

The Northern Grass



Winter
Edition

Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

January
2012

Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive In The Northern Kentucky Area

From The Desk of Our President

Pamela Messer

Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope that everyone was surrounded with love and warmth for the holidays. I know I certainly was. We had a fabulous turn out once again for the NKBMA Christmas (Yes – I said Christmas!) Party. Everyone brought something to share and the friendship and music were a blessing and a joy. This is beginning to be a very enjoyable tradition for us to get together and share ourselves and the holiday spirit. It was wonderful to see so many friendly faces old and new, and I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did! The only problem that we have is that the film in our camera (yes – film) was exposed and we have NO PICTURES! Now if anyone was a shutterbug that night and could send us some pictures we'd be much obliged. You can email .jpeg images to pmesser@nkbma.com. We're going to get the photo album up and running this year, and we might even consider a Best Bluegrass Photo of the Year contest at some point.

This year we have a very challenging agenda. In addition to our regularly supported events we have voted to take on an Indoor Mini Festival to promote many of our local bands and talents. We will desperately need every hand on deck to help with preparations and to make this a successful and hopefully an annually expanding event. Please see one of your Board representatives or Advisors if you would like to volunteer. Help will be needed in the areas of printing and design, advertising sales, vendor selection, parking assistance, kitchen help, clean up, and those are just a few of the jobs. Any contribution of time that you can donate would be appreciated. The NKBMA Board meets on the first Wednesday each month at Willis Music on Mall Rd from 6 pm until 8 pm. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

I'd like to thank everyone for their continued support and confidence in this association. We are truly striving to make the association a success and we are making small, but great strides. We have a fabulous partner with Willis Music and their support. Evan at Heaven's Mark has done a fabulous job with videotaping the performances and The SoundWorkshop has put together amazing audio to go along with it. Gary Strong at the Richwood Opry is bringing in A+ Bluegrass performers to the area, and Luther Hensley is helping support our local groups at his monthly shows in Claryville. There are also jam sessions galore throughout the area and there is NEVER a lack of bluegrass to be had. We still have a scholarship to give away this year to KSBTM and we will also be working on student 'scholarships' for school age children who are taking traditional or bluegrass instrument lessons. These will be to help parents pay tuition and encourage these kids to continue the bluegrass tradition. More details will follow as we get them worked out.

My last word of thanks is to my AMAZING group of Board Members – Luther, Ron, Myrna, Jackie, Jack, Emma, Tom, Gene, JoAnn, Jim, Russell, Desi and Steve. We wouldn't be what we are without each and every one of you there donating your time, money and energy. You are a blessing to work with and some of the smartest and truest people I've ever had the pleasure to know. Thank you so much, and God bless you all.

Until next quarter – PICK MORE and you'll WHINE LESS!!!
Prayers –
Pamela



Willis Music Presents

With the support from the NKBMA



Bluegrass Y'all

A 2012 Bluegrass Concert Series

January 21st



Bluegrass 101

Doors Open 6:00 / Show Starts at 7:00

Cost - \$10.00 at door

NKBMA members \$8.00,

Children under 12 free

February 11th



Dean Osborne Band

Doors Open 6:00 / Show Starts at 7:00

Cost - \$10.00 at door

NKBMA members \$8.00,

Children under 12 free

March 17th



My Favorite Bluegrass Band along with the Missy Werner Band

Doors Open 6:00 / Show Starts at 7:00

Cost - \$10.00 at door

NKBMA members \$8.00,

Children under 12 free

April 21st Karl Shiflett & Big Country Show along with Tommy Brown & CLG



Doors Open 6:00 / Show Starts at 7:00

Cost - \$15.00 at door

NKBMA members \$13.00,

Children under 12 free

Willis Music—Located at 7567 Mall Road in Florence, Ky - 859-525-6050

Additional information call Gene Thompson at 859-630-2166

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

Your advertising will not only be sent out in 6 newsletters a year, the newsletter is also posted on the NKBMA website for all to view. Please contact Steve McCain at gmccain@fuse.net for more info.

	Single Add	Yearly
Card	\$5.00	\$15.00
1/4 Page	\$10.00	\$30.00
1/2 Page	\$15.00	\$60.00
Full Page	\$25.00	\$90.00

NKBMA.com
NKBMA.com

Click It To Get It!!

Get all the latest NKBMA news, calendar updates, local events and more. All this is right at your finger tips!

Discount Memberships are still good!

To take advantage of the discounted rates join or re-new by January 31st!

Applications are available at all NKBMA events and on the "Join Us!" tab of our website www.nkbma.com

Single - \$10.00 (regular \$12.00)
Couple - \$12.0 (regular \$15.00)
Band - \$22.00 (regular \$25.00)

Prayers Needed



Folks, we have a NKBMA member in need of our prayers. Our Secretary Mrs. Jackie Bowling has a granddaughter Ms. Carlie Brewer (10 years old) who is currently in the hospital getting a heart and kidney transplant.

The good news is they were able to find a heart and kidney for the operation. The surgery was performed on Friday, January 6th and Carlie is in stable condition.

Please keep Jackie, and the rest of her family in your prayers as they continue this process with Carlie and that her body accepts her new heart and kidney. The NKBMA has sent a planter to Carlie on behalf of all of our members.



Located across from the Florence Mall and next to H.H.Gregg on Mall Road, our Florence Superstore has it all. Store manager Rick Fuchs brings years of service and experience to meet your every need. Our Florence location also features a 24 track digital recording studio and performance center in addition to the Kate Young Music Makers studios and lesson center.

7567 Mall Road
Florence, Ky. 41042
859-525-6050

Bluegrass Events Sponsored or Supported By the Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

NKBMA Monthly Board Meeting 1st Wed of each month
Willis Music on Mall Rd. Starts at 6:00

Gene Thompson Bluegrass Jam 1st Friday each month (thru April)
Hebron Masonic Lodge, contact Gene Thompson - 859-630-2166

Russell Turner Bluegrass Jam 2nd Friday each month
6th and Park Street Newport, Ky. Contact Russell Turner @ rturn02@zoomtown.com

Luther Hensley Bluegrass Jam 3rd Tuesday each month
Claryville Knights of Columbus, Alexandria, Ky.
Missy Werner featured on January 18th, starts at 6:30
Contact Luther Hensley @ 859-635-9450 or Jim Deaton 859-760-4483

NKBMA Monthly Bluegrass Jam 4th Friday each month
Willis Music - Mall Road Florence, Ky
Contact Rick Fuchs @ Willis Music 859-525-6050

Richwood Opry Country and Bluegrass Music every Weekend
10915 Dixie Highway Walton, Ky. 859-474-0554
Check website for current schedules www.richwoodopry.com

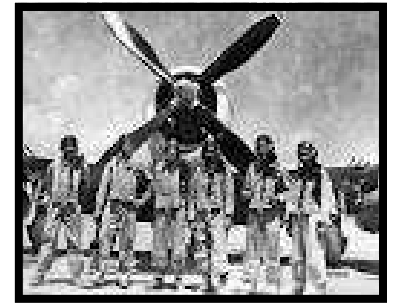
The Famous Old Time Music Company- Everything you need in Bluegrass!
20322 SR 33 Wapakoneta, OH - 419-568-1220 or 513-607-1874
Check out their website at www.fotmc.com

Tommy Brown 3rd annual Salt Lick Bluegrass Festival - February 17th and 18th
Paroquet Springs Conference Center - 395 Paroquet Springs Drive Shepherdsville, Ky
Call 502-594-0962 for more information.

NKBMA - Mini-Festival! All the fun of a Bluegrass festival in one day and under roof! Plans currently being made for **September 22** at the Calvin A Perry Center in Alexandria, Ky. Bands and times to be announced so mark your calendar!

A Hero Among Us

By Steve McCain



I've been a member of the NKBMA since 2005. I have met a lot of people and made a lot of friends. When the association was in its infancy, the club would meet and jam out at the GMC dealership off Rt.18. One evening, I started talking to an older gentleman that had a banjo wrapped around his shoulder as I did. We started swapping stories of how much we enjoyed playing the banjo and some songs we were trying to perfect. I really enjoyed talking to him because there were so many guys out there that were out of my league as far as playing banjo, anyway. Little did I know whom I was swapping stories. As time would pass I would come to learn I was talking with a true American hero. The gentleman I am referring to is "Trooper" Bob Williams.

As I continued to stay active in the NKBMA, I started serving on the board with Bob. I was always confused when I heard people call out to "Trooper Bob!" I thought he had been a state trooper policeman before he retired. As we started working on projects together as well as the Sparta Bluegrass festival, I found out the true meaning of "Trooper" and how important Bob is to all of us.

I later found out that Bob actually served in the armed forces as a paratrooper during World War II. It was not until much later that I found out how important his service was and how lucky we are to still have Bob with us.

A while back I was handed a news article that was written about Bob and his service to our country. This article went into a little more detail on what Bob went through one early morning in 1944.

Many of us have seen war movies on TV or stories on the news that depict what men and women go through during war time but I don't think any of us will ever truly know the feeling that you will probably die when you jump out of the plane, even rarer is the courage to go ahead and jump.

One early morning, as Bob explained in the news article, he and many other young men jumped into the skies over Normandy, France as part of Operation Overlord. Bob was the fifth man out of the C-47 as they were flying into enemy fire. As Bob landed in the midst of machinegun fire, he had the sensation he was hit in the leg. As he crawled for cover, he was relieved to find out he had not been shot but later discovered 12 bullet holes in his pants pocket. With four hundred thousand lives lost in World War II, we are lucky to still have Bob with us.

When you hear people of the "Greatest Generation" described, you get a feeling of what they were made of when you hear stories like this. With every year that passes, we lose more and more WWII veterans. Bob has written a book called "Return To Normandy" not only to tell the story as it really happened but make sure that we as a nation never forget the sacrifice that a generation made to keep us all free.

As I think about it they are truly the "Greatest Generation". When I first met Bob, I thought I was just talking to another guy trying to learn the banjo, funny thing is, he would probably tell you that is all he is. It is nice to know that we have an American hero among us and we will always be grateful. Thanks Bob!

Steve McCain
NKBMA News Editor



NKBMA Membership Bands

Our current member Bluegrass bands are some of the best in the area. Please consider hiring them for your special events! Bluegrass pickers need fed, too!

- Diamond Head Mountain – 859-635-3684
- The New Godspeed – 859-322-8416
- Bluegrass Mafia Band – 513-276-1094
- The Burnin' Bluegrass Band – 513-652-1347
- Custom Made Bluegrass – 859-226-9390
- Crossroads – 859-689-7431
- Gary Strong Bluegrass Band – 859-992-5775
- Licking Valley Bluegrass – 859-356-9241
- Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers – 513-861-6785
- Missy Werner Band – 513-678-6426
- My Favorite Bluegrass Band – 513-553-6115
- Retread Bluegrass Band – 513-793-6477
- Tommy Brown & County Line Grass – 502-594-0962
- Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass – 419-568-1220



NKBMA
PO Box 133
Hebron, Ky. 41048

