

**Siskiyou Singers Board Minutes**  
**Sept. 18, 2021**  
**10 a.m. – Noon**  
**ZOOM**

**Board members present:** Howie Seay, Mary Van Wesep, Mary Bergstrom, Rich Gleitsmann, Scott Nelson, Laura Barlow, Michael Zuzel, Cynthia Tank, and Mark Reppert

(Minutes taken by Cynthia in the absence of board secretary Katharine.)

**Minutes of August 21, 2021, board meeting** were not available and will be submitted for approval at next board meeting.

**Artistic Director’s report** (pre-submitted by Mark):

“I am very pleased with the turnout for our 3rd virtual choir term. We have a good group of singers but also a savvy bunch of techies. The music is already coming along well. I expect another wonderful concert this time!”

**President’s report** (pre-submitted by Howie)

“Over the last month, we have begun rehearsals on Jamulus and Zoom, repeating the same process as last season, with some minor changes:

“We have combined the rehearsals into a single session at 7pm on Tuesday

“There is no audio feed from Jamulus into Zoom, as it didn’t seem that anyone would benefit from the feed (No Zoom-only members)

“Technically speaking, rehearsals have gone very well and the quality of the Zoom connect and the Jamulus interface has improved. In tough times, it is great to see some things are getting easier. We have begun the season with approximately 20 singers, who have shown to be resilient and will likely participate in the Soundtrap recordings following the rehearsals.

“Even without active fundraising efforts, the Siskiyou Singers continue to be financially stable. We will continue.

“One of my first acts as president was to ask the Board to completely change the way we operate and to try a messaging program called Slack. I find the program to be very useful for replacing emails when the communications are structured as conversations. Full adoption is almost complete and we can evaluate whether we will continue to use it as we go forward.”

**Membership Committee report**—Rich

The “Restart” subcommittee did not meet last month as there was nothing new to talk about.

Rich asked how Siskiyou Singers can engage people like himself and Pat, who are not singing in the virtual space but need to stay engaged with the choir. He suggested sending out a note letting singers know that the music and links to Soundtrap are available on the members page of the web site; we can encourage them to listen and perhaps practice on their own, even though they are not participating this term. Mark noted that we have one member who is doing just that; she uses Soundtrap to listen to the music but didn't want to participate virtually. She just wants to keep being a part of Siskiyou Singers.

**ACTION:** Rich agreed to draft a note that will be sent to all current and noncurrent singers, providing them with the password (notime2021) to the members' page. Rich will send the draft to Howie and Mark for approval. Cynthia will provide Rich with a database list of current and noncurrent singers and their emails. Rich will send out the emails.

### **Publicity and Programs—Michael**

Shawn, our graphics designer, has offered to be on call for us, should we decide to perform live and need publicity and programs. They would be simplified, given the shorter time constraints, perhaps like the ones we produced for our concerts on tour in 2019.

Mary added that she has had business cards and envelopes printed for new president Howie. Kevin, our printer, does not want to charge us because it took so long to get done. Mary tried to insist, but there was no invoice when she went to pick everything up. Consensus of the board is that we figure out how much we have paid in the past and pay that to Kevin, despite his protests.

### **Treasurer's Report—Laura**

At the end of the fiscal year, Aug. 31, we ended up a little bit ahead compared to last year. Mary Bergstrom noted that she has written about \$5600 in checks since year-end and will be writing another check for about \$3400.

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

### **Development Committee—Laura**

The committee has not met yet this term. The board decided in August that we would not do our fall fund-raiser as usual. It will probably be in December, or perhaps next spring. Laura will be scheduling a committee meeting in the near future.

Laura also will research grants that may be available to arts organizations for economic relief due to COVID.

## **New business**

- **Siskiyou Singers voice mails** at our phone number are not being checked regularly. The phone number is no longer a method of buying tickets. Mary Van Wesep suggested changing the greeting so that people understand the voice mails are not checked regularly and they can go to the web site for information. Michael and Mark said we should take the phone number off of the web site and various printed products; “it’s almost like we’re fibbing that we have an office where the phone is staffed.”

**ACTION:** Howie will research how to switch from our current voicemail to Google Voice, which is free; Google transcribes the voicemails and emails them to a designated person. Mark agreed to be that person, receiving the emails from Google and forwarding them as needed. Howie will report on his findings in at the October meeting.

- **Aid for ailing member:** Sally Peterson reported, through Howie, that soprano Diane Newell Meyer is having health problems and now has COVID as well; while she is in a rehab home, a group of friends is renovating her rental. Howie plans to send out an email to our choir after our meeting today, letting people know to contact Sally if they want to help in some way.
- **Slack:** Howie gave a quick demo of this new messaging app that the board is trying out.

## **Old business**

- **2024 tour:** Cynthia agreed to head the new Tour Committee, assisted by Mary Van Wesep and Laura Barlow. The committee will have its first meeting next month to get started on selecting potential destinations.
- **40th anniversary plans:** The choir’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary is December 2022. For the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, members created a slide show, brought former singers on stage to sing *Ubi Caritas*, and had a reception in the lobby with champagne. Scott suggested we commission a piece to celebrate the anniversary. There was no further action; a subcommittee will be created in the future.

**Next Board Meeting** – October 16, 2021 @ 10am