



Summer Organizational Board Meeting

18 August 2025

In attendance: Caryn Wood, Eric Wood, Ric Jones, Celebruin Pierce, Julie Graham, George Graham, Marianne Garrigan, and Lindsay Edwards

Excused: Dot Carigen and Darrel Oaks

Meeting called to order: 7:06pm

Treasurer's Report: (Eric Wood)

Year to date financials

- See attached report - net income going towards fall semester is \$3,870.65

Motion: Approve the financial report as presented

Motion: Marianne

Second: Julie

Result: PASS

- Approval of open bills (see later notes)
- Memorial donations from Ron DeFazio (see later notes)

President's Report: (Caryn Wood)

Grant from NYSCA/GoArt!

- Grant submission opens 8/18/2025 and closes 10/31/25
- Caryn would like all the components submitted to her by 10/15/25. This will give her a chance to compile and submit via their portal
- All board members will need to review their affiliations statements which will be e-mailed this week by Caryn.
- Money for the grants has been assured for 2026 but with federal cutbacks there is caution about the unknown of 2027. Discussed that if funding does not happen, we may need to find alternative funding or consider contacting our legislators

Ron DeFazio- memorial trees

- The Chorale bought and donated a stand of 3 trees in memorial of Ron to be planted in a Northeast forest of need
- The Chorale was designated as a charity to donate to in Ron's memory. Teresa Marasco (Ron's sister) is collecting donations which will be forwarded when complete

Muckdogs Anthem Singing

- 17 people at the Muckdogs game and went well with Caryn pinch hitting as conductor

Fundraisers -

- Last year's fundraisers included program sponsors (\$1300 was raised; the goal was \$1500 we came out ahead of what we had raised in the previous year), bottles and cans (\$500)

Director's Report: (Ric Jones)

2025 Spring semester review

- Classic Rewind 60s Concert

- Great audience turn out and chorale members
- Thanks Caryn for finding that location!
- Nice mix of selections between the chorale and solo groups
- Reflections Concern
 - Choir loved having the choice and rehearsing
 - We missed Caryn as the soloist but they others did wonderful
 - Logistically was good and financially no additional music purchases necessary

Hopes for 2025-2026:

- More members but especially Basses
- Sopranos improved a lot but still need to work on pitch and tone
- Rehearsals were productive and used time well
- Fundraisers - program sponsors (\$1300 was raised goal was \$1500 but more than previous year),

Fall 2025 semester information

- Theme: Letters from Father Christmas
- Ric would love to have a Santa as “narrator” with mini-themes of *Snow, What the world looks like from a sleigh, Christmas color symbolism, the Magic of Christmas, Loss/grief at Christmas, Hope/Peace, Believing*
- The concert will have 2 sections with an intermission and a mixture of recognizable and choral pieces
- Plan to do two songs with recorded accompaniment to allow for a richer accompaniment without having to hire as many instrumentalists
- One song has instrumental solo
- Auld Lang Sygn will be dedicated to Ron
- Julie asked if Ric wanted more Father Christmas or Santa Claus
- Ric would like to have a Santa to meet with kids before the concert and then narrate the introductions to each section
 - One option is Rick Skeet (1204 Mayfield Drive, Alden 14004; 716-799-3335)
- St. James as the venue for this concert
- Date suggestion: Saturday December 13th at 4pm with Santa at 3pm Ric will confirm with the church and other logistics to set this

Miscellaneous

- Ric plans to overhaul the website
- New/updated photos were recommended. Steve Ognibene was suggested as a local photographer that could take new photos
- First rehearsal September 8th maybe icecream social at Dave’s
- Ric would like to switch from Remind to Band app for group messages. Eric suggested we also have a sign up for those people that are not able to use this technology.

Old Business:

Review Board Member positions:

President- Caryn Wood
 Vice President- Dot Carrigan
 Treasurer- Eric Wood
 Secretary- Lindsay Edwards

Motion: To retain the current officer positions for 2025-2026

Motion: Julie

Second: Celebruin

Result: PASS

No one currently on the board is at a term limit

Review Board Member affiliations - Caryn has this as a chart and will share again to review the information

Review Conductor/Accompanist compensations

This was last reviewed in 2022 and currently stands as a per rehearsal compensation of:

- Ric \$150
- Janine \$110
- Doug \$120

Motion: Increase each of these amounts by \$10 (Ric \$160, Janine \$120 and Doug \$130)

Motion: Caryn

Second: Celebruin and Julie

Result: PASS

Review Committee Chairpersons:

- Fundraising & Sponsorships - Caryn Wood & Eric Wood
- Tickets - Lindsay Edwards & Marianne Garigen
- Logistics - Darrel Oakes (and friends)
- Sunshine - Julie Graham & George Graham
- Insurance - Eric Wood
- Librarians - Merry Lou Holley, Nancy Hoag
- Rehearsal Site Liaison - Janine Fagan
- Publicity & Marketing - Caryn Wood, Julie Graham, Celebruin Pierce
- Grant Writing - Caryn Wood & Eric Wood
- Nominating- Dot Carrigan, Darrel Oakes

Motion: Accept the current committee designations

Motion: Celbruin

Second: Eric

Result: PASS

New Business:

T-shirts for the Chorale's 55th anniversary

- Jim Ellison made the last ones (grey polos with the logo as a black breast pocket design) and used JP designs in LeRoy.
- Caryn knows all the tshirt people in Batavia and will shop around for the best price
- We have options for all the regular t-shirt colors, the board suggests blue. Caryn has a design in process. The board proposed the Chorale cover the design fee and members can pay for their shirts.
- Recommended that order forms go out in the fall and we complete the process in January.

Annual review of conductors and accompanists

- Everyone was sent the form to compile results, 6 responses so far

Fundraising for this year

- Program sponsorships
 - We start donation recognition at \$25-50 and go up from there. The highest level donors are advertised on our website and receive tickets to the concerts.

- Goal of \$1500 for sponsors
- Caryn would like to target larger corporate sponsors this year that we haven't received in the past like Graham, Chapin, Hood, Oatka, etc
- Cans/Bottles - continue
- 50/50 raffle did not do well during the spring concert and we ended up giving all the money to the winner
- Possible idea of a large prize raffle or Buffalo Spree (multiple Buffalo based prizes compiled together) to start selling in the fall and draw at Spring Concert Oatka

St. James rental agreement

- Rent is the same this year with a per semester donation of \$325. Comes with 2 page term of agreement

Motion: Pay \$325 with additional \$75 gift for continued good will

Motion: Caryn

Second: Celebruin

Result: PASS

WBTA Payment

- Advertising package
 - \$150 for 10 commercial spots, main and center interview

Motion Continue with this advertisement for fall and spring

Motion: Eric

Second: Marianne and George

Result: PASS

Treasurer authorization

A move to allow the Treasurer to pay operating costs while not in session was suggested. This opens the board up to liability if expenses are paid without consent from the board. It was agreed that if there is a payment needed when not in session, that an electronic vote via e-mail can be conducted and shows continued board oversight of the finances.

Announcement for first rehearsal

- As in past years we will advertise our first rehearsal and open to new members via: PennySaver, website, Facebook, e-mail, Batavian, WBTA, DailyNews, Orleans Hub

Adjournment: 8:32pm

Motion to adjourn made by George and seconded by Eric. Motion passed

Minutes Recorded and Respectfully Submitted by Lindsay Edwards