



The PA Bureau of Labor and Industry has us backed into a corner, and we need your help to get out of it by March 31, 2008.

Several years ago we received approval from the State to open the second and third floors of the building, contingent on required modifications. These included adding enclosed stairways, installation of a sprinkler system on all floors, and adding a passenger elevator to serve all floors. All this has been done except for the elevator. All in all we have raised and spent \$109,950 in grants and matching funds over the last five years towards meeting the State requirements

We plan a performance area in the 42' by 63' third floor ballroom, and an exhibit area on the second floor where we will be able to display instruments that we do not have room for in the present public areas.

The new combination passenger and freight elevator will permit handicapped access to the basement exhibit area and will be large enough to allow us to move machines between floors. Many of our larger machines will not fit into our present 5' by 5' freight elevator. (Have you tried dragging a piano up a flight of stairs?) We plan elimination of the outside elevator

loading door which will, save on heating costs. We will also eliminate the elevator equipment house now on the roof further reducing heat loss and roof maintenance costs.

The cost of the required work is in the \$200,000 range. Grants are possible to cover some of the cost, but our chances of getting such grants are greatly improved if we raise a significant part of the money ourselves. To date we have accumulated \$26,655 towards this project.

Our permit expired this October, and instead of the 2 year extension we hoped for the state has only given us until March 31, 2008 to be well under way. If we cannot meet this time frame the permit will be cancelled, and we will have to start the whole process over again from the beginning. The catch to restarting is that after our permit was granted the rules became more stringent, which means that if we have to start over at best we have to meet extra requirements with their attendant extra costs, and at worst the project becomes impossible.

Faced with this issue the Board decided to go ahead with the elevator using bank loans and our elevator fund moneys. Grants have been and will be applied for, but we have no way to forecast their level of

assistance. We need your help to pay off these loans, so in place of our general appeal we are asking for help with the elevator project.

Now for an update on other areas of progress ;

The no charge basement exhibit area we rate as successful, as many persons who did not care to take a paid tour spent time enjoying some exhibits. The placement of coin operated machines there proved popular and entertained lots of people while bringing us \$191 at the rate of 25 cents a play.

Financially this year has shown continued improvement in our situation. We became debt free as of mid July which of course eliminated the interest payments, saving \$3,268.

The changes made to the heating and cooling systems resulted in a \$1726 savings in those costs plus a more consistent inside temperature. Changes in office equipment reduced office operating costs by \$985.

Our collection of musical instruments continues to grow through donation by Museum supporters. We received 54 items this year that are now on display.

Bus tours suffered because of the new casino openings which tour operators

tell us became the destination of choice, but late summer tours with little advanced planning offset some of this.

Our monthly mini-events have attracted 280 attendees, many of them seeing the inside of our museum for the first time.

Total attendance is on track to equal last year's number of 2945.

We continued to remove old equipment from the building. The steam boiler was removed with all proper asbestos control measures taken. The old A/C compressor was properly purged of Freon, dismantled, and removed. More of the steam heating system piping was removed. This brings the total metal removed from the building in the last two years to about 7 tons.

The other major building improvement made this year was the bricking up of several windows previously walled over on the inside but not permanently closed on the outside. This should save on heating and A/C costs.

Of course whatever you want to contribute will be gladly received, and if those of you not now sustaining members choose to join us as members we would be overjoyed to welcome you, but we really need your help with the elevator project.

Please consider cutting off the bottom portion of this page, filling in the appropriate blanks, and returning your tax deductible donation in the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your past interest and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yes, I'd like to help open all four floors of the DeBence Antique Music World building
Enclosed is my donation of _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **email** _____