



BLUES NEWS

January/February 2010

OFFICIAL RAMBLINGS FROM THE PREZ

I'd like to Thank the returning Board of Directors for the great work they do to make this organization such a pleasure to be a part of. Thanks go out to Rick Tull for his service as the Entertainment Chair, and Congrats, as he was elected by the Board as a General Board Member. Sue Camp was buried in work, and I was unable to pick up the slack, so I'm really happy to welcome Rachel Scharnett as our new Newsletter Editor. General Board Member and past Prez, J Balmer, is our new Entertainment Director and working diligently on a Spring event with the City of Bloomington administrators.

Our 3rd Friday Blues at the Treehouse Lounge has been a great success, and there are a lot of people making it a regular occasion. Our membership has steadily increased and best of all, we all are having FUN!! I can't believe what great talent we've been able to bring to our local blues fans.

Our membership dropped a bit this month. We aren't sure whether it's the economy or just forgetting to renew, but we'd sure like to see our members come back to support the Blues. Our meetings are now at 5:45 at the Treehouse, before the 3rd Friday Blues, each month. Come out and enjoy . Randy

OFFICERS

President: Randy Hoffman -
rd.hoffman@verizon.net
Vice President: Jeff Augsburger
Treasurer: Deborah Mehlberg
Secretary: Sallie Able
Parliamentarian: Leonard Beach

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education: Steve Mehlberg
Entertainment: J Balmer
Marketing: Ed & Pam Moore
Membership: Frank Black
Newsletter : Rachel Scharnett
Webmaster: Deborah Mehlberg

GENERAL BOARD MEMBERS

Larry Duchanois
Mike Sacco
Rick Tull

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS—THANKS!!

New Corporate Sponsor - DAVIS CAVES
Marya & Michael Manak, Ralph & Carol Weisheit
Michael Sacco, Mainstream Industrial Company
Tom & Judy Elston, Jim McAvoy
J Balmer , Peter Zurch

Where is all the stuff that was in the Blues News?
IT'S ON OUR WEBSITE!!

www.bluesblowtorch.org/

Visit and patronize the Corporate Sponsors,
supporting us in bringing Blues Entertainment and Education to
McLean County, Illinois

Look at our Blues In the Schools Workshops

You can read the latest blues music reviews

Join or renew - download your BBS Membership Ap or pay online

Read the archive of Blues News and General Meeting Minutes

Stroll down Memory Lane with our picture history

Check out our hot Merchandise

What's Happening? Check our calendar!!

Links?? Yeah we got 'em!!

Contact Us...we want to hear from you!!

Blues News is now Paperless!!

Our BBS website and 'Who's Playing' emails have become the information source for Blues in Central Illinois. Less than 7% of our members don't have their email registered with us, so they have been receiving the *paper* Blues News. A trend in our society is newspapers have been losing circulation to other media based alternatives. The cost of producing a paper product and mailing has become prohibitive.

Now, we've just got to get the rest of our members on line!! So, if you know someone that is wondering why they didn't get a paper Blues News, tell the "Get online!!"

Education News Flash!!!

Tom & Judy Elston not only joined the BBS, they donated \$250 to our Education Fund!!!

If you see them at our events, tell them Thanks!!

IBC NEWS

The 2010 International Blues Challenge will be the 26th year of Blues musicians from around the world competing for cash, prizes, and industry recognition. The Blues Foundation will present the 26th International Blues Challenge January 20-23, 2010 in Memphis, TN. The world's largest gathering of Blues acts represents an international search by The Blues Foundation and its Affiliated Organizations for the Blues Band and Solo/Duo Blues Act ready to take their act to the international stage. In 2010, 110 bands and 82 solo/duo acts entered, filling the clubs up and down Beale Street for the semi-finals on Thursday and Friday and the finals at the Orpheum Theater on Saturday.

26th International Blues Challenge announces Youth Showcase.

The 26th year of the International Blues Challenge will once again include a youth showcase for those under the age of 21. **Smokin' Bluz** of Charlotte, NC has signed on again as the Presenting Sponsor. The 26th IBC will include an afternoon (Friday, January 22, 2010) of talented young people showcasing their talents for record labels, media, festivals, managers, talent buyers and the fans.

The IBC has evolved into the nation's biggest and most respected showcase for Blues musicians ready to take their act to the national stage. The IBC is a judged "Battle of the Bands" in which competitors take the stage and play a short set for a panel of judges. The acts are judged based on an established set of criteria.

In recent news the Blues community mourns the passing of an extraordinary bluesman,

David (Lil Dave) Lonzo Thompson.

Lil Dave's band was touring in SC when their vehicle was involved in an unfortunate accident. He will be missed by the Blues community as well as friends and family.

His accomplishments too lengthy to name all here, include albums such as Deep In The Night, Got To Get Over You, Lil Dave & Big love, & C'mon down to the Delta-just to name a few. For more in depth info visit www.lildavethompson.com.

He was influenced by many great Blues artists. He was said to be one of the most prolific blues guitarists of our time. Dave also boasted WC Handy nominations as a soloist.

Blues Blowtorch is accepting donations for The Lil Dave Memorial Fund at 3rd Friday Blues this coming March 19th Treehouse Lounge in Bloomington.

Come join us and enjoy Lil Ed & the Blues Imperials as you come to show your support.

Additional donations can be made on our website www.bluesblowtorchsociety.org or by mailing direct to our Treasurer Deborah Mehlberg.

Please make checks payable to Blues Blowtorch Society and mail to:

Blues Blowtorch Society
Lil Dave Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 1092
Bloomington IL 61702-1092