

BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS - INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE - REGIONAL BLUES NEWS
LOCAL ARTIST FEATURE - MUSIC REVIEWS - LOCAL BLUES VENUES - MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

BLUES LETTER

JANUARY 2024

YOUR SOURCE FOR THE BLUES

Jingle the Blues Away

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SOCIETY
of the
OZARKS



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THE JANUARY 2024 BSO BLUESLETTER

FROM THE BSO PRESIDENT



Hello Blues Lovers!

Happy New Year fellow Blues lovers! This has been quite a year for the BSO, **B.I.T.S.**, and **D.R.Y.M.S.** The guitar raffle for **B.I.T.S.** (Blues in The Schools), donated by **Ernie Williamson Music**, had another successful year. The **B.I.T.S.** program consists of Bob Bledsoe and I giving out 350 harmonicas in Springfield Elementary Schools and the surrounding area. I bring along my guitar and harmonica, and Bob brings two snare drums. We give each student a chance to play the Twelve Bar Blues on the drum, as well as get a free harmonica. They are also taught a history of Blues Music. I have also given several harmonicas to young people I have encountered at gigs played this year.

The two Blues Jams each month have become a mainstay around Springfield's music community. Veteran players and beginners alike, are welcome to come up for three songs. I am proud that some players experience their first time on stage at our jams. We were fortunate enough to have **Sister Lucille** attend one of our jams. They promoted their CD, **Tell The World**. Ernie Bedell's group **Just Us** was also featured at one of our jams. Ernie promoted his book, **Generation B Music and Melody**.

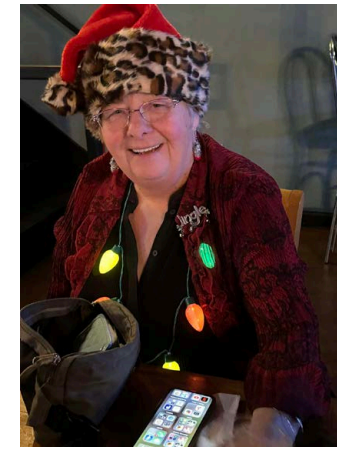
The annual Chamber Jam happened this summer. Sister Lucille was the featured band this year. Mary and Joel put on a great party! The BSO Jam Band played the Planet Unity Festival at The Unity Church. Dan and Julia Hohn sold BSO merchandise at this event. Several BSO Board members volunteered at Stomp The Blues Out of Homelessness in 2023. This is a great charity! Some of the best Blues anywhere can be heard at this festival. Jim and Paige Payne always put on a great show.

The Preidents Letter is continued in the BSO Board of Directors Page 13.

BSO MISSION STATEMENT

Since 1991 our goals have been to encourage appreciation of the Blues, an original American music; to provide a forum in the Ozarks for performance of the Blues at live events and on radio and television; to educate and entertain the people of the Ozarks; to provide an organization through which people can share their common love of the Blues; and to join with similar organizations to accomplish the forgoing goals.

BLUES SOCIETY OF THE OZARKS
P.O. BOX 8133
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65801
<https://ozarksblues.com/>



D.R.Y.M.S.



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Jingle the Blues Away

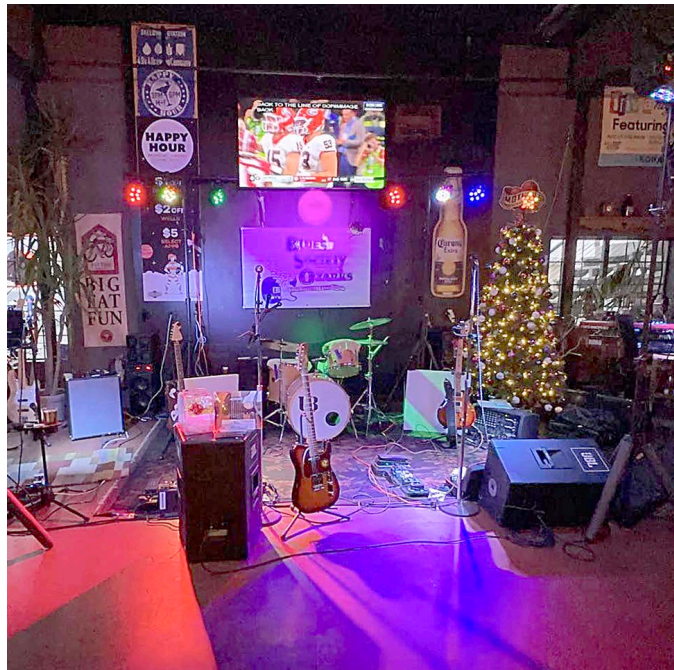


STORY BY GEORGE HUNT



The BSO's annual fundraiser, Jingle The Blues Away, was held December 2nd, 2023, at Galloway Station. This year's benefitting charities were, **The Connecting Grounds** and **Play It Forward - SWMO**. Both charities received over \$700 each. **The Connecting Grounds** serves the people that are on the street. They would still like donations through

musical instrument option for beginners. They will find a used or new instrument if the child is unable to afford one. This is a great program started by Ruell Chappell. They would like to receive monetary donations as well, to purchase new instruments when necessary.



Galloway Station set for the Jam!

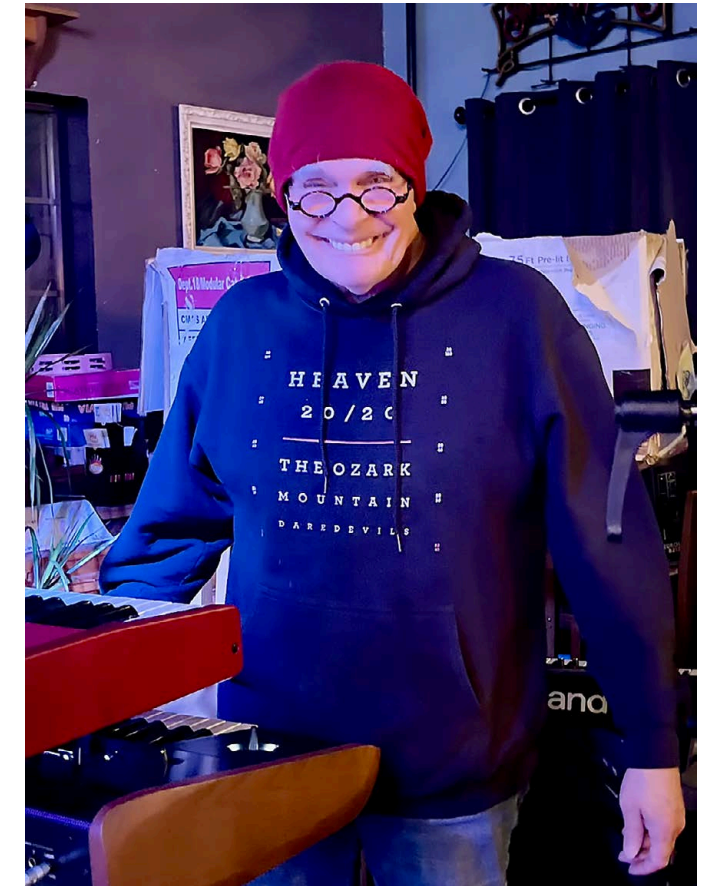
the winter months to help keep people warm. "Hothands" hand and foot warmers, thermal socks, gloves, and monetary donations are needed. **The Connecting Grounds** distributed over 100,000 pairs of hand and foot warmers last year. **Play It Forward - SWMO** is a



Mitch Brashears with the Sire Telecaster BITS raffle giveaway.



Brenda Mabel-Sealy-BSO member and Past-President.

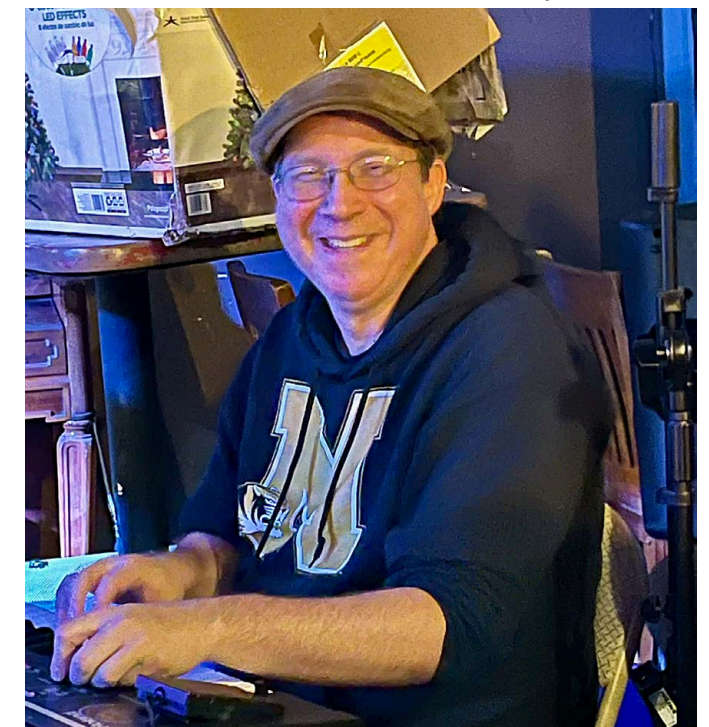


Ruell Chappell on Keys-Director, Play It Forward-SWMO.



George Hunt-BSO President.

We were pleased to have a full house. There were many great items to bid on. Several people went home smiling with arms load of donated items, won during silent auction. We also had a successful open Blues



Neil Baker on Keys-BSO Board of Director & Past President.

ON THE COVER - JINGLE THE BLUES AWAY



Kimberly & Jammin' Jamie of Sister Lucille

Jam. These are always well attended, and a fun time. There are beginners and seasoned players at the Jams. I try to blend everyone



Mystery Drummer-BSO Jam Band.

together onstage. The beginners get to have the experience of "Playing with the Band." This is where you can learn a great deal if you watch and listen.

The event sponsors this year were: Cat Head Delta Blues and Ground Zero Blues Club - both of Clarksdale Mississippi, Harter House, Jade Vine/Kelsey Cummings, Hy-Vee, Wire Road, Big Blanket Co., Ernie Williamson Music, Galloway Station, Archie's Lounge, Carolyn Dabbs Smith, Becky Fisher & Katy, Cindy Day, Teresa Lynch, Craig Whittington, Sister Lucille Band, Art Bentley, Richard Pendergrass, Roy Crossland, and Blue Moon Honey/Mark Montgomery.



Jesse Sarrano on Sax-BSO Jam Band.

ON THE COVER - JINGLE THE BLUES AWAY



Doug Loch & Teresa Lynch.



Mark Rosin on Keys-BSO Jam Band.



Bob Bledsoe on Drums-BSO Jam Band.



Art Bentley-Guitar, Ron Smith-Drums, & George Hunt-Harp.



Mitch Brashears-BSO President Elect & Tyson Martin-BSO Treasurer



Mike Fisher-BSO Vice President & Editor



Jammin' Jamie & Kimberley of Sister Lucille



I would also like to thank the BSO board for their support. George Hunt-BSO President



Mitch Brashears on Bass-BSO Jam Band



Brenda Meyer & Son.



George & Renee Hunt-BSO Board of Directors



(Left to Right) Debra Rooney-BSO Secretary, Renee Hunt-BSO Board & Mary Certain-BSO Membership



Mike Hawk=Bass, Mike Fisher-Guitar, Jesse Sarrano-Sax, Bob Bledsoe-Drums, & Geoge Hunt-Guitar



(From Left to Right) Last2Vanih: Mike Hawk-Bass, Mike Fisher-Elect Guitar, Ron Smith on Drums, & Ron Marshall-Acoustic guitar, David Dodson-Keys.





BLUES HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

STORY BY MARY CERTAIN



Julia Lee was born in Boonville, Missouri in 1902, to a musical family. Lee studied music at Lincoln High School in Kansas City, before going on to study advanced piano techniques at Western University in Quindaro, Kansas.

By the age of 18, she was already professionally playing piano and singing with her brother's band, the George E. Lee Novelty Singing Orchestra, at a time during Kansas City's jazz heyday, when it was uncommon for women to perform as instrumentalists.



Lee was known for her husky contralto voice, as well as her double entendre, and playful delivery. Working at clubs on 12th Street, gave her the intimacy with her audience that she thrived on. In 1941, Lee was banned from playing at a popular Kansas City club by liquor control agents, due to the 'type of song she sang and the way she sang it' - but her fans protested, and the ban was lifted.

Although Julia stayed mostly in Kansas City, it did not stop her from catching a big break in 1946, by signing on to Capitol Records. Her first big hit was "Snatch and Grab It", in 1947. It was deemed too risqué to be played on the radio, but thanks to jukebox play, it sold more than 500,000



copies and was number one on the US Billboard R&B hit list for 12 weeks. Lee built a national reputation as one of the great female blues singers of all time.



Lee made several hit records in the 1940's. "Come on Over To My House Baby", " Spinach Song", "King Size Papa", "My Man Stands Out", "If It's Good" and many more. (See links below)

Julia Lee died in her home from a heart attack, during a nap, on December 8th, 1958, at the age of 56.



To learn more about Julia Lee, checkout the YouTube links below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uejLPYbIXa4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=024gVOlad6M>





BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS

News from the BSO B.I.T.S. PROGRAM

REPORT BY GEORGE HUNT



The holiday season is fast approaching and with it all the excitement that comes with it. The BSO Jams provide some resources for the B.I.T.S. program but our partnership with Ernie Williamson provides the needed harmonicas to make the program a success. Watch the BSO Bluesletter for more information about where and when we enter the classrooms again. It is always a great experience for us and the students.

To learn more about the B.I.T.S. program and its impact in the schools and our community, contact George Hunt at georgehuntbluesman@gmail.com, or (417) 353-9180. You can also find George on [Facebook](#).



What is Blues in the Schools?

Blues in the Schools offers the opportunity for students of all ages to engage in multidisciplinary, whole-language learning using the study of music, math, language arts, history, anthropology, and sociology in a hands-on approach celebrating creative self-expression.

By bringing the blues genre into the classroom, students are exposed to these traditional subjects, while breaking down racial barriers and opening dialogue about cultural diversity.

BSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The membership for the BSO kept growing in 2023. We are reaching people and making a difference.

Our **D.R.Y.M.S.** scholarship was awarded to nine young people in 2023. These youth continue to pursue their musical "D.R.Y.M.S" in different ways; drum and bugle corps, university studies, and private music lessons.

Our annual **Jingle The Blues Away** charity fundraiser (featured in this issue) event was held in December, with an open Jam and lots of great raffle items to bid on. The house was full and rocking! This year the charities that benefitted from the Jingle were, **The Connecting Grounds** and **Play it Forward - SWMO**. Two great local organizations in southwest Missouri. These great programs will continue under my Presidency.

Let's all support live musicians everywhere. Let's keep the Blues alive! See you soon, George Hunt.

White BSO short sleeve and long sleeve. (Not pictured: blue women's cut long sleeve and white short sleeve t-shirt.)

New members will receive a free t-shirt with a \$20.00 Membership, along with \$10 **Ernie Williamson** gift certificate, bi-monthly newsletter, and free inclusion in ticket drawings for select events.

D.R.Y.M.S. t-shirts come in sizes from medium to 2X. These t-shirts sell for \$20.00 each. All proceeds for these shirts benefit the scholarship fund.

Shirts can be purchased at our Jams or email us at: ozarksblues@gmail.com. Don't miss your chance to be involved in a great organization that supports local music, local youth musicians, and the whole community.

Submitted by Renee' Hunt



The BSO Jams continue to bring out area musicians with lots of BSO friends and new members. There is not a better time than now to join or renew your BSO membership. Individuals and bands can join. Go online to Ozarksblues.com or use the membership application on the back page of the BSO Bluesletter.



Hello Fellow Blues Music Lovers!

We have t-shirts to support our local Blues Society of the Ozarks. The t-shirts are \$15 each. Sizes range from medium to 3X.

Our selection includes:

Blue BSO short sleeve, long sleeve, and women's cut short sleeve and long sleeve.



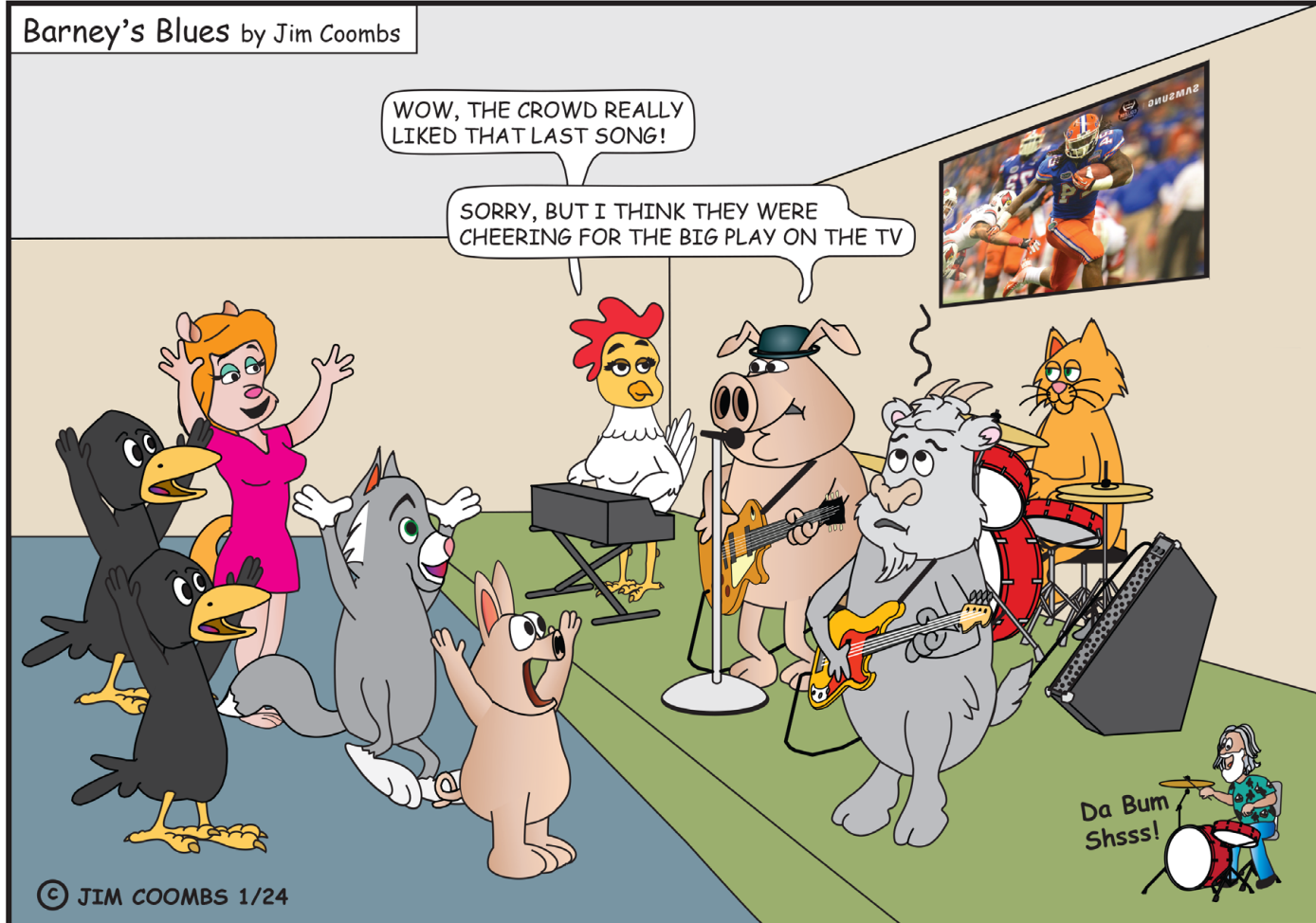
Young 'Rell Harrell Davenport

17 year old musician, **Young 'Rell Harrell Davenport** impressed Chicago Blues fans Saturday night at the Reva and David Logan Center of the Performing Arts! Few musicians have the skills or charisma to go solo in front of a full theater, but Young 'Rell has the chops, the stage presence and soul of an old bluesman, which is why the crowd stood to applaud him at the end of his set. Follow him on social media for Blues lessons, insights, and factoids. Even Billy Branch says, "Ask Rell" when we're wondering historic details like, "Who's playing guitar or drums on a particular old recording!" I can say we are reassured about the future of the Blues after tonight's concert!



Click on Young 'Rell's image to watch his video.

To learn more about Young 'Rell, check out his FB site and follow his journey.



D.R.Y.M.S. APPLICATION FORM

BLUES SOCIETY OF THE OZARKS P.O. BOX 8133 SPRINGFIELD, MO. 65801-8133



Debbie Rule Youth Music Scholarship (D.R.Y.M.S.) Application and Agreement

D.R.Y.M.S. was established in 2021 by The Blues Society of the Ozarks, to honor Debbie Rule's love for the Blues and music in general. D.R.Y.M.S. provides financial assistance to aspiring young musicians of all musical genres, whose limited financial resources might prohibit them from attending a music learning opportunity. The scholarship will award up to \$500.00 per year to selected applicants, preferably from Springfield, Missouri or the surrounding Ozarks area. **(Applicant can apply twice for the \$500 scholarship. The applicant can apply up to three times for a reduced scholarship, so as not to exceed \$1,250, total amount awarded.)** Please submit before March 1st.

D.R.Y.M.S. is available to those under the age of 21, to study their instrument of choice by attending reputable camp seminars, or workshop programs in the United States. The scholarship could also be used to fund individual music lessons or tuition. D.R.Y.M.S. is a one-year scholarship, but recipients may apply for the scholarship again in any subsequent year, prior to the age of 21.

A letter of recommendation must accompany the application. Recipients receive a free Blues Society of the Ozarks membership, in exchange for which recipients are requested to write an article for the BSO Bluesletter, about their experience with the workshop or lesson session, once completed. All decisions regarding the awarding of scholarships are the sole discretion of the Blues Society of the Ozarks D.R.Y.M.S. Committee. Payment of scholarship awards are made by the D.R.Y.M.S. Committee directly to the person or organization providing the musical learning experience.

Applicant's name: _____ Age: _____

Contact information - Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Program type (such as instrument lessons, workshop or other): _____

Frequency of program or lessons (recurring, one time, etc.): _____

Anticipated fee or fees (can be funded up to \$500): _____

Signature of applicant (parent or guardian, if applicant is under 18 years of age) _____ Date _____

Send this completed form and the letter of recommendation to: ozarksblues@gmail.com or The Blues Society of the Ozarks, P.O. Box 8133, Springfield, Missouri 65801

The Blues Society of the Ozarks is a 501(c) non-profit organization. The Blues Society of the Ozarks does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities

Form created 4/23/2023

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BECOMING A BSO SUPPORTER

Beginning in 1991, the goal of the Blues Society of the Ozarks (BSO) is to encourage the appreciation of the Blues, an original American music style. The BSO provides a forum in the Ozarks for the performance of the Blues at live events, and on radio and multimedia platforms, with a commitment to educate and entertain all the people of the Ozarks."

The BSO Newsletter is a full-color digital publication distributed in both electronic and print formats. And, as organizational membership continues to grow, the BSO Newsletter provides their readership with local and regional opportunities to connect with the Blues community. Sponsorship and advertising revenues provide marketing support for the organization.


The BSO Bluesletter has a significant bimonthly digital distribution of six issues per year. With several size and placement options available, your paid ad placement supports your business, as well as the efforts of the BSO Blues community.

Please join our advertising supporters and partners in keeping the Blues an active cultural contribution to the musical heritage of southwest Missouri.

The available ad spaces available are provided below for your convenience. With several options to choose from; business card size, banner, to a full page layouts, etc.

To learn more about the BSO, and new opportunities for an active role in the Blues community, please contact any BSO Board member or visit the BSO Facebook page, or visit the BSO web site at <https://ozarksblues.com/>

For additional information regarding opportunities to advertise your business in the BSO Bluesletter, contact any BSO Board Member or Mike Fisher at mikefisher@missouristate.edu.

We accept electronic files in high resolution (300 DPI) in PDF, JPEG, PSD, PNG, or AI (Adobe CC). We cannot accept artwork or compositions created in word processing programs. Images should be CMYK color format. We can not guarantee color accuracy if RGB format images are converted. Ad sizes may be slightly modified to facilitate publication content flow and placement. The BSO Bluesletter will not knowingly place, reproduce, or publish content or images that are secured through copyright without expressed or written permissions. 

Full page inside	*8X10 inch.	\$525.00
Full page inside	8X10 inch	\$500.00
Half page landscape	8X5.25 inch	\$300.00
Half page portrait	4X10.5 inch	\$300.00
1/4 page banner	2X8 inch	\$115.00
Business card	2X3.5 inch	\$ 50.00
*Note: A full page inside front/back cover is a Prime placement.		



To learn more about the BSO, and new opportunities for an active role in the Blues community, please contact any BSO Board member or visit the BSO [Facebook](#) page, or visit the BSO web site at <https://ozarksblues.com/>




A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the **Special Issue of the January 2024 Bluesletter**. This issue starts the New Year with a spotlight on BSO Jingle The Blues Away Annual Charity Fundraiser event held on December 2, at Galloway Station. The BSO is excited about the momentum we're experiencing with the beginning of 2024. The BSO has already started making plans and developing events to keep our membership engaged and active with keeping the Blues alive in southwest Missouri. The New Year brings opportunities to renew your membership and provide the BSO Board with your thoughts and ideas on making 2024 our best ever. Membership and advertising rates remain the same through January 2024. As always, our new BSO membership Form is included and the new D.R.Y.M.S. Scholarship Application Form. Please give serious consideration to renewing your BSO membership and a commitment to continue supporting Blues Society of the Ozarks events and Jams. Please discover how you can make a positive impact on these events, D.R.Y.M.S. recipients, and this year's charities we support. You can make a difference. Our goal for 2024 is to continue our focus on recognizing the extraordinary, talented musicians of the region. Live music continues to provide opportunities through the week and weekends to gather and enjoy the Blues, Classic Rock, Jazz, and more.

Please support the area venues that keep the spirit of music and the Blues alive.

If you are not a member yet, now is the time to become a member of a mature organization that has a clear focus for the future. Be it keeping the Blues alive through monthly music Jams and live venue events, Blues in the Schools (B.I.T.S.), or our upcoming fund raisers, the BSO has a need for you. Please consider being a member of the growing BSO family.

Look for area musicians and groups performing in the Ozarks and let us know what you see and hear. Until then, let's keep the music going and growing. Now is the time for you to take that step and start writing your contribution to the next BSO Bluesletter. Feel free to contact me, Mike Fisher at mikefisher@missouristate.edu. 



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Membership Form

Since 1991, our goals have been to encourage appreciation of the Blues, an original American music; to provide a forum in the Ozarks for performance of the Blues at live events, and radio and television; to educate and entertain the people of the Ozarks; to provide an organization through which people can share their common love of the Blues; and to join with similar organizations to accomplish the foregoing goals.



Membership Benefits

New members receive:

- BSO T-Shirt
- \$10 Gift Certificate to Ernie Williamson Music
- Bi-monthly Bluesletter (newsletter)
- Free inclusion in ticket drawings for select events

Membership Dues

Please check your applicable payment

- \$20/year
- \$30/year - Band
- \$100/year - Corporate Member

Interests

Please check all areas of interest for volunteering

- Events
- Fundraising
- Public Relations
- Bluesletter Publishing
- Bluesletter Writing
- Bluesletter Advertising Sales
- Website Maintenance
- Performance
- Other (please explain)
-

Please mail check and form to: Blues Society of the Ozarks, PO Box 8133, Springfield MO 65801

Contact Information

Name.....

Date.....

Address.....

City/State/Zip Code.....

Email.....

Phone Number..... Birthday (Month-Day).....

May the BSO publish your name in the Bluesletter publication? Yes..... No.....

