

Patrons of the Arts Minutes
Jan. 13, 2011

Present: John Brusseau, JoAnne Francis, Kate Costello, Bill Faltinoski, Joe Farwell, Susan Filstead, Laurie Leja and Eileen Daday

New Business: The meeting opened at 7:35 p.m. with a presentation by Don Noskowiak, one of the founders of Liveyearbook, Inc. which is partnering with VIP Photography --- who would take all the photos --- to offer a digitalized component to high school yearbooks, as well as customized activities books.

At the Patrons' meeting, Noskowiak suggested producing a Web-based activity book showcasing students participating in the musical, Fiddler on the Roof. In the most cutting edge form, students and their families would be able to access the Liveyearbook's Web-based platform to upload their own photos, as well as select photos they want to incorporate in their personal book.

However, after some discussion, Patrons members seemed to agree to try a streamlined version of the activity book the first year, with a representative from the musical or parent volunteer choosing the photos to go in this first book. Patrons members felt that since VIP already makes musical photos available for purchase on their Web site, starting at \$4.50, they did not need to make the book interactive at this point.

Publishing the book would not only give students and families a lasting memory of the play, but it also would serve as a fundraiser. A 48-page hardcover book would sell for \$36 and a soft cover one for \$33, with Saint Viator's theater department sharing in 35 percent of the revenue from their sales.

JoAnne Francis brought the presentation to the meeting, and she agreed to study the proposal further.

Committee Reports:

- A. **President: John Brusseau** welcomed members and expressed excitement for all of the fine arts performances coming up in February and March, between the musical, Orchesis show and Fine Arts Week.
- B. **Treasurer: Laurie Leja** reported that the Patrons' account started out at \$14,234, before she paid \$1,500 for last year's scholarships and earmarked \$3,000 for wish list items for the Fine Arts Department, leaving the current available balance at \$9,734.
- C. **Secretary: Eileen Daday** presented the minutes from the December meeting, which were approved by members.
- D. **Concessions: Joe Farwell** said to beef up sales at the Friday night and Sunday matinee performances, he would try selling hot dogs and walking tacos, to go along with the more traditional menu of popcorn, candy and sodas.

- E. **Administration: JoAnne Francis** reported that numbers were up at the entrance exam in January, with 304 students taking the test (not including make-up students). Those numbers are up from last year and reflect 72 percent of students from Catholic schools and 25 percent from public schools. She added that numbers of schools interested in attending the musical's junior high benefit shows also are up, with 588 students from six schools coming to the Feb. 3 show and 760 students from seven schools coming Feb. 10.
- F. **Faculty: Bill Faltinoski** said his teachers are preparing students to showcase their work during Fine Arts Week, which takes place the first week in March. The annual observance reinforces how much impact the arts have on students, he said.

Liasons:

1. **Band: Sheryl Tully's** report was read at the meeting. She continues to work with Band Director Tom Seaman and band parents to prepare to host the State of the Art competition for Catholic high school bands --- for three years --- beginning in February 2012. In anticipation, she is recruiting band parents to attend this year's competition on Feb. 19 at Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights. They will be shadowing different committee heads to learn their roles in hosting this all-day event, which draws thousands of people between the band members, spectators, faculty and parents.
2. **Theater: Susan Filstead** said Fiddler posters are being circulated through ambassador parents in different feeder parishes, as well as by parents of those students involved in the musical. She said tickets sales are going well, but that they need more chaperones, as well as an adult to work with tech crew members. **Joe Farwell** added that 3,000 programs are being published, and that \$4,600 of its \$6,000 printing cost had been underwritten by a donation from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. However, with ads already placed, the program was in the black, with more ads coming in. **Kate Costello** added that the new sound system was up and being calibrated, while students also were using four new wireless microphones. She ordered five new microphone elements with a grant from the Million Dollar Classic, and also ordered a new 40-foot backdrop. Finally, Costello added that she had ordered a new black sharktooth scrim that combined with the lighting board and specialized lighting ability would allow her to create some stage curtain magic.
3. **Orchesis:** no report
4. **Choir:** no report

John Brusseau adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m. The next Patrons meeting takes place Feb. 17.

Submitted by: Eileen Daday