

FRIENDS OF THE VENICE SYMPHONY MINUTES

Oct 20, 2022

After social time, President David Chivas called the meeting to order at 11 AM. David stated that he hoped everyone had fared well during Hurricane Ian and thanked all the members and guests for attending. David specifically thanked Barbara Bierig for her past three years of service as President and for keeping Friends moving forward. In addition, he thanked Sharyn Lonsdale, our former symphony liaison, who was not in attendance, for her dedication to the Friends. David then acknowledged Brad Clark, newly appointed Development Manager who was assuming the liaison role and Christine Kasten, President & CEO of The Venice Symphony in the audience and thanked her for her continuing support.

David introduced our guest artist, Cellist Susan Debronsky, who would be performing later in the program, and the Friends officers; Vice President, Linda Ann Patriarca, Treasurer, Joan Tramontano and Secretary Tricia Cook, along with Maureen Bentley, Board of Trustee member.

A motion to accept minutes of the March 4, 2022 (our last formal meeting) was made by Linda and seconded by Maureen.

Joan came forward to give her treasurer's report. A reminder the Symphony fiscal year is June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023. the financial mandate for Friends fiscal year is net \$20,000. Joan reported that there are 130 Friends members, including 67 families (\$50) and 60 singles (\$40) with Total Friends membership dues of \$5,710.

The Friends first fundraiser of the season, next week's Wine Tasting event has the potential to raise \$1500, based on 100 tickets sold. Water donations at concerts can range between \$1,000 - \$2,000.

Friends' events benefit the Symphony's Music Education Programs:

- The Venice Symphony Youth Orchestra. They perform several concerts a year, admission is free, and we encourage you to attend and hear these wonderfully talented youngsters.
- Two weeks of Summer Music Camp ending with the students performing a free concert at VPAC.
- Symphony in the Schools, music education program linked to the prestigious Carnegie Hall-Weill Music Institute. Symphony musicians bring music to third graders in Sarasota County schools with the finale of free concerts performed by The Venice Symphony for more than 2,000 students and their teachers, transported by bus to VPAC.

If you have not already done so, please renew your Friends membership. If you are new, please join today. Being a Friend offers many wonderful ways to support this

amazing organization. Joan then introduced and thanked Alison Posner-Solares, Symphony Patron Manager, who assigns tickets for hundreds of patrons.

David then gave his President's Report. Three main concerns of his are Volunteering, Committees for operative success and "Fun"raisers, emphasis on the Fun part of fundraising. He also mentioned the mandatory orientation training program run by Candace Kurtz. All volunteers must attend this short program first before they can volunteer.

Maureen Bentley, Chair of the Baroque, Bubbly Brunch spoke to the group. The event is Sunday, Nov 13, at Plantation Golf club from 11 AM to 1:30 PM. We are hoping for 300 attendees. Tickets are available online at \$80 per person. This event is supporting Youth Education. She's looking to have high-quality baskets to raffle and requested donations from local merchants for gift cards, etc. She will have official solicitation letters available for anyone willing to seek donations. Linda Patriarca asked about donating your brunch ticket if you're not able to attend. Christine Kasten clarified the FL gambling laws regulating and prohibiting certain games of chance after it was suggested we have 'scratch off' lottery tickets. Brad Clark is taking donated items (wines, gift cards, etc.) for the baskets. He stated to please check with him first before doing any merchant solicitations on your own, as he has a master list he's working from.

Brad spoke about the first fundraiser of the new season, Wine Tasting at Venice Fine Wines & Spirits, Thurs, Oct 27 from 5 to 7 PM, cost \$40 per ticket. This is also a social event, please invite your friends, parking is free. We are hoping to have 125 guests. Tricia Cook suggested, consider a "designated driver" price of \$10 for the next Wine Event, as there could be interested people who do not drink but would attend. David suggested buying your donated wine for the Brunch Baskets at the wine tasting.

David called on Cellist Susan Debronsky who introduced herself and the four pieces she would be playing. Adagio in G Minor by Albinoni; Bach's Allemande from Suite 3 in C Major; Brahms Sonata in E Minor; and Squire's Tarantella.

The next meeting will be Dec 8th, 10:30 AM at the Venice Police Dept office on East Venice Ave.

Brad shared the new Friends membership brochures which are available at the office. A Friend asked how we might inform the volunteers of the VPAC who may not know about the Friends organization. It was suggested to have someone speak to the volunteers before concerts, and to share that there is a student ticket rate always available.

David thanked everyone again for coming. Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM. Lunch was served, thanks to an anonymous donor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Cook

Secretary, Friends of The Venice Symphony