

Get to Know the MBOTMA Board

Secretary: George Rothenberger

How long have you been on the Board and what Board or committee position(s) have you held?

I am new to the Board for the two-year term starting January 2023. I was on the board of MBOTMA in 1992. I filled Kate MacKenzie's term at that time, and then was a full member the next year, going through the ranks from Treasurer, Vice President, to President. I skipped being Secretary. Now I am the Secretary, rounding out the infield positions. I was on the Strategic Planning Committee in 1997-98 with Ben Manning and Liz Ferron when we formulated the need for an Executive Director. For many years after my stint as President, I was chair, or served on, the Audit Committee. In answering your question here, I was amazed at the longevity of folks who just keep serving MBOTMA. Marianne Kovatch was VP when I was President, Marianne got out of being President the following term by moving out of state. But I couldn't escape. Laura Cooper was on the Board in 1992, she couldn't escape either; she later became President. So look at the longevity. We must love MBOTMA - or Bluegrass And Old-Time Music - or something. We are all still engaged. I found a MBOTMA magazine from November 1985. With our logo, of course. I have been a member since about 1985! The magazine wasn't even called 'Inside Bluegrass' yet.

What MBOTMA volunteer role(s) have you held in the past?

Beyond the above, I have handled the Holiday Party, Membership, and of course volunteered at the festivals. I ran an Open Stage that was part of MBOTMA, at Dulono's, for many years. I ran sound for some MBOTMA benefits.

How long have you been part of MBOTMA and what brought you into the organization?

Since 1985. I went to Taylor's Falls. I think the Osborne Brothers played that year, or the Bluegrass Cardinals. I know when it started. I hung out at Cowboy's Tap and Deli on 38th and Chicago and the folks there were into bluegrass and told me about the organization and the Taylor's Falls Festival. That is 38 years of involvement in MBOTMA! And folks such as the Cowboy crowd have me beat!

How has being a Board member impacted you?

My best friends in the world, the best man at my wedding, the people I have known in Minnesota the longest, are from those early days in MBOTMA.

What occupation did you have or do you have now?

I am moonlighting as a Mechanical Engineer. I retired but I still get roped into a project or two.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

Well, music of course. I have been slowly working on the lap/console steel guitar. My band doesn't play that electric country stuff, so I am a closet musician on that. I love old cars. I fish. I have seven



outboard motors and am waiting for a new one to come in. If anyone wants two antique 2 HP Johnsons let me know.

Do you have a favorite festival or activity at a festival?

The WBW and the August Festival.

What's a fun fact about you?

My friends and I got kicked out of Bean Blossom for not buying tickets in about 1972 or 1973. The police escorted us out. (Sorry, Bill).

What excites you about MBOTMA right now?

Everything.

What would you tell a new MBOTMA member/volunteer?

Dig it, man. Do anything. Be a part of a great organization. The rewards are life-long.

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Milaca, MN
Strummin' on the Rum

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THRU JULY 30TH**

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ROE FAMILY SINGERS * BARBWIRE * PALE ALES *