



Washington Blues Society Sets Local Competitions for 2017 International Blues Challenge

Washington Blues Society Contacts:

Tony Frederickson, President
Rick Bowen, Vice President

(206) 612-6055
(425) 422-5062

president@wablues.org
vicepres@wablues.org

The Washington Blues Society's local competitions for the 2014 International Blues Challenge in Memphis have been set! It's time for bands and solo/duo acts to make their plans to compete. One band and one solo/duo act will represent the Washington Blues Society (WBS) in Memphis at the world's largest gathering of blues musicians on February 1-4, 2017 on Memphis' fabled Beale Street.

We are working with the Walla Walla Blues Society (WWBS) and the Inland Empire Blues Society (IEBS) to hold semi-finals across the state to make it easier for blues acts to participate. This form is required to participate in the following local competitions (each held on a Sunday): May 29th at the Sound Check Bar & Grill in Lynnwood, June 5th at H2O in Anacortes, June 12th at the Sports Center in Yakima, on the 19th at the Roadhouse in Spokane, and on June 26th, TBA (Stevenson, WA or Portland, OR). The finals will be held at the Taste of Music in Snohomish on Sunday, August 21st. If we receive 10+ applicants for any event, the Board may select applicants via lottery at the May 2016 Board meeting. This form is an initial statement of interest, and not binding. Judges will evaluate acts using the Blues Foundation official rules: <http://www.blues.org/international-blues-challenge/official-rules/>

Each competition will follow the rules of the Blues Foundation. Each set will be limited to 25 minutes, and each competitor will be allowed one 15-minute set change. Any blues act that resides in WA, OR, ID, MT, BC or ALB, may enter, and the act must include at least one who is a member of the WBS. Membership can be established at IBC entry, using the membership form in the WBS Bluesletter or online at www.wablues.org. Please note: membership in WWBS for acts competing in Kennewick or membership in IEBS for acts competing in Spokane is required in place of the WBS membership requirement. The contest entry application may be downloaded from www.wablues.org, in the March or April edition of the WBS Bluesletter, or the Inland Empire's Blues Notes, and must include the non-refundable entry fee, which pays for the backline and a PA system. Each winner will be required to perform at a minimum of two fundraisers in 2016 and one fundraiser in 2017 at no charge. Proceeds from these events and fees, will be deposited into a WBS fund to help defray expenses to get each winning act to and from Memphis, but we cannot guarantee an "all expense-paid" trip. Band entry fee is \$30; solo duo entry fee is \$15.

All proceeds will help with expenses for Memphis. The WBS will help winners in fundraising, but cannot guarantee that all expenses for Memphis will be covered. Judges will evaluate each act using the Blues Foundation scoring criteria and rules at <http://www.blues.org/international-blues-challenge/official-rules/>

Acts may not be affiliated the WBS Board or act upon application. IBC rules also prohibit any act from competing three consecutive years at the IBC. Application is an initial statement of interest and not a binding agreement between the applicant and the WBS. Make your plans to enter now! Applications and entry fees must be received no later than Saturday, April 30, 2016.