

MINUTES OF AUXILIARY MEETING September 21, 2023

President, Nancy Pasfield, called the meeting called to order at 10:17.

Attendees were Kristen Beda, Lynn Fleisher, Ilene Garber, Chris Gulotta, Louise Haberfeld, Nanci Halper, Julia Heilesen, Judy Kaelber, Robin Keeler, Nancy Martini, Dale Naylor, Pam Niner, Michele Pacifico, Nancy Pasfield, Pricilla Sibson, Priscilla Sorensen, Rebecca Studer, Jenna Troyan, Andrea Wood, Emily Ambler, Joan Goldfarb, Natalie Goss, Patty Jaquith, Carol Schwender, Shirley Timmerman and GTMF staff members Emma Kail and Emma Leither.

Nancy welcomed everyone and had attendees introduce themselves. The Minutes from the July meeting were approved.

It was noted the Auxiliary members' names are now easily accessible on the portal.

The executive committee meeting will be held two weeks prior to the membership meeting.

All communication should go through the secretary, Lenore Jonasson, with the exception of communication regarding volunteer opportunities, which should be addressed to M.E. Weber.

Upcoming meetings

- November 16, 2023 and March 21, 2024 will be Zoom meetings.
- May 16, 2024 will be a combined Zoom and live meeting (venue to be determined). Suggested venues were the Library or the Senior Center, which both have zoom capabilities.
- January 18, 2024, July 18, 2024 (luncheon, which will continue to be held on a Thursday), and September 19, 2024 will be live meetings. We need a volunteer to host the January meeting.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Praise was expressed for the excellent job M. E. Weber has done and continues to do scheduling and coordinating the volunteer activities of the Auxiliary.

There was a discussion of the location of the GTMF booth at the Art Fair. Consensus was the location was not ideal, but it was noted there was no charge for the booth. There was very little foot traffic. At first there was no GTMF sign, but that was rectified by Andy. The free tickets handed out on the second day of the fair for the youth festival were well received.

Nancy indicated the artists were disappointed with the response this year to the fair and artists indicated people were not spending money as they have in the past. Some artists said they would not return next year.

The long lines at events for refreshments at intermission were discussed. A suggestion was made that the Auxiliary be allowed to help, but there are legal issues with serving alcohol. Pre-orders of refreshments should be encouraged and perhaps this suggestion could be included in an email to patrons.

Following the meeting, M.E. submitted the following message:

First, thank you to all our great volunteers who made my job easy this season. Special thanks to Emma Leither and Andy Mahoney for their great organization of the volunteer opportunities and their continuous support. Things go so smoothly when we all work together.

We had a very good volunteer season. Our auxiliary members filled almost all the volunteer opportunities. The biggest gap was the airport rides, which were at challenging times but are so very helpful to the musicians.

For next season, I know a few ideas were raised in the meeting. Great!! I've also had a chance to talk to a few of you on improvement opportunities, such as events with too few or too many volunteers. I am very interested in any other ideas and feedback. Please feel free to send me an email or phone/text me. Meweber23@gmail.com or 267-312-2776. I also plan to reach out to a few of you to get some improvement ideas for some of the volunteer spots.

Again thank you thank you so much for a great volunteer season for our auxiliary.

MEMBERSHIP

Louise reported there are 33 active members, 13 sustaining and 3 honorary. The cap for active members is 45. There was a discussion about sustaining members switching back to active status. It was noted that new members can join at any time and not just at the July meeting.

OVATION

A report on Ovation was given by Andrea Wood. Chris Gulotta is assisting Andrea. The goal is to get younger people in Jackson interested in music and the festival. Last year was the first year. The first event provided Swiss Raclette, beer and wine before the Harlem Quartet. The event was attended by 50 people. The second event, Heros Life, was for a younger group but was poorly attended. The day and time of the event perhaps were problematic for families with young children. The timing of future events will be addressed to better accommodate this demographic.

There are two upcoming events planned for the Performing Arts Center: Sunday, February 4, 2024 will be a trio playing Americana, pop and classical music. After the concert at 4:00 p.m., finger food will be provided by three local chefs. There will be a private Ovation sign for the event. Tuesday July 9, 2024 will be a percussion concert (tentatively scheduled at 6:00 p.m.).

Pizza and drinks will be provided and Meaghan will talk prior to the concert. This event will occur at the beginning of the festival season and there will be some free tickets provided for performances.

The festival is funding the Ovation events this year instead of the funds coming from the Auxiliary. There may be a need for volunteers to help serve food and beverages.

The current mailing list for Ovation is 150, but Andrea requested that the Auxiliary reach out to friends and families in the 25-50 age demographic to help grow the list.

BOARD MEETING

Nancy gave a brief summary of her impressions of attending her first “Big” board meeting and is in awe of all of the work done by a staff of only seven. It was reiterated that we are a service organization and we should be available to assist the staff when possible.

STAFF REPORT

Emma Kail talked about the success of the past season. We brought in more attendance and reached 20,000. The Gateway series was very successful this year. Andy and Meaghan drove the van all over and presented 100 free concerts for families. There were many of the same attendees at the events. The 8-week ukulele class after camp was a success. It was felt a need was filled for children and families lacking childcare during that time. The children performed with the ukuleles before a festival orchestra performance and also after a golf tournament.

It was noted that there were more empty seats when Donald is not conducting. There was a discussion about reaching out to ticket holders to turn in their tickets if they cannot attend a performance. They can call the office and should be reminded there is a tax write off to turn in the tickets.

The start times will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday will be at 6:00 p.m. The Sunday afternoon piano recitals compete with the music provided at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, and the Sunday recitals may be moved to another day and time.

On December 20, 2023 at the Center for the Arts, there will be a Broadway Christmas music event entitled *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year* which will be free to Teton County school children. February 4, 2024 will be amplified music by Time for Three at the Center for the Arts.

Emma said Augustin Hadelich and Dalia Stasevska would be returning next season. More detailed information for upcoming events and performances can be found on the GTMF website.

The Metropolitan Opera series will be shown from January to June at the Performing Arts Center.

Donald Runnicles will be conducting a December 3, 2023 Wagner opera (4 1/2 hours) at the Met in New York. Board member, Gary Harvey, will be hosting an event in conjunction with this performance.

Donald will be stateside November - December conducting in Utah, Cincinnati and Dallas. His contract with the Deutsche Opera Berlin ends in 2026.

The repairs and renovations to Walk Hall were mentioned. An architect from Minneapolis has been hired. There is good news coming about the housing dilemma for musicians. It is anticipated the pay for musicians will be increased when the housing situation is improved.

There were three salon dinners this past season, but Emma anticipates there will be two next year.

Walk Hall is being used more often for different occasions and generating rental income. It is believed to be the largest room outside of Laramie, seating 700.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nancy indicated she will be dedicating a decorated tree at the Soroptimist fund raiser to the Music Festival. She will be sending out invitations to help decorate the tree. This is a fun event that lasts a week until the trees are auctioned. There is also a silent auction that takes place.

The meeting ended at 11:27