in August of 1968.

As stated in its charter, the International Polka Association was organized as “an educational and charitable organization for the preservation, promulgation and advancement of polka music and; to promote, maintain and advance public interest in polka entertainment; to advance the mutual interests and encourage greater cooperation among its members who are engaged in polka entertainment; and to encourage and pursue the study of polka music, dancing and traditional folklore.”

In honor of our 50th anniversary, I hope you enjoy a little history of our organization. Thank you to everyone who researched and contributed the historical information you'll find inside. And most importantly, thank YOU for your continued support of the IPA.

— Debbie Dunaj, Newsletter Editor

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 60585
Email: lynn_ipa50th@comcast.net

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

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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.radiowpna.com.

Each show features IPA officers and directors including Rick Rzeszutko, Laura Mateja, Christy Krawisz, John Krawisz, 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!

How the International Polka Association Began

The concept of a national polka convention had been developed and pioneered originally in Chicago. From the popular yearly moonlight dances starting in 1960, which attracted thousands of polka lovers from all sections of the United States and Canada - the first polka convention emerged in 1963. This developed into the International Polka Convention, which was presented each succeeding year in Chicago, Detroit,, and Buffalo. In January 1968 a steering committee comprised of Leon Kozicki, Johnny Hyzny, Joe and Jean Salomon, Edward Blazonczyk, and Don Jodlowski met to discuss plans for the next convention. After a series of meetings they began preparations for the formation of the International Polka Association. The association was originally chartered by the State of Illinois as a "not -for-profit" corporation and was registered with the County of Cook (Chicago) in August of 1968. Since 1968 the International Polka Convention and Festival has been presented under the auspices of the International Polka Association.

The delegates to the 1968 convention approved the establishment of the Polka Music Hall of Fame® and the presentation of annual Polka Music Awards. As stated in its charter the International Polka Association was organized as: "an educational and charitable organization for the preservation, promulgation, and advancement of polka music and; to promote, maintain and advance public interest in polka entertainment; to advance the mutual interests and encourage greater cooperation among its members who are engaged in polka entertainment; and to encourage and pursue the study of polka music, dancing and traditional folklore."

The International Polka Association presents many special awards each year to encourage the promotion of polka music. Through the efforts of the IPA the month of January has been proclaimed as National Polka Month. Many functions under the auspices of the IPA are presented in various states, a weekly radio program has been established and a bimonthly newsletter keeps the members informed of the business affairs of the Association. Among the past officers, Leon Kozicki served as the first elected president of the IPA from 1968-1973. The first elected secretary was Ed Blazonczyk and Don Jodlowski was the first elected treasurer of the association.

Polka Music Hall of Fame® History

The POLKA MUSIC HALL OF FAME® was established at the 1968 convention of the International Polka Association. A Board of Trustees was delegated the responsibility of establishing rules of eligibility and voting procedures for election to the Polka Music Hall of Fame®, and the annual POLKA MUSIC AWARDS. The entire administrative operation is the responsibility of the trustees.

The trustees are appointed by the President of the International Polka Association to a six-year term and they represent various geographical areas of the United States and Canada. The trustees are responsible for appointing Electors from within their area of responsibility to do the actual voting. Electors are appointed for a term of three (3) years. To provide a fair, impartial, objective and professional authority to conduct the annual election, the IPA engages the services of Kathleen Davies, CPA of the Office of The Delaware State Auditor. Through the years many changes have ensued in an effort to improve the importance of the Polka Music Hall of Fame® and the annual Polka Music Awards. The number of the years of eligibility for election to the Hall of Fame has been increased from ten (10) to twenty five (25) years, a Deceased Category was established, and more recently the Pioneer Category was initiated. A more appropriate designation in describing the annual Polka Music Awards recipients resulted from changing the word "best" to "favorite" record, artist, group, etc. A building was acquired to serve as the home of the IPA corporate officers and depository for the plaques, memorabilia, artifacts, recordings, etc. comprising the Polka Music Hall of Fame® and Museum. The building was officially dedicated on March 28, 1982. In September 2000, The IPA Hall of Fame Museum was re-located to the Polonia Banquet Hall in Chicago.

In 1986 the executive board of the IPA approved some changes in the structure and composition of the Polka Music Hall of Fame® board of trustees. They were concerned about expanding the scope of the board through increased representation. They wanted to be more definitive in selecting a board comprised of responsible, knowledgeable and dedicated members who possess integrity and are beyond reproach. Those qualifications are also expected of every elector selected and approved by the board. As a result the following changes have been implemented:

- I. Increased the number of Trustees from seven (7) to eleven (11) to serve a term of six (6) years. They may be removed from office for malfeasance, inactivity, and conduct demeaning or maligning the International Polka Association.
- II. Each trustee is responsible for an assigned geographical area and is therefore responsible for the appointment of fourteen (14) electors for his specified area. Each Trustee is automatically an elector and entitled to vote as one of the group of 15.
- III. The increase in the Trustees also automatically increases the size of the College of Electors (11 trustees x 15 electors to a total of 165). It had been previously 105 electors.

Polka Music Hall of Fame® History - continued

IV. Electors are appointed for a term of three (3) years. They may be reappointed to a second term or succeeding terms. All electors must sign an affidavit, which must be notarized attesting to their responsibility to vote and return ballots according to instructions provided each year and assuring their honesty.

1. The Affidavits MUST be signed, notarized and returned to the IPA within the given deadline to assure sufficient time to compile the new roster of electors. Reappointed electors do not need their affidavits notarized; Electors must be selected for their honesty, knowledge of polka music and polka personalities, objectivity, and fairness. Electors who do not maintain these standards will be replaced. The responsibility of appointing qualified electors is extremely important. People who are inactive or who do not possess high personal ethics, or who cannot remain impartial are not considered for this position. They should not possess barriers that could impair their fairness and objectivity in the performance of their duties in voting as an elector. Their actions reflect upon the good image and creditability of the IPA and are observed by the polka public.

Candidates for the Polka Music Hall of Fame: Two living candidates are elected each year. Electors elect one deceased candidate along with the living candidates. The Board of Trustees determines the recipient in the Pioneer category. ANYONE may submit a name for consideration if qualified and must include a biography of achievements, etc.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Candidates must have been active 25 or more years in some phase of polka music; namely; musician, deejay, bandleader, vocalist, record manufacturer, journalist, ballroom-lounge operator, etc.
2. A candidate must have achieved national prominence or be known at least regionally in several states. This is a NATIONAL honor and therefore local personalities are not eligible. It is felt that their local church, business, civic groups and/or local fan clubs should honor deserving local personalities. Merely being a musician, bandleader, etc., is insufficient reason for consideration.
3. Candidates must have made outstanding contributions to the advancement and promulgation of polka music. Consideration must be given to personal accomplishments and achievements (development of a new sound or style, composer of hit song, producer of hit record, responsible for the opening of new avenues for polka music). Participation in charitable projects, active participation in polka associations (committee member, chairperson, volunteer on some special project, etc.)
4. The election of a person in the Pioneer Category is reserved for names already on the master list who are not known to many younger electors and who have not received sufficient votes in previous balloting. They most likely are senior people who have been active in polka music for over 40 years. This category is determined by vote of the Polka Hall of Fame® Trustees.

SUMMARY

1. The Polka Music Hall of Fame®, Museum, and Annual Polka Awards is a copyrighted presentation and facility operated and financed by the International Polka Association.
2. The appointment of 11 trustees responsible for the administration of the Hall of Fame is the responsibility of the IPA President. Trustees are appointed to a term of 6 years.
3. The trustees are responsible for the appointment of fourteen (14) knowledgeable polka people to serve as electors from within their designated geographical area. Trustees will have affidavits executed by the persons accepting appointment as electors. These affidavits must be returned to the Hall of Fame chairman. In March or April, ballots will be mailed directly to all the electors. The electors must return the voted ballots directly to Kathleen Davies, CPA.

2018 Polka Music Hall of Fame Board

Polka Music Hall of Fame Committee

Fred Bulinski (H.O.F. Trustee), Dover, DE
 Fred Kendzierski (IPA 2nd Vice President), Bonita Springs, FL
 Mike Matousek (IPA Director), Millersville, MD

Polka Music Hall of Fame Board of Trustees

Fred Bulinski, Dover, DE
 Tish Blazonczyk, Bridgeview, IL
 Gary Brueggen, Westby, WI
 John Gora, Burlington, Ontario, Canada
 Leon J. Kozicki, Plainfield, IL (Deceased 2017)
 Jackie Libera, Charlton, MA

Dick Pillar, Southington, CT
 Danny Zaplatel, TX
 Chuck Stastny, West Des Moines, IA
 Jimmy Sturr, Florida, NY
 Gene Swick, San Diego, CA
 Larry Walk, Youngstown, OH

Polka Music Hall of Fame® Inductees

1969 Frank Yankovic Li'l Wally Jagiello	1981 Casey Siewierski Ray Stolzenberg Lou Prohut (D)	1991 Joe Marcissuk Chet Kowalkowski John Check (P) Henry Jasiewicz (D)	2000 Al Piatkowski Richie Tokarz Henry Wilczynski (P) Frank "Gee" Grybosh (D)	2010 Richie Gomulka Stephanie Pietrzak Ted Okrzesik, Sr. (P) Richard Bobinski (D)
1970 Frank Wojnarowski Eddie Blazonczyk	1982 "Happy Louie" Dusseault Johnny Libera Joe Fiedor (D)	1992 Fred Bulinski Bill Czerniak Ernie Kucera (P) Jan Robak (D)	2001 Johnny Karas Eddie Skinger Adolph Lesser (P) Walter Szczypula (D)	2011 John Gora Henry (Henny) Jasiewicz Don Peachey (P) Johnny Krizancic (D)
1971 Walter Dana Bernie Witkowski	1983 Walter Ostanek Johnny Hynzy Eddie Oskierko (P) Lawrence Duchow (D)	1993 Fred Hudy Stanley Przasnyski Virginia Seretny Chet Dragon (P) Tom Mrozinski (D)	2002 Don Lucki Wally Maduzia Eddie Zavaski (D)	2012 Wally Dombrowski Craig Ebel Tommy Altenburg (P) Paul Wendinger (D)
1972 Marion Lush Ray Henry Eddie Zima (D)	1984 Bernie Goydish Jimmy Sturr Charlie Hicks (P) Fezz Fritsche (D)	1994 Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak Larry Walk Chester "Chet" Zablocki (P) Lawrence Welk (D)	2003 Hank Haller John "Jackie" Libera Roger Bright (D)	2013 Frank Borzymowski John Furmaniak Tony Petkovsek (P) Jan Cyman (D)
1973 Gene Wisniewski Ray Budzilek Mattie Madura (D)	1985 Joe Wojkiewicz Larry Chesky Stan Jasinski (P) Cousin Fuzzy (D)	1995 Andy Day Dziagwa Mitch Biskup Adam Nowicki (P) Shep Wolan (D)	2004 Billy Belina Mike Nowakowski Lou Trebar (P) Tom Karas (D)	2014 Kevin Adams Eddie Biegaj Alfred Vrazel (P) Cliff Hermel (D)
1974 Walt Solek Dick Pillar Marisha Data (D)	1986 Walt Groller Bruno Mikos Bruno 'Jr' Zielinski (P) Pat Watters (D)	1996 Ray Dorschner Carl Rohwetter Vi Johantgen (P) Bill Czupta (D)	2005 Freddy "K" Kendzierski Eddie Siwec Matt Sladky (P) Lil Richard Towalski (D)	2015 Randy Koslosky Mark Trzepacz Florian Chmielewski (P) Chester Budny (D)
1975 Harold Loeffelmacher Steve Adamczyk Johnny Pecon (D)	1987 Emily Pinter Johnny Vadnal Johnny Menko (P) Antonina Blazonczyk (D) Matt Hoyer (D) Jolly Jack Robel (D)	1997 Joe Fedorchak Jerry Darlak Chet Gulinski (P) Joe Rock (D)	2006 Eddie Forman Gary Rhamy Jimmy Weber Adam Barthalt (P) Gary Siebert (D)	2016 Carl Finch Stas Golonka Dean Hansen Richard Midura (P) Don Jodlowski (D)
1976 Dick Rodgers Chet Schafer "Whoopie John" Wilfhart (D)	1988 Lenny Gomulka Johnny Hass Al Grebnick (P) Joe Struzik (D)	1998 Frank Liszka Matt Wasielewski Eddie Korosa (P) John Przasnyski (D) Bruno (Bruce) Kryger (D)	2007 Henry "Hank" Guzevich Dennis Polisky John Demerski (P) Wesoly Stas (D)	2017 Andy Fenus Fred Ziwich Edward Kutas, Sr. (P) Marge Machay (D) Elmer Sheid (D)
1977 Leon Kozicki Joe Lozarz Bruno Kryger (D)	1989 Lucian Kryger Verne Meisner Joe Czerniak (P) Kenny Bass (D)	1999 Joey Miskulin Keith Stras Jerry Goetsch (P) Wanda Pietrzak (D)	2008 Raymond "Ray Jay" Jarusinski Mike Matousek Theresa Zapolska (P) William (Bill) Borek (D)	2018 Gary Brueggen Mollie Busta Lange Joe Macielag (P) Leon "Bud" Hundenski (D)
1978 Alvin Sajewski "Joe Pat" Paterek Ignacy Podgorski (D)	1990 Myron Floren Jolly Joe Timmer Norman Marggraff (P)	2009 Stanley "Stas" Bulanda Joe Oberaitis Ed Guca (P) Eddie Habat (D)	D: Deceased Category P: Pioneer Category	
1979 Marv Herzog Al Soyka Romy Gosz (D)				
1980 Johnnie Bomba Stan E. Saleski Ted Maksymowicz (D)				

IPA Officers - Past & Present

Thank you to all the individuals listed below who have served as an officer or director within past 50 years. Without their loyal dedication and help, the International Polka Association would not have reached this precious milestone. Thank you all for your contributions.

Martha Adamus, Chicago, IL†

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 Len Wrobel, Erie, PA
 Ed Zavaski, Jr., Wallingford, CT
 John Zelasko, Grand Rapids, MI
 Joni Zychowski-Minehart, Baden, PA

† Deceased

Bold Past Presidents

IPA Festival & Convention: Bands

Over the past 50 years, the International Polka Association has had the privilege of hiring some of the Nation's Best Polka Bands to perform for our Festivals and Conventions. Thank you, once again, to all of the musicians for providing such great musical entertainment. Below is a list of the bands that have performed for us throughout the years. Please forgive us if we happened to miss any.

47th Street Concertina Club	Dynatonos	Jolly Harmony 7
Alvin Styczynski	Ed Guca's Polish Canadians	Jolly Harmony Kings
Ampol Aires	Eddie Blazonczyk & his Versatones	Jolly Joe Timmer
Badger Button Box Club	Eddie Forman Orchestra	Jolly Stan Lee (Wesoly Stas)
Bal-Aires	Eddie Korosa, Jr.	Jolly Two
Bay State IV	Energy	Julida Boys
Bernie Witkowski	Ernie Stetz's Bee Sharps	Ken Brandt
Big Daddy Lackowski	E-Z Tones	Keynotes
Big Don Martin & Happiness	Ferd Buchel	Krew Bros.
Bill Czerniak's Concertina Band	Five-of-a-Kind	Larry & his Larks
Bill Rochan	Foot Stompers	Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push
Bill Savatski	Frank Wojnarowski w/ Teresa Zapolska	Lenny Zadel
Blue Lites	Frank Yankovic	Lil Ronnie
Bob Doszak	Freddy K	Little Johnny Wornardt
Boys from Baltimore	FreezeDried	Louie Bashell
Brass Express	Full Circle	Louie Byk
Brass Release	Gennie "O" & The Next Step	Majestic Sounds
Brass with Class	Gerry Tarka's Midwest Sounds	Marion Lush & his White Eagles
Brass Works	G-Notes	Mark Ksiazek's Zug Islanders
Bruno Mikos & the Harmony Stars	Golden Stars	Maroszek Brothers
Buffalo Hi-Notes	Good Times	Marv Herzog's Bavarian Band
Buffalo Touch	Gordon Hartmann	Melody Kings
Casey Homel & the World's Honkiest	Grabinski Orchestra	Memory Makers
Polka Band	Hank Haller	Michigan Connection
Change of Pace	Happy Harmony Boys	Michigan Polka Jacks
Charm City Sound	Happy Louie & Julcia	Midway Cavaliers
Chet Lasik & his Concertina Jam	Happy Medium	Mike Stevens Band
Chicago Magic	Happy Richie & the Royalties	Misty Blues
Chicago's Milwaukee Avenue	Happy Times	Modernaires
Chi-Town Express	Harold Mitas	Monumentals
Chi-Town Express Reunion	Henny & the Versa J's	Mrozinski Bros.
Chris, Jack, & Music	Honky Hoppers	Mystics
Concertina All Stars	Imperials of Toledo	New Beats
Crusade	Instrumentals	New Brass
Dale Genadek & the Cavaliers	Invictas	New Brass Express
Debonaires	IPA Tribute Band	New Generation
Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men	Jackie Libera & The Classix	New Phaze
Detroit Polka Authority	Jason Uzi & Ethnic Jazz	New Tradition
Dial-A-Tones	Jax	Northeast Five
Dick Kossins	Jerry Marsolek	Norm Dombrowski & the Happy Notes
Dick Pillar Polkabration Band	Jerry Zahara's Happy Stars	Norm Edlebeck
Dick Rodgers	Jersey Polka Richie	Nutones
Dobosenski Bros. & the Cavaliers	Jim Lovett & the Polka Stars	Nu-Trels
Doc Lula	Jimmie Mieszala & the Music	Old School
Dominoes	Explosion	One More Tyme
Don Gralak	Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz	Orlando Polka Magic
Don Jodlowski's Vibra-Sounds	Jimmy Weber and the Sounds	Pala Brothers
Don Peachey	Joe Oberaitis	Pan Franek & Zosia
Downtown Sound	Joe Pat w/ Valerie Gracyas	Phocus with Scrubby
Dyna Dukes	Joe Walega & the Happy Hearts	Polish All Stars
DynaBrass	John Gora & Gorale	Polish Connection
Dynamics	John Stevens & Double Shot	Polish Friends
Dynasticks	Jolly Brothers	Polish Kid

IPA Festival & Convention: Bands - continued

Polish Show Band	Roger Majeski & the Harmony Kings	The Hi-Notes
Polka Country Musicians	Rudy Hodnick	The Knewz
Polkadelics	Sam & Oscar/Polka Clowns	The Music Company
Polka Dots	Sound-Aires	The Naturals
Polka Family	South Side Sound	The Polka Sonics
Polka Method	Stan Lee w/ vocalist Helen "Zosia"	The Project
Polka Playmates	Dudek	The Tones
Polka Queens	Stan Molick's Pensionaires	Toledo Polkamotion
Polka Shamrocks	Stas Bulanda & Old School Review	Tom Altenburg & his Hap-E-Notes
Polka Soul	Stas Bulanda's Average Polka Band	Touch of Brass
Polka Towners	Stas Bulanda's Dyno Chicago	Tower City Drive
Polkaliers	Stas Golonka's Chicago Masters	Trel Tones
Polka-Tels	Stephanie & her Honky Band	Tripol Aires Plus 1
Polkatown Sound	Steve Adamczyk	Uncle Ozzie
Polonaires	Style Stix	Van Den Berghs
Prime Drive	Swiss Girls	Vern Meisner
Rainbow Valley Dutchmen	Take Five	Vinnie & the New Soundz
Ray Jay & the Carousels	Ted Koltowicz	V-Tones
Ray Kaminski	The Beat	Wally Pulak
Renata & Girls, Girls, Girls	The Boys	Walter Procanyn
Rich Yurkovich	The Brass Connection	Wanda & Stephanie
Richie Vadnal & the Vadnals	The Brass Express	Watkowski Family
Rodgers and Friends	The Divas	Windy City Brass
Roger & the Villagers	The Dyna Dukes	Windy City Brass Reunion
Roger Bright	The Goral Boys	

IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame Nominations

Those who desire to nominate themselves or other candidates for IPA Polka Hall of Fame induction consideration must provide a biography of the nominee, not to exceed two single-spaced pages. This biography must also accompany a completed IPA Polka Hall of Fame Nomination Form. The form can be found at ipapolkas.com under the "Hall of Fame / Awards" tab. The form is also available by request by writing to: IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame Nomination, P.O. Box 91, Dover, DE 19903. The biography and nomination form must be mailed together to the address above so that the submission is postmarked by December 31, 2018.

Polka Music Hall of Fame® Still Needs You!

The Polka Music Hall of Fame® and Museum still needs you. As you may already know, fund raising drives were started to obtain financial assistance for the maintenance and operation of the Polka Music Hall of Fame® and Museum. The Polka Music Hall of Fame® is the only type of institution of its kind in the world, and the continued success and growth of this institution is dependent on the support of all people in polkas. Through the efforts of a couple of disc jockeys promoting a radio-thon type of show, nearly four thousand dollars has been raised from their listeners alone. Other disc jockeys have used their radio shows to promote the fund raising drive and have contributed to the success of the effort. This is an ongoing challenge and the need for funds is essential. For 14 years a fundraising event has been held at the PACC in Ludlow, Massachusetts to benefit the Polka Music Hall of Fame®. This has grown over the years and today it is a two-day polka event. The Hall of Fame has benefitted from the hard work and fan support of this event.

If you are a concerned polka fan concerned about the future of polka music, or if you are associated in some business or organizational capacity, why not make your contribution to the only polka museum in the world? All contributions should be sent to the International Polka Association, 4608 S. Archer Avenue, Chicago, IL 60632. Contributors of \$100.00 or more will have their name engraved on the special directory displayed in the Hall of Fame Museum.

IPA REGISTERED TRADEMARKS

Did you know that the International Polka Association, Inc. own three registered trademarks? The IPA logo that you see on all IPA promotional material is registered along with the title of our festival International Polka Festival and the Polka Music Hall of Fame®. These three are registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

IPA Polka Music Awards

2017 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Polish Style Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Polish Style Female Vocalist: Stacey Morris
 Favorite Polish Style Band: Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite Polish Style CD: "Dance All Night" by DynaBrass
 Favorite Polish Style Song: "Dance All Night" by DynaBrass
 Favorite International Style Male Vocalist: Steve Meisner
 Favorite International Style Female Vocalist: Mollie Busta Lange
 Favorite International Style Band: The Alex Meixner Band
 Favorite International Style Song: "Dunaju Dunaju" by John Jaworski
 Favorite International Style CD: "40th Anniversary" by
 Fred Ziwich & International Sound Machine

2016 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Mollie Busta Lange
 Favorite Band: Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite Polish Style Album: "Where The Boys Are" by The Boys
 Favorite Polish Style Song: "Mary Jane" by The Boys
 Favorite International Style Album: "Squeezebox By Request" by
 Squeezebox
 Favorite International Style Song (TIE): "North Shore Polka" by
 Squeezebox &
 "Church Picnic Polka" by The Dujka Brothers

2015 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Mollie Busta Lange
 Favorite Band: The Knewz
 Favorite Polish Polka Album: "Breaking Knewz" by The Knewz
 Favorite International Polka Album: "Thank You Music Lovers" by
 Steve Meisner
 Favorite Song: "Root Beer Rag" by The Knewz

2014 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Mollie Busta Lange
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men
 Favorite Album or CD: "Love Notes" by Kevin Adams
 Favorite Song: "The Roads We Travel" by Polka Country Musicians

2013 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Mollie Busta Lange
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men
 Favorite Album or CD: "Save the Music" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite Song: "Rose Colored Glasses" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

2012 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Mollie Busta Lange
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men
 Favorite Album or CD: "Yesterday's Songs" by IPA Tribute Band
 Favorite Song: "For the Love of the Music" by
 Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze

2011 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Mollie Busta Lange
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men
 Favorite Album or CD: "A New Day" by The Boys
 Favorite Song: "Years Ago" by The Knewz

2010 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Stephanie Pietrzak
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men
 Favorite Album or CD: "Get Up and Dance" by
 Polka Country Musicians
 Favorite Song: "Get Up and Dance" by
 Polka Country Musicians

2009 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Ania Piwowarczyk
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men
 Favorite Album or CD: "Don't Stop the Music" by
 Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men
 Favorite Song: "Don't Stop the Music" by
 Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men

2008 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Stephanie Pietrzak
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men
 Favorite Album or CD: "4th Edition" by The Knewz
 Favorite Song: "Polka Memories" by Stephanie Pietrzak

2007 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Stephanie Pietrzak
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men
 Favorite Album or CD: "Bulletproof Polkas" by John Gora & Gorale
 Favorite Song: "Kiss of Fire" by John Gora & Gorale

2006 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Lynn Marie Rink
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men
 Favorite Album or CD: Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men
 Favorite Song: "As Sweet As Candy" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

2005 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Stephanie Pietrzak
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men
 Favorite Album or CD: "Under the Influence" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Song: "Squeezebox" by Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones

2004 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Biegaj
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Dee Dee Ogrodny
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men
 Favorite Album or CD: "Come on Over" by Henny & the Versa J's
 Favorite Song: "Do You Remember?" by Henny & the Versa J's

IPA Polka Music Awards - continued

2003 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Lynn Marie Rink
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Jimmy Sturr & His Orchestra
 Favorite Album or CD: "Past, Present, Forever" by the Ampol Aires
 Favorite Song: "Angelina" by FreezeDried

2002 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr.
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Lynn Marie Rink
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men
 Favorite Album or CD: "My Father's Shoes" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Song: "I'm a Musician Polka" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones

2001 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Dee Dee Ogradny
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Album or CD: "Live and Kickin'" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Song: "Bride and Groom" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones

2000 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Lynn Marie Rink
 Favorite Band or Instrumental Group:
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite Album or CD: "Mi Lenny Um" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite Song: "Will There Be Sweethearts in Heaven" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

1999 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk Sr.
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Dee Dee Ogradny
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Album or CD: "Smokin' Polkas" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Song: "Beautiful Lies" by Frankie Liszka & TBC

1998 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Ania Piwowarczyk
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite Album or CD: "Push it to the Limit" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite Song: "Push it to the Limit" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

1997 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Dee Dee Ogradny
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite CD: "Home is Where the Heart Is" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite Song: "Say Hello to Someone in Massachusetts" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

1996 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Dee Dee Ogradny
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite CD: "Irresistible You" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite Song: "Irresistible You" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

1995 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Dee Dee Ogradny
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite CD: "For Old Time Sake" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite Song: "For Old Time Sake" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

1994 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Dee Dee Ogradny
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Jimmy Sturr & His Orchestra
 Favorite CD: "Always, Forever, and a Day" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Song: "Who the Hell is Johnny" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones

1993 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Dee Dee Ogradny
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite Album or CD: "Pure Energy" by Energy
 Favorite Song: "If I Could Be Like You" by Henny & the Versa J's

1992 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Dee Dee Ogradny
 Instrumental Group: Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite Album or CD: "Most Requested Hits" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite Song: "Polish and Proud of It" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones

1991 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Dee Dee Ogradny
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Polka Family Band
 Favorite Album or CD: "We Are Family" by Polka Family
 Favorite Song: "We Are Family" by Polka Family

1990 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Gennie "O" Okrzesik
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Jimmy Sturr & His Orchestra
 Favorite Album or CD: "Fiddle Fiddle" by Polka Family
 Favorite Song: "Fiddle Fiddle" by Polka Family

IPA Polka Music Awards - continued

1989 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Mary Lou Czerniak
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Jimmy Weber & The Sounds
 Favorite Album or CD: "All In My Love For You" by
 Jimmy Sturr & His Orchestra
 Favorite Song: "Thank You Dear and Give Her Roses" by Walter
 Ostanek

1988 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Gennie "O" Okrzesik
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Jimmy Weber & The Sounds
 Favorite Album or CD: "Join the Polka Generation" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite Song: "All the Flowers" by Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones

1987 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Gennie "O" Okrzesik
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Jimmy Sturr & His Orchestra
 Favorite Album or CD: "A Polka Just for Me" by Jimmy Sturr
 Favorite Song: Polish Prayer Waltz by
 Stas Bulanda & the Average Polka Band

1986 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Gennie "O" Okrzesik
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Album or CD: "Another Polka Celebration" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Song: "Polka Celebration" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones

1985 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Gennie "O" Okrzesik
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Album or CD: "70 Years of Hits" by Frankie Yankovic
 Favorite Song: "Got No Reason Polka" by The Brass Connection

1984 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Renata Romanek
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Album or CD: "Simply Polkamentary" by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push w/ Mary Lou Czerniak
 Favorite Song: "No Problem" by Dick Pillar

1983 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Renata Romanek
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Album or CD: "Polka Medley" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Song: "Mountaineer Music" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones

1982 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Renata Romanek
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Album or CD: "Live Wire" by The Dynatones
 Favorite Song: "Up in the Attic" by The Sounds

1981 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Gennie "O" Okrzesik
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones and
 Jimmy Sturr & His Orchestra
 Favorite Album or CD: Twelve Pack of Polkas by
 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
 Favorite Song: "A Little Bit of Poland" by Jimmy Sturr & His Orchestra

1980 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Renata Romanek
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Jimmy Sturr
 Favorite Album or CD: Jimmy Sturr
 Favorite Song: not available or not awarded

1979 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Renata Romanek
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Album or CD: "Polka Cruise" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Song: "Pretty Mary Ann" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones

1978 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Regina Kujawa
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Jimmy Sturr & His Orchestra
 Favorite Album or CD: "Roaring Polkas" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Song: "Tu I Tak I Tam" by Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones

1977 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Marion Lush
 Favorite Female Vocal group: Wanda & Stephanie
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Album or CD: "The New Brass Rolls out the Barrel" by
 The New Brass
 Favorite Song: "Roll out the Barrel" by The New Brass

1976 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: The Langner Sisters
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Album or CD: "Six Million Dollar Band" by The Dynatones
 Favorite Song: "La Paloma Blanca Polka" by Dick Pillar Orchestra

1975 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: The Langner Sisters
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Album or CD: "Polka Concert" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Song: "My Mary Lou" by Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones

IPA Polka Music Awards - continued

1974 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: The Langner Sisters
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Jimmy Sturr & His Orchestra
 Favorite Album or CD: Country Flavored Polkas Vol. 2 by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Song: not available or not awarded

1973 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Eddie Blazonczyk
 Favorite Female Vocalist: The Golden Stars Wanda & Stephanie
 (Pietrzak)
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Jimmy Sturr & His Orchestra
 Favorite Album or CD: "Polka Hits" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Song: "Lover Oh Lover" by Dick Pillar

1972 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Gene Wisniewski
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Regina Kujawa
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Jimmy Sturr Orchestra
 Favorite Album or CD: "Polka Goodies" by Skaja Sisters
 Favorite Song: "Stella at the Wheel" by Pala Brothers

1971 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Gene Wisniewski
 Favorite Female Vocalist: The Skaja Sisters Irene & Barbra
 Favorite Instrumental Group: The New Brass
 Favorite Album or CD: "Let The Sunshine In" by Golden Brass
 Favorite Song: "Let The Sunshine In" by Golden Brass

1970 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Marion Lush
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Regina Kujawa
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Ray Henry
 Favorite Album or CD: "Love & Peace" by Happy Louie
 Favorite Song: "Love & Peace" by Happy Louie

1969 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Marion Lush
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Teresa Zapolska
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Album or CD: "America's Most Wanted Polka Band" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
 Favorite Song: "Angeline be Mine" by
 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones

1968 Polka Music Awards

Favorite Male Vocalist: Marion Lush
 Favorite Female Vocalist: Teresa Zapolska
 Favorite Instrumental Group: Ampol Aires
 Favorite Album or CD: "Red Hot Polkas" by Happy Louie
 Favorite Song: "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain" by Marion Lush

IPA 2018 Polka Music Awards Notice

Polka Recording Companies and Artists Must Submit Nominations by January 14, 2019

The International Polka Association is preparing to conduct the balloting for the annual Polka Music Awards that will determine the *Favorite Polish Polka Album*, *Favorite International Polka Album*, *Favorite Polish Polka Song*, *Favorite International Polka Song*, *Favorite Polish-Style Male Vocalist*, *Favorite International-Style Male Vocalist*, *Favorite Polish-Style Female Vocalist*, *Famous International-Style Female Vocalist*, and *Favorite Polish-Style Band*, and *Favorite International-Style Band* for 2018. The International-Style awards recognize styles such as Slovenian, Czech, German, Dutchmen, etc.

To ensure all qualified recordings and artists are included on the ballot, recording companies and polka artists must download, complete, and submit the IPA Polka Music Awards Affidavit found on the IPA web site at www.ipapolkas.com. The document is located under the "Hall of Fame/Awards" tab. A physical recording in compact disc (CD) format must accompany the affidavit and mailed to: IPA Polka Music Awards, P.O. Box 91, Dover, DE 19903 postmarked by January 14, 2019. The completed affidavit may also be scanned and emailed to: ipahalloffame@gmail.com, but the CD must still be submitted even if the recording was digitally released. Please note that only recordings released between January 1 and December 31, 2018 are eligible for the *Favorite Polish Polka Album*, *Favorite International Polka Album*, and their respective *Favorite Song* awards. Eligible recording companies and artists may nominate one song for *Favorite Song* award consideration from each released recording. Recordings released in previous years are not eligible, even if re-released as part of a new compilation album.

Prompt action is vital to ensure deserving polka recordings and artists are properly recognized for the good of the entire polka industry. Any questions concerning this process should be directed to Fred Bulinski at ipahalloffame@gmail.com or (443) 956-3087.

2018 IPA Membership

For the first time in many, many years, we have reached over 1,000 members. We cannot thank you enough for your continued support of the International Polka Association. We would not have reached the 50-year mark without every single one of you! On behalf of all the officers and directors of the IPA, we thank you.

IPA Lifetime Members

Kevin Adams, OH	Randy Koslosky, PA	Elizabeth Rozek, NY	Eugene Thoms, MN
Barbara Ann Adams, OH	Gary Kuchenbecker, WI	Antoinette Rozek, NY	Jeff Tomczak, MN
Krystin Benkowski, OH	Kevin Kurdziel, NJ	Tony Rozek, Jr., NY	Ron Urbanczyk, NY
Tish Blazonczyk, IL	Ed Kutas, NY	James Sajkowicz, Jr., CT	Linda Walczynski-Louie, MN
Fr. Dennis Bogusz, PA	Rosanna Kutas, NY	Edward Skalka, IL	Kevin Weinstock, WI
Mike Cielecki, MN	Ted Lange, OH	Steven Sopko, MN	Steve Wejrowski, MI
Kim Cielecki, MN	Helga Leonard, PA	Edward Stachura, FL	Fredolin (Fritz) Willfahrt, WI
Sue Conway, IL	Thomas Lewandowski, IN	Chase Stanczewski, NY	Ken Yagelski, VA
Wally Czaska, Sr., NY	Janice Lochner, MD	Logan Stanczewski, NY	Joe Zalewski, OH
Dan Czerniak, MN	Craig Marsolek, IL	Frank Stanger, OH	Richard Zebrowski, PA
James DeGiosafatto, NJ	John Matyjas, NY	Chuck Stastny, IA	Fred Ziwich, OH
Karen Dekoski, MI	Albert Meilutis, NY	Larry Stec, MI	Bob Zukowski, MA
Michael Depaoli, NV	Ronald Nitka, WI	Kelly Stec, MI	
Greg Drust, WI	Edward Ostry, OH	Lawrence M. Stec, MI	Chicago Public Library Music
Joseph Heier, WA	Mashelle Pavay, IL	Anne Stec, MI	Dept; IL
Linda Hurley, VT	Frank Piotrowski, MI	Chester Sterczek, IL	Library of Congress Music
Pete Jend, CO	Paul Rite, IL	David Straup-Slick, MD	Dept., Washington DC
Ray Kanoza, CAN	Steve Rodgers, WI	Jim Sturr, NY	
Fred Kendzierski, FL	Judy Rosinski, NY	Eugene Swick, CA	
Linda Kendzierski, FL	Mike Rozegnal, MI	Sue Szela, MA	

Pauline V. Adelman, IL	James Benline, OH	Tony Blazonczyk, IL	Erica Bulanda-McMaster, IL
Jessica Agin, IL	Jason Bennett, OH	Alicia Bliznik, IL	Jennifer Bulanda-Ruitenber, IL
Father Tom Aleksa, PA	CD Benson, TX	Christopher Bogdon, PA	Freddie Bulinski, DE
Ken Anderson, PA	Sandy Berestka, MA	Emma Bogdon, PA	Marsha Bulinski, DE
Alan Andrascik, PA	Walter Berkowicz, IL	Fr. Dennis Bogusz, PA	Edmund Burdzy, MO
Miroslaw Antas, IL	Richard Bernier, CT	Joyce Bohuslav, TX	Jim Busta, WI
William Antonowicz, Jr., CT	Laura Bethke, IL	Willie Bohuslav, TX	Mollie Busta, WI
Tammy Arnes, MI	Bud Beyer, IL	David Bonczkiewicz, AZ	Tom Butash, Canada
Vince Ashman, TX	David Bezdziecki, MI	Candy Bonnin, WI	Marianne Buzinski, MI
Tony Ayala, IN	Debbie Bezler, IN	Gloria Bonnin, WI	Krystyna Bylinowski, Canada
Marty Babich, MI	Peter Bezler, IN	Anna Borowski, IL	Robert Caggiano, NY
Teresa Bagrowski, MI	Eddie Biegaj, NJ	Bob Borowski, IL	Patricia Caldwell, FL
Bernice Baniewicz, NV	Michael Biela, WV	Joe Bosch, WI	Dianne Canning, CT
Robert Banoczi, CO	Richard Biela, OH	Natalie Boyd, MD	Richard Cerajewski, IN
Carolyn Baras, MO	Darryl Bielski, NY	Jim Brado, NY	Dorothy Cerilli, NH
John A. Baras, MO	Marty Biniasz, NY	Marie Brado, NY	Kathy Cernosek, TX
Gerrie Barsukiewicz, NY	Stephen Binkiewicz, OH	Larry Breitbach, IA	Randy Cernosek, TX
Ray Barsukiewicz, NY	Adam Biskup, Canada	Mary Lou Brock, MI	Arnold Checkalski, WI
Jim Barvainis, NY	Angela Biskup, Canada	Linda Lee Brown, MI	Brian Chenkus, MA
Stan Baryla, MI	Mitch Biskup, MA	Paul Brozek, MA	Linda Chesky-Fernandes, MA
Allen Bassel, IL	Ronald Biskup, MI	Joe Brozowski, NY	Paul Chichin, PA
Gary Bassett, FL	Sharon Biskup, MA	Gary Brueggen, WI	Rick "Chach" Chimniak, IL
Michael Bednarz, MA	Joey Blackburn, NY	Therese Bruzdinski, IL	Robin Chimniak, IL
Jeffrey Behrens, WI	Carolyn Blajda, MA	Ron Buczko, IL	Florian Chmielewski, MN
Billy Belina, Sr., MA	Frank Blajda, MA	Helenrae Budzilek, OH	Patty Chmielewski, MN
Carol Benamati, PA	Kaila Blaskowski, WI	Ray Budzilek, Jr., OH	Greg Chwojdak, OH
Barbara Benkowski, OH	Michael Blaskowski, WI	Becky Bukowski, IL	Dr. Ronald Cichy, MI
Rich Benkowski, OH	Kathy Blazonczyk, IL	Diane Bulanda, IL	John Cieplik, MA

2018 IPA Membership - continued

Lorraine Ciesla, IL	Sue Dunaj, WI	Anne Gierut, IL	Jeanne Henderson, PA
Norbert Ciesla, IL	Tina Dunaj, WI	Anthony Glaza, MI	Anita Herrmann, MN
Eric Cieslak, NY	Daniel Durski, MD	Bill Gliwa, IL	Virgil Herrmann, MN
Leonard Cioch, IL	Stephen Durski, PA	Denise Gliwa, IL	Camille Hjelm, IL
Cathy Coblisch, NY	Happy Louie Dusseault, MA	Doris Goche-Benson, TX	Bob Houston, FL
Steve Coblisch, NY	Julcia Dusseault, MA	Sharon Goldyn, NY	Ken Houston, IN
Mark Coleman, NY	Dr. Robert Dutka, IL	Eugene Golomb, NY	Gina Howes, IL
David Cook, ME	Greg Dybas, IL	Stas Golonka, IL	Peter Hrycyk, IL
Kevin Cornnell, WI	Chester Dziadosz, NY	Estelle Gomulka, MA	Sandra Hrynio, NY
Michael Costa, NJ	Jennifer Dziadosz, NY	Gina Gomulka, IL	Gary Hudik, IL
Donna Cotrupe, NY	Melissa Dziadosz, NY	Lenny Gomulka, MA	Karen Hudy, IL
Amanda Cowe, IL	Andrew Dziagwa, IL	Richie Gomulka, IL	Bini Slowiak Husain, IL
Dale Cribbins, MI	Carol Jean Dziedziak-Zanck, IL	Suellen Gomulka, IL	Joey Husain, IL
Tony Crispo, IL	Martin Dzik, IN	Teddy Gomulka, MA	Jerry Hyzy, IL
Patrick Henry Cukierka, IL	Bob Earl, OH	Dianne Gora, Canada	Donna Inglot, PA
Charles Curtin, MA	Brian Earl, OH	John Gora, Canada	June Sherry Ingram, CT
Helen Curtin, MA	Sandy Earl, OH	Bernie Gorak, IL	Brent Iskra, NJ
Brad Cutright, TX	Craig Ebel, MN	Gerry Gorak, IL	Debbie Jackinoski, IL
Nancy Czabaj, MA	Pat Eckman, MN	Walter Goralczyk, OH	Marie Jagiella, IN
Irene Czajka, Canada	Ted Eckman, MN	Ronald Gregg, PA	Tim Jagodzinski, IL
John Czajka, Canada	Batuhan Eisen, IL	Fr. Philip Grib, IL	Mary Ann Jakubielski, IN
Rob Czech, MA	Bill Ellis, IN	Joan Griffin, TX	Robert Jakubielski, IN
Jill Czerniak, OH	Hilda Ellis, NY	Greg Griffin, Jr., TX	Lisa Jakubowski, IL
Mary Lou Czerniak, MN	Melanie Ellis, IN	Floyd Grocholski, MI	Lorraine Jankowski, WI
Ernest Daigle, MA	Glen Embree, PA	Veronica Grocholski, MI	Mark Janson, MI
Patricia Daigle, MA	Michelle Eron, WI	Mark Grochowski, CT	Tyler Janson, MI
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Karen Danielczuk, CT	Zen Esula, IL	Eleanor Grudi, PA	Zachary Janson, MI
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Joseph Dembeck, Jr., NY	Steven Fenus, PA	Robert Guyette, MA	Allan Jelinek, IL
Joseph Dendis, NY	Robert Fidler, TN	Henry Guzevich, PA	Linda Jelinek, IL
Maria Dipytic, PA	John Filipczak, AZ	Kenneth Habrack, MO	Deb Jones, OH
Bill Dobrucki, NY	Myrna Filipczak, AZ	Don Haderle, CA	Joanne M. Kozleski Jones, IL
Chet Dombrowski, WI	Ken Foldenauer, NC	Brian Hafeman, WI	Barry Juhasz, CT
Richie Dombrowski, CT	Carol Forman, MA	Cherie Hafeman, WI	Jessica Jurevis, IL
Wally Dombrowski, CT	Eddie Forman, MA	Jerry Halkoski, WI	Rebecca Jurevis, IL
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Richard Kois, PA	Julie Ann Kurdys, NY	Pat Maduzia, IL	John Mikrut, IL
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Teri O'Brien, TX	Keith Pietranczyk, IL	Cheryl Rognerud, TX	Peter Siuda, MA
Joseph Oginsky, MI	Renda Pietrkiewicz, MI	Walter Rognerud, TX	Eddie Siwiec, MI
Joan Ogrodnik, MA	Jennifer Pijanowski, NY	Cletus Roh, MD	Michael Skalecki, WI
Dee-Dee Ogrodny, TN	Richard Pijanowski, NY	Marlene Rohal, Canada	Jay Skiba, NY
Ryan Ogrodny, TN	Dick Pillar, CT	Tim Rohal, Canada	Sophie Skinger, CT
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Daniel Okrzesik, IL	Jim Piotrowski, IL	Chris Rose, DE	Raymond E. Skorka, FL
Gennie Okrzesik, IL	John Piotrowski, IL	Dawn Rosinski, MI	Sylvia Skowronek, IL
Gintare Okrzesik, IN	Mitch Piotrowski, IN	George Rosinski, MI	Sue Skurzewski, NY
Ted Okrzesik, IL	Fred Pisarski, IL	Kayla Rosinski, NY	Theresa Slipek, WI
Tim Okrzesik, IL	Ania Piwowarczyk, Canada	Gary Rozak, OH	Aaron Slivinski, MI
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Jennifer Okrzeszik, IL	Donna Pociask, IN	Tony Rozek, Jr., NY	Marge Smith, OH
John Okrzeszik, IL	Daniel Poczciwinski, NY	Waldemar Rudziecki, Poland	Steven Smith, AZ
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Rudy Ozymy, TX	Daniel Prigge, Netherlands	Ray Rzeszutko, IL	William Stasila, WI
Alan Pala, IN	Chris Prochot, IL	Rick Rzeszutko, IL	Frank Stetar, PA
Chester Pala, IN	Kathy Prochot, IL	Sally Rzeszutko, IL	Frank Stoffa, IL
Jean Pala, IN	Matt Prochot, IL	Ralph Sabatini, MI	James Stoller, WI
Laurie Pala, IL	Frank Proszowski, PA	Mary Saber, CA	Keith Stras, IL
Anthony Paliga, IL	Carl Prushinski, FL	Myna Sadowski, PA	Judy Stringhill, PA
Ron Palkowski, MI	John Prytko, Jr., CT	Eugene Sadus, IL	Stanley Strojny, WI
Mitch Paprocki, Canada	Michael Pucowski, NJ	Shirley Sains, IL	David Strok, IN

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Jill Styczynski, WI	Carol Trzebiatowski, IL	Jerry Wantroba, III, IL	Ken Yagelski, VA
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Richard Szuflika, NY	Brian Urbanczyk, NY	Darrell Weltin, MI	Eddie Zavaski, Jr., CT
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Brian Szumigalski, IL	Ron Urbanczyk, NY	Keith Werwas Jr., IL	Tyler Zawatski, IL
Barbara Szydowski, NY	Ed Vatavuk, PA	Keith Wesolek, NY	Chris Zawisza, Canada
Maria Szymanski, NY	Andrew Vensko, PA	Dr. Mitchell White, TX	Dianne Zawisza, Canada
Thaddeus Szymanski, NY	Tim Verthein, MN	Claude Wiatrowski, CO	Terry Zaworski, IL
Val Szymanski, WI	Elaine Veverka, IL	Sylvester Wienclaw, MI	Chris Zelasko, MI
Helen Szywala, TX	Phyllis Videtich, IL	Stan Wilgocki, NY	Jacob Zelasko, MI
Ted Szywala, TX	Johnetta Vinka, OH	Fredolin (Fritz) Willfahrt, WI	Jenna Zelasko, MI
Dick Tady, PA	Randy Vokral, IL	Dianne Winiaz, MA	John Zelasko, MI
Brian Talaske, MI	Al Volek, PA	Timothy Winiaz, MA	John H. Zelasko, MI
Arlene Talbot, IL	Alfred Vrazel, TX	Tony Winiaz, Canada	Pam Zelasko, MI
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Diane Trina, IL	Jack Walsh, IL	Leonard Wolski, IL	Margaret Zotkiewicz-
Darryl Troczynski, MI	David Walter, OH	Mary Wolski, IL	Dramczyk, OH
Michele Troczynski, MI	Frank Waltos, MD	Tim Wolter, MI	Ron Zywiiciel, IL
Chuck Troiani, NY	Paul Wanas, PA	Joseph Wondolowski, IL	

Leon Kozicki Award

The IPA Polka Hall of Fame and Music Awards Committee collaborated with the body of Trustees to establish a new annual award to recognize deserving "side men or women" of notable polka bands. To honor the legacy of the long-time Chairman of the IPA Polka Hall of Fame, Leon Kozicki, the committee and Trustees also recommended the award be titled "The Leon Kozicki Trustees Award." The IPA Board of Directors approved the establishment of the award effective in 2015.

Candidates for The Leon Kozicki Award must meet the following criteria: 1.) must not have been inducted into the IPA Polka Hall of Fame nor be listed on the current year's ballot (note: receiving this award would not disqualify deserving candidates from subsequent Polka Hall of Fame consideration); 2.) Must have at least 15 years of dedicated, significant service to the same prominent musical group and/or leader; and 3.) May not be deceased. Each year during the Hall of Fame/Awards cycle, the IPA Polka Hall of Fame Committee develops a short list of potential award candidates. The list is shared with the Trustees who vote to determine their choice of the most deserving candidate.

Award Winners

2018

Rich Bernier

2017

Joe Sokol

2016

Eric Parks

2015

Tom Kula

2017-2018 IPA Executive Board



From L-R: Keith Pietranczyk, Patrick Henry Cukierka, Sue Szela, Freddy "K" Kendzierski, Jake Mikrut, Peter Danielczuk, Laura Mateja, Mike Matousek, Dan Mateja, Dennis Mikolajewski, Bonnie Ryniec, John Zelasko, Debbie Dunaj, Lori Urbanczyk, John Krawisz, Christy Krawisz, Lori Lewandowski, and Rick Rzeszutko.

We would like to welcome Lynn Kaminski as our newly elected Financial Secretary and thank John Krawisz for his many contributions during his tenure on the board. Congratulations to Lori Hudy-Lewandowski (IL) and Sue Szela (MA) for being elected to their first two-year terms after completing the final year of former directors' terms. We also welcome Brian Kapka (IL), Jenny Bulanda-Ruitenbergh (IL), Jill Czerniak (OH) and Brad Turk (FL) as our newest-elected directors. Thank you to Bonnie Ryniec (IL), Mike Matousek (MD), Jake Mikrut (IL), and John Zelasko (MI) for their time and talents as directors of the IPA.



Festival of Bands - Warm Up Dance
Saturday January 19, 2019 ~ Polonia Banquets
Music by:
FULL CIRCLE ~ Honoring the Music of the Tones



Roger Malinowski, Max Kawa, Jerry Mytych, Wally Maduzia, Rich Sendra, Zach Ziobro, and Lenny Gomulka

50th Annual Chicago Festival of Polka Bands
Sunday January 20, 2019 ~ Glendora House

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

Welcome New Members!

Anthony Glaza, MI
 Emily Olszewski, PA
 Dave Parcheta, MI
 Stanley Rafa, IL
 Robin Chimniak, IL
 Rick "Chach" Chimniak, IL
 Dan Wolcott, OH
 Christine Misiak, IN
 Thomas Nadolski, FL
 Annette Noell, IN
 Ted Noell, IN
 Gary Bassett, FL
 Irene Czajka, Canada
 John Czajka, Canada
 Eugene Murawski, MI
 Lucas Yash, MA
 John Ryndak, NY
 Linda Ryndak, NY
 Virgil Kazmierski, OH
 Alice Kovarik, WI
 Donna Pociask, IN
 Matthew Kushner, NY
 James Benline, OH
 Don Druga, MA
 David Cook, ME
 Lori Pizarek, IN
 Fred Pisarski, IL
 Carol Jean Dziedziak-Zanck, IL
 Krystyna Bylinowski, Canada
 Carol Kliszak, NY
 Joseph Dendis, NY
 Jasiu Klocek, NY
 Leon Matczak, PA

Lucas Lacki, NY
 Sharon Koslosky, NY
 Jim Busta, WI
 Shari Olszewski, PA
 Cindy Olszewski, PA
 Jason Bennett, OH
 Daryl McGlashen, TX
 Lynn Maynard, CT
 Andrew Krystopolski, FL
 Carole Kryk, FL
 Gerry Kryk, FL
 Keith Werwas, Jr., IL
 Phil Koziak, CT
 Richard Kovalski, VT
 Paul Brozek, MA
 Stan Simms, FL
 Anthony Kurdziel, NY
 Tina Dunaj, WI
 St. Petersburg Polish American Society, FL
 Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach, FL

LIFETIME MEMBERS:

Krystin Benkowski, OH
 Karen Dekoski, MI
 Kevin Kurdziel, NJ

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.

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.

Thank You

Thank you to the following individuals for their donations to the International Polka Association:

- Ronald & Eileen Zywieci
- Gene Swick
- Richie & Barb Benkowski
- Lambert Lasecki
- Stanley Strojny
- Ronald Zywieci
- Rose Marie Tynski
- Stanley "Bruno" Pajak

We sincerely thank you for your contributions and support of the International Polka Association.

In Memoriam

We mourn the passing of the following IPA members. May they rest in peace.

Richard Berkowicz, Past IPA President
 Johnnie Bomba, IPA Hall of Famer
 Dick Blank
 Tommy Kula, Leon Kozicki Trustees Award Winner
 Gilbert Skudlarczyk, Joe Jozwiak Award Winner

Important Dates to Remember

January 19:	IPA Warm-Up Dance Polonia Banquets; Chicago, IL
January 20:	IPA Festival of Chicago Polka Bands Glendora Banquets; Chicago Ridge, IL
March 9-10:	IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Dance Ludlow PACC; Ludlow, MA
March 31:	IPA Hall of Fame Induction Dance Rib River Ballroom; Marathon, WI
April 13:	IPA Warm-Up Dance Rib River Ballroom; Marathon, WI
April 14:	IPA Festival of Wisconsin Polka Bands Rib River Ballroom; Marathon, WI
August 31 - September 1:	IPA Festival & Convention Millennium Hotel; Buffalo, NY

Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award

It's that time of year again to get your nominations in for the annual Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award. How did this award get started? Who does this award honor?

Many years ago, the late Joseph Jozwiak, a director of the IPA, made a suggestion that an award be bestowed upon an individual or group of individuals who have made a significant contribution or endeavor to enhance the promotion of polka music. After much discussion, the International Polka Association (IPA) voted to honor those worthy individuals with the establishment of the Special Achievement Award. To pay tribute to Joe Jozwiak, following his passing, this award was renamed the Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award.

Members of the IPA are invited to send in their nominations to recognize polka personalities who might not otherwise be acknowledged for their dauntless contributions. Nominees can include DJs, polka writers, promoters, ballroom operators, etc. **Bands and musicians are excluded.**

To submit a nomination, complete the form below, include a short biography of the nominees' accomplishments that qualify him or her for this award and mail it to: Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award, c/o IPA; PO Box 1484; Plainfield, IL 60544. Nominations **MUST** be received **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1.** The IPA Board of Directors and Officers will then determine a winner.

Laura Bethke, Past IPA

Financial Secretary, Former Newsletter Editor, Former Assistant to Polka Music Hall of Fame Chairman, Award Winning Writer and guest DJ, from the State of Illinois.

Harold Otto, DJ & Chairman
of Pulaski Polka Days from
the state of Wisconsin.

Eddie Ostry, DJ/IJ and polka promoter from Cleveland, Ohio.

Ernest Daigle, DJ,
Promoter and Director of
PACC in Ludlow, MA from the
State of Massachusetts.

Theresa Parker, founder of polkabeat.com, owner of the Texas Polka News.

Fran Fierst, Polka Promoter from the state of New Jersey, presenting many polka weekends.

Trudy Patek, President of the Versatones Polka Fan Club of Chicago from the state of Illinois.

Stas Golembowski, producer of public access TV program "Polka Time with Stas and Annie" from the state of Rhode Island.

John Piotrowski, Polka promoter from the state of Illinois.

Helen Ptak, Polka promoter from the state of Connecticut.

**Thomas & Shirley
Kalinowski, Polka
Promoter and DJ from the
state of Maryland.**

John Rivard, Editor and producer of The Texas Polka News from the state of Texas.

Butch & Mary Kotowski,
Dance instructors from the
state of Maryland.

Stan Wilgocki, DJ and promotions for Polish New Castle Radio, polka promoter from New York.

Dave Magdalik, DJ & Polka promoter from the state of Florida.

Julianne Mossak, Promoter and Chair for the Minnesota State Polka Festival from the State of Minnesota.

2019 IPA Hall of Fame & Museum Calendar Raffle

Don't miss your change on winning a part of the \$5,200 in prize money we will be awarding in the 2019 Calendar Raffle. The first drawing of names will be at our 50th Annual IPA Festival of Bands on Sunday January 20, 2019. The quicker you get your tickets in, the more chances you have to win! All winners will be put back in the drum and are eligible for future drawings.

All proceeds will be directed to the IPA Hall of Fame and Museum. There are winners everyday between January 1 to April 30, 2019. You have a chance to win \$40, \$90, \$100 or \$125.

Call 1-800-TO-POLKA for tickets or any questions. You can also fill out the tickets enclosed and mail it with your check made payable to the IPA., PO Box 1484, Plainfield, IL 60544.

[illegible]

Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award

Special Achievement Award Winners

1982—Joe Stuzik, MA
 1983—Joe & Wanda Marcissuk, MI
 1984—Chuck & Marge Machay, IL
 1985—Tony & Nancy Jankowski, PA
 1986—Versatones Fan Club, IL
 1987—Rose Marie Tynski, IL
 1988—*unknown*
 1989—*unknown*

Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award Winners

1990—Ann Stanko, CT
 1991—Stella Rojak, FL
 1992—Peter & Florence Hyrcyk, IL
 1993—Virginia Seretny, CT
 1994—Keith Stras, IL
 1995—Carol Rohwetter, MI
 1996—Martha Adamus, IL
 1997—Emily Richards, IL/FL
 1998—*unknown*
 1999—*unknown*
 2000—Eugene “Gene” Swick, CA
 2001—Dianne Rogodzinski Winiarz, MA
 2002—Kenneth Gill, IL
 2003—Peter Hyrcyk

2004—Gilbert Skudlarczyk, IL
 2005—Harriet Koziol, Bea Zawada and Stephanie McCracken, IL
 2006—David Ulczycki, IL
 2007—Peter Danielczuk, CT
 2008—Jerry Wantroba, IL
 2009—Carol Trzebiatowski, IL
 2010—Helen Szubzda Curtin, MA
 2011—Linda Niewierowski, IL
 2012—Ed Szela, MA
 2013—Gilbert “Gil” Ziemiński, MD
 2014—Steve Litwin, NY
 2015—Todd Zaganiacz, MA
 2016—Jill Czerniak, OH
 2017—Les Kapuscinski, Canada
 2018—Norb Ciesla, IL



Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award Nominee

Honoree Name: _____

Signature of Member: _____

Address: _____

Nominations **MUST** be received **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1**.

Mail this to: Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award, c/o IPA, PO Box 1484, Plainfield, IL 60544. Signature is required to verify current membership. Also, include a short biography of the nominee's accomplishments that qualify him or her for this award.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

**This form is only for
nominations.**

**The IPA Board of
Directors and Officers
will determine the
winner.**

The International Polka Association Releases Historic Recording

As the International Polka Association prepared to celebrate its 50th anniversary, the organization is proud to announce the release of a historic recording: "Here's a Gift". All Hall of Fame Inductees were invited to participate in this project, and the result included 39 Hall of Famers! Never before has such a collection of polka stars come together to perform on the same song.

The song "Here's a Gift", written by Randy Koslosky with music performed by the IPA Tribute Band, tells of the greatness of polka music and discusses passing on that legacy. This reflects the mission of the IPA and the work that these polka stars have carried out during their lives. This has been a monumental endeavor from a logistic and engineering standpoint. Laura Mateja acted as executive producer in coordinating everyone involved. With Hall of Famers spread across the country, the project required recording sessions at 16 studios in 10 states and Canada. This was made possible through the generosity and cooperation of engineers and studio owners. The lead engineer was Kevin Altenburg who had the daunting task of piecing together all of the contributed vocals, mixing the music, and perfecting the overall sound.



All participants gave their time and talent without compensation to present this song as a complimentary gift for all to enjoy! To get your **FREE** copy, go to our website at ipapolkas.com, "IPA Videos" on YouTube, or the International Polka Association Facebook page to download this special song.

Written by: Randy Koslosky (Koz B Koz Publ., BMI)

Executive Producer: Laura Mateja (IPA Director)

Producers: Kevin Altenburg and Randy Koslosky

Lead Engineer: Kevin Altenburg

Slideshow Presentation: Dennis Mikolajewski (IPA Director/Website Administrator)

Cover Design: Ash Mateja

Music by: The IPA Tribute Band

Rick Rzeszutko, IPA President (trumpet)

Dan Mateja, IPA Treasurer (sax and clarinet)

John Krawisz, IPA Financial Secretary (accordion and keyboard)

Ray "Melvin" Rzeszutko (drums)

Mike Stapinski (bass)

Kevin Altenburg (concertina)

HOF Singers/Participants: Starring 39 International Polka Association Hall of Fame Inductees!

Kevin Adams, Chet Kowalkowski, Billy Belina, Mollie Busta Lange, Eddie Biegaj, Jackie Libera, Mitch Biskup, Frankie Liszka, Frank Borzymowski, Wally Maduzia, Florian Chmielewski, Mike Matousek, Wally Dombrowski, Bruno Mikos, Craig Ebel, Joe Oberaitis, Carl Finch, Stephanie Pietrzak, Eddie Forman, Dennis Polisky, John Furmaniak, Gary Rhamy, Stas Golonka, Eddie Siwiec, John Gora, Keith Stras, Lenny Gomulka, Jimmy Sturr, Richie Gomulka, Mark Trzepacz, Ed Guca, Alfred Vrazel, Hank Haller, Larry Walk, Ray Jay Jarusinski, Jimmy Weber, Johnny Karas, Fred Ziwich, and Randy Koslosky.

In order of appearance: Lenny Gomulka, Mike Matousek, Jackie Libera, Ed Guca, Frankie Liszka, Ray Jay Jarusinski, Wally Dombrowski, John Gora, Kevin Adams, Johnny Karas, Jimmy Weber, Mitch Biskup, Chet Kowalkowski, Stephanie Pietrzak, Joe Oberaitis, Carl Finch, Mollie Busta Lange, Mark Trzepacz, Eddie Biegaj, Eddie Siwiec, Frank Borzymowski, Craig Ebel, and Randy Koslosky.

Photos and Videos:

Barb Adams, Kevin Adams, Patty Chmielewski, Maryrose Guerrieri Dombrowski, Carol Forman, Estelle Gomulka, Les Kapuscinski, Randy Koslosky, Laura Mateja, and Karen Olszewski.

Recording Engineers:

Kevin Altenburg, Project 2/4 Studios (Illinois)

Ty Baden, Baden Studio (Florida)

Chris Caffery, Face the Music Studios (New York)

Nick Chmielewski, Patty Chmielewski and Michael Bell's

Funtime Polka Party Studio (Minnesota)

John Daigle, Cotton Mill Sound (Massachusetts)

Eric Delegard, Reeltime Audio (Texas)

Rick Gazda, Precision Recording Lab (New Jersey)

Ed Guca, POLANCA (Canada)

Matt Gury, DJRC Records (Michigan)

Thomas Karas, The Cutting Room Studios (son of the late HOF, Tommy Karas) (New York)

Ted Lange, Power Box Studios (Ohio)

Peter Levine, Echo Beach Studios (Florida)

Stephen Matousek, Merlin Studios (Maryland)

Gary Rhamy, Peppermint Studios (Ohio)

Mark Trzepacz, Treepaz Productions Studios (New York)

Danny Zapletal, Czech Productions (Texas)

IPA 50th Celebrations

It has been a season of celebrations. The International Polka Association not only celebrated its 50th anniversary at its festival and convention in Buffalo, New York, but a special 50th anniversary celebration was also held on Sunday, October 28 at Polonia Banquets in Chicago, Illinois. Our photographer extraordinaire, Les Kapucinski, captured so many fabulous moments from both events. Please check out our website at ipapolkas.com or facebook.com/ipapolkas for many fantastic snapshots of both events.



IPA Polka Queens Reunite at 50th Anniversary

During the IPA's 50 year history there have been 26 ladies crowned Miss IPA who have represented the organization promoting polka music. All the former IPA Queens were extended an invitation to attend the 50th anniversary gala celebration and invited to wear their crown and banner throughout the anniversary weekend. Several picture boards were created featuring all of the former queens names and the years they represented the IPA. Special activities were planned including a Queen's Tea, where the ladies shared special memories they had of the day they were crowned Miss IPA and reminisced about special events they participated in during their reign. Another highlight was the introduction of the former Queens on Saturday evening in the ballroom. Master of Ceremonies Mike Matousek, eloquently read each of their bios as they were escorted in. All were wearing their crown and banner and carrying a long stem red rose. President Rick Rzeszutko, assisted by 1st Vice President Christy Krawisz, greeted each of the former queens as they were introduced and presented them with a framed certificate of appreciation for their year of service. It was a tribute to the queens that will be cherished by all who attended.

Submitted by: Barbara Adams



Former IPA Queens (L-R)

Miss IPA 1969-1970: Sally Niemiec Sendra
 Miss IPA 1971-1972: Sharon Ann Skoczylas Koslosky
 Miss IPA 1973-1974: Nancy Dombrowski
 Miss IPA 1975-1976: Robin Platta Chimniak
 Miss IPA 1980-1981: Debbie Walczynski Greene
 Miss IPA 1985-1986: Donna Karas Rogalski
 Miss IPA 1986-1987: Debbie Watkowski Bizon
 Miss IPA 1987-1988: Barbara Gdula Adams
 Miss IPA 1992-1993: Barbara Raczynski Toboy

Polka Jammer Network Sponsors IPA Welcome Party

As polka fans from across the nation gathered in the Courtyard of the Millennium Hotel on Friday for the start of the 50th anniversary celebration they were treated to the lively sounds of Buffalo's own Special Delivery. The band members that welcomed fans to their city include: Tom Goldyn, Mark Kohan, Dave Miesowicz, Jay Skiba and Ted Szymanski. They did a fabulous job and set the tone for some great polka music all weekend.

The Polka Jammer Network, the world leader in Polka entertainment, sponsored this Welcome Party and did a live broadcast. Polka IJ's Billy Belina, Jackie Libera, Keith Stras, Mark & Cherie Trzepacz brought the excitement of the welcome party to those that were enroute to the festival as well as those who were at home yearning to be there to celebrate the 50th anniversary milestone with the IPA. Polka fans were given promotional buttons and koozies to help keep beverages cold. Drawings were held, and door prizes of Polka Jammer premiums were given out to 10 lucky winners who were in attendance.

This was the first glimpse of how special the 50th anniversary celebration would be, with welcome banners and balloons throughout the Courtyard. Polka fans from all corners of the US as well as a large Canadian delegation attended the festival. A large map was hung in the Courtyard where you were encouraged to place a pin from your hometown. The welcome party gave fans an opportunity to renew old friendships and meet some new polka friends as well. A 60 inch TV displayed a slideshow with over 1,500 pictures from IPA festivals and conventions through the years, giving everyone the opportunity to reminisce about the memories made.

The Polka Jammer also continued with a live remote from the ballroom on Friday and Saturday evenings. Polka IJ Joni Zychowski Minehart joined the Jammer team on Saturday evening to broadcast the music to listeners tuning into the Network. The IPA would like to thank the PJN for sponsoring this Welcome Party. The IPA Polka Show can be heard on the Jammer on Saturdays from 5:00 - 6:00 pm EST. Submitted by: Barbara Adams





IPA Birthdays



September

- 1: John Prytko, Jr.; Rosanna Kutas
- 2: Allen Bassel; Mike Evan; Lorraine Ciesla;
John Mikrut; Richard Liput, Jr.; Jimmy Weber
- 3: David Strok;
- 4: Ken Pienta; Louis J. Fava, Jr; Claire Esker
- 5: John Krawisz; Emigene Lahucik
- 6: Susan Jurevis; Jim Brado; Rich Zebrowski
- 7: Jeanne Henderson
- 8: Daniel Nawrot; Brad Turk; Hilda Ellis;
William Antonowicz; Gerald Hanyzewski
- 9: John Mikos; Jennifer Pijanowski
- 10: Jeffrey Guyette; Johnny Waichulis
- 11: Lori Urbanczyk; Sharon Creman; Neil Kosman;
Mary Jean Sweeney; Elizabeth Putz
- 12: Rich "Sudzy" Cerajewski; Ronald Gregg
- 13: Ania Piwowarczyk; David Bonczkiewicz;
Eileen Daniloff; Cary Haraburda; Jeff Heinz
- 14: Butchie Jasiewicz ; Eugene Thoms;
Jim Miller; Dolores Kozlauska
- 15: Rob Piatkowski; Deb DePont; Pat Jayo;
Gerrie Barsukiewicz; Joyce Bohuslav
- 16: Dave Gajda; Lenny Gomulka; Natale Lucas, II
Krystyna Bylinowski
- 17: John Borkowski; Geri Fornek
- 18: Kenneth Larson; Dan Mateja; Stanley Mikrut;
Corinne Turk
- 19: Richie Kois
- 20: Judy Rosinski
- 21: Val Szymanski
- 22: John Paczkowski, Jr., Shirley Sains; Peter Hrycyk
- 23: Ted Kiewicz; Andrew Kuczumarski
- 24: Eddie Sienkowski; Donna Cotrupe; Jo Ann Kielur
- 25: Kevin Kwiatkowski; Joseph Ryndak
- 26: Ed Haynack; Dan Czerniak
- 27: Mike Nowakowski; Diane Bulanda;
Jeffrey Behrens; Sharon Koslosky
- 28: Lori Young; Brian Earl
- 29: Bev Kizior; Dolores Lybik; Gary Hvdik;
Willie Bohuslav
- 30: Walter Dragon

October

- 1: Eleanore Lewandowski; John Heger;
Donna Pociask; Lori Pizarek
- 2: Jim Kilian; Annette Mikrut
- 3: Mike Rozegnal
- 4: Karen Hudy; Kayla Rosinski; Jean Pala;
Ray (Melvin) Rzeszutko
- 5: Dr. Robert Dutka; Bruno Mikos; John Gembka
- 6: Gary Brueggen; Michael Krupa; Richard Kula;
Bob Borowski; Raymond Lozinski;
Alan Andrascik; Thomas Nadolski
- 7: Lindsey Mateja; Dave Raccis
- 8: Brian Lesiewicz; Joe Kalinowski
- 9: Craig Ebel; Dave Morris; Keith Stras;
Barb Benkowski; Andy Fenus; Carole Kryk
- 10: Trudy Patek
- 11: Marie Jagiella; Joseph Morgiewicz
- 12: Therese Bruzdziński
- 13: Jake Mikrut
- 14: Gene Swick
- 15: Mike Ziemiński; Lawrence Kutas
- 16: Dawn Mikrut Bartolini; Andrew Makarewicz;
Frank Maroszek
- 17: Christy Krawisz; Dennis Trina; Alice Szczur
- 19: Tish Blazonczyk; Ed Tylka; Floyd Grocholski;
Carolyn Machelski; Eugene Murawski
- 20: John Punola
- 21: Alan Pala
- 22: Bernice Baniewicz; Arthur Larson
- 23: Patricia Walker; Arnold Checkalski;
Linda Libera; Chris Hedrich; Mona Kaminski
- 24: Joe Brozowski
- 25: Denise Skorik; Henry Lewandowski;
Randy Koslosky
- 26: Brent Iskra; Ken Houston
- 27: Linda Lee Brown
- 28: Victor Merinsky; Dale Cribbins; Mike Pucowski
- 29: David Walter; Paul Raczkowski
- 30: Zach Piatkowski; Michele Wojtowicz
- 31: Kaila Blaskowski; Jean Latawiec

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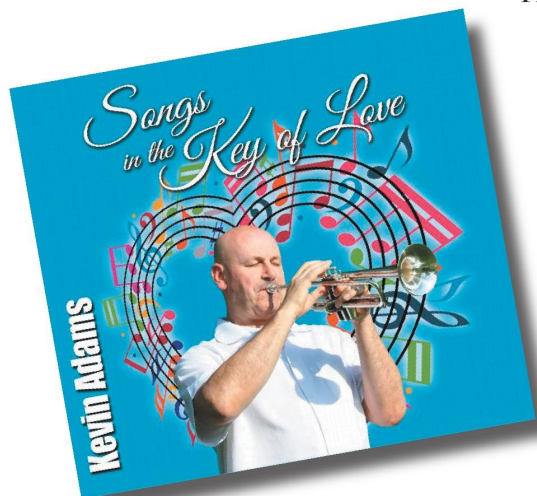
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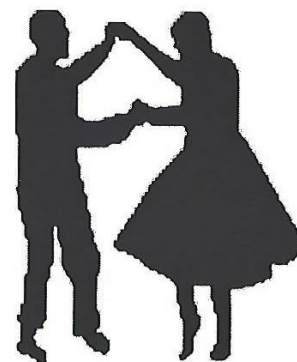
Time: 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

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IPA Dates to Remember		Advertise in the IPA Newsletter	
January 19:	IPA Warm-Up Dance Polonia Banquets; Chicago, IL	One Issue	
January 20:	IPA Festival of Chicago Polka Bands Glendora Banquets; Chicago Ridge, IL	Full Page	\$75.00 per issue
		Half Page.....	\$55.00 per issue
		Quarter Page	\$40.00 per Issue
		Eighth Page.....	\$25.00 per issue
March 9-10:	IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Dance Ludlow PACC: Ludlow, MA	Three Issues	
		Full Page	\$67.00 per issue
		Half Page.....	\$45.00 per issue
		Quarter Page	\$36.00 per issue
		Eighth Page.....	\$22.00 per issue
March 31:	IPA Hall of Fame Induction Dance Rib River Ballroom; Marathon, WI	Six Issues	
April 13:	IPA Warm-Up Dance Rib River Ballroom; Marathon, WI	Full Page	\$60.00 per issue
April 14:	IPA Festival of Wisconsin Polka Bands Rib River Ballroom; Marathon, WI	Half Page.....	\$40.00 per issue
		Quarter Page	\$32.00 per issue
		Eighth Page.....	\$20.00 per issue
		Email 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 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.®
 PO Box 1484; Plainfield, IL 60585
 1-800-TO-POLKA (1-800-867-6552)
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