

## **GBN Choir and Theatre Parents Organization Meeting September 2, 2014**

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

Present at the meeting:

Maria Doughty, Nancy Frese, Patricia Dolins, Carol Currie, Pam Tokowitz, Christine Hultman, Elyssa Siegel, Traci Parks, Erika West, Esther Kelly, Tracy Meyer, Lisa Raufeisen, Erik Hultman, Susan Schueler, Jeannie Chang, Amy Oberholtzer, Kristine Schwandner, Laura Callahan, Sue Freiden, Nashwa Mekky, Julie Snyder, Alison Whitlock, Andy Wallace, Chad Davidson, Julie Ann Robinson (entered at 6:25 P.M.), Mary Ernster Andrews, Heather MacDonald, Ellen Westel, Sally Norlie, Regina Ruocco, Cheri Kates, and Mary Cooke

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

Maria greeted everyone and indicated that the CTPO is a team, working together to support the choir and theatre programs at GBN. She encouraged everyone to ask questions and feel free to speak up about any concerns they may have.

### **II. Open Board Positions / Committees**

Some of the board positions were confirmed, including:

Tracy Meyer and Nashwa Mekky – Chaperone Co-Chairs

Lisa Raufeisen – Refreshments

Julie Snyder and Ellen Westel – Choir Banquet Co-Chairs

Heather MacDonald – Show Meals

A committee interest sheet was passed. Maria stressed that everyone should sign up for a committee. New committees include a **By-Laws** review committee, a **Scholarship** committee (for summer programs and graduating seniors), and a **Tour** committee to help with the biannual trips.

This year's trip will be in January 2015 to Disney World in Orlando, Florida. This is for choir students in Cecilian and Chorale and inducted Thespians.

There will be a CTPO roster provided to all members for easy access to one another. The method of distribution will likely be via access to a Google Doc so that the list can be updated and maintained and information on the Google Doc will always be as accurate and current as possible.

Maria prepared and distributed folders for chair positions. Officers should confirm that the information is correct and let Maria know. Maria will update contact information for the officers and will have a hard copy to share at the October meeting.

Maria explained that the meetings have an agenda but discussion and comments are welcome and communication is vital. The faculty does an outstanding job of communicating with the kids but frequently the kids do not relay the information to their parents. CTPO is going to make a push to communicate and update parents via email every week or two so that parents can be more aware of dates and deadlines.

There will be a Q and A time after every meeting. If Chad, Andy, and Julie Ann have been able to stay, they will answer questions on the spot. Questions can also be directed to the CTPO. Questions can be submitted in advance via email to Maria or Carol Currie. They can be asked anonymously if people prefer. Some questions may be submitted to the faculty in advance of the meeting so that they have time to prepare an answer.

### III. GBN Faculty Reports:

Report from Chad Davidson, Instructional Supervisor of Fine Arts:

Chad gave us a brief history of the CTPO. The organization was formed 35 or 40 years ago by Mitch Slotnick. He was the first president of the CTPO and he went on to create a travel company that GBN used for choir trips. The company was sold to BrightSpark, the travel company that we now use.

The CTPO was created primarily to allow parents to assist with Choir and Theatre programs. The CTPO work is primarily behind the scenes (like with wardrobe and refreshments) and it is done to allow the staff to spend more time working with the kids.

Information from Choir and Theatre will be communicated to Maria for distribution.

[www.gbnchoir.com](http://www.gbnchoir.com) has a calendar and a new look this year. You can save the calendar to your own Google calendar if you want. Communication is also available on Facebook and Twitter. Nance Frese will also send email blasts as needed.

Auditions for Ladies First started today. The call back list will be posted tonight on [www.gbnchoir.com](http://www.gbnchoir.com). The final list for Ladies First will be posted on Friday after school.

Private music lessons for voice and guitar is available from private instructors who come in to GBN to teach. The cost is \$26.00 per 30 minute lesson. Forms are available by clicking on the forms tab at [www.gbnchoir.com](http://www.gbnchoir.com).

Fundraising with the Booster Shot Checkbooks will begin soon.

Chad commented on the Scholarship application process. There are separate awards. One is given by the CPO and then there is another, privately funded, scholarship called the Judy Moe scholarship that is given for vocal performance.

The choir tour will happen at the semester break. The group will leave on Thursday and return late Monday night. The choir tours every other year. To travel, a student must be in Cecilian or Chorale. Theater students were invited to join the tour. Only inducted Thespians are eligible to tour. Registration is still open. Registration started in the spring to allow payments to be spread over a greater span of time. There are currently 65-70 kids, 4 staff (Davidson, Wallace, Robinson, and Susie Hall), and 5 or 6 parents signed up to go. There is adequate chaperone participation but there is room if anyone else is interested. Please contact Chad Davidson if you are a parent who wants to come on the trip.

Chad noted that there needs to be an ACTION ITEM and vote to approve a stipend for the cost of the chaperones' trips. Historically, the stipend has been about \$300 per chaperone. **This should be voted on at the October meeting.**

The cost of the trip is about \$1,300 per person but there is a sliding scale so the cost can be adjusted by BrightSpark based on the number of people going on the trip.

9/11/14 is the date of PARENT NIGHT IN THE CLASSROOM. The CTPO should have representatives talk about joining the CTPO in all of the choir classrooms. Sign up forms should also be available that night.

Julie Ann Robinson spoke about the fall play, "Kiss the Air." Kiss the Air has a student director, Alex Hultman, and will be in the drama room from September 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> (3 shows only). There are 23 kids who are in the production of "Kiss the Air." KTA had a few summer rehearsals. The show includes scenes and songs; Haiku is included as well as performance art and poetry.

Auditions will be this Wednesday and Thursday for the Fall Showcase, "She Kills Monsters." No preparation is required. The show will be directed by alumna, Andrea

Prizant. Interested students should come either Wednesday or Thursday but not both to the CPA lobby. A call back list will be posted on Friday at [www.gbntheatre.com](http://www.gbntheatre.com).

A Theatre barbeque was held last week. Fifty five students came for the games and food. The barbeque is funded by CTPO.

The Theater Festival packet will be posted on the [www.gbntheatre.com](http://www.gbntheatre.com) website soon and they will be due in early October. The three day festival will be held at the University of Illinois, Champaign. The kids will leave Thursday after school. They will miss school on Friday but, fortunately, this does not fall on the weekend right before finals as it has in the past. The dates are January 8-10, 2015. Again, applications will be due on or around October first.

Kids who want to audition for college acceptance into a theatre program will be able to do so at the Festival if they sign up. Please talk to Julie Ann Robinson if you are interested in this option.

Current seniors who want to be in college theatre programs should notify Julie Ann so that she can assist and possibly form a group of kids and parents to meet and discuss the application process.

Meals are being arranged for "Kiss the Air" participants and they will also be set up for "She Kills Monsters" on October 13-15. An email list of kids in the KTA show is needed so that information about show meals can be communicated to parents as well as students. Money for show meals must be deposited in the "Sponge Bob" box that is located in the choir offices.

Julie Ann is looking for parents to handle money in the box office during the upcoming productions. Maria will get a list of the students in each show and will approach their parents first for assistance in the box office. Parent help is needed and appreciated.

Comedy Troup will perform on Friday at GBN Loyalty Day. The assembly will be at 1:55 P.M.

"Kiss the Air" tickets should be on sale by this Friday (9/5/14). They can be purchased for \$7.00 through pre-sale from Julie Ann or at the box office. Kids can get a ticket free with their activities pass. There are only 250 seats available per show. Posters will be available within 7 days to be distributed by parents around town.

There has been a request for a “quiet room” for kids to do homework during tech week for all shows, including KTA. In a related note, the title of “Homework Hottie” is up for grabs. This title goes to the student who studies the most during rehearsals and has been held for some time by Alex Kaplan, who graduated in 2014.

A request was made that choir and theatre schedules be posted in a place where parents can view them (like [www.gbnchoir.com](http://www.gbnchoir.com) or [www.gbntheatre.com](http://www.gbntheatre.com)) in addition to the Google Docs that kids have access to.

#### IV. Membership Report – Amy Oberholtzer

There are approximately 105 members in the CTPO based on the preliminary results from the book sale. We do not have the information from the book sale to reconcile the membership yet. There could be people who have paid for a membership but not turned in a form or signed up on-line.

Parents who will speak to choir classes on 9/11 are:

Kristine Schwandner – freshman AM choir

Esther Kelly – freshman PM choir

Lisa Raufeisen – Varsity Spartan choir

Traci Parks – Cecilian

Amy Oberholtzer – Chorale

Amy will share the Google Doc of membership with Mary Ernster and other chairs so that they have access to member contact information.

Amy expressed her gratitude to parents who helped with the book sale.

#### V. Treasurer Report – Sally Norlie

As of June, these are the balances in the accounts:

\$11,830.20 in Theatre

\$7,865.05 in Choir

\$21,756.29 in the money market account

Membership money from the book sale will take a while to work its way into the accounts.

The Theatre and Choir accounts are used for active needs. The money market has grown and we may consider dipping into it this year. Maria has asked for a wish list from Chad, Andy, and Julie Ann.

## VI. Fundraising / Earnings Fund Accounts Report – Patricia Dolins

9/8 and 9/9 will be the kick off dates for the booster shot checkbook sales. There are 30 or more coupon / gift cards in each checkbook. The checkbooks cost \$30 each and the student earns a \$15 credit for each book sold. Earnings Funds can be used to pay for part of the Orlando trip, banquets, Theatre Fest, and more. The choir purchased 425 books (Band has 275) and choir is not planning to buy more. Band is already out selling and our organization has a problem with this. It is not fair and there needs to be some communication and an agreement with Band that they cannot get out and sell prior to the agreed upon date.

Butter Braids frozen pastries will be sold again this year. The cost is \$13.00 per pastry and the student earns \$5.20 for each one sold. They will be sold in October and delivered before Thanksgiving.

The Earned Fund Account can be passed to siblings if a senior has money in their account when they graduate.

Historically, Theatre kids have not been getting adequate information about the booster shot checkbooks. There is discussion about a subgroup for parents of kids who do theatre but not choir. Fundraising information is available on both the choir and theatre websites but parents need to be reminded to look on the websites for the information.

The cost for Theatre Fest is in the neighborhood of \$125.00 or \$150.00.

EFA information will be given to Chad monthly and he will post it in the classroom.

If a student is going to apply EFA money to the Orlando Tour, it will be applied to the last payment. If a person has more than enough to cover the last payment and wants to be reimbursed by BrightSpark, they should contact Chad for assistance with that.

There is a new form available to be used when requesting the use of EFA money.

## VII. Newsletter / Communications – Nancy Frese

Let Nancy know if you did not receive the most recent email blast.

Information to go in the next newsletter is needed by this Friday (9/5).

## VII. Show Meals – Mary Ernster Andrews

Show meal orders and money for “Kiss the Air” are needed by Friday 9/5. Put money for the meals in the Sponge Bob box. The form to order meals is on the Google Docs

community for cast members. They will be using Go Roma and Noodles & Co. for the meals. Order the meals on-line and then submit a check to the Sponge Bob box. Checks should be made to GBN CPO. The cost is \$7.00 per meal. Mary will send an email to the parents of kids who did not order – just to confirm that it was not an oversight by the student.

#### IX. Publicity – Christine Hultman

Christine explained that when play posters are available, parents will pick up posters at her house and post them around town at elementary schools and the junior highs, Sunset, cleaners, etc. She will send an email when posters are available to be picked up.

#### X. Q and A Session

A question was asked about notification about the Theatre barbeque. It was explained that it was noted on the GBN morning announcements, as are many things. Some classrooms are required to listen to the announcements more intently than others. Kids in Academy (sophomores and juniors) will be at GBS in the morning and will not have the opportunity to hear the announcements. The push emails from the CTPO every week or two should help with communication about upcoming events.

The meeting ended at approximately 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Currie  
Secretary