

## **THRESHOLD CHOIR BOARD MINUTES**

April 16, 2025

**Present:** Bridget Baker, Glenda Guinn-Gilles, Natasha Phillips, C.J. Robinson, Leeann Enright, Sudie Pollock, Caitie Deranek Stewart

**Staff:** Sarah Simoncini

**Minutes** (Sudie): March 2025 minutes were approved and will be sent to Cathy Baird.

### **ED Report** (Sarah):

- Sounding Board asked the Board for suggested topics for their May meeting. Sarah suggested providing information about the Fiscal Sponsorship Model and answering questions about Virtual Accounts (VA) to bring TC into legal compliance. Sarah is developing a Power Point presentation to be shared with Bridget and Glenda and then the full Board. Chapter leaders will be invited to a Zoom meeting to better understand the changes.

### **Financial Report** (Natasha):

- Our income and expenses are within the boundaries of our budget.
- Gatherings have not lost money and have stayed within budgets.
- We have 2532 members in 189 chapters.

### **Fundraising** (Caitie):

- Several years ago, Cherry Tinker designed the Planned Giving program and identified several individuals who were willing to participate. While the idea is sound, the program has not been actively managed or updated in a few years.
- As part of our 25th anniversary, now is a good time to re-introduce the idea of Planned Giving which includes bequests in a will, IRA or Retirement Fund, Donor Advised Fund, and Life Insurance Beneficiary designations. The program will offer more specificity and provide the tools for donors to understand how and why to make a bequest gift. Staff will also keep records of intended gifts if donors choose to make us aware of their future gifts.
- A Gift Acceptance Policy to clarify whether we would or would not accept gifts from people or organizations we do not believe align with Threshold Choir values is needed. Caitie will draft a Gift Acceptance Policy for approval at the next Board meeting.
- A Donor Intent Agreement is needed to serve as a non-binding document estimating the worth of an estate gift and what it should be used for. Restrictions, if any, need to be carefully worded. Caitie will draft the Donor Intent Agreement for approval at the next Board meeting.
- The need for a Stewardship Program was suggested whereby a relationship would be maintained with donors by reaching out and staying in contact with them

### **Repertoire** (Carrie Andrews):

- The Repertoire Team successfully released the Silver Jubilee "Rest Easy" compilation and they have been helpful answering post-release technical questions.
- Their next big issue is how to accept new repertoire submissions once the year-long pause on additions is over.

### **Coaching** (Carrie Andrews):

- Coaches met the first week in April. One new chapter launched this month, the San Fernando Valley Threshold Choir in Los Angeles, CA.
- In keeping with TC's Inclusion Policy, all chapters going forward will be open to all genders. The formation of single gender chapters will not be encouraged. Chapters formed in the

historically “women only” time frame are legally allowed to remain single gender, but as an organization, they are urged to thoughtfully examine their reasoning for doing so.

**Sounding Board:** No report given

**Website:** No report given

**DEI:** No report given

**Programs/Education** (Carrie Andrews):

- March 18 - “Caring for Our Own” panel with death doula Judi Hampshire and TC members Leslie Kostrich and Claire Paul was held.
- Upcoming
  - April 17 - “Paths to Excellence in Threshold Choir Practice” with Annie Garretson and Shasta Martinuk.
  - June 17 - “What Is a Death Cafe and How Can You Host One?” with Mary Manera.
  - July (date and presentation to be confirmed) - “Protecting and Strengthening Our Voices” with Elodie Perroud.

**Outreach/Board Recruitment:** No report given

**Gatherings** (Sarah & Carrie Andrews):

- There have been 5 Gatherings so far this year. More are being added and many are in the planning stages.
- Information concerning budgets, contracts, policies, refunds, forms are better preparing TC for future gatherings.
- The following gatherings are scheduled:
  - Washington, DC - May 4
  - Port Townsend, WA - May 29 (Carrie will attend)
  - Boulder, CO - May 31-June 1 (Carrie will attend)
  - Portola Valley, CA - June 4
  - Madison, WI - June 7
  - Stony Point, NY - June 13-15
  - Lafayette, IN - August 23 (Carrie will attend)
  - Geneva, NY - Sept 19-20
  - Chicago, IL - September 20
  - London, England - 10/4
  - Nanaimo, BC, Canada - October 17-19 (Carrie will attend)
  - Tiburon, CA - October 25 (Carrie possibly will attend)
  - Santa Fe, NM – fall

**25<sup>th</sup> Year Silver Jubilee Update** (Leeann):

- The Fourth TC Journal was shared this month.
- “Rest Easy” collection is selling.
- Another Choir Zoom Party will be held June 21 at 10 am PST.

Sudie Pollock  
TC Secretary