**MERCHANDISE SUMMARY FOR 2017**

**This year has been one of transition for The Grand River Blues Society:**

**As you will hear, we have worked hard at creating a Strategic Plan to look at our strengths and to identify where we have room to grow. This includes how we prioritize and define the purpose of our investing in merchandise and what its purpose should be. Until we have addressed this, a decision was made not to purchase merchandise in 2017.**

**We have also realized that many of the venues that we support have limited space available for us to display our wares, thus limiting sales opportunities.**

**In 2017 we supported 22 artists in 6 venues. On behalf of these artists, we sold $2, 552.00 of their merchandise, a service that we continue to offer for free.**

**Part of my duties includes the recruitment and assigning of volunteers. We have some very dedicated long term volunteers who have continued to support our work. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank Paula, Rosie, Willie A, Heather, Kristen, Sarah and Marion, our most senior volunteers. We also want to thank the newcomers to these dedicated ranks: Francine, Carol, Dave, Susan and Val. We cannot do what we do without you.**