

Siskiyou Singers Board Minutes
February 20, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
ZOOM

Board Members Present: Mark Reppert, Mary Van Wesep, Katharine Lang, Laura Barlow, Mary Bergstrom, Howie Seay, Scott Nelson, Michael Zuzel, Cynthia Tank, Rich Gleitsmann, Loretta Barker

Meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

January 2021 minutes were approved.

Written Reports

Artistic Director – Mark

I wondered whether we would ever get to the point of being able to concentrate on the music while rehearsing virtually. It has happened. It is admittedly much less effective and satisfying than in-person singing, but Siskiyou Singers continues to thrive while other choirs have continued to be on hiatus.

There are those members who have dropped by the wayside, as we expected. The difficulty of the situation is just too much for them. But we still have more than 30 people participating. This is more than twice what we had for the fall.

The orchestra recording for Song of Democracy is nearing completion and it sounds good! I am looking forward to sharing it with you when it is done.

I have contacted Ilana Cotton to let her know that we are doing her piece this term. She was surprised and happy! She has consented to a short talk to be a part of the recorded concert. I am also hoping to include her in one of our upcoming rehearsals. I think everyone would enjoy her take on her wonderful piece.

Thank you to all those who have made this possible! I honestly could not have done it by myself. Mikiko needs recognition for the way she always says 'yes.' It would have been easy for her to say that the orchestra recording was not in her job description, but Mikiko goes beyond job description because she also believes in Siskiyou Singers!

President - Mary

The Spring term is well underway. We have thirty-one singers this season compared to twenty-two last winter. Of the thirty-one, approximately twelve singers are either trying virtual choir for the first time or decided to retry after having difficulty last time. I am grateful to everyone who is participating in our virtual choir. It is no easy feat to do so. So far we have had fewer technology snafus than last term. My fingers are crossed for that to continue.

As of this writing I am up-to-date on getting out thank-you notes to all who have donated to our choir. Speaking of donations, we will be mailing out donation letters in the next week or so. A batch of letters will go to previous donors. Another batch will go to singers, past and present. The singers will be contributing to our annual Every Member Every Year (EMEY) campaign. Both fundraising campaigns were scheduled to take place in the fall of 2020 but were postponed due to COVID and the Alameda Fire.

Membership – Rich

No report

Publicity/Programs/Public Relations Report (Michael):

No report

Development Committee (Laura):

Mary's letters are at the printer: the singer letters will go out to the mailer immediately upon completion of printing and the non-singer letters will be delivered to DC members for handwritten notes.

Treasurer's Report

We are a little down this year, as we paid Mark and last year's fundraiser did not reflect in this year's balance. Also, no funds are coming in from registration or ticket sales. All that considered, we are in pretty good shape.

Mikiko's pay: Should we pay her monthly based on services rendered, plus extra time for orchestra parts (approx. 8 hrs. to learn and record) for the "Song of Democracy", which is four "services". Mikiko is committed to the choir. This will be revisited in Old Business.

Profit and Loss (P&L) report:

- No bills coming in. Bottom line is a negative \$3656.19.
- Singer donations since September 2020 equals approx. 7K. We are a generous bunch!
- The sponsorship program brought in approx. \$3,000, which indicates this is a worthwhile venture. We currently have 12 sponsors.
- New riser capital expense led to a depreciation of \$566, which will be ongoing.

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

Development Committee

Donor letters will be sent, with notes, within two weeks. Singer letters are now printed and will be mailed. Donations will probably not start showing up for about six weeks. 85% of our yearly expenses have been incurred, as Mark was paid for the year. \$7,000 needs to be raised. Laura thinks this is doable.

Old Business

Motion: We will pay Mikiko an extra four services (8 hours) for the learning and recording of the orchestra parts for *Song of Democracy*."

MOTION PASSED

New Business

Lana Cotton and Jamulus: She will be speaking to the choir. Mark will talk to her and figure out how this will happen.

Establish policy for an in-person fall: We need to decide on the criteria with which we will make a decision as to whether or not we will resume in the fall. We don't need to make a decision today, but the Oregon guidelines will need to be followed. Each singer will need to take responsibility for following the directives from the state regarding group gatherings. As a choir, we are more susceptible than the general public, due to the nature of the activity. Mark has looked into choir masks, that cost \$35 each. Hopefully all will be solved and these will not be necessary. We should not assume we can resume, but we will plan for it. A sub-committee will be formed. Laura, Rich, Mark and Scott will be involved. The committee will come up with a proposal in due time (sometime this summer). An email will go out to members saying that we plan to resume, but that this may change. Venues will also need to be cleared for group use. We may look into having rehearsals in Wesley Hall, as it has better ventilation. An evaluation will be performed before a decision is reached.

Michael recalled that March 10 will be the one-year anniversary of the pandemic shutdown and of our last live performance (outreach).

Virtual performances amount to a lot of solos. Mark commented that the people involved in this effort are to be commended, as it is hard work!

Next month's meeting will start at 10:00 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Board Meeting Calendar 2020/2021

- March 20
- April 17
- May 15