

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

December Meeting

Don't miss the **December 2** meeting. Our Youth will perform, plus we will play the many tunes that our bandmaster, Dan Orza, has provided. This will be an accordion playing Christmas party.

This year we will have a cookie, cake, candy, and any specialty food-event for your sweet tooth addiction. We ask that each member bring one of their favorites that can be enjoyed by the OAC members and friends. Calories will not be counted, so you can fill your plates with joy! The Club will provide all paper products and drinks.

We will have a raffle on some very fine gifts. If you have a small gift that you can donate, we would appreciate it. All proceeds from the raffle will go to our Youth program. I am aware of some of the gifts, and have my eye on one in particular.

This last item above is, hopefully, a tradition that will continue in the OAC. For many years, we asked members to bring a hat, gloves, scarfs, and even socks that were given to a charity. This year, we have already accumulated a good quantity, but we still need more. Please remember the less fortunate when you come to the Christmas party. We also have in mind a charity that would distribute our donations to the homeless.

I want to take a moment and say "thanks" to each and every OAC member. You are my second family, who I truly appreciate and cherish. You are keeping the accordion alive. At midnight on Christmas Eve, I will be thinking of each of you with a prayer of thanksgiving for your friendship and dedication.

2:00 pm	Orchestra Rehearsal
3:00 pm	Business Meeting
3:15 pm	Individual and Group Performances
5:00 pm	Jam Session

The December meeting will be held on Sunday, **December 2**, at 3:30 pm. As usual, the meeting will be held at the Messiah Lutheran Church, located on the southeast corner of Northwest Expressway and Portland in Oklahoma City.

Enter the parking lot from Portland and use the south church entrance.

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.

After the individual and group performances, we will have a Jam Session.

All are welcome to join in on the fun!

Starting in 2013, we will need a new club treasurer, secretary, and historian. The current treasurer, Evie Albreski; the current secretary, Lois Roth; and the current historian, Diana Richard have done a superb job for the last two years. Their terms are now up, and we look to you for the next generation of officers.

I am proud to announce that three members have come forward, and will allow their names to be placed in nomination: Milo Shedeck for treasurer, Barbara Duer for historian, and Maggie Abel for secretary. Even though we have people who have volunteered for these three positions, we

will still accept more nominations at the **December 2** meeting. We need you to come forward and place into nomination your name or the name of someone you feel will continue working to achieve the goals of the OAC. No special skills are required. Nominations and voting will be held at the December meeting, and I want the pleasure of introducing the new officers at the January meeting. Remember, we need you.

Thank you,
Dick Albreski



The Prez Sez

Dick Albreski

Our new friend -- and a great talent -- Nick Bratkovich performed at the November OAC meeting. He was super! I am so proud of our Club members who came and supported our guest soloist. Everyone commented on a terrific program. Nick will also perform at the NAA in Dallas next March. More to follow on this subject in the next newsletter.

For those who will be in the Maryland and Virginia area next December 8, you can attend a free concert hosted by Accordion Plus and the Maryland Accordion Club. Members from the Accordion Revolution, the Maryland Accordion Club, Piedmont Accordion, and the Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society will perform. Guest artist will be Bill Cosby (no, not that one) who taught music at the West Point Military Academy for 24 years before his recent retirement. The accordion has been Bill's lifelong work, and has earned him a five-time National Accordion Champion award plus a two-time Frank Sinatra award. The concert will be at the Bloomsbury Community Center Auditorium, 106 Bloomsbury Avenue, Catonsville, MD 21228. The event will start at 2:00 pm.

I'm both happy and sad. It has been a pleasure working the last two years with Lois Roth, Diana Richard, and my Evie. They will leave their board positions on January 1, 2013. But, I am happy to announce that we will have three OAC members nominated to replace them. Barbara Duer has agreed to take the historian position, Maggie Abel has agreed to take on the secretary duties, and Milo Shedeck has agreed to monitor the money as our Treasurer. I will nominate them at the December meeting, plus any additional nominations from the floor. We will also vote at that time so the new board members can be in place at the January meeting.

Don't miss the **December 2**, meeting! We need your vote for the new board members, and your support for a fun party!



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The Treasurer Sez

Evie Albreski

I just realized that it's getting close to the end of the year. That means we will be working on OAC membership renewals. OAC memberships are our only income that pays for the newsletter, rent, plus any other expenses incurred in continuing the Club. This year we have a record enrollment and, hopefully, with your support, we can continue that record number in 2013.

We have several OAC members who will celebrate a birthday in October. Let's send out a *really big* **Happy Birthday** to Karen West (10/8), Anne Lopez (10/22), and Diana Bongiovanni (10/24). If we missed your birthday, we do apologize. However, we don't have a record of

your birthdate. If you haven't already done so, please let us know what it is.

I feel the Septemberfest was a big success and, so far, the comments on the food are good. The comments on the music are always great. The best part of the Septemberfest was a room full of members and guests. Thanks to each of you who supported the event. I have to offer special **thanks** as well. I needed to know in advance who was coming so I could estimate the amount of food required. Everyone who made a reservation in advance attended the event. That's teamwork.

Well, we still are not in the red. Our checkbook says we still have \$657.31, and all current expenses are paid. See you all on **December 2**.



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**"You're not cool enough to play the Guitar
Hero video game, so I bought you a
copy of Accordion Hero."**

November Meeting

Lois Roth

OAC Meeting November 11, 2012

President Dick Albreski called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. There were 21 members and eight guests present.

- We have two nominations for new officers: Milo Shedeck for treasurer and Barbara Duer for historian.
- Anne Lopez volunteered to continue sending special occasion cards from the Club.
- The Christmas Party will be on Sunday, **December 2**. Reservations are not necessary. Guests are welcome! There will be many gifts for an exciting raffle.
- Members are asked to bring Christmas cookies or other snacks to share. The club will provide drinks and paper items.
- Our Youth members will perform for us, as soloists, and as a group.
- Dan Orza is providing music for a sing-along/play-along.
- Members were reminded to bring donations of

hats, gloves, socks, and other small winter clothing items to donate to charity.

- The music program began with a solo by Barbara Duer entitled "Schneewalzer."
- Then Dick joined Barbara, and they played "Waltz Theme."
- Dick introduced our special guest accordionist, Nick Bratkovich. His mother Betty and his nephew Steve were with him. Nick performed a variety of ethnic pieces, including music from Macedonia, Serbia, and Bulgaria. All enjoyed his wonderful performance.
- Dick played "Merry Christmas Polka" to get us in the mood for our next meeting.
- Dan Orza, Karen West, and Lois Roth played "Autumn Leaves," following with "Smile, Smile, Smile" and "Over There" in honor of Veterans' Day. They concluded with a western favorite, "Tumbling Tumbleweeds."

Please remember to bring raffle gifts, charity items, and Christmas goodies to the **December 2** meeting. There will be plenty of Christmas music to enjoy!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth, Secretary



Oklahoma City Traditional Music Association

The Oklahoma Accordion Club welcomes the following new association to our newsletter. Like the OAC, they strive to keep music alive.

A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Traditional American and Celtic music. Meeting the first Saturday of each month at Village Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 9401 N. Ridgeview Drive, on Britton Road (N. 93rd)

between N. May Avenue and N. Penn Avenue. Park on the north side and enter through the double doors.

Workshops (Learning the Traditions) 6:00-6:50, 7:00-7:50 pm, Open Mic (Sharing the Traditions) 8:00-10:00 pm, Jam Sessions (Playing the Traditions) 10:00-11:45 pm. For more information, go to www.octma.org.



You're Invited

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6:00 to 8:00 PM

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November Meeting Photos

Diana Richard



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November Meeting Photos

Diana Richard



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