

SISKIYOU SINGERS BOARD MEETING

June 2, 2018

Katharine Lang's home

Board members present: Mark Reppert, Katharine Lang, Cynthia Tank, Sue Bettinger, Colleen Horner, Mary Bergstrom, Mary Van Wesep, Scott Nelson, Jim Gleaves, Laura Barlow, Michael Zuzel.

Minutes of Board Meeting April 21, 2018:

Approved

Artistic Directors report:

Great concert, well-received. Best attended spring concert ever. Mark and others were unhappy with the flowers confusion at the Sunday concert. Going forward, Mark will make the flowers presentations part of the rehearsal process.

Fall concert: Mark is creating the sheet music from the several versions that exist. This will also save us money on scores. Mark also found the orchestra parts online, saving us \$200. Still to be determined is how the copies will be bound (spiral, 3-hole, comb, black card-stock covers, etc). He has lined up three of the four soloists we need: Michelle Cippolone, soprano; Shelly Cox, alto; Dan Gibbs, bass.

Because of time limits on Mark's part, the board discussed several other agenda items out of order:

- Laura Barlow will take over as Development Committee chair.
- Discussion of the cost of a 29-piece orchestra (and their comp tickets), how that affects finances, and whether to do only two concerts instead of three. The board agreed to keep the three-concert schedule and to give each orchestra member 1 comp for Friday night.
- Choir workshop dates: Oct. 6, Feb. 9, both at Ashland Community Center. The center is reserved on both days from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- The Symphony is having its spring concerts on the same weekend as ours, April 27 & 28.
- Spring concert theme is "From America to the Baltics." Mark would like Mikiko to go with us as accompanist, but she cannot afford it. Mark will talk to her about her performing a piano recital to raise the money.
- Jim reported on the use of paid movers for the risers at our spring concert. Robert Rossi Movers worked out very well. Cost was \$200 for the weekend, which was less than half of the projected cost. Also, the new cart we purchased worked very well for moving the risers.
- Jim also reported on our potential purchase of a riser "wedge" to help us perform in more of a semi-circle shape. Pie-shaped units would give us a better configuration. Cost is approximately \$4,500. It may be possible to get a grant to help with the cost. Mary Van Wesep moved that we ask the Development Committee to look into the financing. Motion passed.
- Date for board retreat: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. August 18th. Light breakfast provided by host, potluck lunch.

President's report:

Willow Wind students wrote thank you letters for our Outreach performance. These were passed around. Scott Nelson will use several in his grant report to the Rotary Club.

Strategic Planning Committee meetings are going well.

Cynthia and Mark are planning a new tradition in the hopes of keeping members more informed about the choir and

the board's activities. The third rehearsal of each term will begin a half hour early, at 6:30, and Cynthia and Mark will go over choir information for newcomers as well as a refresher for returning singers (e.g., concert dress policy, rehearsal behavior and practicing at home, the buddy system for newcomers, choir fund-raising and finances, ticket-selling policies). It is hoped that we can increase interest and emotional investment in the choir by increasing transparency.

After-concert party notes from Pat Gleitsmann: The party went until about 10 thanks to Eileen Guenther and Millicent Scarlett playing and leading a great sing-a-long. We had 63 people including all but four members who sang in the concert. We had fewer spouses and plus-ones than usual; we drank half the usual wine and twice the beer, and ate every scrap of food on the table. It didn't matter what people brought, we just ate it all; the last few people who went through the line faced an empty table except for crackers and cheese. This used to happen, which is why the board added a Costco turkey and/or ham. The party hostess may want to contribute that if the board doesn't.

Pre-concert lectures: Jim will talk with SOU about whether a first-floor classroom (rather than the second-floor choir room) would be available (other than the two we already use).

Job assignments: Michael Zuzel has agreed to take on the print manager job. Sue Bettinger agreed to take on the program ad manager job.

Treasurer's report:

The board thanked Colleen for terrific job as banker over past three years. Mary Bergstrom will be the new banker. Laura presented Mary with a new banker's laptop.

Financially, we are about \$10,000 ahead of last year at this time. The profit-loss statement shows \$19,000 extra; that may seem like a discrepancy, but it's a matter of timing. It all comes together at the end of the fiscal year. This has been a good year for us financially. We will run over on expenses a little, but that will be absorbed by increased revenue.

We are still looking good on projected revenue (ads, ticket sales). Cookie sales is about \$400, consistent with past years.

Spring concert ticket sales were better than usual. Singers sold more tickets for this concert than the winter concert.

We may need to focus fund-raising efforts on orchestra payment this year instead of adding to reserve fund.

Old business:

Student tickets: We need to define what is a "student" for ticketing purposes. Consensus was that OLLI members do not qualify.

Comp tickets: Mary Van Wesep agreed to draft a policy on comp ticketing so that there is less confusion all around. Mary will present the policy for board approval.

New board members: Avram declined; Melissa Ryan will not be asked due to her family situation; Rich LaVoy declined (he has already served on the board); Laurie Morey agreed. Michael moved to appoint Laurie Morey to the board. Motion approved. Leaving us this year are Priscilla High, Colleen Horner, and Sue Bettinger.

Fourth of July booth: Michael will oversee the booth. We are signed up & paid. Will follow model of last year: outreach to audiences and prospective members. Will reuse last year's audition fliers, corrected for this year's date. Michael will create a handout about our 2019 tour.

Updated bylaws and standing rules: Michael moved to approve the updated documents with the correction that "board term year" replace "fiscal year" in Article III Section 5, describing board terms. Motion passed.

Board renewals: The board terms of Scott Nelson, Laura Barlow, and Jim Gleaves are ending in July. Motion was passed to re-elect all three. Motion passed.

Database consultant: Scott moved to renew Sean Sullivan's contract for another year at his ongoing annual rate of \$500.

New business:

Cynthia will send out updated contact info on the current board members, including their jobs. She will also send out a schedule of 2018-2019 board meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.