

MEMPHIS AREA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION
MEMBERS MEETING
March 14, 2009



President Harry McLellan called the meeting to order at 11:09 am.
A total of 13 members were present.

Secretary's Report: (Bob Waters) February minutes approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: (Karen Clark) no report

Committee Reports:

Communications (Cecil Yancy) no report

Peter talked to Cecil about getting NewsGrass out by end of month.

Yahoo News Group – (Mike Albert) no report

Website – (Chuck Clark)

Chuck encouraged everyone to check out the MABA online store on the Website.
A motion was made and passed remove ads from the MABA website calendar and on-line store.

MABA Website will begin taking ads from MABA members and the community at large. Ad placement is free to MABA members and \$10 for non-members. Ads will run for a total of 3 months. A disclaimer will be written so that MABA will not be responsible for the actual sale transaction or distribution of goods. MABA's role will be simply to list musical merchandise that is available for sale.

Chuck brought up the idea of having a MABA garage sale (flea market), which was endorsed at the meeting.

NewsGrass – (Cecil Yancy) no report

Jim Phillips suggested that MABA consider dropping NewsGrass. While there was general support of this idea, members agreed to table the suggestion until the April meeting, when it will be discussed again.

Activities – Gordon Jones and John Gay

A successful potluck dinner, enjoyed by all in attendance, was held on March 7th at Woodland Presbyterian. Tops Barbecue served delicious barbecue, but Gordon Jones noted that they did not accept a MABA check for payment.

Arlington Festival will be held on April 25th; arrangements will be made for a MABA presence at the fair.

Bartlett Bluegrass Festival will be held at BPAC on May 1st and 2nd.

Fleener Pickin Porch Picnic will be held on May 30th.

Earth Day will be held on April 19th at Shelby Farms; MABA bands will play between 11:00 am and 5:00 pm. Marker Holder will receive \$500 for band set-up, and MABA will get \$1,500 for supplying the bands.

Harrison Crawford Memorial Bluegrass Festival will be held in Williston on June 12th and 13th. This is MABA sponsored even. A musician's flea market will be set up.

Regulatory – (James Johnson; Wayne Walker and Peter Smith) no report

Membership – (Gordon Jones)

Gordon reported that we have 10 new MABA members, 95 renewals for a total of 105 paid members. We have 108 non-renewals, 11 honorary members for a total of 224 names in our registry. We are down more than 80 members from last year.

Education – (Jim Phillips)

Gary Pierce will give a dobro workshop on the 21st of March.

Ritchie Schuman will give music theory workshop in April 4th.

Jim Phillips reported that MABA will have regularly un-scheduled “Pop-shops” happening during the Saturday jams, where small groups of MABA Members will teach one another new songs or new licks.

GRASS – (TBA) no report

Helen Davis has accepted the Grass committee chairmanship.

Lucy Opry – (Beth Mays) no report

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

Loyce sent 3 cards out this past month.

New Business:

Craig Yarbrough suggested that MABA stage a marathon jam to support some charity; the jam could last around-the-clock (24 hrs) and all MABA Members would be encouraged to participate. MABA members were in favor of this idea.

Bob Barnett suggested that we have our monthly MABA Members meeting on Tuesday night at a nearby church. The meeting would be followed by a jam.

Survey Results: Rick Crenshaw reported on the results of the MABA Members survey that found >60% of the members would attend a regularly scheduled monthly meeting on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday; a greater number would attend the annual MABA Potluck dinner, MABA picnic. MABA Members would also attend the Williston Festival.

MABA Members gave a round of applause to Chuck Clark for his work with the MABA Website and to Rick Crenshaw for his work with the MABA survey.

President McLellan adjourned the meeting at 12:20 pm.

Meeting notes taken by Bob Waters.