

Western Massachusetts Sacred Harp Community, Inc.
Board of Directors

Regular Meeting
April 27, 2014 at 2:10 P.M.

115 Oak Street
Florence, MA 01062

Directors Present: C. Andrews E. Cavanaugh M. Leger-Small L. Shea
W. Sibbison

Directors Absent: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Shea called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM. All Directors were present.

2. ACTIONS

A. The Directors reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 23, 2014.

VOTED To accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 23, 2014 as prepared.

B. W. Sibbison delivered the Treasurer's report. She noted a balance of approximately \$7,200 in the WMSHC checking account and a nearly equal amount in savings. She noted a total of nearly \$3,700 in donations from the convention. Approximately 17 books and three CDs were sold. WMSHC nearly broke even for the convention with total expenses of approximately \$4,000. WMSHC's total assets equal approximately \$14,000. She recommended that we make a more concerted effort at the 2015 convention to communicate actual costs of the convention in an effort to increase broad community support and reduce our reliance on very large individual donations.

VOTED To accept the Treasurer's report as prepared.

C. L. Shea delivered a report from the Travel Grants Committee. She noted that the Committee would like to make a stronger effort to encourage local singers to travel to other singings, especially in the South, and to camp. She requested a budget of \$1500 for travel grants.

VOTED To authorize the Travel Grants Committee to award up to \$1500 in new travel grants.

D. The Board discussed the 2014 WMSHC Convention in general. L. Shea asked if there was a sense of where all the convention supplies had ended up. *She volunteered to follow up with Ron Woodland and Molly Merrett regarding the location of the prints, CDs, and other inventory items.*

The Board considered the benefits and drawbacks of hosting the convention at Helen Hills Hills Chapel. They noted that it was enjoyable to host the convention in the space, but that the logistics of the event were challenging enough to warrant a new location for 2015. In addition, the space does not provide much potential for growth. C. Andrews suggested looking into Gateway City Arts in Holyoke, the Holyoke City Hall, and several other locations as possible venues. L. Shea suggested we look into the new Northampton Center for the Arts space.

The Directors appointed a Located Committee consisting of Linda Shea, Christine Andrews (in an advisory capacity only), and another volunteer to be appointed.

The Board returned to the 2014 convention debrief. They considered whether or not future WMSHC conventions should be recorded professionally. L. Shea noted that we are not using the recordings we have and we don't plan to do so in the near future. She suggested that we could continue to record the event using lower quality equipment at a much lower cost while creating an archival record of the singing. E. Cavanaugh noted that there does not seem to be a real drive in the community to go back to the material. W. Sibbison asked if it were possible to make a new CD. C. Andrews suggested that the archive recordings are worth producing and could be uploaded to the WMSHC site and connected with FaSolLa Minutes app. L. Shea noted that a lower quality recording will still meet the need for archival recordings. W. Sibbison suggested that \$400 for the recordings is not a terribly high price for an all inclusive professional recording. The Board considered asking Dan Richardson's opinion regarding our options to record the convention at a lower cost. *E. Cavanaugh offered to speak with Dan Richardson and Tim Eriksen to get their input regarding convention recordings.* It was the sense of the Board that we would explore the topic further and discuss it with the 2015 convention officers.

E. The Board considered the possibility of developing community guidelines for starting an annual singing event. The conversation was prompted by the Holyoke Range All Day Singing hosted in Hadley on the weekend immediately preceding the Boston All Day Singing. L. Shea noted the importance of considering the singing schedules of the many singing groups around us to minimize possible competition for attendance. She suggested that with the WMSHC Convention, Pioneer Valley All Day Singing, and Berkshire Foothills All Day Singing in the area, there may not be sufficient community support for taking on another annual singing. L. Shea proposed that the Board develop clear guidelines for starting a new annual singing to include geographic considerations, scheduling to avoid competition with other regional singing groups, and demonstrating some amount of community support for the singing. She further proposed that the WMSHC membership vote to establish annual singings in the area.

It was the sense of the Board that such a measure would be unenforceable. They considered other options to help ensure that members of WMSHC will not inadvertently "step on the toes" of

other regional singing groups. *L. Shea volunteered to contact the organizers of the Holyoke Range All Day Singing to discuss the scheduling of the event.* E. Cavanaugh suggested that the Board refrain from voting on the topic officially, but that the Directors should facilitate a discussion amongst the membership and to provide guidance on the topic. *M. Leger-Small volunteered to email the membership to notify them of the discussion to be held at a regular Tuesday night singing in the near future.* E. Cavanaugh volunteered to facilitate the discussion.

F. The Board considered a request from Cheri Hardy for the use of paper good for the Holyoke Range All Day Singing. The Board declined the request as the goods were already promised to the organizers of other future singings.

G. M. Leger-Small reported that Sheldon Finlay had expressed a desire to pass control of the WMSHC website to a new coordinator. The Board discussed the outdated content of the website and the difficulty in keeping the content up to date. W. Sibbison noted that Jason Woofendon would be willing to serve as the new website coordinator by hosting the website on his servers, providing a content management system, generally assisting WMSHC with the maintenance of the website. *M. Leger-Small agreed to contact Jason Woofendon to confirm his interest in hosting the website and providing technical support.*

The Board appointed Sasha Hsuczyk to serve as the Chair of the website committee charged with reviewing the content on the site and providing updates. E. Cavanaugh agreed to serve in an editorial capacity for content changes.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

W. Sibbison asked who has traditionally sent out the thank you notes to donors. C. Andrews said the Treasurer has usually sent the notes.

W. Sibbison reported that in order to access WMSHC's account online, a debit card would have to be issued to the corporation. It was the sense of the Board that it would be acceptable for a debit card to be issued provided that statements are regularly provided to the Board and made available to the membership upon request.

VOTED To authorize the issuance of a debit card connected to WMSHC's bank accounts and to set up online banking access for the Treasurer and President of the Board.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Shea adjourned the regular meeting at 5:22 PM.