

VILLAGE RINGERS MINUTES
Monday, January 10, 2022 – 10:00 am
17652 SE 82nd Woodlawn Avenue, The Villages, Florida

I. MEMBERS ATTENDING

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

II. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bonnie Fisher, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, and distributed a packet of meeting documents to members.

III. AGENDA CHANGES/APPROVAL

Bonnie asked members to look over the agenda that was located in the board meeting packet and let her know if anything needed to be added to the agenda. Having no additions, Amy moved that the agenda be approved and John seconded the motion. All members were in approval.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Included in the meeting packet of information was a copy of the minutes from the last board meeting on June 7, 2021. In addition, the minutes had been sent electronically to board members before the meeting. John Higbee mentioned that Board member Ron Drozd's name was misspelled in one place in the minutes. The secretary made the correction and John moved to approve the minutes and Amy seconded the motion. All members approved the adoption of the minutes.

V. REPORTS

1. President's Report
 - a. Bonnie reported that the Village Ringers' practices are going very well. The group has two new ringers, Thomas Eggleston and Cathy Bullock, who became members without an audition because of COVID. These two people are experienced ringers and will be a valuable addition to the group. Bonnie explained that Sally Rowe had to drop out due to her and her husband's physical issues.
 - b. Bonnie expressed great appreciation to Donna Kagan for organizing (with many of the Village Ringer members) two events at the Harbor Chase facility, that included decorating the facility for Christmas and

assisting residents with decorating gingerbread houses. Harbor Chase administrators expressed appreciation for these two events.

Bonnie explained that Harbor Chase is going through major changes, with the recent hiring of a new director. Bonnie told the board that during the changeover of administration, two foam pads (\$150.00) and two tables belonging to the Village Ringers were lost. Harbor Chase apologized for the loss of the items and gave the group another table. A large sign stating "This equipment is the property of the Village Ringers" has been made and all tables have been inscribed with "Village Ringers."

- c. Currently, Village Ringers are unable to practice at the Harbor Chase facility because of COVID escalation issues. Bonnie told the board that when she sent out an email letting members know of the situation, ringers, board members and spouses assisted in moving the bells and equipment to the New Covenant Methodist Church. The church has graciously agreed to allow the Village Ringers to store the equipment and practice temporarily in the church choir room.
- d. Bonnie told the board members that although the 2021 Christmas Concert had to be canceled, the new 2022 Christmas Concert will be held on December 2, 2022, at the Laurel Manor Recreation Center and Angie Rose will participate in the concert.
- e. Bonnie announced to the board members that the Spring Concert (Florida ~~175th~~ 177th Birthday) will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at 7:00 pm, at Colony Cottage. There will be a birthday party atmosphere with birthday cake for everyone at the end of the concert.
- f. The 2022-2023 Village Ringers audition will be held on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 1:00 pm, in the Harbor Chase facility. Bonnie told the board members that Gary Powell will serve as judge again this year. The audition will be advertised well on the Village Ringers website and the FaceBook site.
- g. Bonnie mentioned that ten (10) of the Village Ringers will be participating in the Florida HMA Area 4 Handbell Symposium and

Festival on February 25 and 26, 2022, at the Fred Willis Conference Center. Some of the members are attending as directors of their own church handbell group, but will be in attendance

- h. Bonnie expressed great appreciation to John Higbee for keeping the Village Ringers website running smoothly. She explained that the website and FaceBook sites have been very popular, with looks and inquiries regularly received and responses provided.

2. Treasurer's Report

Amy Cornwall-Robinson distributed copies of the latest Treasurer's Report spreadsheet to all members. Amy said she was happy to report that the Village Ringers organization is still in the "black," with a balance of \$963.02. Amy noted that the re-registration with the State of Florida is now due. In addition, Amy commended the Village Ringers members for donating funds toward the purchase of the new table covers.

Bonnie asked Amy for clarification about where the cost of Villages Entertainment advertising is shown in the report. Amy explained that she does not have access to that information, as the amount of advertising is lumped into the larger Villages Entertainment fee amount.

Bonnie mentioned that the fees for advertising will be raised this year. John looked at his paperwork from previous meetings and reported to the board members that the 2019 Villages Entertainment amounts were included in the minutes of the September 2019 meeting. Bottom line figures for advertising were \$1500-1700 for advertising.

Bonnie explained to the board members that because of the cancellation of last year's concert, she will not have to purchase additional music for our next concert, saving a large amount of money.

John reminded the board members that the \$264.00 website renewal is currently due. Amy said she will take care of that bill.

Amy reported that the \$35 annual dues for Village Ringers membership is due now and will be paid to her by next Monday's practice.

John moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved and Emily seconded the motion. All members approved the report.

VI. DISCUSSION

Bonnie presented the board members with details regarding the upcoming Spring Concert. Currently, the concert will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at the Colony Cottage Recreation Center. Set-up and warm up will be held from 3:00 until 6:30 pm. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and the concert will be held from 7:00 until 8:00 pm. Cleanup will be from 8:00 – 8:30 pm.

Bonnie explained to the board that Village Recreation Centers cannot be reserved more than a year ahead and finding an open date and time for concerts has become very difficult. Other organizations already have reserved times, leaving very few options for new Christmas and spring concert dates.

However, Bonnie told the board that the New Covenant Methodist Church has asked to host the Village Ringers' concerts. Bonnie said that utilizing the church facility could cost the Village Ringers a little more, but a permanent location for concerts would be ensured. Currently, costs are \$371.52 to rent the Villages Recreation centers, but the recreation centers are only available for two hours before the concert. Bonnie explained that the Villages Recreation Centers would be free, if no one from outside of the Villages is invited to the concert. The Village Ringers would have to pay to reserve the recreation centers, because out-of-town guests would be invited.

If the New Covenant Methodist Church becomes the concert location, the church would charge 70/30% of the ticket sales, with no charge for the room and audio services. The 30% that the New Covenant Methodist

Church receives would be given to a chosen ministry in the New Covenant church.

Amy asked the board members if the 30% the church receives through concerts would suffice for the organization's 501C3 charity requirement. John Higbee said he thought this would be the case. Discussion followed.

Bonnie laid out the Pros and Cons for changing the location of the Village Ringers concerts to the church, as follows:

(1) Cons: The facility is located in the northern part of The Villages and the other parts of The Villages would have to travel further to attend.

However, Bonnie and John reminded the board members that advertisements would be available to all parts of The Villages through The Daily Sun ads and the Village Ringers website and Facebook sites.

(2) Pros: The church has a small fellowship hall with audiovisuals and a grand piano that would house up to 400 people. Videotaping of the concerts would be included as part of audiovisuals.

John asked if a dress rehearsal could be held at the church facility and Bonnie said that would be possible. John felt that would be a real asset.

Bonnie mentioned that storage at the church of the bell tables and equipment would still be an issue, but the church is considering whether to allow storage, also.

Bonnie asked if the Board members wanted to move ahead with changing the spring and Christmas Concerts to the New Covenant Methodist Church facility, keeping all current dates and times.

Amy moved to approve the facility change and John seconded the motion. All were in favor. Bonnie will cancel the reserved Christmas and spring concert dates at the Villages Recreation Centers.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Bonnie reported that Judi Higbee had let her know that she was withdrawing the logo fund-raising idea presented at the last board meeting from consideration by the board.
2. Bonnie noted that at the last board meeting in December 2019, the suggestion was made that the Village Ringers pair up with other performers or performing groups in order to have better attendance. Bonnie explained to the board members that Angie Rose will be a part of our next Christmas Concert.
3. Bonnie asked the board members if the required donation to a charity plans should be changed, due to the cancellation of the spring and Christmas concerts in 2020. After discussion, the board decided to revisit this charity donation at the April board meeting.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. John mentioned that he has been highlighting members of the Village Ringers on the website over the past year. Action photos have not been showing well on the website; therefore, John asked to have new pictures of the Village Ringers in a good setting. He stated that he will then continue highlighting the Ringers on a regular basis. John will take photos of the ringers at the rehearsal later in the day.

Currently, the Village Ringers audition rules require that anyone wanting to audition must be a Village Resident, but doesn't specify if the person is full-time or part-time. Currently, one member is not a full-time resident of the Villages. Two other people have called Bonnie to audition who are not full-time residents. Bonnie asked for direction from the Board about whether the rules should specify full-time only. She would also like to limit the number of ringers to 18.

Further discussion was held, with the board members deciding that the audition rules remain the same indicating that members must be Village residents.

2. Bonnie reminded the board members that the By-Laws require a board meeting in April for the purpose of election of board members.

Discussion ensued. Bonnie questioned whether another person could be added to the board and John explained that most organizations have an odd number of members to avoid tie votes.

After further discussion, the board decided that if someone is interested in being on the board, that person should attend the April board meeting and put their own name in for voting. A vote would be held to either keep or replace current board members.

3. Bonnie explained to the board members that videotaping of the Village Ringers concerts is technically a violation of the copyright laws and requires licenses in order to put on the website. She further explained that the only way legal music can be videotaped is if the music is out of print. Bonnie told the board members that each publisher could be contacted to ask permission, but most will charge a fee. John told the board that after what Bonnie said about the copyright laws, he will remove the videotaped and recorded concert pieces from the website.

Bonnie told the board that she will contact the Magic of Bronze Handbell Group to see how they handle putting their pieces on the website.

4. Bonnie asked the board for guidance if one of the ringers cannot be present for the audition.

Discussion ensued with various suggestions by board members. Some suggestions included having a second audition or allowing an informal judging at the next rehearsal.

The consensus of the board was that if a person could not come to the audition, he/she could come to the first rehearsal of the new season and participate in an informal audition at the rehearsal. Assuming a position was still needed or desired, and assuming the person did well for the informal audition, that person could be accepted as a member of the Village Ringers. The board members felt the three Village Ringers on the board should make the final decision.

IX. ADJOURNMENT/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Bonnie reminded the board members that the next board meeting will be held on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 10:00 am at Bonnie's home. The meeting will be the same day as the audition. Election of the Board Members and review of the concert will take place. After the board meeting, auditions will be held from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, at the Harbor Chase facility.

Bonnie recapped to the board members that the Spring Concert will now be held at the New Covenant Methodist Church.

Amy moved to adjourn. Ron seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.