

VILLAGE RINGERS MINUTES

Monday, December 9, 2019, 10:00 am
1629 Oak Forest Drive, 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 10:00 am

III. **Agenda Changes**

After Bonnie distributed paper copies of the meeting agenda to all board members, Bonnie explained that two additions to the “New Business” section of the agenda will be added regarding performance contracts and By-law change possibilities. John Higbee noted that the agenda listed the Spring Concert as being held on April 11, 2020, at the La Hacienda Rec. Center, rather than the Rohan Center. Bonnie amended the Agenda to say the correct venue for the spring 2020 concert as the Rohan Rec. Center. 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 the Minutes**

Emily Spann sent electronic copies of the minutes to all members before the meeting; but distributed paper copies of the April 11, 2019 minutes, as needed. John Higbee recommended that a correction to the word “maximum” be made to the “Board of Directors Nominations,” Section 2 of NEW BUSINESS. The third sentence should that five (5) is the *minimum* number of administrative board of director positions. The correction was noted and John moved that the minutes as corrected be adopted and Amy seconded the motion. All members approved the corrected minutes. The minutes will be posted on the Village Ringers website immediately after the board meeting.

V. **Reports**

1. **President’s Report**

Bonnie distributed a printed copy of the President’s Report to all members. The report contained the following items:

A. Bonnie reported that the results of the fall 2019 Informal Evaluation by the members of the Village Ringers were very good and will be very helpful to her. She was very appreciative to the members who responded in an honest manner.

B. Christmas Concert

Feedback:

1. Bonnie told the board that she was very happy that the number of Christmas concert tickets seemed to increase by approximately 50 tickets after the Christmas concert with the Village Pops Orchestra. She felt that the exposure from the Village Pops concert helped to generate more tickets for the actual Village Ringers concert several days later.

2. Bonnie reported that the total attendance at the Christmas Concert was over 200 people; and the amount sold at the door was \$448.00. Bonnie noted that the Village Ringers will be able to keep 100% of tickets sold at the door.
 3. Bonnie explained that the Girl Scout Alumni provided a check for \$50 for our Christmas performance at their meeting after Bonnie wrote a thank you/reminder note to the president. The Board members were grateful to Bonnie for taking care of this issue.
 4. Bonnie asked for feedback from the Board Members regarding the Christmas Concert.
 - a. Board members told Bonnie that they had heard very good comments regarding Dave as narrator and Dick for his performance with the whip.
 - b. In addition, board members stressed the effectiveness of the entry and exit parts of the concert.
 - c. One attendee on the front row suggested to a board member that when Silent Night is played, all lights should be turned out.
 - d. Board members heard from attendees that the Colony Cottage location was a good, central location.
- C. The Village Ringers Spring Concert will be held at Rohan Recreation Center and the theme will be the 175th Anniversary of Florida's entry into the United States.
- D. Concerns regarding the Village Ringers Group
1. Discussion was held by members of the board regarding some members' actual bell performance.
 2. Amy suggested that at the next audition, people should be required to play in both the bass and treble sections.
 3. John reiterated that Bonnie is the Director and the board of directors has designated that she should make decisions regarding Village Ringer member issues. Bonnie suggested that an email be sent to keep board members informed of personnel issues.
 4. Bonnie explained to the board that a designated ringing position list was developed by a committee of the members of the Village Ringers (Judi Higbee, Marcia Barber, and Bonnie Fisher). The bell assignments were made with one person staying in the same position and having an "assigned" swing ringer to relieve the regular ringer.
 5. Bonnie read the current Village Ringers Member Contract section that is signed by all ringers to the board prior to the audition. The section states that if a player fails to perform, the player may be moved to a swing ringer position. The Board agreed to keep that section of the member contract intact.
- E. Bonnie expressed thanks to Ron for attending the Village Ringers Christmas luncheon.
- F. Bonnie mentioned to the board members that she wrote and printed thank you notes for the donations to the Village Ringers. Members of the Village Ringers signed the thank you notes and the notes were sent to the donors.
- G. Bonnie expressed a big thank you to John Higbee for professionally printing the Christmas Concert program at no expense to the Village Ringers!

2. Treasurer's Report

Amy presented each of the board members with a printed copy of the treasurer's report. She explained that a \$700 donation from an anonymous donor and a \$500 donation from Margaret's friends who attended the concert last year are included in the report. Amy showed the board that the report indicates that the Village Ringers currently has \$1,093.02, after paying all of the bills. However, one important point was noted by Amy: The Treasurer's Report does not include the percentage from the actual Christmas concert ticket sales. A motion was made by John to adopt the Treasurer's report. Emily seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

VI. Old Business

- A. Bonnie said that the IRS forms were complicated to complete, but while Amy, John and Bonnie were working on the form – the IRS was called and all was completed.
- B. Amy mentioned that the check sent to the IRS had not yet been cashed.
- C. Bonnie pointed out that the Village Ringers should now have \$500. Therefore, 10% of our proceeds should be given to a charity.

Bonnie suggested "The Giving Tuesday" timeframe might be a good time to give to a school charity, as currently being done by the American Handbell Ringers Association. Amy suggested that Cary could find out something that the Wildwood schools may need, as far as volunteers and funds. Bonnie asked Amy to specifically ask Cary for a suggestion and she agreed.

John wanted to clarify that the proceeds should be from concert sales, as opposed to donations; 10% of our revenue – with a starting figure of \$500. After discussion, the board agreed with John's clarification.

Bonnie asked Board Members for their reaction to having funds from the spring concert promote a charity of choice. Bonnie suggested that we advertise the charity, along with the celebration of "Florida's 175th birthday." A motion was made by John that Wildwood Middle/High School Music Program be given the first Village Ringers donation with the expected amount to be \$500. Ron seconded the motion and all members agreed.

VII. New Business

- A. Bonnie happily told the board members that Gary Powell would like the Village Ringers to play their Spring Concert music at one of the Sharon Pre-Shows, (i.e. the Villages Philharmonic show). Bonnie will work with Gary Powell to get this scheduled.
- B. John asked for clarification as to whether audition application states that a person must read music in order to be in The Village Ringers. Bonnie told board members that the application does not specifically ask whether the person reads music. However, she explained that all previous handbell experience is requested to be listed on the application.
- C. John felt that clarification of the role of Swing Ringer should be addressed. The board discussed and felt that the only difference in the Core Ringers and the Swing Ringer should be the number of positions assigned. John clarified that determining Swing Ringer and Core Ringer status would be at the discretion of the director. Members could earn core ringer status at the next audition. John suggested that the Village

Ringers would have one list of all “ringers” and Bonnie would have the discretion to designate which pieces they play. The board agreed with this clarification.

D. Audition Member Contract:

The current Audition Member Contract states that members must be full-time Villagers. John suggested that the performance contract be changed to say “Must be a Village Resident.” The board agreed with the Audition Contract change to say “must be a Village Resident.”

E. Performance Contract:

Bonnie asked the board members about the need/value of a performance contract for future concerts/appearances. Bonnie explained to the board that Marcia Barber provided a possible performance contract example from when she was in a Ringing group in another state. That contract included checkboxes for such items as: space needed, how many people, paid performance or “pass the basket at the performance.” John provided more examples that he researched on the Internet. John suggested that Performance Contract space requirements and Hold Harmless clauses could possibly become issues for the board. The board discussed and agreed that a performance contract should be developed using some of the examples researched. Bonnie will present the draft at a later time.

F. Co-Concerts with other Villages Groups

Bonnie suggested to the board that pairing up with another performer or group could result in a better-attended concert. Amy suggested that Bonnie discuss this with Jill VanSykle.

Amy explained that \$225 is paid to each recreation center by Village Ringers for a concert. The board is open to pairing up with another performer or group.

G. Bonnie said that Nina Stafford would like to donate (up to \$300) for a cargo cart to transport the bells. Bonnie asked Amy if Cary could assist Nina in deciding which dolly to purchase. The board is very appreciative of Nina’s donation and Cary’s assistance.

VIII. Adjournment/Date for next meeting

After discussion, the board agreed that the date of the next meeting will be April 13, 2020, at 10:00 am. Bonnie adjourned the meeting at 11:54 am, after a motion by Amy Cornwall-Robinson and second by John Higbee.