Minutes - Village Voices Board Meeting

Sunday, April 6, 2025 7:00 pm

Hosted on Zoom by Deborah Scott

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

Not in attendance: Dan Fasani

1. **Approval of March 9, 2025 minutes –** Approved, and will be posted on the VillageVoices.org website.
2. **President’s Report**
3. Guest – Fran Vigne was a guest at the meeting. She reported that after looking at attendance from the February Broadway Showcase, it has been decided to hold future performances on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, rather than Saturday night and Sunday afternoon.
4. The scholarship auditions have been held, final decisions have been made, participants have been notified of the results and award checks have been sent out. As Dan reports, we have awarded a total of $9,600 to 13 students. Thanks to Laura Rank, Scholarship Chair for taking care of this important mission of the Village Voices.
5. Elections will be held at rehearsal on May 6th for the following positions: President, Secretary, Publicity, Concert Master, Music committee (all two-year positions) and Membership, Graphics (one-year positions). We have candidates for all positions but could always use more. Encouraged the Board to talk about these positions with members.
6. The By-Laws Revision Committee (Jerry, Katie, and Fran) have essentially finished work on this project. A copy of the final draft will be sent to all Board members in the next several days for review. Jerry will then call a special meeting of the Board for discussion and approval of the document. The Board must approve the revisions by a majority of its members (at least 5 of 8) before it can be presented to the entire membership for their consideration, review, and vote. The By-Laws require a two-thirds approval of the attending choir members at a special meeting that will be called to vote on the new Bylaws. Once approved, they shall be effective on the first day of the new concert year (July 1, 2025).
7. Discussion about free tickets for Board Members. Fran’s opinion: She is concerned about the Board vote last month to award two tickets to Board members. In her opinion, as volunteer Board members, we shouldn’t receive compensation. It is our job as members to sell as many tickets as possible, and awarding tickets to the Board might take money away from the VV. The money lost here could go to support the mission of the VV. In the current By-Laws, Board members are not allowed to receive any compensation. Discussion among the Board that this “perk” is designed to be an incentive to attract members to be on the Board, and a distinction to recognize the contribution of the Board members. Board members can also donate these tickets back to the VV to be sold, if they choose. However, after consulting the current By-laws, the vote last month was deemed null and void. Any change should be incorporated into the amended By-Laws. There was discussion about reimagining the recognition/incentive for the Board members that doesn’t go against the spirit of the By-Laws. Motion: After further discussion, the Board decided to rescind the vote of the prior month awarding free tickets to Board members, as this is in violation of our current By-Laws. Passed.
8. Note – A vote was taken by email on March 18 to confirm awards in the amount of $9,600 to scholarship recipients.

**III. Committee Reports**

**Ways and Means report, Geri** – Next fundraiser is Marmalade Café. She has five basket managers and is looking for one more person for the sixth basket.

**Treasurer’s report, Dan** **(report submitted by email in his absence**) March income was slightly under budget as donations were not as high as budgeted. Year to Date, income is $21,995 more than budgeted due to Donations and the Broadway concert that was not budgeted. March expenses were higher than budgeted due to awarding $5,600 more in scholarships than was budgeted. Year to date, expenses are higher than budgeted mainly due to scholarship awards $6,600 more than budgeted. Overall, Income net of expenses is $14,970 more than budgeted through the first nine months of this fiscal year (July through March. The budget that was approved last July allocated $3,000 for scholarship awards. We awarded a total of $9,600 for this fiscal year. The Board needs to discuss and approve increasing the budget for scholarships for this year so we are not over budget in this category by the end of the fiscal year. Year-to-Date we are over budget on that item by $6,600. TOArts Community Events Grant – we are not likely to hear anything regarding our grant application until August. Last year we received $3,600 from this grant, down from $6,000 the year before. This grant is for performances in our fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025. Dan applied for $8,000. Insurance: Due to insurance requirement from both the City of Thousand Oaks in order to be receive a grant as well as the BAPAC in order to perform there, he contacted last year’s insurance broker requesting a quote for an umbrella policy. The broker was unresponsive. So Dan contacted another insurance broker at the recommendation of Tami, and he was very responsive. We now have both an insurance policy and an umbrella policy costing a total of $1,228. Our previous broker was charging $1,037 for just the insurance policy without the Umbrella policy. Having this umbrella policy in place, we will be saving at least $480 from our costs at BAPAC.

The Board discussed ways to bring in more donations for scholarships in the future. We’d like to have a steady stream of donations every year.

**Concert Master’s report, Mike** – Begin ticket sales to members on April 15. Ticket sales team is Deborah, Dan, Dick Gaines. However, BAPAC has not set up our tickets yet. Mike will talk with them tomorrow. Discussion about third party sites that sell tickets. We don’t want our patrons to fall victim to scalpers. Decided we will post verbiage on FB page, VV website, and alert members to be aware of the third-party websites. The Fall Concert is scheduled for November 21 and 22, 2025. Mike will request dates for Spring 2026 - May 29 and 30 or June 5 and 6 are the dates we will request. We have a verbal confirmation that we have the first weekend in December 2026 for that concert.

**Membership report, Chris –** Officially at 59 members – 10 bass/baritones, 13 tenors, 18 altos, and 18 sopranos. Webmaster – needs links to BAPAC Ticket Sales to post on website. He has added Advertising and Dedicate a Song forms to the member section of the website. He would like an updated bio and photo of Gloria for the website as well.

**Publicity report, Tami** - Promotional efforts on Constant Contact, Facebook, NextDoor as well as the Acorn, Conejo Valley Guide Forum, Goebel Center & Arts Council of the CV for: Vincitore Italian Restaurant Fundraiser on 3/20

She is going to start promoting the spring performances 5/30-5/31 on May 1 on Facebook. The ad should run for 3 weeks.

**Graphics and Program report, Katie** – Katie would like to continue with this position for the remainder of her term (one more year,) and requested collaboration with Board members with the administrative parts of her position (gathering ads, answer emails, maintain production schedule.)

**Choir Director’s report, Gloria –** Helga found long purple ties, and found purple flowers for the women for one half of the concert. Larry was asked about performing Emcee duties and replied “maybe.” She is working on scholarship soloist for this concert. Lori Bliss contacted Glora from Conejo Valley Village. They want to book us for December 12, 2025. Last year they paid $300. This event is complicated in that we won’t have holiday music prepared, as our concert is in November this year. It was also complicated last year because we needed to bring a riser and a keyboard. Discussion about asking for a little bit more money, perhaps $330. Tabled until May, and Gloria will ask if $330 is in their budget.

1. **Adjournment at 9:20 p.m.**
2. **Next Meeting May 4, 2025 7:30 p.m. at the church**