

TRAVELING KNIGHTS OF OLD BRIDGE



General Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2023
Meeting held at GNC Band Room

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting started at 7:31pm

Approval of last meetings minutes

Motioned: Sam Arabia

Seconded: KIm Leon

Minutes Approved

Treasurer's Report—Rosie DeSimon

- ♦ Money came in from the greeting card fundraiser and Giving Tuesday.
- ♦ Tech gift donations and pie money were moved from Venmo
- ♦ Accountant was paid for taxes
- ♦ One final chocolate invoice was received and will be paid
- ♦ Scholarships still need to be paid.

Sam Arabia: \$14,000 for marching band techs and \$11,000 for indoor techs still needs to come out of account balance. If we do not do any more fundraising, TKOB could be bankrupt by next April.

Discussion followed about financial obligations the past year and where money was lost, including canceled indoor home shows, one smaller non-state champ home show for marching band, etc.

Sam requested 5 years of January financials from the treasurer so that we can see how we are trending and what we can do.

We need to communicate the current circumstances to all band parents or we will be out of business.

Melissa Thatcher said she is concerned about money. A lot of indoor expenses have risen in the last year. She gave the Dayton hotel situation as an example explaining that it was a fiasco but Lisa Brennan helped straighten out accommodations.

Enrollment fees for the following year have to go out in September. Melissa needs to rollover \$6000 each year to start the next year.

Giving Tuesday money will be donated to the indoor program.

Techs receive \$1000 but it should be more. Our kids are succeeding because of the instruction they are receiving from these techs.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Motioned: Cahren Morris

Seconded: Lisa Boelhower

Minutes Approved

Director's Report – Melissa Thatcher

♦ Melissa has a \$63,000 budget to spend over six months and it is going to go fast. We may only break even this season. Melissa asked for \$4000 for equipment and received \$6000. Speakers were purchased for \$10,000. It had to happen and it had to happen this season. The speakers were shorting out and the kids couldn't perform without them. They were backordered for months so Melissa had to order them when she could, she couldn't wait to find indoor money. She also had to purchase new drumheads and mallets. They had none but had to make it work just to get through Nationals. Cymbals were also purchased for \$3000 because our current ones were cracked and broken and duct taped back together. All purchases were dire needs in order to perform this season. We needed workable equipment to perform at this level and we cut corners wherever possible.

♦ Band Banquet is Thursday, January 19th

♦ We still need a nurse for Dayton. \$4,000 is budgeted for an agency nurse but if anyone knows a registered nurse, please let Melissa know.

♦ Home shows on Feb 11 and March 11

Tracey Paul asked if we received compensation for bands that pulled out of Nov. home show. Melissa wasn't sure but probably not. If weather is the least bit iffy, band directors can claim that their district won't let them attend and they can pull out of shows with no repercussions from US Bands.

♦ We will need volunteers and donations for both shows. A sign up sheet and donation list will be posted on the band app. We will need a point person for concession sales. Tracey Paul nominated Cahren Morris and Rosie DeSimon and Stefanie Munteanu also volunteered for concessions.

Discussion followed about previous fundraisers from past years and potential fundraisers for this coming year. Lisa Brennan mentioned a Casino Night. She has a contact that she has used before who will help us set it up and will help assist with licensing. Participants do not win actual cash, they are awarded tickets that can be entered for prize baskets. We would need to start planning now in order to host a Casino Night next school year in September.

Cahren Morris will run a Super Bowl pool for \$20/box. TKOB will keep half in the amount of \$1000. Grid should be up on the band app to start selling by Jan 12th

Lisa Brennan asked about the Super 50/50 license. The winner will be pulled on May 24th at the orchestra and band concert. (Winner does not have to be present.) The last time we did a Super 50/50 we generated approximately \$10,000. This could be start up money for next year. We will ask each band family to sell one booklet of tickets in the amount of \$25. Tracey will provide ticket printer info to Lisa.

Rosie will apply for 50/50 license for both home shows. It is probably too late for the February show but we will have one for the March show.

Request was made for Melissa to build 15 minute intermissions into May concerts to sell baked goods and set up a donation bucket.

Another fundraising idea was sponsorship t-shirts for the Hawaii trip the kids will wear to the airport.

Membership–Sharon DeGregory

No change. Membership remains at 37

Committee Reports

♦ Clothing Drive (Rosie DeSimon)

February 4th 9am-12pm outside GNC door. We will need help loading the truck at 12

♦ Pocketbook Bingo

Has to take place at the business address so we cannot use the Elks for this. We have to use the HS cafeteria. Jenna Franzese asked about using the space and was told there was a \$900 fee.

Discussion followed about how TKOB is like the PTA and should not have to pay to use the school. Melissa filled out the request form for the cafeteria use on May 5th so we don't have to pay and can hold bingo.

- ♦ Sign Painting Fundraiser

February 4th at 7pm at Messiah Lutheran Church on Bordentown Ave in Parlin. The only payment the church is asking for to use the room is a non-perishable or hygiene item donation.

Participants can pre-order their wooden board, then choose a background paint color and vinyl saying from stock at the event. Maximum of 50 participants unless we open up a second room. We will be providing coffee and light snacks. No alcohol is permitted. 11 people have already registered.

- ♦ Nominating Committee needs 3-4 volunteers Kim Leon and Jenna Franzese volunteered.

- ♦ Kastle Creations

Popcorn sale is re-scheduled for March. Incentive to buy the popcorn will be a snack for the bus ride to Dayton. Lisa Brennan requested the allergen info on the popcorn if we are bringing it on the bus

- ♦ Lisa Brennan will be making sandwiches for Ohio. She is looking for volunteers if anyone is willing to help.

- ♦ Melissa is working on the parent cost for Dayton. We have enough rooms. We reserved an AirBnB for the staff, saving \$1000 on rooms. Melissa and the nurse will be staying in the hotel with the kids.

New Business

- ♦ Pasta send off dinner on April 18th to generate funds for Dayton trip

- ♦ Upcoming Events include Wind Ensemble performance on March 23rd, Dorney Park trip for the entire music program, spring concerts, and graduation performance.

Fundraising Commitment checks will be distributed after tonight's meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: Lisa Boelhower

Seconded: Sharon DeGregory

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM

Next Meeting March 8th 7:30 at GNC Band Room