

Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Inc.

Board Meeting Minutes 3-20-2018

Notice: The May Board meeting date has been changed. The new date is Thursday, May 10.

Attending: Joan Foley, Ann Guild, Susan Vадnais, Susan Carr, Cookie Parnell, Elizabeth Connor Stewart, Peggy Dreher, Carol Follmer, Robin Cochran, Jenny Tolson, Jeanna Norris, Lisa Kelly, Wendy Smolen, Mary Staton, Beth Garges, Donna Kiser, Leigh Finley, Ellen Crowley

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Rutledge at 6:05 pm. A motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2018 Board meeting was made by Elizabeth Stewart, seconded by Susan Carr, and approved by the Board.

Treasurer's Report – Susan Carr, Treasurer

- In February income was increased by advance revenue from the Kitchen Tour and from donations to the Youth Festival and the Kit Ramage scholarship fund.
- February expenses were mostly covered by prior income specific to those expenses. An example is the winter luncheon at Bonterra – expense was covered by payments from those attending. Some expenses were offset by income received in earlier months.
- Net income for February was \$11,616.
- The current YTD net loss of \$14,353 will be offset by increasing income from the Kitchen Tour.
- We will pay the CSO \$10,000 in April as our share of Youth Festival costs; this is partly offset by \$6,835 in Youth Festival donations.
- Mah Jongg raised net \$2,000 but did not reach the level of \$5,000 netted last year.
- YTD figures: Profit and Loss: Total income = \$61,042.83; total expenses = \$75,397.46; Net Income = **(\$14,354.63.)** (negative); Balance Sheet: Total Liabilities & Equity = \$120,715.64

CSO News – Mike Rutledge, President

Mike announced that Ernest Pereira will end his 30+ years of tenure conducting the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestras on June 30, 2018 because of a re-structuring of the position of Conductor of the Youth Orchestra. Jeanna Norris, Board Representative and President of the CSYO Parents Association read the following email, which was sent to the parents on behalf of Mary Deissler:

On Behalf of Charlotte Symphony President and CEO Mary A. Deissler

Dear Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra Parents,

Music Director Christopher Warren-Green has decided to change the structure of the CSYO staff conductor beginning July 1, 2018. From next season on, the CSYO will be conducted by the Charlotte Symphony's primary Assistant Conductor.

We are deeply grateful to Ernest Pereira for his 30+ years of devotion to our youth orchestras. Under his leadership, the group has grown to over 190 strong, encompassing both the CSYO and the Junior Youth Orchestra. The CSYO performance at Carnegie Hall last June was one that made us all proud, and we have Ernest to thank for the quality of their

musicianship. There will be a number of opportunities over the next several months to thank and recognize Ernest properly for his many contributions to our youth orchestra program, and I hope you will be able to join us in extending our gratitude for his work.

Christopher and I are also grateful for all you do that allows your child to participate in our youth orchestras.

Best wishes,

Mary

- Mike said that he met with CSO General Manager John Clapp and Education Director Chris Stonell to discuss the future of the educational projects that The Guild sponsors and how they will coordinate with the Charlotte Symphony. John and Chris will meet with Mary Deisler and then will meet again with Mike.
- There is an Executive Committee meeting scheduled for March 28 to discuss and set up recommendations for The Guild's education projects. At that time there should be more information about the income from the Kitchen Tour.

Fundraising – Robin Cochrane, VP

- There is a fundraising event with Paul Simon for Women on Wednesday through Saturday, March 28 to 31. Paul Simon will give The Guild \$2 for every pair of pants tried on by anyone who says they are with The Guild. Members are encouraged to participate.

Management and Planning – Eizabeth Connor Stewart, VP

- Mike Rutledge gave the report for the Nominating Committee in the absence of Chair Marta Fales. There is a perennial problem in obtaining candidates to fill the offices. There is no candidate for President-Elect, VP Marketing, VP Education. One person is considering the position of VP Membership but would want someone else to head the social events committee. Marta states that she feels the Guild is in trouble with respect to volunteers for projects and events and that we are relying upon the same people to do the work. Please let Marta know, if you know of someone who might be interested in filling the empty slots.
- Budget and Finance – They are working hard to update the Chart of Accounts in Quick Books. This work will make the financial reports much more clear. The committee will meet a couple of times in April, so it can send out a proposed budget before the May 10 Board meeting.

Education – Beth Garges and Donna Kiser, VP's

- Youth Festival was easier this year with good coordination with the CSO. There are no recommendations to submit at this point.
- Auditions begin April 8 and run for 2 weeks. Chair Julia Church will put up Sign Up Genius to call for volunteers. The SUG was not put up earlier, because it might have interfered with the call for Kitchen Tour volunteers. There are 60 volunteer slots for Auditions. Working at Auditions is a good opportunity to get to know other Guild members.

- CSYO – Jeanna Norris and Lisa Kelly reported that the CSYO will not play in a pre-show at the Summer Pops this year, because the concerts do not begin until June 17 when many kids are already at music camps. The CSYO season will end on Mother’s Day with a concert. It will also play a prelude concert on Saturday, May 12 prior to the CSO concert that evening. The parents will plan a way to honor Ernest Pereira for his long successful career as CSYO Conductor.
- Carol Follmer asked Mike to obtain information regarding the status of the endowment set up in 2001 to support the salary of the youth orchestra conductor. The amount given to the CSO for this endowment was \$100,000, and it was set up in perpetuity.
- Cookie Parnell suggested that The Guild give Ernest a special gift from The Guild. It can be done through Tiffany & Co., which has our logo to put on gifts.

Membership – Leigh Finley, VP

- The Spring Social will be April 19 at Patsy Reames’ house. Rain will cancel the event. **(Note: this is a date change from April 24 in the Guild directory.)** Jenny Tolson is in charge of the party and will set up a Sign Up Genius for the Board to bring light food to the event.
- The May 15 General Membership Meeting will take place at Mary Staton’s house. Members will be asked to bring light food. (no wine needed)

SOVA – Mike Rutledge for Betty Seifert

- There was a Board meeting in Kiawah, SC, there was much discussion about working toward better communication. There will be a Roundtable in Greensboro on President’s Day weekend in 2019.

LAO – Mike Rutledge

- Mike Rutledge, Elizabeth Stewart, Jenny Tolson, and Sallie Moody will attend the annual conference in June in Chicago. Jenny and Sallie will present the Auction that won a Gold Book project award. Elizabeth Connor Stewart will present a talk on “Engaging Millennial Volunteers in the Arts.” YoYo Ma will be performing at the conference.

Announcements – Mike Rutledge

- **The May Board meeting date has been changed from Tuesday, May 8 to Thursday, May 10 because of a church meeting space conflict. It is very important that Board members attend this meeting, because a quorum will be needed to vote upon the budget for next year.**

The meeting was adjourned by Mike Rutledge at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Follmer, Secretary