

Minutes
Area 2 Council Meeting
April 24, 2014
Portland, ME

Members present:

Area 2 Director: Diane Zanetti

Presidents:

Aileen Murray (Capital Chordettes, also Development Coordinator)

Gayle Jordan (Harmony Heritage, also Treasurer)

Nancy Bossie (Maine-ly Harmony)

Carole Mercier (Montreal City Voices)

Betsy Westgate (New England Voices in Harmony)

Valeria Allen (NoteAble Blend)

Sharon Cawley (Silk'n' Sounds)

Cathy Dawson (Sounds of the Seacoast)

Jan LeClair (Surround Sound, also Secretary)

Julie Schwingbeck (WON delegate and Borderlines Editor)

Advisors:

Sue Staples (Parliamentarian)

Linda Briggs (ACJC)

Diane Coates (Convention/Manual Chair)

Chris Kuntz (Marketing/PR Chair)

Cathy DeCoste (Website Coordinator)

Andrea Hutchings (Youth Outreach Coordinator)

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Harmony Creed

Rollcall

1. **Treasurer's Report** (see attached budget reports)
A slight error was noted in the total income numbers for the US and Canada
Action: Treasurer Jordan will revise.

Copies of the budget will be distributed to the Council on a quarterly basis and to the Finance Committee monthly.

Action: Treasurer Jordan will begin to distribute reports as requested.

Action: Treasurer Jordan will get back to the Council on an issue with the account change.

2. **Chapter Reports**
Director Zanetti commented on the excellence of the reports submitted by the presidents and encouraged all to read them as a good source of information and ideas.

3. **Assistant's Reports**

Website Coordinator Cathy DeCoste reported that everything is good with the website and that the Area 2 presidents egroup has been eliminated. She is working on adding three people who are missing to the egroups.

Jan LeClair requested that Chair City Pipers on the list of Council members and advisors on the website be changed to Surround Sound.

4. **Election of Council Advisors**

The following Council positions were open:

Treasurer – Incumbent Gayle Jordan

Historian – Incumbent Gayle Jordan

Development Coordinator – Incumbent Aileen Murray

Education Coordinator – Incumbent Morgan LaCroix

Public Relations Coordinator – Chris Kuntz

Website Coordinator – Cathy DeCoste

Current position holders agreed to be candidates again. Nominations were requested. Seeing none, Secretary LeClair cast one vote for the slate of incumbent candidates.

Two positions, one US and one Canadian, were open on the Finance Committee. Members Carole Mercier and Betsy Westgate agreed to continue to serve.

Two positions were open on the Study and Review Committee. Incumbent Aileen Murray agreed to continue to serve and Nancy Bossie volunteered to serve as well.

5. **Membership Reward Program**

Advisors Murray and Kuntz reported on the results of the 2013/14 program.

Advisor Murray reported that the Thousand Islander chorus is now in Area 5 with a new director and will be competing there in May.

The membership contest generated 45 new members. (The name of Harmony in Motion was drawn at Contest as the winner of the 2013/14 contest and will have \$200 to use for coaching or learning trax.) Aileen requested that the winner please let her know how the dollars are finally used. Julie Schwingbeck reported that WON purchased several sets of learning trax and had Russ Young as a coach, likely using the funds for one or both purposes.

Advisor Murray reported assisting Sandra Dunlap with an International survey. Eight of 14 Area 2 chapters replied, providing tangible ideas that can be used by all. The survey results will be reviewed at the International level hopefully generating ideas for all of us to use.

Current chapter memberships stand at 463 reflecting a loss of 43 members (this includes 19 Thousand Islanders). Top recruiters for the past year included Sounds of the Seacoast, Sound Connection, Capital Chordettes and Champlain Echoes.

Please let Advisor Murray know when your chapter recruits a new member to add to your chances of winning the 2014/15 contest.

6. **HX Scholarship Program**

Advisor Hutchings commented that she had received no applications to date for HXNE Camp and encouraged everyone to identify possible applicants to meet the June deadline. She urged chapters to promote the camp themselves.

Andrea also reported that all camp teaching staff are from the Sweet Adelines organization and urged HI members to consider volunteering to expose the students to our organization as well. All staff must complete mandatory online sexual molestation training; and all chaperones are CORIed.

7. **Generations Chorus applications**

Director Zanetti reported that two applications had been received, one from Samantha Tramack and one from Chrstitina Tramack. The candidates indicated a desire to co-direct.

Motion by Julie Schwingbeck; seconded by Jan LeClair: To accept Samantha and Christina as co-directors of the Generations Chorus for 2014/15.

Motion carried.

8. **AC&C 2014 update**

ACJC Briggs reported that everyone was having fun at Contest. To date 359 AEPs had been purchased and 25 guests would also be attending the dinner. A large majority of attendees were coming on the first day. Two judges from the Ladies Association of British Barbershoppers would be judging our contest. Linda Janes would be replacing one judge that had to pull out.

9. **AC&C 2015 update**

ACJC Briggs reported that AC&C would be held in Rhode Island, hosted by Harmony Heritage. Loss of HI non-profit status may increase costs but they are working on it. This may also impact the proposed budget for AC&C.

10. **AC&C Team update**

Convention Chair Coates reported that she has not received any comments on the Team job descriptions (see attached) to date. If there are any content changes to be made, it delays the approval vote until the summer meeting and the manual cannot be updated until approval is in place. Diane C. recommends that **revisions be submitted by June 1** to allow a preview of the updated manual at the summer Council meeting.

Requests for copies of the old manual and questions about content of the new manual can be directed to Diane C.

Candidates for the Team jobs should be experienced at handling the responsibilities described in the job descriptions. Interest has already been expressed in a couple of the jobs.

Advisor Hutchings asked about an apprentice program to ensure that future team members had exposure to their jobs. Diane C. responded that it had been done in the past e.g. Tom Misner shadowing Greg Caetano prior to becoming our current backstage manager.

The proposed rotation of host chapters (see attached) was discussed. Chapters that have already hosted were put at the end of the rotation; chapters that never had the opportunity to host were

placed at the beginning. NoteAble Blend is scheduled to host in 2016. If Surround Sound and NoteAble Blend decided to co-host in 2016, Mainely Harmony will move up to 2017 and so on. It was asked if a chapter can decline. It was suggested that yes, they can but should give two years notice. Other details, such as who handles the basket raffle, have yet to be determined. It was suggested that the first two choruses plan to tag along with Harmony Heritage convention staff to learn the routines.

Diane C. reviewed three potential locations (Manchester, NH; Springfield, MA; and Devens, MA). There are date conflicts with Manchester and Springfield as well as cost issues (parking, contest venue, hotel rooms). Devens has two issues: no practice space and no stage. It was asked if the number of rooms at Devens allowed for growth. The 238 rooms can easily accommodate our needs. It was agreed that space was not a major issue and keeping the cost affordable was a primary concern. Diane C. suggested giving Devens a two-year contract with an option for a third year.

Motion made by Nancy Bossie, seconded by Betsy Westgate, to allow Diane C. to go forward with negotiations with Devens.

Motion carried.

Action: The site team will pursue contracting with the Devens people for 2016, 2017, and an option on 2018.

11. Other Business

Treasurer Jordan reported that Youth Outreach funds are not being used except for HXNE Camp.

Advisor Hutchings recommended that we continue to use the basket raffle proceeds to fund future ideas she has. Director Zanetti asked Andrea when she would be able to iterate her ideas. She responded that she will present them at the summer meeting.

12. Summer Council Meeting

It was suggested that the meeting be held at Devens; President Westgate volunteered NEVIH to host. The dates of August 15/16, 2014 were chosen; the 15th for Finance Committee meeting and the 16th for the full Council meeting.

Delegate Schwingbeck asked about swapping convention dates. That would cause conflicts with Sweet Adeline dates.

Advisor Kuntz asked what is being done to promote education across organizations. Does information on education opportunities get disseminated? Who should send it out? No decisions were made at this time.

The Council concluded with singing A Blend of Friendship.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan LeClair
Area 2 Secretary