



MO Blues Annual Report 2020

Our Mission: To Promote, Preserve and Support the Blues.

Covid, Covid, Covid! What can we say? There wasn't much we could do in 2020 because of the pandemic. Events had to be cancelled, jams postponed, and fundraising efforts tabled to next year. Even so, we were able to hold a few things and we still managed to support our mission and show a profit. Here are some of the highlights of 2020:

Sunday Afternoon Jams - We held about 5 or 6 Sunday afternoon jams at various locations around town. We started off with a bang at The Hall, then a couple of Sunday afternoons at Spectators and the Outpost. We are looking forward to the prospect of regular monthly jams in 2021.

Blues in the Park was a big success. Held on October 13th, we served BBQ Sundays, which were well received, and we hosted 3 bands. The opening band was C4 Entertainment, who were mostly teenagers & were joined by the fabulous Matthew Key. They were followed by the Serious Blues Band, then Buddha Blue. It was well attended, and the music was great. We absolutely loved promoting a group of young blues players. Since it was outside in the park, people were able to follow social distancing guidelines and still enjoy the show.

New Website – We updated our website to a much friendlier and usable site. Many thanks to Meghan Vossen for volunteering her time and talents to help us do that. You no longer need to sign in with a password or have an account to access it. We think it will attract a lot more attention for MO Blues. Meghan did a fantastic job on making it “pretty”. If you haven't seen it yet, you should take a look @ www.moblues.org. It is awesome!

Executive Director – We both added and lost an Executive Director this year. Lorie A. Smith volunteered to serve as our Executive Director and help guide us in a positive and profitable direction. Lorie had many years of experience managing nonprofit organizations through her company L.A. Management, LLC. We sadly lost her in December due to complications from a heart procedure. We were lucky to have the benefit of the year we had with her.

New Logo – Since our Executive Director was an artist, we utilized some of her talent to design a new logo, which you can see at the top of this report. Many thanks to Lorie Smith for helping us create it.

T-Shirts – We designed new shirts with the new logo and had them ready to go for Blues in the Park. This year we added sponsors to the back of the shirt to advertise for some of our supporters. We also had the logo embroidered on ball cap style hats. Both look great and will help raise money for the Association. Our contributors for the shirts were:

Will West Music and Sound
Rosewood Music
Central Bank
Painters & Tapers Union Local 1185
Maplewood Residential Center

Outpost Bar & Grill
Prison Brews
Comfort Zone Heating & Cooling
Vines on Broadway

Financial Status – Even faced with a pandemic through most of the year, we still managed to generate income. Our thanks to everyone who supported us during the year through memberships and donations. Of notable mention, April Watkins donated a full drum set, acoustic guitar with amp, and set of harmonicas. Thanks everyone for helping us “Keep the Blues Alive”.

Becky Fredrickson
President, MO Blues Association