

**Membersip Meeting**  
BLUES SOCIETY OF WESTERN PA  
October 25,2008 7:00 PM  
Molly Brannigan's, Mt. Lebanon, PA

In attendance: Jim Weber, Jonnye Weber, Rob Patterson, Joyce Clark, Don Vecchio, Diane DeVine, Rich Majeran, John Reilly, Mike Rick, Ray Rak, Dave Hasch, Jim Franciscus, Bill Creely, Joanne Creely and new member, Mike Kalakis. Gary Wiles came later

- Don gave the treasurers, report.
  - We have \$200 more than we began the month. Refunded deposit on trip to Memphis to J. Elias.
  - Money to reimburse Jim Weber for newsletter and mailer postage.
  - Checks to Judy McKeg for quilt expenses, to ADAGIO for Blues Go Pink for ticket sales, and Patti Spadaro for use of her equipment at the Divas' Show.
  - The Society's costs for the Diva show, \$779. They were recovered from Adagio, as agreed upon by Adagio, for equipment and set up, quilt costs, ticket printing, postcards and mailing expenses.
  - The Dormont one-day festival proved to be a viable resource for visibility for the Society. Merchandise was sold and the Society acquired eight new members
  - \$4000 was raised for Adagio. Adagio spent \$2000 on shirts and novelties. The balance of those supplies will be used next year.
  - The quilt winner was notified and Dianne Devine will get the quilt to that winner.
  - The \$100 second place winner from the quilt raffle tickets was from Midland, PA. Adagio sent the winner her check.
- Jonnye reported 222 current members with several expired members being contacted by e-mail, postcard, newsletter inserts and by phone. Barb Gangone has helped with this campaign
- Don noted that more shirts needed to be ordered.
  - The Homer Simpson shirts are almost gone.
  - Long sleeve shirts would sell now.
  - New designs were suggested.
    - One suggestion that seemed favorable had 'Blues Society of Western Pa.' down the sleeve.
    - Hoodies and long sleeved shirts cost \$15 when ordered last year
    - Procurement-The vendor from West Virginia could be the one used. He will send to Don's house.
      - When last ordered, hoodies and long sleeved shirts cost \$15 each.
      - It was suggested to get samples in advance.
  - The female board members should design Womens shirts.
  - Embroidered shirts
    - Jonnye has a woman who will work with the Society.
    - Denim shirts –at least three vendors to work with
      - The approximate price is \$30.

Jim Weber ordered more CDs. They are now sold out. They will be available at the Christmas party at the Rhythm House on November 15.

- The newsletter deadline is **December 1, 2008**. The next edition will be out in January, 2009. People are needed to review CDs and write articles. Tuck will be doing an article on Paul Delay. Don would like to do a trivia page in the next issue. Jim W would like to add some humor. CDs were distributed for review.
- Jim Franciscus is presenting a "BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS" program on Wednesday, October 28 at Dilworth Elementary School. Tuck and Jonnye will do an article for the newsletter about the presentation. Local band members have volunteered their time for

this program.

- Paul Baughman has resigned from website since he is busy with other projects.
  - Maria Kovacs, the Webmaster, has asked for help. John Reilly will assist her.
    - Jonnye noted that while in Memphis last year during a Blues Foundation seminar, the attendees compared our website to other societies' websites. Those in attendance considered our site, BSWPA.org, to be lacking and needed improvement. Don gave some examples of sites to check out, St. Louis Blues Society or the Houston Blues Society, for example.
    - Discussions involved keeping the site up to date and timely. John Reilly said that he may need the Dream Weaver program but will discuss that with Maria.
      - Jonnye noted that the Blues Foundation gave information on discounted programs for members of Blues Foundation organization during that same seminar.
      - John Reilly said that he could get a heavily discounted program through his connections in the military.

Discussions included locating a grant writer to obtain funds to develop programs for the BSWPA. Example: Blues in schools programs.

- Some grant writers are fee-based; some are percentage based.
- Grant writers would do the research and help the Society vie for hard-to-secure funds.
  - Jonnye said that the Blues Foundation has people that do school presentations for a fee.
  - We would need a grant to pay for projects that would be costly and be a drain on our resources.
  - Mike Rick has friends who are professional grant writers. He will contact them.
  - John Reilly said there is \$5-\$8k available from local sources.(city & RAD.)

The Blues Christmas party has been finalized for November 15, 2008 at the Rhythm House in Bridgeville.

- Everyone will be charged a \$7 admission that will go to Rhythm House. The show will be open to the public. Darryl Price at the Rhythm House will be paying for both bands from his entertainment budget.
- A buffet will be provided free for BSWPA members. The Society will bear the cost of that buffet.
  - There will be a charge of \$10 for each member's guest.
  - Arrangements have been made to provide food for 125 people.
  - The Holiday Inn Express (within walking distance) has rooms for \$98.
  - The Knights Inn is nearby for \$59. Rhythm House will provide a shuttle but the frequency could not be determined.
  - A mailer will be sent out to remind members of the party.
  - Membership cards will be needed. Rhythm House will provide wristbands to our members for the buffet.
  - Kelly and Dan Campbell will work a table at the party to sell and renew memberships, to sell merchandise and raffle tickets.
  - The guitar will be raffled the night of the party.
  - Discussed Basket of cheer and getting donations for raffle. Tickets would be \$2 if we get something. Barb will ask some of her sources. We could each donate.

Discussion about a New Year's Eve get-together/party was addressed.

- If anyone hears of a place with entertainment, let the rest of the group know.
- The group discussed the possibility of planning a Blues oriented New Year's party for 2009.

International Blues Challenge, February, 2009 update

- Solo/ Acoustic entry, Bubs McKeg is registered to compete.
- Jim Weber has repeatedly called Nothin' But Trouble, the band entry. No word yet. The Blues Foundation site had problems with the registering. Will continue to monitor that issue.
- The Society will be sponsoring Jimmy Adler as an entrant for the best self-produced CD.

Discussions were held concerning the 2009 IBCs.

- Multiple sites and dates are being considered.
- The Society will be working with the venues to collaborate on acceptable to dates to host the preliminary competitions.
  - A site in Erie, PA is being considered and will be managed by Jim Weber.
  - A site in Dubois, PA is being considered and will be managed by Don Vecchio.
  - The site the Pittsburgh, PA will be determined through Jim Hamel's efforts and he will manage that competition.
    - Jim Hamel volunteered to work with Calliope to handle the solo acts, possibly in one day. Jim Hamel was not present to update the group.
  - A site in Beaver County will be considered and managed by Jim Weber
  - The finals are tentatively set for last weekend in April 26, 2008

It was noted that Jim Hamel would like to make the fundraiser for the Mars Youth Home a yearly event.

- Discussions were held about hosting the Divas concert the week after the Blues Festival at Hartwood Acres.
- The marketing opportunities at Hartwood would maximize the efforts of the Diva show – the Pittsburgh location and the blues audience. It was a tremendous tool the year of the first Divas concert.

Juke Joint night

- Start program in March.
- Consider Royal Place-joint venture
- Details to follow in beginning of year

Blues in the Schools Program

- October 29, 2008 at Dilworth Elementary School
- Jim Franciscus would manage project.
- Blues Society members- Jim Franciscus, John D, Ken Laminson, Ms. Freddye, Ian Arthers and Tuck Majoren would participate in the historical and musical presentation for 400 hundred students.

We will send \$50 check to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank for Sweaty Betty's fundraiser at Moondog's on November 23, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55.