

THE OKLAHOMA *SQUEEZINS*

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'!"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

NOTICE

- TO:** Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership
- WHAT:** A celebration! The Tenth Anniversary of the founding of the Oklahoma Accordion Club.
- WHEN:** Sunday, June 13th, 2010, at 3:00 pm
- WHERE:** Messiah Lutheran Church, N. Portland @ I-44 (meeting place of the Club)
- THEME:** "Amoré" (I love Italian) – an Italian meal.
- COST:** Provided by the Club, as part of your membership.
- ATTENDANCE:** Can we count on your attendance? Will you bring a guest (each member is allowed to bring one guest)? Please note that this is NOT an open meeting.

Since this is a catered event, your Club needs to know how many plan to attend. Please confirm your reservation with Oliver Delaney by e-mail or phone:

- Delaney3@cox.net or
 - 405/427-3564
- by Thursday, June 10.

We look forward to seeing you at the celebration!!!



The Treasurer Sez

Dick Albreski

With sadness, I have to tell those folks who know and admire Tony Lovello that our friend Tony was just diagnosed with leukemia. Knowing Tony, this will not slow him down, and he does plan to complete all concert commitments. He needs your prayers at this time, so let's not let him down. Tony is a unique accordionist who made our accordion world a better place.

Just think, next month will mark our tenth OAC anniversary. I can recall those early days of starting the Club, but never realizing it would grow to what it is today. I guess that when something is done right, it can grow. As you may or may not know, at the next meeting we are celebrating this achievement. All members are asked to come to our birthday party and, better yet, you can bring a friend. This will NOT be an open meeting, and all members who plan to attend must confirm their reservations in advance, so the proper amount of food can be determined. Each member is entitled to bring one guest. If you and your guest show up without a prior reservation, you may not be fed. Get ready for some great Italian food. This will be one time when we pat each other on the back for a job well done. Our birthday bash will be at the Messiah Lutheran Church on Sunday, June 13th, 2010 at 3:00 pm. We are scheduling this party at the same time and date as our regular meeting.

June is "national accordion month," and is usually recognized only in the United States. This practice started back in 1989 and, with the help of U.S. accordionists, it will continue for many more years. Did you know that your instrument is considered a reed instrument and not part of the keyboard clan? I also like to refer to the accordion as the "intimate instrument." What other instrument except the tuba gives you that wraparound sensation? I always ask that each of you do something special to enhance the accordion image in the month of June. Let's compare notes in July to see what each of us has done.

Our expenses for this period were \$30.00, and we have \$32.00 in unrecorded income. Our current checkbook balance is \$1,569.19. See you all at the "Birthday Bash!"



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Tony Lovello

Editor's Note: Tony Lovello entertained us at our Club's very first annual dinner-dance in 2002.
You can connect with Tony via Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/tony.lovello>

After being in the hotel business for 31 years, this dynamic accordionist has returned to performing his magical arrangements better than ever before. From Buffalo, NY, Tony first took interest in the accordion at the early age of 5. Under the direction and guidance of his father, who also played the accordion, Tony quickly excelled and soon was playing a 48 bass accordion and was performing in and around the Buffalo area.

After the family moved to Los Angeles, it didn't take long before Tony was discovered by Eddie Cantor, and it was then Tony had his last name changed from Lovullo to Lovello. He then embarked on a very interesting and exciting career, touring with such greats as Eddie Cantor, George Jessel, Kate Smith, Jimmy Durante, Debbie Reynolds, and Frank Sinatra, to name a few. Tony made two tours to Korea and Alaska with Johnny Grant, and also performed for two years on the TV show *Dixie Showboat* with Dick Lane and Scatman Crothers.

After his tour of duty in the army, Tony came out to pick up where he left off. He toured and performed on the Arthur Godfrey TV Show, and it was then that he was asked to become a member of *The Three Suns*.

After an illness left him deaf in the left ear, Tony had a brief stint with his own review and toured Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe. He decided to retire from active show business and went into the hotel business. There he married his secretary, Jo Ellen, and settled down in the city of Lexington, Kentucky.



It didn't take long for Tony to get back in the circle of music, performing the exciting arrangement of the "National Anthem," which inspired George Steinbrenner to invite Tony to perform the same in Yankee Stadium. His brother Sam, producer of the TV show, *Hee Haw*, then asked him to make several appearances with Roy Clark and the *Hee Haw* gang.

After creating a web page on the Internet, Tony started to write his arrangements with video instructions for many accordionists all over the world. Joe Petosa of Petosa Accordions had asked Tony to perform for the Northwest Accordion Society in Seattle, Washington. After receiving several standing ovations, he then felt he should continue to perform.

Encouraged by his family, Joe and Sam Lovullo, Tony came out of retirement from the hotel and returned to show business with a bang.



In less than seven years he has recorded 11 CDs, performed over 140 concerts, has been coined King and Master of the Bellows Shake by Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini, and has received five Lifetime Achievement Awards. Often called The Liberace of the Accordion because of his exciting showmanship and humor, he puts out a funfest, well-paced accordion spectacular with unforgettable stamina. He possesses the star quality of a Master Accordionist. During his concerts, he communicates and connects with the audience, demonstrating his famous glissandos, rapid runs, and trademark bellow

shakes with accuracy and precision. He walks, talks, and delivers with utmost authority, and has complete command of his instrument. He can razzle-dazzle you with his outstanding arrangements and his interpretation of his signature song Malagueña that can electrify you.



May Minutes

Beth Henson

Minutes Oklahoma Accordion Club May 9, 2010

- Vice President Jimmie Woolly called the meeting to order in the absence of President Bill Henson, who was working out of town. There were 18 members and two guests in attendance.
- A name badge was presented to new member Phil Scibelli.
- Oliver Delaney discussed the upcoming celebration of the tenth anniversary of the OAC, which will be held at the June 13th meeting. It was recommended that we have an Italian meal, and that each member can bring one guest. Beth Henson volunteered to help make phone calls to the membership, if necessary. Margaret Oldham volunteered to bake and decorate a birthday cake.
- Johnny Sakaly inquired if anyone had seen the movie "Schultze Gets the Blues." Several members had and said it is a good flick. It is about a German accordion polka player, newly unemployed, who fell in love with Zydeco music and ended up in Louisiana.
A link to a preview of the movie is at: <http://www.imdb.com/video/screenplay/vi814088473>.
It does look entertaining as it is billed as comedy/drama/music -- a good combination for a movie.
- The OAC orchestra will perform at the Italian Festival on June 5th. Anyone interested in participating should contact Dan Orza.

- Club members are encouraged to bring new members to the Club meetings.

- We had some great performances from our very talented members:

- The orchestra performed the following numbers: "Love Makes the World Go Round," "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," and "My Irish Rose."

- Jimmie Woolly and Dick Albreski performed "Your Cheating Heart," "Rocky Top," and "Tick Tock Polka."

- Dan Orza performed "El Cumbanchero."

- Duetists Phil Scibelli and Dick Albreski played "Evening in Roma."

- Dick performed "Twilight Time," "I Could Have Danced All Night," "Blue Moon," "Over the Rainbow," and "Besame Mucho."

- Dick mentioned friends who are having health problems, including Nina Dunham and Tony Lovello. We wish them the best.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Henson

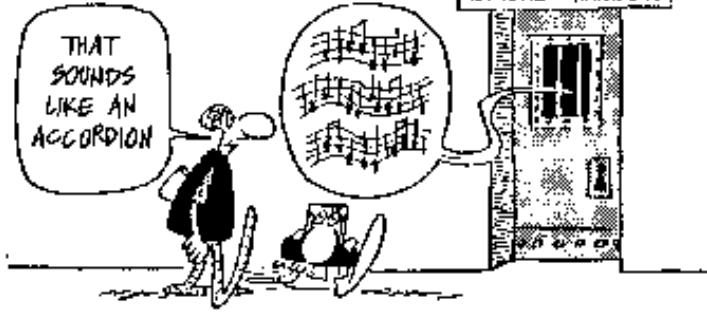
ADDENDUM: All members are invited and encouraged to attend the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the OAC on June 13th. Please try to be present.



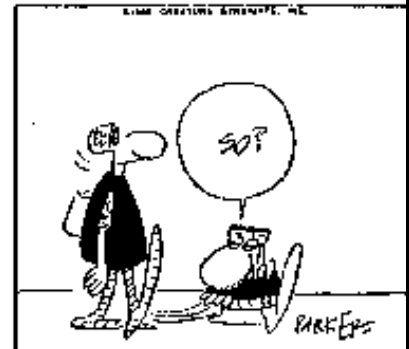
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7-07

Italian Club, June 5th

Dan Orza



(L-R): Dan Orza, Lois Roth, Max Gunter, Karen West, and Dick Albreski

Last year, Oklahoma Accordion Club members (pictured above) performed at the Elks Lodge Annual Italian Festival 2009. This year, the OAC Orchestra will once again perform for the Festival. This is the fourth year that we have been invited to perform for this festival.

Dan says, "We play lots of ensemble music, especially Italian songs, but also some solos, and they love us. They have invited us back every year for four years, so I think they REALLY enjoy our music. And, of course, we really love the food they feed us."

All members of our orchestra are invited to perform on Saturday, June 5th, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. And, of course, everyone performing is rewarded with lots of wonderful Italian food.

The Elks Lodge is at 4711 N. Tulsa in OKC, which is just south of NW Expressway. OAC members can come as paying guests of the orchestra.

Questions? Ask Dan Orza.



(L-R): Dan Orza, Karen West, Max Gunter, Lois Roth, and Jim Wooley





Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership Form

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone (____) _____ Birthday (mm/dd) ____/____ (optional)

Newsletter

I prefer to receive the monthly newsletter, the Oklahoma Squeezins, by:

- ☐ E-mail at address (above) or at _____
- ☐ Conventional post (snail mail)

Membership Dues

The OAC membership year runs from January through December. Membership cost is prorated quarterly for new members.

- ☐ Primary Membership is \$16.00 per year per individual.
- ☐ Family Membership is \$8.00 per year for each additional family member when accompanied by a Primary Membership.
- ☐ Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$180.
- ☐ Youth Membership is complimentary for accordion-playing youth through age 18.

Your Status (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Professional ☐ Semi-Professional ☐ Amateur ☐ Student
- ☐ Associate ☐ Hobby ☐ Teacher ☐ Repairman/Repairwoman
- ☐ Other (specify) _____

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