**Village Voices Board Meeting**

**Sunday, August 4, 7:00 pm**

**Hosted on Zoom by Deborah Scott**

**In attendance:** Jerry Shaw, Deborah Scott, Dan Fasani, Tami Lesser, Geri Mankey, Katie Phillipson, Chris Alexander, Mike Hanika, Gloria Hilliard

**Not in attendance:** none

**I. Approval of July 1, 2024 minutes –** passed. Will be posted on the Village Voices.org website.

**II. President’s Report**

a. We start off the new choir year with money in the bank and spirits high. Let’s see if we can ride that out the rest of this year. Our last meeting was a joint meeting with the outgoing and incoming board members. Just so we all remember, here is a list of this year’s executive board:

**President** - Jerry Shaw

**Secretary** - Deborah Scott

**Treasure**r - Dan Fasani

**Publicity** - Tami Lesser

**Ways and Means** - Geri Mankey

**Graphics & Programs** - Katie Phillipson

**Membership** - Chris Alexander

**Concert Master** - Mike Hanika

**Choir Director** - Gloria Hilliard

b. Our holiday concert is titled, “*Spirit of the Season*,” and is scheduled for December 6 and 7, 2024.

c. We are also building a list of non-elected offices with various duties. So far, we have:

**Voice Section Leaders**

**Soprano** Helga Kaltenbrunner

**Alto** Lynne Shaw

**Tenor** Laurie Allen

**Bass** Mike Hanika

**Historian** Position empty

**Scholarship -** Laura Rank – Gloria will ask if she interested.

**School grant chairs** – Position empty

**Librarian** - Marti Smith

**Concert attire director** - Position empty

**Sunshine committee** - Fran Vigne and Pat Johnson

**Ticket sales committee** - Position empty

**Webmaster** - Position empty (possibly Bonnie Hicks will

 continue)

We will announce these positions at the choir rehearsals and send an email to members at the start of the season to encourage volunteers.

d. Reviewed Production Schedule and added dates. Asked Board to send dates to Deborah to update the schedule.

e. Ad Hoc committee to review By-Laws of Village Voices Chorale. Committee includes Jerry Shaw, Katie Phillipson, and Fran Vigne. They have met three times and are considering and developing updates and revisions of our choir by-laws. The recommended changes will be incorporated into a new document, which will be sent to all Board members for review. After that it will be posted on the website for choir members to review prior to conducting a vote by the choir. The choir vote will require 60% approval by attending members at the meeting when the vote is taken. Ongoing.

**III . Board Member Reports**

**Treasurer’s report** Dan – On May 9th, we received notification of being awarded a FY 2024-25 Community Events Grant (CEG) in the amount of $3,600 from the City of Thousand Oaks. To

date, we have not yet received these funds. We have also applied for a grant from the Ventura County Community Foundations but have not yet heard back

from them.

**Concert Master’s report** Mike – Contracts and dates set for the December concert, with a $330 fee paid. Second payment of $990 due October 4, (60 days before concert.) Will need to make payment soon if we want to set up subscription sales. Mike will check with April Carter at BAPAC. Promotional video now posted on VillageVoices.org website. Alexis Chen has raw footage and is working on consolidating into a YouTube video, but is having hardware issues. Mike asked for someone to help with editing. Tami owns a production company and offered to help edit the footage. If we want to sell the concert video to our members, we would have to pay a percentage to BAPAC. It was decided that we would like to record concerts going forward. Motion to record the December 2024 concert passed.

**Membership report** Chris – Auditions scheduled for August 10, with six women and two men. Chris, Gloria and Katie will be at the auditions. Board members are encouraging friends to audition. leaders All four section leaders from last semester have committed to remaining in their roles in the fall. Awaiting the list of members who have confirmed their participation for the fall to create the roster and the emailing list.

**Publicity report** Tami – Board members shared ads they saw in the Acorn and on Facebook that are targeting choir members, especially men. Tami will look into pricing and see if we can put an ad out before the first rehearsal on August 22nd.

Motion to place a paid ad in either The Acorn or Facebook in the next few weeks (would be placed before the next board meeting.) Amount not to exceed $700. Approved.

She and Alexis sent announcements about audition on July 5 & & and July 24, 28 and 29 to the usual connections (Facebook, NextDoor, CVG Community Forum, Goebel Center) One last reminder will be sent August 5.

**Ways and Means report** Geri – Our first big fundraising event is the Charity Karaoke fundraiser on October 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The first requirement is a short video that the organizers will post on their website. Katie and Billy are making the promo and are in contact with the organizers. Tickets are available for purchase at [www.charitykaraoke.org](http://www.charitykaraoke.org). Participants are competing for prizes for best performances. Proceeds are divided by all participating groups, as long as we meet the minimum fundraising requirement. Kate and Tami will work on a flyer to send to our contact list.

The first restaurant fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Sharkey’s Thousand Oaks. They are giving us 20%.

Opportunity Drawing Baskets – discussion about logistics, ideas, costs.

**Graphics and Programs report** Katie – Ordering flyers September 3rd to distribute the first of October. Board items for the program are needed by November 12. She created a shared Google Drive with graphics, logos and photos.

She asked us to proof the subscription sales flyer so we can set that up with BAPAC.

**Choir Director’s report** Gloria – Has ordered music and pulled songs from our library to be ready for first rehearsal on August 20. Gloria is working with Bonnie about posting section recordings for each of the songs we are singing. Gloria requested help before and after rehearsals to set up and dismantle. We will ask general membership if there is someone who would like to help.

**Old Business**

**Broadway Review** – This was a very successful fundraiser last spring. We are proposing a performance date of February 2, 2025 with rehearsals in January before starting rehearsals for spring semester. Fran Vigne will produce this again. Motion to allow Fran to produce a Broadway Review for February – approved.

**Conjeo Valley Village** The Conejo Valley Village, a nonprofit helping seniors stay in their homes, has asked the Village Voices to provide about 20 minutes of holiday entertainment on December 18 at 1:30. The performance will be at the Los Robles Greens banquet facility in Thousand Oaks which is off Moorpark Road. They have agreed to give us $300 to perform. If we pay Chris 100, we will make 200. They have no piano, so we will need to bring the church's keyboard. Mike negotiated the $300 fee.

There is a concern that we might not be able to get a commitment from many choir members this early in the semester. We will mention this opportunity at rehearsals. Motion to participate is passed.

**III. New Business** (maximum of 20 minutes)

Our Choir (What is it, what should it be, and what can it become.)

Generally and historically, the Village Voices Chorale has presented a variety of types of choral music at it’s concerts, with the hopes of appealing to a wide variety of patrons and generally presenting an entertaining evening of music.

The Board has heard comments from choir members and patrons about how many religious pieces we sing, especially at the December concerts. There was discussion about the types of music presented as well as the order of the concert pieces, with the suggestion of putting pieces that may be more familiar to audiences in the first half of a concert. We want to encourage balance in the order of the program, as well as in the number of religious pieces we sing at a particular concert.

After discussion, it was agreed that we need to be sensitive to the feelings of the choir with regard to songs we sing, especially for the December concert, and we will advise the Music Committee to keep this in mind when selecting concert pieces

Next meeting Sunday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.