

CHAPTER HISTORY OF SUNFLOWER THRESHOLD SINGERS, LAWRENCE, KS

Beginnings

The chapter was formed sometime in 2012. Of the current members, Jean Drumm is the one who was there from the beginning and is still with the group. The first leader was Donna Luckey. After she left, perhaps in 2013, Jean Drumm was the leader until about 2020. Then Patrice Krause became the leader, and continues as leader at the present time.

Membership

The chapter initially grew membership through word of mouth and invitation, and also a flier and meeting for prospective members in August of 2012. In February of 2016 there was a newspaper article about Threshold Choir that brought in several new members.

Currently, the chapter has five members, plus one prospective member who is starting to attend practices. The chapter occasionally gains new members through word of mouth, and also people who contact the chapter through the TCI Website.

At least one of our members has played with writing new Threshold songs, and hopes to continue.

Practices and Community Service

Soon after the group's formation, members sang at a hospice memorial gathering for multiple families of people who had died in the previous year. In the early years, and continuing through 2019, members sang as a group from time to time in retirement facilities.

The chapter hasn't done song baths or bedside singing since the pandemic started, except for fulfilling one special request, probably in 2024. However, all five members are ready to do bedside sings if the chapter receives requests.

Impact of Covid-19

Prior to the pandemic, the chapter had a relationship with a hospice that gave referrals for bedside singing. This relationship may have begun around 2016 or 2017. After the pandemic, the hospice had changed their headquarters from Lawrence to Topeka and also had changed some of its requirements for volunteers. The chapter did not resume the connection with that hospice organization.

During the first year and a half of the pandemic, the chapter had a few Zoom sessions for visiting, and found that singing on Zoom didn't work well. (None of the members had the skill or inclination to try to use technology for sharing singing.) After COVID vaccinations became available, and the members had monthly outdoor practices. Eventually the members moved to indoor practices, and continued on the once-a-month schedule.

Current Status

The chapter members are open to requests for bedside singing if they are in Lawrence, KS. Members will also consider hosting a community sing to share Threshold songs with others at some point. Because of the age and activity level of the members, they are not actively pursuing public singing at this time, but are open to requests. The members cherish the beauty and meaning of the Threshold songs, and use them to send love and peace to the world when they practice.

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