



# IPA Newsletter

## 2021 IPA® Hall of Fame Inductees



*Congratulations*



# It's Always Sunny in Florida...

Witamy członków!

This month, I would like to honor Florida's very own **"America's Concertina King" aka Jersey Polka Richie...Richard Drongoski**. He is no stranger when it comes to polka music in the Sunshine State. Richie was originally from Clifton, NJ and moved to Ft. Lauderdale, FL in 1981. He started his musical career at the age of 8 when he took his first professional accordion lessons from Andy Trechak. At the age of 10, Richie played his first big time gig with Lil Wally, "The Worlds Polka King." In 1969 Richie's parents John & Val, bought him his first concertina in Chicago. He was profoundly influenced by two legendary polka heroes: Casey "Fingers" Siewierski and Eddie Blazonczyk Sr. In 1980 he toured with Marion Lush and his orchestra, as well as started his very own record label, "Star Note." Richie released several albums on that label including his #1 most requested song, "Play That Concertina," which has been performed and enjoyed numerous times in clubs throughout Florida!



Richie's musical talent is accompanied by a **very** generous and giving heart. Upon learning the news that members of the Vero Beach Polish American Social Club were pursuing a legal battle to regain their club,

he immediately came forward offering to perform a benefit dance. Richie and his fellow musicians displayed their love of polka music by donating their time and talent by entertaining a large crowd on a Sunday afternoon – all proceeds benefiting the club!

I would like to personally **"CONGRATULATE"** Jersey Polka Richie for being inducted into the IPA Hall of Fame. He is truly deserving of this award. I would also like to thank him for allowing me the honor of playing with his band in Florida for several years. Dziękuję! I encourage everyone to read his impressive bio on the IPA website.

## Club Events:

**Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach**

next dinner/dance is on July 25<sup>th</sup>, featuring Northern Sounds band. The annual Hawaiian Luau dance with Polka Classics, will be on August 29<sup>th</sup>. They are currently planning their fall polka dance schedule. You can join their Facebook page, visit their website:

[www.polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.org](http://www.polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.org) or call the club (386)-258-7059, for weekly updates.



By Brad Turk

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

**General K. Pulaski Club in Belleview** will be celebrating Polish American Heritage Month, along with Oktoberfest, featuring Northern Sounds on October 10<sup>th</sup>. The annual Christmas party will be on December 12<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> with Frank Moravcik Band from Cleveland, Ohio. For upcoming events, join their Facebook page, or visit their website: [www.samsulasnpjilodge603.com](http://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

(continued on next page)

## **\*\*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](http://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](mailto:info@ipapolkas.com).

**Thank You and we will see you in Pennsylvania!**

*(It's Always Sunny in Florida.... Continuation)*

Facebook page, or visit their website: [www.pacvbusa.org](http://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 7<sup>th</sup>, starting up their dinner/dancing season with Polka Generations. On November 21<sup>st</sup> is Northern Sounds, December 5<sup>th</sup> is Polka All Stars, and December 19<sup>th</sup> is Christmas Kolendy with the Nu Soundz. **The club's 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary celebration is January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 with Mollie B & SqueezeBox. You don't want to miss this very special event!** Please visit their website: [www.polishsociety.org](http://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 (Saturday), and Slovenian Polka Blast (Thursday), as well as Crankin' Polkas (Friday) with Ray Skorka.

If you would like any additional information about our clubs, polka dances or special events, please email me at [bradturk@cox.net](mailto:bradturk@cox.net) or call: (352) 875-3961. Please continue to support **LIVE** polka music and all of our clubs. Hope to see all of our IPA Florida members at the festival in September. *Szczesliwy Wielkanoc!*

**Thank  
You**

Hi Christy,

I just wanted to pass along our "Press Release" on the 5 year milestone I mentioned to you at the Wisconsin Dells Polkafest. Patty and I have enjoyed doing our show each week for the last 5 years and we are looking forward to continuing to grow our fun weekly variety polka show with more stations and more listeners.

Thank you for all you do for the IPA and for Polka music!

Sincerely,

Michael & Patty



## 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® Inductee

*Michael Costa*

*Living Category*



**Michael** was born on July 5, 1961 to William and Phyllis Costa of Irvington, NJ. He is the first born of two children. His parents met in the mid 50's at the Irvington Polish Home where weekly polka dancing was extremely popular. As their children grew, they were exposed to Chicago-style polkas at the Dover Polanka in Dover, NJ. Michael's Dad, played bass and guitar with local bands. Growing up in a home filled with polka music and musical instruments, it was the trumpet Michael gravitated to. Lessons began at the age of 7.

In 1973 at the age of 12, Michael joined his first polka band, Matty Rock from NJ. Matty playing Eastern Style polkas along with standards exposed Michael to a nice variety of music.

In 1975 at the age of 14, Michael joined Jolly Rich and the Polka Stars and recorded On the Go with JRO. This was Michael's first experience with a two-horn section.

In 1976, IPA Hall of Famer Jan Cyman, formally of The Dynatones and New Brass moved to NJ to form the Musicalaires. The big change from all previous bands for Michael, was to play without sheet music. As Michael was clearly panicked by the thought of having to play essentially blind, Jan slowly played the riff and said, "see the music in your mind". This was a pivotal moment in Michael's trumpet playing as the thought of using memorization and imagination to play. This opened a whole new world of focusing on putting your heart into the music versus reading the notes. During this time Michael recorded two more LPs – Coming Your Way and Oh Yeah.

By 1979 Michael moved on to join IPA Hall of Famer Freddy "Kay" Kiendzierski. Freddy's group was very popular playing many dances up and down the east

coast. In 1980, Michael moved to Pennsylvania and played the summer and fall season with Zip Lubovinsky's Polish All Stars which featured IPA Hall of Famer Bruno Mikos on vocals.

That same year at the age of 19, Michael joined The New Brass. With a new LP in the works this was Michael's first opportunity to contribute a song. He converted, arranged, and sang lead vocal on the Beatles' You Like Me Too Much on the Brass Magic LP. This song which was a big hit for The New Brass and was one of the first Beatles tunes to become a polka. This opened the door for bands to consider converting pop/rock tunes into polkas.

In 1983, Michael joined The Magitones, an aspiring group of young musicians and Michael heavily influenced the song choices. The year 1984 brought the release of Face The Music. This 12-song album contained 5 songs written by Michael including Tell Me Why and Dover's Last Goodbye which was a tribute to the famous polka venue - Polanka in Dover, NJ.

In 1987, as the The Magitones retired from music, Michael decided to form a new band – Limelite. In 1988, Michael Costa and Limelite released Let There Be Lite. This LP contained another four original compositions. Also, on the recording was the oberek Tu Lu Lu. Michael added a big rock guitar part to the arrangement putting a modern spin on a classic tune, demonstrating Michael's creative ability to continue to introduce pop/rock influences in order to have polkas appeal to a broader, younger listening audience. Michael continued writing polka music giving five originals to Toledo Polka Motion (TPM) to record on their 1991 Blackjack LP.

After a few years off, in 1996 The Beat was born. They recorded a six-song demo called "Jammin in the Basement", then in 1998 recorded a full CD "Meet The Beat" which included seven Mike Costa originals. In 1999, The Beat recorded "When I Saw

You" CD which contained another six Costa originals. The Beat became one of the top musical and fan favorite bands in the country. They would eventually go on hiatus in 2000. Michael continued to write songs for other artists including Polka Family, Ted Lange's Power Station and TPM. These groups recorded five Mike Costa originals.

In 2011, unfortunately The Beat's original bass player Joe Dzuiba died. In his honor The Beat played several cancer benefits. In 2013, the USPA requested a Beat Reunion. This represented the start of The Beat 2.0.

2017 brought in the first new Beat CD in 18 years – The Question, which included 2 more Costa originals – The Question and Another You. Then in 2019, The Beat released – The Answer which included 4 more Costa originals including Dance the Night Away and the hit – She's My Perfect.

By the start of 2020, three members decided to leave The Beat. Michael realized that, just like he had been given a playing opportunity at an early age, he should do the same as he searched for replacements. Doing so, would give the next generation of polka musicians a chance to hone their skills

while appearing with The Beat. Three talented musicians, ages 15, 15 and 18, joined The Beat, potentially saving it from having to disband again and have stepped in flawlessly under Michael's mentoring.

In summary, Michael and his family have been deeply and significantly involved in polka music for over 46 years. He has been on 9 recordings from six different musical groups, many of which were top albums in their day, and several in which he assumed leadership or creative responsibilities. A significant and lasting musical contribution from Michael is his unique style which blends complex chord structures and along with thought provoking lyrics and exciting vocals producing many hits, as previously mentioned. Michael has written over 38 originals. Michael has also converted 15 alternative genre songs into polkas.

The thought of Michael Costa even being considered for the IPA Hall of Fame is an honor beyond compare. This recognition would serve as a tribute to all those IPA Hall of Famers who mentored and contributed to Michael's musical career as well an inspiration to a younger generation who are learning to respect the past, embrace the present and create the future of our Polka industry.



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# 2021 IPA Polka Hall of Fame® Inductee

*Richard "Jersey Polka*

*Richie" Drongoski*

*Living Category*



**Richard** was born in Clifton, New Jersey to John and Val Drongoski in 1958. He does have an older sister and brother. Richard's sister lives in Florida near Richard and his parents. His one brother still remains in the state of New Jersey.

At the young age of three the Drongoski's knew that Richard would lead a life centered around polka music. At this very young age Richard wanted and did receive an accordion. He always loved it when his father played the accordion and his grandmother sang songs in Polish. A little later in life his mother taught him to read Polish. He now reads and speaks Polish very fluently. At the age of eight he began taking his first professional accordion lessons from professor Andrew Trechak in the state of New Jersey. This would lead to much bigger and better things for Richard Drongoski in life. Everything really started to take off on Labor Day weekend in 1968 at the tender age of ten. This would be Richard Drongoski's first public performance playing accordion and singing with "The Worlds Polka King" "Lil Wally". This first public performance had a wonderful group of 1,200 polka followers. Following this event Richard Drongoski was the first person to bring Chicago style polka music to the east coast of the United States. In the summer of 1969 Richard Drongoski and his parents would take a trip to Chicago. Now this was a huge deal. This is where Richard Drongoski's parents would purchase Richard his first concertina. That would not be all the excitement on that trip to Chicago. Also on that trip Richard would have the honor of meeting

concertina legend Casey "Fingers" Siewierski. Casey "Fingers" Siewierski took Richard under his wing at this point giving him many wonderful concertina pointers to help Richard on his way to playing a lot of wonderful concertina music. In an interview Richard said Casey "Fingers" Siewierski is my idol and he is forever grateful to him for his inspiration to be able to do what he does today. Richard also met one other person in Chicago that has meant a lot to him. That person is Eddie Blazonczyk Sr. The following year Richard would get his first custom made Star Concertina. Richard would perform in many places across the United States in the next decade to come. The year 1980 came and Richard toured with Marion Lush and his orchestra for the next several months.

That same year Richard started his very own record label, the "Star Note" label. Richard released several albums on that label. Those albums are "Play That Concertina", "Concertina Happiness", "Reckin' Oldies", "Sparkling Hits", "Polish/American Polka Mass" (Richard is very proud of this album in which he composed all original lyrics.), "Love That Concertina", "Just For You", and "Concertina Marathon". The following recordings are on the same "Star Note" label on CD: "Concertina Double Header", "Sparkling Hits" (This recording is a tribute to Richard's friend Liberace.) "Just For You", "Concertina Marathon" and the latest recording "1 Love To Polka". "Polka Richie Classics" was recorded on the Sunshine Record label. "1 Love To Polka", "New Polkas & Waltzes" and "15 Polka & Waltzes" with Lil Wally's band were originally recorded on Rola Records with the help of John Demerski in Connecticut. The first album "1 Love To Polka" has all original songs

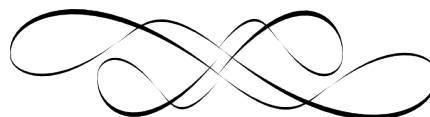
written by Casey "Fingers" Siewierski. On that album Richard was backed up by "The New Brass Orchestra". Richard now composes most of his recordings himself.

As well as all the recordings that you have just read about, Richard has appeared on stage with many people including Bobby Vinton, Marie Osmond, The Lettermen and the one and only Liberace. Richard has also been awarded with numerous awards as well. He was awarded #1 song "Play That Concertina", # 3 song "Ann's Polka" plus #1 male vocalist by Mr. Polkabration Dick Pillar. Other credits to Richard's name include radio and T.V. broadcasts, as well as appearances throughout the country including Hawaii and on various cruise ships, plus five trips to Poland, and was named citizen of the year in 1985 by Long Island newspaper, Polish American World. Beginning in September 1983 Richard ran the only polka weekend in Lake George, New York. This polka weekend was held at the Roaring Brook Resort. This was the largest resort in the area. This great polka weekend would run for the next ten years. In 1986 the first Polka Blast was held in Albany, New York. This polka weekend would be held for the next 13 years with top polka stars entertaining at this weekend such as Lil Wally, Marion Lush and the Ampol - Aires just to name a few.

Richard now calls Ft. Lauderdale, FL home. But as you read above Richard originally lived in Clifton, New Jersey. While living in the city of Clifton, Richard had a fan club. That fan club had from 500 - 700 members. Richard is very grateful to the following people from the fan club in Clifton, New Jersey. Board officers Lou and Helen Banasiak, Mary Paczkowski for all of her hard work and the original vice president Polka Annie Martin who still loves Richard's concertina. The Jersey Polka Richie Fan Club was a non - profit organization dedicated to the promotion of Jersey Polka Richie and raising funds for worthy causes. During the time that the fan club was going strong Richard received a ring that was presented to him by Liberace when he performed at his Las Vegas birthday party. Unfortunately this ring was stolen. In 1989 Richard received two great honors. In May of that year he was given the title "Michigan's Concertina King" by Michigan promoter - bandleader Big Daddy Lackowski. In September of that same year a huge honor was given to Richard. He

was crowned "America's Concertina King" by Syracuse, New York promoter -disc jockey Ted Michalski on behalf of all his fans in all the states and especially the Syracuse, New York area. Going on with yet more honors, "America's Concertina King" Jersey Polka Richie has also been recognized by his holiness Pope John Paul II. Jersey Polka Richie was given this honor for raising over \$2,000.00 for his Dom Polski, a Polish Pilgrims Home and Papal Museum in Rome. He was also given special recognition from Poland for raising over \$10,000.00 for the Polish Mother's Hospital and Richard was also given a bronze heart from the Polish Childrens' Heart - Line for his fund raising efforts in their behalf. The Jersey Polka Richie fan club also raised funds for the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island restoration.

As well as having the concertina and polka music in his heart, "America's Concertina King" Jersey Polka Richie also has the love of the Lord Jesus Christ in his heart. He is a member of Our Lady of Czestochowa; a Polish Roman Catholic Church in Florida. "America's Concertina King" Jersey Polka Richie has always and continues to this day to devote his entire life to polka music and the playing of the concertina. This being a full time job, he is also involved with the South West Florida Polka Boosters and the Polish/ American Club of Vero Beach, Florida. "America's Concertina King" Jersey Polka Richie, plays his music at both of these places. He is also involved with the International Polka Association. He leads the life of a wonderful musician, going all over the United States and beyond playing his wonderful happy, snappy music for everyone to hear and dance to. He will always be surrounded by his music, and bring joy to the hearts and smiles to the faces of everyone that will go to hear and see "America's Concertina King" Jersey Polka Richie perform. So if you know that "America's Concertina King" Jersey Polka Richie is going to be performing in your area, go out to see him. At his live performances, Richie always gets his audiences' attention with his glittering costumes, dazzling jewelry, happy smile, and wonderful personality. If you ever get a chance to see Jersey Polka Richie perform, it will be an experience that you will never forget.





# 2021 Kinloch Fire Hall

**"Pittsburgh's Polka Hot Spot"**

## **Updated Polka Schedule**

We are excited to bring more Polka Dances to Western Pennsylvania!

Sunday  
August 1, 2021



Featuring IPA Award Winner, Stacey Morris

**NuTones**

3:00pm – 7:00pm

\$12.00 per person

Saturday  
August 28, 2021



Featuring the IPA & USPA Award Winning:

**Polka Country Musicians**

6:00pm – 10:00pm

\$15.00 per person

Saturday  
October 30, 2021



Halloween Dance – Prizes for the Best  
Costume

**Buffalo Concertina All Stars**

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](mailto:chris@bogdonfamily.com)

***Join us for great polka dances at  
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## 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Polka Association Festival & Convention



Make your plans now to attend the 53<sup>rd</sup> 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!**

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Be sure to listen to the IPA Radio Shows:

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

Chicago WPNA1490 AM or [radiowpna.com](http://radiowpna.com)  
Sunday's from 11 am to Noon (CT)





# 2021 IPA Polka Hall of Fame® Inductee

*Walter Procanyn*

*Deceased Category*



**W**alt Procanyn was an accordionist and bandleader from Woodside, NY the Queens section of the Big Apple. Walt was well known throughout the big band and polka circle as a maverick and innovator. He revolutionized the polka industry by incorporating the big band sound in what used to be "traditional" polka music.

He recorded several albums for arc international records in Toronto, Canada. He was exclusively for Eastwind International artists in New York City. He had recorded over 39 albums. His professional musical training and his Ukrainian and polish background had influenced his music. Walt said, 'I always have a love for the lifting sounds of big band and polka music.'

In the U.S. Navy he was in the special service. He placed first in the all-navy talent contest by beating out several hundred 'swabbies'. For many years the Walt Procanyn Bandstand Big Band and Polka Show was heard in and around the Baltimore Washington area. Mr. Procanyn was booking many of the top-notch bands from around the country, as well as the big-name bands of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Sammy K, and Guy Lombardo at the Eastwind Million Dollar Ballroom in Baltimore. He was among a handful of people responsible for not only

keeping the polka music alive, but as well as making it thrive.

Walt felt that the polka sound was failing to attract a new and younger audience. It was always his goal to record and present a new and bigger sound that would attract a new following. He thought that he could rejuvenate the polka sound. People in that industry, however, were less enthusiastic. They chuckled when he first mentioned the idea, but Mr. Procanyn was not easily dissuaded. And, like his name says, he worked hard to achieve his goals! He reworked some traditional polkas with a big band sound, and then took his sound to the people. His Polka Cuzzins marveled at his new concept in sound.

Walt Procanyn spoke most fondly of a benefit that he and his band performed at the Zembo's Shrine Temple in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for the Children's' burn unit. Performing for charitable causes brought great joy and satisfaction to the Walt Procanyn Orchestra. Walt's musical direction was by no means limited to just polka music though, he and his big band are quite prolific at playing popular big band sounds.

For his many accomplishments in the polka industry, Walt Procanyn has been deemed deserving by the electorate of the International Polka Association for induction into the Polka Music Hall of Fame®.





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## August

**August 1** – Gary Stewart; Frank Stanger;  
Maryann Cuglewski;

**August 2** – Chuck Stastny; Patricia Daigle;  
Patricia Mazur; Andy Wachon;  
Sondra Guetschow

**August 3** – Mike Stapinski; Maria Dipytic;  
Cindy Olszewski; Jim Wysocki

**August 4** – Susan Matysiewicz;  
Kathleen Zielinski; Happy Louie  
Dusseault; Lynn Kaminski

**August 5** – Rose Marie Tynski;  
Dianne Zawisza; Max Kawa;  
Wally Czaska; Randy Polovick;  
Jeff Radtke

**August 6** – MaryAnn Jukubielski;  
Marcia Muscato

**August 7** – John “Foo” Furmaniak;  
Edward Guca; Camille Hjelm; Pete Jend;  
Chris Prochot

**August 8** – Walter Mendel;  
Alex Saltanovitz, Jr.

**August 9** – John Cieplik; Kelly Stec;  
Jeff Tomczak; Lisa Meyer

**August 10** – Helen Curtin; Jim Kucharski;

**August 11** – Dave Ulczycki;  
Keith Pietranczyk; Chris Zawisza

**August 12** – Leonard Wolski; Tammy Kirsch

**August 13** – Carol Forman; Steve Zalewski;  
John Ziobrowski

**August 15** – Edward Burczy; Ed Svoboda

**August 16** – Elizabeth Tarchala;

**August 17** – Tim Wolter; Doris Benson;  
Cheryl Rognerud; Bernie Koslosky

**August 18** – Carol Trzebiatowski;

Chris Blocher

**August 19** – Michael Matousek;  
Barbara Pauls; Michael Retka;  
Debbie Kapuscinski

**August 20** – Ken Machelski;  
Dawn Suchon-Rogers

**August 21** – Carolyn Baras; Tammy Arnes;  
Wesley Matus

**August 22** – Julianne Mossak

**August 23** – Stas Golembewski;  
Randy Vokral

**August 25** – Rose Marie Sukacz;  
Steve Wejrowski

**August 26** – Mary Ann Moon

**August 28** – Joyce Fornek; Judy Krason;  
Pat Wagner

**August 29** – Keith Gennerman;  
Rick Chimniak; Ken Kilgas

**August 30** – Dianne Winiarz;  
Grazyna Danielczuk; Sandra Hrynio





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## September



**September 1** – Rosanna Kutas; John Prytko, Jr.

**September 2** – Lorraine Ciesla; John Mikrut;  
Jim Weber; Rich Liput; Mike Evan

**September 4** – Ken Pienta; Louis Fava, Jr.

**September 5** – John Krawisz

**September 6** – Susan Jurevis; Jim Brado;  
Richard Zebrowski; Maynard Gipp

**September 7** – Jeanne Henderson

**September 8** – Daniel Nawrot; Brad Turk

**September 9** – Jennifer Pijanowski; John Mikos

**September 10** – Jeffrey Guyette;  
Johnny Waichulis

**September 11** – Sharon Creman;

Mary Jean Sweeney; Neil Kosman;  
Evelyn Putz; Ted Kania; Lori Urbanczyk

**September 12** – Rich “Sudzy” Cerajewski;  
Ronald Gregg; Janice Prushinski

**September 13** – David Bonczkiewicz;  
Eileen Daniloff; Cary Haraburda;  
Ania Piwowarczyk; Jeff Heinz

**September 14** – Butchie Jasiewicz ;  
Eugene Thoms; Jim Miller;

Dolores Kozlauska; Velva Jankowski

**September 15** – Rob Piatkowski;  
Deb DePont; Gerrie Barsukiewicz;

Joyce Bohuslav; Pat Jayo

**September 16** – Lenny Gomulka;  
Krystyna Bylinowski;

**September 17** – John Borkowski; Geri Fornek

**September 18** – Kenneth Larson;  
Danny Mateja; Corinne Turk;  
Robert Hoffman; Robert Richmond III;  
Stanley Mikrut

**September 20** – Judy Rosinski;  
Eugene Brenek

**September 21** – Steve Drzewicki;  
Marilyn Miaso

**September 22** – John Paczkowski, Jr.,  
Shirley Sains; Peter Hrycyk

**September 23** – Ted Kiewicz;  
Andrew Kuczmarski

**September 24** – Donna Cotrupe;  
Edward Sienkowski

**September 25** – Kevin Kwiatkowski;  
Joseph Ryndak;

**September 26** – Ed Haynack;  
Dan Czerniak; Doris Lokre

**September 27** – Mike Nowakowski;  
Diane Bulanda; Jeffrey Behrens;  
Sharon Koslosky; David Swiderski

**September 28** – Lori Young; Brian Earl

**September 29** – Bev Kizior; Gary Hvdik;  
Willie Bohuslav; Veronica Costa;  
Dan Johnson;  
Dolores Lybik

**September 30** –  
Walter Dragon;  
Dennis Popiel;  
Goldeen Uelmen



# Welcome

Kevin Altenburg, IL  
Joan Stepzinski, MO  
Jim Krzeszewski, MI  
Debora Jones, OH  
Ryan Koenig, MO  
Ivan Latoski, Sr. MI  
Bren Wrona-Norris, PA  
Paul Janeczek, MA  
Stuart Popp, MI  
Joel Andryc, CA  
Gregory Stepanek, IL  
Diane Waligura, TX  
Chuck Anderson, OR  
Jim Wysocki, NY  
Brenda Fabian, PA  
George Starosta, PA  
Sam Sokolik, PA

# Thank You

Lisa Jakubowski  
Bryan Koslosky  
Linda Hurley  
Natalie Boyd

On behalf of the  
Executive Board and the  
Directors, we wish you all  
safe travels to  
Pennsylvania for the  
53rd Annual  
International Polka  
Association Festival and  
Convention.

See you there!

## 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](mailto:membership@ipapolkas.com).



# 2021 IPA Polka Hall of Fame®

## Inductee

*Dr. William Lausche*

*Pioneer Category*



## Dr. William

Lausche, a dentist by profession, was active for nearly sixty years in the music field. Dr. Lausche was a brilliant composer and arranger; played the piano proficiently; produced and directed recordings on national labels; taught and rehearsed some of the most famous Cleveland style polka artists; coached singing groups; and was active outside of purely ethnic circles in Cleveland's cultural community. An accomplished musician, Doc Lausche enthusiastically embraced a wide range of musical genres. While playing the piano within the Slovenian polka idiom, he often incorporated the influences of jazz, ragtime, Broadway, and classical music, thereby enriching and extending the musical horizons of those around him. Doc Lausche founded the Dental Orchestra of Cleveland and personally organized the "March of Dimes" spectacular in the 1930s. Dr. Lausche was one of the first American-Slovenian recording artists, producing records beginning in 1919, and he appeared on the first Slovenian radio program on WJAY in 1929. A pioneer in commercially recorded Slovenian music, Doc would travel to New York City where he hired and directed studio musicians, including accordion virtuoso Charles Magnante, to play his orchestral ar-

rangements in the studios of the Victor Talking Machine Company, the Columbia Gramophone Company, and Continental Records. During his career, Lausche recorded 68 selections and made countless transcriptions for radio. Dedicated to the preservation of authentic Slovenian music and its distinctive melodic character, Dr. Lausche's adaptations of Slovenian folk songs as well as his many original compositions reflected his faith in the virtue of melody. Doc originated, arranged, or adapted more Slovenian Cleveland style music than any other individual, contributing heavily to the repertoires of Frank Yankovic, the Pecon-Trebar Orchestra, Kenny Bass, and Eddie Habat. His music remains a major source of material for Cleveland style polka orchestras, singing groups, and Button-Box performers everywhere. His major Cleveland style hits include "Cleveland the Polka Town", "I've Got a Date with Molly", "Sondra Polka", "The Girl I Left Behind", and "Bluebonnet Polka" (also known as "Doc's Polka"). Doc Lausche personally tutored Johnny Pecon, Lou Trebar, and other musicians, exerting a strong influence in the cultivation of greater sophistication and skill. In the opinion of many veteran Cleveland style musicians, Dr. Lausche achieved the highest level of musical quality and sophistication among Slovenian composers and arrangers, a standard which, to this day, remains unsurpassed.

## Board of Directors Election Eligibility

Nominees shall not occupy any appointed or elected office of any other polka organization. No nomination shall be valid unless agreed to by the nominee. A willingness to seek and accept office must be done in person at the annual meeting. If unable to attend the annual meeting, candidates may also submit a signed and dated letter. If emailing your submission letter, please put **Board Position** in the subject line. **Please include what skills you have to offer to enhance the board, as well as why you would like to join the board.** Such letters can be submitted for consideration in any of the following ways:

1. brought to the meeting by another member
2. given to an officer or director in advance of the meeting
3. mailed to the International Polka Association, PO Box 1484, Plainfield, IL 60585
4. emailed to [info@ipapolkas.com](mailto:info@ipapolkas.com)
5. **deadline for submissions is August 27th**

### Requirements for Elections:

Voters must be a member of the IPA for no less than 30 days before the Annual Meeting. Each nominee must be able to actively utilize e-mail, Webex, and dial-in conference calling. All members seeking a position on the board should expect to receive assigned duties and responsibilities. These will include activities which support the ongoing operation of the organization, working at our annual convention and all other IPA events, as well as special projects as needed throughout the course of their term of office.

## Electable Positions in 2021

**President & Sergeant-At-Arms: 1-year term**

**All Others: 2-year term**

### **OFFICERS**

#### **President**

- Must be from Illinois
- must have served at least 2 years on the Executive Board

#### **2nd Vice President**

- Can be from any state except Illinois
- must be a member in good standing for at least one year

#### **Financial Secretary**

- Must be from Illinois state
- must be a member in good standing for at least one year

#### **Sergeant-At-Arms**

- Can be from any state
- must be a member in good standing for at least one year

### **DIRECTORS**

#### **Illinois - 3 open positions**

- Must be from Illinois state
- must be a member in good standing for at least one year

#### **Non-Illinois - 3 open positions**

- Can be from ANY state
- must be a member in good standing for at least one year

## INCUMBENTS SEEKING RE-ELECTION



### OFFICERS

President - Christy Krawisz  
 2nd Vice President - OPEN  
 Financial Secretary - Lynn Kaminski  
 Sergeant-At-Arms - OPEN

### Illinois - 3 open positions

Stephen Kaminski and Brian Kapka

### Non-Illinois - 3 open positions

Brad Turk and Sue Szela

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:archives@ipapolkas.com). Please see above for more information.

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





**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](mailto:chris@bogdonfamily.com)

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

# IPA Parade of Polka Bands Picnic August 1st

By Dennis Mikolajewski

On Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, the International Polka Association® held the "Parade of Polka Bands Picnic" at the Mohawks Club Picnic Grove located in Hammond, IN; just a few miles southeast of the Chicago border.

What an awesome day it was! Five of the Chicago area's favorite polka bands performed a lively set of polkas, waltzes, and obereks to the delight of our dancers and our listening audience.

Our sincere thanks go out to our friends at the Hammond Mohawks who kept the bar crowd well hydrated throughout the afternoon. The Cavalier Inn, who made sure no one left hungry by cooking and grilling their famous Polish Sausage, Golabki, Pierogi, and Haluski.

Also, thank you to all of the fine musicians and vocalists who kept the enthusiasm going with plenty of happy, snappy polka tunes! Thank you to the leaders and members of The D-Street Band, The Tri-City Drive, The Music Company, The IPA Tribute band, and Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze for their fantastic musical performances. A great time was had by all!

Of course, none of this could have been possible without the support of **over 300** of our polka friends and family in attendance. You, our friends, is what makes the hard work and effort in organizing such an event all worthwhile! So on behalf of the Officers and Directors of the IPA, we say thank you!

Additionally, a special thank you goes out to the following IPA members, friends and family, who assisted in the promotion of our picnic: Sally Rzeszutko, Carol Trzebiatowski, Jerry and Darlene Kender, Jonathon Payne, Rick and Marlow Kubic (WJOB Radio Hammond), Chester Pala, Alan Pala, Dave Nardi, and the other members of the Hammond Mohawks Club, Wally and Nora Kasprzycki and the staff of the Cavalier Inn. With everyone's assistance and teamwork, the picnic took place without a hitch!

Lastly, Thank you Bozie for the beautiful weather! 75 degrees and partly sunny was perfection!

We, the IPA Board, cannot wait to organize the picnic again next summer!





# 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**



# Thank You

Dear Christy and IPA Board,

Thank you very much for the Certificate of Appreciation for my 50 years of radio broadcasting. It has been my pleasure playing and promoting Polka Music.

Rich Biela

# Thank You

Dear IPA and Christy Krawisz,

Thank you for your kindness in sending a Certificate of Appreciation honoring my 35 years of broadcasting Frania's Polka Celebration. I look forward to attending the IPA Polka Festival. See you there. A heartfelt Thank you.

Frانيا Yakima



**May 18, 2021 - Certificate of Appreciation to Ted Gibala** - In recognition of your efforts for promoting and performing Polka Music for over 69 years. The International Polka Association hereby present this Certificate of Appreciation. Thank you and Congratulations.

Hi Keith AND Everybody doing The Jammerthon

Here is A LITTLE Donation For Everybody Donating Their Time For our Listening Pleasure For The 2021 Jammerthon.

A LITTLE Something For Pizza, Wings Beer or what Ever you choose.

A Big Hello goes out TO  
Keith STRAS (The Magical Voice)  
Chet Kowalkowski (The Velvet Voice)  
AND Dear Friend  
Dennis Motyka (The All American Voice)  
Always in my heart

Rodger Malinowski (Happy Birthday)  
Johnny Krawisz (Future Hall of Famer)  
Zenu (A Lot of Good Memories in Buffalo)  
Tony Blazonczyk (You are special in many ways to me).

Eddie Blazonczyk Jr (My heart,  
Friendship your music will be with me  
Forever.

To The Polka Con Fetti Band, Tony Blazonczyk  
AND New Phase Bands. The Music Company  
I can't remember if The IPA Band

is playing. I can not leave them out  
AND who ever will be playing.  
I'm sorry for the people I left out, but  
I Thank you.

Thank you All For Taking your Time  
For this Excellent Jammerthon

Thank you Again To All of you.

Bright, pretty,  
sure to bring a smile...  
that's the kind of day  
I'd pick for you. ALL

Butch  
&  
Debbie  
From  
Buffalo

From Butch & Debbie Pajak



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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.

**Editor:**

Lynn Kaminski  
newsletter@ipapolkas.com

**Contact us:**

International Polka Association, Inc.®  
PO Box 1484  
Plainfield, IL 60544  
1-800-TO-POLKA  
(1-800-867-6552)  
Website: [www.ipapolkas.com](http://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](mailto:membership@ipapolkas.com)

Renew your membership online!  
Visit: [www.ipapolkas.com/store](http://www.ipapolkas.com/store)

**2021 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)  
Media Advisor: Keith Pietranczyk (IL)  
Ex-Officio: Rick Rzeszutko (IL)  
Chaplain: Fr. Dennis Bogusz (PA)

**Directors:**

Chris Bogdon (PA)  
Chris Ebel (MN)  
Stephen Kaminski (IL)  
Brian Kapka (IL)  
Johnny Krawisz (IL)  
Lindsey Mateja (IL)  
Dennis Mikolajewski (IL)  
Jenny Ruitenberg (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:

[newsletter@ipapolkas.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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

### One Issue

Full Page.....	\$75.00 per issue
Half Page.....	\$55.00 per issue
Quarter Page.....	\$40.00 per issue
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### Three Issues

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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

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 10

### **DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER NEWSLETTER: SEPT. 15**

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.**

International Polka Association, Inc.®  
PO Box 1484, Plainfield, IL 60544  
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Website: [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com)

