

**The Gilbert and Sullivan Very Light Opera Company  
Annual Company Meeting**

**June 1, 2015**

In Attendance: Stephen Hage, Mary Gregory, Shawn Holt, Joe Allen, Alex Gerchak, Barb Hovey, Brianna Sullivan, Rhea Sullivan, Wally Benbenek, Mary Mescher Benbenek, Jake Wellington, Aaron Rolloff, Lara Trujillo, Malka Key, Jo Pasternack, Eric Pasternack, Jack Kravik, John Orbison

The meeting began at 7:33 pm. Stephen Hage welcomed everyone.

Survey - Wally Benbenek : The orchestra provided most of the reviews. Reviews were very good. Working with Randy Buikema was rewarding and exciting. The survey is available for reading on line.

Treasurer's Report - Malka Key: There was more income due to a raise in ticket and concession prices. There were higher contributions as well. Items that still need to be paid are the costumer and rehearsal space. The cost of the performance space also went up due to green room usage and overtime for security and custodial services.

Lake Harriet Summer Concert - Wally Benbenek: *H.M.S. Pinafore* is cast although we could use more tenors and two more basses. Stephen handed out rehearsal and performance dates / times. Wally needs to talk to Randy Buikema regarding Fair Moon score so that he and Jere work it up for the summer show.

*Trial By Jury* - Stephen Hage: Work continues on casting more basses.

Iolanthe - Stephen Hage: Tentative dates for production are November 1 and 2, 2015 for auditions. Rehearsal schedule begins Monday, January 4, 2016. Rehearsal times are Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 7:00 - 10:00 pm and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Randy Buikema as Music Director and Denise Brophy as Stage Manager are in for next year.

Bylaw 21 - A discussion of the proposal to strike it from the bylaws was presented by Stephen Hage and Wally Benbenek.

A stipend of \$200.00 was proposed, with a choice of NOT taking it if one wished. This stipend amount was considered very much in line with what other theater companies of our caliber and size were offering here in the Twin Cities.

The striking of bylaw 21 would not affect the grandparent clause and everyone on stage including ASMs would be offered the money.

The raising of ticket prices was discussed as an eventuality in the future to defray the cost, in approximately three years.

A vote was taken-Wally Benbenek moved the motion with Jake Wellington seconding, the measure passing 14 ayes to 4 nays.

Other Company sponsored activities - Malka Key: The October sing-in was well attended and went well. The company paid Jean Van Heel \$100.00 per show and \$75.00 for the rental of the space.

Potential shows for further sing-ins were discussed: *Pinafore*, *Gondoliers*, *Iolanthe*, or *Mikado*. Malka Key will set up the next October sing-in.

Wally Benbenek: Moundsvew Show in September. There are three possible Saturdays that the company could choose from.

Wally Benbenek: Heat maps and schematics of where our ticket sales originated. 2/3 of our tickets were sold on-line.

Election of the Board for 2015 - 2016 Season - Shawn Holt:

Positions:	Declared Candidates:
Producer	Stephen Hage
Secretary	Shawn Holt
Treasurer	Malka Key
Publicity	Waldyn Benbenek
Labour Pool Coordinator	Eric Pasternack
Orchestra Rep.	Barb Hovey
Female Chorus Rep.	Mary Gregory
Male Chorus Rep.	John Orbison
Publicity Intern	Alex Gerchak

Mary Benbenek moved to accept the slate and Rhea Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the election of all listed with the addition of Alex Gerchak as the new Publicity Intern under Wally Benbenek.

2017 Show Selection - Stephen Hage:

*The Gondoliers* was chosen for the 2017 season. There is no director chosen as of yet. Interested candidates are Joe Andrews, Leslie Hendrickson, and Jake Wellington.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Holt