

## **SHS Choir Booster Club General Meeting Minutes**

**August 29th, 2023**

President Nadia Sledge called the meeting to order at 7:09pm.

### **I. Approve Minutes from May 15th, 2023 General Meeting**

Minutes posted on the stratfordchoir.com website.

Liz Goodman made a motion to approve the May 15th minutes.

Claudia Villarreal seconded the motion.

All voted in favor of approval.

### **II. Approve budget for the 2023 through 2024 school year**

Our approximately \$28k zero based budget was presented.

Claudia Villarreal made a motion to approve the budget.

Liz Goodman seconded the motion.

All voted in favor of approval.

### **III. Approve new board member Lori Perez as VP of fund raising.**

Rosanna Hinde made a motion to approve new board member.

Susie Smith seconded the motion.

All voted in favor of approval.

### **IV. Introductions:**

- Nadia Sledge, President
- Paige Larrabee, VP Activities
- Lori Perez, VP Fundraising/Merchandise
- Tina Throckmorton, VP Communications
- Dana Weatherly, Secretary
- Mimi Hamilton, Treasurer
- Julie Swoboda and Jennie Corn, Wassail Chairs

### **V. Introduce Ms. Baker and Mr. Blanton:**

#### **Updates/Information from Choir Directors:**

Introduction: Ms. Baker introduced herself and Mr. Blanton. She provided information on the Stratford Choir communication platforms, including [www.stratfordchoir.com](http://www.stratfordchoir.com), Facebook (Stratford Choir), Instagram (@stratfordchoir), and Twitter (@Stratford\_Choir). Ms. Baker's email is [Marcie.baker@springbranchisd.com](mailto:Marcie.baker@springbranchisd.com), and Mr. Blanton's email is [Gyasi.blanton@springbranchisd.com](mailto:Gyasi.blanton@springbranchisd.com).

#### **Choir Handbook:**

Ms. Baker provided details regarding the Choir Handbook, the final page of which must be turned in by September 23rd for a test grade. Key information is included in the handbook:

- Choir uniforms consist of black dresses or black tuxedos. This year boys will need to provide black dress shirts instead of white. Boys and girls must wear black dress shoes. Girls' shoes must be closed toe with low or no heel.

#### Concert Attendance:

- Concert attendance is mandatory and is a test grade. Students may only miss due to extreme circumstances – illness or a conflicting Stratford event.

- The first concert is the fall concert on October 3rd.

Grades: 40% of grades are performance and test, 30% are rehearsals, and 30% are class assignments.

#### Texas All-State Process:

Ms. Baker provided detailed information regarding the optional Texas All-State Process for choir students.

- District auditions will be held on September 23rd at Stratford High School. Students must prepare four songs, three of which will be performed. The top 15 singers in each group will move to Region.

- Region auditions require three songs. The top 12 students advance to Pre-Area. The top 17 students advance to Region Mixed Choir. Students who place 18-37 move to Region Treble Choir.

- Region Weekend (clinic and concert) will be held November 3rd and 4th at CyFair High School.

- Pre-Area Auditions include sight-reading. The top 5 students from Pre-Area will advance to Area, and the top students from Area will advance to All-State.

- Freshmen and Sophomore have the option to skip District auditions and audition for Region Honor Choir. Students who qualify for Region Honor Choir are able to participate in Region Weekend but will not continue past Region Weekend.

- Ms. Baker and Mr. Blanton are holding after school and Spartan Time rehearsals for students participating in the All-State process.

UIL Solo and Ensemble: UIL Solo and Ensemble will be held January 20, 2023 at Cypress Park High School. Students will select their solo music in December from a prescribed music list and will have class time in January to prepare and rehearse with an accompanist.

Spring Choir Trip – New Orleans, March 7-11, 2024.

Fees: All choir students are responsible for a \$60 activity fee. Other activities require additional fees, including \$15 for Honor Choir entry, \$43 for solo and ensemble accompanist, \$20 for All-State entry, and \$13 for solo and ensemble entry. \*\*Fees should not prevent any student from participating. If a student has a concern regarding fees, he or she should speak to Ms. Baker or Mr. Blanton.\*\*

Choir Carwash: The annual car wash will be held on Sept. 9th. A sign-up for parent and student volunteers will be sent.

## **VI. Updates from Booster Club Board President – Nadia Sledge**

#### **Membership:**

- Encourage all to join and support our initiatives.

- Various levels and benefits

#### **Scholarships:**

- Encourage booster support

- Open to all grades

- Testimonials from last year's recipients

Tessa Throckmorton, Anjelica Salva, and Nicole Delgado spoke beautifully about how their choir booster scholarships had impacted them through choir camps and private voice lessons!

#### **VII. Updates from VP Activities- Paige Larrabee**

Paige explained the booster membership levels and reserved seating for concerts. She also asked for parents support through volunteering and donations for our Allstate district auditions opportunity on September 23, and our annual car wash on September 9th. Be looking for more details soon!

#### **VIII. Updates from Wassail Chairs – Julie Swoboda and Jennie Corn**

Julie and Jennie made us giggle in their festive sweater Q and A regarding Wassail. We will be selling tickets for this fundraising event in the future. Festive sweaters are definitely encouraged. There are also raffles at the event. There will be different levels of tickets that have different perks attached them. The event is held December 3rd at Norris center.

#### **IX. Raffle: -last call for extra ticket to support scholarships**

Thank you to Nadia Sledge and Pearle Vision who donated some awesome Ray Ban sunglasses to raffle tonight. Families got a raffle ticket for attending the meeting and extra ones were given for additional scholarship donations. Miss Baker drew the raffle, and the lucky winner was delighted!

#### **X. The meeting was adjourned at 8 PM by President Nadia Sledge.**

**These minutes respectfully submitted by  
Dana Weatherly  
Stratford Choir Booster Club Secretary  
August 30, 2023**