

The Fairfax-Loudoun Music Fellowship met on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at Music and Arts in Sterling. Members present included Jeri Bennett, Sandy Titus, Jane Webb, Phyllis Vickers, Sandy Baker, Lydia Kriso, Karen Pino, Claudia Libero, Sharon Reck, and Libby McConnell.

Sharon Reck called the meeting at order at 9:55 am. The minutes from October were read and approved.

Libby McConnell discussed options to printing handbooks. Ann Reck created mock-ups of postcard-sized magnets as alternatives for distribution to schools and community locations. Members discussed also creating brochures that include more information about the purpose and benefits of FLMF. We need a simple descriptive phrase to identify FLMF as a community group of music teachers.

Sandy Baker gave the treasurer's report. We have \$24,139.08 in the checking account. Income includes membership dues as well as fees for participation in Ensemble Festival, the October Reston Community Center recital, and the Dulles Holiday Recital. Expenses include sound equipment and speaker fees. FLMF anticipates a matching donation for Rene Plourde's \$1000.00 donation from his former employer - The Capital Group. Sandy Baker is filing the appropriate paperwork to receive the donation match.

Today is the deadline for participating in the Dulles Holiday Recital. Performances will be Friday, December 12, from 5 - 9 pm, and Saturday, December 13, from 11 am - 8:45 pm. Sandy Baker will supervise Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Sharon Reck will supervise Saturday morning.

Pete Baker demonstrated the new sound equipment purchased with \$1,628.19 of the donations made in Nancy Plourde's memory. The Electric Voice (EV) equipment was chosen to be simple, lightweight, affordable, high quality, and strong enough to carry sound through the mall. We have a powered amp inside a speaker. There are two boxes that must be connected with power strips to wall outlets. We can attach one mic into each speaker. The speakers are 17 pounds apiece, the lightest available on the market, and are easily installed on adjustable stands.

Equipment includes several 30-foot cables and two good microphones, one of which is a condenser mic to be used for acoustic instruments. Place this microphone under the piano for best amplification when using an acoustic piano. Volume on mics can be adjusted on the back of the speakers. The speakers are powerful even when using one of them. We would like to attach an engraved plaque on the equipment in memory of Nancy Plourde.

To establish guidelines for using the sound equipment, a committee will be formed, spearheaded by Sandy Baker. The committee will also determine how the equipment will be housed, any training needed, and insurance liabilities.

The Ensemble Festival will be January 31, with the snow date of February 14. The first sectional rehearsals will be January 16 and 17, with snow dates of January 24 and 25. Students should have their first rehearsal with their partners in December before the holiday break.

Jeri Bennett continued last month's discussion to use PayPal for event registrations and club memberships. PayPal charges 2.2% per transaction. That would be \$0.88 for a \$40 membership. For members who have a PayPal membership, there would be no fee deduction. New members would be able to join and pay immediately online, making dues collection less difficult. A motion was made to put a PayPal option on our website to pay for membership and registrations. The motion was seconded and approved.

Gretel von Pischke reported on a recent workshop on how to use an iPad in the studio, presented by Jordan Kitts.

The next business meeting will be in January. Phyllis Vickers will host the annual holiday coffee at her home on Wednesday, December 10 at 10:30 am. Please bring music and goodies to share.

Sharon Reck thanked Music and Arts for hosting today's meeting and providing the refreshments. The meeting was followed by a program by member Claudia Libero: "Games!"

Respectfully submitted,

Libby McConnell
Recording Secretary