



## HISTORY OF LETS'S POLKA USA CLUB

This website is dedicated to Mike Sonsiadek, whose love for Polka music led him to co-found *Let's Polka U.S.A.* with Eddie Bartczak. After the final UPA Christmas Party and Dance, former members reminisced and discussed continuing the tradition. Mike, determined to keep Polka music alive, suggested starting a new club, and Eddie eagerly agreed.

With support from former UPA members, they secured donations, and in February 2004, Mike used \$500 of his own money to patent the *Let's Polka U.S.A.* symbol. He and Eddie became the club's first leaders, with Dorothy Bartczak managing finances and records. By 2006, Berne Locke and Theresa Bolf had taken on key roles, helping to shape the club's future.

Under President Norb Ciesla, a passionate Polka enthusiast, the club flourished. Norb enjoyed going to dances and being with all the people and bands. His passion can be seen by his work on YouTube. He uploaded 16,000 videos, still available on <https://www.youtube.com/@FatherNorb>

His successor, Chet Kowalkowski, a renowned Polka musician and former member of the Versatones, kept the club thriving through the challenges of COVID-19. Chet made great contributions to the club and often hosted parties at his house and continues to enjoy friends and family.

Today's officers are continuing to make strides in growing the club.

Officer Name	Title
Mary Leja - President	President
Carol Trzebiatowski	Vice President
Joan Pyzek	Secretary
Edward Staszak	Treasurer
Sara Zelasko	Media Advisor
Helen Dec	Director
Marie Ostrowski	Director