**Minutes - Village Voices Board Meeting**

**Sunday, March 9, 2025 7:00 pm**

**Hosted on Zoom by Deborah Scott**

In attendance: Jerry Shaw, Dan Fasani, Geri Mankey, Tami Lesser, Gloria Hilliard, Chris Alexander

Not in attendance: Katie Phillipson

I**. Approval of February 9, 2025 minutes –** Approved, and will be posted on the Villagevoices.org website.

**II. President**’**s Report**

1. Several Board members along with Gloria and myself met with the BAPAC staff in charge of scheduling the Scheer Forum events (Marisa and April) on Wednesday, February 26. A very cooperative and informative meeting discussed future scheduling issues and choir members’ safety on the risers. Although we could not be given 100% assurance on the scheduling problems, both Marisa and April are aware of how important this issue is to us and have promised to work with us to best assure our goals are met in the future. Concert Master Mike can provide more details in his report. Mike, Jerry, Chris, and Gloria met with BAPAC. Discussed future scheduling issues. They could not give 100% assurance that we would have our dates, but it was a nice discussion, not confrontational. Discussion about becoming a permanent member of the BAPAC. A permanent address is needed. Tami suggested using a UPS Store to get an address to use when applying for grants.
2. Our last review of the appointed positions for this performance semester had included Laura Rank as both the University Scholarship and Elementary Grant Chairs. We have since contacted Laura Leininger who has agreed to head the elementary grant effort. I spoke with her and she has drafted a letter calling for applications from interested schools and will carry out auditions in late March.
3. Proposal to exempt sitting Board members from choir dues or some “perk” that would an incentive to become a Board member. The concern is that we are a non-profit organization. There are only two paid positions (not salaried) – Director and Accompanist. Dues exemption is a form of compensation, which goes against the current Bylaws. Perhaps amend the Bylaws? We want to encourage people to sit on the Board – because it is more work. Argument that it is not compensation for work done, as the Board is not receiving anything. Perhaps dues are voluntary for Board members. Discussion about recognition for the Board – perhaps names in program. Any Board member who feels then need to delegate may do so, with Board approval. Recognizing that these positions are increasingly more work. Also discussed more social engagements with choir members to develop friendships and more of a commitment to the choir. Motion – Board members granted two comp tickets per semester in recognition for their service. Passed unanimously. Will be added to the Bylaws and announced to members before elections.

**III. Committee Reports**

**Ways and Means report - Geri** – Discussion about making some of the restaurant nights as a VV night. List of restaurant fundraisers $920! Next one scheduled at Vincetori 10% back. Will encourage a VV night with a reserved section. Looking for Opportunity Drawing Basket ideas.

**Treasurer’s report - Dan** Reports that we currently have $10,706 in scholarship fund (after the extra $1,000 we gave to Emesh W. We really don’t need to raise dues, and if Board members don’t pay dues, it won’t hurt financially. He predicts we will be fine with financials for the next few years. TO Grant has been submitted – will hear back in August. This grant will be for the concert year beginning July 1, 2025. The amounts awarded have been decreasing. Applied for $8,000. They are requiring insurance coverage amounts, and the BAPAC requires those amounts as well. We don’t currently have the coverage that they recommend. He reached out

to our current insurance brokers to find an umbrella policy. He is having a hard time finding an umbrella policy to meet the requirements of the BAPAC and City of TO.

**Concert Master’s report - Mike** – Talked with Cameron about risers. Used four last concert and will add another one or two to accommodate more singers. Will also maximize space on the risers by pushing them back a little bit. Will add more safety rails also. Set for the next two years with concert dates. May and November 2025, May and December 5-6, 2026.

**Membership report - Chris** **Membership:** We have lost several singers mid-semester for various reasons and one new singer has not shown up since the first rehearsal nor responded to calls or emails. The current roster now has 10 bass/baritones, 13 tenors, either 17 or 18 altos depending on whether a new member resurfaces, and 18 sopranos for a total of 58/59. An updated roster was recently sent out to the entire membership. **Webmaster:**Would still like a new shot of Gloria and an updated bio for her. We still need an updated “Songs of the Silver Screen” flyer with QR code. He has added the soprano, alto and tenor parts to March of the Toreadors but for some reason the bass part Gloria recorded gets an error message when uploading to Soundcloud. All the basses have received it via email directly from her.

**Publicity report – Tami** Promotional Efforts:

Sent to Constant Contact, Facebook all socials, including the Acorn, Conejo Valley Guide Forum, Goebel Center & Arts Council of the CV for Patron fundraiser on 2/20.

 Proposed a photographer to cover one of our spring performances; the images might be helpful for social media. Decided that we could record during our rehearsals before a concert, so we would be in costume. BAPAC is pretty restrictive about where videographers can stand, so during a rehearsal on concert day would be good. Discussion about video recording of the concerts. Discussion about why we would need/want a recording of our concerts. We have no recordings for the Broadway Revues, (unless it is from individuals,) so we can’t really publicize these events.

**Graphics and Program report Katie** Updated dates on production schedule.

**Choir Director’s report - Gloria** Rehearsals are going well. Will ask members if someone would like to help Helga with wardrobe. There are several new people who need to be fitted and order their wardrobe.

**IV. New Business**

**Board Elections – Terms up for election:**

President

Concert Master

Secretary

Publicity – Tami offered to complete another two-year term.

We need a nominating committee to find members to serve. Discussion about Board members having their own committees to help with tasks. Elections to be held May 6.

**Next board meeting Sunday, April 6. 7:00 p.m.**

**IV. Adjournment at 9:00 p.m.**