

Manitoba Choral Association Inc. Annual General Meeting

Saturday, June 10, 2023, 10:30 am
Hybrid Meeting: 600 Shaftesbury Blvd./Zoom

DRAFT Minutes

Present: David Sawatzky (Chair), Avonlea Armstrong-Green, Kathleen Bell (Joie de Vivre), Maureen Britton (Central Manitoba Choral Association), Jorrel Camuyong, Carole Carlson (Unique), Katie Donnelly, Klaus Froese, Nancy Gomes Fast, Vic Hooper (Honorary Member), Marjorie Hughes (Seniors Choral Society), Adam Kilfoyle, Rosemary Komadowski (Assiniboine Chorus), Philip Lapatha, Derek Morphy (Honorary Member), Marilyn Redekop (Honorary Member), Naomi Russell, Alyssa Sherlock (Incantatem Singers), Stuart Sladden, Sonya Williams, Jenny Steinke-Magnus, (staff), Brittany Mielnichuk (staff, recording)

Zoom: Marla Fontaine, Carolyn Gwyer, Crystal Kolt

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:36am. David welcomed everyone to the meeting, did a land acknowledgement, and gave attendees instructions on voting privileges.

2. Adoption of Agenda (Attachment 1)

MOTION 1: That the agenda be adopted.

M/S: Stuart Sladden/Vic Hooper. CARRIED.

3. Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting (Attachment 2)

MOTION 2: That the minutes from the 2022 AGM be approved as presented.

M/S: Adam Kilfoyle/Naomi Russell. CARRIED.

4. Board & Staff Reports from 2022-23 Year (Attachments 3a, 3b & 3c)

David summarized activities since the last AGM as outlined in the attached board and staff reports. He reviewed some of the highlights:

- Our programming began with MCA's first outdoor choral festival GATHER, setting an exciting tone for a return to in-person activities after nearly three years of altered programming due to the pandemic.

- ChoralFest and MB Sings (formerly Provincial Honour Choirs) returned to in-person and although our registrations were lower compared to pre-pandemic years, both events were considered successful and were welcomed back by our choral community.
- MCA's IDEA Special Interest Group planned and hosted a small symposium, BEYOND. Essentially a "mini-Podium", the two-day event brought those in the choral community together to explore longstanding choral traditions, experience new ways of thinking, and expand our practices.

Jenny drew attention to MCA's work behind the scenes, emphasizing the increased use of our lending library, our focus on communications and marketing, and the creation of a new strategic and fund development plan to guide MCA's work.

MOTION 3: That reports be accepted as presented.

M/S: Naomi Russell/Stuart Sladden. CARRIED.

5. Auditors' Report and Financial Statements (Attachment 4)

Adam presented the Financial Statements for the year ending August 31, 2022, and highlighted the following:

- These financial statements reflect MCA's activities when we were largely still in pandemic restrictions.
- This is MCA's first year using Olafson & Jones as auditors.
- The in-kind donation from St. John's Music (large sheet music donation) is reflected in both our revenue and expenses.
- There were increased staff costs comparative to years past from adding Brittany to the MCA team and hiring summer students in 2022.
- MCA has demonstrated good fiscal responsibility with only a small deficit of \$1,100 for the year ending August 31, 2022.

MOTION 4: That the audited financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2022 be approved as presented

M/S: Kathleen Bell/Nancy Gomes Fast. CARRIED.

6. Interim Financial Statements to May 31, 2023 (Attachment 5)

Jenny presented an update on MCA's finances up to May 31, 2023, and highlighted:

- MCA has done well with grants this year. Outside of our annual operating grants, we received several project and professional development grants to help offset the cost of our programming, resources, and operations.
- Although we lost money with GATHER, we still deem the festival a success considering the overwhelmingly positive response from the community.
- ChoralFest registrations were lower than expected and our costs have gone up since pre-pandemic years.

- Sponsorships and donations helped to ensure MB Sings costs were covered despite lower registrations.
- INSPIRE, the senior high leadership camp, has been postponed to summer 2024.
- The funding we received from FCMM for the Frances Seaton Choral Composition Competition has now run out, so we are putting it on hold while we review the competition and source new funding.
- MCA has been purchasing memberships with other arts organizations to make new connections and expand our network (Unison, Creative Manitoba, Manitobans for the Arts, etc.).
- We continue to strive to be responsible stewards of the money we receive from our funders and members to sustain MCA's mission, vision, and goals.
- As of May 31, our revenues are greater than our expenses (net positive), and we are projecting to break even by the end of the fiscal year.

7. Appointment of Auditors for 2022/2023 Fiscal Year

MOTION 4: That Olafson & Jones be appointed as auditors for the 2022-23 fiscal year
M/S: Adam Kilfoyle/Marilyn Redekop. CARRIED.

8. Plans for 2023-24 – Program Slate & Budget (Attachments 6a & 6b)

Jenny and Jorrel presented the approved program slate and a break-even budget for next year. MCA wants to focus on supporting and building our choral community and this is reflected in both the program slate and budget for next year. They noted:

- Our flagship programs ChoralFest and MB Sings will remain in place.
- We are working with leaders in Westman, Norman and Parkland to do a “ChoralFest Tour” to ensure our programming reaches all Manitobans.
- New programs include the INSPIRE Leadership Camp, Member 101 session, Choral Reading Session and networking events, and Sing-along events.
- GATHER and BEYOND will not be happening this season but we are keeping them in mind for future years.
- The Run for Music and Fundraising Gala are dependent on whether MCA can hire someone for the fundraising position.
- MCA will be increasing our staff team to three or four in the fall (dependent on funding).
- We anticipate grants, donations, and sponsorships to be higher if the fundraising position is filled.
- We are intentionally budgeting more for advertising, promotion, and outreach to ensure MCA is connecting with our community and reaching new audiences across Manitoba.

9. Election of Directors

9.1. Report of the Nominating Committee

- David and Adam thanked Adam for his years of service to MCA as Board Treasurer and presented him with a card and gift on behalf of MCA.

- Stuart explained that due to our board restructuring in 2022 most of our current Board Directors are currently in the middle of their terms.
- 9.2. Nominations from the floor, if any (to be moved and seconded and have written consent of the nominee if the nominee is absent)
- David called for nominations from the floor. There were no new nominations.
- 9.3. Election of Directors and Officers from the Report of the Nominating Committee and (or) nominations from the floor, by show of hands or by secret ballot, if requested
- There were no new nominations from the Nominating Committee or the floor.

10. Presentation of Awards of Distinction

David presented three Awards of Distinction as nominated by members of the community, noting that full bios of all the winners would soon be available on our website:

- Derek Morphy – MCA Award for Artistic Excellence
- Millie Hildebrand – MCA Spirit Award
- Marla Fontaine – MCA Spirit Award

11. Other/New Business

There was no new business to note.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29pm.

MOTION 7: That the meeting be adjourned.

M: Stuart Sladden. CARRIED.