

THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

The Prez sez

Dan Orza

It seems that the months are getting shorter, or maybe it's me getting older. Regardless, there is always so much to do and never enough time to get it all done. Thank you all for jumping in and helping out. Running OAC is really a simple job, but it's never a one-man job. Without your help, we would not have an accordion club.



And that brings me to the first subject at hand: my term of office is coming to a close. I've been at it for two glorious years, surrounded by wonderful, enthusiastic, dedicated members. Together we have been able to do marvelous things

because you, our members, have been there, working side-by-side, giving support, giving encouraging words and funds, and being there when needed. That's why OAC has grown. And that's why we have been able to perform at many functions, and to create The Big Squeeze and actually do two performances to two full-house audiences at the UCO Jazz Lab.

I'm really very proud of all of you – of US.

Bob Mansfield is heading up a nominations committee looking for a slate of officers. We need a president, vice president, and secretary. Some of you will receive a call to volunteer to lead our

Continued on page 3

Meeting info

Dan Orza

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, October 12, at the Messiah Lutheran Church, which is located at the intersection of NW Expressway and Portland Ave., just west of I-44 and Baptist Hospital, and across the street from Deaconess Hospital on Portland Ave. Festivities begin at 2:30, when the

orchestra rehearsal starts. At 3:30 our meeting begins, followed by individual and group performances, and then a "jam session" follows until 5:00 or 5:30 pm. Everyone is encouraged to come, and everyone is encouraged to perform. If you are shy about playing alone, some of us will play with you.



The Secretary sez

Maxine Gunter

At our September meeting we had 18 members and guests who were entertained with music from Dick Albreski playing "Anneliese Polka," "Schutzenliesel Polka," "Oh Suzanna Schottische," a "German Waltz Medley," an "Oklahoma Medley," and "A Gay Ranchero." Next, Roland Lohmann and Bob Mansfield entertained with "Girl from Ipanema" and "Spanish Eyes." Bob Mansfield soloed with "Lujan," "Hatikva," "Olive Blossoms," and "Gianianna Mazurka." Beautiful music from all!

Bob Mansfield, our librarian/historian, brought to the meeting the club scrapbook, which documents the history of our club. Bob has put a lot of work into this project, and it is impressive!

A nominating committee:

- Bob Mansfield
- Jimmy Woolly
- Margaret Oldman

was formed to make a list of candidates for our upcoming elections in December. The offices of president, vice-president, and secretary will be open. Please contact any member of the committee if you are interested in running for office.

Please be advised that the front door to the church may be locked if you arrive late for the OAC meeting, because we have been asked to secure that door. We will try to watch for you, but if you find the door locked, please knock and we will let you in!

We welcomed guest Doris Sorrels, a friend of Karen West, to our meeting. Doris and Angel Dovalina drew names to determine the winners of the jackpot, and Dick Albreski graciously donated five copies of a "German Medley: Wer Soll Das Bezahiem Waltzer" to the drawing. Yours truly was lucky enough to win one of them, and Dick and Angel shared the jackpot!

Come and support the Oklahoma Accordion Club and hear some wonderful music!



What's a bassoon good for?
Kindling for an accordion fire.

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The Prez sez

continued from front page

organization. YOU CAN DO IT. And please know you will have the backing of the present group of officers. No one wants us to fail – so we will all help you be successful. It's time to “pass the baton.” New ideas, new blood, new leadership will help us grow.

We have a wonderful place to meet: the Lutheran church facility is reasonably priced, centrally located, has plenty of space, is quite lovely, and very accommodating. Our social gatherings can continue as in the past, or we can seek new and different places – that will be up to the new officers.

The Big Squeeze scheduled for Nov 23rd at the UCO Jazz Lab in Edmond will be our third show. There seems to be a concern about this performance because, originally, we were hoping to have more of our young musicians performing. Well, evidently due to school obligations (and youth mindset), we will end up with Jairon Baquera and Micaiah Elliott as our only youth performers. They are marvelous young musicians and I want to highlight them in our program. In addition to them and our adult musicians, we could easily fill a program with excellent accordion music. It will continue to bring recognition to the Oklahoma Accordion Club, which is gaining local, state, and regional recognition. I personally think we should continue that momentum.

Incidentally, I have been asked to be a guest performer with members of the Oklahoma Symphony Orchestra cello section, who call themselves Cellos Olé. We will perform on October 21st. I bet I could invite them to be guest performers at our Big Squeeze and perform that same selection as my guest performers. That would be cool, and potentially attract

additional audience. The Big Squeeze is a moneymaker for us. If we don't go overboard in advertising, we can probably make a few hundred dollars.

Bob Mansfield is now our historian, and he is assembling a scrapbook of all our photos, newsletters, and memorabilia -- as many as he can get -- so that we will have a beautiful “For the Record” – for viewing scrapbook. If you have any photos, newspaper articles, programs, or whatever, please bring them to a meeting, or send them to Bob or me as soon as possible. Thanks.

Our website, “OklahomaAccordionClub.com,” is about to change. We are presently exploring a way to have a website blog, which will allow you, our members, to view all our beautiful photos, plus newsletters and any additional information our membership and board of directors need to get out to everyone quickly. It will make communications much simpler and faster. It will also allow you to respond in a blog e-mail message format. Additionally, it will allow the “world” to know we are here. Our National Accordion Association (NAA) will also be carrying our newsletters on their website. This is brand new. Your local OAC will be getting national attention and, in fact, NAA gets international circulation. Therefore, so will we. We keep getting bigger and better. That's because WE ARE. That's because YOU ARE.

Be more active. Come to more meetings. Play your accordions more – at meetings if you can. But come, have fun, and enjoy your membership. After all, we are accordionists! WE ARE SPECIAL!

Musically yours,
DANO



The Treasurer sez

Dick Albreski

I can't believe it's almost October. Where did our year go? The OAC is doing well -- we are paying our bills, enjoying talking with our members, and playing our accordions.

Currently we have a balance of \$853.40 in our treasury. Late August and current September expenses totaled \$187.07. To date, our income for September is \$36.00.

Our new home at the Messiah Lutheran Church is working out fine, but we noticed that YOU have not attended a meeting in months. Why? If there is a reason, please share it with us.

There are two months in the year that belong to the accordion. June is **National Accordion Awareness Month** and October is **Oktoberfest**. Where would a polka band be without an accordion? We encourage our members to get out and play, especially during the month of October. If you really want satisfaction, start playing a polka for a crowd of people and watch hands start to clap and their faces turn to smiles. You not only are a musician, but a magician as well.

EIN PROSIT



"Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you!"

• Pericles (430 B.C.)

"If you don't read the newspaper, you are uninformed. If you do read the newspaper, you are misinformed."

• Mark Twain

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August meeting



Max holds for the draw



Dick and Angel shared the cash jackpot



Look at that concentration!



Darn, my fingers are fatter than these keys



More of the August meeting

20



Dick, Lois, and Max jammin'



Roland Lohmann and Bob Mansfield



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