

October 2025 Newsletter

Presidents Message And Other News



It can't be fall already! Yep, the colors are here and the rakes are out. For MVBGA that means it's time for our annual meeting and election of officers and directors.

After three years, I've decided to step back a bit and let the next generation take the helm. It's been a fun and rewarding ride and I'm proud of what our group has accomplished. We have almost tripled the membership, eliminated renewal dues for members by focusing on fundraising to build our treasury (which has surpassed \$13,000 year to date), added the Wernick Method sessions to help folks newer to Bluegrass learn how to play and jam, hosted our first songwriting workshop, established a partnership with the Rome Art and Community Center to give us a great central location for our events, held over 3 dozen jams and concerts with our local member bands, became a co-host for Steubenstock (another great fundraising event), held 4 concerts with National Bluegrass Acts, formed our Community Band (Mohawk Valley Bluegrass) to promote Bluegrass in the area, and had a lot of fun and fellowship along the way. There's more but it's been a great ride. And I truly believe that with our members and officers and directors the best is yet to come.



Bill Fahy, President

Our October Concert and Jam with the Band Session will be held on Monday **October 13th** at 6:30 at the State Bridge Collective – it might be the last event there as Liz and Jeff say farewell to one of our favorite spots to make music! Our Community Band will be performing a set, followed by a jam session. Come on out and enjoy the show and join the jam – listeners welcome too!

Our Monthly Saturday Jam's will continue **October 18th** at the Steuben Town Hall from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. We continue to look for a new location. Why? For the last year or so our Saturday sessions have not been very well attended, and the Rome Art Center is not always available to us. We are looking to find a location more central to our area. Our plan is to continue to be hold the sessions on the third Saturday of the month. Stay tuned!!



ANNUAL MEETING OCT. 18TH

We hold our annual meeting during our regular jam session on October 18th— hope you can attend. We will be at the Steuben Town Hall located at 9548 Soule Road in Remsen. The fun starts at 11:00AM and goes till 2:00. The agenda will include election of officers and director, a report to the membership, and a proposal to appoint Dick Satterly as Director Emeritus in recognition for his many years of service as President of MVBGA, and as a long-time officer and director. We value the knowledge and wisdom Dick brings and will be happy to have him continue as a valued advisor to our board of Directors in years to come.

The board of Directors is proposing the following slate of Officers for the 2025-26 term.

Dave Shannon, President
Bill Fahy, Vice President
Mark Williams – Treasurer

There is one open board position – Secretary. Donna Mucks has done a great job the past three years and is stepping down. We thank her for her service and volunteer activities. She continues to volunteer her musical talents for our Community Band, and has helped us partner with the KEYS program. If anyone is interested in the position or wants more information please let us know by responding via email – mvbga2002@gmail.com

Long time director Pat Pepe is retiring and the board has nominated Liz Ingersoll to fill the seat, which is up for election. Pat has been a volunteer and avid supporter of MVBGA since day 1, and we appreciate and thank her for all she has done for our group. If you see her around please extend thanks. The board will be appointing Jeff Ingersoll to fill the remainder of Dave Shannons term as he steps into the Presidents job.



PROJECT FIBONACCI

What a week for the MVBGA! We were well represented at the [Project Fibonacci](#) kickoff event on September 15th at the Copper City Brewery in Rome – thanks Dave Shannon and Amy Boulrice for setting up our table. That event raised over \$1,200 for the MVBGA!

The Community Band played at the main event Friday Sept 19th at the [Saranac Brewery](#) – what a great time! It was attended by over 600 people from over 200 local charities. Not only did we raise \$500 for MVBGA, we raised our profile in the community, and several of the attendees will be booking our group in 2026

THANK YOU!!! To all our members who stepped up with donations. It was our best year yet, and we raised a total of \$4,613 for the MVBGA. Looks like there will be a lot of good music coming your way in 2026





MOHAWK
VALLEY
GIVING DAYS



For the rest of 2025 we have two shows scheduled –

Monday October 13th at the State Bridge Collective at 6:30 PM for our regular Jam with the Band Concert and Jam session.

Monday December 8th at 6:30 PM at the Rome Art and Community Center for a Bluegrass Christmas Concert.

Come on out and support your fellow MVBGA musicians who are sharing Bluegrass Music throughout our Community.

Our Community Band had a busy summer bringing Bluegrass to local non-profits, villages, museums – and other groups looking to bring music to their venue. We perform for free but do accept donations for the MVBGA when we perform. Year to date we have raised over \$1,800 for the MVBGA – which goes a long way to bring more music to our members and opportunities for our member bands. All the performers donate their time and musical talents.



Our community band played at the [KEYS](#) lawn Concert in Sherrill this past Monday for [KEYS](#) kids Lexi and Laney. Check out the smiles!



HELP Wanted – MVBGA NEEDS YOU

Our website has been dormant for a few months and though I can keep it limping along we are looking for support from a member to take on the role of webmaster. If you are familiar with WIX or website management in general, we sure could use your expertise. Contact us at mvbga2002@gmail.com

New MVBGA Merch has arrived!!!

Our merchandise website is now open and you can order direct at

MVBGA MERCH

We have shirts, vests, hats, hoodies and more! And you can customize from many different options for colors. Free pickup at Max's Print shop on River Road in Marcy, and free shipping on orders over \$50.

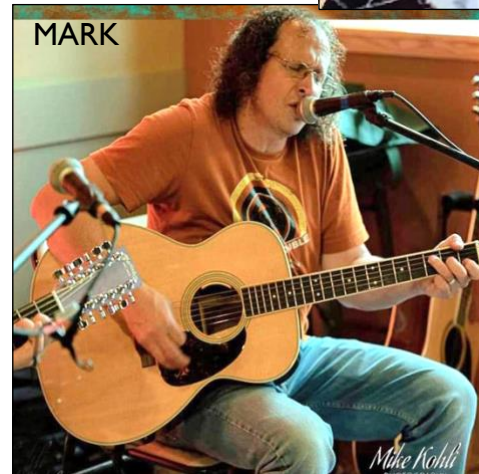
Welcome to our New Members

We are pleased to welcome John Yaworski from Penfield and Laura Maynard from Remsen!

THANK YOU Volunteers

There are a couple of folks who do a lot of work behind the scenes to keep MVBGA moving forward – Peggy Spencer-Behrendt has donated her talents in preparing and distributing the newsletter to our members and has really upgraded the format and delivery – Thanks from all of us!!

Mark Zappavignia is not only a talented musician and plays in our community band but is a first class sound engineer and sets up the sound for many of our concerts and the community band – boy do we appreciate it Mark – Thanks from all!



Rhonda Vincent Coming to Hamilton College

The reigning Queen of Bluegrass is coming to town, and it's sure to be a sellout. Our friends at Hamilton College wanted to give us a little advance notice. We are pleased to announce that on Friday April 10th she will be playing at Wellin Hall on the campus of Hamilton College. You don't want to miss this one – [HERE](#) is a link for tickets and more info.



Fall 2025 Park Coffeehouse

Our good friends in who keep live folk and traditional music going up in Holland Patent have announced a great lineup of concerts featuring several of our members – Liz and Jeff Ingersoll and Joe Davoli – get out and support this wonderful listening room and help keep the music playing!!

Click [HERE](#) for more info.

October 4 – Liz and Jeff Ingersoll

November 8 – Joe Davoli with Loren and LJ Barrigar

November 22 – Split Bill: Alexis Loomis & Red Bandana

December 6 – Local Favorites

FROM OUR FRIENDS

ST LAWRENCE BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

FIRST MONDAY EACH MONTH, ALEX BAY, MACHERRY LIBRARY, 2PM – 4PM

SECOND TUESDAY, ALEX BAY, REFORM CHURCH, 2 – 4 PM

3RD MONDAY, BLUEGRASS JAM, 4TH TUESDAY FOLK JAM 7 PM PICKENS
HALL, HEULEVETON

CENTRAL CHAPTER OF THE NYS OLD TIME FIDDLERS.

OLD TIME JAM SESSION 3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH 7:00PM
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
98 MAIN ST, CAMDEN, NY 13316



Sundays are time to tune in to **Bill Knowlton's Bluegrass Ramble** show on **WCNY** –Bill Knowlton's Bluegrass Ramble airs every Sundays from 9 p.m. to midnight **WCNY-FM 91.3** Syracuse, **WUNY-FM 89.5** Utica, and **WJNY-FM 90.9** Watertown. Bill has been a big supporter of **MVBGA** over our 23 years – and he'll keep you up to date with all Bluegrass events going on in our area. For more info - <https://www.wcny.org/radio/shows/ramble/>