

Pilgrim Festival Chorus Minutes of 2008 Annual Meeting

Presiding: C Dorchester.

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm, after a social hour. A quorum of members was present.

Secretary's Report:

2007 Annual Meeting minutes: the minutes were voted to be accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report:

L Fredericks presented the Annual Treasurer's Report, showing a balance of \$357.34, as of 4/19/08, to end the 2007-8 year. The report is not good. It's mostly because ticket sales by members are way down, and we need to address this issue. We also had to hire extra male voices for our concerts this season. This extra expense was not budgeted. Even though we had additional income in June, 2007, from the Broadway revue, we still came up short. Also, adding to our shortfall, we have not received payment from the Plymouth Philharmonic for the 2007 Holiday Pops concerts. This was an item recently discovered as overlooked. No one realized the money was never paid. We will contact the Phil's management, and it should be paid without problem. The report was approved as presented, with a note to follow through on the missing \$2000 income amount.

Music Director's Report:

B Richter was unable to attend the meeting. He submitted his report in writing. It was read to the membership by the President. He praised the chorus for the excellent music presented this season. He was especially thrilled with the performance of Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, earlier this month. He is looking forward to an exciting 2008-9 concert year, and has many, many ideas for selections to perform that will not only expand our repertoire, but challenge us to continue our growth, musically.

President's Report:

Cynthia Dorchester, Board President, went over the highlights of the past musical year, both scheduled concerts and community outreach performances. More and more patrons are telling us that they no longer have to go in to Boston or other areas to hear quality choral music, it's right here with PFC! She reiterated that we ended the year financially 'in the black'... but just barely. Several things contributed to this, as stated above. She admonished the chorus membership for the poor amount of tickets sold to our concerts. As a result, the treasury is not very healthy. She mentioned the third season's "Strictly Sondheim" program that will begin rehearsal soon. If it's as successful as in 2007, it will help build the treasury. We depend on ticket sales to allow us to present concerts as they should be performed, with an orchestra and soloists, and the superb musicianship of our director and accompanist. Some day we may not have to sell our own tickets, but for now that's what we need to do. She needs every member's cooperation.

For the last year of her Presidency, she again asked that all members be on the lookout for opportunities to perform in their community, e.g. at Town Meetings and other special municipal occasions. We will do this as part of our community service obligation. All we need is a 6-8 week advance notice so we can plan an appropriate program. We would also like to increase our membership, especially of younger people. They are out there! We recently heard a wonderful performance by the South Shore High School Consortium. Those young voices were fabulous!

Cyndy thanked all the Board members for their service and support, especially Linda Fredericks, a founding member of the PFC, who is retiring this year. She thanked Cliff and Linda for providing the space for this meeting. Members, in turn, thanked Cyndy and her committee for arranging the great refreshments. The report was accepted as read. (See the PFC website for the full President's Annual Report.)

In addition, other members and officers spoke on things that will help to "grow" and assist the workings of the chorus. •A "Buddy Night" for the first rehearsal and auditions next season. We can have Board members, and perhaps an official greeter, welcome new members and guide them through the joining process. •The Secretary asked for assistance in several areas, such as Archives, Librarian, compiling and managing an e-list of patrons, and for GBCC alternate representatives. •Our PR director, Michelle McGrath, also asked for help to lighten her load. •Suggestions included having subcommittees to work on specific projects, such as community outreach and increasing the membership. •Perhaps we could organize a smaller 'chorus' whose primary goal was to go out and perform community or seasonal concerts. This would not require organizing the entire chorus for an hour-long Holiday sing, for example.

New Business:

Nominations: The following persons were nominated and elected to the PFC Board of Directors as of the 2008-2009 season:

Klaus Haak, 3 year term till 2011
Meredith Hutchings, 3 year term till 2011
Michelle McGrath, 3 year term till 2011
Dan Miot, 3 year term till 2011
Susan Mullaney, 2 year term till 2010
Linda Kegel, 2 year term till 2010
Louisette Musow, finishing Linda Fredericks' incomplete (3 year) term till 2009.
There were no other nominations from the floor. All members were in favor.
The Secretary cast one vote to accept the slate.

Continuing their unexpired terms on the Board are:

Eileen McCaffrey, till 2010
Joyce Sand, till 2010
Tom Nordquist, till 2009
Bridgette Wargovich, till 2009
Cyndy Dorchester, till 2009
Connie Melahoures - Immediate Past President, till 2009 (non-voting member)

Note: Soon after this meeting, Officers were elected to the Board's Executive Committee by email, phone, letter, in person vote:

Cyndy Dorchester - President, continuing a 3 year term till 2009.
Meredith Hutchings - Secretary, 3 year term, 2011
Klaus Haak - Vice President, 3 year term, 2011
Eileen McCaffrey - Treasurer (Finishing the term of former Treasurer, Linda Fredericks, retired), 1 year term, 2009.

Winners for most 2007-8 tickets sold are: Grand Prize - Connie Melahoures, 15 tickets = \$180. Will not pay for first half-season's dues or music. 1st place - Barbara Lane, 13 tickets = \$156. Will not pay first half-season's dues + PFC cap. 2nd place - Ann Thompson, 10 tickets = \$120. Only pays half of first season's dues, will not pay for first season music. 3rd place - Shirley Oktay, 9 tickets = \$108. Will not pay for first season's music. Free PFC sweatshirt. Several others also sold more than the 5 tickets all members were given to sell. The board is extremely grateful for the efforts made by all those

members who did sell tickets for our concerts. After all, why would we want to perform without an audience to hear us?

Announcements:

At the end of the meeting, several members proposed ideas to help the chorus: •Promote the next concert at your church or other social functions. •Give an electronic copy of our posters to members so they can send it on to their friends and family. •Tickets should be available to members for sale at least one month in advance of a concert. •Consider raising ticket prices. Value is sometimes judged by price. Sometimes people think of something cheap as of low quality. Other area choruses charge \$18-25 and offer discounts of 10-20% for in advance, or senior/student, e.g. •Consider having a Corresponding Secretary and a Recording Secretary, to divide the duties.

The President announced that the Board had tonight signed the application papers for PFC to become a 501(c)(3) Federal Non-Profit Corporation. This will allow us greater ability to seek grant money, and to solicit donations from those who prefer a tax benefit if they contribute to us.

There being no further business, a motion was made for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. Many members pitched in to clean up the hall before leaving.

Respectfully Submitted,
Meredith Hutchings, Secretary