

Siskiyou Singers Board Retreat Minutes
October 17, 2020 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Zoom conference

Board Members Present: Mary V.W., Katharine, Laura, Mary B., Michael, Cynthia, Mark, Scott, Howie, Loretta

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM.

Board welcomed its newest member, Loretta Barker.

September minutes were approved with one change. Soundtrap update: there will be no tutorial. Mark got Soundtrap suggestions which were helpful.

Written Reports

Artistic Director – Mark

I am so impressed with our choir! It is amazing that we have so many dedicated people willing to put themselves through all this tech-agony! It is a credit to our organization. We also have many who have sent me messages saying that, although they can't handle the tech problems this time, they are really looking forward to the time we can get together physically. We are a wonderful group!

President – Mary

No report

Membership – Rich

At long last I have the list of former members for each board member to contact. I suggest a brief email or phone call every month to keep everyone informed about current choir activities. I arbitrarily assigned contacts for each board member (except Mary & Mark). If you would decide to switch with someone, please let me know. The list of former singers and board member assignments is attached.[the aforementioned assignment sheet will be sent to board members via email]

I would like to carry on the tradition of singing Happy Birthday at the first rehearsal each month (with Mark's approval).

Publicity/Programs/Public Relations – Michael

Last year for the first time we purchased an ad in the annual Rogue Valley Manor Directory (cost: \$250, plus some amount for Shawn's design services). In keeping with the curtailment of most of our paid publicity during the pandemic, I've told Shawn that we won't be doing so this year. The directory comes out in January and given the questionable status of a live spring concert and perhaps even a Fall 2021 season, it seemed wise to save the money and continue to promote our virtual concerts mostly through free media. If the board disagrees, I can certainly let Shawn know.

Treasurer's report

We are accepting donations at this time, some have come in. Development committee discussed if we should advertise for donors/sponsors on our website. Laura checked in with other organizations, and they were all over the place, from doing nothing to a robust partnership (RVS lists sponsors with links). We could come up with a minimum donation to provide a link to their

businesses on our website. We could create a new advertising tier- a display in our program plus a link on the website. Just a link on the website is not really an ad.

It would be good to have this in place by the end of this year, and the development committee can come up with this. We approved that this will be happening.

We are one month into our fiscal year. Net income is in the negative territory due to Mark & Mikiko's salary having been paid. SOU and Shawn still have not invoiced us. Michael will give Shawn a call, and we will just wait for SOU to send the bill.

To access the full profit and loss (P&L) report, contact treasurer Laura Barlow

Old Business

Winter Concert Publicity - Revisit later: notification of virtual concert. We will not send a postcard due to the cost. JPR spot (\$350) media release re: holiday concert, directions to YouTube. We will post in newspaper calendars. Format of concert: one long YouTube video with all the songs, plus solos, and Mark talking. **Date for concert: Friday December 11th.** The songs will also be offered separately. Mark will offer interviews as this is a novelty- no other choirs in the area are doing this. There will be an opportunity to donate on the YouTube video, linking to our page. Motion: we approve \$350 to purchase a spot on JPR, approved. Mark will talk about donations on the video.

New Business

Spring 2021 season – Mark thinks we need to come up with a contingency plan, given the circumstances. We either 1) continue on as we are doing with virtual rehearsals and recordings 2) the vaccinations arrive and we can start as usual in January 3) we start late

Mary VW said that the Methodist church choir is recording in different rooms and the sound guy puts it all together. Small groups could be recorded this way, although Mark does not think it would be any better than what we are doing currently. Laura saw an article about a choir who did a drive-in rehearsal, with mikes, and broadcast on FM (would require a substantial investment, mikes and a transmitter). In that instance, the engineer made this happen, using his equipment, so no one had to purchase it, but we do not have that opportunity here.

It is unlikely we can meet in person in January. Possibly we could meet in the parking lot in our cars, although this would not work in January in the evenings.

We will proceed for next term as we are currently are, unless a vaccine is issued and we feel safe to meet in person. Mark understands the frustration of those who have given up participating in the virtual choir process, though he felt the last two rehearsals have gone well and many problems have been solved. He believes by January we will have most of the problems figured out.

We could set up a tutorial for the new members, or those who dropped out due to technology difficulties, at 6:30 on Tuesdays. Personal tutorials: Mark, Michael, Howie are available. Mark is very thankful for Michael and Howie's assistance. Last rehearsal went on with only minor glitches. Spring concert: only one piece so far (I'lana Cotton's "Hope"). Mark will be working on the theme (Hope Springs Eternal???)

Members who live rurally are having difficulty with lag times, some others are still working on the protocols, and others have given up temporarily.

SOU dates for the spring are still on reserve. Tom Knapp will keep people's reservations open, although it is not expected the hall will be open for business in the spring.

We should make our social phone calls in the next week, and circle back to Rich with feedback.

Mark suggested a social gathering, virtually, instead of a post-concert party (or else Dec. 8, dress rehearsal date). More than 5-6 people present difficulties. Rich will think about it (breakout groups).

Re calls: is it too late to rejoin the choir, what do we tell them? Mark said to have them talk to him. Katharine opted out of making calls since she herself has withdrawn due to frustrations with the technology and the rehearsal process. Loretta agreed to take over her list.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM

Next meeting November 21