

Norwalk Gamer Symphony Orchestra
Minutes for the Board Meeting of Wednesday, January 18th, 2023

Meeting called to order at 8:25 P.M. by Bryan.

Lexi moves to accept the minutes as read. Nina seconds.

Officer Reports

- 1.) Music Committee Report, by Lexi
 - a.) We're thinking about doing a local concert in mid-March.
 - b.) We're aiming to have a local concert in late April.
 - c.) We're planning to participate in the Remembering Bryce service on May 20th.
 - d.) We're planning on doing a concert in Simsbury in June.
 - e.) We're looking towards RetroWorld Expo in 2023, as well, in August.
 - f.) We have a new piece going out for the next rehearsal.

Old Business

- 1.) Recruiting Efforts - *Sam introduces motion, Lexi seconds.*
 - a.) We still have not undertaken an organized effort to recruit more.
 - b.) Some new members have distributed flyers.

Sam moves to close the floor, Lexi seconds.

New Business

- 1.) Member retention - *Lexi introduces motion, Nina seconds.*
 - a.) Nick and Mike S. attended a panel at MAGFest led by WMGSO members on recruiting and retention.
 - b.) Some things weren't relevant to a group of our size, but other things were.
 - c.) We should get a table at conventions. Sometimes non-profit tables are available at a special rate. Connecticut, RetroWorld Expo, etc.
 - d.) In our flyers, we should emphasize the word, "volunteer," so that people know it's not a paid position.
 - e.) We can use Reddit for recruiting. Josh and Rei have done this before, and some of our members have joined from Reddit, and Chris from the Simsbury library found us there, too. Westchester and Fairfield County subreddits could be good to hit, too.
 - f.) A sense of community is important for retention.
 - g.) There should be some benefit to being a *member* of the orchestra, as opposed to just an infrequent attendee.
 - h.) The WMGSO has been able to get discounts at local music stores for members.
 - i.) A grievance committee is something we might want to consider forming for the benefit of the membership. Better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it. A place to have anonymous complaints heard.
 - j.) Soloist recitals could be a way to have a sense of community. More performance opportunities for those who value that.
 - k.) Internally led group classes. Could be music-related, or non-music-related. Could do a recording workshop, relevant to our DLCs and VRs. Masterclasses from section leaders.
 - l.) WMGSO does membership gifts, like anniversary gifts from a company. RITGSO has matching hoodies.
 - m.) We need to collect a lot more money if we want to do gifts like that. College groups have SGA funding (funding from the college for student groups), and WMGSO charges for concerts (we never have), and does Kickstarters and stuff.

n.) Amazon Smile could benefit us a lot, if more members used it. Spread knowledge of it, and maybe our Patreon, too.

o.) Can we better utilize employer match programs? Maybe reach out to FactSetters before donating money, to indirectly donate money.

p.) The Fundraising committee needs to hold another meeting soon to try and figure out more ways to raise funds.

q.) The committees need to advertise themselves better, so that new members can get involved better.

Lexi moves to close the floor, Ben seconds.

2.) Discord server rules - *Sam introduces motion, Lexi seconds.*

a.) We have a policy against foul language on our server. Some have noted that this is possibly being violated by a user having foul language in their account name; how do we want to handle this situation?

b.) Should we review other peoples' usernames, too?

c.) Where do we draw the line on what is inappropriate language for our server?

d.) We'll hold a special board meeting to go over our Discord rules.

Lexi moves to close the floor, Sam seconds.

Lexi moves to adjourn the meeting, Nina seconds.

Announcements

1.) Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is **Wednesday, March 1st, 2023.**

2.) Next regularly scheduled General Members Meetings are **Wednesdays, February 15th and March 15th, 2023.**

3.) Next rehearsals are scheduled for **Tuesdays, January 31st and February 7th, 21st, and 28th, at the American Legion, New Canaan Historical Society, New Canaan Historical Society, and American Legion, respectively.**

4.) Walking into a packed room when people were missing was a good surprise, but we may need to reappraise the New Canaan Historical Society as a rehearsal venue. We may start looking at new venues.

5.) Rei is moving! Bryan is also moving! Scheduling things ahead of time would be very useful for them.

6.) Nina goes live on Twitch!