



Quarter Notes

Musicians of Western Montana

July/August, 2020 Newsletter



At The Top

In this edition, we review some upcoming technology changes for our operations, remember to value our musical elders, and look at the Music Performance Trust Fund and UnionPlus benefits program.

Dues Payment Reminder

You can pay your regular dues electronically via our web site. There is a small fee for the convenience but it is the first of new services MOWM plans to provide the membership. It's also an important way for us to streamline and modernize our operations. Call Alex at 406-916-8800 if you need help figuring it out.

MOWM Activities Update

► The EB has authorized the purchase of computer equipment that will help MOWM more efficiently manage our web page, Facebook account and business operations.



Through S/T Lee's diligent research, we have been able to get a used server at a fraction of the cost of either a new PC/laptop or the purchase of a monthly "cloud" server. Alex is familiar with the equipment, knows how to set it up correctly and maintain it and will teach another member as his backup. Having this equipment under our direct control lets us bridge between our current manual operations and any future electronic requirements.

Some ideas about the future uses of the server are: hosting of video meetings, members' music uploaded, events and meetings calendar, members only access area, etc.

► **WE ARE STILL WORKING TO GET MEMBERS' CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION.** You can contact Alex at 406-916-8800. Remember, emailing has become the primary means for us to notify you of the Local's activities and you won't know what's happening if we don't have your correct address.

President's Report

Being a member of AFM brings many benefits, not the least of which include a subscription to our official magazine, the International Musician. The "IM" keeps us in Montana connected to the greater world of professional music. Through reading a past IM edition, I learned of a program sponsored by the Musicians Performance Trust Fund (MPTF) called "MusicianFest" which endeavors to provide live music listening

experiences for older citizens. I just finished watching a documentary film called "MusicianFest: Never Too Old" which is available on YouTube and is produced by the Music Performance Trust Fund. This film shows the excitement generated by live musicians performing at senior centers across North America. As we continue with the virtual shut down of live music due to the pandemic, it strikes me that there may be opportunities to generate some much needed income for musicians in western Montana through the MusicianFest program. Most performances are given by a single musician to an audience of seniors in their residence facilities but there may be opportunities to include additional musicians if a grant idea is creative. I envision an outdoor, summer concert on the shady side of a local senior living facility with residents and staff listening from balconies, open windows and dining room doors. I am making inquiries to MPTF as to how to make that happen. Our annual Montana allotment for MPTF is around \$1000 and to my knowledge, has not been utilized in many years. Together with co-sponsor funds, there could potentially be numerous income generating events for musicians in our area. If you are interested in exploring this opportunity, I encourage you to go to the MPTF website, musicpf.org, to learn about their programs and possibly write a grant for one of your own. As the summer heats up and the pandemic stretches on, I hope all are well and safe. I encourage you all to play your instruments, sing, write, create and record. Music is good for the soul and staying home gives us a chance for self development.



Don Stone
President, Local 498-642 AFM

Honoring our Music Elders

We were saddened to learn that Ole "Ole" Stimac Sr. passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, July 2, 2020. He was a long-time member of Local 498-642 and we consider him as one of the music elders of our state. You can read the complete obituary [here](#).



Meetings Calendar

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic our meetings calendar is in transition. We are currently discussing the best way to resume a more consistent schedule. For now, please check our Facebook page and web site for up-to-date information.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 16, 3 pm, Labor Temple.



Did you know? As a union member you are eligible for a variety of benefits through UnionPlus, a nonprofit organization founded by the AFL-CIO in 1986 to provide excellent benefit programs exclusively to union members (current and retired) and their families.

Here's a short list: Credit card program (including Hardship Grants for financial assistance), car rental discounts, college scholarships, AT&T discounts, life and auto insurance, Legal Program, and more.

Check out <https://www.unionplus.org/>

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