

Siskiyou Singers Board Minutes
September 16, 2023. 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Steve Thomas' Home – 588 Beach Street, Ashland

Board Members Present: Mark Reppert, Steve Thomas, Mary Van Wesep, Laura Barlow, Mary Bergstrom, Michele Kyle, Scott Nelson **Absent:** Loretta Barker, Howie Seay

Meeting Called to Order – 9:09 AM

Approval of August 2023 Board Minutes

MOTION: *Laura moved that the Board Minutes of August 2023 be approved with correction to Publicity Report, Additional Comments...the word deceased to no longer at that residence. Motion seconded.*

MOTION PASSED

WRITTEN REPORTS

Director – Mark Reppert

It is really great that we have more singers this term than we have had in the recent past. A board of directors is thrilled to see that for the sake of our financial viability. But it is even better that the quality of the group continues to rise. It is a very competent group that was able to sing that first section of Silent Night, a very difficult piece, so well on Tuesday night.

Also, the fact that we have had 12 of the 13 new auditioners do excellent auditions and join the group speaks to the fact that our reputation is building and our publicity efforts are succeeding. The people who are looking for an excellent group to join are finding us! We have a great thing going thanks to the efforts of the board and all our members.

President – Steve Thomas

I believe we are off to a solid start for presenting our December concerts. We had a smooth registration process and Laura reported successful use of our new credit card reader. We had 40 singers attend the first rehearsal with somewhere between, I think, 6 to 8 new auditions! Mark reported that he has 3 more audition appointments for our second rehearsal and about 15 returning singers are expected in the next couple of weeks.

Howie, Michael, and I are working on transitioning our database files from Dropbox to Google Drive to have them all in one place. The transition from email to Slack for board member communications is coming along. Howie has agreed to provide us with some tutorials for both Slack and Google Drive use.

Howie has asked Inga, Sarah, and Ro to consider joining our board and invited them to attend some of our meetings to check it out when they can fit it into their schedules. I look forward to singing with everyone over the next few months.

Publicity – Michael Zuzel

1. Attached is Shawn's timeline for printing and publicity this season. It's a somewhat different format than previous seasons. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.
2. With the demise of the Mail Tribune, we will be shifting those advertising dollars to the Rogue Valley Times, which has (in my opinion) an even better weekend entertainment section than the old Tempo/Revels.
3. A regular feature of the RVT entertainment section (which is called Go! Rogue and publishes on Thursdays) is "Rogue Spotlight," a profile of a local musician or artist. Recent profiles have included Rhett Bender, Ed Wight, Vilma Silva, and Johnny B's nightclub in Medford. My plan is to pitch Mark Reppert for a profile not this season but next spring on the basis of three news pegs: the spring concert; our imminent concert tour of Italy; and Mark keeping the choir together during Covid. The fact that the pandemic robbed him of his 10th anniversary concert will provide added poignancy. (P.S. I haven't mentioned this to Mark yet ... but now I guess I have.)
4. Because I'm no longer on Slack, the best way to reach me is via email (michaelzuzel@gmail.com) or, if it's a publicity emergency, via text (208-841-8906).

Membership – Howie Seay - no report

Choir Tour – Cynthia Tank – no report

Treasurer's Report – Laura Barlow

- **Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2023**
 - Keep in mind the funds in the Italy Tour account are not SS funds.
- **Profit and Loss Statement as of August 31, 2023**

- The books are closed for FY 2022/2223. I will be completing the paperwork to turn in to the accountants, Nagel and Padilla, who do our tax return.
- **EMEY – Every Member Every Year**
 - The singer fundraiser will begin in October (3rd or 10th) and will wrap up on Oct. 31. Non-singer fundraising letters will go out in November.
- **Credit Card Processing**
 - Using the Paypal Zettle card reader has been very easy. I think we should offer the option to make donations by credit card to our singers. I am not ready to go there yet for donations by non-singers (by mail).
- **Grants**
 - The Oregon Arts Commission has notified us that we will be receiving a grant for \$2363 for operating expenses. This is the grant I applied for last February. I have also applied for grants for operating expenses from the Miller Foundation and the Oregon Community Foundation. I am hoping that these 3 grants might total \$5000-\$6000. I put together a document on grant application deadlines and put it in the Finance Folder in Dropbox.

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

Development Committee Report – Laura Barlow

- **Development Committee Spreadsheet as of August 31, 2023**
 - Expenditures – 98% of projected.
 - Revenue – 101% of projected
 - Donations – A good year but 77% of what was needed to break even.

OLD BUSINESS

EMAIL LIST – In August Michael Zuzel proposed the following: *In an effort to encourage audience members to give us their email addresses, I'd like to post a note on the website offering a chance at two free concert tickets each season, chosen at random from those who sign up. I'll handle the drawing, contacting the winner, etc.* The discussion on this proposal was tabled to the September board meeting.

MOTION: Scott moved that the board authorize Michael to administer a drawing for two free concert tickets for people who have submitted their email addresses. MOTION seconded.

MOTION passed

ACTION ITEM: Steve will tell Michael about the board's decision regarding the above proposal.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT – In August Michael Zuzel proposed the following: *I think it is important for our choir to publicly recognize that we perform on ancestral lands, but I found that SOU's recorded announcement, which we played before our Spring 2023 concerts, was unnecessarily long. Instead of using the SOU recording, I propose adding this one-sentence statement to our program each season:*

Siskiyou Singers respectfully acknowledges that the place where we gather and perform is located on the ancestral homelands of the Shasta, Takelma, and Latgawa peoples.

The discussion on this proposal was tabled to the September board meeting.

Scott looked into the possibility of Michael's proposal. He learned from Cathi Romero-Molay that:

1. SOU is looking into producing a shorter announcement
2. SOU is okay with us producing our own announcement
3. SOU is not sure we have to use the provided announcement
4. We could print the announcement in our program rather than play it

Scott suggests we hold off taking any action until November to see what SOU decides to do. The board agreed.

ACTION ITEM: Steve will tell Michael about the board's decision regarding the above proposal.

DIGITAL PROGRAMS FOR USE ON PHONES DURING CONCERTS - In August Michael Zuzel proposed the following: *I'd also like to begin posting our programs online, with a QR code in the printed program that will link to the digital program. This would allow people to follow along with the songs and the translations on their phones, which is difficult to do with the printed program when the house lights are down.* The discussion on this proposal was tabled to the September board meeting. The board decided to not go with Michael's proposal.

ACTION ITEM: Steve will tell Michael about the board's decision regarding the above proposal.

BYLAWS – Steve suggested that we change **Article III - Directors, Section 3 – Number** to allow for fewer members on the board. We currently have nine members. The board decided to not make that change but rather to find more board members to meet the current Bylaw stipulation **...not fewer than ten nor more than twenty...**The following persons have been/will be asked to join the board: Ro Tutland,, Inga Leed, Sarah Wright, Sally Peterson. In regard to **Article V, Section 1 – Executive Committee** the board decided to not make any changes, Instead we will let the minutes show that currently the Executive Committee will determine pay for the Artistic Director and the Accompanist.

MOTION: Scott moved that the board reaffirm delegation to the Executive Committee the responsibility of determining compensation of the Artistic Director and the Accompanist.
MOTION seconded. MOTION passed.

DOCUMENT STORAGE - DROPBOX VS. GOOGLE DRIVE – A decision on this matter is dependent on information provided by Howie Seay who was absent from the meeting.

THE ABOVE ITEM IS TABLED AND WILL BE PLACED ON THE OCTOBER AGENDA

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – SLACK VS. EMAIL - A decision on this matter is dependent on information provided by Howie Seay who was absent from the meeting.

THE ABOVE ITEM IS TABLED AND WILL BE PLACED ON THE OCTOBER AGENDA

CHOIR BLOG – Mark met with Katharine Lang and Sally Peterson. They will partner on overseeing the Choir Blog. They are looking at posting something once a month and pushing out that post to the choir via the website and on Facebook. It will be modeled after the publication that Rogue Valley Symphony puts out. There was some discussion regarding Blog vs Newsletter. It turns out that Michele Kyle is experienced in putting out a Blog. She has a lot of tips and suggestions to share.

ACTION ITEM: Michele will contact Katherine and Sally to share the information she has on Blogging.

ZETTLE USES – This item was covered in Laura's Treasurer's Report.

CONCERT DRESS GUIDELINES – Changes to the Concert Dress Code document that Cynthia provided were discussed. Thanks to Cynthia for making the necessary changes.

ACTION ITEM: Mary Van Wesep will apply the changes discussed to the updated Dress Code document Cynthia provided and share the revised document with the board.

NEW BUSINESS

EMAIL LIST AND PAYPAL -

GOOGLE WORKSPACE – PAY FOR MORE THAN 10 USERS? – A decision on this matter is dependent on information provided by Howie Seay who was absent from the meeting.

THE ABOVE ITEM IS TABLED AND WILL BE PLACED ON THE OCTOBER AGENDA

SLACK & GOOGLE DRIVE TUTORIALS FOR BOD MEMBERS – These tutorials will be provided by Howie Seay.

ACTION ITEM: Steve will get a schedule from Howie.

ROGUE VALLEY CHOIR FESTIVAL – MARK – President Steve Thomas brought to the attention of the board. It was brought to his attention by a member of Kirby Shaw’s choir. The board decided that it needs more information before making any commitments. We will consider participation if it gets off the ground.

ACTION ITEM: Steve will talk again to Steve from the Kirby Shaw choir and ask if he has talked with Paul French, director of SORS choir to gather more information.

RISERS – Jim Gleaves, former Riser Manager, has been working on the risers. He has done some repairs and he is in the process of organizing/labeling the parts. On another note, Jaron, SOU choir director, has asked to borrow the risers for a rehearsal. The reason he is asking is because the rehearsal is on the same day of our Saturday evening concert and the risers will already be on the stage. The concern in letting him do so comes down to a liability issue.

ACTION ITEM: Scott will give Jaron the OK to use the risers if an insurance rider is provided.

ACTION ITEM: Scott will follow up with Cathi from SOU regarding the above matter.

MEETING ADJOURNED – 11:56 AM

NEXT MEETING - October 14

Mary Van Wesep, 300 York Street, Ashland

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM