



IPA Newsletter

**HAPPY
FATHERS
DAY**

2021 IPA® Hall of Fame Inductees Named

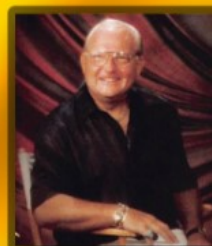
IPA Hall of Fame Inductees 2021



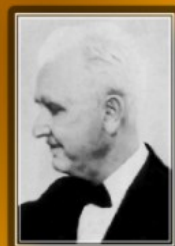
**Michael
Costa**



**Richard "Jersey
Polka Richie"
Drongoski**



**Walter
Procanyn**



**Dr. William
Lausche**

It's Always Sunny in Florida...

Witamy członków!

This month, I would like to honor Florida's very own **"Polka Pusher"** Rita Broccolo. She is no stranger when it comes to polka music in the sunshine state. Rita was originally from NY and moved to Florida in 1981. Rita has been listening to polka music ever since her childhood years at the local clubs that her parents took her to. For the past 45 plus years, Rita has continued to be involved in the music she loved while growing up.

She has been involved with all of the Polish clubs throughout the state, has helped advertise and work at numerous dances. Rita has been very instrumental in getting the Northern Polka bands to come down to the sunshine state to play during the winter months. She has put together a winter band schedule to send to all of her **Polka Pusher** supporters 'fan club', so snowbirds could attend polka dances each year in Florida. She has been featured on a variety of polka radio shows throughout her polka career. She has driven thousands of miles attending dances and festivals each year, chauffeuring a car load of friends with her.

I want to personally **"THANK"** Polka Pusher Rita, for being a new member of the IPA and for continuing to **Push** Polka music for years to come! The promotion of Polka music that you have done over the years is **TRULY** appreciated. Dziekuje!



Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach next dinner/dance is May 23rd with Melotones. June 20th will be our "Father's Day" dance with Pan Jozef Oberaitis. On June 27th we will be having a membership appreciation picnic. July 25th will feature Northern Sounds band, and August 29th will be a Hawaiian Luau with Polka Classics. You can join their Facebook page, visit their website: www.polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.org or

call the club (386)-258-7059, for weekly updates.

German American Club of Marion County will be celebrating the Club's 23rd Anniversary event with Alex Meixner Band on August 8th. On September 26th, it's Oktoberfest with Alpine Express. November 7th is Schlachtfest with Eva Adams, and the Christmas Special event with the Tannerbaum Band is December 19th 2021. For all tickets/info., call Mary (352)-789-6499 or visit their website: www.gacmarioncounty.com.



By Brad Turk

General K. Pulaski Club in Belleview will be celebrating Polish American Heritage Month, along with Oktoberfest, featuring Northern Sounds on October 10th. The annual Christmas party will be on December 12th with Northern Sounds. Please contact Brad for more information.

SNPJ Lodge #603 in Samsula is currently having takeout Dinner Specials on Fridays, call Cindy (386)-689-9454 for dinner menus. Their annual Oktoberfest event will be on Friday, October 8th with Frank Moravcik Band from Cleveland, Ohio. Join their Facebook page, or visit their website: www.samsulasnpjilodge603.com.

Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach had a wonderful turn out for the Polka All Stars Band this month. Other dances and events for the club are currently being scheduled. Join their Facebook page, or visit their website: www.pacvbusa.org, for all their monthly/weekly events or call the club: (772)-778-0039 for more details.

Polish Heritage Club at Sun City Center is currently busy planning their Fall events. Contact Brad for more information.

Polish American Society of St. Petersburg will be having their grand opening on November 7th, starting up their dinner/dancing season. The

club's 71st Anniversary celebration is January 30th, 2022 with Mollie B & SqueezeBox. **You don't want to miss this very special event!** Please visit their website: www.polishsociety.org or join their Facebook page for the latest club updates.

As a reminder, Florida's favorite IJ's are: 2009 Hall of Famer Joe Oberaitis with Polkas 101 and Slovenian Polka Blast Show; Crankin' Polkas with Ray Skorka. Dick Ozimek from Cousin Ozzie's Basement show, will be retiring. His last show will be on May 9th. We wish him the best on his retirement!

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. Please continue to support **LIVE** polka music and all of our clubs... Szczesliwy Wielkanoc!

The next issue of the IPA® Newsletter will be the *Festival and Convention Edition*. This special issue will include the complete bios of all of the 2021 inductees and more information about the **53rd Annual International Polka Association Festival and Convention.**

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Preserving our Polka Legacy

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

Subscribe TODAY to IPA's YouTube Channel

The International Polka Association has a YouTube Channel. There, you can find Interviews with Hall of Fame® members such as **Johnny Karas**, **Keith Stras**, and **Dick Pillar** just to name a few.

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

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

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

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

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

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

IPA Hall of Fame and Music Award Winners

The national Academy of IPA® Electors just concluded their annual voting cycle to select the 2020 Polka Music Award winners and the 2021 Polka Hall of Fame candidates for induction later this year. The results are as follows:

2020 Polish Style Polka Music Award Winners



Favorite Male Vocalist:

**Lenny Gomulka
John Gora
(Tie)**



Favorite Female Vocalist:

Stacey Morris



Favorite Band:

John Gora & Gorale

Favorite Album:

20/20 Polkas by Dynabass



Favorite Song:

***The Girls Just Wanna Dance* by Dynabass**

2020 International Style Polka Music Award Winners



Favorite Male Vocalist:

Ted Lange

Favorite Female Vocalist:

Lynn Marie Rodick

Favorite Band:

Mollie B. & Ted Lange



Favorite Album:

***Polkas for Social Distancing* by Fred Ziwich**



Favorite Song:

***Family Style Christmas* by Box On**



2021 IPA Polka Hall of Fame Selectees

(Full bios in the August-September edition of the newsletter)

Living Category:

Michael Costa
Richard "Jersey Polka Richie" Drongoski

Deceased Category:

Walter Procanyn

Pioneer Category:

Dr. William Lausche

Congratulations to all these deserving polka professionals!

We would like to recognize the members of the IPA Hall of Fame® and Music Awards Committee for their efforts in updating and managing the various processes over the last seven months. Heartfelt thanks go out to Mike Matousek, Jackie Libera, Jimmy Weber, Gary Brueggen, and Fred Ziwich for a job well done! We would also like to welcome Craig Ebel to the committee as he fills the shoes of departing member Fred Ziwich. Craig brings a wealth of knowledge of all polka styles and a strong background in communications and broadcasting to the team.



OF DAYTONA

3621 West International Speedway Boulevard
Daytona Beach, FL 32124

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www.polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.org

INVITING ALL SNOWBIRDS TO JOIN US FOR DINNER & DANCING

Check website for dates & times

Like us on Facebook!

Leave the cold & snow and come to Sunny Florida!

Former IPA® Director and wife of IPA Hall of Fame member passes

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Patricia Maduzia. She was a huge supporter of Polka Music and will be extremely missed by many. Please keep the Maduzia and Krason families in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Pat was a Past IPA Director and wife of IPA Hall of Fame Inductee Wally Maduzia.

Pat sadly passed away Monday, May 3, 2021 at Silver Cross Hospital. Patricia was born November 19, 1945 in Chicago to Thaddeus Krason and Florence (Solek) Krason. Surviving Patricia is her husband, Walter, her son, Michael Maduzia (Kathy Casper-Madeja), daughter, Michelle Siegfried (Walter Siegfried), son, David Maduzia (Vanessa Maduzia), granddaughter Mikah Maduzia, granddaughter, Emma Siegfried, grandson, Mason Siegfried, granddaughter, Ava Maduzia. She is also survived by her sisters: Carol (Basil) Romaniszak, Susan (Tom) Jurevis, Judith Krason, Donna (Helen Cousineau) Krason and the late Dennis Krason.

On September 24, 1967, she married Walter Maduzia. They lived and raised their family in Burbank, IL. She was a proud member and former director of the International Polka Association (IPA), member of the United States Polka Association (USPA) and member of Let's Polka USA.

Retired Logistics Manager from Corn Products. She was full of energy, loved spending time with her children, grandchildren, friends and family and enjoyed cheering for her Chicago sports teams. You could always find her on the dance floor or in front of the bandstand singing loudly for all to hear.

Below was written about Pat in the 2014 IPA Newsletter:

"Pat Maduzia was elected IPA Director from Illinois in 2012. She was born into the Polish music and the Polish customs. At a young age, Pat remembers her dad putting her on his shoulders to see Li'l Wally, who was in his early twenties at the time, performing at a picnic. At home, her family always had polka music playing, whether it be on vinyl or on the radio. In her early twenties, she was crowned polka queen for Johnny Hyzny's Polka Guide Organization. The IPA wasn't in existence yet; Johnny was one of the founders of the International Polka Association. Pat met her husband, Wally Maduzia, at Polonia

Grove. They were married in the late '60s and have three children. Wally is also an IPA Polka Hall of Famer. He played with numerous bands such as the Versatones, The Tones—which he put together, Stas Bulanda's Average Polka Band, and many more.

Their oldest son, Mike, followed in his dad's footsteps, starting a band called Freeze Dried. Their daughter, Michelle, and son, Dave, also have a love for polka music. She was born in Chicago, and now resides in Lockport, a southwest suburb. Pat loves to dance and made sure all three of her children learned how to dance the polka. Pat comments, "I would like to work with the IPA board to promote polka music. We have got to get the younger generation interested and involved with this great music. I think we are on the right track to stay united with other polka organizations. If we work with them, we are greater in number to spread the sound of polka music. Invite a friend that has not been to a polka dance to experience something new and exciting. I'm Polish and proud!"



IPA® recognizes Mark Komar for his efforts to preserve and promote polka music to the polka community and beyond by sharing videos of performing polka artists on social media

WOW, I was blown away when I received this Certificate of Appreciate in the mail today. Thank you so much to Christy, the officers, the directors and all of the members of the International Polka Associations for this. It is for something that I love and enjoy

doing and to be appreciated for it means a lot to me. I love polka music and a big thanks to my late father who introduced it to me when I was just a kid many years ago. Once again, Thank You IPA

*~Mark Komar
(as posted on Facebook)*

Hall of Fame member, Adam Barthalt, passes

It's with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of IPA Hall of Fame Inductee Adam Barthalt, who was inducted into the International Polka Association Hall of Fame in 2006.

Adam G. Barthalt died on April 24, 2021 at Peconic Bay Medical Center. He was 85 years old. He was born on June 11, 1935 in Ridgewood, New York to Adam and Susanna (Harnacker) Barthalt. He graduated from Cairo High School. He was the leader of the Adam Barthalt polka band which performed across the U.S. and in Europe, Mexico and Canada. He was awarded the "Golden Badge of Honor" from Austrian National Tourist Office and proclamation of outstanding musical accomplishments from the NY State Assembly Office. He was inducted into the "National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame" and the "International Polka Association Hall of Fame", along with being elected president of the Kiwanis Club in Ridgewood.



He is survived by his wife of 64 years Margarethe, children Debbie Burke of New Jersey, Adam III of Texas, John of Texas, Suzy Trypuc of Riverhead and Marcie Dilworth of Calverton, 12 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and sister Marie Ann Morscher.

Donations to Crohn's and Colitis Foundation would be appreciated.

Please keep the Barthalt family in your thoughts and prayers.

See his bio at: www.ipapolkas.com/blog/otw_pm_portfolio/adam-barthalt-pioneer-category-inducted-2006/



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**Emceeding Labor Day with Lenny Gomulka on the
Gateway Clipper in Pittsburgh Reservations 412-355-7980**

Congratulations



IPA member and Vintage Polka Videos creator, Mike Charney, and wife, Andrea, welcomed Colton Howard on April 24th.

Congratulations to IPA Hall of Fame member Jimmy Weber and Tara Randazzo-Weber, who were married on April 29



Congratulations to IPA member Ashley Styczynski and her fiancée, Kevin Mach on their engagement on April 23.



*he asked
and she
said yes*

2021 Kinloch Fire Hall Polka Schedule

We are excited to begin returning to normal as we welcome live polkas back to Western Pennsylvania!

Saturday
April 17, 2021



After 25 years,
The Return of Energy
6:00pm - 10:00pm
\$15.00 per person

Chris' 50th Birthday Celebration

Sunday
May 16, 2021



Featuring the IPA & USPA Award Winning:
Dynabass
2:00pm - 6:00pm
\$15.00 per person

Saturday
August 28, 2021



Featuring the IPA & USPA Award Winning:
Polka Country Musicians
6:00pm - 10:00pm
\$15.00 per person

Schedule is subject to change

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

Food and drinks will be available for purchase. No BYOB!

For tickets, table reservations or more information contact:
Chris Bogdon - 412-260-9725 or chris@bogdonfamily.com

*Join us for great polka dances at
Pittsburgh's newest polka hotspot!*



53rd Annual International Polka Association Festival & Convention



Make your plans now to attend the 53rd Annual
IPA Festival and Convention

**September 3 – September 5, 2021
Labor Day Weekend
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry**

The IPA has secured discounted room rates which can be reserved through the following link:
<https://www.ipapolkas.com/go/hotel-reservations/>

Both King rooms and Queen/Queen double bedrooms are currently available at the discounted rate of \$115 per night. You must use the above link to reserve your rooms. Like all festivals, we anticipate selling out of all available rooms, therefore we recommend that all polka fans book as early as possible.

If you prefer to call to make your reservations, you can do so by calling: 1-800-222-8733 and reference the Group Name: International Polka Association.

3 Fun-filled days of Polka Entertainment

Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push, Steve Meisner Band, Klancnik & Friends, IPA Tribute Band, Energy, Polka Family, Ray J and the Carousels, Mon Valley Push, The Boys, The Beat, John Gora and Gorale, Polka Country Musicians, and Kosmix

(Band line up 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!

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ipapolkas

Visit our website: www.ipapolkas.com

For more information: info@ipapolkas.com

Be sure to listen to the IPA Radio Shows:

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

Chicago WPNA1490 AM or radiowpna.com
Sunday's from 11 am to Noon (CT)



****IMPORTANT HOTEL UPDATE****

The DoubleTree hotel has informed the IPA® that they are completely **SOLD OUT** for the 2021 festival and convention.

As a result, we have secured a block of rooms at the nearby **Hyatt Place Pittsburgh/Cranberry**. The Hyatt Place is less than 1 mile away from the DoubleTree Hotel and has excellent amenities. Both King Rooms and Queen/Queen double bedrooms are currently available at the discounted rate of **\$115 per night**.

Call to make your reservations:

Hyatt Reservations at 888-591-1234 or the hotel directly at 724-779-7900 and reference the Group Code: **G-PLKA.**

You can visit our website at ipapolkas.com to make your reservation online. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the IPA at info@ipapolkas.com.

Thank You and we will see you in Pennsylvania!

IPA® recognizes the Buffalo Touch for their efforts in promoting and performing polka music for over 25 years

On Behalf of All the Members of "The Buffalo Touch" Present, Past and Deceased, we sincerely thank the International Polka Association for acknowledging the "25th Year of the Buffalo Touch", which began in 1995 with our leader IPA® Hall of Fame member Jerry Darlak until his untimely death in 2010 and continues still today. Thank you, God Bless and congratulations to all other polka bands who have reached this Milestone.
~ Kenneth Machelski

25 years of Buffalo Touch

The Buffalo Touch began their journey, 25 Years ago October 1995, with rehearsals at Michnik's Restaurant in Sloan NY. Jerry Darlak called Mike Kurdziel, Ray Barsukiewicz, Ken Machelski, Tom Miniszewski, Bill Barnas then added Jeff Osika and Stephen Michaels to form a Band They called Jerry Darlak and The BUFFALO TOUCH. 1997 Mike Nowakowski was added, and in 2001 Tadj Szymczak Took Osika's place.. An 8 piece Army of Brothers. 2005 Ricky Pijanowski took Kurdziel's place .. The Touch Performed throughout the USA, and Canada at Most Major Polka Dances, Festivals and Conventions. In the Year 2003, They received

their first of three Grammy® nominations. Followed by two more in 2004 and 2009. The passing of Tom Miniszewski (2006) and our leader H.O.F Jerry Darlak (2010) to Cancer were devastating, but the band continued with Gary Krupski and Robin Pegg joining the band and recording our latest CD Back In Touch. The passing of H.O.F. Mike Nowakowski to Cancer (2019) was another tragedy to endure. Thanks to Mike Melymuka and Jeff Osika joining the band We were able to continue the Buffalo Touch Sound along with the return of Ray Barsukiewicz and Gary Krew. 13 Cd's and a DVD, Many Awards, Many Seasoned Musicians, Radio and Internet Shows along with Polka Buzz TV Shows .. And There You Have It! "America's Party Polka Band 25 years of Polka Happiness" Ken Machelski Tadj Szymczak Steve Michaels, Ricky Pijanowski, Ray Barsukiewicz, Jeff Osika and "Closed U.S. Border" Mike Melymuka. "Always Remembering Our Departed- Brothers of the Note" and Heartfelt Thank-you to the many Excellent Musicians who had filled in over the years.

Ken Machelski 716-713-1212



The International Polka Association Proudly Presents:



The Parade of Polka Bands Picnic!

Sunday, August 1, 2021

Hammond Mohawks Picnic Grove

4040 Calumet Ave., Hammond, IN



- Doors open at 12:30pm -- Polka Music from 1pm until 6pm
- Admission: \$10 Payable at the Door

Polka Bands Scheduled to appear:



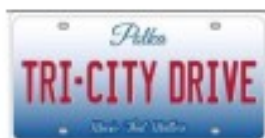
The Music Company with "IPA Hall of Famer" Rick Rzeszutko

The IPA Tribute Band



Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze

The D Street Band



Tri-City Drive



A full array of beverages and your favorite Polish foods, prepared by Cavalier Inn,
will be available for purchase!



Bring Matka, Tata, Busia, Dziadek, Ciocia, Wujek, and the Dzieci
for an afternoon of polka fun for everyone! Rain or Shine. Indoor Restrooms.

www.ipapolkas.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



June 1 – Michael Skalecki;
Krysta Latawiec; Alicia Bliznik;
Dottie Stanky

June 2 – Jack Sanocki;
Keith Werwas, Jr.;
Jack Sanocki

June 3 – Bernie Gorak, Sr;

June 4 – Richard Sendra; Bob Jakubielski;
April Burclaw

June 5 – Jeannette Ziobro; Stan Pasko

June 6 – Mary Jo Liccar; Joseph Heier; Bob
Banoczi; Verna DeGreef; Danny Louis

June 7 – Joe Kizior; Rich Benkowski;
Debbie Dunaj

June 8 – Ted Jedrzejewicz; Alex Saltanovitz,
Jr.; Greg Dybas; Bruce Brzeczowski;
Richie Yurkovich

June 9 – Lambert Lasecki

June 10 – John Baras; Eugene Kasprowicz;
Dale Kivinen; Johnny Karas; Jasiu Klocek;
Dave Duescher; Gary Heumphner;
Karen Talik

June 11 – Eddie Ostry; Thomas Rokosz;
Helen Skolaut

June 12 – Virgil Herrmann; Chet Kowalkowski

June 13 – Walter Berkowicz; Pamela Reed;
Teddy Gomulka; Leon Matczak

June 14 – Judy Kwiatkowski;
Zupe

June 15 – Kevin Cornell;
Ed Izyk

June 16 – Aaron Slivinski;

Jill Comras

June 17 – Irene Alch; Micheal Kott

June 18 – Kevin Weinstock

June 19 – Tony Crispo; Bernard Krygowski;
Steve Burclaw; Roberta Polovick

June 20 – Karen Dekoski; Paul Rite;
Joey Falch

June 21 – Ken Lefebvre

June 22 – Joanne Kozleski Jones;
Jerry Rymanowski

June 23 – Ed Krupinski

June 24 – Kenneth Dunaj; Mollie Busta;
Julie Matus

June 25 – Dave Parcheta

June 26 – Mary Ann Makatenas;
John Filipczak; Joe Zalewski; Ronald Petro

June 27 – Joseph Wondolowski;

June 28 – Julcia Dusseault; Frank Blajda;
Marilyn Pell; Bob Kalin

June 29 – Bob Frydryk; Robin Chimniak

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



July ★★

July 1 – Adam Biskup;
Betty Lange

July 2 – Al Betley ; Sam
Roller

July 3 – Ken Yash; Keith Wesolek

July 4 – Hank Haller; CW Benson; Ronald
Latawiec; Sara Latawiec

July 5 – Jan Sweet; Michael Costa;
Adam Bujanowski

July 6 – Jennifer Bulanda;
Dennis Polisky; Elizabeth Rozek

July 7 – Benita Szymanski;
Jerry Romanowski; Andrew Putz

July 8 – Eugene Retka; Carl Prushinski;
Greg Jankowski

July 9 – John Wisneski

July 10 – John Matyjas; Christine Misiak

July 11 – Joe Kvitek

July 12 – Danny Fabeck

July 13 – Theresa Pawlicki; Marie Marek

July 14 – William Stasila; Ronald Ziemba;
Sophie Skinger; Donna Carron

July 15 – Arthur Kalena;
Wally Dombrowski; Robert Moon;

Joe Gilewski

July 16 – Cheryl Furmaniak

July 17 – Thomas Kalinowski; Fred Potzer

July 18 – Maggie Zabielski; Lori Yash; Ste-
phen Swiader

July 19 – Sue Conway;

Bill Gliwa; Fred Pisarski;

Rita Kovar; Russ Napiwocki; Nick
Chmielewski

July 20 – Randy Cernosek;
Andrew Krystopolski

July 21 – Donna Piatkowski;
Joe Macielag;

Eugene Maroszek

July 22 – Steven Sopko;

Bonnie Potoniec; Teresa Wachon;

Catherine Hartenbower;

Roman (Travers) Truskolaski

July 23 - Lawrence M. Stec;

Peter Pantaluk; Hank Dymerski

July 25 – Eddie Labuda; Anne Loeffler

July 26 – Karen Mikrut; Ed Nicoski;

Katie Moroski

July 27 – John Gora, Estelle Gomulka;

Dr. Ann Hetzel Gunkel; Mary Alice Pavey;

Michelle Robinson; Brian Hafeman

July 28 - Lorraine Matusovich;

Miroslaw Antas; Paulina Zielinski;

Lynn Kizewski; Greg Winiarz

July 29 – Kathy Urbanczyk;

Jane Gelineau; Ted Okrzesik Sr.;

Henry Lenard; George Rosinski

July 30 - Bob Sendra; Arthur Kott;

July 31 – Len Fornek



Over the years, the IPA® Polka Hall of Fame and Music Awards processes have rightfully recognized deserving polka musicians who attained prominence in the polka industry for their musical achievements that helped promote polka music and broaden its audience. Because of their highly visible roles, bandleaders or “front men and women”, usually received most of the recognition for their groups’ success that may have contributed to their winning individual awards or their eventual inductions into the Polka Hall of Fame®. Unfortunately, exceptionally talented bandmates who also contributed greatly to the success of their groups, often never received their due recognition.

To address this situation, the IPA® Polka Hall of Fame and Music Awards Committee collaborated with the body of Trustees to establish a new annual award to recognize these deserving “side-men or women” of notable polka bands. To honor the legacy of the longtime 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 2015.

The 2021 Leon Kozicki Trustees Award Winner ***Don Hunjadi***

Don Hunjadi grew up with polka music, often watching his father, Richard, perform on stage as the drummer Bashell. Although he started playing Don became the bass player with the playing saxophone and had his first where he became fascinated with the ly a few years later in 1982, he career of both music recording and

In only a few years, Don had already many bands including: the Steve Doszak (High Flyin’), Hank Thuboree), Jeff Winard (With Pleasure), Verne & Steve Meisner (Meisner Magic), and Grant Kozera with Frankie Yankovic (Beer Barrel Polkas). With the quality of his recordings getting noticed, the studio soon found itself booking more and more sessions - not only for polka bands but for the area’s best rock, country, big-band, jazz, and hip-hop artists. Jingles and production for radio and television commercials soon followed as the studio business became a full-time venture. Don also found himself performing as a session musician or as studio engineer on many more polka recordings, including for: Eddie Rodick, Don Gralak, Roger Bright, Don Peachy, John Check, Kenny Brandt, Erik Noltkamper, and a Grammy finalist release for Gordon Hartmann. In recent years Don can be heard on recordings with Alex Meixner, LynnMarie, Mike Schneider, David Austin, Tom Brusky, Gary Brueggen, Bud Hyrczyk, Steve Meisner, and many others.

Don has also been involved in radio by hosting polka shows including: Blue Chip Polkas, Polka Funtime and Polka Parade, on a variety of different radio stations. Now with nearly 40 years of radio broadcasting experience, Don is among the longest-running, continuous, polka radio show hosts in the country. His quick wit and upbeat-style shows are currently enjoyed by polka lovers from across the United States and throughout the world.

Although his career has taken him into many different music styles and many different instruments, Don continues today mostly playing woodwinds or bass with multiple different bands both on stage and in the recording studio. He also continues to play a variety of different music styles. He has recorded and is heard on over one-thousand different songs and has hundreds of polka music releases to his credit. It’s hard to thumb through a stack of recordings and not find some that Don has either played on, recorded in his studio, or both. Whether on stage, in the studio, or on the radio, Don has no plans to retire anytime soon.



He began playing the trumpet in the fifth grade, by age 14, with the Joey Klass band. At 17 he began an opportunity to enter a recording studio recording process and equipment. He opened HG Studio and began a long performing.

He recorded and released projects for the Meisner Band (Songs of Love), Bob nander & Edgar Heatcoat (Polka Jam-



Congratulations Ally Kapka, daughter of IPA Director Brian and wife Rena, on her graduation from Crystal Lake South HS on May 17.

Congratulations to IPA member Aleya Kaminski, daughter of Financial Secretary, Lynn and Director Stephen, on her graduation from Plainfield East HS on May 22.



WE NEED YOUR EMAIL

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

It's Here Again!



We are so excited to announce the 2nd Annual...



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

- This competition is open to anyone between the ages of sixteen (16) and thirty-nine (39) years of age as of the July 15, 2021 deadline.
- It is 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 receive a plaque and **\$750!** The second place winner will also receive a plaque plus **\$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!

For more information, please visit www.ipapolkas.com. The full Terms and Conditions and submission form are located at our Young Songwriter link. BEST OF LUCK!

Board visits DoubleTree Hotel in anticipation of 2021 Festival and Convention - by Chris Bogdon

On May 15th, 2021, a few directors from the IPA board met with the management of the DoubleTree Hotel in Cranberry Twp., PA, to begin the process of finalizing the plans for the 2021 Festival and Convention. Thanks to technology, those from the Board who were unable to make the journey to Pittsburgh, joined the meeting via Webex and were able to take part as we did a video walkthrough of the hotel. We are very excited that the State of Pennsylvania is beginning to lift COVID-19 restrictions and we feel very confident that the festival will go on as planned. Some of the highlights are listed below.



The Welcome Party will be tentatively held in the central atrium of the hotel. There is plenty of space for social activities as well as some room for dancing. There is a bar and restaurant that will be open also during the welcome party.

We are also excited to announce that there will be an actual outdoor pool party reminiscent of the IPA festivals of the past. There is plenty of room for dancing and swimming. In addition, there is space for bringing lawn chairs and picnic blankets as well. We are excited to bring back this tradition from the past.

Finally, we have plenty of room for vendors at the IPA Festival and Convention. The IPA board is currently working with other vendors to set up and sell their goods at the IPA convention in 2021.

The DoubleTree Hotel is completely sold out of rooms. However, the IPA Board secured more rooms at the Hyatt Place, which is less than one mile away. All the links on our website are still valid and can be used to book at the new Hyatt Place hotel. We are tentatively working out with the DoubleTree to have a shuttle bus running between the hotels if required. Stay tuned for more updates.



The DoubleTree Hotel contains one of the largest ballrooms and convention space in Western PA. As a result of the size, we have the benefit of running multiple events simultaneously. For example, while the Hall of Fame induction banquet will be going on, bands can begin to load and set up for the evening polka dances. In addition, the Polka Mass on Sunday can be held in the main ballroom instead of a different location.





2021 International Polka Association
Festival and Convention
Kick-Off Polka Party



Thursday, Sept 2, 2021

Featuring the best in *Polka Dancing* with:

The Burgh Boys

Featuring Western PA Polka Musicians:

Chris Bogdon

Rich Zebrowski

Randy Koslosky

Erik Bogdon

Rich Kois

RJ Bogdon

And Other Guest Musicians

Music from 7:00pm to 11:00pm

Cranberry Elks Lodge #2249

20720 Route 19

Cranberry Twp. , PA 16066



Tickets: \$10 per person

All proceeds benefit the Elks Lodge #2249

Food and drinks will be available for purchase. No BYOB!

For tickets, table reservations or more information contact:

Chris Bogdon - 412-260-9725 or chris@bogdonfamily.com

*For more information about the 53rd Annual IPA Polka Festival and Convention
in Cranberry Twp., please see <https://www.ipapolkas.com>*

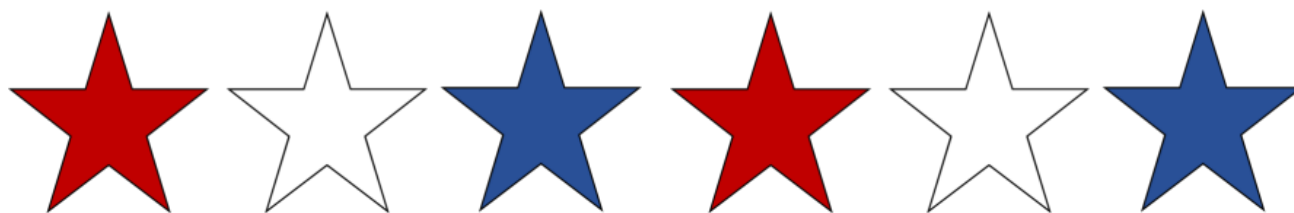
IPA Festival Kick-Off Polka Party hosted by Director Chris Bogdon

IPA Director Chris Bogdon from Pennsylvania will be hosting a welcome party on Thursday, Sept 2nd, for anyone coming early for the IPA festival. Chris is a member of the Cranberry Elks and worked with the club to host this polka dance.

The Elks Foundation is one of the largest charity organizations in the country that provides many donations to build stronger communities and support local groups. The Cranberry Twp. Elks provided a total of \$33,036 in 2019-2020 to local groups like the Boy Scouts, Disabled Veterans, Pearl Harbor Memorial, Relay for Life, and various food banks. As a result of this donation, Chris thought it would be a great way to give back by donating all proceeds from this polka

dance back to the Elks club. As an aside, our elk's club's exalted ruler managed ethnic days for the Pittsburgh Pirates and would routinely book polka bands for the Pirates. He was excited to hear that polkas will be brought to Cranberry Twp and the local Elks club.

The Polka Dance will be on Thursday, Sept 2nd, from 7-11 pm. Music will be provided by the Burgh Boys featuring Western PA polka musicians, including: Chris Bogdon (PCM, Energy), IPA Hall of Famer Randy Koslosky (Kosmix, Energy), Rich Kois (PCM, Energy), Erik Bogdon (PCM), RJ Bogdon (Energy) and Rich Zebrowski (Chicago Push and Nu-Tones). Food will be available for sale and we are excited to bring polkas to another venue in Western PA.



Marsha Bulinski receives Joseph Jozwiak Award

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

This year the IPA has decided to name two Joe Jozwiak Award recipients.

We are proud to announce Marsha Bulinski as one of the recipients this year.

She has been active in the Polka field since the mid 1970's as a promoter, supporter and ambassador of Polka music. She currently co-hosts two broadcast shows on the Polka Jammer network.

Marsha's accomplishments include creating and

establishing Polkamotion By The Ocean, with her husband, Freddie, as the largest polka festival on the east coast and ran it successfully for 28 years.

Marsha started out as an officer in the Brass Works fan club with over 400 members in 6 states. She Coordinated and ran many Polka Bus trips to the Catskills and the Pocono Mountains. She hosted several Polka cruises as well as trips to Hawaii. Marsha handled all of the reservations and advertising of these packages and the events that led to tremendously successful polka vacations for hundreds of people from across the country. Marsha was very active in the Polish community in Baltimore. She volunteered her services for over 20 years to the Polish community by working diligently at the famous Baltimore Polish Festival. Today Marsha is still active in the Polka field as she co-hosts polka music shows on the Polka Jammer Network.



STAS' BULANDA'S GRANDCHILDREN PRESENT:

The New Generation from Wisconsin!



**Sunday,
August 22
2021**

**Doors open @ 12:30
Music 1-5 pm
Admission: \$10**

**Glendora Banquets
10225 S Harlem Ave
Chicago Ridge, IL**

Food and Drinks will be available for purchase

**For more information or to reserve a table
contact Jenny Bulanda Ruitenbergh @ 773-936-7014**

Frank Napiwocki receives Joseph Jozwiak Award

This year the IPA has decided to name two Joe Jozwiak Award recipients.

Frank Napiwocki is one of the recipients this year.

Frank grew up surrounded by polka music, listening to Little Wally, so it was only natural that his love of the music and culture would carry over into adulthood. Frank started promoting polka music by hosting many, many dances over the years. He was promoting polka music before it was played on the radio, before the Internet was even heard of much less a polka show over the internet, and probably before many of us were born or were knee high at best. Frank brought in some of the greatest legends in polka music from Eddie Blazonczyk, Marion Lush, Stas Golonka, TPM, Frankie Liszka, Windy City Brass, and the Dynatoners just to name a few. Frank started many festivals such as the Pacelli Panacea Polka Pow Wow fest which continued for over 40 years; the Golden Sands Freedom Fest; Memorial Day and New Year's Eve dances; and many, many dances in between. Because Frank was

a dancer and insisted on dancing on a smooth floor, that's about the time he built the first wooden portable dance floor. The floor can be set up on any surface indoor or outdoor and is still being used to this day at many church fests, weddings, and other events. Frank and his wife Doris not only promoted the polka music for over 30 years, but they also supported it. They traveled to events all over the country and went on a few polka cruises as well. They raised their 5 children surrounded by polka music and all of them were taught how to dance. He is very proud to say that his youngest son and daughter-in-law have carried on his love of polka music and started promoting as well-hosting Valentines dance in Wausau. Now in his 80's, Frank still attends polka dances and while he and Doris don't run around the dance floor as quickly.



Introducing ... *Zupe* and The Polka Commandos Na zdrowie! (Nostrovia!)

One of the BEST CDs in a long time! I'm playing it on all my shows to great reviews.

- Joe Godina, 247 PolkaHeaven.com

Could there possibly be a more joyful antidote for strange times than *Na zdrowie! (Nostrovia!)* ...?

- Dan Kimpel, Song Biz, Music Connection Magazine

Zupe's record doesn't sell music, it sells fun, happiness, and celebration!

- Bobby Borg, Musician & Educator, UCLA, USC

... this is total polka funtime that had me bouncing in my chair!

- Jim Price, Pennsylvania Musician Magazine

With Special Guests
Alex Meixner
Tommy Halla
Christian Fabian
and Mollie B

Introduction by
Kabir Sehgal
multi-Grammy® winner
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IPA Newsletter

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

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Membership

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

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

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

2021 IPA Officers and Directors**Officers:**

President: Christy Krawisz (IL)
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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:

newsletter@ipapolkas.com.

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!**



Advertise in the IPA Newsletter

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**Sunday,
August 1st**

**IPA's Parade of Polka Bands
Picnic - PAGE 11**

**Thursday,
Sept 2nd**

**IPA's Pre-festival Warm-Up Party
- PAGE 18**

**Friday - Sunday,
Sept. 3 - 5**

**IPA's 53rd Annual Festival and
Convention - PAGE 9**

DEADLINE FOR AUGUST NEWSLETTER: July 14, 2021

Email ad files to Lynn Kaminski using:

newsletter@ipapolkas.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.**

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