

## **IPA Newsletter**



## **A Message from our President**

On behalf of the International Polka Association, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us over Labor Day weekend in Cranberry Township, PA, for our annual IPA Festival and Convention. Your presence and support made the event truly special. We would also like to congratulate all the 2025 IPA Music Award winners, as well as this year's inductees into the IPA Polka Hall of Fame. We are so excited for them and proud to celebrate their remarkable contributions to polka music.



For those members who were unable to attend our general meeting, we are thrilled to share the launch of our brand-new **Virtual IPA Hall of Fame Museum**. This exciting initiative will enable us to showcase the history and legacy of polka music to a much wider audience, bringing the IPA Museum to a larger audience than ever before. We believe this will significantly expand our reach and continue to fulfill our mission of promoting and preserving polka for future generations.

We are also excited to announce our upcoming **Wisconsin Pulaski Polka Palooza**, taking place on **Saturday**, **October 25**, **and Sunday**, **October 26**. On Saturday, we welcome the award-winning *Polka Country Musicians* to the Townline Pub and Grille in Suamico, WI. Then, on Sunday, October 26, we will showcase a fantastic lineup of Pulaski-area polka bands, including *The Mix, The Natural Talent, LiveWire, The Maroszek Brothers*, and *New Generation*. It promises to be an unforgettable weekend of polka music and community celebration, and we hope to see you there!

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to share that the band lineup has been confirmed for our **57th Annual Festival of Bands Weekend** on **January 17th and 18th, 2026**. On Saturday, we are proud to bring in Chicago's favorite son, *Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push*, along with the exciting *Zander's Music Makers*. Zander, the young leader of the Music Makers, will be just 14 years old when he takes the stage—an incredible example of the next generation carrying the polka tradition forward. On Sunday, January 18th, we will feature the great sounds of *Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze, EZ Tones, Music Company, IPA Tribute Band*, and *Kevin Altenburg and Friends*.

We are also excited to once again thank Ernie and Patty Daigle, IPA Hall of Fame member Peter J Danielczuk, for hosting the 20th Annual IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Dance on Saturday, March 14, 2026, featuring *Dynabrass*. Then, on Sunday, March 15, 2026, we will honor the great *Toledo Polkamotion* with performances by *Lenny Gomulka, Maestro's Men,* and the *Eddie Forman Orchestra*. These events promise to be wonderful celebrations of polka music and community, and we encourage everyone to join us.

Thank you again for your continued support of the IPA and our shared love of polka music. Together, we are keeping the music alive!



# It's Always Sunny in Florida

## Willkommene Mitglieder

Oktoberfest season is in full swing in Florida. It began on Friday, September 5th, and runs through October 26th, so you should have plenty of time to attend all the activities. I also wanted to "Thank" all our Florida IPA members for attending our annual IPA convention last month in Cranberry Twp. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed all the wonderful music. If you missed the awards banquet, you missed an exciting event with some inspiring stories. Plan on attending next year's event from Aug<mark>ust 28th</mark> to 30th, 2026. You will not be disappointed.

## FL Musician Spotlight:

Ray Skorka demonstrated a love for music at the early age of five when his parents would place him on a stool in front of a local bar's jukebox, give him quarters to feed the machine, and let him push the buttons for various records. He began his musical career in second grade at St. Cyril & Methodius Church in Clifton, NJ. He was selected to be the conductor, in a top hat and tails, for his classmates' "Rhythm Band." When he was seven, Ray's parents, Walter and Rose Skorka, moved into their new home in Garfield, NJ, and Ray began taking accordion lessons shortly thereafter. During that time, his instructors were June Dluhy (Freddie Yarosz's niece), Ray DeBrown, Freddie Yarosz, and Stephen Harer. His accordion lessons continued until he was nineteen.

As a high school junior, Ray formed his first band, a trio called the Ray-Dels. The group, which included accordion, guitar, and drums, started playing a varities. Within a year, they expanded to a quartet by his show, Crankin' Polkas, live on Fridays from 4 to adding saxophone, clarinet, and flute, and changed 6 PM. their name to the Ray Edwards Orchestra. Later, in the late 1970s, they became The Ablemen. The band chose that name to reflect their versatility in playing different styles of music. After nearly twenty years of playing private parties and clubs, they ventured into polka music in the early 1980s, following the advice of Ted Rabicki. Ted sent a demo tape of the band to the well-known DJ Bill Shibilski, who played songs from the tape on his Saturday Night Polka Party on WFUV-FM (Fordham University) in the Bronx, NY.

In 1985, The Ablemen entered the Battle of the Bands at the National Polka Festival in Hunter can't take the music out of the man." Mountain, NY, and finished in second place. Over

the next three years—1986, 1987, and 1988—the band took first place each year and was honored as the Gold Medal Band at the festival. This achievement helped launch a successful career in the polka scene, alongside their performances at private parties. Over the years, The Ablemen played at many polka festivals in the Catskill and Pocono Mountains, as well as



By Brad Turk

at various Polish Nights, dances, and private events across the Northeast. During that time, Ray and the band recorded albums, including Are You Able?, Polka Fest, Dressed-Up Polkas, Love Notes, and Still Kickin'. Ray retired from the band after its final performance on New Year's Eve in 2014, marking 51 years as band leader.

After retiring the band, he continued his interest in the polka scene by attending polka dances and festivals. He was recruited by the Polka Jammer Network to help with camera work on several occasions, including at Ocean Beach Park Polka Days in June 2015. During that festival, he also interviewed attendees on the beach during the Jammer's live broadcasts. Bill Shibilski, who was with the Polka Jammer network at the time, told Ray that he'd never get the music out of his blood. After hearing Ray do the interviews, Bill encouraged him to pursue broadcasting. In 2016, Bill asked Ray to fill in on his Sunday evening broadcasts.

Bill was right! Those stints led Ray to return from "retirement" and join the Polka Jammer Network as ety of music for wedding receptions and private par- one of its IJs starting October 2, 2016. He now hosts

> Upon retiring from the New Jersey Education Association as a field representative, Ray and his wife Donna moved to Daytona Beach, FL, in December 2017. It wasn't long after that he was recruited to perform with The Northern Sounds in Florida. Although Ray had no plans to perform publicly when he relocated, he has continued his professional musical career with The Northern Sounds to this day, performing for various Polish-American organizations, Oktoberfest events, private parties, and shows throughout Florida. As Bill Shibilski once told Ray, "You can take the man out of the music, but you

I want to personally thank Ray for being a loyal IPA member and for all of his dedication and leadership during his over 60 years of playing music. His vocali-

zations, repertoire, emceeing skills, and charisma with audiences improve the group's performances whenever he entertains. I hope Ray continues his polka journey with the Northern Sounds Band for many more years to come.



### Please continue to support our Clubs & Bands:

Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach are having their Dinner/Dances at the SNPJ Lodge #603 421 North Samsula Drive, New Smyrna Beach. Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> Jim Wicks, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> Northern Sounds, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> KeyTones, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> Brewski Bros., Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Wicks, Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> TrentTunes & the Polka Sound, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> Northern Sounds. For dinner reservations, call Irene/Club (386)-258-7059. For additional info. Please visit their Facebook page.

General K. Pulaski Citizens Club of Belleview.

The club will be having their annual Oktoberfest Dinner/Dance on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> Northern Sounds; General K. Pulaski Day (Polish Day) Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> Northern Sounds; Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> Northern Sounds; Christmas Kolendy on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> Northern Sounds. Please contact Brad for more info.

Polish American Society of St. Petersburg. The Club is open over the summer/fall months for special events and social gatherings. The Club's "OPENING DAY" Celebration will be on Nov. 2nd with Northern Sounds, Nov. 16th Gone Coastal, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> Jam-N-Jive, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> Polka All Stars, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> Northern Sounds, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> Gone Coastal, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> Polka All Stars, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> Jam-N-Jive, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> Polka All Stars, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> Frank Moravcik from Ohio, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> Paczki Day with Gone Coastal, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> Polka All Stars, March 1st Northern Sounds, March 8<sup>th</sup> Frank Moravcik from Ohio, March 15<sup>th</sup> Gone Coastal, March 22<sup>nd</sup> Northern Sounds, April 6 Dyngus Day with Gone Coastal, April 13th Northern Sounds. Please visit their Facebook page, website: www.polishsociety.org, Dinner reservations call Rita (727)-347-7944, club (727)-894-9908 for more info.

Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach. For

all of their monthly events, please join their Facebook page, visit their website <a href="www.pacvbusa.org">www.pacvbusa.org</a>, or email: <a href="pascverobeach@gmail.com">pascverobeach@gmail.com</a>. Call the club at (772)-778-0039.

SNPJ Lodge #603 in Samsula. For info. Call the club (386)-428-3983, visit their website: www.samsulasnpjlodge603.com. Join their Facebook page SNPJ Lodge 603 Official site for all their events, snpjlodge603@gmail.com.

#### **Oktoberfest Season:**

- Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest with Northern Sounds @ Ocala C/C 6-9pm
- <u>Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest with Sunshine State @</u>
  Ocean Republic Brewing, Stuart, starts @
  6:30pm
- Sept 20<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest with Northern Sounds @ New Smyrna Beach 6-10pm.
- Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest with Northern Sounds @ Tampa 6-10pm.
- Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Oktoberfest with Northen Sounds @ Spring Hill 2-7pm
- Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest with Northern Sounds @ Port Orange 4-7pm
- Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>: Polish Fest with Northern Sounds @ Summerfield 6-8pm
- Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest with Molly B & Squeezebox @Am. German Club Palm Beaches
- Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest with Northern Sounds @ New Smyrna Beach 5-8pm
- Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest with Alex Meixner @ Am. German Club of Palm Beaches
- Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest with Gone Coastal @ The Barn at Starkey Market 5-9pm
- Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest with Gone Coastal @ The Barn at Starkey Market 2-9pm
- Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest with Gone Coastal @ Upper Tampa Bay Downs 5-10pm
- Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest with Northern Sounds @ Gainesville 5-9pm
- Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest with Gone Coastal @ Upper Tampa Bay Downs 11-4pm
- Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest with Northern Sounds @ Upper Tampa Bay Downs 5-10pm
- Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest with Northern Sounds @ Upper Tampa Bay Downs 12-6pm

(continued on next page)

### Polkas Events in 2026:

Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>: Molly B & Squeeze Box @ German Am. Society Friendship of Pinellas Park, 8098 66th Street North Pinellas Park. For times/ticket info. call (727)-350-6520

Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>: Polka Party Eddie Forman Orch. (EFO) Englewood Elks Lodge 401 N. Indiana Ave. Englewood, FL. Food 4:30pm, Dance 5-9pm, Advance tickets \$18/Door \$20. Call: 941-474-1404

Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>: Jimmy Sturr Band @ Florida Strawberry Festival Plant City, 303 Berryfest Place Plant City. For info. /Tickets call: (813)-754-1996, (845) -651-4266

Society of St. Pete 1343 Beach Drive South East music and our clubs! St. St. Petersburg, FL. Dance 5-9pm. Advance tickets \$23/Door \$28. Call: (845)-651-4266

Feb. 28th: Jimmy Sturr Band @ Polish Am. Social Club, 343 Prima Vista Blvd., Port St. Lucie, Dance 12N - 4pm. Tickets/info. call: (845)-651-4266

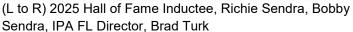
Please support Florida's Polka IJ's. Featured on the Polka Jammer Network, 2009 IPA Hall of Famer Joe Oberaitis with Polkas 101 (Sat.), and Slovenian Polka Blast (Thu.), IPA member Ray Skorka can be heard on Crankin' Polkas (Fri.). High on Polka's every (Sat.) on PolkaRadio.org, featuring IPA members Tara, Diane, Jimmy, and Billy.

If you would like any additional information about our clubs, polka dances or special events, email me at bradturk@cox.net or call the Polka Hot Line: (352) Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>: Jimmy Sturr Band @ Polish American 875-3961. Please continue to support LIVE polka

Prost!

Florida Contingent at the IPA Festival and Convention 2025









## 2025 IPA Newsletter Schedule

Issue

December 2025 - January 2026

**Deadline for Submissions** 

October 31, 2025

# International Polka Association

presents

57th Annual Festival of Bands Weekend Extravaganza

Saturday, January 17 and Sunday, 18, 2026

# Special IPA Hotel Rate

We have a room block reserved at <u>Homewood Suites by Hilton Orland Park</u> for **January 15**, **2026 through January 19**, **2026**.

Booking your room is simple, just scan the QR Code and reserve online or

contact **Darryl Thomas (708) 645-5497** or email at **darryl.thomas@hilton.com** to reserve your room at the group's preferred rate.



## Please be sure to book before December 15, 2025.

Listed below are other hotels in the area that are within a 15 minute drive to the Element by the Odyssey Banquet Hall. **These hotels do not offer the IPA rate.** 

## **Holiday Inn**

18320 North Creek Drive, Tinley Park, IL (708) 580-6844

## **Hilton Garden Hotel**

18335 LaGrange Road, Tinley Park, IL (708) 429-2266

## **Country Inn & Suites**

18315 S. LaGrange Road, Tinley Park, IL (708) 560-9300

## **Quality Inn**

8800 W.159th Street, Orland Park, IL (708) 403-1100

Elements by the Odyssey is approximately 45 minutes from Midway Airport and approximately 15 minutes for I-80.

## MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND THIS GREAT EVENT!

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

<u>Saturday, January 17, 2026</u>

Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push Zanders Music Makers

Doors open at 5:30 pm - Music: 6 pm - 10 pm

Admission: \$25 at the Door Cash Bar and food available for purchase

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

## 57th Annual Chicago Festival of Polka Bands

<u>Sunday, January 18, 2026</u>



Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze EZ Tones Music Company IPA Tribute Band Kevin Altenburg and Friends

(Bands subject to change without notice)

Doors open at 11:30 am - Music: Noon - 6 pm

Admission: \$20 at the door

For more Information: https://www.ipapolkas.com info@ipapolkas.com If you missed it last year! They are coming back
Featuring Polka Music Hall of Famer Rick Rzeszutko
and the IPA TRIBUTE BAND from Chicago, Ill.
also Polka Music Hall of Famer JOHN GORA, from Canada
Sunday, October 19<sup>th,</sup> 2025





MUSIC FOR DANCING 1:00 pm till 5:00 pm

Sponsored by the PNA Cadets Lodge # 1134

At the German Culture Society, 3652 S Jefferson Avenue

Doors open at 12 pm.

NO BYOB,

August through October 18<sup>th,</sup> 2025, \$20.00 per person \$25.00 per person at the Door

Polish Food and Refreshments will be available for purchase.

TICKETS Carolyn 314-341-4641 or 636-938-4641 or any MEMBER

OR THE CLUB AT 8201 VULCAN STREET, FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Buy early, save money!

Join us on the first Sunday of the Month at the club.



John Dujka, TX David Czarnek, TX Mike Jayo, AZ Ron Pirucki, CA Mitch Gawrys, NY Dawn Marie Danielski, NY Jerry Petter, TX Chris Rybak, TX Joseph Heleniak, NY Corky Wisniewski-Hall, FL Kristin Falbo, IL Rich Suckiel, NJ Kelly Kava, NE Eric Stehle, NE Gus Kosior, NY Barbara James, NY Michael Papuga, Canada Suzanne Papuga, Canada Andrew Ratajczak, MI Phillip Olszewski, PA Wayne Doptis, PA

Ryan Zygmunt, NJ M. Red O'Hara, OR Randy Eckhart, CO Christian Tracz, CT Alice Voss. WI Michelle Bojczuk, NY Blake Maurer, MI Pauline Glaza, OH Michael Riel, MA Jacob Bzura, MI Shane Whitney, PA Ted Jedrzejewicz, Canada Jacob Bzura, MI Mike Yevich, PA Kimberly Kepple, PA Blake Maurer, MI Michael Riel, MA Pauline Glaza, OH Grace Bogdon, PA Greg Chwojdak, NY



"Li'I" John Nalevanko, PA Mike Surratt, MD Walter Kazmerczak. PA



# New Lifetime Members

Chris Doszak, WI Gary Wolinsk, CT Larry Szabo, CA Josie Kidd, TN Mike Evan, PA Darrell Swick, CA



Daniel Nawrot, MI David Slovak, TX Michelle Slovak, TX John Kaiser, PA Mary Wasek, IL Rick Buechler, WI Maryrose Guerrieri, FL Raymond Barsukiewicz, NY Gerrie Barsukiewicz, NY John Kupka, FL Laura Mateja, IL Jimmy Pietranczyk, IL Fanwy Morgan, PA Chuck Malenich, PA Frania Yakima. PA Gail Cerva, PA



Ron Zywiciel
William & Carol Stasila



## <u>Pittsburgh's Polka Hot Spot</u> <u>Kinloch Fire Hall</u>

## 2025 Polka Schedule

Sunday Aug 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	First Appearance at Kinloch Firehall  Crusade featuring Eddie Biegaj	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person	
Sunday Sept 21st, 2025	Join us with the Incomparable  John Gora and Gorale	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person	
Sunday Oct 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Join us for their final gig in Western PA  Michael Costa and the Beat	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person	
Sunday Nov 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	We welcome one of the best back to Kinloch  Polka Family	2:00pm – 6:00pm \$20.00 per person	
Sunday Dec 14, 2025	5 Slovenian Band		

The 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 <a href="mailto:chris@westernpapolkas.com">chris@westernpapolkas.com</a>

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

## **Holiday Greetings!**

The IPA would like to try something new this year. For the **December/January Publication ONLY**, our membership will have the opportunity to provide Holiday Greetings to each other. The size choices for the Holiday Greetings will be as follows:

1/8 page - \$15 (Dimensions - (H) 2.56in x (W) 4in)

1/4 page - \$20 (Dimensions - (H) 5.12in x (W) 4in)

1/2 page - \$25 (Dimensions - (H) 5.12in x (W) 8in)

Please ensure that your ad request meets the above size requirements. All greetings must be received **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, 11/1. NO EXCEPTIONS** can be made.

Examples: 1/8 page



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the entire Krawisz Family! We wish you Joy and Happiness this holiday season and hope you have a wonderful New Year. God Bless you all.

The Krawisz's Christy, Johnny, Katie & Hayley

Greetings can be as decorated or generic as you prefer. <u>ALL</u> greetings must meet the above dimensions and be ready for publication. Make sure to note the size of the Greeting and method of payment if sending through email.

Acceptable Files: PDF's, JPG's, PNG's

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE EMAILED AND/OR UPLOADED TO THE WEBSITE.

## 2 ways to submit and pay for your ad

#### **OPTION 1**

Email to: newsletter@ipapolkas.com

#### ATTACH ALL APPLICABLE FILES

Send Checks to the address to PO BOX 1484 Plainfield, IL 60544

Make check payable to the "International Polka Association"

#### **OPTION 2**

Submit online at www.ipapolkas.com



## Jimmy Sturr: Sports Hall of Fame Inductee

## **Early Life and High School Achievements**

Jimmy Sturr was honored with induction into the Sports Hall of Fame of his high school. He graduated from Seward Institute in his hometown of Florida, New York. During his time at Seward, Jimmy was a multi-sport athlete, participating in soccer, basketball, and baseball. The school was not large enough to field a football team, but Jimmy made his mark in the sports offered.

## **Baseball and Soccer Success**

Jimmy was selected twice as an All-County player in baseball and twice as an All-County player in soccer, demonstrating his exceptional abilities in both sports. Before entering high school, he played Babe Ruth baseball, achieving an impressive record of 17 wins and only one loss as a pitcher over two seasons. He also competed for the New York State Championship, where his team narrowly lost to Bethpage with a score of 1-0.

## **Basketball Achievements**

On the basketball court, Jimmy once scored 35 points in a single game and averaged 18 points per game throughout his high school career, showcasing his scoring prowess and consistency.

## **Ice Hockey Accomplishments**

Jimmy also played ice hockey, winning the scoring title five times and helping his team secure the league championship six times, further highlighting his versatility and competitiveness in athletics.

## **College and Adult Sports Involvement**

After graduating from high school, Jimmy attended Valley Forge Military Academy on a full music scholarship. While in college, he continued his athletic journey by playing both baseball and basketball.

## Post-Army Athletic Achievements

Upon returning home from the Army, Jimmy played fast-pitch softball, earning the highest batting average in the league three times. He also had the unique opportunity to play several times against Eddie Feiner and the world-famous "King and His Court." Additionally, Jimmy played tennis and, with his partner, won the Orange County League three times—a testament to his continued commitment to sports. He still enjoys playing tennis twice a week.



Promoting
Spartan
Pride







1st - Donna Pociask

**2**<sup>nd</sup> – Jim Kilian; Phil Kozlak; Kathleen Strickler; Cheryl Wodzisz

**3**<sup>rd</sup> – Mike Rozegnal; Bill Malinowski; Ronald J. Wichman, Jr.

**4**<sup>th</sup> – Karen Hudy; Ray Rzeszutko; Kayla Rosinski-Urbanczyk

**5**<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Robert Dutka; David Leja; Robert Anthony Lopez

**6**<sup>th</sup> – Richard Kula; Bob Borowski; Alan Andrascik; Thomas Nadolski; Gary Brueggen; Alfred Vrazel

7<sup>th</sup> – Lindsey Mateja

**8**<sup>th</sup> – Brian Lesiewicz; Joe Kalinowski; Edgar Skolaut

9<sup>th</sup> – Craig Ebel; Barb Benkowski; Dave Morris; Andy Fenus; Carole Kryk; Dan Moroski; Dave Zychowski; Andrew Kozlowski; Keith Stras

10<sup>th</sup> – Trudy Patek; Al Kania

**11**<sup>th</sup> – Marie Jagiella; Mike DeArruda; Jimmy "K" Krzeszewski; Zen Esula

12<sup>th</sup> - Chuck Malenich

13<sup>th</sup> – Jake Mikrut

15<sup>th</sup> – Michael Ziemski; Lawrence Kutas

**16**<sup>th</sup> – Dawn Mikrut Bartolini; Andrew Makarewicz; Frank Maroszek: Janice Burick

17<sup>th</sup> – Christy Krawisz; Alice Szczur

18<sup>th</sup> - Floyd Grocholski

**19<sup>th</sup>** – Tish Blazonczyk; Floyd Grocholski; Carolyn Machelski; Eugene Murawski; Ed Tylka

20<sup>th</sup> – John Punola; Jarrod Vrazel;

21st - Alan Pala; Rob Czech;

22<sup>nd</sup> - Joseph Heger

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – Arnold Checkalski; Monica Kaminski; Linda Libera; Chris Rybak



**24**<sup>th</sup> – Joe Brozowski; Barbara Lewarndrowski

**25**<sup>th</sup> – Denise Skorik; Randy Koslosky; Betty Waypa

**26**<sup>th</sup> – Brent Iskra

27<sup>th</sup> – Linda Lee Brown

**28**<sup>th</sup> – Dale Cribbins; Richard Kovalski; William Dawson; Michael Pucowski

29th - Paul Raczkowski

30<sup>th</sup> - Michele Wojtowicz

**31**<sup>st</sup> – Kaila Blaskowski; Sara Fern













1<sup>st</sup> – Kevin Adams; Wally Stanczyk; LaVern Schiefer; John Dujka

2<sup>nd</sup> – Matt Prochot

**3**<sup>rd</sup> – Mark Trzepacz; Ray "Ray Jay" Jarusinski; Big Moose Rosana

**4**<sup>th</sup> – Jane Honn; Cindy Koretsky; Scott Gangle; Joe Oberaitis

6<sup>th</sup> – James Witulski

7<sup>th</sup> – Linda Jelinek; Stan Simms; Gary Kunkel

8th - Jill Styczynski; Bill Ellis

**9**<sup>th</sup> – Frank Styfurak; Anthony Szczur; Shari Olszewski; Ronald Marcissuk

10<sup>th</sup> – Thomas Zimnowski; Joe Sokol; Johnny Prill

12<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Cernosek; Robert Kolo

**13**<sup>th</sup> – Ray Jurusinski; Pete Wojcik

**14**<sup>th</sup> – June Sherry Ingram; Dennis Ostopowicz; Robert Kujawa; John Struziak; Janice Dipyatic

**15**<sup>th</sup> – Sue Szela; Irene Lizzio; Carl Lucas; Bob Lube Diane Kapka; Jennifer Szweda-Jordan

**17**<sup>th</sup> – Christine Tanski; Paul Futa, Jr.; Paul Pawlosky

**18**<sup>th</sup> – Marty Dzik

**19**<sup>th</sup> – Kenny Olowin; Jim Motyka; Pete Mrozinski; Greg Laabs; Carl Hoynoski

**20th** – Barry Juhasz; James "Whitey" Ryniec; Rick Piotrowski

**21**<sup>st</sup> – Renda Cribbins; George Koczwara; Tom Sauers; Troy Gawlak

**22**<sup>nd</sup> – Sally Sendra; Myna Sadowski; Annie Faucher; Elaine Benda

23<sup>rd</sup> – Sandy Simunek; Robert Wojnowski; Mary Komurek; Shirley Paull

**24**<sup>th</sup> – Diane Hamlin; Anita Herrmann; Charlie Tansek

**25**<sup>th</sup> – Mitch Moskal; Mary Wolski; Lynn Thull; Peter Danielczuk

**27**<sup>th</sup> – Carol Stasila; Sandra Lewandowski; Franwy Morgan

**28**<sup>th</sup> – David Bezdziecki; Ray Elleven; Kim Nohavicka

**29**<sup>th</sup> – Angela Biskup; Mark Grochowski; Carl Finch; Nick DiSebastiano; Ray Wodzisz; John Olszewski; Frania Yakima

30<sup>th</sup> – Randy Skwierczynski; Raymond Barsukiewicz





There is still time to be included in the drawing. Visit <a href="www.ipapolkas.com">www.ipapolkas.com</a> for more information.

			100			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Kim	Mimi	Jackie	Helen	Steve	Tammy
	Cielecki	Oaks	Libera	Bobeck	Swiader	Brzeczkowski
	MN	PA	MA	PA	RI	WI
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Candice	Judith	John	Marion	John	Debra	Frania
Rebovich	Alijewicz	Struziak	Weglarz	Freidhoff	Moskal	Yakima
PA	NJ	MA	IL	PA	MA	PA
14	15	13	17	18	19	20
Stacey	Kevin	Kathy	Michael	Marianne	Michael	Mary
Morris	Kwiatkwski	Urbanczyk	Jayo	Gideon	Blaskowski	Keosaian
PA	ОН	NY	AZ	PA	WI	NY
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Patricia	Helen	Melissa	Raymond	Renda	Pat	Tootsie
Wojnowski	Skolaut	Simkowski	Skorka	Cribbins	Stanek	Sobolak
MA	TX	WI	NY	MI	IL	PA
28	29	30				)
Edward	Edward	Judy			Vo	
Smigielski	Lipka	Del Pozzo				00
MA	DE	FL	S			









# MUSIK 2

**18 Time Grammy Award Winner** JIMMY STURR & HIS **ORCHESTRA DRAWS HUGE CROWD AT MUSIKPEST!** 

Jimmy Sturr and His Orchestra performed at this year's Musikfest in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania! The crowd was tremendous as they drew over 6000 people! Hundreds were standing in front of the band throughout their performance, and it is the largest crowd they have had there in recent years!

Musikfest is a yearly festival that draws over 500,000 people in a ten-day period, and there are many bands that appear throughout that time. It is definitely worth the trip from no matter where you live just to see the events that occur throughout the week!







to

# Eugene Murawski

from Mason, MI

Recipient of the 2025 IPA Lifetime Membership Raffle

## Is your Membership Current?

Don't forget to renew online!



# Polka Party

at Englewood Elks Lodge 401 N. Indiana Avenue, Englewood, FL. Elks Lodge #: 941-474-1404



## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025

5:00 pm to 9:00 p.m. E.F.O. - Eddie Forman Orchestra \$16.00 per ticket advanced – \$18.00 at door Cash or Money Order

Free Dance Lessons at 4:00 pm

Doors and Kitchen Open at 4:30 p.m. - Food Available



## Announcing the Winner of the 6th Annual IPA Young Songwriters' Competition



The IPA is pleased to announce the winner of the 2025 Young Songwriters' Competition.

Congratulations to Nathan Neuman for his original song, "Shy Girl Polka."

Nathan also won 1st place in the very first Young Songwriters' Competition with his song "Pass it On" in 2020

This year's second-place winner is Andrew Ratajczak with his original song, "Do Ya Feel It?" Andrew is also a previous 1st place winner. He won in 2023 with his song "Good People".

Congratulations Nathan and Andrew.





Scan the QR Code to hear Nathan's winning composition, "Shy Girl Polka."



The IPA Officers
and
Directors wish you
all a very
Happy
Thanksgiving





## Recipes from ...

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.

## Halloween Ghostbuster Cocktail

## **Ingredients**

2 ounces Vodka 1 ounce Bailey's Irish Cream 1 ounce Kahlua add Ice

## **Directions**

- 1. Combine the vodka, Irish cream, Kahlua and enough ice to fill a cocktail shaker halfway. Shake well.
- 2. Strain the drink into a martini glass or other cocktail glass Read full directions





## Cranberry Limoncello Cosmo

## **Ingredients:**

- 1.5 ounce Vodka
- 0.5 ounce Limoncello
- 1 ounce Cranberry Juice
- 0.5 ounce Triple Sec

Fresh Lemon Slice (for garnish)

## **Instructions:**

- 1. Combine Ingredients: In a cocktail shaker filled with ice, add vodka, limoncello, cranberry juice, and triple sec.
- 2. Shake Well: Shake vigorously until the mixture is well-chilled.
- 3. Strain and Serve: Strain into a chilled martini glass.
- 4. Garnish: Garnish with a fresh lemon slice on the rim of the glass. This vibrant and zesty cocktail brings together the tartness of cranberry with the bright citrus notes of limoncello, creating a refreshing and elegant drink that's perfect for any occasion. The Cranberry Limoncello Cosmo is a modern twist on the classic Cosmopolitan, adding a delightful Italian flair to your cocktail repertoire.











20th Annual

## IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Dance 2026

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











## Honoring the music of

## Joe Zalewski



Toledo Polkamotion Reunion

Special tribute to award winning Joe Zalewski. Lifetime Musician, Grammy-Nominated Band-Leader, Polka Promoter and 2024 IPA Hall of Fame Inductee.







2pm-7pm

ADMISSION \$20

Lenny Gomulka



Eddie Forman Orchestra



Dennis Polisky Maestro's Men



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:

Ernie Daigle 413-519-7014 Peter Danielczuk 203-231-1819

For Tables of 8 or More Call: Carol Blajda - 413-549-6997

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



321 Center Street Ludlow, MA

Code: IPA
Special Room Rates
Deadline on Special Rates Feb. 12, 2026

line on Special Rates Feb. 12, 2026 3/12/26 (\$149) 3/13/26 (\$165) 3/14/26 (\$165) 3/15/26 (\$149)

# Pulaski Polka Palooza

Saturday October 25, 2025 6pm-10pm

Doors open at 5:30 pm

**ADMISSION** 

Saturday: \$20 Sunday: \$20

\*18 and under free with paid adult For more information visit ipapolkas.com or scan the code.





Polka Country Musicians

\*All bands subject to change

without notice.

Sunday October 26, 2025 12 pm – 5 pm

Doors Open at 11:30 am

## Pulaski Area Festival of Bands

## LOCATION

Townline Pub & Grill 2544 Lineville Rd. Suamico, WI 54313 \*Food and Drink available for

purchase.



The Mix



The Natural Talent



Aaron Socha & Livewire



Maroszek Brothers



The New Generation



Missing your favorite band recording? Check out Bel-Aire for all your recording needs.



**August 2025 - The Kava's -** In recognition of over 100 years of performing polka music. The International Polka Association hereby presents this Certificate of Appreciation. Thank you and Congratulations.

**August 2025 - John Steven's Doubleshot -** In recognition of you 30th Anniversary of performing polka music. The International Polka Association hereby presents this Certificate of Appreciation. Thank you and Congratulations.

**September 2025 -** *Greg Chwojdak* - In recognition of dedicating nearly five decades of broadcasting and promoting polka music in the Buffalo area. The International Polka Association hereby presents this Certificate of Appreciation. Thank you and Congratulations.

**September 2025 - Christy Krawisz -** In recognition for serving on the IPA Board in various roles for over 20 years. The International Polka Association hereby presents this Certificate of Appreciation. Thank you and Congratulations.



## JPA 2025 Polka Music Awards Notice

Polka Recording Companies and Artists Must Submit Nominations by January 14, 2026

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 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> of a given year and the submission received by the following January 14<sup>th</sup> to be considered in the next voting cycle. Please visit www.ipapolkas.com for more information and to upload your submissions. Any questions concerning this process should be directed to <a href="mailto:MusicAwards@ipapolkas.com">MusicAwards@ipapolkas.com</a>.



#### **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

O DOX 1464

Plainfield, IL 60544

Email: membership@ipapolkas.com

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



## **Current IPA Officers and Directors**

## Officers:

President: Chris Bogdon (PA)

1st Vice President: Jill Styczynski (WI)

2nd Vice President: Henry Lenard (DE)

Treasurer: Matt Olszewski (PA)

Secretary: Cindy Olszewski (PA)

Financial Secretary: Lynn Kaminski (IL)

Sergeant at Arms: Randy Koslosky (PA)

## **Advisors:**

Advisor: Christy Krawisz (IL)

Lori Hudy-Lewandowski (IL)

Media Advisor: Keith Pietranczyk (IL)
Chaplain: Fr. Dennis Bogusz (PA)

## **Directors:**

Andy Bojczuk (NY)
Emma Bogdon (PA)
Stephen Kaminski (IL)
Brian Kapka (IL)
Dan Mateja (IL)
Lindsey Mateja (IL)
Christy Nowakowski (IL)
Sue Szela (MA)
Brad Turk (FL)
Brian Urbanczyk (NY)
Jeff Yash (NY)
John Zelasko (MI)

## **Current IPA Hall of Fame and Awards Committee**

Gary Brueggen \* Craig Ebel \* Jackie Libera \* Mike Matousek \*
Jimmy Weber

## 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.

## IPA RADIO SHOW

David formed to line or to the JDA David Charge

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.

Please call 1-800-TO-POLKA if you are interesting in advertising on the IPA Radio Show.

## **WE NEED SPONSORS!**



### Saturday, October 25th & Sunday, October 26th -

Wisconsin's Polka Palooza (page 21)

#### Saturday, January 17th & Sunday, January 18 -

IPA Chicago Festival of Bands Weekend (page 6)

#### Saturday, March 14th & Sunday, March 15th -

IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Weekend (page 20)

## **Advertise in the IPA Newsletter**

	One Iss	sue					
	Full Page	\$75.00 per issue					
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	Full Page	\$67.00 per issue					
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	Quarter Page	· ·					
	Eighth Page						
	Six Issues						
	Full Page	\$60.00 per issue					
	Half Page						
	Quarter Page						
	Eighth Page	\$20.00 per issue					

### **DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER: October 31**

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.