



The Blues Foundation

CREATE A BLUES SOCIETY

GETTING STARTED: *Call An Organizational Meeting*

Call an organizational meeting to determine who in your community is willing to volunteer time and energy into getting the organization formed.

- Advertise the meeting through social media, local blues venues, radio, etc.
- Target blues fans with specific skill sets such as legal, accounting, grant writing, social media/website development, recognizable local blues person – local blues DJ, membership coordinator, merchandise, graphic design, etc.

Determine Your Mission

- Determine your organization's mission and what direction you see it going including some discussion on proposed programs and activities such as sponsoring local shows or jams, Blues in the Schools, local IBC challenge, social activities for members, etc.

Determine Your Leadership Structure

- Board Chair, Treasurer and Secretary at a minimum.
- Possible director positions include marketing, membership, volunteer coordinator, or director-at-large.
- Do not have to start with elections but can establish an interim board to get the organization started.

Determine Your Membership Structure

- Types of memberships, i.e., individual, family, corporate, musicians.
- Dues level(s), membership form.

Create Your By-laws

- Required to govern how your organization will operate.
- Requires information on leadership and membership structures mentioned above.
- Seek legal assistance (this should not be that complicated but having legal counsel as part of your organizational group who will often do this without charge is highly recommended).

Seek Not-for-Profit Status

- See section under "Federal & State Guidelines"