

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

May 5, 2019

In attendance were: Stephen Hage, Shawn Holt, Malka Key, Mary Gregory, Rhea Sullivan, Brianna Sullivan, Wally Benbenek, Mary Benbenek, John Orbison, Barb Hovey, Leslie Hendrickson, Doug Freeman, Richard Rames, Holly Windle, Maia Carnicom, Anna Maher, Maggie Burr, Kelly Ann Danger, Joe Allen, Julia Ockuly, Charlotte Morrison, Alexander Gerchak, Carmelita Guse, Steve Schellenberg, Niko Simmons, Eric Mellum

The meeting began at 5:12 pm with a welcome from Stephen Hage.

Treasurer's Report: John Orbison

The GSVLOC is currently showing a profit of around \$12,000.00 from *The Mikado*. The budget will not be closed out until May 31, 2019 due to invoices that still need to be submitted.

Wally Benbenek moved to accept the budget/treasurer's report and Leslie Hendrickson seconded. The motion passed.

Summer Concert: Wally Benbenek

The summer concert at Lake Harriet is *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

Auditions for principal roles will be held on Sunday, May 12, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church.

Rehearsal schedule begins the last two weeks of June with the performances and the week before the performances, which will be on Saturday, July 13th and Sunday, July 14th.

Fall Sing-Through Update: Malka Key

The sing through will be scheduled for late September to late October. Potential shows include: *Trial By Jury*, *Patience*, *The Gondoliers*, *Utopia, Limited*, and *The Grand Duke*. Malka is taking suggestions.

Potential Fall Shows: Carmelita Guse, Lesley Hendrickson, Wally Benbenek

Carmelita Guse made a pitch for *A House Divided* written by Tom and Maureen Berg. There will be a reading of it on June 9th. The board is considering hearing it then with a meeting to follow.

Lesley Hendrickson made a pitch for *Belle Helene*, by Jacques Offenbach. It would need a table reading, perhaps in early fall of 2019, to determine if it could be staged.

A discussion was had as to how to stage a fall show without losing a lot of money. The company was positive about both shows and was willing to look into them.

Ruddigore 2020 Spring Show Update: Stephen Hage

Joe Andrews, Director
Randy Buikema, Music Director
Production staff are being contacted

Auditions: Saturday, November 2nd and Sunday, November 3rd
Callbacks: Monday, November 4th

Rehearsals will begin Monday, January 13th, 2020 (8 week rehearsal schedule)

Load-in to Howard Conn, late afternoon on Sunday, March 1st and Monday, March 2nd.

Performances: Thursday, March 12th (Preview) 7:30 pm
Fridays, March 13th, 20th, 27th April 3rd, 7:30 pm
Saturdays, March 14th, 21st, 28th, April 4th 7:30 pm
Saturday matinee, March 28th 2:00 pm
Sundays, March 15th, 22nd, 29th, April 5th 2:00 pm

Election of the Board for the 2018-2019 Season: Shawn Holt

Retiring from the board: Mary Gregory. Thank you for your years of service to the company!

Positions:	Declared Candidates:
Producer	Stephen Hage
Secretary	Shawn Holt
Treasurer	John Orbison
Publicity	Waldyn Benbenek
Labour Pool Coordinator	Malka Key
Orchestra Representative	Barb Hovey
Female Chorus Representative	Anna Maher
Male Chorus Representative	Alexander Gerchak

Charlotte Morrison moved that the candidates be accepted
Mary Gregory seconded and the candidates were accepted.

Selection of the 2021 Spring Show: Stephen Hage

A discussion was had regarding the selection of the 2021 spring show. *Utopia, Limited* needs work on the problematic cultural appropriation. *The Sorcerer* would be the second of two shows that contain magic. *Belle Helene* was proposed as well. The decision was postponed until the fall of 2019 so there could be a sing/read through of *Belle Helene*. The decision will be put to the entire company via an on-line vote.

Discussion of Director Selection Process: Mary Benbenek

Suggested that the decision of choosing a director should involve more of the company via a sub-committee that refers to the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Holt