

# **GBN Choir and Theatre Parents Organization Meeting**

## **November 4, 2014**

The meeting was held in the Green and Gold Conference Room at Glenbrook North High School. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 P.M.

### **Present at the meeting:**

Chad Davidson, Andrew Wallace, Julie Ann Robinson, Lisa Raufeisen, Nashwa Mekky, Christine Hultman, Tracy Meyer, Julie Snyder, Sally Norlie, Amy Oberholtzer, Cheri Kates, Alison Whitlock, Elyssa Siegel, Heather MacDonald, Jeannie Chang, Maria Fox, Cynthia Nadig, Mary Ernster Andrews, Nancy Frese, Regina Ruocco, Carol Currie, and Kristine Schwandner.

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

CTPO President Maria Doughty was out of town on business so Vice President, Nancy Frese, ran the meeting.

### **II. October Meeting Minutes Approval**

Amy Oberholtzer moved and Sally Norlie seconded the approval of the October 7, 2014, meeting minutes. All were in favor. No one was opposed. The minutes were approved.

### **III. GBN Faculty Reports**

Chad Davidson noted that the yearbook photos for curricular choirs will be taken after school this week on Thursday (11/6/14). Students will need to remember to bring their choir uniforms to wear for the photos.

Sixteen GBN Students will be in the IMEA (Illinois Music Educators Association) District Honor Choir this coming Saturday (11/8/14). The event will be held at New Trier (Winnetka campus). The concert will start at 3:00 P.M. and tickets will cost \$5.00. Children under age 12 will be admitted free of charge. Students who will be singing were given information today. There will be a bus for the kids from GBN to New Trier – leaving the GBN parking lot at 7:00 A.M. on Saturday. There will be NO TRANSPORTATION HOME FROM NEW TRIER so kids will have to make their own arrangements (like go home with a family member who attended the concert). Band and Orchestra students from GBN will also participate in IMEA.

The first Express concert of the holiday season is only eleven days away. This will be at the Goodman Theatre on 11/15/14. There will be a bus leaving from GBN to travel to the Goodman and some parents will be riding on the bus with the kids. This is the third year that Express will be performing at the Goodman prior to a performance of *A Christmas Carol*.

Congratulations to Andy Wallace who was a featured presenter at the Illinois State Chapter of American Choral Directors. He presented on the topic of contemporary a capella and how it fits in to high school programs.

This Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, Chorale, Express, and Fermata Nowhere will be traveling to the junior high schools. This event, called the Junior High Music Articulation Tour, used to be held in February but, at the request of the junior high schools, has been moved to November this year. The students will travel to the junior highs, return to GBN for lunch, and will perform in the CPA for Maple students after lunch. The GBN students will be out of their classes for blocks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

The Junior High Choral Festival will be held at GBN on 11/20/14 at 7:00 P.M. This is when area junior high choirs come to perform in the CPA. Several GBN choirs perform as well.

Andy Wallace reported that Variety Show auditions will begin on 11/17/14. There is an electronic sign up for audition times in use this year. To select your audition time, go to the GBN website (NOT [www.gbnchoir.com](http://www.gbnchoir.com)). Click on the Activities tab and then on Variety Show (or follow this link) <http://www.glenbrook225.org/gbn/Activities/Variety-Show>.

The link was put up last night and there have already been over 20 student acts who have scheduled a time to try out.

Andy is the director of the Variety Show this year. We know it will be fantastic! The theme of the show is "Expedition."

Julie Ann Robinson reported that *She Kills Monsters* was a great success. The next show, *Don't Drink the Water*, has a cast of 19 students. Allison MacDonald is the Student Assistant Director for *Don't Drink the Water*. DDTW should be a lively and funny show. It was written by Woody Allen and is a farce that takes place inside the American Embassy behind the Iron Curtain. Allen wrote the play in the mid 1960's.

The cast of DDTW is going to have a meal at Georgie V's on Veterans' Day (11/11/14). There will be show meals for the play cast and crew on 12/8, 12/9, and 12/10. The play opens on December 11<sup>th</sup> and runs the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>.

One Act submissions are being accepted now. They will be due the day before Thanksgiving break (Tuesday, November 25, 2014). One of the wonderful things about One Acts is that many kids are needed for the cast so it provides a great opportunity for lots of students to act.

Julie Ann will be taking a group to see the production of *Trust*, by David Schwimmer, at Mundelein High School. The bus will be leaving at 6:00 P.M. on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

The group of students who have signed up to go to Theatre Fest is at capacity. Information regarding rooming assignments will be posted closer to the trip date.

Julie Ann resigned from the Director position for the All State Musical. The show (for the 2015-2016 school year) will be Rent and will be directed by Dennis Anastasopoulos from Reavis High School.

GBN has a student teacher, Ryan Kirby, in the choir department. He is a student at University of Illinois at Champaign / Urbana. He will be at GBN through the Winter Concert.

#### **IV. Membership Report**

Amy Oberholtzer reported that the membership dues collected at the book sale have been received and have been reconciled. There are currently 119 members. Amy has the cast list for *Don't Drink the Water* and she will reach out to any parents of kids in the cast to join the CTPO if they are not already members.

#### **V. Treasurer / Fundraising / EFA Reports**

Sally Norlie reported the following account balances:

Choir	\$10,673.66
Theatre	\$12,817.33
Money Market	\$21,756.29

Sally noted that \$7,833.00 has been sent to BrightSpark for the upcoming Orlando Tour. This amount is a combination of EFA funds that students requested by applied to their trips and six stipends of \$250 each for parent chaperones.

There was some discussion of whether Andy Wallace should remove the information concerning Booster Shot Checkbooks from the [www.gbnchoir.com](http://www.gbnchoir.com) website. If the books are sold out, he will take the information down. When he spoke with Patricia Dollins recently, he had the impression that there were still checkbooks that need to be sold.

Butter Braid orders are due this Friday (11/7/14). They will be ready to be picked up in the choir hallway at 3:00 P.M. on Friday, November 18, 2014.

## VI. Chaperone Report

Nashwa Mekky said that there was a good chaperone turn out for Cider and Song. No chaperones are needed for the Junior High Music Articulation Tour.

The topic of chaperones steered our discussion to Techny, as there is always a need for a lot of helpers at Techny. Chad Davidson let us know that the Techny concert will be held at Glenbrook South this school year. The facility cost at Techny Towers has become prohibitive. The cost is in the neighborhood of \$8,000 to \$9,000 for the event. On top of that, we have the cost of a clinician. The plan is to have the event at the actual Techny Towers venue every other year going forward. Off years, it will be at GBS. GBN cannot host the concert because it is at the same time of year as the Orchestis dance show.

Historically, the Techny concert has been operating at a loss already. We sold about 1200 tickets (600 per show) and even that was not covering our costs. Other venues were suggested but our biggest issue is finding a facility large enough to hold at least 600 audience members as well as over 400 performers.

The next "Techny" concert will be on March 15, 2015. There will probably be only one performance at GBS because they can accommodate the larger crowd all at one time.

## VII. Refreshments

Lisa Raufeisen and Cheri Kates said that they had sold refreshments at the showcase show (*She Kills Monsters*). Sales were underwhelming. Refreshments were provided at Cider and Song and, miraculously, no drinks were spilled.

Oreos will be provided for the Junior High Choral Festival.

## VIII. Newsletter / Communications Report

Nancy Frese will send a blast reminding students to bring choir uniforms for Thursday's yearbook photos. On November 24<sup>th</sup>, the extracurricular choirs will have their yearbook photos taken. Kids must remember their uniforms for those photos as well.

## IX. Show Meals

Mary Ernster Andrews is arranging the show meals for *Don't Drink the Water*. The meals will be on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>. Mary is still looking for venues. She will also go to the cast list to try to recruit volunteers to help with the meals.

A suggestion was made to try Jet Pizza in Wheeling. Mary said that she tries to use Northbrook restaurants but she is open to the suggestion and will look into it. Amy Oberholtzer said she has used Jet for the Golf Team and they were great. Her contact was

Mr. Ponticelli (SP?). Amy thinks they have single serving packaging. Mary wanted to be sure that each person ordering would get their own, individually packaged meal.

## **X. Publicity Report**

Christine Hultman had nothing to report.

## **XI. Q and A Session**

There was a request for an update on the Orlando Tour. Chad reported that 74 kids and 10 adults are signed up to go. 6 adults are chaperones and 4 are staff.

The performance time has been confirmed with Disney.

Chad, Andy, and Julie Ann met with Kris Orticelli from BrightSpark and tweaked the itinerary.

There will be a rehearsal for the kids going on tour on the Monday that is Martin Luther King Day in January (1/19/15). The rehearsal will be from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M. This is the night before finals begin so kids should plan ahead.

There will be one performance in downtown Disney and one educational experience while on tour. The educational experience will be backstage at Cirque du Soleil. The group will see the Cirque du Soleil show first and then, the next morning, they will get to go backstage to learn how everything is done.

It is possible that there will be a parent meeting for the tour – likely immediately following the rehearsal on 1/19/15.

The tour will leave after the last final on Friday (around 3:00 P.M.) and will take a bus from GBN to Midway Airport. The group will return to GBN on Monday around 8:30 P.M.

There was a question about prescription medication for students while on tour. As was done in Italy, the student will communicate with their assigned chaperone if assistance is needed or requested for their medication.

Julie Ann Robinson will be speaking tomorrow (11/5/14) to the GBN Parents' Association. She will have a few students perform briefly and will also give a quick tour of the CPA.

The next Thespian meeting will be held on 11/19/14 after school.

Drama will have a yearbook photo taken tomorrow (11/5) at 3:30 P.M.

Julie Ann is looking into various opportunities to take students to see theatrical performances during second semester.

That concluded the Question and Answer portion of the meeting.

The meeting ended at approximately 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Currie

Secretary