



Hello Vermont Blues Society members!

Hello all you blues musicians and fans.

VBS feels your pain with all the cancelled live shows and restricted opportunities for the blues community to gather together. We want you to know that your membership in VBS is truly valued, and that the board has been meeting virtually during the last couple of months to come up with ways to keep our members engaged, and continue to bring you blues music and resources.

'Tuesday, Bluesday' Zoom Event

We are hosting a live stream event on **Tuesday, June 9th at 7 pm**

Here is how it will work;

If you would like to live stream a performance please email Sal – He will make a schedule and you will be given a time slot to play for 10 minutes.

Sal's email is: booking@cooiesings.com

We will send out a link to the Zoom event by email the day before.

It will require a password which will be in the email also. If you have not used Zoom before it is very simple – you will be asked to OK a download if you have not already done that. We will mute everyone except for the performer. - Comments can be made by clicking the 'chat' button at the bottom of the screen. We also suggest that you choose 'speaker' view rather than gallery view. Gallery view shows everyone equally – speaker view will show the speaker – in this case the performer- larger.

We'll also give you our phone # to call if you need help.

We are hoping this will be the first of many. We are working on being able to incorporate video performances in the future.



May Board Meeting Summary

Blues in the Schools

Discussion around assembling a presentation for use in the schools. PBS has done some great curriculum work that could be a model. <https://www.pbs.org/theblues/classroom/intfinding.html> Charlie has a contact with Fruitland Jackson who can share materials. Arlene and Dennis will engage those who volunteered on the topic last year to see about an “exploratory committee”. The goal is to develop a live and/or videotaped product.

VBS is forming an exploratory committee on bringing blues to the schools. Some of the ideas floated to date include:

- Volunteers to play music in the schools
- Volunteers to teach class(es) on history of blues
- Volunteers to develop a blues curriculum for teachers in schools

Arlene will contact VBS members who already expressed interest in Blues In the Schools, but additional volunteers are welcome. If you would like to volunteer for the exploratory committee on Blues In The Schools please contact Arlene at arlor44@gmail.com

Annual VBS Meeting

Difficulties of the virus were discussed and there was enthusiasm for a possible Zoom annual “event/meeting”. Details deferred for now.

Virus impacts - Lengthy discussion of impacts on live entertainment and timing. Opening of outdoor venues and some booking is coming, likely next month. Concerns were expressed over protecting the health of Vermont’s blues musicians. VBS Board should continue sharing information with members on a regular basis. Sharing highlights of VBS meeting minutes with members was suggested as a mechanism for regular communication.

VBS live stream. Discussion moved to a VBS Zoom blues jam/party. We tested the technology and found usable. Rebecca related her recent successful experience with 60 participants. We decided to host a Zoom event for 7:00 on June 9th. Sal agreed to schedule performers for 10 minute time slots. “Can’t Stop the Blues” was discussed as an example of live/virtual performance by Rick Estrin. Sal will investigate the technology.

VBS website Hall of Fame

Sandy suggested a nice page for honorees be developed for the VBS website. The Summer newsletter was suggested as a goal for the place to “roll it out”.

Big Heavy World museum outreach - Jim Lockridge would like to dedicate a small museum space to the VBS, past and present. Charlie will continue the communication.

VBS Archive G-mail account

Sal set up a VBS Archive G-mail account with sub-directories. All historical and future documents and pics can be uploaded and stored there.

Next board meeting 4-6pm, Monday June 15, 2020

Wishing you all the best, Dennis, Charlie, Tom, Rebecca, Sandy, Arlene and Marian

