Edmonton String Players Association

2023/2024 Annual General Meeting

Type of Meeting: Annual General Meeting
Called by: Edmonton String Players Association
Date: June 8th, 2024
Time: 10:00 AM

Kathy Walters, president
Julie Zettl, vice president
Donna Sniegocki, treasurer
Liliana Filipoiu, secretary
Miriam Ferguson, conductor
Patricia Eastbrooks, conductor
Zendell Badival
Angela Fouler, events coordinator
Ryan Heit
Kendall Busse
Derrick Schmuhl
Sharene Gaitor
Paul Concepcion
Cam McCormick
Krista Hewson
Corey Haberstock
Francesco Merani, fundraising coordinator
Margaret Ushko
Marvin Pedernal, volunteer coordinator

Opening/Call to Order

- **Establish quorum**
  - Quorum has been established; attendance was taken on the attendance sheet.

- **Adopt the Meeting Agenda**
  - Moved: Corey Haberstock
  - Seconded: Margaret Ushko
  - Votes in favor: All in favor

  Motion Carried

- **Adoption of October 2023 AGM Minutes**
  - Moved: Liliana Filipoiu
  - Seconded: Donna Sniegocki
  - Votes in favor: All in favor

  Motion Carried

President's Report – Kathy Walters

- Review of the last year
- Plans for this season
- Acknowledgements

When we started this season, our enrollment was slightly down from the year before, the enrollment for adults was 23, down from 34 the year before, Orchestra 1 was 22, down from 26, Orchestra 2 was 32, up from 23 and Fidllinists were 11, down from 15. The total number of students was 88 this year, compared to 98 the previous year. Currently, we have 20 students registered for Level 2 auditions, and several videos have been received by the Fidllinists conductors. I believe that we are going to regain the numbers from the previous year, if not surpass it. Auditions are on June 13th, 2024, and they sign up online.

Highlights of this year:

- We had many concerts in January because on our initial Concert date, the temperature dropped to -45 and we had no choice but to cancel the concert (moving stands and chairs during this kind of temperature is not deemed safe for anyone, so we did not want to our volunteers to have to do that during this time). The mini-concerts that we had instead were surprisingly very well attended during the practice time, even though the weather was still very cold.
- Two of our Orchestras, Level 1 led by Miriam Ferguson, and Level 2, led by Patricia Eastbrook, participated in the Edmonton Music Festival. Both received Letters of Distinction. The adjudicators for both groups were impressed with the level of commitment and performance of both groups and praised the conductors for their excellent work.
- We hired a photographer to take pictures of the students with their instruments, the photos were of excellent quality and are still available to purchase through the photographer. This was a big success, so we will do it again next year.
- We had our end-of-the-year concert on Sunday, June 2nd, 2024, which was very well attended and everyone, the students and the conductors outdid themselves. I am very proud of everyone who played this year, everyone had a chance to shine. I think this was the best concert we had to date. We had it professionally videotaped and an email with the link will be going out to everyone when it's finished editing.
- Fundraising: we concentrated on 2 main fundraisers this year, using FunScrip . We continue to have a lot of support for FundScrip fundraisers, they are very easy to participate in and you get 100% of what you put in back. We decided to stop any other Bingo application, as 1 FunScrip brings approx. the same amount as 1 Bingo and there

are only a few volunteers required, vs 15 per Bingo. We did not have a casino this year, because they are scheduled every 18 months. We had enough funds from the previous Casino to support the program this year. We have been given a casino date for this year, November 26 and 27 and we will need 35 volunteers for these 2 nights. The positions will be given out on a first-come basis, so if you would prefer a certain position for these dates, make sure you put your name in early for volunteering for the casino. An email will be sent out regarding this in the next few weeks. There will be 2 FunScrip fundraisers for Christmas and the end of the year, but no other fundraisers are planned for this next year.

- I want to thank our students and parents for the commitment they showed this year. The year went smoothly for the most part, and everyone was ready to play their part when they needed to do so. I appreciate everyone's help very much, thank you!

Treasurer's Report- Donna Sniegocki

- The numbers presented tonight are from the 2023 fiscal year. Our casino income in 2023 was $ and our registration fees brought in $, our fundraising brought in and donations came to a total of . This has brought our total to Our expenses totaled From the total income though, we have deferred revenue of $ that was given to us to be used for equipment purchases, but since we no longer rent instruments, there is no need for us to purchase instruments, so we cannot touch this donation. Our assets at the end of the year came to $

Members present at the AGM wanted to know more about the deferred revenue that we did not touch and brought forward some ideas that will be discussed in the future if we want to make use of that donation.

Election of Executive Officers and Directors

The current board members (president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary) are willing to continue for another year in the same positions. We did not receive any other nominations before and during the meeting.

MOTION to re-elect the slate of Executive Officers

- Moved: Corey Haberstock
- Seconded: Cam McCormick
- Votes in favor: All in favor

Motion carried

For next year we need 3 Directors: Fundraising Coordinator, Events and Social media Coordinator, and Casino Coordinator.

The following members stepped up and are willing to fill in these positions as follows:

Margaret Ushko for Fundraising Coordinator
Krista Hewson for Events and Social Media Coordinator
Ryan Heir for Casino Coordinator

MOTION to accept their nominations by claim:

- Moved: Corey Haberstock
- Seconded: Liliana Filipoiu
- Votes in favor: All in favor

Motion carried

- **New Business**
  - We would like to announce that we hired **Karen Hipson** as a part-time administrative assistant; to help the board with the sheer amount of work and we are happy to have her, as she has been a great help during this last year.
  - No additional motions were brought forward before the meeting, so we will move to a question period before adjourning.

- **Question Period / Comments**
  - The first issue brought up was that at the concerts we should acknowledge the conductors in the beginning and not at the end since there are a lot of people who are leaving before that.
  - Another idea to create revenue and get more publicity is considering different events across the city that our orchestras can attend since government grants are very hard to obtain now and we need more publicity if we want to increase our numbers.
  - One way to use the donation for instruments is to buy some instruments and offer scholarships for children who cannot afford to rent or buy an instrument but would love to have the opportunity to be part of an orchestra. This is a great idea, and we will look more into it.

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM