

## **THRESHOLD CHOIR BOARD MINUTES—Public Board Meeting**

**DECEMBER 18, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Bridget Baker, Glenda Guinn-Gilles, Natasha Phillips, C.J. Robinson, Leeann Enright, Sudie Pollock

**ABSENT:** Caitie Deranek Stewart

**STAFF:** Sarah Simoncini, Priscilla Green, Carrie Andrews

**PUBLIC:** 30 participants

1. **Song:** (Bridget) *We Call This Place into Peace*
2. **November Minutes:** (Sudie) Approved and sent to Cathy Baird by Sudie.
3. **Financial Report:** (Natasha) The December balance sheet shows that we are under budget which is a good place to be.
4. **ED Report** (Sarah)
  - a. Thank You to Carrie and Priscilla for their dedication.
  - b. 2024 was a year full of challenges. After Heidi Dressler's death, Leeann Enright became our interim ED, the Board took over various duties, Carrie Andrews was hired as Member/Chapter Development Director, and Sarah Simoncini was hired as ED. Leeann moved onto the Board and is heading up the 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee committee. We are well staffed and ready to move into 2025.
  - c. Specifically, staff is working to improve pathways for chapter success by creating a stronger link between chapters and the Home Office. Staff is also looking at better ways to communicate to the outside world by now having pre-approved TC songs that can be used for social media and other publicity purposes.
  - d. Repertoire Committee has continued to work on updating Song Files, handling newly submitted songs, and surveying all chapters for their top 25 favorite songs to be compiled for our Favorite 25 in '25 Collection.
  - e. Coaching Committee is the first point of contact for many folks seeking to start a chapter. They have been receiving around 9 inquiries per month with half of those going on to match up with a coach. They are teaching Best Practices which helps with quality and uniformity while allowing individuality as well. Coaches are also available to existing chapters if there is a need.
  - f. Education and Curriculum Committee will be balancing offerings throughout the year with focus on three areas: Healthy Chapters which includes Leadership Development, Singing and Songwriting, Death and Dying. The Diversity Committee continues to develop new materials for us as well. Feedback from chapters will drive our direction and future plans in these areas.
  - g. Developing outside funding sources is a priority, as well as improving the website, and securing easy access to the Repertoire for members only. Virtual Accounts will be a topic of conversation this year to clear up any concerns from chapters. Compliance is necessary to maintain our National Charity status.

- h. Our Fundraising End Of Year campaign goal is \$30,000 and we have received \$22,000 to date. We have a Brokerage Account to handle gifts of Appreciated Assets.

**5. Sounding Board (Glenda)**

- a. This Committee is now headed by a team including Glenda Guinn-Gilles (Board), Carrie Andrews (staff), and Judy Hahn (member).
- b. Meetings are now being held quarterly with the next meeting scheduled for January 22, 2025.
- c. Regional contact information is being updated.

**6. Website (Bridget)**

- a. Committee members include Rachel Davis, Cathy Baird, Priscilla Green, and Bridget Baker.
- b. The website committee fired one web vendor and hired another one, ArsMentis, that provides much better service. Special thanks to Rachel Davis and Cathy Baird who contributed vast amounts of time and expertise to this endeavor.
- c. Specific changes include Chapter Administrative Functions that now work and the Repertoire can be searched by song title. Soon, searches will also be available using key words. We are improving the process by which we renew memberships and update chapter member lists. Sarah asks if members find any glitches on the website that they please be reported to Bridget or Priscilla to get that issue on the list of fixes.
- d. A section on the website will be added dedicated to our 25th anniversary.

**7. 25<sup>th</sup> Year Silver Jubilee (Leeann)**

- a. A special logo has been developed and will be used extensively.
- b. The Silver Jubilee Journal will be emailed monthly celebrating our history, our songwriters, and so much more.
- c. We are submitting a Wikipedia entry to widen our online presence.
- d. Chapters will be encouraged to write their histories to be linked to their webpages.
- e. Chapters can consider putting on gatherings ranging from a few hours to several days. Carrie has guidelines to assist with that.

**8. Questions for the Board from the Public**

- a. Max asked for clarification from Sarah about things we want to strengthen. Sarah responded that we need to build pathways, processes and guidelines for how to do things like Gatherings and Membership.
- b. Kate Munger asked that we consider renewing TC support for incarcerated people. She also suggested we become involved in Blue Christmas events in our communities—ceremonies that address and support sadness and grief during holiday times.
- c. Christopher, a Buddhist priest, pointed out that the song *Metta Sutta*, does not represent the actual Metta Sutta and suggested changing the title. Sarah responded that his initial letter was acted upon quickly and the song title has been changed on the website to *May You Dwell in the Heart*. She commended all involved for fast action.

- d. Nancy had questions about expanding our choirs. She raised issues about size and quality. Sarah spoke about preparing to open our doors to people who can sing, having more than one choir in an area, and someday perhaps having an 800 number people could call to have singers appear in 15 minutes.
- e. Shannon mentioned participating in a Blue Christmas service this year.
- f. Judy's chapter sang at a Blue Christmas—also called The Longest Night service. She mentioned that Kri Schlafer had helpful suggestions.

Sudie Pollock

TC Secretary