

U.A. VOCAL MUSIC BOOSTERS
September 14, 2009 Minutes

In attendance: Eric Kauffman, Amy Leacock, Mary Griffith, Donna Gallucci, Sara McCormick, Jim Sanderson, Beth Novi, Bill & Cheryl Pond, Laura Mulhall, Barb Tennenbaum, Mary Ann Clark, Geneva Burgdorf, Julie Todd, Charles & Josette Wilburn, Cathy Conner, Laura Jochem, Cyndi White, Kathy Luikart, Marcy Gauch, Barb Bolen, Steve & Jane Bruns, Pat & Lea Ann O'Brien, Kathy McKinney, Karen Keegan, Melissa Storer, Kathy Hopwood, Shelly DeRoberts, David Magee, Dina Giddens

Mary Griffith, President, opened the meeting by having everyone introduce themselves and what choral group their child participates.

Sara McCormick, Tickets Committee Co-Chair, gave a report on the new online ticket software services. Showbox Office was chosen from several companies that the subcommittee researched over the summer. They offer their services at no cost to us and no set up fees. Their payment is a service charge paid by the consumer for credit card purchases. Some of the features of Showbox Office are: can accept additional donations; pre-order additional items (like flowers at musical time) when consumer orders their tickets; can have a sponsor printed on the ticket; patron lists; UAVMB can generate several reports from the data; can section auditorium with various prices; if order online, will print tickets via email; UAVMB will receive reimbursements within week of the performance via direct deposit. UAVMB will continue to have cash sales at the box office; at this time general seating will not be online. There will be a link to purchase tickets at Showbox Office via the UAVMB website.

It was noted that UAVMB has lost money the last 2 years on the musical, however the goal is not to make money, but we need to break even. Les Miserable's had a \$28,000 budget and Jekyll & Hyde had a \$40,000 budget but ticket prices haven't changed in about 5 years. Therefore, the ticket prices will be increased. Fall Follies will be increased as well, but at a different rate than musical tickets. With this increase, UAVMB does not plan to increase ticket prices again for a few years.

UAVMB might need to purchase some laptops and printer for the box office. Group sales (retirement home, etc) will call the ticket phone number, and we will block off area of seats from the online sales.

Pat O'Brien moved to accept the new online ticket software services, and it was seconded by Steve Bruns. The motion passed, all in favor.

Melissa Storer, Publicity Chair, reported that Fall Follies is in October, but publicity starts now (flyers, letters, newsletters, etc). She presented the Fall Follies logo and sandwich board layout. Melissa noted that she is the "keeper" of graphics and distributes information to other committees so that we all use the same logo for productions. If you need the graphics, email her to request it.

She could use help with administrative tasks like distributing flyers to schools, etc. Please contact her if you can help.

Dave Magee, Neighborhood Canvass co-chair, said students are forming groups of 4 with a driver and he is assembling the information for them to pass out. He will make up the routes for each group. The Canvass coincides with the group and senior photos for Encore program. It is on Sunday, September 20, from 12:30 – 5:00 pm.

Alicia Overmyer, Encore co-chair, explained that the Encore is the program that is given out at all performances. Students will get packets on Wednesday, September 16, in class. Each person's goal is 2 advertisements and 2 benefactors. If advertiser can't do a 'jpeg' then possibly have student design it for a fee (so that Encore layout person, David Crouse, doesn't have to take the time to design it). She will have forms for the canvass. The funds raised will go toward a Lighting Suite for the auditorium.

Shelly DeRoberts, Ensemble co-chair, said ensemble will help with the Fall Follies blitz on October 3, along with choral officers. Dresses are in, and Tuxedos should be in on Thursday, September 15.

Dina Giddens, Communications chair, said if anyone needs information to be passed onto UAVMB, parents or students, to contact her. She will send emails via database that she is collecting and getting from Mr. Kauffman. She's sending out an email this week about Sunday. If you don't get one, please contact her at dgiddens@columbus.rr.com to add you to her database. Ellen Clark (website designer) and Dina have worked on getting all chair emails corrected on the website.

Steve Bruns, Senior Video chair, is creating a gmail account for people to send him pictures from the 4 years at UAHS, and senior & baby pictures. The gmail site will also be posted on the UAVMB website. The gmail account is uavmbvideo@gmail.com

Barb Tennenbaum, Spirit Yard Signs chair, only has 5 orders thus far, but September 20 is the deadline so expects to get more this week. She will have forms to pass out at open house.

Marcy Gauch, Spirit Wear chair, showed samples of the t-shirt, golf shirt, hooded sweatshirt, and fleece (new this year). She said November 2 is the order deadline. Items will be in by Christmas. You can pick them up at her house or have delivered to student at school.

Julie , concessions co-chair, said she will need volunteers for the Fall Follies and musical concessions. There's a sign-up sheet tonight to volunteer for any area at Fall Follies.

Donna Gallucci, Character Shoes chair, showed a sample of the shoe. It is not required, but all girls are required to wear closed toe black shoe with nothing more than 1 ½ inch heel. The shoes are regularly \$36 and we are getting for \$29. There are samples of each size for the girls to try on and order will be placed week of September 21.

Mary Ann Clark, Lobby Decorations chair, would like red, white & blue bunting for the Fall Follies decorations. UAVMB has some from musical last year and Alicia Overmyer offered some. She asked what her budget is; Jim Sanderson answered \$150

Jim Sanderson, Treasurer, spoke about the tentative budget. He noted that there are no figures in the budget concerning the musical yet because it has not been set. Once the Executive Board reviews the budget again and approves it, he will let each committee know their budget amount.

He has gotten emails asking what the Damn Yankees musical profit was. UAVMB hasn't made a profit in a couple of years. UAVMB has spent some of the surplus from other musicals on capital improvements in the auditorium.

Jim reminded us that the artistic mission statement for UAVMB is not to make a profit on the musicals, but to break even. The musicals are a learning experience and educational tool for our students.

Volunteers for Open House: Mary Griffith asked for volunteers to present information to each choral class. Alicia Overmyer will do Freshman Choir, Ensemble and Symphonic Choir. Steve Bruns will do Concert Chorale (6th period).

Director's Report given by Eric Kauffman:

- Thank you for all the support and work that we as UAVMB do. He reminds the students to appreciate what their parents do.
- Fall Follies theme is "Americana". Through the music literature, the students are learning some of the history of USA and its music. He loves doing Fall Follies. Note to parents: the freshman are upset that Fall Follies is on beggar's night, so he told them he will tell the parents to buy extra to have a bag for them when they get home.
- Database – looking into database software where the kids will sign up on the computer during class. It will have feature of online directory with password, but we will print a few hard copies as well.
- Sunday's Neighborhood Canvass is organized chaos, but it can generate money for UAVMB.
- Musical update – It's West Side Story. Melanie Bales will be choreographer. She has a co-worker she hopes to teach the combat style choreography. Bill Boggs will be pit director and will help Eric build the orchestra. Eric is having a pre-production meeting this Thursday with set designer, lighting, etc.
- Freshman Choir – 27 of the 55 students had siblings in vocal music. That's great news on many facets.