



IPA Newsletter

A Note From Our President

As we all know, summer means polka season is in full swing! I hope everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the many fantastic festivals, dances, and events taking place throughout the year.

If you haven't visited the IPA Virtual Hall of Fame Museum recently, now is a wonderful time to explore it. We continue to add new inductees and historical content, and we are always looking for stories, photos, and memorabilia from polka fans to help preserve and celebrate our rich musical heritage. Visit the museum at IPA Virtual Hall of Fame Museum.

As President of the IPA, one of the greatest highlights each year is recognizing the incredible individuals who contribute so much to our music and organization. Congratulations to this year's Hall of Fame Selectees: Gary Krupski, Jeff Heinz, Kenneth Machelski, Rich Anton, and Eddie Rodick Jr..

Congratulations as well to this year's Music Award winners: Kimberly Uelmen, John Gora, Polka Family, Frankie Liszka and Blue Magic, Mollie Busta, Alex Meixner, and the Steve Meisner Legacy Band.

Special congratulations also go to Rich Kois, recipient of the Leon Kozicki Award, and Stan Pasko, recipient of the Joe Jozwiak Award.

Be sure to join us for the 57th IPA Polka Music Hall of

Fame and Music Awards Banquet at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh - Cranberry during Labor Day Weekend. It promises to be a wonderful celebration of the people and music that make our polka community so special.



Chris Bogdon

This year's festival will once again feature many of the nation's top polka bands, along with a full schedule of exciting events. Jeff Yash will once again sponsor the Golf Outing on Friday morning. For more information, please contact Jeff directly at jvyash96@gmail.com.

We'll also have two pool parties, our welcome party, and coverage from both Polka Radio and the Polka Jammer Network during select events. For hotel reservations, please visit IPA Hotel Reservations. Banquet tickets may be purchased through the Store section at IPA Website.

As always, if you have comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@ipapolkas.com. We are always happy to help and look forward to celebrating another fantastic polka season with you!

IPA Hall of Fame Selectees 2026



Jeff Heinz



Gary "Krew" Krupski



Kenneth Machelski



"Jolly" Rich Anton



Eddie Rodick, Jr.

It's Always Sunny in Florida...

Witamy czlonkow!

Hope everyone had a wonderful Blessed Easter with Family and Friends.

Since EVERYONE'S Polish on Dyngus Day...The Polka All Stars were on the beach at Crabby Bill's Original Bar & Grill Monday afternoon. The weather was hot but there were plenty of water toys (squirt guns, water blasters, super soakers, mega soakers, storm drenchers, water cannons and even 5-gallon buckets), that helped to cool off the 500+ people in attendance!

St. Pete's Polish American Club celebrated Dyngus Day with Gone Coastal – it was **SOLD OUT!** The kitchen served 190 dinners and the bar poured a ton of drinks. They had over 20 door prizes for their silent auction, plus a generous 50/50. It was the club's second largest Dyngus Day event in 9 years. What a wonderful time! Plan on attending next year.

Special Dedication:

I would like to dedicate this issue to the SNPJ Lodge 603 in Samsula Florida. They are celebrating their 100-year Anniversary this year!

According to "**History of SNPJ.**" SNPJ stands for Slovenska Narodna Podporna Jednota, which translates into Slovene National Benefit Society. It is a fraternal organization that emerged in the early twentieth century to provide insurance for Slovenian immigrants who, as many immigrants before and since, came to the United States in search of a better life. The first SNPJ organization in the southeastern U.S., Samsula Lodge 603 was organized in 1926. A permanent meeting place—the lodge hall—was constructed in 1940, but was destroyed by a tornado on December 25. A new building (the current structure) was completed and dedicated on July 4, 1941, after a fund-raising campaign.

Farmers farm, but they also have families and social lives, and the SNPJ Lodge has been at the center of social life for Samsula since its inception. For many years, the "Hall" has served as not only a meeting place for Lodge business, but as a social hub of the community. Weddings, wakes, and holiday celebrations bring people together, as do fundraisers for community members in need and meetings to discuss significant items of community inter-

est. The Hall helps people stay connected with each other and with the community's historic ethnic traditions.

When the first lodge building was destroyed by a tornado, calls went out for donations to help rebuild. The building that stands at 421 North Samsula Drive contains the bones of this effort (it has since been renovated several times).

Lodge 603 in Samsula started a tradition of Florida SNPJ Days in the 1970s, attracting people from all over the country to enjoy three days of festivities. Listening to polka music from live bands, dancing on a hardwood floor, participating in jam sessions, and sampling ethnic specialties such as kielbasa and sauerkraut are some of the activities enjoyed during these events.

The Samsula Woman's Club was chartered in 1949 as a social outlet for the women of the community. Composed primarily of (but not limited to) members of the SNPJ Lodge, the club met once a month at the Hall to conduct business, share refreshments, and participate in recreational activities such as bingo. Because of their close affiliation with the Lodge, the Woman's Club often cooked dinners for occasions such as Easter at the Hall. In 1985 the Woman's Club came out with their first cookbook as a way of raising money for kitchen equipment at the Lodge; the most recent edition is the fourth such production. Current funds raised from the sale of cookbooks are used primarily to fund annual scholarships for Samsula students attending college. Composed of both Slovenian and American favorite recipes, the cookbooks are a popular reminder of the community's tradition of fine cooking. The club also puts on an annual holiday craft show on the first Saturday of December, which draws many vendors and visitors. The craft show offers indoor and outdoor booths, and the club opens the kitchen for breakfast and lunch as well as offering bake sale goodies. They have the best apple strudel in the state of Florida by far. Proceeds from the craft show go toward scholarships, Lodge expenses, and aid such as food baskets to local families in need.

<https://www.facebook.com/samsulawomansclub>.



By Brad Turk

The Lodge will be celebrating their anniversary on December 5th, in addition to numerous events that will be held throughout the year.

Please continue to support our Clubs & Bands:

Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach, is having their dinner dances at the **SNPJ Lodge #603 421 North Samsula Drive, New Smyrna Beach**, April 12 KeyTones, April 26 Polka All Stars, May 10th Special Mother's Day event with Frank Moravcik from Ohio, May 24 Jim Wicks, June 14 Jim Wicks, June 28 Brewski Brothers, July 26 KeyTones, Aug. 30 Northern Sounds Sept. 13 Polka All Stars, Sept 20 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 got SOLD!!!*). The club will be having their dinner dance at Belleview Memorial VFW Post 8083, 12666 US 441, Belleview FL. On May 17th Mother's Day and June 14th Father's Day with Northern Sounds Band. Please contact Brad for more info.

Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, had their last Sunday Polka Dance on April 12th with Northern Sounds. The club will be open each week on Thirty Thursdays from 6-9pm. They will have a full cash bar of your favorite drinks along with delicious food/snacks from their kitchen. Sunday Polka dances will resume starting back up in November. Please visit their Facebook page, or 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 www.pacvbusa.org, or email: pascverobeach@gmail.com. Call the club at (772)-778-0039.

SNPJ Lodge #603 in Samsula is CELEBRATING 100 years!

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

Oktoberfest Events:

Sept. 19 Sat.: New Smyrna Beach 5-9pm featuring Northern Sounds. Free event. Call Brad for info.

Oct. 10 Sat.: Vero Beach Brewery 6-9pm featuring Northern Sounds. Call Brad for info.

Oct. 21 Wed.: Ocala C/C 6-9pm featuring Northern Sounds. Call Brad for info.

Please support Florida's Polka IJ's. Featured on the Polka Jammer Network, 2009 IPA Hall of Famer Joe Oberaitis with Slovenian Polka Blast (Thur.), and Polkas 101 (Sat.). 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) 875-3961. Please continue to support LIVE polka music and our clubs!



Brad presented an IPA Certificate of Appreciation to the Board of Directors of the St. Pete Polish Club for Celebrating 75 Years Strong.



Congratulations to Elaine & Larry Bagby from, Tampa, on their **51st Wedding Anniversary**.

Brad presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ruth Benedict and Jennett Humphrey of SNPJ Lodge 603 as they celebrate the Lodge's **100th Anniversary**, marking a century of tradition and community.



Congratulations to Frank Moravcik on receiving a Certificate of Appreciation honoring his incredible **50-year dedication to performing polka music** and keeping the tradition alive for generations to enjoy.

IPA Honors Tom Busch for 31 Years of Dedication to Music Education and Polka Tradition

Submitted by Jill Styczynski

The International Polka Association proudly presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. D. Thomas “Tom” Busch in recognition of his outstanding 31-year commitment to music education at Pulaski High School and his unwavering dedication to preserving and promoting polka music.

This special recognition reflects Mr. Busch’s lifelong passion for music and his commitment to supporting the IPA’s mission of advancing public interest in polka music while ensuring its traditions continue to thrive for future generations.

Throughout his career, Mr. Busch has made polka music an important part of the Pulaski High School band program. Both in and outside the classroom, he has shared his enthusiasm for the genre by incorporating polka performances featuring concertinas, accordions, and other traditional instruments—creating engaging opportunities for students to experience and appreciate this unique musical heritage.

To further encourage student involvement, Mr. Busch founded the **Bohemian Bunch**, a group designed for students eager to deepen their knowledge and performance of polka music. Through this program, students were given an opportunity to build their musical skills, expand their appreciation for the genre, and participate in a tradition deeply rooted in the local community.

Mr. Busch’s influence has extended far beyond the class-



room. Over the years, approximately 30 current and former students have gone on to perform in active polka bands, a lasting testament to the inspiration, mentorship, and encouragement he provided throughout his teaching career.

The IPA, alongside the Pulaski High School community, extends heartfelt gratitude to Tom Busch for his extraordinary commitment to music education and for his tireless efforts to preserve and promote polka music. His dedication has not only enriched the lives of countless students but has also helped ensure the enduring legacy of polka music for generations to come.

IPA Updates Membership Renewal Process to Improve Efficiency and Reduce Costs

The International Polka Association has introduced an updated membership renewal process designed to improve efficiency and help manage organizational costs while continuing to serve members effectively.

For members who receive the IPA newsletter via email, all membership communications—including renewal notices—will now be sent electronically. Members can expect renewal reminders during the month prior to their membership expiration, the month of expiration, and the month following expiration.

To ensure uninterrupted membership benefits, members are encouraged to renew promptly upon receiving their reminder notices. Memberships not renewed during this

notification period will expire at the end of the month following the expiration month, at which time individuals will no longer be considered active members of the IPA.

For members who receive the IPA newsletter through traditional mail, renewal reminders will continue to be sent through standard postal delivery as usual.

The IPA extends sincere appreciation to all members for their continued support and dedication. Your membership plays a vital role in helping the organization fulfill its mission of preserving, promoting, and celebrating polka music. We are truly grateful for your commitment and ongoing support of the IPA community.

Over 900 Polka Fans on this Year's Polka Cruise

More than 900 polka fans came together for an unforgettable experience aboard the all-star cruise featuring legendary performers Jimmy Sturr and Mollie B, alongside an incredible lineup of talent including The Music Connection, the Garrett Tatano Band, California's Gruber Family Band, and Iowa's own Barefoot Becky. Adding to the excitement were emcee Keith Stras and dance instructors Matt & Elaine, who kept guests entertained both on and off the dance floor.

The cruise offered unforgettable music, dancing, and memories, including a special first-time visit to Aruba. During the stop, Jimmy Sturr had the distinct honor of meeting the President of Aruba. The two spent time visiting together and commemorated the occasion with photos.

Excitement is already building for next year's All-Star Cruise, with more than 450 guests already signed up. Setting sail January 9–17 from Fort Lauderdale, the 2027 cruise will once again feature Jimmy Sturr and Mollie B as headliners. Joining them will be The Music Connection,

Hank Guzevich and The Polka Family, the Gruber Family Band, the Garrett Tatano Band, along with emcee Keith Stras and dance instructors Matt & Elaine for another unforgettable week of music, dancing, and fun at sea.

For a free brochure and more information, email gusk@jimmysturr.com or call 845-651-4266.



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Limited Quantities

Premium Quality



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 8 NIGHTS & 9 DAYS SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN
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JANUARY 9-17, 2027

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 and
MOLLIE B & TED LANGE & SQUEEZEBOX

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 DANCING INSTRUCTIONS WITH MATT & ELAINE
 KEITH STRAS

JimmySturr.com • MollieB.com

Pulaski Polka Days

47th Annual Pulaski Polka Days – July 16th, 17th, 18th, & 19th, 2026



Pulaski Polka Days Grounds
(Pulaski Community Park)
429 E Pulaski Street
Pulaski, WI 54162

Thursday July 16th \$5 Admission - Music - 4pm -11pm

Chad Przyblyski's Polka Rhythms - LIVEwire - The New Generation
Marsoszek Brothers - Zander's Music Raymakers - The Mix - Copper Box

Friday July 17th \$20 Admission - Music - 2pm -12:30am

Polish Connection - DyVersaCo - Dynabrass - The Mix
The New Generation - Polka Country Musicians - Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze - John Stevens' Doubleshot
The NuTymes – GRD:Brueggen Family Band

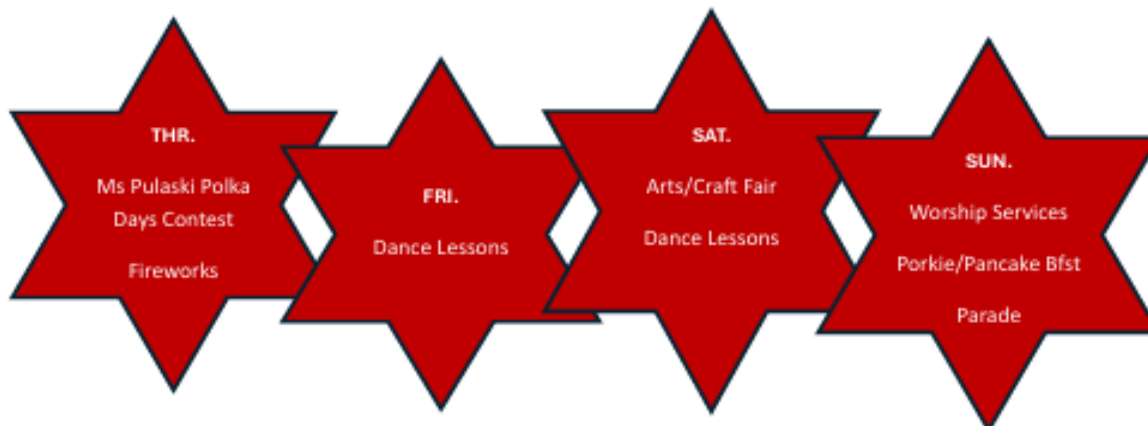
Saturday July 18th \$20 Admission - Music - 12:30pm - 12:30am

Cynor Classics - Chad Przyblyski's Polka Rhythms - Twin City Sound - Polka Family - Dynabrass – LIVEwire
Polka Country Musicians - The Natural Talent - Music Connection
World Concertina Congress Jam Session

Sunday July 19th FREE Admission - Music - 12:30pm - 6pm

The Natural Talent - Polka Family - Maroszek Brothers - Steve Burclaw's New Polish Sound - Mark Jirikovec Band

Events Throughout the Weekend: Camping - Polish Food - Souvenirs



For more info visit: Pulaskipolkadays.com

Contact Info

Pulaski Polka Days
PO Box 268 • Pulaski, WI 54162
info@pulaskipolkadays.com

Mike Drzewiecki
920-819-1168

Kevin Strassburg
920-619-0993
kevinstras@netnet.net

Rena Strassburg
920-619-0995
rstrassburg@netnet.net
Campsite Registration

Nora Scray
920 619 5587
polkacamp@yahoo.com

Parade Info & Registration

Mike Hughes
(920) 655-6983
mhughes59@gmail.com

Arts & Crafts Fair

Assumption BVM
920-822-3279

Pulaski Polka Days is a 501C3 non-profit organization. All bands, events & schedule subject to change



2026 International Polka Association
Festival and Convention



6th Annual Kick-Off Polka Party

Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

Multi Award Winning Band

DynaBrass



Music from 7:00pm to 10:00pm
Doors Open at 6:00pm
Tickets: \$20 per person

Limited Number of Tickets Available for this Performance

Cranberry Elks Lodge #2249

20720 Route 19

Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

**All proceeds benefit the Veterans Commission
of the Elks Lodge #2249**

Food and Drinks will be available for purchase! No BYOB!
For tickets, table reservations, or more information contact:
Chris Bogdon - 412-260-9725 or chris@westernpapolkas.com

For more information about the 58th Annual IPA Polka Festival and Convention
in Cranberry Twp., please see <https://www.ipapolkas.com>

It's Here Again!

The 7th Annual...



Young
Songwriter's
Competition



Showcase Your Talent. Share Your Sound.

Eligibility

- No minimum age
- Open to all songwriters **up to age 39 as of July 1, 2026**
- Open to **amateur and professional composers**
- Any **polka genre**

Submission Guidelines

- Submit **one original song** of your own.
- You may also submit **one additional song** as a **cowriter**.
- Select your strongest work and let the polka world hear it!

Prizes

- **1st Place: \$1,000**
- **2nd Place: \$100**

Deadline

- **July 1, 2026**

Scan the QR Code or click [**HERE**](#) to go to the Submission Form or to view the Instructions, Eligibility, and Terms



The National Academy of IPA® Electors just concluded their annual voting cycle to select the 2025 Polka Music Award winners. The results are as follows:

2025 Polish Style Polka Music Award Winners



Male Vocalist of the Year:

John Gora



Female Vocalist of the Year:

Kimberly Uelmen

Band of the Year:

Polka Family

Album of the Year:

***Into the Blue* by Frankie Liszka
and Blue Magic**

Song of the Year:

***Pije Janek* by Frankie Liszka
and Blue Magic**



2025 International Style Polka Music Award Winners

Male Vocalist of the Year:

Alex Meixner



Female Vocalist of the Year:

Mollie Busta

Band of the Year:

Alex Meixner Band

Album of the Year:

***Legacy* by Steve Meisner and the Legacy Band**

Song of the Year:

***Thank you, Music Lovers* by Steve Meisner and the Legacy Band**





Advertise in the 2026 IPA Festival Souvenir PROGRAM BOOK!

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POLKA FESTIVAL
& CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 4-6, 2026

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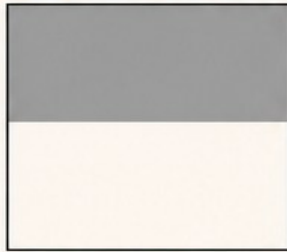
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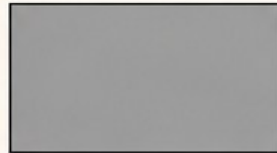
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\$50

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(.25 border on all sides)



\$35

WELL WISHER

\$1 each line
(Max 30 characters
including spaces)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 13TH, 2026

PAYMENT OR PROOF OF PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ADVERTISEMENT AT TIME SUBMISSION

OR IT WILL NOT BE PRINTED!

Acceptable Files:

Supply files in the appropriate dimension size as listed above.

PDF's, JPG's, PNG's (300 dpi MINIMUM – include all fonts & graphic support if applicable)

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

The International Polka Association® reserves the right to reject any ad it deems unsuitable for publication. Payment must be received no later than the deadline date.

★ NO HARD COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED ★

INTERNATIONAL POLKA ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1484 Plainfield, IL 60544 • Phone 1-800-TO-POLKA

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Thank you FOR SUPPORTING POLKA MUSIC & DANCE!

Kinloch Fire Hall

Western PA's Polka Hot Spot

2026 Polka Schedule

Sunday Apr. 12 th , 2026	Seven (NY) Join the award-winning band from Buffalo, NY as they return to Kinloch.	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm \$20.00 per person
Saturday May 16 th , 2026	Buffalo Concertina All Stars ♥ Chris' Special Birthday Party Dance ♥	5:00 pm – 9:00 pm \$20.00 per person
Saturday Aug. 1 st , 2026	DVSTA First ever appearance at Kinloch for this great young innovative band!	5:00 pm – 9:00 pm \$20.00 per person
Sunday Sep. 20 th , 2026	DynaBrass Join them as they make their return appearance!	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm \$20.00 per person
Saturday Oct. 10 th , 2026	New Generation (WI) Live broadcast for the Polka Jammer Network's Jammerthon!	5:00 pm – 9:00 pm \$20.00 per person
Sunday Nov. 29 th , 2026	Polka Family Join the Incomparable Polka Family as they head back to Western PA's Polka Hotspot!	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm \$20.00 per person

The schedule is subject to change.

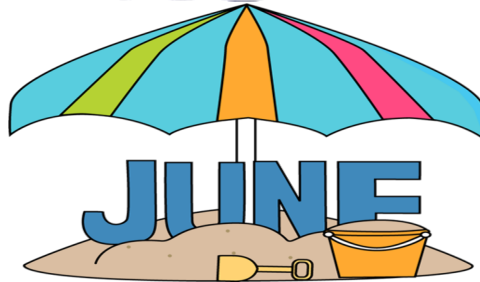
Kinloch Fire Hall
915 New York Ave, New Kensington, PA 15068

Food and drinks will be available for purchase. No BYOB!
For table reservations or more information, contact:
Chris Bogdon - 412-260-9725 or chris@westernpolkas.com

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 st – Michael Skalecki; Alicia Bliznik;
Dottie Stanky; Alex Yash | 26 th – Mary Ann Makatenas; John Filipczak, Sr.;
Joe Zalewski; Marcia Socha;
Wayne Machnicki |
| 3 rd – Bernie Gorak, Sr; Eddie Forman | 27 th – Joseph Wondolowski; Don Kohler |
| 4 th – Richard Sendra | 28 th – Julcia Dusseault; Frank Blajda; Ed Turecek;
Robert Kalin |
| 5 th – Jeannette Ziobro; Stan Pasko; Richard Biela;
Adam Bujanowski | 29 th – Bob Frydryk; Mitchell Socha |
| 6 th – Joseph Heier | |
| 7 th – Larry Olsen | |
| 8 th – Bruce Brzeczowski; Carol Alsheimer;
Ted Jdrzejewicz; Richie Yurkovich | |
| 9 th – Bob Earl | |
| 10 th – John Baras; Johnny Karas; Jasiu Klocek | |
| 11 th – Eddie Ostry; Thomas Rokosz;
Helen Skolaut | |
| 12 th – Butch Herrmann; Chet Kowalkowski | |
| 13 th – Teddy Gomulka | |
| 14 th – Judy Kwiatkowski; Zupe; Anna Slepecky;
Rick Buechler | |
| 15 th – Kevin Cornell; Ed Izyk | |
| 17 th – Micheal Kott; Anthony Zupanchick | |
| 18 th – Kevin Weinstock | |
| 19 th – Bernard Krygowski; Roberta Polovick | |
| 20 th – Karen Dekoski; Paul Rite; Ray Zalokar | |
| 21 st – Ellen Rohrbach | |
| 23 rd – Ed Krupinski | |
| 24 th – Kenneth Dunaj; Nicole Sinkiewicz;
Mollie Busta | |
| 25 th – Dave Parcheta; Ron Kuta; Trent Urbytes;
Rosemary Bogdon | |



HAPPY
Birthday
DAY



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



- 1st – Adam Biskup;
Betty Lange; Eric Stehle
- 3rd – Ken Yash; Keith Wesolek; Paul Sinchak;
Nadine Sokoluk; Teresa Zienka
- 4th – CW Benson; Frank Urbanovitch;
Denise Gliwa; Richard Nitka
- 5th – Jan Sweet; Michael Costa
- 6th – Dennis Polisky; Elizabeth Rozek;
Douglas Busch
- 7th – Jerry Romanowski; David Slovak
- 8th – Eugene Retka; Carl Prushinski
- 9th – John Wisneski; Jack Tady
- 10th – John Matyjas; Christine Misiak
- 11th – Joe Kvittek, Elizabeth Sadus; John Kupka
- 12th – Danny Fabeck; Frank Mikl
- 13th – Theresa Pawlicki; Mark Komar;
Marie Marek
- 14th – William Stasila; Donna Carron;
Richard Bubula
- 15th – Wally Dombrowski; Laurine Scheer
- 16th – Cheryl Furmaniak; Ted Woytowicz;
Carol Croll
- 17th – Brian Hafeman
- 18th – Lori Yash; Stephen Swiader;
David Yankuskie; Emily Czerniak; Patricia
Hickok; Cathy Simms; Nick Chmielewski
- 19th – Sue Conway; Bill Gliwa
- 20th – Randy Cernosek; Andrew Krystopolski;
Mark Hamlin
- 21st – Joe Macielag

22nd – Steven Sopko
Catherine Hartenbower

23rd – Lawrence M. Stec; Hank Dymerski

24th – James Banaszak, Sr.

25th – Eddie Labuda; Kimberly Kepple;
Dennis Wojkiewicz

26th – Katie Moroski; Aaron Socha

27th – John Gora, Michelle Robinson

28th – Lynn Kizewski; George Rosinski

29th – Kathy Urbanczyk; Jane Gelineau;
Henry Lenard

30th – Bob Sendra; Alan Bush

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



New Members

Dennis Wojkiewicz, WI
Jack Zolnierowski, FL
Larry Bagby, FL
Dan Liskiewicz, FL
John Lee, FL
Gary Loncki, PA
Nick Kanyan, PA



New Lifetime Members

George Borsuk, FL
Ernest Stetz, IL
Ursula Stetz, IL



Welcome Back

Wayne Machnicki, OH
Linda Jelinek, IL
Frank Kosman, IN
James Wicks, FL
Chase Mackiewicz, OH
Jim Mackiewicz, Jr., OH

Congratulations and Thank You

IPA Certificates of Appreciation

Polish American Society of St. Petersburg - In recognition of celebrating 75 years of supporting and promoting Polka Music. Thank you and Congratulations. (January, 2026)

Joe Oberaitis - In recognition of your efforts in performing, promoting, songwriting and broadcasting Polka Music for over 65 years. Thank you and Congratulations. (January, 2026)

Alfred Vrazel - In recognition of your 70th anniversary of promoting and broadcasting polkas on the radio. Thank you and Congratulations. (January, 2026)

Larry Trojak - In recognition of your years of service as a band leader, songwriter, producer, drummer, and vocalist, the International Polka Association would like to thank you for your entertainment and many accomplishments. Thank you for your tireless efforts and for all you have done on and off the stage promoting polka music and supporting the IPA. Thank you and Congratulations. (April, 2026)

2026 Polka Brews Cruise

Submitted by Chris Bogdon

The 2026 Polka Brews Cruise was an absolute blast that had everyone buzzing with unstoppable energy and pure joy!

In early February, more than 250 passionate polka lovers flocked to sunny South Florida. The excitement kicked off on land with two epic pre-cruise parties that set the tone for an unforgettable adventure!

It all started on Thursday evening, February 5, at the World Famous Parrot Lounge in Fort Lauderdale. The incredible Polka Country Musicians took the stage to a packed house of dedicated polka fans and curious locals eager to experience the infectious spirit of polka music. The room was alive with laughter, dancing, and that unmistakable polka groove!

The fun exploded even more on Friday afternoon, February 6, at the stunning Café Ibiza right on Fort Lauderdale Beach. The sensational DynaBrass and Polka Country Musicians cranked up the beats, drawing in not just our Polka Brews Cruisers but also beachgoers who simply couldn't resist joining the celebration! The highlight? Polka dancers took over Florida's iconic Route A1A, stopping traffic for several magical minutes as they twirled and spun in the street in a spontaneous, joyful dance party!

Then came the grand embarkation from Miami aboard the spectacular Norwegian Encore for an incredible Western Caribbean journey to breathtaking ports of call. From sun-soaked days to starlit nights, the vibe was electric! Both bands delivered high-octane, toe-tapping performances at exclusive private parties and two thrilling open-to-all evening shows out by the pool. Passengers throughout the ship were swept up in the top-notch music, infectious high vibes, and the warm camaraderie of

mingling with our amazing Polka Brews Cruise community.

The 2026 Polka Brews Cruise was truly a fabulous experience filled with non-stop fun at four ports of call, incredible music, and memories that will last forever—no one will forget those incredible moments anytime soon!

And the best part? The party isn't over—it's going to continue! Plans are already locked in for the 2027 Polka Brews Cruise, and this one is taking things to a whole new level of epic! We're breaking free from the Caribbean and setting sail for the glamorous Western Mediterranean from May 9-16, 2027, departing from breathtaking Rome! Get ready for stunning ports including Alafi Coast (Salerno), Italy; Catania, Sicily; Livorno (Florence & Pisa), Italy; Cannes, France; Provence Marseille, France; and Barcelona, Spain.

The legendary "Jimmy Weber & The Sounds Sailabration" will be providing polka magic onboard with a lineup of some of the band's previous Sounds members and an array of Polka All-Stars!

Plus, exciting extensions are in the works: optional hotel stays and guided land tours before the cruise in historic Rome, and unforgettable post-cruise adventures in vibrant Barcelona.

For all the exciting details and to reserve your cabin, visit the Polka Brews Cruise website at www.polkabrewscruise.com, email info@polkabrewscruise.com, or contact Maryrose Guerrieri at 954-594-6883. Cabins are limited and sure to sell quickly—secure your spot today and get ready to polka your way across the Mediterranean!

2026 IPA Newsletter Schedule

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline for Submissions</u>
August - September 2026	June 15, 2026
October - November 2026	August 15, 2026
December 2025 - January 2027	October 15, 2026

POLKA FIREWORKS

SEVEN SPRINGS, PA • JULY 1-4, 2026

A POLKA PARTY AND A RESORT VACATION

WEDNESDAY JULY 1ST

Welcome Party
feat. A Honky Tribute to Ray Jay & The Carousels

THURSDAY JULY 2ND

Pool Party feat. DJ Tony Blazonczyk
Lenny Gornulka & Chicago Push (MA)
The New Generation (WI)
DynaBrass (OH)

FRIDAY JULY 3RD

Volleyball & Pickleball Tournaments
42nd Annual Litwin Concertina Jam
Seven (NY)
Crusade featuring Eddie Biegaj (OH)
Ryan Joseph & All Access (TN)
Frankie Liszka & Blue Magic (PA)

SATURDAY JULY 4TH

Pool Party feat. DynaBrass
"Live It Up!" (MN)
Lenny Gornulka & Chicago Push (MA)
Polka Family (PA)

ADMISSIONS PRICING

Wednesday		\$10
Thursday	Adults \$25, Teens (13-17)	\$10
Friday	Adults \$30, Teens	\$10
Saturday	Adults \$30, Teens	\$10

Children 12 and under FREE if accompanied by an adult



The #1 Polka Party 51 Years & Counting

SEVEN SPRINGS

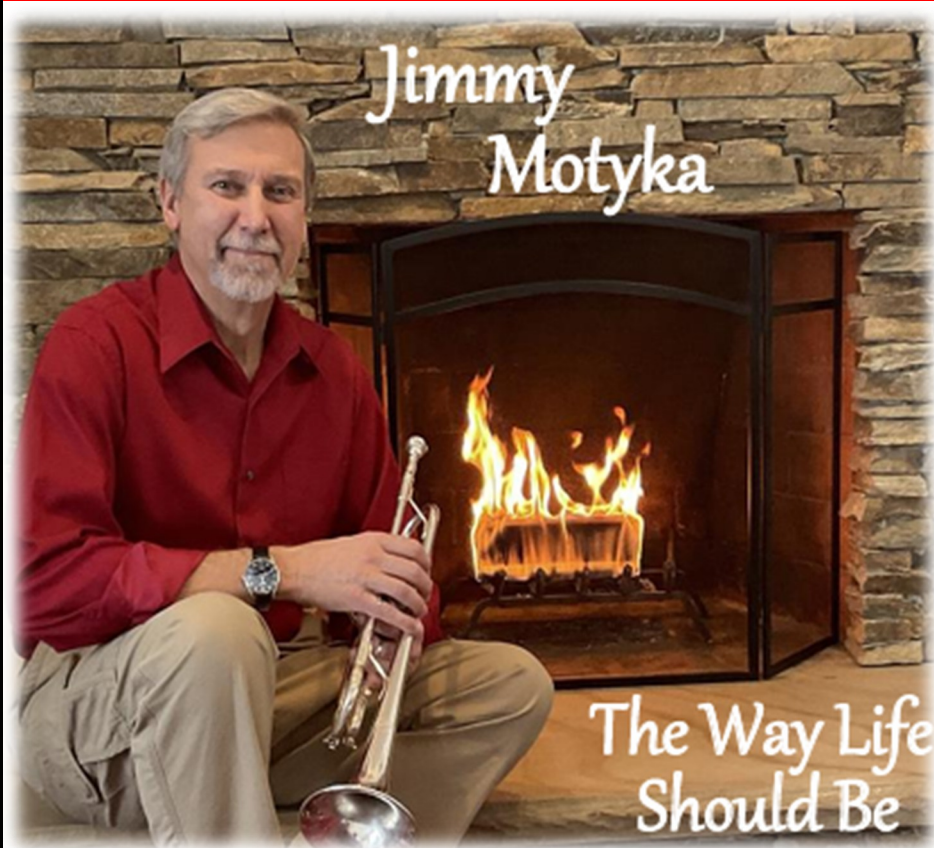
Seven Springs Mountain Resort
Champion, PA
855.947.0438
7springs.com

POLKAFIREWORKS.COM



FOR RESERVATIONS

Call (855) 947-0438 and ask for
"Polka Fireworks room rates"—
or use Group Code: **B7SPLK26**
rooms starting as low as \$155 for
Queen Lodge accommodations



I'm Jimmy Motyka and I've been playing polka music for over 40 years. I figured it was time to record a CD of my own! Over the course of those years, I've been a member of The Villagers Travelers, The Instrumentals, The Bay State IV, The Classix and I'm currently playing trumpet with Dennis Polisky and the Maestro's Men. I have had the pleasure of performing with many other great bands such as Happy Louie, The New Brass, Heavy Chicago, Chuck Pendrak, PCM, EFO, and The Chicago Push.

After I retired from teaching, I began writing songs in my free time. I came across a piece of paper with lyrics for a song entitled, "The Way Life Should Be" that I co-wrote in high school with my friend Paul. I remembered the melody and wrote out the music. My wife Sandy suggested the song would be a great title for the recording. So, "The Way Life Should Be" became the title cut.

Soon after that I came across another song that my wife's late husband, John Berestka, wrote for her. He was an exceptional accordion player and he wrote the song exclusively for accordion. My thought was to develop trumpet and clarinet parts for the song and dedicate it to Sandy from both John and me. That is how "My Sweethearts" came to be.

This recording has three original songs, and some that were adapted from other genres along with some old polka standards. It has been quite the journey! I hope that you will enjoy listening to these songs as much as I enjoyed recording them with some great fellow musicians and friends: Richie Bernier on accordion, Al Piatkowski on concertina and accordion, Matt Lewandowski on bass and drums, and Randy Koslowski on piano, Rusty Danmeyer on steel guitar on "Famous Last Words of a Fool", and Sandy Motyka as a guest vocalist on "Send a Message to My Heart".

The cost of the CD is \$20 and it will be available for purchase from me at any Maestro's Men engagement. You can also email me at jimmotyka33@yahoo.com for purchase and with any questions you may have.

Song List

1. The Way Life Should Be Polka
2. Broken Memory Polka
3. Oj Rety Polka Song List
4. You're the One Polka
5. Famous Last Words of a Fool Waltz
6. My Sweethearts Polka
7. Heart's Aren't Made to Break Polka
8. Weeping Willow Polka
9. Forever's as Far as I'll Go Polka
10. Walk on Faith Polka
11. I Wrote Your Name Oberek
12. Send a Message to My Heart Polka
13. Polka Jamboree
14. Make it Soon Polka
15. Hard Rock Bottom of Your Heart Polka
16. At My Daughter's Wedding Polka

\$1000 FREDDY K JR MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The **Freddy K Jr. Music Scholarship Committee** is now accepting requests for applications for the 2026 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

2025 – Laila Chaoub, Lake Hiawatha, New Jersey

2024 - Nicole Mrozinski, Hugo, Minnesota

2023 – Holly Rose Kolodziej Scarfone, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

2022 – Sebastian Pucowski, Hackettstown, New Jersey

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 Moadlo, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

2000 – Andrew Krystopolski, Wilmington, Delaware

1999 – William Lomnychuk, Reading, Pennsylvania

1998 – John Daigle, Chicopee, Massachusetts

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

POLKA

MUSIC HALL OF FAME

and

Music Awards



SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 5TH



10:45am
Arrival & Seating



11:00am
Luncheon

TICKETS ARE **\$60 PER PERSON**
for advance reservations.

RSVP MUST BE MADE BEFORE AUGUST 21ST.

PAY FOR YOUR TICKETS
VIA THE FOLLOWING METHODS:



Online via PayPal at
www.ipapolkas.com/store



Online via Zelle to
banquet@ipapolkas.com



By check payable to
International Polka Association

FOR CHECK PAYMENT,
MAIL TO:

Polka Music Hall of Fame and
Awards Banquet
PO Box 1484
Plainfield, IL 60544

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Banquet Chairperson Lindsey Payne at banquet@ipapolkas.com with any questions. Ticket confirmation and seating arrangements will be handled via email. Tables hold 8-10 people.





58th Annual International Polka Association Festival and Convention



September 3rd, 2026 – 7 -10 pm Kick Off Party

At the Cranberry Elks Lodge – DynaBrass

Sept 4th – 6th, 2026

Labor Day Weekend

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel – Pittsburgh Cranberry

724-776-6900

4 Fun-filled days of Polka Entertainment by:

John Góra and Górale, Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men, Frankie Liszka and Blue Magic, Jody Maddie's Uptown Sound, IPA Tribute Band, Jimmy Weber Sounds Reunion, Eddie Forman Orchestra, Gerry Kaminski's Polka Network, Twin Cities Soundz, Polka Country Musicians, Polka Family

Welcome Party, Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet, Pool Parties, Polka Mass, Election of Officers and Directors, and much more!



More details and information to follow.

Visit our website: www.ipapolkas.com

Be sure to listen to the IPA Radio Show:

Polka Jammer Network

Sunday, 11 am to 12 pm (CT)

Polka Radio

Saturday, 5 pm to 6 pm (CT)



Hotel Block Now Open for the 58th Annual IPA Festival and Convention

The International Polka Association (IPA) is excited to announce that the **hotel block for the 58th Annual International Polka Association Festival and Convention is now open!** Scan this QR code to book your room online.

If you prefer to make your reservation by phone, you can call the hotel directly at **724-776-6900** and press **1** to be connected to the **Front Desk**. Be sure to mention the **Group Name: IPA ATTENDEE BLOCK** when booking to receive the special group rate.

Last year, the hotel block sold out early, so be sure to book your room as soon as possible to guarantee you're staying where the PARTY is happening!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the IPA at info@ipapolkas.com.

We look forward to celebrating another incredible year of music, dancing, and polka tradition with you. Reserve your room early and get ready for an unforgettable festival!



Hotel Cancellation Policy Reminder 58th Annual IPA Festival and Convention

The **DoubleTree Hotel** has implemented a **30-day cancellation policy** for reservations made for the International Polka Association Festival and Convention.

If you need to cancel your reservation for the IPA Festival and Convention — though we certainly hope you won't — the cancellation must be made **on or before Monday, August 3, 2026**. If you cancel **after this date**, your **first night deposit will not be refunded**.

Please note that this is a **hotel policy**, and the **IPA has no control over it and must follow the hotel's guidelines**.

Both the **IPA and the hotel understand that special circumstances may arise**, and they will work with guests on an **individual basis in cases of emergencies, funerals, or other serious situations**.

Additionally, please remember that there is a **minimum two-night stay requirement** for reservations.

Thank you for your **cooperation and understanding** regarding these policies.



DOUBLE TREE
— by Hilton —

WAY OUT WEST ARIZONA POLKA DANCE FEST. 2026

WHEN:

Jan. 10th, & 11th, Tony Blazonczyk 's New Phaze

Mar. 21st, & 22nd, DynaBrass

Apr. 11th, & 12th, Frankie Liszka and Blue Magic

Nov. 14th, & 15th, Polka Country Musicians

TIME:

Friday Night 6pm. FREE admission (meet & greet)

Saturday night 5 to 9pm \$15.00

Sunday afternoon 2 to 6pm \$15.00

(kids under 16 FREE all weekend)



*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) 602-358-0909 (ask for reservation # Pulaskiclub) www.hiphoenixsuites.com

*The Pulaski Polish / American Club at 4331 E. McDowell Rd. Phoenix Arizona 85008, 602.275.9329
www.facebook.com/pulaskiclub "fun time"page www.pulaskiclubaz.com*

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



Current IPA Officers and Directors

Officers:

President: Chris Bogdon (PA)
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Treasurer: Matt Olszewski (PA)
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Financial Secretary: Lynn Kaminski (IL)
Sergeant at Arms: Randy Koslosky (PA)

Advisors:

Advisor: Christy Krawisz (IL)
Lori Hudy-Lewandowski (IL)
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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.



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.

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

WE NEED SPONSORS!



Advertise in the IPA Newsletter

One Issue

Full Page	\$75.00 per issue
Half Page.....	\$55.00 per issue
Quarter Page	\$40.00 per issue
Eighth Page.....	\$25.00 per issue

Three Issues

Full Page	\$67.00 per issue
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Quarter Page	\$36.00 per issue
Eighth Page.....	\$22.00 per issue

Six Issues

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Quarter Page	\$32.00 per issue
Eighth Page.....	\$20.00 per issue

DEADLINE FOR AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER: June 15

Email ad files to Lynn Kaminski using:
newsletter@ipapolkas.com

Polkas bring people together—one joyful beat at a time.

Let’s keep the squeezebox singing and the dance floors spinning by supporting polka music wherever we hear it.

Share a song, attend a dance, and celebrate the tradition so future generations can feel the same lively rhythm.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!!

Please note of the changes to our membership renewal process on **page 4** of this publication.

International Polka Association, Inc.®
 PO Box 1484; Plainfield, IL 60544
 1-800-TO-POLKA (1-800-867-6552)
 Website: www.ipapolkas.com

