

THE VERNON CHORALE, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting #1: Season 2021-2022 Date/Time: July 13, 2021 – 7:30 P.M.

Location: Remote meeting via Zoom.com

In Attendance: Cindy Trenholm, Bruce Jones, James Burr, Julie Bezanson, Jeanne Allie, Kate Adams, Ehren Brown, Kirby Stalley, Liz Whiteley

(Minutes taken on July 19, 2021 from a video recording of the meeting.)

I. Call to order - The meeting commenced at 7:30

II. Elections

- There was a motion to vote in the slate of directors renewing their terms (Julie Bezanson, Bruce Jones, Cindy Trenholm, and Liz Whiteley). The motion passed and the directors were reinstated.
- There was a motion to elect the officers for the year: Cindy Trenholm – President, Liz Whiteley – Vice President, Bruce Jones – Treasurer, James Burr – Assistant Treasurer, Sarah Maldonado – Secretary. The motion passed and the officers were elected.

II. Acceptance of minutes - The previous minutes were accepted.

III. Reports

- President
 - Cindy reported that several choir members emailed to say that they appreciated the choice of the board on our vaccine policy. The vaccine policy is posted on the audition page of our website. She thanked Kate for getting the survey ready quickly.
 - Cindy left a message for the office manager of St. Bernard regarding the use of their space for our December concert. She also reached out to confirm with St. John for our rehearsals.
- Treasurer
 - Bruce referred to his written report which covered everything from our last board meeting to the end of the fiscal year. We received \$1500 from the Vernon Arts Commission. There was one receipt of cash from \$686 from Travelers foundation. Bruce believes this might be through Erin Dutton's work contribution.
 - Cindy asked about how and when contributions from the Vernon Arts Commission are received. Bruce explained that we submit a request asking for their pledge of support at the beginning of the year. The town must then receive an invoice for that amount from the Arts Commission, which they first request from us. We provided it ahead of schedule. Quickbooks will allow us to show them what we have spent by category, if they ever ask.
 - The treasurer's report was accepted.
- Artistic Director

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- Ehren shared his pride in our formulation of the vaccination policy. He feels that we did the right thing for the group and that most people were happy with the policy. He also thanked Cindy for helping get St. John's for our rehearsals.
- This season, Ehren wants to have a "celebration of singing". We will not include outside musicians. He has two ideas about the theme: "Sing a Song" – a celebration of singing, or a Christmas homecoming theme. He asked for opinions on what to do for the December concert.
 - The consensus of opinions was that a holiday joy theme will be better for December. Ehren is going for a "Holiday Joy" theme for December and "Sing a Song" for April.
- Auditions are set up for August 31. Singers will have to show proof of vaccination in order to audition. (Cindy will email Karen to let her know about that policy.) There are 3 people who want to audition at this time. We also have four Sopranos that are on the waitlist, and we will provide Ehren with the list. There was a discussion of whether people on the waitlist should have priority over new auditions.
- First rehearsal is September 7th. Music needs to be ordered by the first or second week of August.
- Cindy will send an email asking whether each member will sing with us for December, and asking for a copy of the vaccination card. Ehren asked for an updated spreadsheet with each singer and their section.
- Publicity
 - Julie will still handle publicity, with help from Caragh and Lauren, as needed. She will give thought to ways to reach out to the younger demographic.
 - Information about auditions will be focused on a request for tenors and basses. Julie will send this information out via Facebook and MailChimp.

IV. Unfinished business

- Asst.Treasurer: James will need access to documents and passwords from Bruce. Bruce will work on ways to make everything accessible, such as a possible switch to QuickBooks online.
- 2021-2022 Season:
 - Vaccine Policy: Cindy wants the policy posted to the singer Facebook group. She will also check with one of our members who is a lawyer about a possible release form regarding illnesses. We will sing unmasked at rehearsals because everyone is vaccinated.
 - Rehearsal space: Do we need sectional space? Not absolutely necessary, but we will ask St. John's what is available.
 - Board meetings: Will we meet via Zoom or in person? We will decide later, but are considering a hybrid approach.
 - Handbook update: Cindy will go through and update, adding Covid safety precautions. She will provide us with a draft.

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- i. Concert dress: She will omit the men vs. women concert dress and provide options. There was a discussion about whether we wanted to keep our options the same. Options include: Tuxes and all black, all black for everyone, or a range of color choices. We also need to consider access to clothing, and make it easiest on our members. We will discuss more over the next couple of meetings.
 - o New Podium: Everyone should look over Liz's information. We will discuss it next time.
 - o VC Music Library: On hold.
- By-Laws – nothing new to report

V. New Business

- Call for Section Leaders: Cindy will send email once we know who is singing.
- Auditions Prep August 31: Not discussed
- Choral Fellows Search: Liz took on the responsibility. Jeanne will send Liz the information she usually uses to do the search. Should be sent out August 1.
- Chorus New England Award: Julie shared – we can apply for this award, recognizing choirs who have continued to meet their mission and make music throughout the pandemic. We seem to meet the criteria. Kate volunteered to nominate our choir.
- P. Shimer letter:
 - o Two separate issues: Donating money, “member emeritus”
 - After discussion, Cindy will talk with Paul to get more information about his plans and emeritus request. She will remind him that he could take a sabbatical for up to a year, rather than missing several rehearsals. After the conversation, Ehren will make a decision, with input from the board. We want to be flexible and respectful to him, but keep the good of the group in mind.
 - Cindy will also suggest to Paul a “Shimer Fund” to help support younger members of our group, aside from the Choral Fellow program. perhaps this fund could also provide tickets to our concerts for high school choral students.
- Budget prep: To be discussed at next meeting

VI. Adjournment Next board meeting – August 10, 2021 – Zoom – 7:30 P.M.

Reminders:

Auditions - August 31– Wait List

First rehearsal - September 7

Concert dates - December 4 snow date 5th; April 2; June 11