

Arizona Bluegrass Association
April 20, 2008 Board Meeting
-- MINUTES --

Call to Order – Monticeta Retirement Facility; 2:10PM
Presiding Officer: Rick Rhodes, Chairman

Attendance

Attendees - BOARD MEMBERS

Rick Rhodes, Chairman
John Harris
Bill Kamper
Lou Ann Preston
Jane West, Treasurer

Absent - BOARD MEMBERS

Bill Burns
John Bragg

Old Business

Minutes from the January 2008 Meeting Were Approved

Moved - Rick Rhodes

Approved - Unanimous

Second - John Harris

Website - Bill Kamper

- We moved AzBluegrass.org to another ISP without incident. Since material has been added including pictures, video, Jams by region, and a concert page. New custom e-addresses were provided. We are now getting regular responses from other states.
- An account has been established with PayPal for taking new memberships on-line. Initial testing has been done. The next step will be for Camille to establish a d-base in the domain for membership that this auto-ordering system can interface with. This was approved by all present.
- The Bluegrass Beacon distributed by e-mail has grown 100% between March and April.

Current Business

Treasury – Jane West

• January 1 balance	\$7653.74
Income	\$ 252.00
Expenses	\$1251.12

February 1 balance	\$6654.62
General Funds	\$3062.91
FutureGrass	\$3591.71

Total	\$6654.62
March 31 balance	\$7410.64

Rick pointed out that some of the General Fund balance is from payments made for a second year by members and are not really available for 2008. The report was approved by all present.

Check Account Signatures – John Harris

- Paul Wilson's signature authority was retired and replaced by John Harris. Jane West continues to also have signature authority

ABA Booth – Rick Rhodes

- The presence of the Booth, which is being manned by several people under the management of John Bragg, is making a favorable impact on Public Relations.

FutureGrass– Lou Ann Preston

- Lacom Tepece performance is good for in-school performances. The plan is to present music history even pre- Bill Monroe. Another idea is to have mini-festivals at the schools. The program is in development. A specific plan will be outlined by next meeting.
- Anni Beach's bluegrass kids are planning to go to the 2008 Wickenburg Festival and compete. They would like sponsorship from ABA. Rick suggested the candidates audition for the sponsorship. Lou Ann will propose to Anni.
- Jam Pak has need for fiddle bows, rosins, straps, and capos. Lou Ann has been providing what she has, but we may need to purchase some materials on their behalf.

Website– Bill Kamper

- The new-look Website has been prototyped and tested by several members with all favorable comments. Progress will be slow, but it should be on-line in August.
- A bar graph of the last 15 months shows that traffic is about the same, but the number of pages visited and time spent on average has dramatically increased starting February '08.

New Business

International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) - Bill Kamper

- Bill proposed the ABA become a member of the IBMA (with 2600 members) for the sake of recognition at the national level in the hopes of better membership sales. We can write articles in the IBMA newsletter for promotional purposes. The IBMA will match \$200 payments for in-school live performances to help FutureGrass. They sell lesson plan DVDs for \$3. We are entitled to free e-mail copies of databases for Membership, Artists, Radio, Event Promoters, other Associations, and a fan base of 12,000. The cost is \$200. The motion was seconded by Lou Ann and unanimously passed.

Les Preston Memorial Fund – Lou Ann Preston

- Many have responded to Lou Ann's earlier request that donation be made to the ABA FutureGrass Fund. Now, she would like to have direct management of how the money is used. She would like to have a Les Preston Memorial Fund non-profit corporation independent of the ABA. Rick moved that we accept the checks Lou Ann has collected and write one back to her for the same amount. It was seconded by John Harris and passed by all present.

ABA Liaison Update – Bill Kamper

- Bill had contacted or left messages for all Liaisons and invited them to attend the Board Meeting. Unfortunately, none did. The following are reports offered in absentia.
 - East Valley needs no representation as it is part of the greater Phoenix Area and Director Bill Burns lives there.
 - Flagstaff, Bill Venieu, no report.
 - Prescott, Bill Williamson, the jams at BJ's Restaurant on Monday nights are becoming as large as 20 participants. The Board's reaction is this is a good opportunity for farming new members.
 - Tucson, Bonnie Lohman, they now have seven regular jams which are posted on the DBA website. The lineup for the 9th Annual Festival, October 24 – 26, is complete. There will be a band competition and all ABA are encouraged to participate. Tucson bands play in restaurants and donate the proceeds to the DBA who this year purchased a sound system with these funds.
 - Yuma, Dennis Russel, wants to issue an invitation to all ABA to visit and jam. In fact, he would like there to be a 'musician's pool' for Yuma to draw on if a regular player is unavailable. Imposter(s) have been shaking down RV Parks for royalty payments due to jams. The Boards reaction is there is no royalties due if there is no profit being made; this is a local law enforcement matter beyond the scope of the ABA. Lastly, a promoter who holds Festivals in January is interfering with previously scheduled sessions in the area; can they move the date a few weeks. Bill said he would interface between them.

Volunteers are Needed – Rick Rhodes

- Leslie Rhodes is becoming too busy to continue as Membership Chair. He asked that we all look for a replacement.
- Additionally, Jan Zale is tending to an ailing family member and needed relief from her duties as layout person temporarily at least.
- Lou Ann Preston resigned as Director due to personal reasons, but will continue to head FutureGrass.

More Frequent Meetings – Rick Rhodes

- Rick announced that John Bragg had asked for monthly meetings. It was discussed and decided we would try it until it is unproductive. Seconded by Bill. All were in favor.
- The next meeting will be held again at the Monticeta on Sunday, May 25 at 2 p.m.

Adjournment – 4:10PM

Reoported by:
Bill Kamaper
Secretary
May 16, 2008