



IPA Newsletter

March - April, 2020

Official Publication of the International Polka Association, Inc.®

A Note From Our President

Hello IPA Members, Happy Spring and Happy Easter!

During these extremely trying times, I hope all of you are doing the best that you can by staying home as much as possible to help protect those who can't. If possible, listen to your favorite internet radio shows like the Polka Jammer Network, Polish New Castle Radio, and 24/7 Polka Heaven; and don't forget the local radio shows in your area to keep polka music alive in your homes. If you prefer to watch videos of your favorite bands, check out the "FatherNorb" YouTube channel. He has thousands of polka videos to watch, not to mention the countless others who have posted great memories to YouTube as well. You might also enjoy watching vintage performances on the Vintage Polka Videos page hosted by Mike Charney on Facebook, along with all of the live videos that folks have streamed throughout the years. Lastly, don't forget The Jimmy Sturr Show and The Mollie B Show on RFD-TV, and be sure to visit our website at www.ipapolkas.com for IPA Radio Show information and much more.



We were extremely disappointed that we had to cancel both of our events featuring the IPA Tribute Band with special guest, John Gora on March 21 & 22. We hope to be able to reschedule these events in the near future. Obviously, we had only the best interest of our members and guests when we made the difficult decision. It is heartbreaking to hear of the many polka festivals who have had to cancel their events and those that are still considering canceling. We hope in the next weeks or months, life as we know it can get back to normal and we will be able to attend these events and hear our favorite polka bands as soon as possible.

(continued on next)

You can now pay your IPA membership using **Zelle**

Zelle is a free built-in service of a growing number of banks and credit unions. Currently over 700 financial institutions offer Zelle to their customers as a way to send money. Included in the list are some of the largest banks in the United States (Bank of America, Chase, Citi, Capital One, PNC, Fifth Third, Wells Fargo, etc).

Paying your I.P.A. Membership dues using Zelle is fast, easy, and safe. If you don't already use Zelle, all you have to do is enroll your email or mobile number through your mobile banking app or with the Zelle app. Then, enter **membership@ipapolkas.com** in the email address. Enter the amount to send and don't forget to include your name and membership number in the message area. Once sent you will receive a confirmation that it was sent.

You will still be able to go online to www.ipapolkas.com to renew your membership, this is just another way that the IPA is making it easier for you to do so.

As of the publishing of this newsletter, our festival and convention is still set for Labor Day weekend and you can find more information about this event inside this newsletter. We invite you to join us on Wednesday, May 13th at 8pm est/7pm cst, for our first General Meeting brought to you by Webex. We are hoping to make this technology easier for all of our members to join us no matter where they live.

In closing, I would like to say "Thank You" to all of the healthcare professionals, doctors, nurses; the warehouse and delivery workers; the grocery store employees; the small businesses that are trying their best to stay afloat; the scientists working on treatments and vaccines; the teachers preparing remote lesson plans and parents implementing them; those who assist the elderly and vulnerable; and the friends who text, call, or message to make sure we are all doing okay. To these people and the people I didn't mention above who still have to go in work, please be safe, stay healthy, and know you are in our thoughts and prayers. We will get through this.

I hope and look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Christy



WE NEED YOUR HELP in Preserving our Polka Legacy

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

★ Polka Hall of Famer Celebrates 56 years of Radio Broadcasting ★



Dick & Joanne Pillar

IPA Polka Hall of Fame member (Class of 1974), Dick Pillar, is celebrating his 56th year of Radio Broadcasting. Dick Pillar's show, the LONGEST RUNNING SHOW IN NEW ENGLAND can be heard every Sunday at 10am on WICH 1310am (Norwich, CT) All recordings received by Pillar are aired regardless of ethnicity.



*From
the Board and Directors
of the
International Polka
Association*



52nd Annual International Polka Association Festival & Convention



**Make your plans now to attend the 52nd Annual
IPA Festival & Convention**

**September 4 - September 6, 2020
Labor Day Weekend
Millennium Hotel Buffalo
(716) 681-2400**

3 Fun-filled days of Polka Entertainment by:

**Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push, The Boys, Box On,
I.P.A. Tribute Band, Polish Connection, Eddie Forman
Orchestra, The Beat, Polka Country Musicians, Phocus,
New Direction, John Gora and Gorale & The Kosmix
(Bands subject to change)**

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

**More details and information to follow.
Visit our website: www.ipapolkas.com**

Be sure to listen to the IPA Radio Shows:

**Polka Jammer Network
Saturday's 4-5 PM (CT)**

**Chicago WPNA 1490 AM or radiowpna.com
Sunday's from 11 am to Noon (CT)**



FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

WINNERS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	February					1 Kevin Kwiatkowski OH
2 Camille Stras IL	3 Ron Palkowski MI	4 Ruth Lietz WI	5 Joan Griffin TX	6 Jeff Behrens WI	7 Emma Bogdon PA	8 Bruno Mikos OH
9 Valerie Janson MI	10 Rosanna Kutas NY	11 Alan & Cheyl Pala IN	12 Lynn Kizewski WI	13 Mick Pyznarski IL	14 Bridget Glaza MI	15 Rick Rzeszutko IL
16 Karen Hudy IL	17 John Kostecki WI	18 Kenneth Kendra IL	19 Daniel Waner PA	20 Robert Guyette MA	21 Joe Sokol NH	22 Melissa Moriarity MA
23 Kevin Weinstock WI	24 Jacob Sweis IL	25 Brad Turk FL	26 Rita Kover TX	27 Pat Filipiak IL	28 Martin Olshanski PA	29 Sally Sendra IL

Enter to Win!

FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

WINNERS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Nick DiSebastiano MD	2 Eugene Bolera NY	3 Rosemarie Tynski IL	4 Lorraine Matusovich CT	5 Tish Blazonczyk IL	6 Gerrie Barsukiewicz NY	7 Stanley Rafa IL
8 Jean Pala IN	9 Mike Gryczko MI	10 Kenny Olowin PA	11 Sally Sendra IL	12 Robert Wojnowski MA	13 Dave Raccis MA	14 Rony Spacone IL
15 Julie Ann Matus TX	16 Stacey Morris PA	17 Carolyn Baras MO	18 Bob Frydryk MA	19 Lynn Kizewski WI	20 Karen Hudy IL	21 Joseph Wondolowski IL
22 Robert Banoczi CO	23 Gloria Bonnin WI	24 Ron Palkowski MI	25 Denise Gliwa IL	26 Joanie Ziemski MD	27 Katie Krawisz IL	28 Pat Laskowski IL
29 Stephen Kosinski IN	30 Dale Cribbons MI	31 Donna Carron MD				

congratulations

It's Always Sunny in Florida...

Hello, IPA Members!

I wish I had better news to share from Florida, but currently all our Polish Clubs are closed until further notice. We are hoping that all of our members and their families are staying healthy and safe at this time. One fantastic way to pass the time, as many of us are confined to our homes, or working from home, is to tune into your favorite polka shows. Polkas always have a special way of bringing comfort and joy even during challenging times.



By Brad Turk

As a reminder, we have three superior Polka Jammer IJ's in the Sunshine state that will keep you informed of all upcoming polka events: 2009 Hall of Famer Joe Oberaitis with his Polkas 101 and Slovenian Polka Blast Show; Dick Ozimek with Cousin Ozzie's Basement; Ray Skorka has Crankin' Polkas, and Cranking Polka Universe Facebook page (check it out), along with our IPA show. They are all listed on www.polkajammernetwork.org.

We had some VERY successful events in Florida recently. The Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach had their First New Year's Eve Gala, since winning back their club. OMG...this special New Year's Eve Gala was 'Zapierajacy dech w piersiach'! The highlight was a LIVE stream video feed from Warsaw Poland, which celebrated the New Year at 6PM (Eastern time). Champagne toasts were enjoyed by all, along with a delicious dinner and an awesome dancing crowd to the great tunes of the Northern Sounds Band. We had a fantastic time celebrating all night long! If you missed it, plan on attending this year. Also, the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg had their annual Paczki Day Dance on February 23rd. This event had a sellout crowd featuring guest polka musicians on the bandstand. The event also included 250+ FREE Paczki...Przepyszny! We want to thank everyone that helped to make these events a huge success!

As we look forward to the return of dances, please continue to visit all of our club's websites, along with IPA and Polka Jammer for the latest information. The following Florida clubs are all current members of the IPA; General K. Pulaski Club in Belleview, Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach, Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach, and the Polish American Society of St. Pete. Please encourage all your family and friends to join the clubs as well as the IPA, by simply filling out an application on our website: www.ipapolkas.com. We are hoping to surpass our goal of 1,000 members and you can help us in this endeavor. ALL clubs need your support!

If you would like any additional information about our clubs, polka dances or special events, please email me at bradturk@cox.net or call: (352) 875-3961. Let's make 2020 a polka year to remember by visiting clubs when they reopen. And as always, continue to support LIVE polka music.

Stay Safe Everyone!

New Year's Eve at the Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach with the Northern Sounds Band.

Pictured are IPA members: Eddy Meyers, Dave Swiderski, Lifetime member Ray Skorka, and IPA Director from Florida, Brad Turk.





March 1 – Elaine Veverka; Kathy Prochot

March 2 - Todd Zaganiacz; James “Wigs” Weglicki; Mike Marek

March 3 – Tom Mrocza; Karen Danielczuk; Tim Verthein; Tony Rozek, Jr.

March 4 – Ken Yagelski

March 5 – Dick Pillar

March 6 – Joan Pyzik; Rick Rzeszutko

March 8 – Wendy Wantroba; Les Kapuscinski

March 9 – Joseph Mehorczyk; Eddie Siwiec; Thomas McGuire; Joseph Pusz; Steve Kantorski; Linda Malachin

March 10 – Fred Ziwich

March 11 – Fr. Dennis Bogusz; Walter Kazmierczak; Chester Pala

March 12 – Garry Kuchenbecker; Josefine Kozak; Angela Piasecki; Joseph Warco; Chase Stanczewski;

March 13 - Frank Waltos

March 14 – Casey Kliszak

March 15 – Joan Zychowski Gregg; Father Tom Aleksa; Johnny Kovar

March 16 – Wojtek Kukielka

March 17 – Larry Walk; Patrick Henry

Cukierka; Jeff Mleczko; Patrick Biniasz

March 18 – Mary Lou Brock; Joseph Dendis; Garrey Prcin

March 19 – Joseph Oginsky; John Mysliwiec

March 20 – James Kaminski

March 21 – Roman Marsolek; Chris Turecek

March 22 – Ted Lange; Debbie Jackinoski; Sue Krysa; Theresa Slipek

March 23 – Julie Ann Kurdys; Dianne Gora

March 24 – Mark Kohan; Missy Lynn Krejci; Katie Krawisz; Jonathan Payne

March 26 - Tony Winarz; Patricia Wojnowski; Steven Fenus

March 27 – Mike Gryczko; Yvonne Zapletal; Bob Ochwat

March 28 – Mike Kochanek; Frank Kosman; Antoinette Rozek; Zachary Janson; LynnMarie Hrovat

March 29 – Allan Maroszek

March 30 - Jim Barvainis; Mitch Piotrowski; Emily Olszewski; Rick Pijanowski

March 31 – Judy Stringhill; Lori Lewandowski



APRIL BIRTHDAYS BASH

April 1 – Helenrae Budzilek; Kathleen Stancombe

April 2 – Joseph Witek; Krystyna Chunis

April 4 – Timothy Haselow; Mary Lou Czerniak; Felicia Reilly

April 5 - Steven Smith; David Straup-Slick

April 6 - Bill Kozlauska; Richard Szuflita; Alice Koziel

April 7 – Betty Downey; Barbara Ann Adams; John Zelasko, Sr.

April 8 – Tom Reznekervitz

April 9 – Michelle Genrich; Veronica Grocholski

April 10 – Val Janson

April 11 – Roger Malinowski; Paul Chichin

April 13 – Louella Kundert; Mark Coleman; Lucas Lacki

April 14 – George Walker; Larry Trojak; Debbie Horoschock

April 16 – Ed Vatavuk; Brian Tos; Tamara Waner

April 17 – Steve Meisner; Ronald

Biskup; Diane Nowakowski; Mack Martin; Tyler Zawatski; Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

April 18 – Peter Wendlinger

April 19 -- Mitch Gorz

April 20 – Cherie Trzepacz; Michael Blaskowski

April 21 – Jane Siuda; Carol Jean Dziedziak-Zanck; Tootsie Sobolak

April 22 –Leonard Cioch; Johnetta Vinka; Maria Szymanski; Debbie Rymanowski

April 23 – Brian Szumigalski

April 25 – Sally Rzeszutko; Brian Urbanczyk; Marie Brado; Robert Gawryla

April 26 – Gary Osga; Gloria Bonnin; Phyllis Videtich

April 27 – Michael Schrader; Frieda Mocny; Debbie Rymanowski; Linda Walczynski-Louie; Amanda Cowe; Theresa Parker

April 28 –Joseph Price; John Sakal; Michael Bednarz; Ralph Berge

April 29 – Kim Cielecki



May 1 – Roscoe Dick Powell;
Matthew Martin

May 2 – Judy Del Pozzo; Gary
Rozak; Rita Sajkowicz; John
Kostecki; Cindy McHugh; Matthew
Kushner

May 3 – Jennifer Pietranczyk

May 4 – Harold Otto; Sandi
Zaganiacz; Tony Ayala; Stanley
Dobrowolski; John Stanky; Daniel Durski

May 6 – Frank Gubala; Mashelle Pavey;
Robert Mazur

May 7 – Ray Pasinski; Richard Kozacko;
Sharon Goldyn; Hadley Kaminski

May 8 - Grace Mikrut; Lorraine "Travers"
Truskolaski; Chris Polodna

May 9 – Janice Lochner

May 10 – Mike Surratt; Lenny Zielinski; Jill
Czerniak; David Nowatzki; Bini Husain;
Robert Lawrence

May 11 – Eleanor Grudi; Bill Horodecki

May 12 – Minnie Florio; Chester Sterczek

May 13 – Julia Figura, Connie Shemansky;
Bob Raica; Shirley Sherpetis

May 14 - Stacey Morris; Carolyn Blajda; Ei-
leen Uba; Jerry Wantroba III

May 15 – Krystin Benkowski; Bryan
Koslosky; Darlene Arneson; Patricia
Kaminsky

May 16 – Christopher Bogdon; Eddie
Korosa, Jr.; Bob Zukowski

May 17 – Edmund Burdzy; Linda
Chesky-Fernandes; Mike
Nowakowski

May 18 – Larry Stec; Fran Russo;
Jackie Libera; Kenneth Sowizrol

May 19 – Jayne Szymczak

May 20 – Ryan Ogrodny

May 21 - Marge Smith; Edwin
Rajewski; W. Aaron Schupp

May 22 – Raymond Skorka; Linda Kendzier-
ski; Scott Davenport; Janice Collins

May 23 – Judith Pollick; Ruth Lietz;
Melanie Ellis

May 24 – Mary Saber; Ron Palkowski

May 25 – Robyn Mrozinski; Arlene Talbot;
Jim Letnick; Greg Griffin, Jr.; Robert
Szymczak

May 26 – Timothy Winiarz;
Thomas Lewandowski

May 27 – Rick Zarek, Jane Piotrowski

May 28 – Pauline Adelman

May 29 – Carolyn Kasprowicz; Martin
Olshanski; Kim Hedrich; Peter Siuda;
Bonnie Sergel

May 30 – Jerold Kriston;

May 31 - Ashley Mateja; Bill Popek;
Mary Freehling; Chris Kaczmarczyk

Letter from International Polka Association® Hall of Fame® Committee Chair, Fred Bulinski

I am an International Polka Association® Trustee and the job I have been given is to chair the Music Awards program and oversee the Hall of Fame® process. I will try to explain how the different parts of the overall program work. So, let's begin. The president of the IPA appoints 13 Trustees to a six year term of office. These people are typically more senior individuals who have a strong background in all aspects of polka music. They have provided a signed affidavit stating their objectivity in appointing 14 electors in a geographic area that they have been assigned. Typically, these areas cover several states and, in one instance, the entire country of Canada. The people appointed as electors serve a 3-year term (and can be extended by their Trustee). The Trustees appoint people they feel are knowledgeable, and, of course, objective. It is a guiding principle for the Trustees to create an environment that eliminates any bias or favoritism, as this process is the crown jewel of the polka world. There is also a Hall of Fame® committee involved with monitoring and enhancing the overall processes. They make recommendations for improvements to the processes as well as other aspects of the programs.

The above is the structure behind the Music Awards and Hall of Fame® processes. Now we will move directly into the things that must happen for anyone to be placed on the Hall of Fame ballot.

The process begins with the nomination of a prominent figure in the polka world who is considered as an individual deserving of this honor. The criteria for nomination can be found on the IPA website, www.ipapolkas.com. There is a drop down menu on the main page of the website that explains the "How-To's" of submitting an individual for Hall of Fame® consideration, as well as making submissions for music award considerations. The submitter of an individual for the Hall of Fame® must provide a written biography for the nominee detailing their musical career. Items considered essential in the nomination process include what aspects of polkas the nominee was involved with, such as being a band leader, a vocalist, a recording artist, DJ, polka promoter, etc. But, one of the keys we look for is what did an individual do to promote polka music and what did they give back to the polka industry.

So, when I receive a biography, I immediately pass it on to the Board of Trustees. I do not make any judgment, nor do I make any recommendation that could be construed as showing a positive or negative feeling toward any individual. The Trustees vet each biography to determine if the nominee meets the minimum requirements to be placed on the Master List of candidates vying for elevation into the Hall of Fame®. If a nominee makes it to this point, they are presented to the College of Electors for their vote. The two individuals from the Living category receiving the most electoral votes will be inducted into the Hall of Fame®. Then the individual or individuals in the Deceased category receiving the most electoral votes will be inducted into the Hall of Fame® as well. The ballots are returned directly to the election tabulator. This individual is impartial and has no direct connection to the polka industry. Only the election tabulator sees the returned ballots; no IPA Officer, Director, or Trustee has any knowledge as to how any elector voted.

After the voting process is completed, the Trustees meet to select an individual to be inducted as a Polka Pioneer. The Pioneer is a person with a very long history in the polka field.

So, this is how the process works. If anyone has questions that need a more detailed answer, please email me at ipahalloffame@gmail.com. I will do my very best to provide you information that will answer your questions or concerns.

Thanks very much for listening,

Fred Bulinski

IPA Favorite Band and Favorite Vocalist Ballot Updates

Every year, 195 national IPA trustees and electors vote to recognize deserving artists in a variety of polka music award categories. In response to suggestions from industry professionals, the Board of Trustees updated the format of the ballot used by electors to vote for *Favorite Band* and *Favorite Vocalist(s)*. The change emulates the existing guidelines for *Favorite Album* and *Favorite Song* submissions.

Beginning with the current IPA Polka Music Awards voting cycle, only bands and vocalists who have recorded and released albums or singles within the last three calendar years will be included on the ballot. Also, any band member featured as a lead vocalist on any of the recorded tracks is eligible to be included on the list of candidates for *Favorite Vocalist* as indicated on the *IPA Polka Music Awards Affidavit*. Interested polka recording artists, executive producers, band leaders, or record label representatives must complete and submit the affidavit for music award consideration as per the complete submission instructions posted on the IPA website at <https://www.ipapolkas.com/polka-music-awards-submission-process>. Contact ipahalloffame@gmail.com or (443) 956-3087 with any questions.



Welcome new members

General K. Pulaski
Citizen Club, FL
Chris Linster, IL
Ted Kania, FL
Christine Kucher, MA
Manuel Misarski, CT
Henry Lenard, DE
Robert Lawrence, PA
Alex Fydryszewski, NJ
Gary Stewart,
Joanne Laporte,
David Kolar, TX
Richard Thornton, FL
Zupe, PA
Michael Iwasiwka, PA
Barb Lenish, FL
Ana Pierce, FL
Roberta Polovick, IN

Randy Polovick, IN
James Goplin, WI
Ronald Schumann, TX
Ruth Ann Schumann, TX
Barbara Dean, TX
Helen Skolaut, TX
Edgar Skolaut Jr., TX
Ray Elleven, TX
Danny Zapletal, TX
James Macik, TX
Debbie Macik, TX
John Arneson, WI
Shirley Sherpetis, IL
Bruce Brzezczkowski, WI
Polish Heritage Club, FL
Sue Klocek, FL
April Burclaw, WI

Lifetime members

Jarrold Vrazel, TX
Ed Izyk, NY



A Big
**THANK
YOU!**

Thank you to the following members for their generous donations to the IPA.

Paul Raczkowski
Michael Iwasiwka
Stanley Strojny

IPA Celebrates January as National Polka Month with the **FESTIVAL OF BANDS WEEKEND** January 18th & 19th



By: Lindsey Mateja

The International Polka Association honored January as “National Polka Month” by hosting the 51st Annual Chicago Festival of Bands and Warm Up Dance. Every January, the IPA hosts this double header event which draws fans from near and far. This year, we were able to boast attendees from Canada, New York, Florida, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Indiana.

The weekend began on Saturday, January 18th at the historic Polonia Banquets to the sound of Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push. Our 172 attendees enjoyed the music while getting the opportunity to tour the International Polka Association’s Hall of Fame which is housed at Polonia Banquets. The Hall of Fame contains plaques of past IPA award winners, Hall of Fame Inductees, and countless pieces of polka memorabilia that any polka fan would love to peruse. In addition to kicking off our IPA weekend, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push were celebrating their 40th anniversary year. Thank you to Lenny Gomulka as well as all our attendees for such a fun night!

The weekend continued with the 51st Annual Chicago Festival of Bands on Sunday, February 19th at Glendora Banquets. This event is meant to showcase the fine and diverse range of polka music that Chicago has to offer. Seven bands offered their talents, which included: Tony Blazonczyk’s New Phaze, Music Company, Windy City Brass, FreezeDried, Tri-City Drive, IPA Tribute Band, and The D-Street Band. In total, we had 273 in attendance to enjoy the exciting day of fantastic music!

Overall, the whole weekend was a hit! The IPA would like to sincerely thank all attendees, band members, and volunteers for their involvement in the 51st Annual Chicago Festival of Bands and Warm Up Dance. The fans make it fun, the musicians make the music, and the volunteers make it happen! This annual polka weekend was a fantastic way to kick off January as “National Polka Month,” and the IPA was thrilled to have such an exciting turnout! We hope to see YOU there next year!

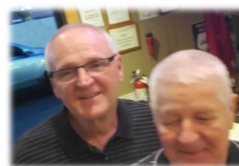


Arizona..... A Grand place for POLKAS



The Fabulous AMPOL AIRES from CHICAGO

The Ampol Aires from Chicago, IL were top notch on Saturday and Sunday, February 22nd and 23rd. The rain may have put a damper on Saturday night's event but the dancers kept the dance floor full. Sunday's sunshine brought in more folks that packed the dance floor as dancers swayed to the top hits from yester year. Thank you again to the IPA for your support of another successful polka weekend at the Pulaski Club.



IPA GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 13th

8pm est/7pm cst

The IPA Board would like to invite all IPA Members to the Annual Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 13th, at 8:00est/7:00cst. This Annual Board Meeting will be broadcasted virtually using WebEx. All members can dial in using their computers, mobile devices, or telephones. This meeting is an excellent opportunity for all members to hear the future direction of the IPA as well as the chance to ask questions to the board of directors. To register for the Annual Board Meeting, please CTRL+click on the following link: <https://bit.ly/IPA-AnnualBoardMeeting>. For more information or questions, please contact info@ipapolkas.com.

Coming Soon!



We are so excited to announce
the 1st Annual...



So you think you can compose a hit polka or waltz?

- This competition will be open to anyone between the ages of ten (10) and thirty-five (35) years of age as of July 1, 2020.
- It will be open to amateur and professional songwriters of any polka genre.
- All submissions will be judged by a panel of polka industry songwriting professionals.
- The winning song will win a certificate and \$750! The second place winner will receive \$250!

One special note: songs must not have been previously recorded or broadcast in any public media including YouTube, social media and digital download, so be careful not to share your genius just yet!

More details to come, so check back occasionally at www.ipapolkas.com. The full Terms and Conditions and on-line submission form will be posted **soon!**

Hank Haller

CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF THE HALLER ENSEMBLE

Mention Hank Haller and visions of oompah music and “lederhosen” come to mind. But Haller is more. He is a prolific recording artist in the polka field with over 94 albums and CD’s and four videos to his credit, with over one-quarter of a million albums sold! Haller was also inducted into the Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame and the International Polka Association Polka Hall of Fame in 2003.

While he is a leading proponent of German-style polka, Haller is a big fan of the Oberkrainer music of Slavko and Vilko Avsenik of Slovenia and Cleveland-style polka. He has recorded many albums which feature Slovenian and English lyrics in addition to German. His parents, Henry and Katherine, immigrated to Cleveland from a German settlement in the former Yugoslavia seven decades ago. Haller started playing the piano accordion at the age of eight, but his teacher doubted his talent, so he switched to clarinet. He picked up the accordion again at the age of 16 and joined his Uncle Jake Haller’s band in 1952. In five years, Hank became the leader, and the **Hank Haller Band** has had a non-stop run for 50 years.

Another highlight of his career was the Grammy nomination for his album “Thank You Dear and Give her Roses”, in the Polka Category, in 1987. For over 30 years, he was joined on-stage by his talented wife Maryanne, who sang along with the band. Haller also sings on many of his recordings, along with featured vocalists Ray Young, Ken Umeck, and Jaroslav Krocek.

As an indefatigable polka promoter, Haller was a travel tour leader too, inviting many fans and friends along on tours, who have joined him on 34 plus trips to Europe and Hawaii, and many cruises. The Haller Bands’ popularity was also exhibited by the over 200+ appearances that they made on the weekly “**Polka Varieties**” television program, during its 27 years on the air in Cleveland, Ohio. He also found the time to host a German radio show on WKTU for over 10 years.

Haller also branched out into the polka music of other nationalities, including Bohemian, Slovak, and Austrian. One thread is a constant factor in his recordings. Haller plays it authentically or as he says “authenticity is paramount”.

Like many musicians, Haller had a day job. He earned a Master’s Degree in Aerospace Engineering from Case Western Reserve University. He worked at NASA for 20 years, plus 15 years in the U.S. Department of Defense.

Submitted by Hank Haller

HANK HALLER

HANK AND MARYANNE

Hank recorded over 100 CD's as America's #1 German Band. Traveling the world and entertaining his fans for over 60 years. 25 years on television from Cleveland Ohio. Dankeschön Hank!
 E MAIL: omahaller34@gmail.com

Patrick Henry Presents!

Wisconsin Dells Polka Fest! & Expo!

Chula Vista Resort



MAY 1-3, 2020

A Great Weekend of Family FUN!

Hours: Friday: 6pm-1am, Saturday: 12pm-1am, Sunday: 12pm-1am



Polka Family Band

from Pennsylvania (Saturday)

Polka Country Musicians

from Connecticut (Friday & Saturday)

John Gora & Gorale

from Canada (Saturday & Sunday)

Freeze Dried

from Illinois (Friday)

Steve Meisner

from Wisconsin (Saturday)

The New Generation

from Wisconsin (Saturday)

Craig & Friends

from Minnesota (Saturday)

Polka Punk

from Wisconsin (Saturday)

Special Guest: John Jaworski!

THE BLOODY MARY MORNING MONSTER JAM WITH

KEVIN ALTENBURG & FRIENDS!

Band line-up subject to change without notice.

Catholic Mass- Sunday 11am, Polish Constitution Day!
Polka Dancing Lessons!

WEEKEND AMTRAK TRIP AVAILABLE!

For general festival information:

Call Patrick Henry at (773)889-8811 or e-mail: polkadj@sbcglobal.net

WWW.DELSPOLKAFEST.COM

Chula Vista Resort, 2501 River Road, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

Weekend Packages Available:

Only \$81 per person per night. Double Occupancy

Single Occupancy \$93+ tax & resort fee.

Includes:

Stay in a Beautiful Room.

Weekend Pass to the Polka Fest.

Buffet Breakfast Saturday & Sunday

in the Market Fresh Buffet.

Breakfast Gratuity.

*Each additional adult, \$69+tax.

*Each additional Child < 16, \$18.50+tax.

*Upgrades available for additional \$.

Room only prices starting at \$116/night.

Extend your stay! 3rd night only \$64.50!

Waterpark pass only \$10/person per day.

Call Chula Vista Resort direct at
(877)624-0685 promo code: H25539

for our discount rates and packages!

Discount code is not available
for online reservations.

Admission: Fri. \$20, Sat: \$20, Sun: \$15

Weekend Pass: \$45, Kids Under 16: Free!

with guardian. Plus Tax where applicable.

Huge Dance Floor By: Frank Napiwocki!



PRCUA #162 Sacred Heart of Jesus Society

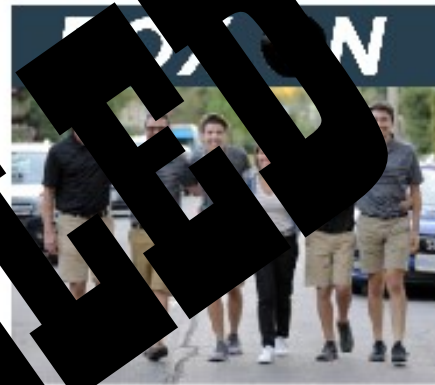
Presents

The 4th Annual

POLKA BENEFIT DANCE

Proceeds Benefit The American Heart Association

Featuring Music by



CANCELLED

Admission \$20

Thursday, April 25, 2020

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Music from 6:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

PRCUA Hall

143 Oak Street Wyandotte, MI 48192

Hotel Information:

Comfort Inn & Suites
18950 Northline Rd
Southgate, MI 48195
734-287-9200

LaQuinta Inn
12888 Reeck Rd
Southgate, MI 48195
734-374-3000

Mike's Polish Kitchen Cash Bar No B.Y.O.B.

For Additional Information Contact:

Staś Pasko (734) 284-5929

John Zelasko Sr. (734) 558-9457

2020 Joe Józwiak Award Winner — Hrukus Hellraisers, Cohoes, N.Y.



Photos by Les Kapuscinski



On Friday, February 8th at Pott's Banquet Hall in Buffalo, NY, Mark Trzepasz, IPA Director from New York and Hall of Fame® member, along with Hall of Fame® member, Jackie Libera, presented the International Polka Association's Joe Jozwiak Award to the Hrukus Hellraisers for their contribution to the continuity and promotion of polka music for the last years.

**CONGRATULATIONS
to the
HRUKUS HELLRAISERS!**



2020 Kinloch Fire Hall Polka Schedule

Sunday
January 26th, 2020



Ray Jay and the Carousels
2:00pm – 6:00pm
\$9.00 per person

Sunday
May 17th, 2020



Knewz
2:00pm – 6:00pm
\$15.00 per person

Saturday
August 22nd, 2020



Polka Country Musicians
6:00pm – 10:00pm
\$15.00 per person

Saturday
November 14th,
2020



Dynabrass
6:00pm – 10:00pm
\$15.00 per person

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

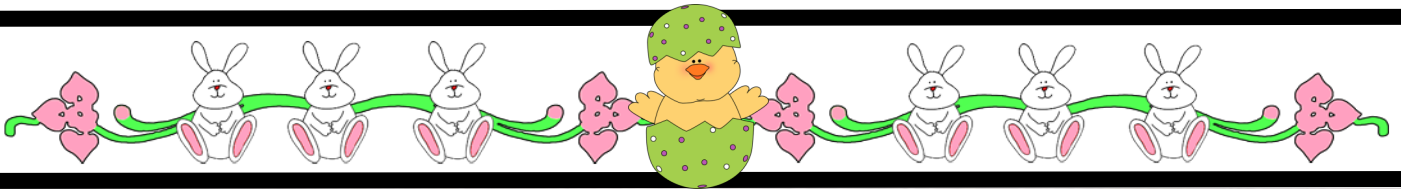
Food and drinks will be available for purchase. No BYOB!
For tickets, table reservations or more information contact:
Chris - 412-260-9725

*Join us for great polka dances at the newest Pittsburgh Polka
Hotspot!*

IPA Favorite Band and Favorite Vocalist Ballot Updates

Every year, 195 national IPA trustees and electors vote to recognize deserving artists in a variety of polka music award categories. In response to suggestions from industry professionals, the Board of Trustees updated the format of the ballot used by electors to vote for Favorite Band and Favorite Vocalist(s). The change emulates the existing guidelines for Favorite Album and Favorite Song submissions.

Beginning with the current IPA Polka Music Awards voting cycle, only bands and vocalists who have recorded and released albums or singles within the last three calendar years will be included on the ballot. Also, any band member featured as a lead vocalist on any of the recorded tracks is eligible to be included on the list of candidates for Favorite Vocalist as indicated on the IPA Polka Music Awards Affidavit. Interested polka recording artists, executive producers, band leaders, or record label representatives must complete and submit the affidavit for music award consideration as per the complete submission instructions posted on the IPA website at <https://www.ipapolkas.com/polka-music-awards-submission-process>. Contact ipahalloffame@gmail.com or (443) 956-3087 with any questions.



21st Annual Polka Mania

The Hammond Mohawks

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

Sunday, June 7, 2020

Gates open at 11:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

\$15.00 – Adults
Under 12 - Free

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

FEATURING



And...



CANCELED

Continuous
Music



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

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Since 1987**

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**Polka
On!**

polka^{beat}.com
★★★★★

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Schedules Since 2010**

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While you're there, sign up for our FREE weekly e-newsletter at the top right of the homepage.

IPA Newsletter

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

Editor:

Lynn Kaminski
newsletter@ipapolkas.com **(NOTE: NEW ADDRESS)**

Contact us:

International Polka Association, Inc.®
PO Box 1484
Plainfield, IL 60544
1-800-TO-POLKA
(1-800-867-6552)
Website: www.ipapolkas.com

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Membership

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

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

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

2020 IPA Officers and Directors

Officers:

President: Christy Krawisz (IL)
1st Vice President: Lori Lewandowski (IL)
2nd Vice President: Fred Kendzierski (NJ)
Treasurer: Dan Mateja (IL)
Secretary: Cheryl Furmaniak (IL)
Financial Secretary: Lynn Kaminski (IL)
Sergeant-At-Arms: Peter Danielczuk (CT)
Advisor: Jerry Wantroba (IL)
Media Advisor: Keith Pietrancyk (IL)
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Johnny Krawisz (IL)
Lindsey Mateja (IL)
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Jenny Ruitenber (IL)
Jill Styczynski (WI)
Sue Szela (MA)
Mark Trzepasz (NY)
Brad Turk (FL)

Would you like your newsletter emailed to you?

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

If you would like your newsletter emailed to you, please send an email to
Lynn_IPA50th@comcast.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.

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

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

IPA Dates to Remember**Advertise in the IPA Newsletter**

May 13th	General Meeting 8pm est/7pm cst See page 14 for more information.
Sept. 4th - 6th	51st Annual Festival and Convention Millennium Hotel Buffalo (716) 681-2400

One Issue

Full Page.....	\$75.00 per issue
Half Page	\$55.00 per issue
Quarter Page.....	\$40.00 per Issue
Eighth Page	\$25.00 per issue

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

Six Issues

Full Page.....	\$60.00 per issue
Half Page	\$40.00 per issue
Quarter Page.....	\$32.00 per issue
Eighth Page	\$20.00 per issue

Email ad files to Lynn Kaminski: newsletter@ipapolkas.com

****DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE IS: May 25, 2020****

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)
Website: www.ipapolkas.com

