



POLKA LOVERS CLUB OF TEXAS MUSEUM

275 W. Fairgrounds Rd.
La Grange, TX 78956
PLCTM.COM

Mission: To provide a facility for Preserving, Promoting and Educating Polka Music and Dance.

Volume 26, Issue 1

1st Quarter 2026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President|Coach—Gary Bucek
Vice President—Jan Koehn
Secretary|Treasurer—Carol Artz-Bucek
Member Outreach Officer—Joyce Bohuslav

DIRECTORS

Brian Svetlik
C. W. Benson
Connie Rice Ames
Doris Benson
Glen Chervenka
Jane Freis
John Hickl
Larry Maresh
Wellie K. Harris, Jr.



President Bucek installing TPMM's swinging panel display.

“The Power of Polka”

Howdy Polka Lovers!!!

Polka Season is here with new Events and Church Picnic dance schedules coming out. With that said, I wish to inform you of our Museum updates for this “Semiquincentennial” aka America’s 250th year of celebrations! This marks the PLCTM’s 21st year of celebrating our existence for providing a facility dedicated to preserving, promoting, and educating Polka Music and Dance!

So far, so good. . . **BUT WAIT, there’s MORE!!!** Construction for the expansion project to enclose the back porch and incorporate exhibits from the Texas Polka Music Museum (TPMM) is starting in May. It is expected to take 2 – 3 months to complete. One of our new exhibits will be the “Album Wall”. There will be over 5000 Polka Albums racked on the new west wall shelves. You will be able to pick your album, enter the Broadcast Booth and play the album of choice with the “On Air” light blinking from the booth door without disturbing others in the museum.

During the February 7th quarterly meeting, we welcomed three new Directors. (See Page 2). All three are musicians whose expertise will help guide the integration of PLCTM and TPMM exhibits, instruments, and archival materials. Their deep knowledge of the bands that made polka popular in earlier decades will be invaluable in shaping cohesive, historically grounded displays. Exhibits will be catalogued and organized to align consistently with each band or individual donation.

Last year, we introduced polka and waltz dance lessons with mixed results. The Czech Center Houston Museum loved the experience. Younger groups unfamiliar with Polka dance were totally engaged while ~~the older~~, I mean *more experienced groups*, already knew how to polka and waltz:-). The verdict is still out on lessons! However, dancing opportunities are bountiful during museum events.

Lastly, I wish to thank all who have renewed their membership. To date, we have 52 lifetime members, with another 100ish ASM’s (Annual Sustaining Members) who continue to support the PLCTM and all the treasures of history, within our museum. I encourage everyone, who is physically able, to visit us every chance you have. For those not physically able to visit, and wish not to renew due health issues; remember, our Quarterly Newsletters are about the cost of the \$20 membership and will allow you to keep up with what’s going on here. Also, our website will continue to keep you aware of everything POLKA in our world.

MAY THE POWER OF POLKA BE WITH YOU!

Til next time...

MEET THE NEW DIRECTORS

We are proud to welcome three new board members to the museum organization. Each brings a wealth of leadership experience, a fresh perspective, and a strong commitment to service. Their willingness to volunteer time and expertise reflects a shared belief in our mission and future growth.

With their guidance, we are confident in our ability to strengthen our impact, foster innovation, and better serve our community. We look forward to their contributions, collaboration, and dedication as we continue building a stronger, more effective organization together.

Their official start date was January 1, 2026 and their first quarterly meeting was February 7th.



Brian Svetlik, a respected community leader and music advocate based in El Campo, continues to make a lasting impact across the region through his dedication to cultural preservation, public service, and technical expertise.

Widely recognized for his contributions to music and live sound production, Svetlik has supported numerous bands and events with his deep knowledge of audio and technology systems. He is Co-Owner and drummer of the Czechoholics Band, LLC.

Svetlik recently served as Acting President of the Texas Polka Music Museum, where he played a key leadership role in guiding its successful merger with the PLCTM in December 2025. His mission throughout the process was to ensure both organizations would unite and thrive in promoting polka music and

dance for future generations.

In addition, he serves as President of West Wharton County Crime Stoppers and is a Past Director of the El Campo Chamber of Commerce. His interests for the museum include event and maintenance development as well as furthering and strengthening community initiatives.

Glen Chervenka of Bryan, Texas, is widely recognized for his enduring contributions to the preservation and promotion of Czech and polka heritage across the state. As one of the original founders and a former President of the Texas Polka Music Museum (TPMM), Chervenka played a pivotal leadership role in shaping the museum's mission and growth. He worked diligently to help secure a successful merger between the PLCTM and TPMM, ensuring a strong and unified future for both organizations.

A dedicated member of the Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society, Burleson County Czech Heritage Society, and the Texas Czech Genealogy Society, Chervenka has long championed cultural education and historical preservation. Professionally, he has earned numerous honors for excellence in his field. He brings deep expertise in Texas polka band history, exhibit planning, and museum display design. His passion is further reflected in decades of active participation in polka dance traditions and community events.



John Hickl, an architectural designer with Lynn Construction in Bay City, Texas, and a resident of El Maton (or Elmaton, population 32-45 people), is bringing his passion for music, history, and architecture to support the growth of the museum.

A dedicated musician, John is a member of the Shiner Hobo and Rusty Steins Bands and actively participates in St. Peter's Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus in Blessing, Texas.

In 2023, John earned first place in the Polka category at the Texas Folklife Statewide Big Squeeze Accordion Contest, highlighting his deep connection to Texas polka traditions.

His enthusiasm for cultural preservation was sparked last August while auditing a PLCTM board meeting where discussions included the potential acquisition of the Texas Polka Music Museum (TPMM).

John is eager to contribute to membership, events, and facility development, and he envisions a dynamic future where combined exhibits create a premier destination celebrating polka heritage.



The Board of Directors In Action



L-R: Brian Svetlik, Carol Artz-Bucek, Leonard Nuckols, Doris Benson, C. W. Benson, John Parker & Theresa Cernoch Parker

A presentation from
Theresa Cernoch Parker
"I was cleaning out closets. Yay!
I found some posters and photos
that Clarence Baca had given me
when I was working on the polka
book with Jimmy Brosch. I'd like
to donate them to the museum."



Rita Kovar
Glen Chervenka
Gary Bucek



Joyce Bohuslav
Gary Bucek

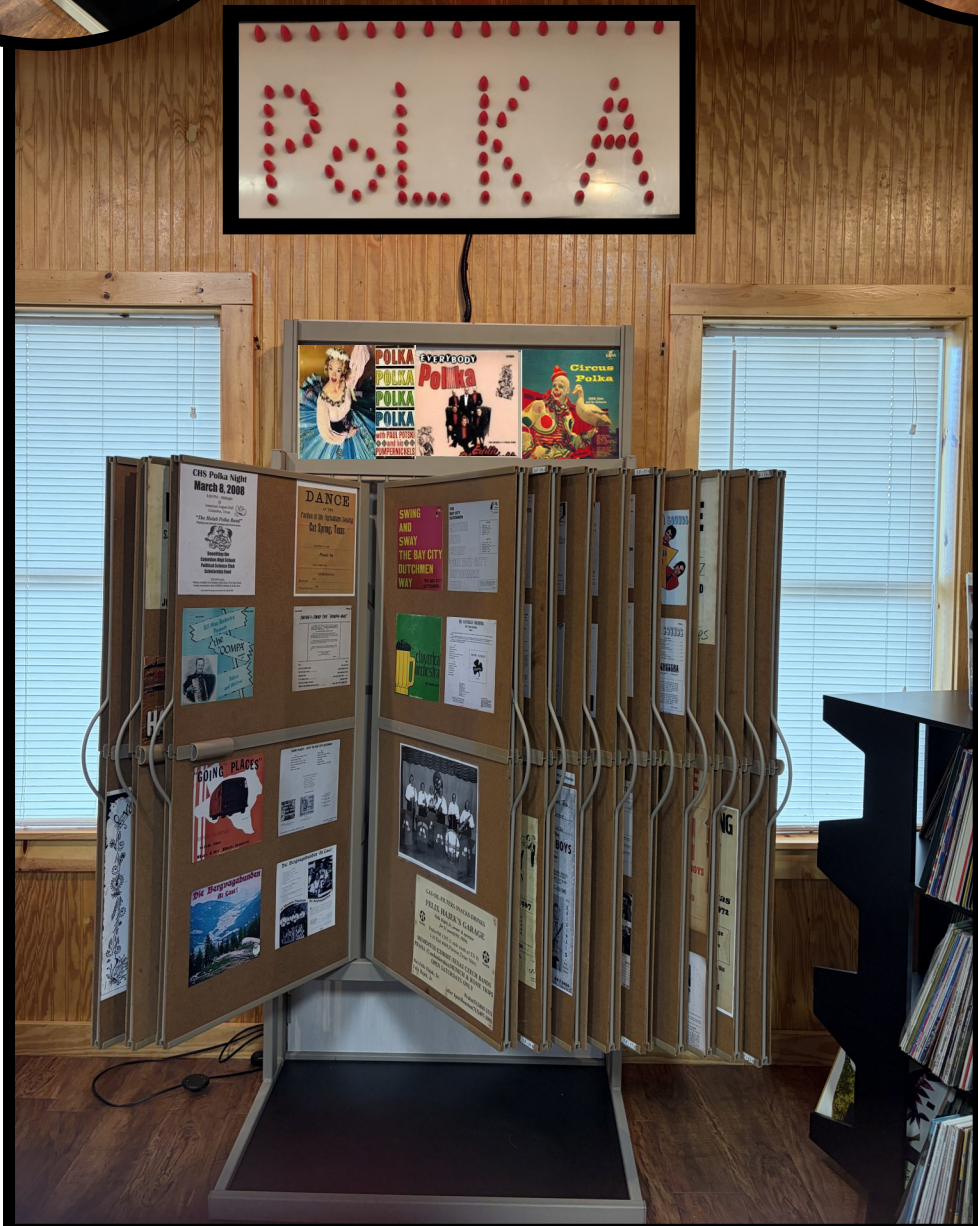


Rita Kovar
Gary Bucek
Carol Artz-Bucek
Glen Chervenka
Doris Benson
C.W. Benson
Wellie Harris, Jr.

Cheering to the completion of the merger between PLCTM and TPMM
with Slivovitz donated by Glen Chervenka!!!



The incorporation of merged collections & exhibits begins.



TPMM's Swinging Panel Display replaces Po.L.K. of A. Quilt now united with the original exhibit located in the Hoelscher Haus.

MAY THE POWER OF POLKA BE WITH YOU!

ANNUAL SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS (ASM) @ \$20 PER PERSON/YEAR
1ST QUARTER 2026

Member Renewal
Appreciation



JANUARY

Erwin F. Kouba
Leon A. & Rose Ann Adams
Loretta M. Freytag
Randall E. & Carol F. Gardner
Randy & Kathy Cernosek
Ted La Pesh

FEBRUARY

Alfred & Bernice Vrazel
Bill & Mary Pittaway
Charles & Angelina Kretzchmar
Ernest "Ernie" Mensik
Eugene F. & Carolyn J. Patalik
Greg & Joan Griffin, Jr.
James L. Slovak
John A. & Theresa S. Cernoch Parker
Ron C. Foley
Ruben & Sharon Rodriguez
Pat Vrazel
Wesley & Julie Matus

MARCH

Charlie & Mary Bartos
Georgia Vyvial
James & Caroline Freytag
Michael Ripper



Our members are lifesavers!



New Member

Tina Stankus

(Daughter of Julius & Marie Tupa)

**Newest Lifetime Members—Weldon G. Schulte
Delores Ann Novak Schulte**

**"THANKS" to ALL who continue to Join and Renew Your Membership
and, for all "Your Support" of the
Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum
MAY THE POWER OF POLKA BE WITH YOU!**



TOTAL DONATIONS \$165

**Ernest "Ernie" Mensik
Po. L. K. of A.
Donation Jars**

**\$1,000 ENDOWMENT FUND DONATION
Weldon & Delores Schulte**

POLKA LOVERS CLUB OF TEXAS MUSEUM

275 West Fairgrounds Road
La Grange, Texas 78945
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Mission: To provide a facility for Preserving, Promoting and Educating Polka Music and Dance.

4TH ANNUAL “Happy Music for Happy People”



Sunday, May 17th 10:00 AM—4:00 PM
In conjunction with TCHCC Slavnost ‘May Fest’
Czech Village Events

- Dancing
- Entertainment
- Exhibits
- Music
- Snacks & Beverages



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We are accepting “Sponsorship Funds” to financially assist in hosting the above energizing spring event above.

Your sponsorship will help defray the cost of delicious snacks, beverages, lots of fun, education, entertainment and dancing.

Your name will be listed on a Sponsor Board the day of the event. The more you sponsor the bigger your name will be. Indicate if you wish not to be listed.

If the event has not already taken place, your name will be announced throughout the day of the event. Indicate if you wish not to be announced.

\$50 \$100 \$150 \$250 \$500 Other _____

Make Check to PLCTM

Mail to: PLCTM %Gary Bucek, 1400 McKinney St., Unit #3604, Houston, TX 77010

Include Name, Mailing Address, Phone and E-mail Address with remittance.

Indicate your wish to donate the sponsorship in honor or in memory of someone.

All Sponsors will be listed in the 2nd Quarter Newsletter.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

A **LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP** is entered in the name of an Individual, Organization or Business. The membership is "NOT" transferable.

A Lifetime Membership is considered a full membership in the museum until no longer living or doing business. It is not to be confused with goodwill Donations, The Endowment Fund, Charter Member Status or Memorials honoring loved ones, associates or friends.

Any existing Museum Member, Person, Organization or Business may enroll as a Lifetime Member in the PLCTM. It may be purchased as an award or an honor for an individual or another museum member; it may also be purchased by a spouse or family as a gift.

Upon completion of the one time full payment of \$1,000.00, the registrant...

- Becomes a Lifetime Member, No Annual Dues
- Permanent recognition on The Museum's Lifetime Member Display
- Presented a Lifetime Membership Name Badge
- Presented with Lifetime Membership Certificate
- Presented a Magnetic Lifetime Membership Cling
- Recognized in each Quarterly Newsletter
- Complimentary Passes to All Member Events
- Recognized by Event Master of Ceremonies
- Recognition in Event Programs

2023 INAUGURAL Lifetime Members

Jane C. Freis—2301

Debbie Hoelscher Jennings—2302

Charles H. Hoelscher—2303

Christina Hoelscher—2304

Carl F. Freis—2305

E. J. Bayer—2306 †

Gary W. Bucek—2307

Carol Artz-Bucek—2308

Willie V. Bohuslav—2309 †

Joyce C. Bohuslav—2310

Derek Hoelscher—2311

Cynthia A. Hoelscher—2312

Patricia Hoelscher McKirahan—2313

Jan Koehn—2314

Father Jared Cooke—2315

Sheryl Pavlas-Harris—2316 †

Mildred Hollas—231 †

Tim Koehn—2318

Mark Hoelscher—2319

Althea B. Hoelscher—2320



Lifetime Members

2024

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Brent Douglas Wiltshire—2421 | Stacy Bohuslav Wiltshire —2422 |
| Brittany Wiltshire Jennings—2423 | Jack Thomas Jennings —2424 |
| Bayley Alexis Wiltshire —2425 | Nicholas “Nick” Bennett —2426 |
| Bo Douglas Wiltshire —2427 | Beck Douglas Wiltshire —2428 |
| Terri Bohuslav —2429 | Stephen “Mark” McFarland—2430 |
| Jessica Christine McFarland —2431 | Kevin McFarland —2432 † |
| Connie Rice Ames — 2433 | Willie J. Kopecky, Jr. —2434 |
| C. W. “Chris” Benson —2435 | Doris Benson —2436 |
| Larry G. Maresh—2437 | Evelyn A. Maresh—2438 † |
| Wellie K. Harris, Jr.—2439 | Virginia Leech—2440 |
| Josephine Marie “Jo” Jennings—2441 | Wilbert J. Cernosek—2442 |

2025

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Rodney C. Koenig—2543 | Roger Neil Bohuslav—2544 |
| Marcela Kourkova—2545 | Katherine Hanslik Svatek—2546 |
| Kent Huie—2547 | Roy G. Haag—2548 |
| Theresa Bohac Haag—2549 | Elizabeth “Betty” Patalik— 2550 |

2026

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Weldon G. Schulte—2651 | Delores Ann Novak Schulte—2652 |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|

MEMORIALS HONORING LOVED ONES, FRIENDS, MEMBERS, LEADERS



This quarter, a total of \$635.00 was received from those of you who honor and cherish the life your honoree lived—their love, their leadership, and the difference they made in this world. We deeply treasure your generosity, which helps ensure that polka dance and music continue to live on.

They would be truly honored to know they were remembered in such a meaningful way.

Evelyn Marie Maresh

James & June Turner
Lorine Christ

Cathy Felps Cousin

Joyce C. Bohuslav

Gladys Kouba

Erwin F. Kouba

Allen Dale Noska

Gary & Carol Bucek

John & Margaret Zalesak

Randall E. & Carol F. Gardner

Willie V. Bohuslav

Gary & Carol Bucek

MEMORIALS IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

If you have someone you wish to honor, mail your remittance along with their name and who to acknowledge to PLCTM % Gary Bucek, 1400 McKinney St., Unit 3604, Houston, TX 77010.

You will receive a letter of acknowledgment and appreciation.

The family of the honoree will be gently notified.

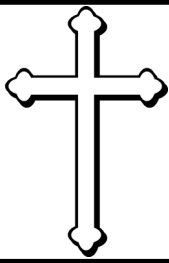
Your gift ensures Polka Music and Dance will live on!

IN OUR PRAYERS FOR CONTINUED SPEEDY RECOVERIES

Charles & Angelina Kretschmar, Connie Rice-Ames, James & Caroline Freytag,
Larry Maresh, Weldon & Delores Schulte, Wellie Harris

Positive energy going your way !!!

MAY THE POWER OF POLKA BE WITH YOU!



with deepest *Sympathy*



**IN LOVING MEMORY:
"FOREVER REMEMBERED - FOREVER MISSED"**



**Evelyn Annie Maresh
July 19, 1939 - November 18, 2025**

**Full obituary printed in the 4th Quarter 2025 Newsletter
Newsletters are also archived at plctm.com**



**John Joseph Zalesak
February 26, 1922 - July 19, 2011**

The Zalesak's are parents of Members, Carol & Randall Gardner

**Margaret Marie Zalesak
March 3, 1927 - January 9, 2019**



**Willie Victor Bohuslav, Jr.
September 29, 1932—March 9, 2025**

**Full Obituary printed in 1st Quarter 2025 Newsletter
Newsletters are archived at PLCTM.com**

The name "Willie" comes from the German elements wil and helm, meaning "will" or "desire," and "helmet" or "protector. When combined, these elements give "Willie" the translations "resolute protector" or "will helmet." Whether looking out for themselves or others, this name "Willie" means to stand up for what one believes.



Cathy Felps Carson
November 30, 1956 - March 19, 2026

Joyce Bohuslav's precious hairdresser for years and considered as her third daughter, Cathy Felps Carson, 69, of Austin, Texas, passed away on March 19, 2026.

Born on November 30, 1956, in Austin, Texas, Cathy was a true Austin original who spent her entire life in the city she loved. She built a life rooted in family, friendship, and community, leaving a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Cathy is survived by her loving parents, Jimmie and Joyce Felps; her sister, Cheryl Felps Swift (husband Ron and daughter Calleigh); her daughter, Cristyn Carson; and her two precious grandsons, Caden and Grayson, who were the absolute light of her life. She also leaves behind many relatives, dear friends, loyal clients, and coworkers who loved her deeply.

For 50 years, Cathy dedicated her career as a talented hairstylist at Janie and Co., where she formed lifelong relationships with her clients-many of whom became like family. She had a gift not only for making people look their best, but for making them feel seen, heard, and cared for.

Known for her vibrant personality, Cathy was a sassy redhead with a quick wit and a joke always at the ready. She brought laughter wherever she went and had a way of brightening even the ordinary moments. Outside of work, she was an avid reader, leopard print lover, and passionate gardener. A proud "plant lady," Cathy found joy and peace in tending to her plants and watching things grow.

Cathy's love for her family was unwavering, and she took great pride in her grandsons, never missing an opportunity to brag about them. Her presence, humor, and love will be deeply missed but forever remembered.

A Memorial Service was held Monday, April 20, 2026, at 10:00 am at Harrell Funeral Home of Austin located at 4435 Frontier Trail, Austin, TX 78745.

Allen Dale Noska
December 8, 1958—March 11, 2026



Brother to Kenneth and Cathleen Noska, PLCTM Members, Allen was born December 8, 1958, in Houston, Texas to Leo Jerome and Josephine Veronica (Kaspar) Noska. He was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith.

Allen attended Houston public schools. In 1975 he moved to the family farm in Fayetteville and attended Fayetteville High School where he graduated in 1977.

Allen had a deep love for gardening and planting trees. He retired from Texas Parks and Wildlife where he worked in park restoration. He loved to cook and bake. He worked in the kitchen at the Oaks Restaurant and Orsak's Café. He enjoyed researching and sharing family history and restoring old furniture.

Allen is survived by his daughters: Kristi Stegent and husband, Corey of Brenham, TX and Dawn Palmer of La Grange, TX; grandchildren: Gaven Noska and wife, Taylor "Gracie," Alexis Ellis, Ethan and Olivia Stegent, Kwainessia and Kenya Palmer; greatgrandchildren: Armani, Bryson, Sir and Kirklynn; brother, Kenneth Noska and wife, Cathleen of Fayetteville, TX; sister, Sharon Prigge and husband, Kenton of Burton, TX; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

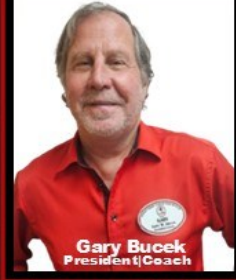
He was preceded in death by his parents; infant brother, Glen; several uncles, aunts and cousins.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate caregivers and staff at Dell Seton Hospital and Hospice Austin. We want to give a special thank you to Jonathan, Chaplain at Dell Seton, cousin, Laura Muske and to his faithful dog, Suedo.

A memorial service, celebrating a life well lived, was held at Koenig-Belvill Funeral Home & Cremations of La Grange, on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

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Vice-President



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Member Outreach Officer



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Connie Ames



C.W. Benson



Doris Benson



Glen Chervenka



Jane Freis



John Hickl



Larry Maresh



Willie Harris, Jr.

2023-2025 PAST OFFICER

Willie Bohuslav, Jr. †

PAST DIRECTORS

Weldon G. Schulte

Sheryl Pavlas-Harris †

Mildred Hollas †

Charles "Charlie" Hoelscher

Mark Mc Farland

Evelyn Maresh †