



Dorothy Hill

UP ON THE BLUES

The Blues Foundation just announced the results of the 2009 election of its Board of Directors and officers. The board consists of new members who represent expertise in finance, marketing and consulting who are also blues enthusiasts. The best news is that the new Board selected the first female President of the organization! Pat Morgan is the artist manager for Pinetop Perkins and Willie "Big Eyes" Smith and will now be adding some blues womanpower to the Presidency of the most prestigious organization promoting and preserving the blues.

There is great news on the blues society front in the San Francisco Bay Area with the announcement of the formation of The Golden Gate Blues Society, or TGGBS, a non-profit society affiliated with The Blues Foundation. President Vince Caminiti announced that the society will encourage participative membership through regular society meetings, member forums, and a newsletter. A key element of their efforts will be sponsorship and promotion of blues performances along with a Blues in the Schools program. The very popular Wednesday evening jams will continue at the Little Fox in Redwood City, CA. under the auspices of TGGBS. This event draws an amazing crowd every week and just goes to prove that the blues ain't dead with the right combination of exciting host performances and talented jammers. Vocalist E. C. Scott and her band Smoke recently hosted the jam with an electrifying show.

Blues Revue Magazine is conducting a poll of blues journalists for their ten choices of the Best of the Last Decade CDs (new releases between 2000 and 2009). Believe me, when you start thinking about it, there has been a proliferation of great stuff. I came up with at least three times that amount and had a hard time whittling it down. For fun, try it and see what you come up with!

The 24th Arkansas Blues & Heritage Festival (aka King Biscuit) is scheduled for October 8, 9 and 10, 2009 in Helena, Arkansas. With dwindling corporate sponsorship, festivals are experiencing financial hardships and the festival has been forced to charge admission for the first time--\$5 per day or \$10 for the three days. Several benefits have been held to raise funds, one sponsored by TGGBS in Redwood City which featured Kenny Neal, Jackie Payne and Steve Edmonson and Pat Wilder. I will be there on the front lines bringing the Jook Joint all the news of the festival and other events in the area including the Pinetop Perkins Homecoming show at Hopson's Plantation in Clarksdale, Mississippi on the Sunday after the festival.

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