

FROZEN FINGERS MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF MINOT

May 2022 Newsletter

<http://www.frozenfingers.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Frozen-Fingers-Music-Association-of-Minot-102282008932101>

Lois Zahn, President, Phone: (701) 852-2051, Email: lois.zahn@trinityhealth.org
Larry Nelson, Vice President, Phone: (701) 839-6920, Email: l.nelson38@yahoo.com
Shell Kannianen, Treasurer, Phone: (701) 793-6620, Email: shellk13@hotmail.com
Brenda Johnson, Secretary, Phone: (701) 228-4661, Email: brejohn66@gmail.com

Board: Carl Kannianen, 629-2088; Dave Mettler, 263-7749; Karen Rath 240-1581; Derald Schlecht 833-1112

President's Notes:



We feel our festival was a great success. Two fun packed days filled with folks anxious to get out and dance up a storm. It was a weekend of great food and

great entertainment. We had nothing but good comments on our festival. Thanks to all the volunteers and the hard work. Without our great members this would not be possible.

I wanted to specially thank each of the members face to face, but our April meeting was canceled due to bad weather. Sadly, our second jubilee performance scheduled for April 30 at the Mandan Eagles was also canceled. However, we do have an event coming up on Saturday, June 25 where we will be performing at the Pioneer Village Museum in Burlington. They would like some music at the church from 1 to 3:30 pm to celebrate their Grand Opening.

We would like to provide some music for the Surrey Center this summer. If you're interested please contact me. There are also several assisted living facilities that have requested music as well.



Treasurer's Report

April 22, 2022

Expenses

Brenda Johnson-Printing/pic/spray	\$79.78
IMC Scholarships (16).....	\$3,150.00
Kenmare News - Ad.....	\$117.00
6 Festival Bands.....	\$2,400.00
Larry Nelson-Dance.....	\$400.00
Brenda Johnson-Newsletter-Pictures .	\$142.00
Lois Zahn	\$300.00
Bruce Whittemore-Sound	\$1,600.00
Marlene Grabow-Soup.....	\$49.32
Carl Kannianen-Festival Cash	\$2,000.00
Total Expenses	\$10,238.10

Income

Sponsorships	\$1,500.00
Memberships.....	\$150.00
Carl Kannianen	\$2,000.00
Silent Auction	\$909.00
Jubilee	\$2,960.00
Admissions-Saturday	\$1,950.00
Total Income	\$9,469.00

Checking Account.....	\$10,062.90
Savings Account	\$8,564.32

Total Assets 3/25/22..... \$18,627.22

Please mail your membership dues to Treasurer Shell Kannianen
address:
8288 48th Street NW
Stanley, ND 58784

Board Minutes 4/23/2022 (Zoom)

Board Members Present: Brenda Johnson, Carl Kannianen, Shell Kannianen, Karen Martin, Dave Mettler, Larry Nelson, Derald Schlecht and Lois Zahn.

President Lois Zahn called the meeting to order.

Secretary Report

Shell motioned to approve the secretary's report as listed in the newsletter. Larry Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Shell emailed board members a financial report as of April 22, 2022. Expenses for April totaled \$10,238.10 and income totaled \$9,469.00. Checking account balance is \$10,062.90 and savings account is \$8,564.32. Total assets are \$18,627.22. Larry made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Brenda seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sponsorships were discussed.

Shell request approval of the following expenditures. IMC \$100; State Farm \$350; Salute to Seniors \$100; and American Legion \$250. Dave made a motion to approve expenditures and Brenda seconded the motion. Motion carried.

We will discuss the number of scholarships to sponsor in 2023 at a later date.

Board members felt it was not necessary to apply for a Council of the Arts grant at this time.

Old Business

Discussed festival issues and solutions. Shell will check with the Sleep Inn for the room rent. This should be the same as last year \$800. Shell will send a "thank you" also to Jenny for her decorating and assistance. A gratuity of \$100 will also be included.

Lois and Karen will meet with the Sleep Inn to discuss our concerns. They will make a list

and the board will review the list before discussing with the Sleep Inn.

Karen noted the grocery bill was \$714.96.

Advertising was discussed.

Bruce liked the festival but isn't able to commit for 2023 yet.

Shell and Derald have a couple of revisions for the donation form next time it is printed.

Jubilee performance scheduled for Saturday, April 30 at the Mandan Eagles was discussed. We will meet for a sound check at noon and dinner is at 5 pm. The performance will start at 7 pm.

New Business

Lois provided an overview of the festival comments. Lots of positive comments. Our scholarship program is a definite plus.

We will need a poster to include at the Salute to Seniors for our festival on April 14 and 15 in 2023. The poster can also include our upcoming performance in June at the Ward County Museum and membership information. We need to note that our meetings will start up on October 22.

Dave made a motion not to hold a meeting in May. Shell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at the Surrey Senior Center at noon followed by a jam at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Brenda Johnson, Secretary



COUNTRY MEMORIES



Kitty Wells
1919-2012

Kitty Wells was born Ellen Muriel Deason on August 30, 1919, one of six siblings, to Charles Cary Deason and his wife, Myrtle, in Nashville, Tennessee. Kitty is one of the few well known country performers to have been born in Nashville. Wells began singing as a child, learning guitar from her father, who was a brakeman on the Tennessee Central Railroad. Her father, Charles, and his brother were musicians, and her mother, Myrtle, was a gospel singer. As a teenager, Wells sang with her sisters, who performed under the name the Deason Sisters, on a local radio station beginning in 1936.

At the age of 18 Wells married Johnnie Wright, a cabinetmaker who aspired to country music stardom (which he would eventually achieve as half of the duo Johnnie & Jack).

Wells sang with Wright and his sister Louise Wright; the three toured as Johnnie Right and the Harmony Girls. Soon, Wright met Jack Anglin (who married Johnnie's sister Louise), and they became the duo Johnnie & Jack. Their band became known first as the

Tennessee Hillbillies and then the Tennessee Mountain Boys. At this time, Wells adopted "Kitty Wells" as her stage name. Johnnie Wright chose the name from a folk song called "Sweet Kitty Wells." Wells toured with the pair, occasionally performing backup vocals. Before Wells' rise to stardom with "Honky Tonk Angels," Roy Acuff and the Smoky Mountain Boys toured with Wright and Wells for a time. Acuff advised Wright not to make his wife his show's headliner because he thought women could not sell country music records.

On *Louisiana Hayride*, Wells performed with her husband's duo. Wells, however, did not sing on their records until signing with RCA Victor in 1949, releasing some of her first singles, including "Death At The Bar" and "Don't Wait For The Last Minute To Pray," neither of which charted. While these early records gained some notice, promoters still were not keen on promoting female singers, so Wells was dropped from the label in 1950.

In 1952, Paul Cohen, an executive at Decca Records, approached Wells to record "It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels." Wells was disenchanted with her career prospects and was considering retirement, but agreed to the session (at Owen Bradley's studio on May 3, 1952) because of the \$125 union scale recording payment. "I wasn't expecting to make a hit," said Wells later. "I just thought it was another song." "It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels" was an answer song to Hank Thompson's "The Wild Side of Life" and its lyrical treatment of seductive, wayward women. Wells' single retorted, "It's a shame that all the blame is on us women."

The record's message was controversial at the time and was banned by many radio stations. NBC, in particular, was troubled by the lyric, "It brings back memories of when I was a trustful wife." Wells' slight alteration of "trustful" to "trusting" lifted the network ban on the song. It was temporarily banned from the Grand Ole Opry. Nevertheless, audiences

were greatly enamored of the song. The single took off during the summer of 1952, and sold more than 800,000 copies in its initial release. It was the first single by a female singer to peak at number one in the eight-year history of the country music chart, where it remained for six weeks. (Certain female country songs, notably Patsy Montana's million-selling "I Want to Be a Cowboy's Sweetheart," antedate the creation of *Billboard's* country chart in 1944.) "It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels" also crossed over to *Billboard's* pop charts, hitting number 27. Thanks to her breakthrough, Wells received a membership to the Grand Ole Opry, which had originally banned the single.

Writer Bill Friskics-Warren has argued that part of the song's appeal came from its combination of a modern message with a familiar tune, a melody drawn from the Carter Family's "I'm Thinking Tonight of My Blue Eyes" (as were "The Wild Side of Life" and Roy Acuff's "The Great Speckled Bird"). Practically anyone could hum along with "Angels" the first time they heard it.

Wells married Johnnie Wright in 1937. She was widowed 33 days before their 74th wedding anniversary when Johnnie died in 2011, aged 97. Kitty and Johnnie had three children, Ruby, Bobby, and Carol Sue, eight grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and seven great great grandchildren. Carol Sue released a single with Wells in the mid '50s, titled "How Far Is Heaven", which peaked at No. 11 on the *Billboard* Country Chart. While two of Wells' children pursued music careers, Carol Sue did not, but she was married to Nashville Music Row executive John Sturdivant Sr. and recorded numerous songs with her family, including performing with Ruby as The Wright Sisters. Ruby recorded an album for the Kapp label and was a member of 'Nita, Rita, and Ruby. Bobby recorded albums for both Decca and ABC. Wells and her husband were lifelong members of the Church of Christ. The couple celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in

2007 by visiting the small courthouse at which they were married in Franklin, KY. Kitty and Johnnie were married 74 years before Johnnie's death in 2011.

Kitty Wells died on July 16, 2012, in Madison, Tennessee, from complications of a stroke. She was 92. She is buried at Spring Hill Cemetery in Nashville, alongside her husband.

References: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kitty_Wells



If available for music this summer please contact Lois. There is a need for musicians at the Surrey Senior Center and assisted living homes.

**Remember – June 25
Pioneer Museum at Burlington, ND
Music starts at 1:00 pm**



 **Congratulations** goes out to Carl Kannianen and Gene Putnam on their induction to the Dakota Musicians Hall of Fame on May 14, 2022 in Aberdeen, SD. 🎵



**A big thank you to all
members who participated
in our festival.**

