

Volunteer Spotlight: Vicki Andersen

What current volunteer role(s) do you have with MBOTMA?

I'm on the Fall Jam Committee, helping Mary McSorley with volunteer organization.

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

I've managed the Harvest Jam Band contest, sold raffle tickets, helped at ticket table, wrist band check, tear down/pack up.

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

Guessing in 1999. I saw Monroe Crossing at the State Fair. Loved their music and found out where I could hear more (MBOTMA) and started going to festivals - never stopped.

Why are you a MBOTMA volunteer?

It takes a village - I fully believe that. This is a great organization. We all need to help however we can. I'm very willing to help, to keep this organization going!

How has being a volunteer impacted you?

I love being part of this organization and keeping old-time & bluegrass music going in MN.

I have loved getting to know people in the organization. All have been so nice to work with.

Do you have a fun story about being a volunteer?

My first or second year of doing the band contest (at Fall Jam) I was running around finding the next band... walked into the auditorium and found Brian Wicklund (he was Mc'ing) and his 3-4 piece band in the middle of the room playing, instead of on the stage. I thought it was wonderful, and sat down to listen with others. I stupidly did not realize the sound system had gone down and some

(Doug) were working frantically to get it up and running. I had no idea what was going on!



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

Listening to the bands. Especially the headliners.

What occupation did you have or do you have now?

Administrative Assistant at General Mills for 26 years. Now I'm mostly retired. I do work part time at MN Landscape Arboretum.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

Main hobby: Music! I sing with Gloryland Gospel Band, Prairie Wind and Ricky B Band. We're on break for pandemic but hope to pick up where we left off.

I'm learning to play the ukulele. I previously took lessons (Homestead PP) on the mandolin. Did not keep it up. I did a Monroe Crossing band camp, with my mandolin, in Bemidji many years ago.

I also love gardening and being with family.

What's a fun fact about you?

I have two daughters and seven grandchildren.

I played softball in a women's league for 30 years, in Eden Prairie (Chanhassen & Chaska). Retired now. I've been friends with most of the gals on the team for that long. We have that great girlfriend bond - been through marriages, births, deaths, divorces - great supportive friends. Although not many of them join me with my love of bluegrass. Haha. They DID throw me a great surprise 60th birthday party. We drove to St Peter to hear Pert Near Sandstone. They chose the best surprise ever!

What would you tell a new MBOTMA member/volunteer?

It's fun to volunteer and to meet like-minded people and talk music all day.

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