

GBN Choir & Theatre Patrons Organization

CTPO General Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2016

Attendance:

Cheri Kates, Heather MacDonald, Alison Whitlock, Ellen Westel, Dave Sievert, Jeannie Chang, Debbie Rude, Christine Hultman, Julie Ann Robinson-Hill, Eric Skalinder, Chad Davidson, Elyssa Siegel, Nancy Frese, Tracy Meyer, Patricia Dolins, Meghan Rosenfeld, Lora Zygman, Lorna Cohen, Tanya Slater, Carol Currie

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Nancy announced that CTPO has been approved as a 501(c)(3).

Until we have IL tax exempt letter, please continue to use the GBN tax exempt letter. We do not qualify for bulk mail reduced rates. Debbie Rude commented that GBN will let us use their bulk rate services and they will bill us for it.

II. Directors' Reports

Chad Davidson - thanks to all who helped with Cider and Song. Lighter crowd due to Cubs playing in the World Series.

Last week we went to NBJH and the other junior highs came here. Wood Oaks sent just 8th graders here this year but then reversed that decision and want us to come to them for a full school assembly next year

7:00 P.M. start for junior high choir concert next week on 11/15 (tues)
Chaperones for Chorale would be appreciated. Call time at 6:00 P.M.
Should be done at 8:15 P.M.

Express is getting ready for holidays with lots of practices.

Winter Concert - 12/15/16 at 7:30 P.M. in the CPA - curricular choirs perform

Chad has been speaking with Kris Orticelli regarding the upcoming choir tour. Waiting for housing information. Just over 90 people will be traveling.

Variety show auditions are next Monday 11/14

Julie Ann Robinson - Comedy Sportz practices are under way. GBN alumna (Brooke Natal) helping a few times per week. 20 students in cast. All kids will be in all three shows.

Seats for Comedy Sportz will go on sale on Friday on 11/11 at 11:00 A.M. and will go on sale to the general public on 11/14 - "gospartans" is the password to purchase on 11/11. There will be 180 seats up front for selling on line, about 40 seats will be available at the door

Benefit performance on 12/7/16 that will benefit Special Gifts Theatre. \$10 tickets but all proceeds go to Special Gifts. Tickets for this show will also be available on-line. GBN vs. GBS - may be only seniors involved but that will be determined later. There will be a field trip on 12/7 to practice with GBS.

One Acts - 35 students involved in show. Lots of new faces. Shows will be 12/1/16 - 12/3/16 beginning at 7:00 P.M. Friday show at 4:00 P.M. Show meals will not be happening for One Acts.

Sweeney Todd (the All State musical) practices are still underway. Special thanks to families who have hosted students. Thanks to CTPO for scholarship money. Julie Ann's GoFundMe account is making progress. \$1,700 raised so far. Anyone can donate. Money will be divided evenly. www.gofundme.com, search for "All state 2017"

There will be a public run through for Sweeney Todd on 12/18/16 at noon at GBN. No tickets needed but there will be a 50/50 raffle.

Two Hamilton field trips have been arranged. 9/12/17 is the date of the new one just added. \$100 tickets. The other trip is in January and tickets were \$60. That one sold out in one day.

Dolphin show at Northwestern is *Little Shop of Horrors*. Saturday, Jan 21st (after finals) there will be a group from GBN going to the show.

Chad and Eric - Strengths Quest update

Funded in part by CTPO. They are doing a pilot with freshman and sophomore students 34 areas of potential strengths - students get top 5 reported back to them. Rolled out a few weeks before the fall concert. Well received by the kids. Everyone wanted to share their strengths. Reintroduce activities after fall concerts. Many kids have same strengths as their peers. Debbie Rude will be back in class on 11/18/16 to continue discussion and to see how strengths can be incorporated.

Booster Shot Checkbooks were given as gifts to the directors.

Eric departed at 6:30 P.M.

III. Monthly Update

Budget Report - Tracy Meyer reported a total in all accounts of \$38,897.62. QuickBooks will be purchased soon now that they can show 501(c)(3) status.

Fundraising – Patricia Dolins

Checkbook sales are done. Pick up will be on Thursday after school. If you miss, must pick up from Patricia. 700 checkbooks sold. 50 fewer than last year. Sales are good considering that there are fewer kids in choir this year.

Mattress sale – some sales were made at GBS. Totals were not as good as last year. 15 months until next sale. May pair with band next time. People coming in off the street would be credited to us (CTPO). Fewer than 20 mattresses were sold (Custom Fundraising Solutions is the company). May of 2018 will be the next sale more than likely.

Butter Braids – make sure kids are selling them and talking about it. Sale ends this Thursday.

Volunteer Services – Elyssa Siegel

People who signed up for concessions / refreshments / show meals with membership will be asked first and then if there are spots that need to be filled, Christine will send out a blast to ask for helpers. One Acts, Comedy Sportz, junior high concert will need concessions, refreshments and show meals (ask cast parents to help first).

Beth Bezark (has a child in crew) reported that crew is needed for Comedy Sportz (according to Joel). They had to cancel some crew times because not enough people were showing up.

Fund a Frame – show posters – contact Elyssa. Meyer family will sponsor *Little Shop of Horrors*. Julie Ann thinks that her room is the best place to hang them. Or maybe the white hallway. Above doors in CPA?

Scholarship Committee – Carol deferred to Nancy to report since Carol was taking minutes. FPP request must be made on-line by 11/22/16 to be applied to the last trip payment. Due date for summer and senior scholarships will be April 14, 2017. If applying for scholarship before camp approval has been given, student should apply anyway with the assumption that they will be going to camp.

Need Based Scholarship guidelines were passed. 13 on free and reduced lunch in curricular choir and theatre for 2016-2017. What percent of the population is in this group? Debbie thinks that will be useful information for us to know.

Marketing and Communication – Christine Hultman

Christine showed the CTPO logo. Miguel Sanchez created the logo (he knows Julie Ann from Elk Grove High School and was great to work with. The logo is on business cards for Cider and Song and on letterhead. November newsletter will go out on 11/14/16. Info due by 11/11. We are working to get a good calendar on the CTPO website.

Publicity – Jeannie Chang

One Acts and Comedy Sportz - help is needed hanging posters around town.

Christine said that help with creating permanent CTPO posters would be appreciated.

Debbie Rude asked that a formal thank you note to Miguel from the board should be sent for his work on the logo. This task should go to the CTPO Board Secretary (Bonnie).

Membership – Debbie Rude and Tanya Slater

Work plan almost done. Cider and Song got 4 members. 2 junior members – Billy and Carly Rude \$10 each.

Membership list is being scrubbed. Membership will be allowed any time during the year. Four categories of members - active, honorary, alumni, junior alumni. Junior members will get a free beverage at a show (how to track this?). Letters will go out to low hanging fruit. FPP users who are not members, Men of GBN, kids who have graduated.

“Donate” button on the website works. We are still tweaking the way that it is presented. Right now, any amount can be written in and there is no explanation of the different membership levels.

Debbie feels that membership alone is not going to sustain the organization as time passes. We have to be thinking of other ways to gain sponsorship. There will be a reception before the junior high concert. Nancy requested people to come early before the concert.

Meeting ended at 7:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Currie for Bonnie Schoenberg
Secretary