

VILLAGE RINGERS MINUTES
Monday, June 7, 2020 – 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
Visitor: Judi Higbee

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. She then asked the board if the annual Village Ringers audition needed to be added to the agenda. Discussion followed, and the Village Ringers audition was added to the agenda. John Higbee moved that the amended agenda be approved and Amy Cornwall-Robinson seconded the motion. All were in approval of the amended agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Included in the meeting packet of information was a copy of the minutes from the last board meeting on December 9, 2019. After reviewing the minutes, John Higbee moved to approve the minutes and Amy seconded the motion.

V. REPORTS

1. President's Report

- a. Bonnie pointed out that the last rehearsal of the Village Ringers was in early March 2020 and as the minutes indicated, the last official board meeting was December 9, 2019. She wanted the board to know that the members of the Village Ringers are very excited about finally getting back together to play the handbells. In addition, the HarborChase facility has expressed enthusiasm and pleasure that the group will be able to come to start practicing in August.
- b. The 2021 Village Ringers Christmas Concert will be held on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 2:00 pm, at the Colony Cottage Recreation Center.

Bonnie proudly announced that Angie Rose will be the guest soloist at the concert. Angie will sing *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, and will lead the singing on one of our most popular Christmas pieces, a favorite Christmas sing-a-long medley.

- c. Bonnie informed the board that she has spent the last three (3) weeks selecting music and making bell ringer assignments and is now ready to begin practicing.
- d. Bonnie announced that the Village Ringers Spring Concert (Florida's 177th Birthday Celebration) will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at 7:00 pm, at Colony Cottage Recreation Center. At that concert, the Village Ringers will present the \$500.00 gift to the Wildwood Middle School/High School music program.
- e. The board was informed that the Village Ringers were very generous in supporting the purchase of new table covers. The new table covers will have pockets and are a very nice green color. The members have not seen the covers, but Bonnie explained that they will see the covers at the first rehearsal. She further explained that the beautiful green covers will definitely add "class" to performances.
- f. Bonnie praised the work that board member John Higbee has done on the Village Ringers website! www.VillageRingers.com An online Village Ringers application form is now available on the website and Bonnie told the board that she had already received an application through the website. In addition, John has introduced a new feature in which each of the Village Ringers' picture and handbell ringing experience/information is introduced on the website! Carol Bonebrake is the first to be highlighted, but the other Village Ringers' picture and handbell experience will follow. The members of the board expressed their gratitude to John for the wonderful extra work on the website!

2. Treasurer's Report

Amy Cornwall-Robinson distributed copies of the latest Treasurer's Report spreadsheet to all members. Amy happily explained to the board that Village Ringers are "in the black" in the amount of \$1,385.20, and the group does not owe anything at this time! The board expressed their pleasure at this good news. Bonnie noted that there will be an amount owed to pay for the concert performance room at the Colony Cottage Recreation center. A motion to adopt

the Treasurer's Report was made by Emily Spann and seconded by John Higbee. All voted in favor.

VI. DISCUSSION

Judi Higbee, visitor and member of the Village Ringers, presented her handbell logo fundraising opportunity to the board members. Judi shared that she had originally presented the handbell logo to a handbell equipment supply company, but the company has a design department and could not utilize ideas from outside the company.

Judi is offering her original handbell logos as a possible fund-raising opportunity for the Village Ringers. She showed actual examples and color-printed pages of her two different types of logos. She explained that totebags, license plates, t-shirts, mousepads, refrigerator magnets, pens, pencils, etc. with the logo imprinted could be ordered and sold at pre-concerts or during concerts. She would make sure that these would be available to the Village Ringers.

According to Judi, these logos would be a totally-free offering and she would take care of all of the ordering and selling of the items. Judi did recommend setting up a committee to decide what should be offered. She told the board members that she would be willing to warehouse the items in her garage and set up the table for selling the items. 100% of the profit would be given to the Village Ringers.

Bonnie thanked Judi Higbee for her creativity, efforts, and willingness to present the idea to the members of the board. Discussion followed regarding the logo fund-raising idea presented by Judi.

Bonnie asked the board members if this fund-raising idea was something the Village Ringers should do. All of the board members began expressing their questions and comments regarding the logo fund-raising idea. The majority of the questions and comments revolved around whether there is a real need to do fundraising or if the Village Ringers group is adequately funded by concert proceeds.

Bonnie and Amy reminded the board that the group makes approximately \$1,700.00 on each of the concerts, but that the Village Ringers have to pay for the rental of the rooms, advertising rates (that seem to be very high), and a

percentage of the box-office sales is taken by the Villages Box Office. However, Bonnie further explained that any ticket sales at the door are total profit for the Village Ringers.

Ron Droid asked Judi if any minimum orders were required. Judi explained that she would start by ordering a small number, but she would need to provide an upfront amount to make a profit (approximately \$250.00).

Some of the board members thought that a more generic logo design might be more profitable for fundraising. For example, offering other types of musical logos that would appeal to other musical groups in The Villages.

After much discussion, Ron suggested that Judi bring more designs to the next meeting. The consensus is that the board members will review the logo fundraising idea and look at the new designs at the next meeting. A decision will be made at the next board meeting.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Bonnie reported to the board that annual registrations with the State of Florida and the federal IRS are now complete. The board members thanked Bonnie and Amy for submitting the registrations on behalf of the Village Ringers organization.

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 at the concert, as well as have more name recognition. In response to that suggestion, Bonnie pointed out that our Christmas Concert will feature Angie Rose. Ron asked if Angie will require a fee. Bonnie said that Angie did not ask for any amount at all, but she would like the Village Ringers to present her with a gift of \$200.

Board members mentioned talking with other directors of performing groups in the Villages. Several directors of other musical groups were mentioned by board members. Bonnie agreed to talk with as many as possible.

A copy of a SAMPLE Village Ringers performance contract was included in the members' meeting packet. Bonnie explained that the SAMPLE performance contract was adapted from an example document provided by Marcia Barber as a

guide. Bonnie noted that the only time a Performance Contract might be an issue is when the group plays outside of the Villages, such as assistive living facilities, etc. When playing at recreation centers in The Villages, there would be no need for this contract document.

Bonnie pointed out to the board that the SAMPLE performance document includes a hold harmless clause. Bonnie asked for comments from the board. John suggested that members look over the SAMPLE performance document and email feedback to Bonnie in two weeks. The deadline for feedback will be June 21, 2021.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Bonnie explained to the board that our by-laws require an annual audition to be held. John Higbee said he had studied the by-laws and no exception should be made for the pandemic.

Bonnie told the board that she would rather have an informal audition than a formal audition. The board agreed and the informal audition will be held at the first rehearsal on August 30, 2021. Bonnie explained that she would like to have Gary Powell to serve as a judge again this year and that the audition would involve sight-reading various pieces. Bonnie will switch people in and out into different positions during the rehearsal. Gary Powell will observe 3-4 pieces.

Judi asked if there is a set number in the Village Ringers group. Bonnie told the board that there was not a set number, but she had figured out that 18 would be the optimum number. That number allowed rotation of ringers and gave members the opportunity to perform other tasks or ring other instruments during the concerts.

Ron asked about the audition procedures. Bonnie then presented the board members with the Audition Application forms that are currently utilized for auditions. The Audition Application include the Village Ringers Bylaws, Member Contract, Audition Application, and Audition Sheet.

Ron asked about what happens to ringers when they choose to go on Leave of Absence and then want to return. Bonnie explained that according to the Village Ringer Contract, a return from a Leave of absence would result in returning as a

SWING ringer. However, Bonnie told the board that after a decision was made to delete the SWING ringer part of the contract, a correction to that document should be made.

Bonnie explained to the board that the 2021 audition date and information needs to be advertised. John told the board that he will make sure the website advertises the audition at the Harbor Chase facility on Monday, August 30, 2021, at 1:00 pm. Bonnie will put advertisements on Facebook and in the Daily Sun. She asked the board members to share the audition information with as many people as possible.

As far as our Bylaws information on the makeup of judges, John read to board members that two board members who are also ringers in the group and Bonnie are the final decision makers.

After listening to the Bylaws reading, the board decided that Emily and Amy would play 2 songs and after their judging, they would leave and serve as judges with Gary Powell.

The April board meeting will be the Election of Board Members.

IX. ADJOURNMENT/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the board will be Monday, January 3, 2022, at 10:00 am, at Bonnie's house. The board annual meeting will be held in April 2022.

John Higbee moved to adjourn the meeting and Amy seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:37 am.