

Second Annual Assembly of Margaret's Choir 13/11/2016; 4:30- 5:15 pm.

Minutes (unapproved)

1. Bringing Meeting to order & Adoption of an Amended Agenda; Len Greenwood (MC) brought the meeting to order. Motion accepted:(Moved Paula Keirstead, 2nd Bonnie Wrighton) approved w/o objection or abstention.
2. Minutes of First Annual Assembly Accepted as Read: (Moved Stephanie Swain, 2nd Margaret Sucharov) accepted w/o objection or abstention.
3. Opening Remarks by Co-chairs:
 - 3.1. Pat Reid – Accepted (Moved Esther Korchynski, 2nd Bonnie Wrighton) w/o objection or abstention,
 - 3.2. Geoff Taylor – Accepted (Moved Doreen Phimister, 2nd inaudible) w/o objection or abstention.
4. Financial Report presented by Sue Oates, included as the Income Statement (See appendix). Accepted as read (Moved Gladys Comeault, 2nd Nancy McAvoy Gajdosik) w/o objection or abstention.
5. Old Business:
 - 5.1. Motion 2 of Nov. 22nd, 2015 regarding editing of guidelines, was set aside following discussion, without voiced opposition.
6. New Business
 - 6.1. Ratification of Current Dream Team Roster; One member had been added to the Dream Team Roster, Patrick Stewart pending ratification of the assembly. Motion to Ratify Patrick Stewart's nomination to the Dream Team was Approved (Moved Leonard Greenwood) with one abstention.
7. Questions and Comments:
 - 7.1. Clarification was requested regarding the process of selecting organizations as concert beneficiaries.
 - 7.2. Explanation was requested regarding the rationale for having a moderate positive bank balance in reserve.
 - 7.3. Information was requested regarding the practice of remuneration of guest artists at MC concerts.
 - 7.4. Suggestion was made that the MC logo be placed on member name tags..
8. Adjournment: Moved by Stephanie Swain
Appendices (3); 2016 Remarks by Pat Reid, Remarks by Geoff Taylor, Financial Report by Sue Oates.

Appendix 1: Remarks by Pat Reid

Margaret's Choir 2nd AGM, November 13, 2016

Thank you for staying for Margaret's Choir 2nd AGM. We require this support to function under our Margaret's Choir Guidelines. I think of our Founder, Margaret Tobin smiling and nodding with pleasure that her vision for this choir continues. We come to this space each week to sing for Joy, Personal, Choral and Global Harmony, our foundation for this choir.

The Dream Team manages the choir on your behalf as laid out in our Guidelines. Since our last AGM, we made the decision to purchase back rails and side rails for the safety of our members who stand on the top risers for our concerts. We have developed an agreement between ourselves and the benefit which we both sign once a benefit is agreed upon. We continue to have a mutual, respectful relationship with the Unitarian Church. We appreciate this space and being flexible when we are asked to change our rehearsal time for a church function keeps us in good standing. We treat this space as our own by taking care of how we use it. We abide by the restrictions the church has laid out for us and the Dream Team members have the responsibility of making sure members understand the restrictions and abide by them. In turn when we want to use the space for a longer period and have use of the kitchen for potlucks or extra time like today for our AGM the church is very accommodating. The Dream team is responsible for booking our concert venue and communicating with the rental person from that venue to prepare for our specifications and needs. The Dream Team successfully over time and with your participation at the beginning hired a Graphic Artist to design our

Margaret's Choir logo. This process took longer than we thought because we wanted to give members a chance to send in their designs first. Dream Team organizes a potluck for each season and the general membership do the duties on the day of. It's a collaborative effort. At our regular Dream Team meetings we start with taking the pulse of the choir by sharing our observations and what we hear from choir members. They have to a Dream Team member. Members are encouraged to bring any concerns they have to anyone on the Dream Team. We try to keep ourselves visible and available before rehearsal and during our break. At our meetings there are always discussions and decisions being made on your behalf. It is important to share this information because we will need new leadership in the future. It is important for those with a passion for this choir, who have an interest and aptitude for this work become familiar with how we do things. We are considering having some open Dream Team meetings to include any choir members who may be interested in taking a more active roll. Dream Team members who have specific tasks will document their roles for incoming new Dream Team members to use as guides.

We have grown to our capacity and to allow us to continue rehearsing in this beautiful space we may need to establish and hold true to an actual cut off date for registration. This is challenging because Margaret's Choir encourages all to raise their voices in song with Joy & for Personal, Choral & Global Harmony. I have been receiving calls recently from individuals who have accepted waiting for our next season starting January 8th. We will always break that rule for people in need of this community of singing now. There are always some special circumstances and in the spirit of Margaret's Choir we open our hearts.

In the year since our last AGM, we supported two benefits with our concert proceeds. December 6, 2015 we raised \$6,349.20 to

assist the West End Cultural Centre with their free Music Mentorship Drop in Program for 12 years to 18 years. Participants have the use of instruments they are interested in and instruction and mentorship by professional musicians who donate their time to kids in the area.

Our May 6, 2016 concert at Jubilee Place raised \$7,147.30 used to contribute to the capital required to build Little Stars PLAYhouse for North End children under one to five years and their caregivers. Little Stars PLAYhouse is our benefit again this season. We, meaning Margaret's Choir members are working to fill the house at Jubilee Place December 4, 2:30pm. This means selling all the tickets and collecting donations from folks who would like to support this cause but not come to the concert. This is our commitment to Global Harmony meaning for the greater good of others.

"Personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity." Our core values are based on respect for one another to provide a safe and comfortable environment for all to enjoy using our voices together and to learn our pieces to create beautiful four part harmonies. We encourage choir members to sing in the concerts but this is not a requirement of Margaret's Choir.

At our last AGM, we were asked to provide information on our benefits over the years. We have made that available to you on the website. We were also asked to be more communicative with the members and we have done so with our weekly news and information we share at break time during rehearsals.

Looking ahead:

We are already in the midst of planning our next concert for May 24, 2017 at the Concert Hall with the Winnipeg Youth Chorus.

We intend for our beneficiary to be MDAM, Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba. If we sell our usual number of tickets we will break even. Our intent is to fill the Concert Hall, 2300 seats. I

know this seems a daunting task but we are not the only group selling tickets. The Winnipeg Youth Chorus and the benefit will be called upon to sell tickets too. Dream Team member Patrick Stewart has been communicating with the Concert Hall so that we are aware of the details and the commitment. He has created a working spreadsheet which is proving to be very helpful. You can be assured that we will keep you abreast of the progress in planning for this exciting opportunity. We can successfully achieve our goals for this concert and enjoy the experience.

Special thank you to Geoff Taylor for his commitment to Margaret's Choir and the Dream Team. Geoff is always generous with his time and ready to take on a task on a moments notice. Due to another important involvement in Geoff's life he has stepped down as a Co-Chair but is remaining on the Dream Team. To the other members of our team, tenors Len Greenwood & Patrick Stewart, soprano's Sue Oates, Jean Skromeda and Sylvia Zubert, altos Dawn Lazar and Frances Woolison, thank you for your dedication and will to work in the best interests of our choir and bringing your particular skills and talents to the tasks at hand. Thank you to John Tanner for making the recordings for all sections to use for rehearsing at home. To Bill Reid for manning the website keeping it current and dealing with issues members may be having getting on it, thank you. To Sheila Norrie for developing a method for ticket distribution which is efficient and well organized and for documenting her methods, thank you. As you are starting to see there are many not on the Dream Team who have taken on specific tasks. Shelly Blanco for organizing and

completing the membership list, assisting with music organization and distribution, counting money during registration and keeping good records, thank you.

I would like to extend our gratitude and thanks for the excellent choral leadership we receive every week from Nathan and Charmaine. Our hearts are filled with love and appreciation for you both.

For me personally, being in Margaret's Choir was the catalyst to finding my voice and developing my confidence to use it. I joined Margaret's Choir 15 years ago to sing in community and I received so much more. It has been a pleasure to work with people who want to share the joy and harmony of singing in community with others.

Thank you for your time and your ear. Please may I have a motion to accept this report.

Respectively submitted,
Pat Reid

Appendix 2: Remarks by Geoff Taylor

I would like to reflect and project for a moment on the positive influence that Spirit's Call (now Margaret's choir) has had on me.

Looking at the past:

I came from singing with the Golden Chordsmen barber shoppers where we raised a \$1000 a year for the St. Amant Center. I was excited to see that Spirit's Call was raising tens of thousands of dollars for multiple charities. It was the best of two worlds. I enjoyed the singing and I was supporting many worthy causes. I was hooked. Roll the tape forward a decade or so and Margaret's choir was now supporting me as I struggled with losing my wife to cancer. The choir singing at her celebration of life was breathtakingly magnificent and deeply moving. Now that I am focused on making the otherwise un-fundable cure for 95% of those cancers available.

Looking at the present:

Each week coming to choir gives me a chance to leave all my worldly concerns behind and be a small part of something truly wonderful. We are all singing something slightly different but it all comes together with amazing strength.

I appreciate the collaborative nature of the dream team and the cooperative nature of everyone associated with the choir. The power of positive attitudes is truly amazing.

Looking to the future:

We are growing and with Nathan and Charmaine's help, we are singing better and better every season. More and more people are enjoying the empowerment of singing together and the expansion it brings to our lives.

In summary:

My personal growth has truly been from personal, to choral and to global.

We have come a long way in the 20 years since Margaret Tobin and a few of her friends thought about forming a choir for people who felt they couldn't sing. We can be very proud of the \$200,000 plus that we have given to local charities. Margaret used to say "It takes a village". Well our village has grown into a town and we are rapidly becoming a city. Like Jeremy spinning off a new Spirit's Call Choir in Vancouver and our singing with the Manitoba Youth Choir next season, we are spreading the benign virus of the love of singing. We are plucking heart strings with our marvelous melodies. We are being personally enriched, warmly embraced and empowered by a huge sense of contributing to the stabilizing harmonies of life.

Thank you, for the opportunity of being a part of this wonderful machine and thank you for being such a supportive and cooperative group.

Keep breathing.

Keep breathing out: grudges, fear, conflicts, sorrow, bitterness, hate.

Keep breathing in; forgiveness, confidence, peace, joy, gratitude, love.

When you breath out; make a joyful noise, in harmony of course!

Appendix 3: Income Statement adopted 13 November 2016

Margaret's Choir		
Income Statement		
<i>for the year September 1- August 31</i>		
	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2014-15</u>
REVENUE		
Membership Dues	\$26,067.50	\$22,075.00
Other Revenue	<u>2,415.91</u>	<u>2,577.73</u>
Total Revenue	\$28,483.41	\$24,652.73
EXPENSES		
Honoraria (for Director & Pianist)	\$8,150.00	\$8,120.00
Music Copyright	7,288.00	9,406.62
Rental of Practice Space	4,320.00	5,220.00
Event Costs (stage mgr, guest artists, instrumentalists)	2,279.70	1,200.00
Photocopying	904.00	1,361.56
Potluck Expenses	888.56	910.18
Insurance	596.16	596.16
Member Support (name tags, etc)	383.71	23.59
Thank You Gifts	327.06	498.21
Bank Charges	140.36	245.17
Administrative & Legal Expenses	80.00	45.00
Website Expenses; Music Splitting	<u>-</u>	<u>525.01</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$25,357.55</u>	<u>\$28,151.50</u>
Surplus / (Loss) for the year	<u>\$3,125.86</u>	<u>(\$3,498.77)</u>
	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2014-15</u>
ASSETS		
Cash	\$19,794.10	\$18,557.37
Back & Side Rails for Risers	1,889.13	-
Rental Deposit at MBCI	<u>150.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>
Total Assets at August 31, 2016	<u>\$21,833.23</u>	<u>\$18,707.37</u>
Number of Members		
Fall Season	181	151
Spring Season	172	167