

GBN Choir and Theatre Parents Organization Meeting

January 6, 2015

The meeting was held in the Green and Gold Conference Room at Glenbrook North High School. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M.

Present at the meeting:

Andrew Wallace, Julie Ann Robinson, Maria Doughty, Nancy Frese, Patricia Dolins, Nashwa Mekky, Esther Kelly, Jeannie Chang, Mary Ernster Andrews, Tracy Meyer, Traci Parks, Diane Seymour, Elyssa Siegel, Christine Hultman, Sally Norlie, Pam Tokowitz, Alision Whitlock, and Carol Currie

I. Welcome and Introductions

CTPO President, Maria Doughty welcomed everyone. Introductions were not necessary. Maria announced that the scholarship committee meeting would be held immediately following the CTPO meeting tonight.

II. November and December Meeting Minutes Approval

No corrections were offered for either the November or December 2014 meeting minutes. Esther Kelly moved that the minutes be approved and Mary Ernster Andrews seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. GBN Faculty Reports

Andy Wallace reported that Variety Show practices and rehearsals are in full swing.

For the upcoming trip to TheatreFest, Andy will be driving the bus of students.

Choir and Theater are preparing for the Orlando Tour. There will be a parent meeting that kids are not required to attend. This will be held on Martin Luther King Day, after tour rehearsal. The parent meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. and should last about one hour. A packing list was requested and Andy said that BrightSpark will send that. Performance clothes should be neatly packed and kids will be reminded to hang them as soon as the group arrives at the hotel. Someone asked if kids will be able to check their luggage. Andy replied that we are flying Southwest Airlines out of Midway partially because bags can be checked for no additional cost.

Several kids will be traveling to Peoria, IL for the IMEA All State choir. Chad Davidson will be leading that group and driving the bus.

Variety Show dates are February 12, 13, and 14 with the following start times:

February 12, 2015	7:30 P.M.
February 13, 2015	7:30 P.M.
February 14, 2015	8:00 P.M.

Tickets will go on sale through our ticket vendor a few weeks before the show. Students involved with the show will have the first option to buy tickets.

Maria indicated that she had received several questions about the process of selecting students for the Variety Show Vocal Ensemble. This year's group is larger (18 kids) and people were also wondering why that is the case. Andy said that the group is larger because he has access to more microphones this year. He also said that the kids are given music to prepare for the audition and results are based on audition performances. Beyond that, he could not give additional information and students or parents would need to meet with him individually to discuss why they may not have been selected.

The conversation moved back to the Orlando Tour and information was added that the group will leave from school on 1:45 P.M. on January 22nd to drive to Midway Airport.

Julie Ann Robinson reported that there will be no call backs for Group Interp. One Acts will have call backs tomorrow (assuming that school is in session, which it was not on 1/7/15 or 1/8/15). Since there were snow days, students should check www.gbntheatre.com for updated information about Once Act auditions.

TheatreFest will include a workshop lead by Andy Wallace and Julie Ann Robinson called "Find Your Voice."

Julie Ann is in charge of TheatreFest gear and sweatshirts will be available for \$22.00. Winter coats will be required for all kids attending TheatreFest due to the forecast of extremely low temperatures. Students will need to bring money for food. *Pippin* is the musical that will be attended on Friday night.

14 students will be going to TheatreFest and they will be staying at the Hawthorne Suites on in Champaign, IL.

Next Tuesday, there will be a workshop for kids who want to pursue theatre in college. Seniors will perform. This will be part of the Thespians meeting.

For Group Interp, students will be required to be in town on the first Saturday of Spring Break. Students have been told about this at the point of audition so there should be no conflicts on that Saturday.

Both the childrens' play and the Group Interp piece are to be determined.

The cast lists will go up after TheatreFest some time. Refer to www.gbntheatre.com for updates.

Student directors for One Acts are Cam Norlie and Kate Seno.

IV. Membership Report

Amy Oberholtzer was not in attendance at the meeting. There was no report.

V. Treasurer's Report

Sally Norlie reported the following account balances:

Choir	\$10,722.70
Theatre	\$12,905.70
Money Market	\$21,762.73

Show meals were paid for.

Fundraising / EFA Reports

Patricia Dolins reported that there are about 25 checkbooks available for sale.

VI. Refreshments Report

No report.

VII. Newsletter / Communications Report

No report.

VIII. Show Meals

No report.

IX. Publicity Report

No report.

X. Banquet Report

Julie Snyder reported that, for the Choir Banquet, she has been working with the Hilton to make the venue have a more festive feel to it. They are also discussing having a buffet with Italian beef, salad, pasta, and dessert. There needs to be a way to monitor who has paid as this will be harder to track if the meal is buffet style. A suggestion was made that people who have paid would be given a meal ticket. This will be considered further.

Julie commented that the centerpieces, which are being stored at her house, have seen better days and she requested permission to get new ones, which was approved.

The discussion circled back to buffet vs. plated meal. There were concerns that the line would be too long so two lines were suggested. Some people preferred the idea of a plated meal and thought that the event would have a more upscale feel when the meals are served to the tables. Maria thought we might want to try the buffet this year and see how it goes. The group was in agreement. Additional comments included a suggestion to ask for fresh fruit and ice cream.

For the Theatre Banquet, Elyssa Siegel said that she has had discussions with Judy Elowe about how they can have just one entrance to the stage and funnel everyone through it. One advantage would be the ability to catch people who have not yet paid.

Maria spoke about gifts for both Choir and Theater graduating seniors. She has been speaking with Arnie Rose who has been working with GBN for years. She will invite him to our next meeting and he will show us sample products. Maria said that he has been very generous with discounts he has provided on items ordered for the Grad Night event.

XI. Historian Report

Alison Whitlock noted that she has been taking lots of pictures. Discussion began about setting up a shared photo site such as Shutterfly, Dropbox, or Snapfish. People could drop their photos to share and / or upload photos to purchase or print. She will look into the options.

The conversation led us to discuss Facebook and, although this is not the ideal place to store photos, we did discuss whether CTPO has a Facebook page. Many thought not until Esther showed us the Facebook page on her phone. We will find out how this page is being maintained, if at all. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Glenbrook-North-Choir-and-Theatre-Parents-Organization/250828948333672>. It seems that the last post there was one year ago.

XII. Q and A Session

There were no questions that had not already been asked earlier in the evening.

Added Note:

Patricia Dolins reminded us that she needs a list of kids who plan to use EFA money to pay for TheatreFest. The cost of TheatreFest is about \$130.00. Julie Ann would review her list to see if anyone had not given her a check to cover their cost yet. Maria reminded us that there is a form to request the use of EFA funds and the students must fill out this form if they want to direct funds to TheatreFest or to anything else.

The meeting ended at 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Currie
Secretary