

Thanks for 24 years of support!

This year's event is presented by the Great Northern Blues Society, a group of music lovers who put on this terrific show each year. With funds raised by this event, the GNBS has so far granted more than \$22,000 worth of scholarships to qualified area students at Wausau East, Wausau West, D.C. Everest, and Wausau Newman High Schools. We also support the Memphis, TN based Blues Foundation, which sponsors many organizations that help the Blues Music Community.

This event has been planned and executed by a small group of people that make up the current active membership of the GNBS. Bottom line is that we are all getting one year older each year, and it has come time for some new blood to get involved in managing and running the GNBS. If you have a love for this music, and do not want to see this show fade off into the sunset, we need you to step up and get involved. Visit our website or email us if you're interested.

We are eager to have some new people put their own personal stamp on the future of the GNBS. Our meetings are held at Loppnow's Bar, in the back room, every second Tuesday of the month at 6:15 PM.

How membership dues are used...

Your membership is important for us to continue with the programs below.
Single memberships are \$20.

Scholarships to area students : This year we will award five \$500 scholarships to musically inclined students in our area.

Blues in the Schools events :

Yearly events to expose blues artists to students within the region.

Blues Foundation donations : Donated \$1000 to help with construction of the Blues Hall of Fame in Memphis.

WXPR's Friday Night Blues : Commercial-free blues in the northwoods.

The Blues Café : Our annual fundraiser providing unbelievable talent at a beautiful venue, for a great price.



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Welcome to the Great Northern Blues Society's 24th Annual Blues Café

March 8-9, 2024 • Rothschild Pavilion

- FRIDAY NIGHT -

6:30 PM

Kyle Renfro

If you enjoy Stevie Ray Vaughan, Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, etc. — you'll want to see this young guitar player! Up-and-coming blues artist Kyle Renfro brings a high energy blues rock guitar show. His setlist is a mix of high-energy originals, and classic blues rock covers. Based in LaCrosse, WI, Kyle is expanding out as far as he can reach with his newly revamped trio.



8:30 PM

Big Mouth and the Power Tool Horns

Big Mouth features a premier horn section that swings with all of your favorites. Whether you're looking for a perfect rendition of James Brown, a swinging rendition of Glenn Miller big band standards, or the soulful vocals of Van Morrison, Big Mouth has you covered.



- SATURDAY -

1:00 PM

Stefan Geisinger Band

After hearing B.B. King live at the Regal, a then-17 year old Geisinger picked up a guitar and dug deep into the roots of Blues music. *Something touched me. King's impassioned voice and guitar playing made me tear up. I still get the same feeling when listening to – or performing – Blues Today.*



Geisinger, a native of Rice Lake, WI, honed his guitar skills for eight years; at age 23, ready to bring his distinctive style to live audiences, he formed The Stefan Geisinger Band with Buck Barrickman (The Pumps, *Cover to Cover*) and Travis Nocolai (Big Back Yard; Greg Gilbertson, *Surviving the Echoes*).

3:00 PM

The Chris O'Leary Band

The GNBS was very fortunate to have an opportunity to sign the Chris O'Leary Band for our 24th Annual Blues Café. It so happens that Chris's Band has a new CD that will be released in January of 2024, and you will be able to hear these new songs up close at our show.



Chris, aside from being an outstanding harp player, is also a gifted singer with an extremely tight band behind him. Chris's musical background includes duties as lead singer and front man for

rock and roll hall of famer and Grammy award winner Levon Helm's band, The Barnburners. During the six years that Chris and Levon played together they toured across the US and Canada lighting up stages everywhere they went. Chris has appeared on stage with: Legendary Rolling Stones sideman Bobby Keys, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Jimmy Vivino, Jeff Healy, Dan Akroyd, Albert Lee, Dave Edmunds, Dave Maxwell and the great James Cotton to name just a few. Chris has also recorded with Bill Perry and Hubert Sumlin, among others.

5:00 PM

The Joyann Parker Band

Joyann Parker played for the Blues Café audience in 2019, and as an 'opening act' she received a standing ovation from the entire crowd when she was done! We are delighted to have her, and her band, back for our show in 2024.



She is an electrifying and versatile musician whose soulful voice, captivating performances, and impeccable songwriting have taken the music scene by storm. Born and raised in a small town, Joyann's deep-rooted passion for music began at a young age, drawing inspiration from the blues, gospel, jazz, and rock genres.

7:00 PM

The Cash Box Kings

The Cash Box Kings, according to Living Blues magazine, "are one of the best blues bands in the land." The group, co-led by real-deal Chicago blues vocalist and songwriter Oscar "Mr. 43rd Street" Wilson, and Madison, Wisconsin-based songwriter, harmonica giant and singer Joe Nosek, plays masterfully raw, unvarnished, old-school ensemble blues. Wilson's huge, emotive vocals and Nosek's blistering harmonica fuel their razor-sharp original songs and always incisive reinvention of obscure blues classics.



9:00 PM

The Dylan Salfer Band

Dylan Salfer is a musician based out of Minneapolis Minnesota. Blues, funk, R&B, folk, as long as it's got soul it's in there!

Dylan started playing guitar at nine years old and by age 13 he was playing professionally. Giggling lots locally in the twin cities, as well as traveling all over the United States playing festivals. In his early/late teens he was noticed and brought under the wing of many of the last living legends in blues music. At age 14 he was playing with Legendary Chicago blues man James Cotton. Dylan has also played with Buddy Guy on several occasions, shared stages and bills with Mavis Staples, Kingfish Ingram, Marcus King, The Spin Doctors, and many more.



ACOUSTIC ARTIST BETWEEN MAIN-STAGE ACTS

Reverend Meantooth (Tom Jordan)

20 Watt Tombstone frontman Tom Jordan's solo project: Reverend Meantooth draws inspiration from early blues, gospel, and folk music to create his own electrifying sound. With gritty vocals and raw guitar licks reminiscent of Robert Johnson, Bukka White, and John Lee Hooker, Meantooth channels the blues masters of the past while adding his own fiery flair.



Thank you for supporting the Kronenwetter Lions!

FRIDAY

Sloppy Joe • Kielbasa • Cheese Curds

SATURDAY

Hamburger • Cheeseburger • Hot Turkey Brat

Serving in the Main Kitchen from 5:00 until 9:30 pm Friday, Saturday noon to 9:30 pm.

GIFTED HANDS KITCHEN

Food stand selling hot, southern soul food.

Table by the front entry.

- Saturday Only -