

Siskiyou Singers Board Minutes
Sept. 17, 2022 - 10:00 a.m
Ashland Works, 2245 Ashland St

PRESENT: Howie Seay, Laura Barlow, Cynthia Tank, Michael Zuzel, Mark Reppert, Fallon Stewart, Mary Bergstrom. Steve Thomas

ABSENT: Mary Van Wesep, Loretta Barker, Scott Nelson

Minutes taken by Cynthia in secretary Mary VW's absence.

Approve August 20, 2022, Board Minutes: Minutes approved on a motion by Michael, seconded by Laura.

Old Business:

- The board welcomed new member Fallon Stewart.

Artistic Director's Report (Mark) (written)

- The choir sounds great, the choir has a wonderful attitude toward the music and each other. What more could anyone ask for? Well, it wouldn't be bad to have a few more singers, especially basses. But that will come.
- I am looking forward to a great 40th anniversary celebration. I'm hoping that we can come up with some ideas to make the concert and the days around it very special. Our choir and our community deserve it! We have done and are doing great things! But no dunk tanks. **ACTION ITEM:** Howie will work on getting a committee together.

President's Report (Howie)

Written report:

- Now that our registration period has completed, we have 44 singers on the roster. This is slightly short of our goal of 50, but the choir sounds excellent none-the-less. Our goal is quality over quantity and I think we've found the right balance.
- The choir seems to be very interested in mastering Soundtrap, and Mark has been diligent in getting everyone added to the projects. The main complaint seems to be over the number of notifications, but there does not seem to be a way to condense the invitations into a single email.
- **In-progress and Upcoming Activities:**
 - As we have commenced with the Winter 2022 season, much of the planning is behind us and the remainder will be the execution of said plans. We have our music chosen, our usual venue secured, and singers registered. Risers and stage direction will be organized using our traditional methods. The remaining items on the list are our Winter Workshop on October 1 and the Post-Concert Party.
 - Mark will organize the agenda for the Winter Workshop, so it will be left to the board to make sure our singers are happy and focused.
 - Our Post-Concert Party is always a memorable event, and luckily, we have previous party-hosts in the choir this season. The current state of the COVID-19 pandemic might throw us a curve ball on that one, but a celebration of our accomplishments will happen.

- And, Of course, will still have the continued planning for the 2024 Alta Pusteria / North Italy Tour. I am looking forward to the presentation during our Winter Workshop.
- **Recommendations to the Board of Directors**
 - Now that we have a full concert, with orchestra, planned for December, we should expect to trend towards our financial goals of the past. We need to set realistic goals for this season and understand how our plans affect the long-term survival of the Siskiyou Singers.

Treasurer's Report (Laura) (written report)

- We finished the fiscal year with a deficit of \$2356.20 according to QuickBooks.
- Pat Gleitsmann will be reviewing the books next week before I send them to the accountants for preparation of the tax return.
- The Development Committee will be meeting the end of Sept. Fund-raising effort will likely take place in Nov-Dec time frame.
- Rich Gleitsmann secured a commitment for a \$1000 donation from Adroit Construction.

Publicity and Programs (Michael)

- Michael summarized the publicity efforts made for our September auditions. He no longer tries to post to all 50-plus Facebook groups, choosing instead the ones with the most followers.
- We still need a title for our concert and Michael encouraged people to contact him with suggestions.
- Last spring's program ads will be rolled over to this season. Michael is hoping to get more. Michael would like someone else to handle ad sales, preferably someone not on the board. He will talk to Sue Silfvast. Mark suggested Karen Leng as another possibility.
- We need new envelopes with our new PO Box. There is currently a longer than usual lead time on purchasing envelopes, so there may be delays. Michael will work with Shawn on submitting the order as soon as possible.
- Michael announced he is stepping down from the board at the end of this fiscal year. He will still handle publicity and programs, just not as a board member.

Workshop Plans

ACTION ITEM: Howie to check with Chris in the church office and ask if they have a projection screen for the ACFEA tour presentation. He will make sure we have keys to Wesley Hall.

Membership Committee Chair

Fallon has agreed to be the new committee chairman.

New president-elect

Board member Steve Thomas was unanimously elected to serve as choir president for the 2023-2025 term.

New Business

- *Post-concert Party.* Laura is collecting price quotes from some wineries for our party venue. Laura estimates the cost, including wine and appetizers, will be around \$3,000.

Laura will also check the Oak Knoll Golf Club and Talent Community Center. People who are wine club members may be able to purchase wine at a discount.

- *Slack Tutorial*. Howie had some tips about using Slack for board communication. Board members can get in touch with him if they have further questions.
- *Presentation on Utilizing Cloud Productivity*. **ACTION ITEM:** Fallon and Howie will try to put together a report listing pros and cons of various productivity apps and present to board at a later time.
- *Soundtrap*: Some singers either don't like Soundtrap or can't even get it to work on their computers. Some singers have told Howie how they don't like it. **ACTION ITEM:** Howie has already committed to do a tutorial for people. He will try to send it out tomorrow. The board agreed we should see how much demand there is for a change after Howie's tutorial. The board will reevaluate Soundtrap at the end of this concert term.
- *Supertitles for Foreign Language Songs*. Supertitles can help people see the English translations as we sing. It requires someone who can read the score and can bring up the appropriate slides. We could also have readers, as we have done in the past; these are individuals who read each section of the Mozart pieces, but Mark is worried about offending people with the religious language. The board agreed this is an artistic decision, and Mark said he will put the words in the program.
- *Rotating Location and/or Food Items at Board Meetings*. The board agreed to rotate the responsibility for bringing food to the meetings. Michael and Cynthia will provide the food for the October meeting.
- *Cynthia announced* that she too will be stepping down from the board at the end of this fiscal year. She will continue to do her current jobs: database management, stage manager, and tour committee chairman.

Adjournment at 12:51 p.m.

Next Board Meeting – 2 p.m. Oct. 15, Ashland Works. NOTE TIME CHANGE.