

NPM Cleveland Board Meeting
March 21, 2019

The meeting opened with prayer at 1:05 pm.

Members in attendance: Bob Soeder, Jon Thibo, Mary Hrich, Aga Bieniek, Herb Dillahunt, Angela Kovacs, Lori Geyer, Bridget Jankowski

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved with no additions or changes.

Treasurers Report:

Current balance in the checking account is \$1668.49. Paypal account balance is \$30.72

\$800 was received from the appeal to pastors last Fall. Money from the cancelled retreat was refunded and Paypal reimbursed all transaction fees. The Children's Choir Festival was in the black and there is still an outstanding donation from the Worship Office of \$400. Herb will follow up with Jean Marie to collect that. The only other expenditure was \$9.99 for checks. All supporting paperwork is on file.

Communications and Membership: Bob Soeder had nothing new to report. All is well.

Website: Herb reported that he is continuing to tweak the code so that things appear consistently regardless of web browser. Photos and video from the Children's Choir Festival have been posted. We are still using only the free site. Once he has everything in place and finalized with the designer he will meet with Dan and bring him up to speed so that Dan can continue the work.

Constant Contact: Mary reported that we have 543 total contacts and a 40% open rate. The board agreed that the quality and quantity of Constant Contact emails going out is good. Mary continues to vigilantly update the list to keep it current and relevant.

Prayer Coordinator: Angela reported that things continue to go well with prayer requests but it would be nice to have input from more people. The board agreed that a notice about prayer requests should go out in an upcoming Constant Contact. Herb would like to see more personal prayers pertaining to family members or parishioners encouraged.

Children's Choir Festival: Bridget reported that the Festival was a complete success and it was a wonderful day. A great deal of publicity was generated including an article on the Diocesan website and a forthcoming article in Northeast Ohio Catholic. Greg Heiselman was very happy and requested that it become an annual event. The board agreed and Bridget will contact Angi and Meg to see if they are willing to continue to coordinate it. Bridget will send a thank you to Fr. Kropac for the use of his church for the morning sessions and will include a donation of \$100 from NPM Cleveland as a token of our gratitude and as a follow up on our offer to tune their piano.

Facebook/Social Media: Bridget reported that there has been some interest generated on facebook particularly around the videos posted. The video of the St. Cecilia Sing had 13 shares and 927 views. The video of the Children's Choir Festival had 42 views from the NPM Cleveland page and 679 views from Bridget's personal page, as well as 5 shares.

Financial Support Dues: There was a brief discussion of the minimal response to the letter which was sent to pastors last fall. The consensus was that if that request were in the hands of

the Directors of Music the response might be better. Another letter will be generated and mailed in care of the Directors of Music. Herb will coordinate this with Bob and Jon.

Upcoming Programs:

Herb will coordinate the next **brown bag lunches** which he hopes to have in August. Bob Soeder and Angela Kovacs volunteered to host. Herb will secure two more locations.

Rescheduling the cancelled retreat was discussed. It was agreed to work toward Friday evening August 23rd, beginning with dinner and concluding by 10 pm. Herb will coordinate with the facilitator and Jon will check with his church for the host site.

St. Cecilia Sing will be on November 22 and 23 this year at St. Albert the Great with Lori Geyer coordinating. Friday evening will be the concert with a theme of "Through the Church Year." Lori will have a sign up for choirs to present music for each Liturgical Season. There will also be something for combined choirs. Aga volunteered to assist Lori with programming details. Saturday will be a day for workshops. These workshops will be for all Diocesan Musicians and specifically NOT for directors of music. Focuses will be on vocals, handbells and ensembles. There will be a fee for these workshops which will offset the cost of paying for clinicians.

Coffee clatches: Herb reported that other local chapters have had success at meeting informally at coffee shops at various points in the year. This would be in the style of a brown bag lunch but in the evening. It was suggested that perhaps meeting at a pub would be more of a draw. Aga and Angela agreed to coordinate some gatherings of this nature.

Next Year's Programs:

In addition to what we already have on the schedule it was decided to offer a retreat for all musicians, not specifically Directors of Music, possibly on Feb. 22, 2020 at a neutral site such as Borromeo Seminary. Mary Hrich agreed to talk to Fr. Oleksiak about some possibilities.

It was agreed that one more program might be desirable.

Elections: Lynn's term is up. Several names were suggested and Herb will be making a personal contact to fill the position.

There was no new business so the meeting closed with a prayer at 2:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget Jankowski