

Patrons of the Arts Minutes
Nov. 11, 2010

Present: JoAnne Francis, Kate Costello, Tom Seaman, John Brusseau, Joe Farwell, Elizabeth Hansen, Susan and Bill Filstead, Janet Southall, Sheryl Tully, Joan Steiner, and Eileen Daday.

Opening: Patrons President John Brusseau welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:35 p.m.

I. Committee Reports:

A. President: John reported on a successful fall concert on Oct. 29 and that the Patrons' meet-and-greet table had drawn at least three new members. He encouraged members to continue in that effort.

B. Treasurer: In Laurie Leja's absence, Elizabeth Hansen reported that there is approximately \$13,000 left in the treasury account, after a \$10,000 payment had been made on the new light board in the theater. She anticipates payment to be made in the coming months on the three fine arts scholarships, worth \$1,000 each, and awarded to eligible juniors.

C. Secretary: Eileen Daday drew comments on last month's minutes and noted the changes, while also encouraging members and particularly the liaisons for each discipline to submit photos and other visual content for the Patrons' Web site. Ultimately, the group hopes to make the site more interesting and engaging, not only for members and school families, but for prospective parents to check out the fine arts offerings at the school.

C. Concessions: Joe Farwell asked for parents from the fall play to help with selling concessions, as well as parents from all the disciplines to help with the concession stand during the Winter Arts Festival on Dec. 5. He added that volunteers would be needed to monitor money taken in from sales made at the purchase gallery (offering student and faculty art work), as well as chaperones --- in the house and backstage --- from Orchestris, band and choir parents. Last month's appeal for chaperones during the fall concert failed to yield any volunteers. Finally, Joe added that without a Viatribbe show, and with having to turn over concessions during the Fall Concert to St. James School, who was holding an athletic event that same night, the Patrons already are down two nights of fundraising. He hopes that with added visibility and drawing more new members, they may be able to make that difference up.

E. Administrator: JoAnne Francis noted that this year's musical, "Fiddler on the Roof" had drawn record numbers of students to audition, with 162 students trying out --- including 50 boys --- and 26 in the pit orchestra. Kate Costello is hoping for strong attendance at the fall play, "And Then There Were None." Typically, the spring play has

drawn between 400-800 people over the four night run. However, this is the first murder mystery mounted by the school and the first to be staged in the fall, before the musical.

II. New Business

Sheryl Tully, named last month as the parent liaison to the band program, appealed for the liaisons to be added to either the committee reports or new business items on the meeting agendas. Everyone in attendance agreed.

Band: Sheryl reported about the preparations in place for when Saint Viator hosts the State of the Art Band Competition, beginning in February 2012. This is a major undertaking, as it draws more than 12 Catholic high school band programs from around the city and suburbs, and many of them have more than one band. Between the musicians, their teachers and families, the school will be hosting a huge crowd that will stretch across the entire day. She said band parents are making plans to sit in on planning for next February's State of the Art competition, happening for the last time at Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights. Marian officials have pledged to share all of their planning and event files with Saint Viator parents.

Orchesis: Joan Weiner, liaison, described the fall as one of the busiest times of the year for Orchesis Club members. They recently performed at the Fashion Show and during Games Day during Homecoming Week, and now are in rehearsal for the Winter Arts Festival performance. They also auditioned and accepted 17 original dances for their Orchesis Show in the spring.

Theater: Susan Filstead, liaison, said much of the department's news had been covered, but interest is at an all-time high, with so many students --- many of them first timers --- coming out for the musical. Kate Costello added that her theater class will be traveling to see "A Christmas Carol" at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre in Arlington Heights.

Choir: Pat Farrell, liaison, was not in attendance, consequently no report was made.

III. Old Business

Kate Costello reported that all of the fine arts teachers are accepting scholarship applications from interested juniors. Eligible students must be in a fine arts course currently, or have taken one, and have a demonstrated interest in the arts. Each scholarship is valued at \$1,000.

Closing: John Brusseau called the meeting to a close at 8:35 p.m. and ended with a prayer.