**ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

 BSCP had its end of the year annual General Membership meeting December 8. Even though it was on Zoom rather than in person, there was a feeling of connection, of community as we reviewed the past year, talked about what is going on now and planned and conjectured about the future. All of the Board of Directors (BOD) were in attendance and we especially appreciated all of the members who joined the meeting.

Here are the highlights of the three points of business.

**1. Annual reports.** The Officers and Committee Chairpersons gave end-of-the year annual reports.

**President.** Kathryn Gregoire reports: The Board meetings were held at Buster and Dot Grubb’s in Steelton January-March and switched to Zoom in April. BOD currently has 14 board members. New members on the board are John “JD” Drudul (IT) and Rosemary Witzel (Member-at-large). One member resigned last May (Rocky Woodling) and another effective Dec. 31 (Andy Kehe).

Recognition was given to retiring Andy Kehe, who has served on the board for 7 years as Secretary and simultaneously during the past 4 years as Chairperson of the Public Relations Committee. He has written numerous articles for the Blues News and served as editor this past year. He has also cooked countless hamburgers and hot dogs at BSCP picnics. Andy will be greatly missed; however, we appreciate that he plans to continue to contribute his writing and cooking talents.

The Social Media and the Education Committees were added this past year. Dan Mowery became the webmaster and set up a new website at [www.bscpblues.com](http://www.bscpblues.com). A motion was passed to work with Bobby Gentilo, Right Coast Studios, to create a documentary on the Mississippi Railroad.

**Treasurer.** Gary “Rocky” Rothrock reports: Income is down because we did not have our annual fundraiser, the Mom I picnic, in May and membership numbers are down. However, our expenditures are also reduced so our budget is balanced. BSCP held an online fundraiser for the servers and bartenders at Champions while they were closed in May and raised $1,056 for them. Thank you to all who contributed!

**By-Laws.** Kathryn Gregoire reports: The By-Laws were reviewed. One recommendation was made and the BOD voted to bring the motion to the General Membership meeting for voting.

**Memberships.** Buster Grubb reports: There are currently 264 paid memberships. There were 317 in 2019.

**Archives.** Buster Grubb reports: The archive material is being shared on the website and in the newsletter.

**Jam.** Gary “Rocky” Rothrock reports: The last live jam was held March 12 and we started “virtual jams” in April. To date, there have been 36 online shows, with 40 by the end of 2020. There has been a nice balance of local and national and international musicians. So many members have worked hard to recruit musicians to play for the Virtual Jam. The Virtual Jam has enabled BSCP to broaden our horizons and make so many new friends that we know will just make our future even brighter. Hang in there and stay safe, because you will want to be part of it!

**Social Media.** Rebecca Young reports: In January 2020, the BOD created the Social Media committee. Over the course of the year the official Facebook page of BSCP has grown in followers by more than 15%. Our posts are routinely seen by more than 1000 people per week. The group page has grown almost 40% with more than 2100 members. Announcements of the Thursday “Virtual Jam” sessions are posted weekly. Some of our Virtual Jam sessions were seen by more than 1800 views this past summer and are now routinely seen by 500 or more viewers weekly.

**Website.** Dan Mowery reports: Year to Date, there has been 2828 site sessions and 1446 unique visitors. The new website initiated in January is fully operational with numerous new features including BSCP Archive, Virtual Jam video library, Blues Talk video library, Book Club, Tip Jar, BSCP Cares Champions Benefit, Weekly Jam Lineup Updates, Backyard Blues Digital Download, Join the Virtual Jam, and the latest new feature, Support Virtual Jam Performers. Members are now able to purchase memberships and the BSCP CD on the website. Greg Hogg has done an excellent job editing the Virtual Jam and Blues Talks videos each week and preparing them to be posted on the website.

 **Newsletter.** Andy Kehe reports: The quarterly issues continue to be published on schedule. The plan is for the next issue to be distributed before Christmas or at least by New Year’s Eve.

**Merchandise**. John Rignani reports: There was a 94% reduction in sales this past year as BSCP only had one event this past year. We have over $4000 in inventory.

**Events.** Mike Knott reports: There was one event this past year: The Nighthawks and Roger Girke and the Wandering Souls played at Champions in January 2020. Reservations with deposits have been made for the Mom I picnic and the Christmas Party for 2021.

**Public Relations.** Andy Kehe reports: The committee has been inactive since last winter. The public relations committee work for the Virtual Jam has been done by the Social Media committee. The two committees are merging for 2021.

**Education.** Hannah Sherman reports: There are three different musicians experienced in bringing blues to the schools that are available when we are able to send people into the schools. During 2020 education was conducted through articles written for Blues News, the Blues Talks preceding the Virtual Jam and posted on the website, the monthly Blues Book Club, and collaboration with the Bosler Memorial Library and the Susquehanna Folk Music Society.

The BOD recognized Members-At-Large Dot Grubb, Greg Hogg, Sherman Smith, and Rosemary Witzel for their numerous contributions during 2020

**2. By-Laws Amendment.** The BSCP Board of Directors (BOD) presented a motion to the general membership for an amendment to the follow:

ARTICLE VI – TERMS

1. Terms for all elected officers and appointees shall be for one year. The term shall begin on January 1 following the election.
2. The officers may succeed themselves in office**, but may not serve more than four consecutive terms.**

Motion: The proposed By-Law Amendment is to delete

“**, but may not serve more than four consecutive terms.”**

Rationale: Eliminating term limits makes it possible for BSCP to keep elected officers who are willing to serve in positions in which they have demonstrated competence. Having no term limits for elected officers (President, Vice-President, and Secretary) and appointees will be consistent with the current no term-limits for the positions of the Treasurer and the four Members-at-Large.

The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Election of Officers.** The Treasurer, Gary “Rocky” Rothrock conducted the election. No nominations were made from the floor. Andy Kehe, Secretary, put forth the slate of officers. The following officers were unopposed and elected unanimously. President: Kathryn Gregoire, Vice-President: Mike Knott; and Secretary: Betty Heckert.

The minutes and a copy of the annual report can be found on our website under More – About BSCP. [www.bscpblues.com](http://www.bscpblues.com).