

Wichita Blues Society's 17th 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 13, 2017
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 to enter.

Please read pages 2-3 for Details and Rules

Deadline for entry: Postmarked no later than August 6, 2017.

The 34th annual International Blues Challenge, Memphis, TN., Jan. 16 - 20, 2018, is a four-day event that includes 2 days of quarter finals; 1 day of semi-finals and the finals at the Orpheum Theater on Saturday.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM – PLEASE PRINT

Detach & Mail with entry fee **AND** stage plot to:
17th Annual WBS Band Challenge

Wichita Blues Society

PO Box 2303

Wichita, KS 67201-2303

NAME OF BAND or SOLO/DUO _____

Individual names and instruments:

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____

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 3rd, please contact Don Bean 316-258-2789 immediately.

17th Annual WBS Blues Challenge

COMPETITION DETAILS AND RULES

Date: Sun. August 13, 2017; 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.
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, or combine entrants from both categories into one competition.
3. An individual cannot compete in the Band Division and the Solo/Duo Division, in addition, the previous year's winner in both divisions cannot compete.
4. Bands and solo/duos must live within a 250 mile radius of Wichita.
5. In all fairness to the Wichita Blues Society and other blues societies within our region, it is compulsory that the winner of the WBS Blues Challenge, whether it be a band or solo/duo, must withdrawal their entry from any and all other Blues Challenges they may be entered in.
6. 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 a week 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.
7. **Stage plot must be sent with the entry form.**
8. The WBS will provide drums and bass rig for the competition. Please bring all other equipment you may need, including: snare, high hat, symbols, kick pedal, drum throne and drum sticks.
9. Each Act will have 20 or 25 minutes to perform depending on the number of acts competing. 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 time 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.

Each judge will rate each act independently based on the below criteria, which is in scoring order and is the same as used at IBC:

- **Blues Content:** The sound and feel of the music should be true to any of blues sub-categories: traditional blues, country blues, soul blues, blues rock and/or contemporary blues. Judges will be listening for inspired and original song selections or new takes on blues standards. Creative reach is encouraged.
- **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.
Acts must indicate if their songs are their own original material (this can be done at the start of the set or before each song as appropriate) and/or identify the covers that they are playing and acknowledge the originator.
- **Vocals:** The act's vocal skills to include concepts of tone, musicality, meaning, and expression.
- **Instrumental Talent:** Ability level on all instruments featured within the act.

- **Stage Presence:** The ability to command the attention of the audience by the impressiveness of one's manner and appearance on stage. Judges will consider how an act connects with and engages the audience in the music. Proper use of microphones and amplification will be considered.

We strongly encourage you to visit <https://blues.org/international-blues-challenge/> for more detailed information and rules.

14. The winning band is awarded \$1,000 and the solo/duo is awarded \$500 for travel expenses to IBC. This will be paid one week before IBC starts.
15. The winning band and solo/duo are required to perform at the WBS Fall Blues Crawl to be held on the last Sunday of September 2017. (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 in November. The Band will be paid \$500 and solo/duo will be paid \$100 per band member for performing their 20-25-minute competition set at the Blues Ball.
17. 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 both events. We ask that guests not attend sound check as this is a hectic time and must arrive when the doors open for the public.
18. In addition, the winning band earns a spot at the Chautauqua Hills Blues Festival in Sedan, Kan., in May 2018, paid by the CQ Festival.
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 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 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. The 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 IBC.

D. All decisions made by the WBS board are final.

Questions: Contact Don Bean at dbean1766@aol.com or 316-258-2789, or Patti Parker at 316-305-7495.