Executive Committee Meeting - Via Zoom

November 24, 2020

Meeting called to order at 9:38 am

Members Present: Jane Goodrich, Chair, JB Bjelland, VC Admin/Chair Elect, Jane Anne Hill, VC Community, Jo Damhof, VC Finance, Marcia Hilestad Seguin, VC Membership/Marketing, Taylor McMillan, Treasurer, Caryn Katzung, Secretary, Patty Murphy, JLM Liason, Gayle Kohlbry, Member at Large, Colleen Nelson, Member at Large

**Survey Results**: JB opened the meeting with a report about the results of a recent survey of the League Aire membership. Overall, members were very satisfied with the work/study learning with Walter and the guest speakers. The homework was not as popular. Actually, Jane Goodrich called the homework results “dismal”!

Thirty- two members were in favor of Vocalise and new women’s choir pieces for our next study. Eight voted for the Vocalise and piano sessions. Three voted for neither option.

**Discussion:** Walter has suggested a program where each member would practice, record and submit a musical selection. There were concerns about the technology required to submit our recorded musical contributions. Differences such as the use of cell phones vs iPads, will complicate this. Walter has said it is very easy to navigate. The program plays the accompaniment. He says each person can rehearse, and practice as much as needed, and then record her part.

Our Mission is to bring joy and healing power of music to others. Our goal needs to be to keep our voices in use in preparation for next year, and to keep our group together. Not all in this group are soloists. Our joy comes from singing together as a group. If we adopt Walter’s suggestion, it may likely be off putting to members to be asked to record individually and to send recordings to Walter. There was group agreement on this.

**Plan for Next Season**: Do we want to continue our Monday morning sessions? Should the sessions be a shorter length? Walter does not want to use this time to go over our previous music, as he feels that he won’t be able to hear and correct as needed. The Executive Committee agreed that the weekly lessons are important as a way of staying connected during this long hiatus. A weekly lesson will keep us vocalizing and will keep voices in shape. Monday sessions have smaller attendance now, than earlier in the Fall, when most members were participating. We currently have 58 members. Cindy Babcock is the only recent LOA/retirement. One suggestion was to focus on one selection from our program each week. A second option would be to take a break.

**Motion**: Jo Damhof moved that we continue Monday morning study sessions, including the Vocalise lessons. Additionally, we would like to include singing a selection from our program to practice and sing each week.

The motion was seconded, and passed.

Patty Murphy offered to consult with Jane on the details of the second half of the season, such as the length of sessions, and duration and the above- mentioned proposal. The consensus is to drop the individually recorded music, suggested by Walter. This plan will be circulated to the full membership for input. Patty will then speak with Walter about the changes.

December 14th is the final day of the semester before the holiday break. Suggestions and requests were made for some type of online social gathering. One suggestion was a game day via Zoom. There are Bingo and other online games available as well. Jane Anne will make suggestions to the Social Committee.

**McPhail Opportunity:** Jane G. reported that Kristen Rupp from McPahil, is looking for funding, or sponsorship for their programs, which reach out to their Senior population. Our LA role would help to pay the participating artists. Walter would be an accompanist and a singer, and he would be paid by McPhail. Because the program focuses on Seniors, it is aligned with our mission to which Hodder funds are already dedicated.

LeagueAire members could also choose to participate with this group as an option. Kristen offered dancers the opportunity to prepare online dance routines as well.

This McPhail partnership would cost $750. Participation would be a Public Relations opportunity, as it would help to promote both The Susan Holmes Hodder Fund, and LeagueAires as well. Taylor suggested that we would use our allocated symposium budget for the cost. In a sense, we will finance it either way. Meg will speak with the Hodder family to get their input, although a vote is not required from the Executive Committee.

Kristen Rupp has asked that we make our decision by the end of this month. She needs to write contracts with the teaching artists.

**JLM Tax-Exempt Status**: Marcia asked about the process for members to be reimbursed for tax exempt expenditures. Paperwork, receipts, signatures required, etc. go through JLM. Taylor is looking at how to share this tax status with frequently used retailers such as Cimmeron Printing, Bachman’s, Haskell’s etc. Favored Vendor lists with tax exempt information could be updated each Fall. This information could be included for new committee chairs as well.

In some cases, the bill goes directly to the treasurer, which can circumvent the reimbursement process. Online formats are evolving as well. Taylor is exploring ways to simplify and streamline this process.

**Budget**: “Spinning Plates” report from Taylor. Navigating Closing out last year with JLM was a first step. For Taylor to have access to our account, associated with the tax- exempt account, JLM wanted a report submitted for their audit. Taylor has completed and moved all this information over to JLM.

The Minneapolis Foundation was delayed this year in distributing funds to its non-profit organizations. However, we have now received our check from the Hodder Fund sent through the Minneapolis Foundation, so we have funds to cover the costs of our participation with McPhail.

In addition, Wells Fargo Bank got hacked, so Taylor’s access to the account as signatory was cut off for a time as well. Many complications this year!

**Development:** Jo Damhof is working with Taylor on Spirit fund access. The fund is fully funded to the level we budgeted last year. We currently have $54,000 dollars in the account.

People are still donating to the Spirit Fund. Our expenses are lower this year, as we’re not paying rent, so we’re in good financial shape, and we do currently have a cushion.

Taylor reports that donations to the Spirit Fund are behind last year, according to current numbers. Last year we had $86,800, compared with this year at $29,050, which only includes the 13 donations received through the traditional PO Box.

Jo needs access to online donations, to update her records. Taylor is working with JLM on access to records of the online donations. She needs supporting documentation through a JLM portal. Along with a donation, doners should receive an automatic tax receipt, as well as an acknowledgement of their gift. Taylor will update the numbers at a later time.

Thank You notes also need to be sent from LA in a timely manner. Mary Johnson and Karin Van Dyke are writing thank you notes.

Jane will add a donation reminder and information with mailing address, to her weekly email as well.

**Hodder Fund**: Meg Gisslen has requested clarification concerning Hodder budget procedures. Taylor explained that recent expenses were automatically approved and paid, since it was for an already budgeted expense. None of the funds spent were outside of Hodder Fund approved items.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:36 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Caryn Katzung, Secretary