

Lehigh Valley Blues Network
General Meeting
Location – Emmaus Firehouse #1
Date- February 13, 2005

Walt Garvin: President
Jim Mertz: Vice President
Don Plowman: Treasurer
Dr Jeff Zlotnick: Secretary

Assembly: Glenn Wasserman, Rich Lundberg, Jack Adams, Dr Al Berger, Daryl Nerl
Recorded absent: none

Agenda approval – Walt called the meeting to order at 4:25PM
Motioned, seconded, Agenda approved.

LVBN Elections –

Board members & officers who were seeking re-election:

- Walt Garvin – President
- Jim Mertz – Vice President
- Don Plowman – Treasurer
- Jeff Zlotnick – Secretary
- Daryl Nerl – Board
- Glenn Wasserman – Board
- Rich Lundberg – Board

Not seeking re-nomination were: Dr Al Berger, Jack Adams

Nominations made previously and from the floor were:

- Bev Conklin – President
- Thom Palmer – Vice President
- Barry Hay – Vice President
- Bill Morrison – Vice President
- Rich Lundberg – Vice President *Declined
- Ron Call – Board
- Gina Treiber – Board
- Barry Hay – Board
- Bill Morrison – Board
- Dan Guerrero – Board
- Dave Irvine – Board
- John White – Board

Elections were conducted by written ballot and were compiled by Dr Al Berger and Jack Adams and were announced at the end of the meeting.

The elections required an emergency board meeting as 2 positions did not achieve a majority number of votes. The board voted to approve whoever had gained the most votes. Results are:

- President – Walt Garvin
- Vice President – Jim Mertz
- Treasurer – Don Plowman
- Secretary – Dr Jeff Zlotnick
- Board – Rich Lundberg, Darryl Nerl, Glenn Wasserman, Dan Guerrero, John White

Walt started the meeting with saying that the LVBN was one of the oldest surviving blues societies in the country. He noted that many other organizations including Skylands, Bucks County, and Philadelphia were no longer operating

Web Site – Glenn noted that the website is being kept up to date. He wanted the membership to know that the online database that he is asking all to complete is not the membership list. He wanted everyone to know that this is being used to help contact members for things such as the jam having to be cancelled. Unfortunately not many members have signed up. Glenn made the point that the list is NOT being sold to anyone, it is solely for LVBN official use. He stated that he may cancel it if members not to use this feature.

Membership - Dr Al and Glenn also announced that membership is now computerized and almost completely up to date. It will be available at the jams so those working the door will be able to know who members are.

Glenn also noted that members could purchase or renew memberships via the web site using Pay Pal.

(Other issues discussed will be detailed later)

Treasurer Report – Overview

Income: \$9300

- Concert/Events ~10%
- Door at the jam ~24%
- Sales ~27%
- Dues ~31%

Expenses: \$9100

- Bluesnet (including printing, postage) ~44% (\$4000)
- Concert/Events ~15% (\$1400)
- Inventory (ie; clothing) ~13% (\$1200)
- Equipment repairs ~8% (\$770)

Bank acct: \$5800

Bluesnet – Rich Lundberg is the Editor in Chief, Jim Mertz is Review & Music Editor. Rich noted that there have been delays in getting the journal out on a timely basis, however the newest issue had been mailed. Rich made a request for members to review CD's and blues festivals, and for pictures which can be sent in via email. Addresses are available on the web site

Upcoming Events – The Spring Blues Showcase and competition for the IBTC (in Memphis) will be held this April. Walt wanted to mention previous winners:

- Thom Palmer Band '04
- Mary Hawkins and Don Mayer '05

There will a benefit concert for the tsunami victims at the Sterling Hotel Thursday, March 3rd. Line up will be forthcoming. As of the meeting, Plan B was one band set to play.

Jam – Doc Z noted that the jam has been ongoing just about every Sunday and running about 6:30ish to 10PM. Each night has about 25-30 musicians. There were some issues raised including the firehouse wanting to charge a nominal fee for using the room. Apparently they would like more LVBN members to become members of the firehouse. It was noted that one only need to be sponsored by a current member of the firehouse and it is NOT required to be a fireman nor live in Emmaus to join. Doc Z also stated that attendees should patronize the bar and there will be a limited menu available as this will also help defray costs. Other issues included equipment repairs such as the amps, a cracked cymbal, the microphones, and the PA system. Some of these items will need to be replaced.

Also, it was noted that there are a large number of newer and younger players coming to the jam. Doc Z stated he would like to see more of the more experienced players come to mentor the new ones.

Bylaws – Rich Lundberg stated that his committee including John White, Don Plowman are still meeting and should be finished in about 1 month. Some of the changes included:

- Staggering the elected officers to avoid having complete change of board & officers
- Making the treasurer an appointed position vs elected

According to the current bylaws, changes are voted on by the board. Jack Tapper noted that according to Robert's Rules of Order that bylaws changes have to voted upon by the membership.

Max Innocent raised the issue of having more general meetings. The membership seemed to want at least a 2nd general meeting and even quarterly meetings.

Other Issues From the Floor –

Bev Conklin noted that there are still some errors with the membership list. Glenn stated that he & Doc Al had imported the old list into the new computerized billing system and it had well over 500 names, many of which are not current members. He also noted that since the process had previously been done manually and that correcting all the errors is ongoing.

Gina Treiber stated that 2 of her checks had never been cashed. Glenn suggested that this be referred to Don to look into.

Dave Guerrero asked that a receipt and/or temporary card be given when memberships are purchased or renewed at the jam, especially for those playing cash. Doc Z stated that the receipt could be used as a temporary card.

John White requested that the minutes from meeting be posted on the web site. This was generally agreed on by the membership.

Cindy Adams asked if the agenda could also be posted on the web prior to the meeting. Walt noted that sometimes the agenda is sometimes put together at the last minute, but he would try to post it in a timely basis.

Election results were announced (see previous). This was followed by a discussion by Jim Mertz. Some issues raised there were concerns about the jam including it being less blues oriented, and not having a house band routinely. It was also raised as to whether a “kid’s night” would be feasible. The discussion was left open for the board to discuss.

Adjournment – 6:25PM

Next meeting – To be announced

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey A Zlotnick, MD, Secretary LVBN