

We invite students from all five of the classic bluegrass ensemble instruments: banjo, guitar, mandolin, fiddle and bass. At this time we must limit the instruments to these listed as the instructors are chosen for their expertise on each of these five. Additionally, students are expecting the classic "bluegrass band experience" and may not be familiar with non-traditional bluegrass instruments. We have found this formula never fails!

We expect this camp to fill this year, so if you are interested in a spot, please don't delay registering on the MBOTMA

website. Just go on and click the link for Instructional Camp and follow the easy registration. Yes, the cost increases after July 1, so another reason not to wait too long. If you are interested in the bass classes, inquire about our registration option for "shared space for bass" if you bring a friend to register for bass as well. Send an email to: galep@wwt.net and I'll fill you in on how this works. We want bass players!

This program is one of the finest offerings MBOTMA continues to provide to its members and friends at a cost

so reasonable it defies modern life. Ask anyone at IBMA, SPBGMA, MBOTMA or jam sessions throughout the universe. Students have returned to attend additional years saying, "I learned so much I just couldn't not come back!" Old friends who met "just last year" pick up (pun intended) where they left off. Parents say, "Why didn't we enroll Julie sooner?" and the entire bluegrass community benefits from another year of Camp graduates turned loose on El Rancho campgrounds on Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. Please join us!

Get to Know the MBOTMA Board

Board Member at Large: Rusty Lane

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

I joined the board January 2023. I currently serve on the Outreach, Finance and Staffing committees.

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

I love being at the table for tickets, whether to purchase or will call. It is a great way to meet new people and see folks you know. I also have helped out at the store.

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

I first got involved with MBOTMA around 2006, then life and career took off in 2010 and I drifted away from music and the organization. I re-engaged with playing music during the pandemic and got involved volunteering last year. The people, music and community brought me to MBOTMA, then and now, some of the best folks on the planet.

How has being a board member impacted you?

Thinking about the future and working towards growing the organization with my fellow board members. This has inspired me and given me hope that this music we love is the universal language that brings us together no matter what our differences are politically, by faith or

social status. If more people played music together versus seeing differences, we would have world peace.

What occupation did you have or do you have now?

My day job is mergers and acquisitions at Post Consumer Brands in Lakeville. My side gig is running a small non-profit yoga studio, sharing the ancient Vedic wisdom from the Far East for underserved communities.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

My main hobbies are yoga, amateur radio (Ham Radio), and playing music (Highland Bagpipes, banjo, guitar), and Freemasonry.

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

I love the Winter Weekend, but I also like the August festival, camping, getting away from it all to listen to great music and play a little; I am a bit shy when it comes to jamming, but I am working on that...

What's a fun fact about you?

I was a full-time rock and mountain climbing guide in the late 90s for three years, and I taught ballroom dancing in college. I still love to dance and climb.

What excites you about MBOTMA right now?

The opportunity to get more folks involved with making music and engaging



younger musicians with our organization. We live in a metropolitan area with over three million residents. Many play instruments and love bluegrass, old time and folk music. Yet we only have around 800-1000 members on average. Somehow we need to reach more people. These folks are the future of our organization and our music. This gets me jazzed!

What would you tell a new MBOTMA member/volunteer?

Jump in with both feet, do not over commit when you first start out, as my grandma always told us on the farm; "Many hands make light work". We need more hands, so no one gets burned out or discouraged. Sign up today. It is a ball, and you meet lots of awesome people!