

MEMPHIS AREA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERS MEETING  
January 10, 2009



President Harry McLellan called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

A total of 16 members were present.

Secretary's Report: (Bob Waters) November and December minutes approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: (Karen Clark) Karen reported that \$550 had been collected in dues this year.

Committee Reports:

*Communications* (Cecil Yancy) no report

Yahoo News Group – (Mike Albert) no report

Website – (Chuck Clark)

MABA members are very pleased with the look of the NEW MABA Website. Webmaster Clark explained that it was a work in progress. Chuck has added a calendar with a sticker capability for members to add new events of interest to the bluegrass community. Chuck has also added a blog to the Website that allows members to post a topic and invite other MABA members to comment. There were some queries as to how the blog differs from the current Yahoo group, or if we need it. In the meantime, try Chuck's blog by getting a Google account to become an author.

Chuck has also set up the ability for MABA members to pay their dues online via Paypal, and also be able to order MABA merchandise.

NewsGrass – (Cecil Yancy) no report; Peter Smith reported that NewsGrass will go to a double page issue format.

*Activities* – Gordon Jones and John Gay

Potluck dinner is proposed for February 21<sup>st</sup> or 28th. Postcard announcement with the exact date will be sent to MABA members along with the request for renewal of membership. Rick Crenshaw handed out a draft of letter that will be included in the mailing to solicit input from members as to how they would like to make our organization more effective, whether they would like to have a role in running our

organization, suggestions as to when and where our monthly meeting should be held, as well as what kinds of musical workshops we should schedule.

Rick also raised the important question as to what do MABA members actually get by being members? Responses included receiving NewsGrass, being a member of a community that promotes bluegrass, having a regular place to play, offering beginner to advanced workshops. Former MABA president, Tom Stone, prepared a package that was given to new members and some members thought this should be resurrected. Other suggestions included arranging discounts at shops in Mountain View, Janet Davis music, or other venues where MABA members purchase their musical supplies.

*Regulatory* – (James Johnson) no report

*Membership* – (Gordon Jones) Gordon reported that the MABA membership to date includes 25 new members, 176 renewals, 56 non-renewals, and 11 honorary members at year end 2008.

*Education* – (Jim Phillips)

Tommy George will host a banjo workshop on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

*GRASS* – (Beth Mays) no report

*Lucy Opry* – (Beth Mays) no report

Six shows are scheduled for the Lucy Opry for 2009; these include the Grascals, Infamous Stringdusters, Steep Canyon Rangers, Blue Highway, and Vincent and Dailey.

*Welcoming/Caring* – Loyce Smith, Jo Edith & James Hudson, Erna Wheeley

Loyce sent one card out this past month.

New Business:

None

President McLellan adjourned the meeting at 12:01 pm.

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Meeting notes taken by Bob Waters.