

IPA Newsletter



A Message from our President

Hello IPA Members.

I trust you are all doing well...... What a Spectacular Festival we had Labor Day Weekend in Cranberry, Pennsylvania.

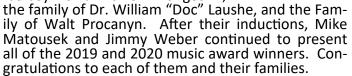
Most of the Board and Polka Fans kicked off our festival on Thursday by attending an event run by IPA Director Chris Bogdon at the Cranberry Elks Lodge, featuring The Burgh Boys. Band members included, Eric Bogdon, Rich Zebrowski, Rich Kois, Randy Koslowsky, RJ Bogdon, and Chris Bogdon. It was a super party, with a great crowd and plenty of excited polka fans ready for a great IPA weekend. In addition, the proceeds of this event benefited the Elks Club.

Everyone commented how they loved the new location for the IPA Festival. It was at the DoubleTree in Mars, PA. As soon as you entered the lobby of the hotel, you knew it was going to be a great weekend. Plenty of seating in the lobby area, with tables, chairs, couches, TVs, and a huge U-shaped bar. The kind and friendly staff was happy everyone felt a warm welcome.

Friday afternoon, our Welcome Party kicked off at 1:30 pm in the lobby with music by the Kosmix. It was a great way to start off the weekend and the band was awesome. Entertainment then started in the huge ballroom that evening with music by Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push, Energy Reunion, and Steve Meisner, of which everyone in attendance enjoyed.

On Saturday morning, the 51st and 52nd Annual IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame® and Music Awards Banquet started at 9:30 in the morning with the formal induction of the 2020 and the 2021 Hall of Fame Class being introduced to the attendees and receiv-

ing their plaques and pins. Congratulations once again to the 2020 inductees: Rich Rzeszutko, Bill Shibilski, Dave Zychowski, the family of Tony "Krew" Krupski, the family of Ellsworth "Babe" Wagner; as well as the 2021 Inductees: Michael Costa, Richard "Jersey Polka Richie" Drongoski,



While the banquet was in progress a pool party was taking place with the fine sounds of the Mon Valley Push which started at 11am. Music in the ballroom soon followed starting at 4:30pm with music by amazing sounds of the IPA Tribute Band, Klancnik and Friends, and Polka Family. The dance went way past the 1am quitting time after multiple "one-more-times".

Sunday morning brought the wonderful Polka Mass celebrated by IPA Chaplin, Father Dennis Bogusz, along with the outstanding music of the Kosmix once again.

At 11am, the Annual Election of Officers and Convention meeting was held, with the following results: President, Christy Krawisz; 1st Vice President, Lori Lewandowski; **newly elected, 2nd Vice President, Chris Bogdon**; Treasurer, Dan Mateja; Secretary, Cheryl Furmaniak; Financial Secretary, Lynn Kaminski; **newly elected Sargent-at-Arms Randy Koslosky**; Media Advisor, Keith Pietranczyk; Chaplain, Father Dennis Bogusz; Youth Advisor, Christopher Ebel.



Make your plans to attend the 54th Annual IPA Polka Festival and Convention

SEPTEMBER 2-4, 2022

Room reservations begin on October 18th

https://www.ipapolkas.com/go/reservation/

910 Sheraton Drive Mars, PA 16046 Illinois Directors: Stephen Kaminski, Brian Kapka, Johnny Krawisz, Lindsey Mateja, Dennis Mikolajewski, and **newly elected Christy Nowakowski**. Non-Illinois Directors: Jill Styczynski, Sue Szela, Mark Trzepasz, Brad Turk, and **newly elected Anne Stec**.

Special thanks to Fred Kendzierski, Rick Rzeszutko and Jenny Ruitenberg for their many years of service on the IPA Board. We greatly appreciate all that you have done.

The weekend ended with five awesome bands performing on Sunday: Michael Costa and the Beat, The Boys, Tony Blazonczyk and New Phaze, Polka Country Musicians, and Ray Jay and the Carousels.

Special thanks to the Polka Jammer Network with guest IJ's Keith Stras, Keith Pietranczyk, and Billy Belina, who broadcasted throughout the weekend on WPJN as well as Robin Pegg and Geri Chadwick who were live with their Polkas After Dark Show on September 2nd.

To each of the board members and volunteers, thank you so very much for being such a huge part of the weekend's success. Each of you are a great asset to our organization and without you this weekend may not have run so smoothly. Once again, thank you to all the bands that performed

and entertained us all four days with special thanks to the wonderful hotel staff.

Thank you to each and every one of you who attended the festival and celebrated with us. We hope you had a fantastic time, and we hope you'll consider joining us next Labor Day 2022 as we will be back at the DoubleTree as we celebrate our 54th Annual IPA Polka Festival.

Be sure to purchase your "Polka music is Essensial" T-Shirt debuted and sold at the IPA Festival and is now available online at ipapolkas.com. Special thanks to Hayley Krawisz for coming up with the design.

Mark your calendars for the 16th Annual IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Dance 2022, March 5th and 6th, at the Polish American Citizens Center (PACC) 355 East Street, Ludlow MA. March 5th music by John Gora and Gorale and March 6th, Honoring the music of Ray Jay Jarusinski with music by Lenny Gomulka, Eddie Forman Orchestra and Dennis Polisky & The Maestro's Men.

In closing, I hope you all have a wonderful Fall and I look forward to seeing you soon.















Randy Koslosky elected as IPA® Sergeant at Arms

IPA Hall of fame member Randy Koslosky (2015), was elected as the Sergeant at Arms in September, 2021, at the International Polka Association's annual festival and convention.

Randy Koslosky has made significant contributions to the polka industry as a performer, songwriter, studio musician, producer, and creator of unique polka productions. Born in Pittsburgh in 1962, Randy has been actively performing polka music since 1976. He started with a band formed along with his brother that later became known as Energy. He also performed regularly with The Sounds and later joined Henny & the Versa J's. With these bands, he has been part of several award-winning and Grammy-nominated

recordings. He continues to perform with The KOSMIX, Mon Valley PUsh, and energy.

As a songwriter Randy composed numerous songs which have been recorded by dozens of bands. Several of his songs have received awards and honors from the International Polka Association, United States Polka Association, and other polka organizations.

As a studio musician, Randy was first invited to record with The Sounds in 1987. He has recorded over 1,200 songs on more than 100 recordings with over 45 bands.

Randy has been a pioneer as the creator of many unique polka productions, including events that have helped to foster the involvement of the younger generation of polka fans.

Gong forward, it is Randy's mission as a officer with the International Polka Association to continue in these efforts.

Sunny in Florida



Witamy członków!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting this year's IPA convention. As the Florida IPA Director, I would especially like to recognize those who trav-By Brad Turk eled from the Sunshine State. Your attendance definitely added to the success of this mem-

orable event! Please make plans on attending in 2022. Congratulations to all of the Polka Hall of Fame inductees and IPA music award winners. Your love of polka music is valued and appreciated.

Thank you to the voters for your support in reelecting me as an IPA Director. I am honored to be representing Florida for another two years!

Club Events:

Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach will be honoring Polish American Heritage Month on October 10th with the Melotones. It is Oktoberfest time on October 24th with Polka Classics. November 7th will be the Polka All Stars and the Thanksgiving dance will be on the 21st, with Joey "O" Oberaitis. The Christmas Kolendy party will be on December 19th. You can join their Facebook page, visit their website: www.polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.org call the club (386)-258-7059, for bi-weekly updates.

German American Club of Marion County will be celebrating Oktoberfest on September 26th, with Alpine Express. November 7th is the annual Schlachtfest with Eva Adams, and their Christmas Special event will be on December 19th, featuring the Tannerbaum Band. For all tickets/ info., call Mary (352)-789-6499 or visit their website: www.gacmarioncounty.com.

General K. Pulaski Club in Belleview will be recognizing 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 hav-

ing takeout Dinner Specials on Fridays, call Cindy (386)-689-9454 for dinner menus. For upcoming events, join their Facebook page, or their website: www.samsulasnpjlodge603.com. Make plans to attend SNPJ days in February 2022.

Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach are currently scheduling dances and events for the club till end of the year. 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 calendar. 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 with Polka Generations. On November 21st is Northern Sounds. December 5th is Polka All Stars, and December 19th is Christmas Kolendy with the Nu Soundz. 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 (Saturday), Slovenian Polka and 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 or call: (352) 875-3961. Please continue to sup-

port LIVE polka music and all of our clubs. Thanks again, to all our Florida IPA members, for attending our annual festival last month! Szczesliwy Wielkanoc!

IPA members Janice & Carl Prushinski, and daughter Corinne **Turk**





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Christy Nowakowski elected as IPA® Director from Illinois

Christy Nowakowski was elected as an Illinois Director at the 53rd Annual International Polka Association Festival and Convention.

Polka music has always been a huge part of Christy's life. In fact, her parents joke that her first words as a child were "Fiddle Faddle." Her parents, Mike and Diane Nowakowski, were both raised in the Chicago area with polka music being an integral part of their upbringings. Christy always associates her Polish roots to her Grandpa, who always made sure polka music's presence was made at family parties and events. She always shared

such a bond with her Grandpa because of polka music and will forever be grateful to him for sharing all his music with her.

As a child, Christy would attend local dances and festivals in the midwest with her family. Once she graduated High School, she began to travel more to "new" festivals, was introduced to bands she never heard before, and met lots of people from all over the country. From these road trips, Christy's love for traveling grew, and now she tries to attend as many dances and festivals as possible. Christy laughs when she often gets asked by her coworkers, "What state are you off to this weekend for your polkas?" She also has gained some of the strongest friendships that she's ever had, making all of her polka friends more like family.

Christy has always felt that this "Polka World" we have is one of the greatest blessings not only in her life, but all of our lives. Now being a Director for the IPA, Christy wants to make sure that this world we love continues and grows, and encourage young polka music fans to get involved so the future generations can experience what we have all been so lucky to have.



The Majek Orchestra

by Gary McKee (as published in Texas Polka News March 2019)

1897, European-born 12-year-old Leo the Moravian (Europe) countryside. Life in the living conditions of his family. He relocated his days, everyone got a slice of meat and maybe a sound of accordions and horns at the Moravian, was measured in hours walked. At the end of a quently as much as the boy's military service alworkday at the sugar factory, Leo would take off lowed during WWII. walking with his accordion searching out a place to play and if he was lucky, earn a little money. Courtship with the future Mrs. Majek consisted of her walking with Leo, at times, several hours for him to play, she didn't dance, but loved watching him play and absorbed the music. In 1913, the bugles of war were sounding, and Leo knew he needed to get his growing family out of Central Europe. He, alone, took a steamship to Galveston, and then traveled to the Granger area where to play. He began learning any instrument he his wife's brother had immigrated.

After establishing a home, Leo sent for his family. They left on the last passenger ship to leave Europe before the hostilities began. Reunited in Texas, the Majek family relocated to the Cameron area from Granger. One by one as each of his six sons began to get older, they were taught music, and all intermittently played with their father as they found their way through life. The Leo Majek Orchestra, at times, consisted of sons John, Julius, and later Charlie, Joe, Frank and John Jr. They played house dances (25¢ each) and private functions honing their sound sical life was better than in the old country as early hours of the new year. now he had a horse and buggy to travel to gigs. By 1930, the Leo Majek Orchestra was asked to play for pay (minimal, for sure), in New Tabor (southwest of Bryan), after a Czech play. The Czechs in Texas were very fond of combining stage productions and dances. The Majeks stayed close to Cameron performing at Beran's Dance Pavilion and the National Hall with an occasional dance in Dime Box. In 1934, the Majek Orchestra journeyed to Corpus Christi, to provide music for a play their son, Julius, was associated with and then returned home. Their popularity made the Majek Orchestra the go-to band for weddings, parties, and public functions in the Cameron area during the 1930s.

By 1940, the Bohemian Colony in Corpus Majek, (Sr,) began playing the accordion around needed music, and Leo was ready to improve the town of Slavkov was hard and minimal. Breakfast family to the Gulf Coast with the men and boys was coffee with bread crumbled in it, soup with taking jobs in the port area. Reuniting with famipotatoes rounded out the day's menu. On Sun- lies from "their neck of the woods", the Majek kolache. If you traveled (by foot only) distance Sokol, and Legion halls began to be heard fre-

> Over the years Leo Sr.'s sons began having sons and they continued the tradition of playing their musical heritage, though not all at one time. Frank had two sons, Randy and Ronnie who continued playing, time and family permitting. Charlie Majek's son, Michael, continues playing his trumpet with the Majeks to this day.

> John, had a son named Jerry who was eager could get his hands on and soon found himself playing a sousaphone (marching band style tuba) in the Leo Majek Orchestra at the age of fifteen. In the 1950s, the Majek Orchestra was in demand on the Coastal Bend with the band was playing at least twice a weekend in the Corpus area. In June of 1957, the Majek's broke loose from the Corpus area for a dance at Lodge 88 in Houston. All during this time, the Majeks returned yearly for the church picnics around Cameron.

The Majek's were performing at the Moravian Hall in Corpus on New Year's Eve, 1964. The crowd was dancing away, the clock had struck with their father and friends. For Leo Sr., his mu-twelve, and the festivities continued on into the

> Martha Ann Stefek had grown up in the Czech culture of the Corpus Christi area. The family never missed an episode of the Lawrence Welk **Show** and Martha Ann was mesmerized by Myron Floren's accordion playing. As the family attended various picnics, festivals, and family reunions, 10-year old Martha Ann decided that she could do the same thing these accordion players were doing. She asked her parents for accordion lessons. It was suggested that she learn the piano first, but Martha Ann knew she couldn't lug a piano around, so she began taking lessons with the only accordion teacher in Corpus Christi.

> > (continued on next page)

After two years of lessons Martha Ann was style accordion, no polkas or waltzes.

Armed with the basics of music, albeit classical, she began playing at home with her record player, using mostly **The Vrazels'** records as a guideline. A friend, Joan Havelka, had also learned the accordion and they practiced together. The two 14-year-old accordionists were soon introduced to the Lone Star Polka Boys and they quickly became part of the band, which rehearsed in the back room of Vanicek's Store in nearby Sinton.

way to play a Majek gig. After a year, they were Lauren, sits in on guitar at some shows. married. Martha Ann was determined to keep on playing and whenever possible she sat in with the Majeks giving them a double accordion sound. In 1972, Jerry bought her a new accordion and Martha Ann officially became the first female in the family band.

husband's band, and used her musical knowledge to contribute: The lovely, haunting eo crew. "Vzpomínka na Cameron" [Memories of Cameron] was co-written around the late 1940s by Rosie Majek, matriarch of the Leo Majek family of Corpus Christi, and John, one of her seven children. The song describes a mother's anguish when a son leaves for war and her joy when he returns. This description is courtesy of Frances **Barton**, accordionist and Czech history author.

Jeanette, spent several months on stage before nominational festivities around town. being born as did the following children. After being born, the children sometimes staved with Grandma, but frequently showed up with Grandma at dances and then kept on stage or at a nearby table.

Having Majek DNA and absorbing the music frustrated as the instructor only knew classical subconsciously in their early years pretty much ensures that music will be passed along to the offspring. Their son, Jerome, had learned guitar and bass at an early age, but still wasn't satisfied. This became apparent one morning when Martha Ann and Jerry were awakened by their son, Jerome, who was married by then, asked them a favor. He brought in his Dad's tuba and his Mom's accordion into the bedroom and asked for tuba lessons. So, before coffee was enjoyed, his parents played two polkas and two waltzes while he videotaped them. He took the tape home and within several hours he had the tuba down. Je-That same New Year's Eve in 1964, the Lone rome quickly become proficient on lead guitar, Star Polka Boys had just finished playing at 1 am bass guitar (and tuba), accordion, sax, and at the American Legion Hall, and the two girls de- drums while performing in the Majek Orchestra. cided to check out the competition at the Moravi- Martha and Jerry's daughters, Jeanette and an Hall. Back in the day, many bands played until Janell, occasionally sit in or help with the busi-2 or 3 or later in the morning. The Majek's were ness side; a son, Justin played with the band for commanding the stage. Martha Ann noticed a many years but has taken a break to let his son, good-looking young sousaphone player named Austin play guitar. Jerome still keeps the band on Jerry Majek. The attraction was mutual, and they beat with his bass sound and sweetens the began dating, with Jerry picking her up on his sound with other instruments. Jerome's daughter,

One of the big thrills of the Majek Orchestra was playing live on the local TV station for several months in 1971 and in color, no less. Color TV was slowing getting traction in Texas. Jerry said that the studio had set up several microphones to catch all the musician's sounds, and when cued. Leo Sr.'s wife, Rosie, totally supported her the Majeks took off singing in Czech and playing polkas and waltzes to the amazement of the vid-

The Majeks just love to play music, for decades they have been performing every weekend for crowds across Texas, from the Music Box in Six Mile (Port Lavaca area); to Lodge 88 in Houston to their Texas roots in Cameron, to Harlingen in the Rio Grande Valley and for years have played a German Maifest at Gruenau Hall. Around home base Corpus, in addition to the Martha Ann and Jerry's offspring have truly Sokol, Moravian, and Legion halls, they have perinherited their rhythm and musical abilities at a formed on the T-Heads in the harbor, for sailors very early age through osmosis. During Martha from the Naval Air Station, and at a St. Patrick's Ann's pregnancy, she would play with the band Day celebration in nearby San Patricio. The band as close to the due date as possible. Her first, has played yearly at the Catholic and other de-

> The Majek Orchestra has also performed in Europe and is a favorite at the multi-band gatherings in Hallettsville, Victoria, and El Campo.

> > (continued on next page)

In 2013, the Majek Orchestra, had four of the five generations performing on stage. However, time has taken its toll and now there are three generations on stage playing as only a family can play together.

The awards are many and well-deserved. In 1992, The Texas Polka Music Association bestowed its Lifetime Achievement Award for "A Family band dedicated to preserving and promoting polka music for ninety-five years" (this year makes it 124 years). In 1997, the Texas House of Representatives honored the band on its 100th birthday.

In 2015 South Texas Music Hall of Fame awarded the Majek Orchestra a star on its Walk of Fame for contributions to the local music culture of Corpus Christi. They join such notables as Selena, Doug Sahm, Kris Kristofferson, and George Strait who have been honored for keeping South Texas music alive and well.

Jerome would like you to know that "When you're a Majek, the name says it all. We're a group, a family, we're one. Playing happy music for happy people, that's what it's all about."













T.A.P.S—Toledo Area Polka Society's Summer Picnic

The weekend of June 18th and 19th took me on a road trip to Oregon, OH for the Toledo Area Polka Society's summer picnic. The afternoon started with the Polish American Concert Band, playing many traditional folk songs and a wide variety of music to enjoy and ease us into the evening entertainment.

The evening brought the return of IPA Hall of Fame Member Eddie Biegaj and the members of Crusade: Randy Krajewski, Jimmy Mackiewicz Jr., Doug Galuzny and new drummer Andrew Kuczmarski, to the bandstand. The blend of traditional polkas and waltzes along with original Crusade songs kept everyone wanting more and the dance floor packed. The band sounded as if they never stopped playing together, so much talent, so much energy, true entertaining performance. It was a great first night of the picnic



and fabulous return of Crusade.

two Day brought more wonderful music bγ Duane Mali-

nowski - OH, Tri-City Drive-IL and Polish Connection -WI, (I know, travel 500 miles to see a WI Band, what was I thinking) and a traditional performance by Echoes of Poland Song and Dance Ensemble. The music was nonstop and the entertainment was top notch. It was a pleasure to see Eddie Blazonczyk Jr. playing again by Jill Styczynski with Polish Connection.



Director, Wisconsin

The weekend had many great tasting vendors serving up all your Polish favorites, (food and beverages), souvenirs, homemade Polish bakery, CD concessions and a Pierogi- eating contest.

Congratulations to Picnic Chairman Kevin Kwiatkowski and all the Officers and Members of TAPS on a successful and fun event. T.A.P.S. Summer Picnic is an event that you should put on your calendar to attend. The IPA is a proud sponsor of the T.A.P.S. Picnic.





Anne Stec elected as IPA® Director from Michigan

Hey there! Meet Annie Stec from Wyandotte, Michigan. She was elected as a Director from Michigan for the International Polka Association Board at the 2021 IPA Festival & Convention. Annie's polka roots stem from her dad. Larry Stec, whose love of the music (and far away travels for small amounts of time with friends) inspired Annie to become as involved as she is today.

Annie's love of Polish dance started at PRCU 162 at the age of three. thanks to her mom Tracie Stec. She spent every Tuesday night there until the age of 18, learning the traditional dances of Poland. During her senior

year, she was an honored graduate at the 25th Annual PRCUA Shirley Ann Galanty Michigan State Ball. When asked what she wanted for Christmas, Annie said "a trip to Polka Fireworks." Because of that 2016 festival, she began attending more polka dances and found her niche. Ever since, she cannot picture her life without polkas.

As an IPA Director, Annie wants to spread the love of the music and culture far and wide. She hopes to strengthen and grow the IPA by getting more people involved, especially those in the upcoming generation. Annie wants to see polkas live on beyond her years so that others can see all the funpolka music can bring.





Polish American Citizens Center • 355 East Street, Ludlow, MA 01056





John Gara

GORALE

of Burlington, Canada





Hanaring the music of Ray Jay
Jarusinski
of Port Vue, Pennsylvania









Eddie Forman Orchestra



Dennis Polisky E Maestro's Men

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FRIDAY NIGHT 6PM. FREE ADMISSION (MEET & GREET)

SATURDAY NIGHT 5 TO 9PM \$15.00

SUNDAY AFTERNOON 2 TO 6PM \$15.00

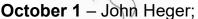
(KIDS UNDER 12 FREE)

No B. Y.O.B. affair the Pulaski Club has a full bar menu available and the Polish Kitchen will be open

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Donna Pociask

October 2 – Jim Kilian;

Phil Kozlak

October 3 -

Mike Rozegnal;

Bill Malinowski;

Camille Stras

October 4 -

Karen Hudy; Jean Pala; Ray Rzeszutko; Ryan

Koenig; Kayla Rosinski-Urbanczyk

October 5 – Dr. Robert Dutka;

Bruno Mikos; John Gembka

October 6 – Richard Kula; Bob Borowski;

Alan Andrascik; Thomas Nadolski;

Sandra Pratas; Michael Krupa

October 7 - Lindsey Mateja; Dave Raccis

October 8 – Brian Lesiewicz;

Joe Kalinowski; Edgar Skolaut

October 9 - Craig Ebel; Barb Benkowski;

Dave Morris; Andy Fenus; Keith Stras;

Carole Kryk; David Kolar; Dan Moroski;

Dave Zychowski; Andrew Kozlowski; John Okrzesik, Sr.

October 10 - Trudy Patek; Al Kania

October 11 - Marie Jagiella;

Mike DeArruda; Pam Jendrysik;

Jimmy "K" Krzeszewski

October 13 – Marian Betley

October 14 - Gene Swick

October 15 – Michael Ziemski;

Lawrence Kutas

October 16 – Dawn Mikrut Bartolini;







Andrew Makarewicz;
Frank Maroszek
October 17 –
Christy Krawisz;
Alice Szczur
October 19 –
Tish Blazonczyk;
Floyd Grocholski;
Carolyn Machelski;
Eugene Murawski;
Ed Tylka

October 20 – John Punola; Jarrod Vrazel

October 21 - Alan Pala: Rob Czech

October 23 - Patricia Walker:

Arnold Checkalski; Chris Hedrich

October 24 – Joe Brozowski;

Charles Robinson: Barbara Lewarndrowski

October 25 – Denise Skorik;

Randy Koslosky

October 26 – Brent Iskra: Jim Pacholski

October 27 – Linda Lee Brown

October 28 - Dale Cribbins:

Richard Kovalski; William Dawson

October 29 - David Walter;

Paul Raczkowski

October 30 - Zach Piatkowski;

Michele Wojtowicz

October 31 - Kaila Blaskowski

** 9/16 - Dave Gajda

** 9/19 - Richie Kois









November 1 – Kevin Adams; Wally Stanczyk; Charles Curtin;

November 2 – Matt Prochot; Walter Rognerud November 3 –

Mark Trzepacz; Ray "Ray Jay" Jarusinski

November 4 – Jane Honn; Cindy Koretsky November 6 – Jim Polaski, James Witulski

November 7 – Linda Jelinek; Arlene Krzeminski; Stan Simms;

Kaitlin Daubert

November 8 - Jill Styczynski; Bill Ellis;

November 9 - Frank Styfurak;

Anthony Szczur;

November 10 – Thomas Zimnowski; Joe Sokol

November 11 - Joan Griffin

November 12 – Kathy Cernosek

November 13 - Ray Jurusinski;

Pete Wojcik

November 14 – June Sherry Ingram;

Dennis Ostopowicz

Robert Kujawa; John Struziak;

Janice Dipyatic

November 15 – Sue Szela; Irene Lizzio;

Carl Lucas; Kathie Warco; Bob Lube;

Harry Schroeder; Diane Kapka

November 16 – Kenny Ruitenberg

November 17 – Chris Tanski; Paul Futa, Jr.

November 18 – Marty Dzik

November 19 - Angela Biskup;

Kenny Olowin

November 20 - Barry Juhasz;

James "Whitey" Ryniec

November 21 – Renda Cribbins; Joanne Laporte; George Koczwara November 22 –

Sally Sendra; Myna Sadowski; Sylvia Skowronek; Annie Faucher

November 23 – Sandy Simunek; Robert Wojnowski; Mary Komurek November 24 – Diane Hamlin; Anita Herrmann; Charlie Tansek; Josephine Malinowski

November 25 – Mitch Moskal; Mary Wolski;

Lynn Thull; Peter Danielczuk

November 26 – Andrew Dziagwa

November 27 – Carol Stasila;

Sandra Lewandowski; Myfanwy Morgan; Val Bakowski

November 28 – Kathy Weglicki;

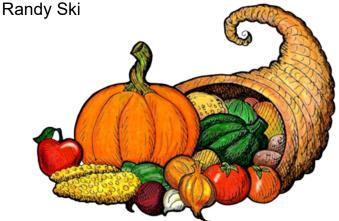
David Bezdziecki

November 29 – Angela Biskup; Mark Grochowski; Carl Finch;

Nick DiSebastiano; Frania Yakima;

Lenny Kapka

November 30 – Ray Barsukiewicz,



JPA 2021 Polka Music Awards Notice

Polka Recording Companies and Artists Must Submit Nominations by January 14, 2022

Each year, the International Polka Association recognizes deserving polka artists with music awards that include Favorite Album, Favorite Song, Favorite Band, Favorite Male Vocalist, and Favorite Female Vocalist for Polish and International (Slovenian, Czech, German, Dutchmen, etc.) polka styles. An academy of 195 electors from across the country determines the award winners by casting their votes on ballots generated by submissions from those artists.

In order to be listed on the ballot, independent artists, bandleaders, executive producers, or record label representatives must complete the electronic *IPA Polka Music Awards Application*. Recording artists must submit the musical tracks of the recording and related artwork with liner notes as instructed in the form. Recordings must be released between January 1st and December 31st of a given year and the submission received by the following January 14th to be considered in the next voting cycle. (Right CLICK HERE and choose Open Hyperlink) to be taken directly to the *IPA Polka Music Awards Application* or type in www.ipapolkas.com/application-musicawards/ in your favorite browser. Any questions concerning this process should be directed to MusicAwards@ipapolkas.com.





Roman Marsolek, MN
Lucille Marsolek, MN
Donna Cotrupe, NY
Kathy Urbanczyk, NY
Kayla Rosinski-Urbanczyk, NY
Hank Haller, OH



Sean Byrne Frank Powaski Butch Pajak



Traci Simanoski, NY
Mitchel Daubert, PA
Kaitlin Daubert, OH
Jeff Mleczko, MI
John Lacki, PA
Robyn Kaczmarczyk, WV
Barbara Lewandrowski,
VA

David Lewandrowski, VA
M. Daniel Hakas, PA
Michael Hakas, PA
Rob Czech, MA
Sara Zelaslo, MI

Eric Krupski, NY
Stephen Zelenak, PA
Karen Guca, Canada
Ray Szymanski, CT
Ann Szymanski, CT
Timothy Cannon, MO
Valerie Eisenman, MI
James Witulski, NC
Mary, Witulski, NC
Linda Plantz, PA
Jeff Gazdik, OH
George Koczwara, IL
Sheryl Kastanek, NE

\$1000 FREDDY K JR

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The Freddy K Jr. Music Scholarship Committee is now accepting requests for applications for the 2022 Scholarship award. Applicants must be high school seniors who have been accepted to an accredited college and play a musical instrument. Anyone who is interested in applying for this year's award can application our www.freddykjrmusicscholarship.com contact the or Scholarship Committee at the following address:

> The Freddy K Jr. Scholarship Fund 23850 Via Italia Circle, Apt #1104 Bonita Springs, Florida 34134

Freddy K Jr. played trumpet in his father's band, The Freddy K Band, when he died in an automobile accident in July of 1997. Music, especially Polka Music, was Fred's life and passion. His personality, sense of humor and love of Polka Music affected all who knew him. The Music Scholarship Fund was set up to carry on where Fred left off by promoting polka music through the gift of a \$1,000 Scholarship to a deserving student every year. Each award will be given at one of the polka Festivals during the summer.

WINNERS OF \$1000 SCHOLARSHIPS

2021- Syrena Prytko, Millbury, Massachusetts

2020 - Lucas Yash, Webster, Massachusetts

2019 - Emma Bogdan, Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania

2018 - ZacharyPiatkowski, Canastota, New York

2017 - Veronica Prytko, Millbury, Massachusetts Joseph Blackburn, Troy, New York

2016 - Olivia Piatkowski, Canastota, New York

2015 - Adam Winiarz, Norton, Massachusetts

2014 - Jenna Libera, Charlton, Massachusetts

2013 - Eva Snyder, South Hadley, Massachusetts

2012 - Justin Kohan, Orchard Park, New York

2011 - Stephen Piatkowski, Canastota, New York

2010 - Kassandre Dardzinski, Saugus, Massachusetts and Anita Marie Thomas, Balto, Maryland

2009 - David Raccis, Wilbreham, Massachusetts

2008 - Christopher Wanyo, Shillington, Pennsylvania

2007 - Kevin Martin, Hudson, New Hampshire

2006 - Lanelle Raccis, Wilbreham, Massachusetts

2005 - Nick Koryluk, Hicksville, New York

2004 - Michael D. Riel, II, Chicopee, Massachusetts

2003 - Ryan Ogrodny, White Oak, Pennsylvania

2002 - Brian Romianik, Millville, New Jersey

2001 - Melissa Mocadlo, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

2000 - Andrew Krystopolski, Wilmington, Delaware

1999 - William Lomnychuk, Reading, Pennsylvania

1998 - John Daigle, Chicopee, Massachusetts

2021 Freddy K Jr. Scholarship Award Winner, Syrena Prytko

Syrena Prytko of Millbury, Massachusetts, was the recipient of the Freddy K. Jr. Scholarship Award for 2021. Due to covid restrictions Syrena accepted her check of \$1,000 by mail. Syrena was a member of the Honor Society in High School despite being home schooled during her Senior year. She was a member of the Chemistry club, Drama, Band, Choir, Student Council and was Captain of the Basketball and Volleyball teams while she attended high school. She was also the

winner of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Math Meet. She grew up going to the polka dances and polka festivals and can always be seen dancing the polka with family and friends. Her Grandfather (Dziadzie) and Father both played in polka bands and Syrena plays drums and guitar. She hopes someday to be able to play in front of the polka audience as they did.

Syrena was accepted to several universities and is attending the Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts and is majoring in Engineering. So, as you can see, Syrena was a great choice by the Judges for this award!



Polka Party

FEATURING: EFO - Eddie Forman Orchestra
Saturday, February 12, 2022
5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

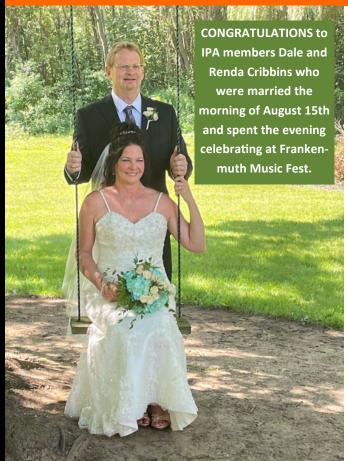
\$16 per ticket in advance \$18 at the door Cash or Money Order

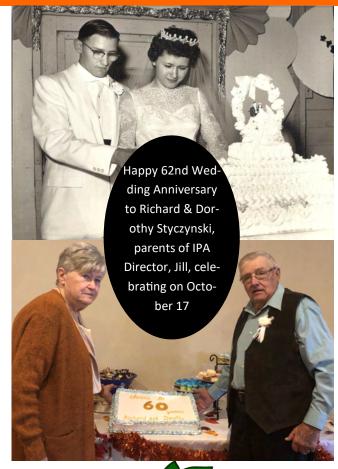
Doors and Kitchen Open at 4:30pm - Food Available



Place: Englewood Elks Lodge 401 N. Indiana Avenue Englewood, FL Phone: (941) 474-1404 The IPA Board and Directors wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving











IPA's POLKA MUSIC IS ESSENTIAL

AVAILABLE NOW









Polka music is Essential is the latest IPA t-shirt designed by IPA member Hayley Krawisz. Scan the QR code to take you directly to the store to purchase yours now, or you can visit the store at IPAPolkas.com.

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.

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 VouTube Channel



The International Polka Association has a YouTube Channel. There, you can find Interviews with Hall of Fame® members such as John Stanky, Wally Dombrowski, and Jimmy Weber 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.

Hello Christy,

I want you to know what a great time I had at the IPA convention this year. You and your officers did a great job representing the IPA. Everything was super, from the pool party to the ballroom. The banquet I attend on behalf of my cousin, Tony Krupski, with his brothers Dennis and Rick, as well as his son Tony was amazing. I felt that when I was at the banquet, I was in school. I learned so much about all of the inductees as well as the history of the polka field. The food was delicious. I truly want to thank you. Please accept this donation to the IPA as my thank you.

Butch Pajak



I would like to thank everyone on the Board for having the privilege to serve the IPA for 30 plus years. I have met many wonderful people from across the country and formed many life-long friendships. Through the years I have enjoyed many great experiences and joy, especially the great laugh of Jerry Wantroba, a fantastic individual!

Please remember we all have a common goal and need to work for the organization and not personal agendas. It was a lot of fun running the Benefit Dances in New Jersey and Massachusetts for the Polka Hall of Fame

I would like to thank Christy Furmaniak Krawisz and Rick Rzeszutko and the past Presidents I've had the privilege to work with. Once again, much success to the IPA and remember we all do this for the love of Polka Music.

Musically yours,

Freddy K

Hello Christy,

Now that the festival is over, and some t's crossed and i's dotted, you can smile and take a deep breath!

Congratulations to everybody for making this Festival a great one! I do know how much work goes into this and once again I am blown away by all the people working to make it a success. The new venue proved to be a good one, giving a new part of the country the chance to know and love the IPA. That is very forward thinking; bravo! The extra treat for those of us at home was the event being broadcast on Jammer. Todd Z made a gift to all when he started a show/station because he loves polka music. How wonderful that Mark and Cherie, Billy, Keith, Jackie, Stephen and many others made the remote happen...and so successfully.

Finally, I purchased a Tshirt! Pass on my congratulations to Haley on a super cute idea and design! I will proudly wear it. There's talent a plenty in the Krawisz family!! But also there is integrity and hard work. You guys are amazing.

God bless all the folks who always make things happen for the Festival and everything connected to the many IPA endeavors.

Love and applause to all from me, Christy,

Linda Walczynski Louie Lifetime IPA member/Lifetime IPA fan!



Young Songwriter's Competition

2021 WINNERS



1st Place

"One and Only"

Karen Guca

Toronto, Canada







2nd Place

*"Bruce's Polka"*Jenna Libera
Waltham, MA



WAY OUT WEST ARIZONA POLKA DANCE FEST. 2022

WHEN:

Jan. 15th, & 16th, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push Feb. 19th, & 20th, Mike Costa & The Beat Mar. 19th, & 20th, The Natural Talent (T.N.T.) Nov. 12th, & 13th, Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men

WHERE:

PULASKI CLUB 4331 E. MCDOWELL RD PHOENIX, AZ. 85008

TIME:

FRIDAY NIGHT 6PM. FREE ADMISSION (MEET & GREET)

SATURDAY NIGHT 5 TO 9PM \$15.00 SUNDAY AFTERNOON 2 TO 6PM \$15.00 (kids under 12 free)

No B.Y.O.B. affair the Pulaski Club has a full bar menu available and the Polish Kitchen will be open

Hotel Reservations: Holiday Inn & Suites Phoenix Airport North 1515 N. 44th St. Phoenix, Az. 85008 (p) 602-358-0908 www.hiphoenixsuites.com

THE PULASKI CLUB 4331 E. MCDOWELL RD. PHOENIX, AZ. 85008 602-275-9329 WWW.PULASKICLUBAZ.ORG WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PULASKICLUBAZ



PolkaConnection.com

Your connection to polka music from around the world

Online at PolkaConnection.com you can:

- Browse for amazing artists & CDs
- Listen to samples of your favorites
- Buy online & pay no domestic shipping

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

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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)

1st Vice President: Lori Lewandowski (IL)

2nd Vice President: Chris Bogdon (PA)

Treasurer: Dan Mateja (IL)

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Media Advisor: Keith Pietranczyk (IL)

Youth Advisor: Chris Ebel (MN)

Chaplain: Fr. Dennis Bogusz (PA)

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Stephen Kaminski (IL)
Brian Kapka (IL)
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Lindsey Mateja (IL)
Dennis Mikolajewski (IL)
Christy Nowakowski (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

One Issue		
	Full Page	\$75.00 per issue
	Half Page	\$55.00 per issue
Ì	Quarter Page	\$40.00 per Issue
	Eighth Page	\$25.00 per issue
	Three Issues	
ı	Full Page	\$67.00 per issue
ı	Half Page	\$45.00 per issue
ı	Quarter Page	
ı	Eighth Page	
	Six Issues	
ı	Full Page	\$60.00 per issue
ı	Half Page	\$40.00 per issue
ı	Quarter Page	\$32.00 per issue
ı	Eighth Page	\$20.00 per issue
ı		
DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER: Nov. 12		

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.