

Bread and Roses Board Notes, March 11, 2026

Present: Julie, Caitlin Gamble, Linda M., Sharon, Sherri, Laura F., Bobbi

Start: 6:30 PM

1. T shirt and logo. Group decided 50% cotton blend would be best, and preference is polo shirt rather than T shirt. Sherri will source possible suppliers. Also decided that all members will have the option to purchase. Expected cost between \$20 and \$25. Sharon will survey members to get accurate numbers of shirts needed as well as sizes.
 2. Members who are attending the SSF this summer will need to have shirts, to identify/advertise our chorus. Discussion about continuing financial support for those requesting help to pay for festival resulted in a decision to support festival attendees as needed (providing adequate funds.) Expected income includes Give DeKalb, and Concert revenue. Expected expenditures include purchasing music 3 times this year. In future years music is expected to be purchased twice per year.
Linda reported we have adequate funds.
Sharon asked when results of the survey were needed. Sherri needs the cost by the next board meeting so order could be placed and shirts delivered in a timely fashion.
 3. Next we shared some of the ideas retreat attendees gave, which Lori took notes for.
 - a. Remain a safe place for all. Given. B. Increase social activities later in agenda. C. Increase activism, starting. D. Develop repertoire of back pocket songs - gathering, plus Justice Songbook. E. expand performance venues to increase visibility of group: De Kalb Farmers Market, performances Thursdays, 11 to 1, Sycamore Tuesday evening. Find a venue with better acoustics, preferably not a church. Laura F stated to research options for expanded performances and working on possible locations. G. Investigate ways to perform for groups for a fee. Julie informed us that this was done in the past. Sherri will investigate putting an offer on the website to perform for a fee.
- Sherri asked Julie to write up things Bread and Roses had done in the past, such as performance for fees, and we can discuss at the next board meeting.
- G Con't Julie shared that DeKalb has performances June through September 10 to 2 and 11 to 1 across from the Egyptian Theater. Sherri said our current concert songs would be appropriate for such events. Julie said we could utilize our social media to advertise.
- Sherri, Caitlin and Julie will look into possible performance for fees opportunity. Sherri will need people to post/share video reels online, and someone to snap pictures.
Caitlin asked to be added to those working on social media/website.
Julie will get You Tube password from Jenny Covert.
Julie's friend Bob took pictures at the last concert. She will contact him to see if he'll continue.
- F (new venue) con't. Price to rent the Egyptian is \$800.00. They have a non-profit rate.
- H. Sing Daily. Laura did research and has found sources on You Tube that teach musical/singing for example warm ups, increasing your range. She is offering to share the links. Sherri said she can add them to the newsletter. Laura can send a few examples with a link for specific instructions.

Soloist auditions were very successful.

Julie shared that attention was needed for:

Work on proposal for 100 Women Who Care grant
(Sherri and Julie will work on this. March a good month to start)
The presentation to 100 Women Who Care will be May 13th at 7 PM at
The Elks Club, 209 S. Annie Glidden, DeKalb. (south of the tracks)
Included what Bread and Roses has done in the past and the growth of
the chorus. Sherri asked Sharon for her input.

Laura accepted the position of social secretary, and already has 3 ideas for fun events.

1. On Line game playing. She will ask people both when they are available and if they would like to participate. This is zero cost, can participate from home, and easy enough to repeat every few months if popular. She hopes to do one next month. She would set up a discord channel.
2. The next fun activity is also skill building. A Karaoke night. She is researching getting equipment and a location. Julie can help with some of the equipment. Laura was thinking Westminster might be available. Perhaps we can do this when this semester is over. In a more relaxed atmosphere people can try out singing different styles. Or what we sing in the bathroom. ;) August or late July seems best timing....after festival, before new semester. Laura also pointed out that it is easier to blend voices if you are friends/comfortable with each other.
3. Go see a musical as a group in Chicago? Aurora (the Paramount)?
4. Laura will send out an interest and availability survey around these events.

Discussion of No Kings included needing a space to introduce songs to participants of, selection of songs. Most of the songs can be found in the Justice Songbook. We can insert a QR code and people who attend When we review/teach songs we can use at the Rally can scan the code and access all the music. We have a way to advertise "lessons" via Mobilize, a tentative location, and then decide a date and time. May only need around 3 volunteers to help attendees become familiar with songs. Linda Tillis is checking on a possible location. Sherri will follow up with her.

Julie bought up a budget report. Linda said she would have one at the next meeting, and may be able to have one ready for the chorus next Sunday.

Discussed Linda Tillis' friends who offered to pay fees for 2 Bread and Roses members to attend SSF. Because the fees can vary depending on if they were expecting to pay registration fees only, or also include housing, and how cumbersome varying expenses might be, perhaps better to donate to Bread and Roses and Bread and Roses could disburse the monies. Linda M will coordinate. Shawna and Linda will discuss to keep confidentiality. Individuals getting assistance must sign themselves up. Unknown if people will need reimbursement or money up front. Receipts will be needed. Hopefully Linda and Shawna can initiate action at Sunday's rehearsal.

SHerri asked if we need to pay Harumba (sp?) when they play at our concerts. Sharon said no, and also shared that Jena is excited to play drums for us again.

SHerri shared that the Illinois Arts Council was awarding grants. She plans to look into this further.

Sherri shared that Abi would love to continue as our accompanist, and would like to join in singing when she is not playing. She is an excellent accompanist, and came prepared from her first day, She also would like to go to the SSF this summer. Sherri asked if the Board was willing to help pay a portion (half?) of the costs Abi would incur. The board agreed. Abi is willing to continue as our accompanist, freeing Jan and Lynn to sing. Both women have enjoyed playing the piano for us. Item tabled for further discussion and board decision at the next board meeting.

Sherri shared that the livestream of our last concert only recorded 4 singers of the chorus because the microphones were unidirectional. This is unacceptable; we need to find a workable solution, whether that is purchasing our own mikes and using Westminster's soundboard or finding a videographer

Sherri asked Sharon if the concert committee has reported to her (they should report the week before every board meeting) They have not. Sherri will address this, perhaps at rehearsal and/or in the newsletter.

Concert apparel: Purple in honor of suffragettes. Planning to order purple scarves, members would purchase their own. White scarves worn as individuals chose made a nice pattern at last concert. May consider either a white shirt for contrast to purple or a lighter, sparkly purple scarf.

Sherri will check on return of membership form with Linda Tillis.

TO DO

- Julie L. Give Dekalb. Provide needed info/forms and website.
 - Get You Tube password from Jenny Covert
 - Discuss photography with Bob
 - Give Caitlin permissions for webpage
 - Check Karaoke supplies with Nephew and computer
 - Check screen/projector for social events.

- Sharon: knows a trained videographer: Gabe, but doesn't have equipment
 - Survey for shirts
 - Work on proposal for Women Who Care with Julie and Sherri.

- Linda M. process for financial support for members, accompanist
 - Check on performing at farmers markets and social events
 - Budget report for Sundry's rehearsal

- Sherri
 - pick a date for music lessons for no kings with Linda Tillis.
 - Talk with Abi about funds for SSF festival
 - Announcement in newsletter for You Tube lessons
 - Work on proposal for Women Who Care with Julie and Sharon

