

**Sudbury Savoyards Board of Trustees**  
**Meeting Minutes Wednesday, June 8, 2011**  
**7:30 PM @ SUMC in the Chapel**

Attendees: Brad Amidon, Kathryn Denney, Ann Ferentz, Bill Fisher, Bill Johnson, Kate Meifert, Dennis O'Brien.

Board Staff: Janice Dallas, Costume Rental Agent; Ed Fell, Theatre Liaison; Laurel Martin, Second Trombone; Andrea Roessler, Archivist; Tom Powers, Mary Rose Producer.

**Meeting called to order at 7:31 by Dennis O'Brien, Chairman.**

**1) Approval of May minutes** by Ann Ferentz, seconded by Brad Amidon

**2) Staff reports:**

a) Secretary's report (Bill Fisher): In the transfer of secretarial duties, two phone calls fell through. Mosher auto body shop inquired whether we want a truck for our July 4 float this year. We do not. They have been called. Tom Powers called a woman who wanted to audition for Mary Rose and apologized for not receiving her message.

b) Costume rentals (J. Dallas): We earned significantly more than last year. \$1393.50 total

c) Treasurer's report (B. Amidon): bank has not been transferred over to Brad yet. John Gorgone submitted the yearly budget over email and distributed it to the Board.

High School cashed check, \$510 check came in from B. Johnson, took several months to get to us, though it was faster since it was a personal check. B. Amidon will write a letter to send to patrons for tax purposes.

**3) 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Debrief (A. Roessler):**

a) Financially successful! \$4597.78 earned over the course of the weekend with generous contributors and frugal planners. Many people gave additional money after the fact since they'd had a great time.

b) Royston Nash gave us a lovely thank you note. He will take great interest in the future of Savoyards and hopes to come to Ruddigore next year.

c) \$85.17 from Pizzeria Uno's evening. Another similar evening to come at Not Your Average Joe's has not been scheduled yet.

d) Andrea wrote thank you notes to J. Parmentier (scores for Places, Please), John Phelan (donated photomosaics), Bill Fisher (shipping expenses) and many other important people who assisted throughout the weekend

e) Betty Farmer was nominated by the Grange as Citizen of the Year because of the publicity provided by Sudbury Savoyards

**4) July 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend**—We will not do a float this year. L. Martin will look into whether Betty Farmer wants to participate in the parade and have some costumed marchers with her.

**5) Summer Show: Mary Rose**

Readthrough happened last week: excellent cast, conscientious detailed director. Perhaps require more rehearsal than anticipated originally. Media contacts for publicity, as the newsletter is out, and we will not have a presence in the July 4 parade. No set, no tech days, signs on the road may be a good option.

Katherine Meifert can paint road signs

Pricing of tickets settled on \$9 for students & seniors, \$12 for adults, available only at the door. Motion by B. Fisher, seconded by K. Meifert.

**6) Main Show: Ruddigore**

a) **Iain Ryrie** (Fine Arts contact person at Lincoln Sudbury HS) passed away of cancer a week ago, board discussed providing a card or flowers in his memory. Memorial Service on Sunday June 12 in Brookline. This information will be distributed on Savannounce, by E. Fell. B. Amidon suggests sending a card.

b) **Breaking news on schedule**; E. Fell sent an email announcing that the Northeast District Festival dates have changed, and our 2012 show can be three consecutive weekends without a strike in the middle.

**c) Show dates are set** for February 24- March 3, (exact dates and times to be determined with directors) with Monster Sunday on February 19. Asking for an additional hour on March 2 so that LHRS drama dept will not need to use the space when we are setting up sound/tech for second weekend.

**d) Rental cost:** Assuming a modest increase from L-S and 100 hours of rental, \$13,000 is tentative total for next year.

**e) Director Interviews**

- 1) D. O'Brien and K. Denney will mail invitation to the Sudbury Savoyards' list of candidates
- 2) Advertise under Theatre 411, Boston Singers' Resource, NE Entertainment Digest, Facebook
- 3) Dates for interviews set for Sunday June 19, Monday June 20, Tuesday June 21, possibly Monday the 27, Tues 28. We will try to stack the evenings with multiple interviews if possible.
- 4) K. Denney will take care of scheduling interviews and receiving communication from candidates.

**f) Producer Recruiting**

- 1) Challenging job. How can we make it more rewarding and appreciated? "Thank you very much" is not quite enough. Board should address the systematic processes of acknowledging the work of the producer.
- 2) Ruddigore could be a tech heavy show, special effects.
- 3) In the case of Co-Producers, one can be in the show, but the other needs not to be.
- 4) Bill Fisher thinks that someone from outside the group would have a difficult time succeeding in this role. All of us will begin to contact potential producer candidates.

**7) Other Business**

**a) Keys to Church entrances:** Bill Johnson reminded us that we have to sign a form to obtain a key or swipe card. K. Meifert needs to turn hers back in, and D. O'Brien needs to pick one up.

**b) Eternal Sales:** E. Fell is in charge of selling old show DVDs and Commemorative DVDs, and perhaps DVDs of the 50<sup>th</sup> weekend itself. Will continue to take orders until July 1.

**c) Member Survey**

K. Meifert is working on how and whether to survey membership about feelings around the split schedule with strike in the middle. Started to question the format of her draft email when Ed's email came in saying that the schedule can be normal next year. Requested feedback for how to ask the question: input on how the split weekend worked for the cast, crew and orchestra. She would like to make an email to which others can reply, rather than using an on-line clicker program. She will follow up on email and send to the membership.

Steve M. would like to pass along the task of moderating the lists. Bill Fisher would be willing to, though Paul Sliney is another idea. Dennis will contact Paul.

**8) Charlie Martin's retirement** We may give him a Savoyard memento.

**9) New Business:** B. Fisher brought up a concern:

Is there money for a tech shirt, score, etc. for people for whom the fees create a hardship?

B Amidon : Large donation question. Would be willing to finance these challenges to be donating to other than "world hunger" but to advance the functioning of the group.

Informal pool that falls under the endowment fund which does not need to involve a change in bylaws. Some members think that ticket prices are prohibitive. A donation could be in the form of subsidizing the price of a ticket for a friend to attend. This would be a productive way to fund the organization, and get a larger audience.

After Debrief for Pinafore, T. Powers decided to write a "newbie Letter" for new members of the cast to show the expectations of being a Savoyard. On occasion you bring food, you don't pay dues, you don't pay for your costume, you might need to sell tickets or hand posters, provide your own score, make up, if this creates hardship please let us know, etc.

Future meeting scheduled for: **Monday, July 11 at 7:30 at SUMC.**

Motion to adjourn at 9:34 PM by B. Fisher, seconded by B. Amidon.

Respectfully Submitted—Kathryn Denney, Secretary