

Thursday, April 3, 2025, 10 am

**VILLAGE RINGERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES**

17652 SE 82nd Woodlawn Avenue, The Villages, Florida

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Bonnie Fisher, Amy Cornwall Robinson,
John Higbee, Ron Drozd, Donna Kagan

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Bonnie called the meeting to order at 10:04 am, and welcomed everyone.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Bonnie had emailed the agenda to everyone prior to the meeting and supplied paper copies.

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING/APPROVAL: Minutes were approved (with one small spelling error) from the last meeting. All members voted in favor. Minutes will be filed for review.

REPORTS:

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Bonnie reported that our spring concert 'Colors' was a success (as was our short performance at Trinity Springs memory care facility on the following Monday, March 31. The ringers were blessed by the response of the Memory Care patients!)

- a. Bonnie wondered if all the ringers could be seen as the line up in a horseshoe shape was slightly different than in past performances. It was verified that all ringers could be seen from the audience. The content of the program was great. Good variety of music, appropriate in length. Narration by Angie was an extra touch. Audience knew Angie and loved her. Slides were absolutely beautiful and very appropriate. Special thanks to the AV team for their support. Cost of tickets was discussed. Price felt very fair especially in comparison to other concert tickets prices in the Villages. Thanks to spouses who helped usher and greet.**
- b. The Village Ringers have been invited back to Trinity Springs after our next performance (at Christmas) to give a shortened program there.**
- c. Bonnie relayed that she was very grateful for a good team of substitute ringers. Attendance was a little bit of an issue for this past term. She felt some of the ringers could have been a little bit more prepared.**
- d. Bonnie was very pleased with the articles written about our group in the magazines, as well as three articles that appeared in the Daily Sun. This advertising was completely FREE.**
- e. As our concert was a little earlier this year we are trying something new. We have the entire month of April open for "Fun." Fifteen people have signed up to ring and sightread just for the fun of it on each Monday in April, except the 21st.**

- f. Huge thanks to John Higbee who continues to keep our website current. We all look forward to seeing his compilation of the spring concert with the slides.**

- g. Our Christmas season (2025) will begin on Monday, September 8. Auditions will be held at 10 am. Decisions will be made, and results will be sent out by individual emails before noon that day. First rehearsal will begin at 1 pm.**

- h. Our Christmas concert date will be on Friday, December 5, at 6 pm. We will be performing several pieces with Gary Powell on the organ that is currently in the chapel. It will be taken to the newly furbished Fellowship Hall.**

- i. We are in a good place for having all the equipment we have for right now. An item that has been discussed for future purchase includes a lower octave of tone chimes and stand lights.**

- j. Bonnie has still been unable to obtain a response from Wildwood Elementary School with regards to a potential gift of a set of tone chimes for them. Donna will be meeting with the music teachers later in May at their school Carnival and will bring up this potential gift then.**

- k. Bonnie mentioned our Florida Business Account papers have been filed and our license renewed. She is planning to file the form 990N with the IRS.**

- l. Bonnie asked the church about the use/purchase of the standing risers for our back row of bells. They don't feel they will be used, and could potentially cause a storage problem.**

- j. An update was given on our two new groups.
'VILLAGE RINGERS, TOO' Cathy Bullocks group took off as her players were not brand new to ringing bells. They practiced and played with the Village Ringers in the concert. They were a success!**

'VILLAGE RINGERS INSPIRATION' Lana's group (consisting of 30 members) is still learning to read music along with the basic technique of bell ringing. She reports that they are doing very well. Lana has split the group into two groups of fifteen so she can work with one group for a few 12 weeks then the other one for 12 weeks beginning in September. Their concert is on June 11, at 11 am, at St George's Episcopal Church. Bonnie will send out an email to everyone so we can attend and support the new ringers.

John suggested putting a description of these two new groups on our website, and to display some pictures of them. The board loved that idea and thanked John.

John moved that the presidents report should be approved. This was seconded by Amy.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

- a. Amy verified that our current monetary situation is good...we are in the black! Sales from our Christmas concert tickets was close to \$3,000. We will need to give the church its share. The remaining sum will be closer to \$1,500**
- b. VILLAGE RINGERS, TOO and VILLAGE RINGERS INSPIRATION groups do not pay dues. It was suggested that perhaps they could pay a modest fee to their directors next season.**
- c. Amy needs a new financial computer program, perhaps Quickbooks. Has Apple program right now and is having to put in numbers by hand. Bonnie ~~showed her Excell~~ **suggested Excel, the program she uses. Amy is currently using Numbers (an Apple spreadsheet).****
- d. Bonnie thanked Amy for her hard work. All bills are paid and up to date. No other treasurer's news.**
- e. Donna moved that the treasurer's report be approved and John seconded.**

3. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of the concert.....John and Ron said they were unable to hear the bass bells in the procession! Bonnie could hear them clearly in the video that John sent. A suggestion was made for the bass bells to stand on the first step and face the audience if we process in again at our next concert.

John could not hear some of the low notes at the beginning of two songs. Bonnie explained that the microphones were not set up completely until the third song. As we had to set up right after the service, there wasn't a lot of time to really get everything prepared.

Positive comments were made on our colorful stage decorations and props. Bonnie purchased the shiny streamers online. Great choice! John mentioned that black tends to obliterate the face of the player. We were not aware of this. Might be good to think of wearing scarves or other colors, etc, for future concerts. *(Comment: we weren't wearing black, we were wearing colors, so I'm a bit confused by the comment here.)*

It was mentioned that Carolyn's face was blocked for a while from view due to a black music stand being in position from the VILLAGE RINGERS, TOO group. We'll have to be careful to remove everything extra from the stage in future.

Discussion occurred about the procession and the safety of it. When we move into the newly renovated Fellowship Hall we'll be able to use the ramp on one side of the stage. It will solve the problem of people who should not be using the steps.

Amy commented on the fact that so many people came on to the stage after our concert to ring bells and ask questions. It seemed like a flood gate opened up suddenly. We felt that was a very good thing. There is clearly a large interest in bell ringing.

The audience seemed to enjoy singing ‘The Yellow Rose of Texas’ while audience members were ringing the bells. One lady commented, “ I got to be in it. It was nice to be part of their concert.”

Some frustration was expressed about our last song, ‘What A Wonderful World.’ It was not a good “ending song”, and it wasn’t cleanly performed.

NEW BUSINESS

Donna will be in touch with the two music teachers at Wildwood Elementary and report back to Bonnie.

John will take pictures of the new Village Ringers at 12:45 pm at our first rehearsal, Monday, September 8, 2025.

Verification of Concert dates.

Christmas concert – Friday, December 5, at 6 pm.

Spring concert - Sunday, April 19, at 6 pm

Our next board meeting was set for September 29, at 10 am.

Bonnie moved to adjourn the meeting. Ron seconded.

