

# VILLAGE RINGERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022 – 10:00 am  
17652 SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Woodlawn Avenue, The Villages, Florida

## I. MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bonnie Fisher, Amy Cornwall-Robinson, John Higbee, Ron Drozd, Emily Spann

## II. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Bonnie Fisher, President, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am, and welcomed board members to the meeting.

## III. AGENDA CHANGES/APPROVAL

Although Bonnie had emailed the agenda earlier for review, she distributed a copy of the agenda to each board member. After board members looked over the agenda, Bonnie asked if there were any corrections or additions. Amy made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and John seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

## IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bonnie reminded the board members that a copy of the last January 10, 2022 board meeting minutes was emailed earlier to all members. In addition, Emily provided copies of the minutes for members to review. John stated that he had reviewed the minutes earlier and had no corrections or additions to recommend. A motion was made by John to approve the minutes as presented and Amy seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

## V. REPORTS

### 1. President's Report

a. Bonnie praised the work of the Village Ringers this year, mentioning how well the new ringers fit into the group and how hard each of the ringers worked to have a successful spring concert. Bonnie explained to the board that charter member, Carol Bonebrake, had health issues and she and her husband moved to Alabama to be near their son. Bonnie asked Marcia Barber to substitute for Carol, as she was already playing a bell solo in the program. However, Marcia tested positive for COVID right before the concert, and luckily for the Village Ringers, she found a very capable substitute who did a great job playing at the concert.

b. Bonnie told board members that she felt very good about the concert and was happy to report that 225 tickets were sold. Sixty (60) tickets were sold online, but approximately 165 tickets were sold at the door. In order to provide further details of the ticket sales, Amy distributed a printed concert expense, ticket sale, and profit statement to each of the board members. Amy noted that the total expenses incurred for the concert was \$311.81. Additionally, she explained that box office sales were \$584.04, and door ticket sales were \$1130.00, with one donation of \$40.00. The total profit (sales minus expenses) was \$1,442.23.

c. Bonnie expressed great appreciation to Village Ringers spouses and friends who served as ushers and ticket salespeople during the concert. She showed to the board a list of the 64 names (with email addresses) of people who voluntarily signed up to receive updates on Village Ringers activities and future concerts.

d. Bonnie stated that the director of music ministry of the New Covenant United Methodist Church, Sean Pollock, attended the spring concert and really enjoyed the Village Ringers' music. Sean wants to keep Bonnie on the Church's Performance Roster and the church has invited the Village Ringers to use the church for weekly practice.

e. Bonnie mentioned to the board members that she has not heard anything from the Harbor Chase facility administrative staff, who had allowed the Village Ringers to use their facility for bell practice in the past. Bonnie will contact the facility to let them know that the Village Ringers will no longer need the Harbor Chase facility for practice.

f. Bonnie explained to the board that New Covenant United Methodist Church will not charge for the use of the building, including any janitorial and AV services utilized. For the spring 2022 concert, \$360.00 (or 20% of the gross concert sales of \$1754.00) will be given to the church for hosting the concert. Bonnie reminded the board that The Village Ringers will be donating to a charity of the church's choice.

g. Bonnie asked that board members about their feelings now that the Villages Entertainment is no longer involved in any Villages club advertising or ticket sales. Reaction to no longer having the Villages Entertainment was mixed, but Bonnie

reassured the board members that the Village Ringers advertising will be handled via our website, the Facebook site, and through advertising with the Daily Sun. The amount to advertise would be \$65, which is cheaper than through the Villages Entertainment. Bonnie also explained that the New Covenant Methodist church will be able to advertise for the Village Ringers concerts at a special reduced church rate.

h. Bonnie stated to the board that the Christmas concert will be held at the New Covenant United Methodist Church on Saturday, December 3, 2022, at 7:00 pm, and the board would need to select the date of either April 1 or April 15, 2023 for the next Spring Concert. After discussion, Ron recommended having the concert before Easter (April 1) so that more people would still be staying in the Villages on that date. The board agreed with Ron's suggestion and agreed to have the spring 2023 concert date on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

i. Bonnie asked the board for their reactions to the person who dressed up as Darth Vader for the concert. Bonnie explained to the board that two members of the Village Ringers mentioned the concert to their preacher and he was willing to dress up in his Darth Vader costume for the concert! Bonnie sent him a thank you note for dressing up and coming to the concert and the preacher then asked the Village Ringers to come to present a concert at his church. All of the board members were very appreciative of the invitation.

## 2. Treasurer's Report

Amy Cornwall-Robinson distributed copies of the latest Treasurer's Report and was happy to report that the Village Ringers are currently "in the black" with a total of \$3,462.25 in the bank. Bonnie told Amy and the board members that she did not know of any further expenses, because she has already purchased music for the Christmas concert.

Amy explained to the board members that Cheryl Steinborg, who served as the concert pianist, gave her honorarium back to the Village Ringers to use for purchasing music. The board members were very appreciative of this donation.

Amy asked John if he felt that donating 20% of the gross concert sales to the New Covenant United Methodist Church recommended charity would satisfy the

Village Ringers 501C3 federal requirement. John stated that he felt that a motion would need to be made regarding the donation. Amy made a motion to donate 20% of this year's gross concert sales in the amount of \$350.00 to the Voices 4 Children charity recommended by the New Covenant United Methodist Church. Emily seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

After Amy's treasurer's report was completed, John made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Ron seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Bonnie asked the board members if there was any old business to bring before the board. None was mentioned.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Bonnie reminded the board members that according to the Village Ringers By-Laws, an election of board members must be held at the annual Spring Board Meeting. Bonnie stated that no additional people had indicated to her that they wanted to be considered to be a board member. All current members of the board agreed to serve another term. John made a motion stating that due notice was given about the Spring Election of Board members and the current officers have agreed to serve an additional term of office. Ron seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

Bonnie asked board members to provide feedback from the Spring Concert. Board members expressed their pleasure and congratulations on the success of the concert. Bonnie suggested involving even more people in the next Christmas concert, such as asking the youth of the New Covenant United Methodist Church to serve as ushers in support of the music ministry. The board members liked that idea.

Bonnie reminded the board members that ten (10) of the Village Ringers participated through the Village Ringers or through their local church bell choir in the 13<sup>th</sup> Florida State Festival at the Warren Willis United Methodist Camp and Conference Center in Fruitland Park on Feb. 25-26, 2022. Bonnie proudly told the board members that John and Judi Higbee actually came to hear the culminating festival concert. Approximately 250 members of handbell choirs from the

surrounding Florida area participated. Bonnie stated that the music was fairly difficult, but Village Ringers were able to stretch their ringing ability. Bonnie mentioned that she met someone from the Magic of Bronze handbell group, who fixed one of our bells and would be a very good contact for her in the future.

Bonnie asked John if the spring concert videotape made by the New Covenant United Methodist Church AV staff could be used on the Village Ringers website. John said that the file was very large and would require “stripping out” of some of the video narration, etc. All board members expressed their gratitude to John Higbee for all of his hard work and efforts on the Village Ringers website.

Bonnie told the board members that after viewing the videotape, she knew that the second row of the Village Ringers would need to be elevated for the next concert. She felt that those ringers could not be seen well from the audience.

Bonnie explained to the board members that after discussion with members of the Orlando-based Handbell group, Magic of Bronze, she felt that concert recordings could be put on our FACEBOOK site, as this is considered Social Media. If the composer finds it and doesn't like having in on Facebook, then the recording could be taken down. However, the Village Ringers website is a different matter. The website is not considered Social Media. Bonnie further explained that the publisher of the music would have the responsibility of finding the recording and asking for the removal of the piece.

Bonnie stated that because the Village Ringers concert was held in a church, there is some leeway for hosting concert recordings on the website. Therefore, the board members made the decision to put the following concert songs on the website: the John Williams medley, Dorian Dance, The Heron Carol, and This Land is Your Land. Bonnie will send a message out when John Higbee puts the songs on the website.

Bonnie asked the board members to discuss whether or not to allow non-Villagers to become members of the Village Ringers. All of the board members participated in the discussion and stated preferences. John explained that the requirement of Villages residency is not in the By-Laws, but is only found on the membership contract. Bonnie told the board that she would prefer to have a minimum of 18 members in the Village Ringers group.

John made the suggestion that a new statement on the By-Laws and the membership contract should indicate that no more than five (5) members or 20% of the Village Ringers could be non-Village residents. The board members expressed their pleasure with that suggestion. John made a motion that the By-Laws be modified to provide for non-Villages residents to be members at a rate of no more than 20% of the members. Amy seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Bonnie volunteered to start working on changes to the By-Laws and membership contract. She will bring back to the board at the next meeting for discussion.

Bonnie asked the board members for assistance with determining whether Village Ringers must be full-time residents. Bonnie explained that we do have at least one part-time Villages resident on the Village Ringers. Discussion was held by all board members. Bonnie explained that she develops rehearsal schedules that allow part-time Village resident ringers to participate in concerts. However, she stated that in order to allow the part-time ringers to participate, the schedules have ringers sitting out for one or two music pieces. The board members felt that Bonnie had made good decisions with the development of the rehearsal schedules and should continue.

Bonnie stated to board members that there is also the issue of part-time residents wanting to audition, but are unable to be at the regular audition date. Amy suggested that Gary Powell would be a very good judge for either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> rehearsal to observe, along with Emily and Amy, in an informal audition setting. The board members agreed that this would be the best way to handle the situation.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Bonnie explained to the board that a meeting will need to be held in order to discuss and propose any changes in the By-Laws. She stated that Monday, August 29, 2022 will be the Village Ringers first rehearsal and audition. The board determined that the next board meeting will be held at 10:00 on Monday, August 22, 2022. A motion was made by Emily to adjourn the meeting. Amy seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.