

The Opera Club of the Villages Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

Gerri Piscitelli called the Opera Club of the Villages Board of Directors meeting to order at approximately 9 am. The location was the Pavillion at the Tierra del Sol Recreation Center. Present were: Lou Sasmor, Helga Sharp, Pearl Kosa, Mary Boczkowski, Marlene Croft, Geri Dempsey, Gigi Letendre, Rosalie Locke, Norm Schuster, Marty Taylor, Roy Ullrich, Rudy Ruckert, Shirley Agness and Ann Forrester. Bill Doherty arrived late, at approximately 9:30.

Helga Sharp gave the Treasurer report:

End of year balance - \$125,543 with Fross & Fross

Entering new year with Scholarship Winner money of \$28,000 to be awarded soon, so with Fross and Fross plus Citizen account the total is \$131,000.

Gerri Piscitelli requested ideas from issues that Lou previously sent out to the Board regarding: Monthly meetings – Recreation centers are not open for large crowds and we don't know, with the Corona virus restrictions, when they will be open. It was reported that the Recreation Department will be issuing contracts in September – Gerri Piscitelli is keeping track of this. Bill Doherty made a motion, seconded by Lou Sasmor. **MOTION: “Opera Club of The Villages suspend meetings of the full membership until after December 31st”**. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

After much discussion, with input from many members, as a substitute Bill offered his CFLO live streaming ability to produce a show October 22nd (staying with the 4th Thursday, our regular meeting time) and another show on December 17th in lieu of a Christmas Party. At the end of the live streaming, Bill Doherty would ask for donations. Cost of live streaming is \$800 per show which includes pay for performers. Also, Gerri Piscitelli and Marty Taylor mentioned money is needed for Scholarships now more than ever. Lou Sasmor, in his proposal stated, “our most important task this season is to keep the Opera Club of the Villages visible and viable”.

Issue of dues: After much discussion, **Motion** by Marty Taylor, seconded by Roy Ullrich: **“The Opera Club of the Villages will not send any further emails to membership regarding dues.”** The motion passed by unanimous vote. The Opera Club will retain whatever dues have already been paid and, as Bill Doherty suggested, the Opera Club will refund anyone who demands a refund.

3 Tenors plus One – Roy Ullrich stated that we still have the Feb. 13th date reserved for the show at the Sharon. Bill Doherty said we just don't know, because of the virus, at this time if they will be open and if so, how many seats would be offered. He mentioned not to put names of performers in any letters at this time, but that he can put a show together.

Finances for the Show – With our various projects, Gerri Piscitelli suggested that if The Three Tenors would break even financially, she would like to see it happen. It was discussed that the budget expenses would be \$38,000. This issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

Gerri Piscitelli talked about the program for the show mentioning several songs that could be used. Since it is a Valentine theme, Bill Doherty made suggestions to keep it varied so that it would draw a bigger audience.

Other ways to raise money – Gerri Piscitelli lead a discussion suggesting various ideas to raise money. If anyone knows a company that would underwrite a show, match money we receive or any other idea members know of, please contact Gerri Piscitelli. Marty Taylor mentioned we could look for grants for young people focused on the arts. Several members made suggestions.

Everglade Recreation Center show – Marty Taylor brought this up – the idea is to let people in the southern part of The Villages learn about our Club. Bill Doherty suggested we postpone the idea and re-evaluate again in Feb/March, but definitely before Easter.

Scholarship – Marty Taylor reported that there are 16 original winners at \$1,500 each. She has not heard from 2 so far. Madison Heart accepted ½ of her scholarship last year and then will receive the remainder this year. We will have \$28,000 for scholarships this year. The 2 who have not responded yet will be contacted and given a final date to get in touch, if we don't hear from them, they will forfeit their scholarship.

For this year, the applications are due 3/1/21 – this gives us time for Auditions set for 4/3/21. Gerri Piscitelli has reserved Laurel Manor at no cost to hold auditions. It was decided that scholarships would be held between \$4,000 and \$10,000. Gerri Piscitelli said not to send out too early and Marty Taylor suggested a note to teachers “more to come”.

Gerri Piscitelli read notes from some of the winners. She then opened discussion about the scholarship in Oscar Feliu's name. Roy Ullrich noted that this award is mandated by our By-Laws, but no specific amount is mentioned. It was decided to award \$500.

Gerri Piscitelli said with regard to the MAP program, we need to reevaluate continuation of the program in light of the lack of funds. The MAP Program is suspended until January. More information on this at next Meeting.

Insurance – Rosalie Locke reported that the Opera Club of The Villages has Liability insurance coverage and Director and Officers insurance coverage. She is continuing to evaluate our insurance to assure it meets the needs of the Club.

Bill Doherty reminded everyone to watch this Thursday's (8/27) Talent Explosion featuring Aprile Millo.

Next Board of Directors of the Opera Club meeting – to be held at Laurel Manor, Tuesday Oct. 13th.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Forrester, Secretary