



A Note From Our President

Hello IPA Members,

We hope you and your family had a great Thanksgiving and you are able to celebrate with family and friends.

I can't believe how fast this year had gone by, it's crazy to believe that 2023 is almost here. The IPA Board has been busy in the last few months with looking for another location to house our Hall of Fame as well as booking the bands for our 55th Annual IPA Festival and Convention. It seems like we just celebrated our 50th Anniversary. There are several other events that are happening throughout the year. Be sure to check our website at www.ipapolkas.com for more information as well as inside this newsletter.

In addition, a group of us have been meeting monthly to discuss the future of polka music. These meetings have been enlightening and I have learned so much from my fellow organization presidents. I am extremely excited with the direction we are going and look forward to continuing our monthly meetings with Chris Tansky, President of the Buffalo Polka Boosters; Anna Slepecky (Host and membership chairperson); Dan Fabeck, President of the Midwest Polka Association; Shirley Siwiec, President of the Polka Boosters Club of America, David Snyder, President of the Toledo Area Polka Society; and Bob Wolinski, President of the United States Polka Association.

As you celebrate Christmas, I hope you make wonderful memories that will linger in your home, along with great friendships that will last a lifetime. May this season be filled with Peace and Joy.

On behalf of the Officers and Directors of the International Polka Association, we want to wish each and everyone of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2023.

Musically yours,

Christy



It's Always Sunny in Florida...

Witamy członków!

I would like to begin by sending thoughts and prayers to all of those impacted by Hurricane IAN. Mother Nature has a powerful way of reminding everyone that moments should never be taken for granted...

It is hard to believe that Oktoberfest season is already over. I can tell you our band had a great time entertaining at numerous events throughout the state. I hope you had the opportunity to join in the fun, and will continue the good times this holiday season. Wishing everyone a Blessed **TURK**-ey day and a cherished Christmas! ☐

Please continue to support our clubs:

Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach

is having Polka dances at The Elks Lodge, 285 Wilmette Avenue, Ormond Beach. Nov. 13th will feature the Melotones; Nov. 20th is Joe Oberaitis and Dec. 18th is Polka Classic. The 2023 dance schedule is in the process of being finalized. For more information, call the club at (386)-258-7059, or email: pulaskidaytonaclub@yahoo.com. Join their Facebook page, or visit their website: www.polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.org.

German American Club of Marion County

will be celebrating their Fall Festival on Nov. 7th with music by Eva Adams. Dec. 19th is the annual Christmas Party, featuring the popular Tannenbaums Band. For tickets/information, please call Mary (352)-789-6499 or visit their website: www.gacmarioncounty.com.

General K. Pulaski Citizens Club in Belleview

will honor Veterans Day/Thanksgiving with Northern Sounds on Nov. 13th. The annual Christmas Kolendy party is Dec. 11th featuring Northern Sounds along with some special guests! Please contact Brad for more information.

SNPJ Lodge #603 in Samsula will be Celebrating their annual SNPJ Festival on Feb. 24th & Feb. 25th 2023 with Frank Moravcik Band from Cleveland, Ohio. There will be a

jam session each day, along with special guest musicians and GREAT food. Make plans to attend this special event! For more information, give Cindy a call at: (386)-689-9454. Join their Facebook page, email the club: snpjodge603@gmail.com

or visit their website: www.samsulasnpjodge603.com



By Brad Turk

Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach

is currently having "Friendly Friday" (one Friday a month), featuring happy hour drink prices and food along with FREE admission. Their New Year's Eve Gala will feature Northern Sounds Band on December 31st. Get your tickets early! Jan. 8th 2023, is John Stevens Trio; Feb. 12th is Eddie Forman (EFO), and March 12th is the SoFlaPA Band. For dates and information please join their Facebook page, visit their website www.pacvbusa.org, or call the club at (772)-778-0039.

Polish American Society of St. Petersburg

is having "Thirsty Thursdays" every Thursday evening from 5:30-9:00 PM. Polish dinners will be served from 6:00-8:00 with a full bar featuring special drink prices. Entertainment: Jan. 8th Florida Generations; Jan. 15th Northern Sounds; Jan. 22nd Florida Generations; Jan. 29th Polka All Stars; Feb. 5th Gerry Kryk's All Stars; Feb. 12th Northern Sounds; Feb. 19th Florida Generations and Feb. 26th Frank Moravcik. Please visit their website: www.polishsociety.org and join their Facebook page, call (for all their activities thru April 2023).

South Florida Polka Association (SoFlaPa)

is having "Fun In The Sun Winter Polka Getaway" in Ft. Lauderdale, Feb 1st -5th 2023. Bands will include: Polka Country Musicians (PCM), The Polka All-Stars and Southernmost Polka Band. For more information contact Maryrose: (954)-594-6883 or email: SoFlaPA21@aol.com.

Upcoming FL Polka Events in 2023:

Feb. 11th - Polka Party with Eddie Forman Orch. (EFO), at Englewood Elks Lodge from 5-9pm. Call (941)-474-1404 for info.

March 2nd - Jimmy Sturr Band at the 88th annual Strawberry Festival, Plant City. They will be taking the stage at 10:30am.

March 4th - Jimmy Sturr Band at Port St. Lucie Polish Am. Social Club Inc., at 12 Noon. Call (727)-879-9616 for info.

April 10th - Dyngus Day with Northern Sounds at The Villages 6-9pm.

Please continue to support Florida's IJ's. Featured on the Polka Jammer Network, 2009 IPA Hall of Famer Joe Oberaitis with Polkas 101 (Sat.), and Slovenian Polka Blast (Thur.) IPA member Ray Skorka, can be heard on Crankin' Polkas (Fri.). **IPA members of The Southern FL Polka Assoc. are LIVE on Polish New Castle Radio with High on Polkas (Sat).**

If you would like any additional information about our clubs, polka dances or special events, email me at bradturk@cox.net or call: (352) 875-3961. Wishing everyone a Wonderful Holiday season.

Wesołych Świąt i
szczęśliwego Nowego
Roku!



We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy, Healthy and New Year

Zyczymy wszystkim Wesołych Świąt
Bozego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego
Roku.

DE Director Henry Lenard & Diana K

Singing a Polish Christmas carol
from my heart, I wish all of my polka
friends and family from near and far a
wonderful holiday season blessed with good
health and polka happiness!

Please have a Na Zdrowie with me in 2023!

Wesołych Świąt, Bozego Narodzenia!

IL Director
Dennis Mikolajewski



Welcome New Members

Tom Radecki, IL
Kimberly Uelmen, WI
Danielle Throop, CA
Matt Lewandowski, NY
Rhonda Vincent, TN
Harriette Alfredson, FL
Walter Ostanek, Canada

New Lifetime Members

Paul Sinchak, MD

*Rest in
Peace*

Roger Hartwig, WI
Laura Bethke, IL



Wesolych Swiat Bozego
Narodenia
from
Treasurer Dan and Laura
Mateja

*On behalf the Pietranczyk family
(Keith, Jen, JP, Remy and Dobby) we
would like to extend a very Merry
Christmas to all of our polka family!
We miss you all and hope to be able
to see you soon in the New Year!
Stay safe and enjoy time with your
families over the holidays. **Wesołych
Świąt i Szczęśliwego
Nowego Roku!***





The
International
Polka
Association
is proud to
bring back to Wisconsin...

2014 IPA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE EDDIE BIEGAJ & CRUSADE

Saturday May 6, 2023
6pm-10pm



*Band line-up subject to change without notice

Sunday May 7, 2023

12 pm-5pm

Pulaski Area
Festival of Bands



Aaron Socha & LiveWire



The New Generation



The Mix



The Maroszek Brothers



The Nu Tymes

ADMISSION

Saturday: \$20

Sunday: \$20

18 and under free
with paid adult

LOCATION

Townline Pub & Grill

2544 Lineville Rd.

Suamico, WI 54313

Rooms Available

Country Inn & Suites

2308 Lineville Rd.

Green Bay, WI 54313

920-301-7030

Mention: IPA Polka

Rooms held until 4-6-2023



For more information visit
ipapolkas.com or scan the
code above.

Join the International Polka Association in Celebrating January as National Polka Month

NEW LOCATION FOR BOTH EVENTS

**Elements by the Odyssey Banquet Hall
16235 S. LaGrange Road, Orland Park, Illinois
Located behind and connected to the Homewood Suites Hotel**

Festival of Bands - Warm Up Dance

Saturday, January 14, 2023

Music by: Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push

Doors open at 4:30 pm - Music: 5 pm - 9 pm

ADMISSION: \$20 at the Door

****A Special 2-Day pass will be available for \$40****

54th Annual Chicago Festival of Polka Bands

Sunday, January 15, 2023

Music Company

Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze

I.P.A. Tribute Band

The D-Street Band

Keith Stras & Polka Confetti

Polka Generations

(Bands subject to change without notice)

Doors open at 11:30 am — Noon — 7 pm

ADMISSION: \$25 at the door

Cash Bar and food available for purchase



***IPA 54th Annual Festival of Bands Weekend Extravaganza!
Saturday and Sunday, January 14 and 15, 2023***

Special IPA hotel rates:

Homewood Suites – This hotel is connected to the Element by the Odyssey Banquet Hall
16245 S. LaGrange Road
Orland Park, IL 60467

Visit ipapolkas.com after November 15, 2022, for more information

Listed below are other hotels in the area that are under a 10-minute drive to the Element by the Odyssey Banquet Hall. These hotels do not offer an IPA rate.

Hilton Garden Hotel
18335 LaGrange Road
Tinley Park, Illinois
708-429-2266

Country Inn and Suites
18315 S. LaGrange Road
Tinley Park, Illinois
708-560-9300

Quality Inn
8800 W. 159th Street
Orland Park, Illinois
708-403-1100

Banquet Hall is approximately 45 minutes from Midway Airport and about 15 minutes from I-80 expressway.

There are several restaurants within walking distance as well as numerous restaurants within a 5–10-minute drive. There is also Orland Park Mall, and several other stores, within 15 minutes' drive.

Make plans now to attend this great two-day event!

Deadline for the Homewood Suites is December 15, 2022

DON'T DELAY--MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS SOON!

May your Krupnik be spiked with plenty of JOY to get you through this holiday season.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Na Zdrowie,
FL Director Brad, Corinne,
& Bella Turk



Wishing all our polka friends and family a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

1st Vice President Lori
and Jim Lewandowski

Polka Party

FEATURING: EFO - Eddie Forman Orchestra

Saturday, February 11, 2023

5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
\$16 per ticket in advance

\$18 at the door

Cash or Money Order

FREE DANCE LESSONS 4pm-5pm

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



Place: Englewood Elks Lodge

401 N. Indiana Avenue

Englewood, FL

Phone: (941) 474-1404

Happy
New Year

DEADLINE for AWARD SUBMISSIONS

JANUARY 14, 2023

Polka artists interested in possible music awards recognition now have an easy electronic method to get on the ballot! Beginning this year, all working polka artists seeking IPA awards for the current year must go online to www.ipapolkas.com/application-musicawards to submit their information. All those who register are eligible for the IPA's *Favorite Band* and *Favorite Vocalist* award categories. Recording artists have a special section to upload their musical tracks and graphics to be considered for their additional awards. In all, deserving polka artists are recognized 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 annual ballots. The lists of polka artists on these ballots will be generated by the submissions received through the new electronic process. So, you've got to submit every year to win! Complete instructions are available on the website. **The deadline to submit for consideration in the next voting cycle is January 14, 2023.** Eligible recordings must have been released between January 1 and December 31, 2022. Questions may be directed to MusicAwards@ipapolkas.com.



To our Polka Family, may your Christmas be blessed with much love, fun, peace, joy, & happiness!

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, & Happy New Year.

Diane, Mike, Steven & Allie, and IL Director Christy Nowakowski



On behalf of my family, I would like to wish all my polka family and friends a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May the New Year bring you good health, happiness and many blessings all year long.

Wisconsin Director Jill and the entire Styczynski family.



Laura Bethke, past Financial Secretary and Newsletter Editor Passes

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Laura Bethke. Laura was a past Financial Secretary of the IPA for several years as well as the Newsletter Editor. She then went on to assist Leon Kozicki with the IPA® Hall of Fame process when he was Chairmen. In addition, Laura was an award winning writer for various polka publications and was a guest DJ several years ago.

On behalf of the Officers, Directors, and members of the IPA®, we extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to all of Laura's friends.



2023 IPA Newsletter Schedule

| <u>Issue</u> | <u>Deadline for Submissions</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| February - March 2023 | January 1, 2023 |
| April - May 2023 | March 1, 2023 |
| June - July 2023 | May 1, 2023 |
| August - September 2023 | July 1, 2023 |
| October - November 2023 | September 1, 2023 |
| December 2023 - January 2024 | November 1, 2023 |



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego
Nowego Roku

PA Director Rich Zebrowski and the entire
Zebrowski Family

Christmas is a season of enjoying
the simple things that make life beautiful and
should be filled with warmth from friendships
and comfort from loved ones.

May you have great memories that will
permanently touch your heart.

We wish you so much joy during this season
and all through to the New Year.

President Christy, IL Director Johnny,
Katie, and Hayley Krawisz



Wesołych Świąt to all of our IPA members!
We wish you a blessed holiday season and
hope you are able to spend it with the ones
your love. We look forward to seeing you all
in the New Year!

IL Director Lindsey Mateja
and Jonathan Payne





1st – Joseph J. Dembeck, Jr.;
Theresa Napiwocki;
Andrew Citkowicz; Elaine Libert

2nd – Eileen Kumpon

3rd – Joseph Rupnik, James Sajkowicz, Jr.;
Alice Kovarik; Josie Kidd; Richard Styczynski

4th – Christine Kucher; M. Daniel Hakos;
Bill Miston

5th – Chris Rose; Cherie Hafeman

6th – Dick Zavodny; Rebecca Jurevis;
Sandy Motyka

7th – Myrna Filipczak

8th – Steve Coblisch; Darlene Kender;
Kathy Futa; Jack Walsh; Alex Meixner

9th – Erma Kazmierczak

10th – Frank Piotrowski; Hannah Yash;
Bev Koziej; Claudia Winiarz

11th – Neil Makatenas; Richard Kujawa

13th – John Piotrowski

14th – Olivia Piatkowski; Larry Hirschak;
Tara Weber

15th – Darrell Weltin; Logan Stanczewski;
Valerie Eisenman

16th – Chet Kizewski; Daniel Warner

17th – Mark Janson; Dennis Motyka;
Andrew Bogdon

18th – Ken Kendra; Marla Kunke;
Ray Budzilek, Jr.; Michael Biela

19th – Diane Pojedynski; Thomas Goldyn

20th – Jessica Jurevis;

22nd – Paul Wanas



23rd – John S. Mikrut,
Carol Kibelbek, Jim Busta;
Michael Iwasiwka

25th – Joseph Niemietz;
Leonard Schrank; Paul Romanowski;
Paul Janeczek

26th – Richard Wisniewski; Linda Mitchkoski;
Maria Kula; Stanley Papuga,

27th – Claude Wiatrowski; Helga Leonard;
Jessica Agin; Jason Anschutz; Gary Rhamy;
Diana Kosinski

28th – Kevin Altenburg; Manuel Misarski

29th – Marsha Bulinski; Mary Masse;
Chris Doszak; Anne Stec

30th – Tim Okrzesik

31st – Kathy Blazonczyk; Gerry Gorak; Peter
Chunis; Maryann Jarusinski; Kelly Grocholski;
Gail Cerva





HAPPY BIRTHDAY



January

1st – John Kaiser,
Arthur Bode

2nd – Eugene Sadus; Don-
na Inglot; Lucas Yash; Patty Lesczynski

3rd – Ernest Daigle; Kevin Kurdziel;
Aleya Kaminski; Bob Lynn; Dawn Rosinski;
Adam Hembel

4th – Jerry Fabian; Rick Kunke

5th – Nancy Szmyd

6th – John Freidhoff

7th – Suellen Gomulka; Candy Bonnin;
Pat Makuch; Erv Wisniewski; Stephen Kaminski;
Marianne Buzinski

8th – Laura Mateja; Eddie Rodick III

9th – Jeff Yash; James Sefcik

10th – Pat Stanek; Les Motyka;
Brian Chenkus; Anthony Glaza; Debora Jones

11th – Frank Liszka

12th – Vince Ashman; Richie Dombrowski;
Paul Brozek

13th – Barbara Szydowski

14th – Elaine Nowak; Stanley Raiczky;
Mike Cielecki

15th – David Dobrzinski; Joseph Kubicar;
John Jaworsk

16th – James Lewandowski; Emma Bogdon

17th – Al Piatkowski; John C. Mikrut;
Jordan Rody; Zachary Mikrut;
Mike Kocieniewski; Joann Sklarsky

18th – Lucille Marsolek; Brian Kapka;
Duane Mijal

19th – Hayley Krawisz;
Christy Nowakowski

20th – Richard Tady; Goran Lukic

21st – Basia Lynn; Jeff Maroszek

22nd – Tom Radecki; Ann Marie Matousek;

24th – Mitchel Daubert; Michael Hakos;
Stephen Prejsnar

25th – Craig Marsolek; Walter Maduzia;
Bill Dobrucki; Eric Brill; Judy Nowak

26th – Wayne Machnicki; Bren Wrona-Norris

28th – Ray Kanoza; Don Maduzia; RJ Bogdon

29th – Mary Anne Robinson

30th – Chet Dombrowski; Edward Grudi Jr.

31st – Richard Leach



New Cancellation Policy for IPA Festival in September 2023

The IPA would like to address last minute room cancellations. This past Festival, the IPA had 20 rooms cancelled in the last week. These late and last minute cancellations can affect the profit or loss of the festival. We understand health issues, taking care of aging parents, and other emergencies take precedent over attending a social event. It is the booking 3 or more rooms just in case, only to cancel at the last minute or not show up at all without cancelling that are the ones that really have a negative effect on us as an organization. At this point, the IPA doesn't have a chance to place someone else in that room and it goes back into the general availability of the hotel and can actually count against the IPA room block that we set up for our attendees.

In the contract between the Doubletree and The IPA, we are obligated to fill 85% of our total rooms reserved for the weekend. If we fall below the 85% then the IPA is charged the room rate plus all the taxes for that room. For an example the room rate this year was \$117.00 + 16.38 PA taxes = 133.38. So if the IPA was short 6 room nights it would be \$133.38 x 6 = \$800.28. That would be an \$800 loss to the Association. We were fortunate this year that the hotel generously gave us credit for polka fans, which were unable to get into the IPA Block, and paid the higher room rate. This gave us the required nights of rooms booked, so the IPA didn't have to pay extra money to the hotel, it was very close.

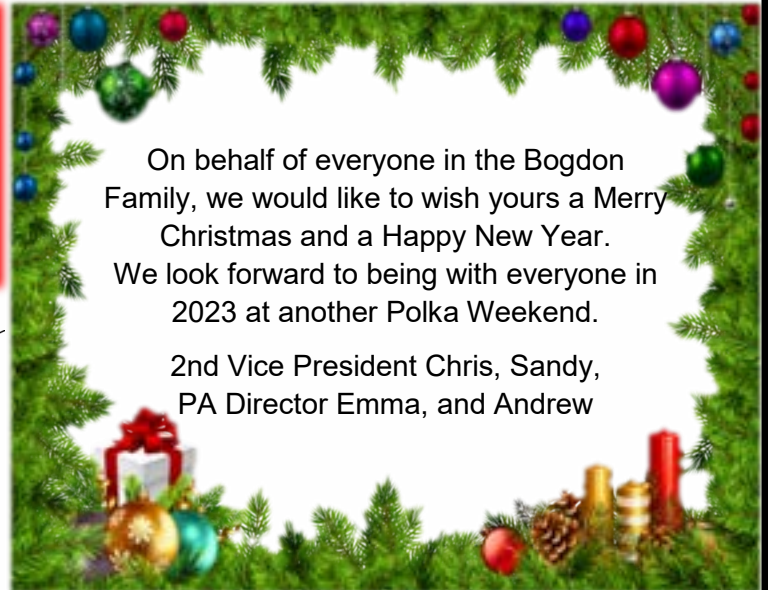
The IPA and the Doubletree have detailed waitlists that we can fill these rooms, if we have enough time prior to the festival. Also, if we have time we can use our social media outlets to advertise to the public that if you are staying at another area hotel and would like to be at the Doubletree, we have openings and can get them switched over.

After several discussions between the IPA and The Doubletree, the following will be a new cancellation policy for the 2023 Festival and Convention. We feel this is a good balance for the IPA, the Doubletree and our polka fans.

There will a 21-day prior cancellation for all reservations. If cancelled within the 21 days, they will be charged 1 night of the reservation or NOT get their deposit refunded. The Doubletree will work with us on a one-on-one basis regarding family emergencies, funerals, etc. There will be a 2-room reservations limit.

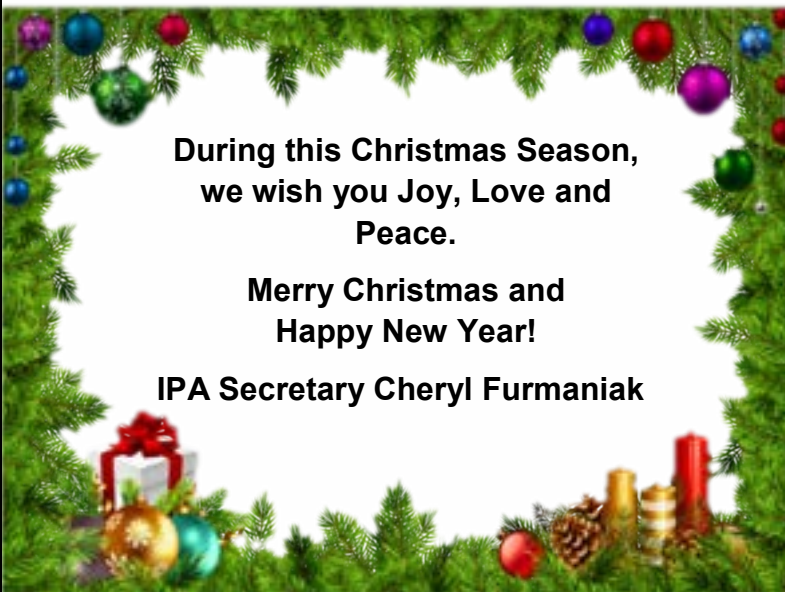
Thank You for your understanding in this matter.

Your International Polka Association Officers and Board of Directors.



On behalf of everyone in the Bogdon Family, we would like to wish yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to being with everyone in 2023 at another Polka Weekend.

2nd Vice President Chris, Sandy,
PA Director Emma, and Andrew



During this Christmas Season,
we wish you Joy, Love and
Peace.

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!

IPA Secretary Cheryl Furmaniak



May this Christmas season fill your
home with warmth, light, and joy.

Wishing you all the joy of the season
from across the miles.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Financial Secretary Lynn,
IL Director Stephen,
Aleya & Hadley Kaminski

Historic Polonia Banquets Closes their Doors

The IPA is sad to announce the closing of the historical Polonia Banquets. Polonia Banquets had an enormous history with polkas and the IPA. The full letter from the Machay family is presented below:

After 58 years serving as the premier banquet facility in Chicago's Brighton Park neighborhood, Polonia Banquets will close its doors on Archer Avenue effective December 31, 2022. We are humbled and honored to have been a part of countless weddings, polka dances, quinceañeras and school ceremonies over the years.



"When our parents, Chuck and Marge Machay, purchased the Polonia Ballroom, Grove & Lounge in 1964, they found great success in hosting Polka bands from throughout the Chicagoland area. The Polonia name became synonymous with Polka music. Over the years, our parents took down the Grove and renovated the hall into the ballroom as it is known today. The Polonia Banquet hall was a family business from the moment it opened. The hall became a very special place for each of the Machay children, and has continued to be family owned even after Chuck and Marge's passing.

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to our loyal customers who have made Polonia Banquets the amazing success it has been. Without you, our parents' dream of running a successful banquet hall would never have become a reality. We would also like to extend a special thank you to our outstanding staff past and present who have been a part of our journey.

While our doors on Archer Avenue will be closing, our loyal customers can still get their Polish favorites they have come to adore in Mokena at our sister company, Polonia Catering. At Polonia Catering, we will continue to offer the high quality service and food you have come to know and love.

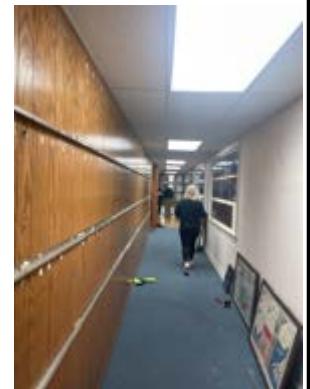
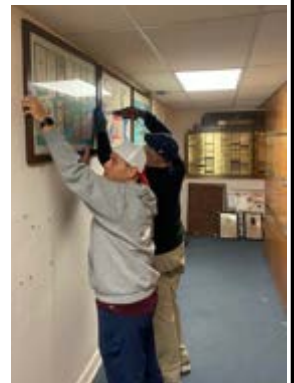
Thank you for allowing us to share in the important moments of your lives all of these years. We look forward to continuing to serve you at our Mokena location."

*Sincerely,
The Machay Family*

The closing of Polonia Banquets also means rehoming the IPA® Hall of Fame. On Sunday, November 6th beginning at 9am, board members Cheryl Furmaniak, Lindsey Mateja, Brian Kapka, Keith Pietranczyk, Dennis Mikolajewski, Christy and Johnny Krawisz; along with volunteers Karen Hudy, Jon Payne, Kathy Blazonczyk, Rena Kapka, Rick Rzeszutko, and Katie and Hayley Krawisz; along with Sandy and John Mikrut, started packing up the IPA® Hall of Fame which was located on Archer Avenue in the City of Chicago for close to 20 years.

It was a very emotional day for many as there is so much polka history in the Hall of Fame. There were a lot of laughs included with some tears, but we were able to finish packing everything up in about 8 hours. All of this stuff will go into a climate-controlled location as we look into several different locations to house all of this incredible stuff.

A special thank you to John and Zach Mikrut for all of their help prior to November 6th.



Another Polka Rockin' Weekend..... In Nashville

"Another polka rockin weekend, a Nashville polka weekend" was the theme of the Four Strings Attached – Nashville VIP tours, hosted by Ryan and Danika Portz-Ogrodny, along with Dee-Dee and CeCe Ogrondny, from October 20 through October 23, 2023.

Approximately 150 polka lovin' fans invaded Nashville for an incredible and memorable polka country weekend. Events kicked off at the Bavarian Bierhaus with musical entertainment, including the famous Charlie McCoy and Eddie Rodick.

On Friday, we were all included in a live recording with IPA Polka Hall of Famer, Lenny Gomulka, along with The Chicago Push, at the historic RCA Studio B to record a new polka! How exciting to be a part of that process led by our enthusiastic tour guide turned teacher, Ryan Ogrodny. The afternoon was spent at the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum.

The evening continued with live polka music at the Troubadour by Lenny Gomulka and The Chicago Push, with special guest appearances by Jeannie Seely (longtime Grand Ole Opry Legend) and Joey Schmidt (accordion player on the Lawrence Welk Show). Our host for the evening was the beautiful Nan Kelley.

On Saturday, our morning began with a VIP backstage tour at the Grand Ole Opry. We walked the same hallways of many musical legends and were able to see the many dressing rooms and even stepped on the historic Opry stage!

The afternoon continued with a visit to The Listening Room, a unique and intimate experience where songwriters not only play their songs with a simple guitar, but also tell the meaning and stories behind the songs. We were entertained by Jimmy Fortune (Statler Brothers), Jim Collins (hit song writer for hundreds of superstars), Richie McDonald (lead singer for Lonestar), and

our host/friend Danika Portz. This event for many was so emotional and was just an incredible experience! The evening concluded with a return to the Grand Ole Opry for a night of entertainment. We were all surprised and so excited when Jeannie Seely was on stage and announced Ryan on stage for his debut playing with her at the Opry. We were all so excited and drew attention in the audience for the enormous applause for our friend Ryan Joseph! What a night of great entertainment that also included Darius Rucker, Lauren Alaina, Dustin Lynch, and Bill Anderson.

The weekend concluded on Sunday with a Catholic mass featuring music by Ryan and Danika Portz Ogrodny, Lenny Gomulka and musicians from The Chicago Push, and some of the top session musicians in Music City.

I know I speak for the majority of the attendees, that this was truly an experience and tour of a lifetime! We cannot thank Ryan, Danika, CeCe, and Dee-Dee for their stupendous hospitality and for welcoming all of us into their country world! New friendships were established and old friendships strengthened. We all cannot wait for another

"Nashville Polka Weekend!"





Polkas in the Public Square

By Randy Koslosky
Sargent-At-Arms

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is a non-profit arts organization that has worked for decades to make Pittsburgh a place where the arts can flourish. This year the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust converted a parking lot into a great outdoor concert venue and arts park called The Backyard at 8th and Penn. Throughout the summer there were free performances by over 250 artists who performed with an incredible diversity of musical styles. That included polka music with performances by Mon Valley Push and The KOSMIX.

With the events being free and with the venue being in the middle of Pittsburgh's Cultural District, this created a great opportunity for people to be exposed to many styles of music – including polka music. Unfortunately, being outdoor events, rain and lightning was an issue for the couple of dates I played there. That delayed one performance and lowered the attendance. But, we still saw people there that may not have otherwise darkened the door of a polka dance. And, some of those people we saw and talked to heard about another polka event and showed up there.

The IPA sponsored the performances of polka bands. This is a demonstration of the commitment to put polka music in the public eye. The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust also recognized the need to include various styles of music at their events. They had a great diversity of styles of music at their outdoor concerts and they saw the importance of including polka music as one of the styles.



**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.

To all polka families, wishing
you the warm and wonderful
blessings of Christmas!
Youth Advisor Chris, and the
entire Ebel Family

Chicago says Goodbye to Glendora Banquets

All good things must come to an end, but the memories will live on forever! The Officers and Directors of the IPA would like to thank Stanley, Mary, and the Bielanski family for all your hard work and dedication to the banquet business for over 31 years and providing a place for polka music events throughout the year. A few of the Chicago Area board members and other polka fans attended their final Country Line Dancing event on August 16, 2022, to say our goodbyes and thank you's. It was defiantly a sad day in polka history. We wish the Bielanski Family all the best and congratulations to them on their retirement.



An Open Letter to our Membership

I am sure all of you have noticed the effects of inflation on the prices we are all paying for things – groceries, gas, etc. The I.P.A. is no different. Our prices for printing, postage, and other operating costs have all risen. With the loss of both the Glendora and Polonia Banquet Halls here in Chicago, the cost we will be paying to rent a venue for dances has gone up drastically. As well, we expect entertainment charges to increase as our Polka bands are dealing with the similar issues of increased travel costs.

In our attempt to keep the IPA a viable organization well into the future, we will be raising admission prices at our events in 2023. Please know that we have not made this decision without careful consideration. We hope everyone understands and look forward to your continued support as we strive to continue supporting and enjoying the music we all love.

FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

WINNERS

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|  | | | | | | 1 Peter Wendinger, MN |
| 2 Krystylia Bulinowski. Canada | 3 Carolyn Machelski, NY | 4 Greg Winiarz, PA | 5 Patricia Murray, NY | 6 Gary Zielinski, IL | 7 Tony Kowalski, MI | 8 Jessica Jurevis, IL |
| 9 David Bezdziecki, MI | 10 Milo Montella, CA | 11 Myna Sadowski, PA | 12 Dan Johnson, WI | 13 Jan Dressler, NY | 14 Melissa Moriarty, MA | 15 Andy Day Dziagwa, IL |
| 16 Mark Trzepacz, NY | 17 Kenneth Pienta, IL | 18 Kathy Urbanczyk, NY | 19 Dennis Mikolajewski, IL | 20 Joe Kalinowski, MA | 21 Dick Kozacko, NC | 22 Mark Hamlin, MI |
| 23 Katherine Nejedlo, WIL | 24 Kenneth Machelski, NY | 25 Anthony Szczur, IL | 26 Michael Biela, WV | 27 Russ Styczynski, WI | 28 Deborah Vokral, IL | 29 Helen Skolaut, TX |
| 30 Ed Zavaski, CT | 31 Roberta Polovick, IN | <i>Enter to Win!</i> | | | | |



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TOUR of POLAND

with Ed & Carol FORMAN & EFO crew

JULY 4 – 17, 2023

GRAND TOUR of POLAND

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SEPT. 26 to OCT. 9, 2023

VENICE – SLOVENIA - CROATIA & MEDUGORJE

Please call John 905-902-1345 or Email: john@johngora.com

Or visit: www.johngora.com for complete Info.

or our Travel Agent

Wanda 1-800-533-0369 or cell 416-302-7990



17th Annual



IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Dance 2023



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

**SAT
MARCH
4th
7pm-11pm
ADMISSION \$15**

featuring



of Maryland

2 days!

**SUN
MARCH
5th
2pm-7pm
ADMISSION \$20**



Honoring the music of
**Freddy K
Kendzierski**
of Bonita Springs, Florida



**Plus a special musical tribute to
the NEW BRASS**



Music by



Lenny Gomulka



*Eddie Forman
Orchestra*



*Dennis Polisky
& Maestro's Men*

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Call Ernie Daigle 413-519-7014

Send Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope and
Check Made Payable to Ernest Daigle to:

**Ernest Daigle
12 Whitin Ave.
Chicopee, MA 01013**

or call:

Peter Danielczuk 203-231-1819

For Tables of 8 or More Call:

Carol Blajda - 413-549-6997



Rooms Available

Call: 413-589-9300

321 Center Street

Ludlow, MA

Code: IPA

Special Room Rate (\$135.)

Expires Feb. 16, 2023



ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY • NO TICKETS HELD AT DOOR • Tickets are NOT REFUNDABLE

The International Polka Association and Let's Polka USA
present the
11th Annual

UNITY/ST. JOSEPH'S DAY DANCE

Sunday, March 19, 2023



Royalty West Banquets
8675 S. Archer Ave.
Willow Springs, Illinois
Doors open at 12:30 pm
Music from 1 pm - 5 pm



BY THE IPA TRIBUTE BAND

Featuring Polka Music Hall of Famer **Rick Rzeszutko** and
special guest vocalist Polka Music Hall of Famer from Canada
John Gora



Admission \$20

Food will be available for purchase

Visit www.ipapolkas.com or www.letspolkausaclub.com for more information



Recipes from ... IPA Members

IPA President, Christy Krawisz, thought it would be a great idea to share some of our members favorite recipes with the membership. So, we will spotlight food and drink recipes submitted to us by our members. To share your favorite recipe, please email it to info@ipapolkas.com and **include your name in your email**. Please send it in a word document or directly in the email. PDF's won't work, sorry. We look forward to sharing some great recipes with you! Enjoy.

Polish Mushroom Soup (Zupa Grzybowa)

Ingredients:

- 1 lb fresh mushrooms (fresh or frozen porcini, Trumpet Royale, cremini, or button mushrooms)
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 Tbsp unsalted butter
- 2 oz dried porcini mushrooms
- 6 cups hot water
- 4 cups mushroom, beef or chicken stock
- 1 cup sour cream or yogurt
- 3 Tbsp flour
- 4 Tbsp fresh dill, chopped
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper



Preparation:

Place the dried mushrooms in a bowl and cover with the 6 cups of hot water. Soak for 30 minutes or up to 4 hours, or until the mushrooms are softened and pliable.

Coarsely chop the fresh mushrooms. Heat the butter in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onions and sauté for 5-7 minutes until softened and translucent. Add the chopped fresh mushrooms and sauté for another 15 minutes.

Add the stock and bring to a low boil. Strain the reconstituted dried mushrooms, reserving the soaking liquid. Rinse the strained mushrooms briefly under cold running water to remove any traces of grit. Carefully decant the strained soaking liquid into the soup, making sure to exclude any remaining grit or debris. Chop the reconstituted mushrooms coarsely and add to the soup.

Cover the pot and reduce the heat to a low simmer and continue to cook for 30 – 45 minutes.

Whisk the flour into sour cream until smooth and lump free. Temper the sour cream/flour mixture by gradually adding about 1 cup of the hot soup to the sour cream, mixing constantly until smooth. Now pour the sour cream mixture slowly into the pot, stirring constantly. Reduce the heat to low and simmer for five minutes, stirring occasionally. Add salt & pepper to taste and stir in 3 tablespoons of the dill.

Serve garnished with the remainder of the chopped dill.

International Polka Association Annual Income and Expense Report Fiscal Year 6/1/2021 - 5/31/2022

Income Categories

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Annual Festival Revenue | 36,526.00 |
| Calendar Raffle Sales Income | 15,660.00 |
| Chicago January Dance Revenue | 3,941.00 |
| Digital Download Sales | 1.25 |
| General Donations - Income | 1,124.00 |
| Hall Of Fame Income | 5,100.00 |
| Investment Income | 7.76 |
| Ludlow HOF Dance Revenue | 3,013.00 |
| Membership Dues Income | 14,505.00 |
| Newletter Ad Revenue | 725.00 |
| Picnic Revenue | 2,662.00 |
| Radio Show Revenue | 2,860.00 |
| T-Shirt Sales | 1,274.00 |
| Unity Dance Revenue | 449.00 |
| Total Income Categories | 87,848.01 |

Expense Categories

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Accounting Fees | 628.00 |
| Advertising - General | 977.92 |
| Annual Festival Expenses | 31,478.06 |
| Award Expenses | 193.20 |
| Bank Charges | 455.91 |
| Bills - Telephone, Office Expenses | 1,095.72 |
| Calendar Raffle Expense | 843.96 |
| Calendar Raffle Payout | 5,100.00 |
| Charitable Donations | 1,323.00 |
| Chicago January Dance Expenses | 4,146.75 |
| Hall Of Fame Operational Expense | 21,062.35 <small>(includes \$7200 of Rent expense)</small> |
| Insurance | 748.00 |
| Membership Expense | 992.52 |
| Newletter Expense | 8,956.81 |
| Picnic Expenses | 118.68 |
| Postage General | 549.16 |
| Promotion Expense | 1,724.78 |
| Radio Show Expense | 9,715.00 |
| Songwriters Competition Prize | 1,125.00 |
| Sponsorship Expense | 2,550.00 |
| Website | 79.00 |
| Total Expense Categories | 93,863.82 |
| Net Loss For Year | (6,015.81) |



2022 Kinloch Fire Hall "Pittsburgh's Polka Hot Spot" Polka Schedule

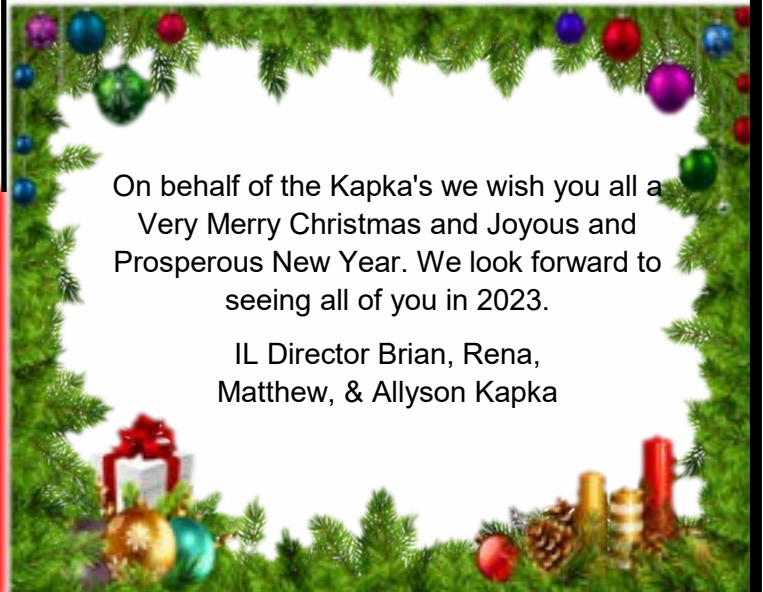
| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday Nov 13 th , 2022 | The Hottest Band in the Nation The Beat | 2:00pm - 6:00pm \$17.00 per person |
| Sunday Nov 20 th , 2022 | Special Thanksgiving Dance Jack Tady and JTB | 2:00pm - 6:00pm \$12.00 per person |
| Sunday Dec 18 th , 2022 | DTO Christmas Celebration Dick Tady and the DTO | 2:00pm - 6:00pm \$12.00 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 table reservations or more information contact:
Chris Bogdon - 412-260-9725 or chris@westernpapolkas.com

For a list of all polka happenings in Western PA, and sign up for our
mailing list, go to: <https://www.westernpapolkas.com>



On behalf of the Kapka's we wish you all a
Very Merry Christmas and Joyous and
Prosperous New Year. We look forward to
seeing all of you in 2023.

IL Director Brian, Rena,
Matthew, & Allyson Kapka

2022 Freddy K Jr. Scholarship Award Winner, Sebastian Pucowski

Sebastian Pucowski of Hackettstown, New Jersey, was the recipient of the Freddy K. Jr. Scholarship Award for 2022. He is the son of Mike Pucowski and Maggie Podymski and he accepted his check of \$1,000 at the IPA Polka Festival in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania this past September. Sebastian plays bass guitar and trumpet, and now is a full-time member of The Beat polka band. During his high school years, Sebastian was in the choir which performed in Carnegie Hall this past year. He was on the Merit honor roll every quarter from grades 9 through 12 and was Student of the Month for December, 2021. He has been accepted to four colleges and will be attending Russell Sage College in Troy, New York majoring in Health Science.

The Freddy K. Jr. Music Scholarship Committee is now accepting requests for applications for the 2023 Scholarship Award. Applicants must be high school seniors who have been accepted to an accredited college and play a musical instrument. The award is presented at a Polka Festival of their choice each summer.

Anyone who is interested in applying for the scholarship award can contact the Scholarship Committee at:

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



\$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 download an application on our website at www.freddykjrmusicscholarship.com or contact the 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 – Zachary Piatkowski, 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

Performing in Nashville Tennessee through the eyes of a Polish polka musician

It wasn't the first time... I hope it wasn't the final time... But, what was it like for a polka musician to travel to Music City USA, Nashville TN, to perform authentic Chicago push style polka music? Well hold



on to your **kapelusz kowbojski** and I'll tell you what it was like for me.

In October I was fortunate enough to travel with Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push to Nashville

TN as a member of the host band for The NASHVILLE VIP POLKA TOUR. Our tour hosts Ryan Joseph, Danika Portz Ogrodny and Dee-Dee Ogrodny of Four Strings Attached VIP Tours delivered as promised. The trip consisted of visiting historic Nashville spots, behind the scene tours, once in a lifetime activities, great food and of course lots of music, country and polka. If you didn't make the trip and wonder how it went, check out social media or ask one of the nearly 150 guests for their opinion. It is unanimous. AWESOME!!!

But what was it like to actually perform polka music in Nashville? In the nearly 50 years I've been performing I will admit there have been and continue to be times where I get nervous and a little rattled. Sometimes it's due to the nature of the event and the emotions associated with it. Other times it's due to feeling an added responsibility to provide an extra special performance. And the worst times are when something goes wrong.

When this trip was first announced my feelings were one of excitement. I've traveled around the country performing and had been to Nashville before as a tourist. But, I never had the opportunity to perform there. So would performing in Nashville be any different? Maybe I was momentarily star struck and started thinking about all the country music legends that had performed there in the past. I wondered who might have performed on the same stage that I would be on and what it must have been like for them. Yeah, that did happen. But to be honest with you and myself, I had experienced similar thoughts before in my life. I remember as a young polka musician getting ready to perform at some of our legendary polka festivals or historic polka spots and thinking the same thing

about my polka idols and legends that had performed there before me.

By Richie Zebrowski
PA Director

Maybe I was a little nervous that our polka music wouldn't be accepted. But how could that happen? Polka music is good, happy music. The melodies are energetic and uplifting. When you add a well written English lyric to it, even a stranger to polka would love it. Once again I thought back on my own experiences. I had performed in different parts of our country where Polish polka music was rare or unheard of. In all those instances our polka music ended up being appreciated, respected and most importantly enjoyed.

So what was it like to actually perform in Nashville? It was nothing short of spectacular. Stepping onto a Nashville stage with my accordion seemed as natural there as anywhere else. I could feel the history and traditions in the hall. The reverence I felt at that moment was strong. But,

the images in my mind of who might have performed there before me were different from what I was used to. They were country music legends. And even though the faces in those images were different, the



feelings I had were the same as I have for our polka legends. It was absolute respect and admiration. But that night was our night. Polish push style polka music had arrived in Nashville. It was our time to be on the stage and play the music we love. And, our time felt great. As the evening passed, so did my jitters and nervousness. I wasn't thinking about who had played there before me. I could see everyone was enjoying Chicago push style polka music in Nashville. I loved every minute of it. And more importantly, from the stage it looked as though everyone there was having as much fun as I was. The guests danced and sang with us for every song we played. And then, before I knew it, it was over... The evening had come to an end, but not without making life long lasting memories. The combination of performing in the exciting Nashville atmosphere and being able to share it with so many family and friends will stay with me forever. I enjoyed it so much that I hope I am able to do it again soon and add to those Music City memories.

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:

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Plainfield, IL 60544
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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

2022 IPA Officers and Directors

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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
on the Polka Jammer Network on
Sundays, 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon Central Time and also available in
the Polka Jammer archives. Be sure to tune in! Visit
www.polkajammernetwork.org

Each show features IPA officers and directors.

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



Saturday, Jan 14th - Warm-up Dance
Sunday, Jan 15th - Chicago's Festival of Bands
Saturday-Sunday, March 4th & 5th -
Ludlow Benefit Dance Weekend
Sunday, March 19th - IPA & Let's Polka USA Unity Dance
Saturday-Sunday, May 6th-7th -
Pulaski Festival of Bands
Thursday, August 31st - IPA Kick-Off Party
Friday-Sunday, Sept 1-3 - 55th Annual IPA Festival

Advertise in the IPA Newsletter

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DEADLINE FOR February 2023 NEWSLETTER: January 1

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.®
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