

Volunteer Spotlight: Rina Rossi

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

Old-Time Dance Hall Coordinator for August Festival and Winter Weekend.

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

Over the years I've coordinated bluegrass, old-time, and related workshops at Winter Weekend, helped with promotion, facilitated discussions/planning activities for board retreats, called square dances, served on the Venues committee for August festival...it's been a variety of things depending on what was needed at the time

What occupation did you have or do you have now?

I work as a grants program administrator and do some music on the side.

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

I attended my first MBOTMA event in 2003 while I was still in college, and I attended some more events a few years after that when I joined the Wild Goose Chase Cloggers, who often performed at Winter Weekend.

But what brought me into the organization, or what made me a part of MBOTMA, was when another volunteer walked up and directly asked me to join a committee. As a newer participant, I don't think I would have known how to join a committee otherwise. I don't think I would have even known that there WAS a committee to join. At least for me, the amount of volunteer time and energy that goes into putting on MBOTMA events

was not always immediately visible, especially as a newer participant. Until I joined a committee, I don't think I had any idea how large of a volunteer effort

in my life. Sometimes contributing skills/time without compensation isn't really possible, which I think is important to recognize.

Do you have a fun story about being a volunteer?

What could be more fun than getting together with a group of friends to pack up the dance floor on Sunday morning of the August festival after three hours of sleep? Want to experience this fun for yourself? Come join me August 8th at the Dance Tent. For bonus fun - bring your leaf blower and battery powered drill with a Star Bit :)

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

Some of the biggest, rowdiest midwest square dances I've attended have been at the MBOTMA August festival. The Cajun and country dances the last few August festivals have been bumping too.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

It's probably safe to say most of my non-work time is spent playing old-time/bluegrass/country music, helping coordinate music or dance related events/gatherings, and doing other music related things. I also usually plant a big vegetable garden every year.

What's a fun fact about you?

Hmmmm...I can't really think of anything to say. I did call a square dance while playing guitar one time. So I guess that means I can call and play at the same time?

What would you tell a new MBOTMA member/volunteer?

Thank you for contributing a portion of your time and skills to the organization and community.



was happening behind the scenes!

How has being a volunteer impacted you?

While it can be demanding, volunteering has overall been extremely rewarding. I've gotten to know LOTS of great people by volunteering for MBOTMA and I've had the chance to develop organizational skills and try out new ideas. I acknowledge that I've been able to volunteer because I had the time and resources available to do so at this point