

OBScenE-news

‘On the Road to Memphis’

Fall 2008



Two Semi-Final rounds of competition for the Ottawa Blues Society's Blues Challenge took place Wednesday, September 24 and Wednesday, October 1. Ottawa's JW-Jones was MC for the event and six blues enthusiasts gave up an evening to choose the bands that would advance to the final event on Thursday, October 2, at Tucson's.

Judges Bob Cabana (owner of Ottawa's FabGear64), James Doran (organizer of the 'Blues on the Rideau' series) and Todd Bernard (from DAWG-FM, Canada and North America's 1st all blues commercial radio, expected to hit the airwaves by Summer 2009), for Semi-Final Round #1, and Alan Marsden (director of the Ottawa Folklore Centre School of Music), Yves Trottier (DAWG-FM Program Director) and Diane Wells (host of CKCU-fm's 'Iron Maidens'), for Semi-Final Round #2, had their own 'blues challenge' choosing two finalists each night.

Advancing to the Finals were Elyssa Mahoney & Lucas Haneman and Wicked Grin, and Phlegm and MonkeyJunk.

This local 'Band' category competition is Ottawa's first time participation in the prestigious Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge, and looks to become an annual event. A \$5.00 cover charge and impressive raffle draws raised nearly \$2500 to provide financial support for travel and accommodation expenses for the winning OBS representative. Thanks to the sponsors who supported the event: Tucson's, The Works, CD Warehouse, FabGear64, Folklore Centre, Lorenzo's and Ken Fraser.

Performance order for the final, on Thursday, October 2, was drawn 90 minutes before the first band took the stage. Phlegm kicked off the night with a rocking set, followed by the powerful voice of Elyssa Mahoney combined with Lucas Haneman's fiery guitar; Wicked Grin provided their trademark 'Blues with Bite' & MonkeyJunk ended the competition with down & dirty, timeless blues.

It was no easy task for Final Round Judges Fred Litwin (President of Northern Blues Music), Lynn Saxberg

(Ottawa Citizen arts reporter) and Ed Torres (President of DAWG FM), who judged the four competitors using the scoring criteria to be used in Memphis.

When the scores were tabulated, MonkeyJunk (Steve Marriner, Tony D and Matt Sobb) was chosen to represent Ottawa in Memphis, TN, February 2009 at the 25th International Blues Challenge. All participants joined in the jam session that followed and fans who attended are already looking forward to next year's competition.



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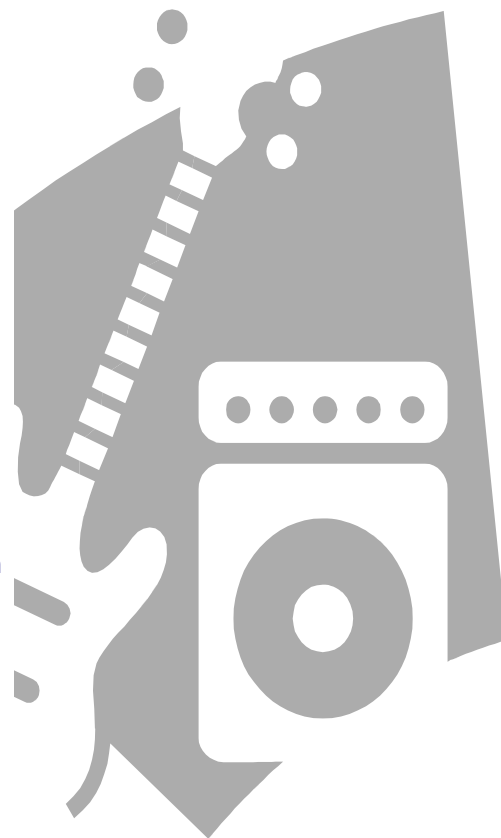
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More photos from 'On the Road to Memphis' on pages 2 & 3.

Questions or comments? Please contact the Editor using the feedback form at www.ottawabluesociety.com/contact.php



On the Road to Memphis

Ottawa Blues Society Blues Challenge

The Bands



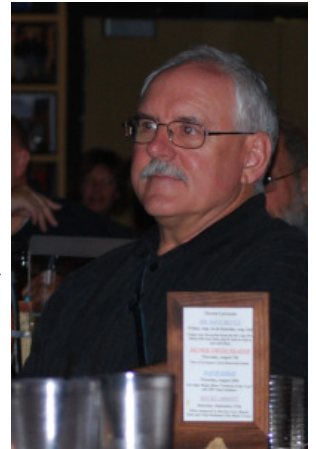


On the Road to Memphis *Ottawa Blues Society Blues Challenge*

Our Judges and Master of Ceremonies



From left: Lynn Saxberg,
Fred Litwin, Ed Torres
Right: James Doran
Below left: 'Uncle Bob'
Cabana, Todd Bernard &
MC JW-Jones
Not shown: Diane Wells,
Yves Trottier, Alan
Marsden



Our Soundman



Mark Hall



Where are they now?

Ticket Seller



OBS Director
Debra Thornington



Right here ... a few years older!

The 2009 International Blues Challenge will be the 25th year of Blues musicians from around the world competing for cash, prizes, and industry recognition. The Blues Foundation will present the 25th International Blues Challenge February 4-7, 2009 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 2008, 100 bands and 60 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. We will have at least that many in 2009.



25th INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE
The World's Largest Gathering Of Blues Bands
February 4-7, 2009
tickets at blues.org

"...better than any festival I have ever attended"
Eddie Bagwell, VP, Tulsa Blues Society

"...continue to be amazed at how well an event this big comes off"
Mike Dew, WNCW Radio

the arts *changing lives* *Endowment* **FedEx** *sonicbids* *Legacy* **MEMPHIS** **SHOKIN'** *ArtsMemphis* *Gibson* **FOUNDATION** **The Blues Foundation** www.blues.org

More on Event Schedule <http://www.blues.org/ibc/schedule.php4>

More on Travel & Lodging <http://www.blues.org/ibc/travel.php4>

More IBC History <http://www.blues.org/ibc/history.php>

IBC Past Winners <http://www.blues.org/ibc/past.php4>

Are you a member of the Blues Foundation?

The Ottawa Blues Society is!

For info on Membership Incentives, Membership Levels and more

<https://www.blues.org/members/index.php>



Twenty-two individuals and organizations will be honoured with The Blues Foundation's 2009 Keeping the Blues Alive (KBA) Award during a recognition brunch at the Downtown Doubletree Hotel Saturday, February 7, 2009 in Memphis Tennessee. The KBA ceremony will be held in conjunction with the 25th International Blues Challenge (IBC) weekend of events.

The Keeping the Blues Alive Awards recognize the significant contributions to Blues music made by the people behind the scenes. Each is selected on the basis of merit by a select panel of Blues professionals. The 2009 Keeping the Blues Alive recipients are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Agent: Steve Hecht, Piedmont Talent, Charlotte, NC | 12. Manager: John Hahn, New York, NY |
| 2. Art & Photography: Dusty & Val Scott, Dusty Blues, Pittsburgh, PA | 13. Organization: Washington Blues Society, Seattle, WA |
| 3. Blues Club: B.L.U.E.S, Chicago, IL | 14. Print Media: Il Blues, Milan, Italy |
| 4. Education: Monroe County Black History Month, Monroe County, MI | 15. Producer: David Z, Nashville, TN |
| 5. Festival: Telluride Blues & Brews Festival, Telluride, CO | 16. Promoter: Omega Events, Lake Forest, CA |
| 6. Film, Television and Video: Willy Bearden, Memphis TN | 17. Publicist: Betsie Brown, Blind Raccoon, Memphis, TN |
| 7. Historical Preservation: Shack Up In, Clarksdale, MS | 18. Radio Commercial: Kai Turner, Denver, CO |
| 8. International: Associazione Roots 'n' Blues, Parma, Italy | 19. Radio Public: John Kessler, Seattle, WA |
| 9. Internet: Pandora.com, Oakland, CA | 20. Record Label: Delta Groove, Van Nuys, CA |
| 10. Journalism: Hal Horowitz, Marietta, GA | 21. Retailer: Manifest Discs, Charlotte, NC |
| 11. Literature: Craig Hopkins, Cedar Hill, TX | 22. Sponsor: Barbara Hammerman, Gig Harbor, WA |

For more info <http://www.blues.org/about/news.php4?id=678>



Blues fans will be thrilled with the many new faces filling the ballot for this year's 12th Annual Maple Blues Awards, Canada's national award program that promotes and recognizes outstanding achievement in blues music. Nominees from Atlantic Canada to BC have been announced for 2009; a full list appears online at www.mapleblues.ca The Gala Awards Ceremony will take place in Toronto on Monday, January 19, 2009.

Although there is a strong showing from all across this blues land of ours, of the sixteen Maple Blues Awards categories, the late guitarist extraordinaire Jeff Healey and his blues band lead the nominations with a total of seven - including Entertainer, Electric Artist, Guitarist and Recording of the Year (for his posthumous album *Mess of Blues*). Healey's seasoned accompanists Al Webster, Dave Murphy and Alec Fraser are each nominated in their respective instrumental categories.

Barrelhouse blues pianist Julian Fauth and veteran act Downchild are next in line, earning four nominations apiece. Fauth's honours include one in the recording category for his current album, *Ramblin' Son*, while Downchild's include two in instrumental categories for Michael Fonfara and Pat Carey. Following closely with three nominations each are Maritimer and "funkabilly-blues-soulman" Garrett Mason, Toronto's powerhouse blues vocalists Treasa Levasseur and Paul Reddick and Western axeman Amos Garrett (including his horn player Dave Babcock).

Fresh new faces not seen on the ballot last year are predominant in the instrumental categories: Seventeen of the 30 nominees are new, including JW-Jones and Curley Bridges. Not to mention New Artist of the Year contenders Daddy Long Legs, Keith Hallett, Marshall Lawrence, Monkey Junk and Sojourners. Multiple Drummer of the Year recipient, Maureen Brown, is also back in the race.

Returning this year are Atlantic blues faves Thom Swift, who garnered two nods, Tom Easley (*Hot Toddy*) and Geoff Arsenault (*Morgan Davis/Thom Swift*). Montreal is well-represented, with recognitions going to Ray Bonneville (with two nods), Guy Belanger, Stephen Barry, Bob Walsh and Michael Jerome Browne, all with one each and last year's Maple Blues host Dawn Tyler Watson, with two. Ontario raises up past Maple Blues winners Jack de Keyzer, Shakura S'Aida, Suzie Vinnick, Carlos Del Junco and Chris Whiteley, among others. The West has an increased presence this year, with distinctions going to Big Dave McLean - who has been making a big impact on the music scene of late - receiving two noms, as well as Amos Garrett, Dave Babcock, Harry Manx, bassist Keith Picot and drummer Chris Nordquist of The Twisters.

Of special note is the 2009 BLUES BOOSTER OF THE YEAR AWARD (selected by the Toronto Blues Society Board of Directors) which will go to the affectionately-known "Professor of Rock n' Roll" Rob Bowman for his outstanding contributions to the Canadian Blues industry.

All nominees are selected by a distinguished panel of blues experts from across Canada, and winners are selected by the votes of Canadian blues fans.

Beverly Kreller, SPEAK Music
www.speak-music.com

PLEASE VOTE

www.mapleblues.ca

Voting ends
 11:59 pm (PT)
 December 6, 2008

OTTAWA NOMINEES

NEW ARTIST/GROUP OF THE YEAR

MonkeyJunk



GUITARIST OF THE YEAR & ELECTRIC ACT OF THE YEAR

JW-Jones



HARMONICA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Steve Marriner





All I Want for a Bluesy Christmas ...

What to get the blues fans on your list

A Blues Getaway in 2009

January

Blues Summit <http://www.torontobluesociety.com/summit/> & Maple Blues Awards <http://www.mapleblues.ca> in Toronto

February

International Blues Challenge in Memphis TN <http://www.blues.org/ibc/index.php4>

June

Free festivals on both sides of the border

In Toronto ON, Waterfront Blues Festival <http://www.waterfrontblues.ca>

In Chicago IL, Chicago Blues Festival <http://www.chicagobluesfestival.us>

July

Pocono Blues Festival, Blakeslee PA <http://mountainofblues.com>

August

Labatt Blues Festival, Edmonton ON <http://www.bluesinternationalltd.com>

September

Harvest Jazz & Blues Festival, Fredericton NB <http://www.harvestjazzandblues.com>

October

Crescent City Blues & Barbecue Festival, New Orleans LA <http://www.jazzandheritage.org/bluesfest/>

Blues to listen to

Northern Blues Music <http://www.northernblues.com>

JW-Jones "Bluelisted"; Paul Reddick "Sugar Bird"

Stony Plain Records <http://www.stonyplainrecords.com>

Amos Garrett "Get Way Back"; Jeff Healey "Mess of Blues"

Electro-Fi Records <http://www.electrofi.com>

Braithwaite & Whiteley "Night Bird Blues"; Julian Fauth "Ramblin' Son"

Electro-Fi's Annual Holiday Sale—5 CDs for \$50; 10 for \$100; free postage

Blues in Ottawa

Rainbow, 76 Murray St

<http://www.therainbow.ca>

Tucson's, 2440 Bank St

<http://www.tucsonsblues.com>

Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest

July 9-19, 2009

<http://www.ottawabluesfest.ca>

An OBS membership and OBS merchandise for everyone on your list!

<http://www.ottawabluesociety.com>



All I Want for a Bluesy Christmas ...

More for the blues fans on your list

How about some 'bling'!

For that special blueswoman in your life

Jeffrey David silver guitar pick with acoustic guitar earrings (\$39.99)

<http://www.pricerunner.com/spi/315-527517640/Jewelry-product-info>

Sterling silver earrings - guitars, drum sets, 16th notes (\$16.95 & up)

<http://www.wildaboutmusic.com/earrings.html>

Diamond electric guitar charm (\$99.99+free shipping! Maybe not to Canada!)

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000MX3TIK/>

For that special guitarist

14kt gold guitar pick - only \$99.99 (US\$ of course)

<http://www.westlakejewelry.com/Category.aspx?categoryID=52>

Blues to read

REFERENCE/GUIDES

Blues for Dummies

Dan Aykroyd, Lonnie Brooks, Cub Koda, Wayne Baker Brooks

Penguin Guide to Blues on CD

Tony Russell

Big Book of Blues, Revised Edition

Robert Santelli

FICTION

Ace Atkins' Nick Travers series:
Crossroad Blues, Leavin' Trunk Blues, Dark End of the Street & Dirty South

<http://www.aceatkins.com/Books>

Sweet Man is Gone

Peggy Ehrhart

PHOTOGRAPHY

Chicago Blues: As Seen From the Inside

Raeburn Flerlage

http://www.ecwpress.com/books/chicago_blues

Memphis Blues Again

Ernest Withers

<http://www.abebbooks.com>

HARD COPY (magazines)

Real Blues (Canada)

<http://www.realbluesmagazine.com>

Living Blues (USA)

<http://www.livingblues.com>

Blues Revue (USA)

<http://www.bluesrevue.com>

Most books available online at

<http://www.amazon.ca>

&

<http://www.chapters.indigo.ca>

Blues to watch on DVD

M for Mississippi

<http://www.mformississippi.com>

10 Days Out ... Music from the Backroad

<http://www.tendaysout.net>

American Folk Blues Festival (3 volumes)

<http://www.amazon.ca>

Lightning in a Bottle

<http://www.amazon.ca>

Blues online & FREE

Blueswax

<http://www.blueswax.com>

Blues Festival E-Guide

<http://www.bluesfestivalguide.com>

Blues Listservs

Blues-l

<http://www.netSPACE.org/~blues-l/>

Mapleblue-l

<http://www.torontobluesociety.com/maillist.htm>

Canadianblues-l

Email

Canadianblues-L-subscribe@yahoo.com

Blindman's Blues Forum

<http://blindman.15.forumer.com/>



about BLUES

Ottawa Festivals, a not-for-profit organization representing 45 of the region's not-for-profit festivals, special events and fairs, will stand strong with other arts and heritage organizations to oppose cuts proposed in the City of Ottawa's draft budget. The draft budget proposes to completely slash festival funding by 100% and cut overall arts and heritage funding by 43%. Not-for-profit festivals are typically able to leverage funding from the City of Ottawa many times over through federal, provincial and private contributions, raising \$21 for every \$1 the city invests. <http://www.ottawafestivals.ca>

The Crossroads Group LLC headed by Les Barber of Toronto has purchased the legendary crossroads in Clarksdale, Mississippi and will design the park immortalizing the famous blues musician Robert Johnson at Hwy 49 & 61. There will be commemorative bricks that are accompanied by my artwork designed certificate that will be offered for sale to anyone or any corporation that would be interested in owning a piece of this blues music history. This project will also incorporate **The Crossroads Hotel & Entertainment Complex** soon after. The website is <http://www.crossroadshotel.tv/index.htm>

The B.B. King Museum & Interpretive Center opened in September in Indianola MS. The \$14 million museum honours B.B. King, telling his story of growing up in nearby Delta cotton fields and achieving fame and fortune as a popular blues musician. The project features a historic brick cotton gin building where King once worked, and a new education outreach wing. <http://www.bbkingmuseum.org>

Aussie **didgeridoo** player Xavier Rudd was, no doubt, pleased to hear that a recent study reported in the British Medical Journal has concluded that *"Regular didgeridoo playing is an effective treatment alternative well accepted by patients with moderate obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome."* Check out the full article <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/search?fulltext=didgeridoo&x=0&y=0>

The Thelonious Monk Institute honoured B.B. King with the Institute's Founder's Award; Microsoft co-founder Paul G. Allen was honoured with the 2008 Herbie Hancock Humanitarian Award. The presentations took place at the **Thelonious Monk International Jazz Saxophone Competition** and **"The Blues and Jazz: Two American Classics" All-star Gala Concert**. Hosted by Don Cheadle, Quincy Jones, Thelonious Monk Jr. and Billy Dee Williams, the benefit gala featured performances by Herbie Hancock, Bono, Terence Blanchard, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Robert Cray,

George Duke, The Edge, Keb' Mo', Wayne Shorter and many more in support of public school music education in Los Angeles, New Orleans and the Mississippi Delta. <http://monkinstitute.org/news.php>

US satellite radio stations Sirius and XM have recently merged. What does that mean for blues on satellite radio? Bill Wax, Proprietor of Low-Fi's Bar and Pool Hall in the heart of B.B. King's Bluesville (XM74): *"The merger has meant that B.B. King's Bluesville, my channel on XM, is moving to the Sirius side of things too. Pat St. John, who was a host on the Sirius Blues channel is moving to B.B. King's Bluesville and will be doing the evening show Monday through Friday."*

DVDs: Old & New Blues

OLD — From the first compelling minutes of **TEN DAYS OUT: Blues From The Backroads**, it's immediately evident that bluesman Kenny Wayne Shepherd is up to something different. Shepherd embarked on a ten-day trek into the heart of America. Traveling highways and byways with a roving documentary film crew, a portable recording studio, portable house band—the esteemed Double Trouble, with producer Jerry Harrison, Shepherd visited blues veterans in their homes, backyards and local clubs, creating as intimate and intense a blues film as has been seen in many a year. The resulting film allows music lovers to join in the exploration and witness the artistic creation of both the film and the accompanying live CD. <http://www.tendaysout.net>

NEW — A hotly anticipated new film celebrating the raw, raucous spirit of Mississippi's surviving blues scene, **M for Mississippi** had its worldwide premiere on Saturday, October 11 at the Delta Cinema in downtown Clarksdale, Miss. Planned as a weeklong journey through the birthplace of the blues, **M for Mississippi** seeks to capture the proverbial "real deal" in its home where it is most comfortable and authentic - the juke, the front yards, the cotton fields. More than just a collection of concert performances, the film collects the sounds, the images and the feel of both the performers and their native landscape - an environment essential to their livelihoods and inseparable from their art. <http://www.mformississippi.com>

COMING SOON — **PLAYING FOR CHANGE** is a musical exploration that glides across four continents, revealing a relentless insight of humanity that strives for global unification. It is a story of hope, struggle, perseverance, joy, and celebration. It is a story of human ambition to overcome prejudices, separation, natural hardships, and evil existing in our world today. Its passion, its path, and at times, its weapon, is music. <http://www.playingforchange.com>

the Blues Summit

**Blues Summit IV
Delta Chelsea Hotel
33 Gerard Street West
January 17-19, 2009**

The Blues Summit is a bi-annual music conference, a not-to-be-missed forum for festivals, labels, media, musicians, fans and blues societies.

With representatives from across Canada, the United States, and Europe in attendance, there are many lively panel discussions that take place over the course of the three days.

Industry experts discuss topics such as blues in the schools, professional development opportunities for artists, and blues in the digital world.

Also present will be a keynote speaker reflecting on current blues industry trends and insights.

Past conferences have been a remarkable opportunity for networking, discovery, inspiration, and education.

This year's gala Maple Blues Awards presentation will close out the Summit weekend.

Registration and accommodation info will be available soon.

Please contact Toronto Blues Society
at 416-538-3885 or info@torontobluessociety.com
<http://www.torontobluessociety.com/summit/>

**Maple Blues Awards
Phoenix Concert Theatre
410 Sherbourne Street
Monday, January 19, 2009**





OBS Memories from 2008

Signing the OBS shirt





OBS Memories from 2008

Good times ... from beginning



... to end. See you next year!

Passings

Alex 'Lil' Bill' Wallace	1924 - 2008	Merl Saunders	1934 - 2008
Isaac Hayes	1942 - 2008	B.B. Major	1937 - 2008
Lee Young	1914 - 2008	Earl Gibson	1921 - 2008
Jerry Wexler	1917 - 2008	Studs Terkel	1912 - 2008
Maurice Reedus	1930 - 2008	John Pearse	1939 - 2008
Phil Guy	1940 - 2008	Cora Mae Bryant	1926 - 2008
Hosea Levy	1927 - 2008	Nathaniel Mayer	1944 - 2008
Little Arthur Duncan	1934 - 2008	Rosetta Reitz	1924 - 2008
Paul McNamara	1957 - 2008	Miriam Makeba	1932 - 2008
Diane Collins	1959 - 2008	Mitch Mitchell	1947 - 2008
Clea Bradford	1941 - 2008	Mae Mercer	1932 - 2008
Norman Whitfield	1940 - 2008	Doris Carr	1928 - 2008
Nappy Brown	1929 - 2008	Pat Ramsay	1953 - 2008
Earl Palmer	1924 - 2008	Robert Lucas	1962 - 2008
Michael Smith	1937 - 2008	Kenny MacLean	1956 - 2008
Levi Stubbs	1936 - 2008	Odetta	1930 - 2008
Rudy Ray Moore	1927 - 2008	Vernon 'Chico' Banks	1961 - 2008
Dee Dee Warwick	1945 - 2008		

If you are not familiar with the names on this list, please search out info on them online and learn about their contributions to blues, jazz and roots music.

OBS Mission

To foster appreciation, promotion, preservation and enjoyment of the blues in all of its forms

OBS BOARD

President: Liz Sykes

Vice President: Brent Diab

Directors : Brent Diab, Ken Fraser, Mike Graham, Debra Thornington

Treasurer: Mike Graham

OBS COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

Corporate Liaison: Ken Fraser

Membership: Rob Dufresne

Newsletter Editor: Liz Sykes

Special Events: Debra Thornington

OBScene is published quarterly by the Ottawa Blues Society and is available to OBS members. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Ottawa Blues Society. If you have a different opinion, please share it at www.ottawabluesociety.com/contact.php

OBScene Deadlines

Issue	Copy Deadline	Distribution Date
Winter	December 19, 2008	Early January 2009
Spring	March 30, 2009	Online—mid April 2009
Summer	June 15, 2009	Early July 2009

OBS Mandate

To bring together the blues community in Ottawa through participation in blues events and activities.
 To work with the blues community in expanding awareness and appreciation of the blues.
 To publish a newsletter to inform the blues community of all aspects of the local blues scene and events as well as some highlights of the Canadian and international blues scenes of interest to OBS members.
 To provide timely blues information to OBS members by a website & e-mail.
 To develop, maintain and increase its membership as a means of fostering and supporting blues.
 To stage or assist in staging events that will foster appreciation and awareness of the blues.
 To present a "Blues Heart" award to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the blues.