

# Wichita Blues Society's 16th Annual Blues Challenge

Winners will represent the Wichita Blues Society at The Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge in Memphis in January.

Bands and Solo/duos will compete at Loft 150, Sunday, August 14, 2016

Doors open at 1; competition starts at 2p.m.

Entry fee of \$25 bands and \$15 solo/duo (non-refundable) – At least one member of each band or solo/duo must be a WBS member prior to entering.

Please read pages 2-4 for Details and Rules

Deadline for entry: Postmarked no later than August 7, 2016.

The 2017 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Blues Challenge in Memphis Jan. 31 – Feb 4, 2017.

IBC is a four-day event that includes two days of quarter finals; one day of semi-finals and the finals at the Orpheum Theater on Saturday.

---

---

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM – PLEASE PRINT - Mail with entry fee AND stage plot to:  
16th Annual WBS Blues Challenge  
Wichita Blues Society  
P.O. Box 2303  
Wichita, KS 67201-2303

NAME OF BAND or SOLO/DUO \_\_\_\_\_

Individual names and instruments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

You will receive a confirmation email that we received your entry form. If you do not hear from us by August 10th, please contact us immediately – Don Bean 316-258-2789; Debbie Johnston 316-992-9535

## 16th Annual WBS Blues Challenge COMPETITION DETAILS AND RULES

Date: Sun. August 14, 2016; Doors open at 1p.m., competition starts at 2p.m.  
Place: Loft 150, 150 N. Mosley. Bands and solo/duos will compete on two different stages.

1. At least one member of the band or solo/duo must be a member of the Wichita Blues Society prior to entering.
2. Competition will be limited to 9 bands and 8 solo/duos. In the event there are less than 3 entrants in either category, we reserve the right to cancel the competition for that category.
3. The previous year's winner in both divisions cannot compete.
4. An individual cannot compete in the Band Division and the Solo/Duo Division.
5. Lots will be drawn in advance by the board of directors to determine the order of competition, and you will be notified via e-mail or phone prior to the challenge. All band members and solo/duos must be present a minimum of one hour in advance of your designated competition slot.
6. **Stage plot must be sent with the entry form.**
7. The WBS will provide drums and bass rig for the competition. Please bring any other equipment you need, including: snare, high hat, symbols, kick pedal, drum throne and drum sticks.
8. Each Act will have 20 minutes to perform (subject to change depending on how number of bands competing).
9. No extra time will be allowed due to equipment malfunctions.
10. One point will be deducted for every 10 seconds the act goes over the 20 minute limit.
11. Acts will be allowed 10 minutes to setup. One point is deducted from your score for each minute over. (This may be waived when band and solo/duo competition is held at the same time. **HOWEVER, THIS RULE APPLIES IN MEMPHIS.**)
12. A panel of judges will be scoring the competition. There should be no contact with the Judges by any individual or representative of an Act during the competition. The score for the Act will be the sum total of all judges scores.
13. Scoring Criteria - Bands should pick material carefully. At the IBC in Memphis, the judges are Blues professionals, and are likely to be unimpressed with song selections that are uninspired. (Call this--with all due respect to Sir Mack Rice and Wilson Pickett--the "no Mustang Sally rule.")

Each judge will rate each act independently based on:

- Blues Content - Everyone has his or her own interpretation of what is and is not Blues. Thus, any given three-judge panel may include members with varying opinions of Blues, covering the spectrum of Blues whenever possible, from the most traditional to soul/blues and rock/blues.
- Vocals - The acts vocal skills.
- Talent - The acts instrumental skills.
- Originality - Original work is encouraged. Cover tunes are allowed but playing the recorded rendition lick by lick is discouraged; will not be looked upon favorably by the judges; and will be reflected in scoring.
- Stage Presence – The IBC is no longer considered an "amateur" competition. Contestants are not simply playing music, but putting on a show. This category rates how "sellable" a band may be.

We strongly encourage you to visit <http://blues.org/international-blues-challenge/> for more

information.

14. The winning band is awarded \$1,000 and the solo/duo is awarded \$500 for travel expenses to IBC.

15. The winning band and solo/duo are required to perform in the WBS Fall Blues Crawl to be held September 25, 2016. (The band is paid \$250 and the solo/duo is paid \$100 by the venue not the WBS). The WBS will subsidize an additional \$150 to the band and \$50 to the solo/duo for this event

16. The winning band and solo/duo are required to perform in the 2017 WBS Blues Ball held in January prior to IBC. The Band will be paid \$500 and solo/duo will be paid \$100 per person for performing their 20 minute competition set at the Blues Ball. The Blues Ball is considered the “send off party” for the winners before they go to Memphis and this event is when you will receive your award money for travel expenses.

17. In addition, the winning band earns a spot at the Chautauqua Hills Blues Festival in Sedan, Kansas, in May 2017, paid by the CQ Festival.

18. Each solo act, duo and band member will receive one comp “ticket” for a guest to attend the Blues Ball and Fall Blues Crawl; guests’ names must be submitted to the WBS in advance of the both events. We ask that guests do not attend sound check as this is a hectic time and must gain access at the normal start time.

19. In the event the winning Band or Solo/Duo does not compete in Memphis after receiving travel monies at the Blues Ball, then all travel monies must be returned to the WBS upon request.

20. It is the intent of the WBS that the winning Band or Solo/Duo remains intact with no additions or subtractions to the original winning line-up through the entire schedule of playing the committed requirements listed above and the competition in Memphis. However, in the event where one or more members are prevented or unable to attend the competition in Memphis, the following will be given as an alternative to resolve the situation:

- a. The band must approach the WBS board of directors via phone call or email to either Debbie Johnston or Don Bean, immediately to request a line-up change and explain the reason(s) for such action.
- b. The board will then consider the request based upon the following:
  - 1) It is in accordance with Blues Foundation rules or by Blues Foundation permission
  - 2) No more than 50% of the group can be replaced
  - 3) No adding to the group, i.e. if four members won then only four are allowed to represent their respective Band or Solo/Duo.
  - 4) No subtracting, same as item 3)
  - 5) No changing or altering the structure of the original winning band; i.e., drums, bass and two guitars won, then that structure must remain; no other instrument change is allowed, i.e., a harmonica cannot replace a guitar (Intent is to maintain the original sound as judged in the competition.)
- c. All requests for a change must be made and approved 30 days in advance of the WBS Blues Ball scheduled for January
- d. No changes allowed after the Blues Ball in January.
- e. All decisions made by the WBS board are final.
- f. In all fairness to the Wichita Blues Society and other society's within our region, it is compulsory that the winner of the WBS Blues Challenge, whether it be a band or solo/duo, must withdraw their entry from any and all other Blues Challenges you may be entered in.

Questions: Contact Don Bean at [dbean1766@aol.com](mailto:dbean1766@aol.com) or 258-2789, or Debbie Johnston 992-9535 or at [djdebbyjohnston@gmail.com](mailto:djdebbyjohnston@gmail.com).