

Notes from Bread and Roses Board Meeting May 4th, 2026.

Meeting began at 6:26.

Present: Julie L, Caitlin G., Linda M., Sherri L. Sharon M., Bobbi M., Janet N., Shawna T.

1. Give DeKalb County. Publicity for donations: send out Susan O'Neil's email, Sharon suggested adding what our goal is. Julie has posted our goal on our website, stating that last year we raised \$5,000.00, and this year our goal is to reach \$7,500.00 to surpass what we received last year. Sherri added that what we raised last year transformed what our chorus was able to do: we hope to receive more and thereby accomplish more. Linda suggested that we itemize our needs to make them more tangible and gave an example: \$50.00 will help cover a portion of expenses for the Sister Singer's Festival this summer. Sherri added \$50.00 could buy music for a singer; \$100.00 buys a microphone (which we need 4 of).
 - a. Julie asked if Sarah was managing instagram? Has our concert date, etc. been posted? Sara said at the last rehearsal that she was going to post the pictures Sherri and also include current Bread and Roses graphic to include.
 - b. Our board members should each contribute something, which will encourage others to contribute. Sharon suggested board members contribute as early as they can, reminding us that Give DeKalb is a 24 hour event, so starts at 12:01 AM. There is a \$5.00 minimum for on line contributions. This year there is also a Bonus for new donors to Give DeKalb. Caitlin asked if donors from other countries could contribute. Sherri found that they could. In the future Sharon suggested we make yard signs advertising Bread and Roses that could be used along with Give DeKalb yard signs. Not only would she display them, but offered to pay for them. Linda suggested that we send out Thank You's to our contributors. Julie said she could look into Thank You Cards. Bobbi can send them out.
2. Women Who Share: 9 days to the presentation Julie and Sherri will deliver to Women Who Share meeting. They have 5 minutes to speak, which does not include question and answers. After meeting with Rita Yerkes of Women Who Care, Julie and Sherri Edited their presentation to reflect the feedback they received. Among the suggestions were to focus on DeKalb, keep in mind there is a variety of political views in the group, and that they give more frequently to projects that the money can fund rather than maintenance issues (rent for example) that are ongoing expenses. Since we don't have storage, expenses we have are repeated, maintenance type, expenses. Sherri and Julie will focus on inspiration in their presentation: "This is What Hope Looks Like." Sherri plans on a flyer she'll hand out with her presentation and details Concert. Linda offered that she didn't think that many were needed, as all members

Don't attend meetings, but Sherri would rather have too many than too few. Both Julie and Sherri read their presentations to the Board. They will present on 5/13 at 7 PM at the Elks Lodge on Annie Glidden. Linda suggested a QR Code on the flyer to concert information. If we are not awarded the money From Women Who Share this year, we can reapply for the next opportunity. If we are awarded, then we have to wait a year to reapply. Ideas were shared by Board members of topics that could be included.

3. a The functioning of the Board was discussed, as we do not yet follow standard Procedures of a board. The Board was put in place to fit the requirements of a Non-For-Profit organization. Sherri encouraged us to think about an education meeting to improve our functioning. In addition, we should develop Relationships with the community: business sponsors/mentors, other community and Social organizations that have been our beneficiaries. Perhaps having space in the For groups to educate the general public beyond our recognitions at concerts: Instead of hearing about them once, develop a more consistent and stronger Connection. Rita Yerkes is willing to mentor us regarding developing stronger Ties to the community.
Julie suggested waiting until next month to set a date for the Board retreat. That date should be after the Festival.

- b need a pianist. Abi has said she will continue through the end of this Semester and our concert. Part of the problem of attracting a pianist Is the low wages we can provide? Everyone is encouraged to use whatever Contacts they have to help us secure a pianist. Perhaps after Give DeKalb We will feel we can offer more to Sherri and a pianist, more in line with the Value they provide to our chorus. Sherri will ask Abi again about continuing With Bread and Roses. Sharon suggested we might ask around during the Festival.

We need a pianist, and a new venue to practice and perform in this coming August or September.

- C Sherri suggested we consider finding another site/location to perform in addition to Our performances in DeKalb. We would uphold our commitment to the DeKalb Community, but broaden our reach for a pianist and broader audience.

- 5 Concert:
Janeai crafted a press release, Sharon responded. If this is okay, send it out as soon As possible.
Questions were raised: Recording/AV issues. Live Streaming issue around Quality of the sound produced, Mike was unable to catch all. We need to hire Someone who can get a good video. Sharon has a connection she'll develop. Julie asked if still pictures by her friend Bob were ok. We'll continue with Bob.

Ask anyone you know who does video

B. Do we want to have a reception after the concert? Discussed problems
With people willing/able to organize this from drop off to clean up.

Laura suggested a different model, perhaps find a location to have reception
For our supporters with a few songs and ask for donations. Interesting
Possibility.

Program: Linda asked about QR code for lyrics. This program is 2 pages, no insert.

Annual Meeting: June 28th. Julie will ask St. Peter if we can access
The room at 2:30 for set up, Annual meeting can start at 3:30. Rehearsal
Still at 6 PM. We will eat, socialize and sing.

Linda noted our officers don't match those in the by laws. Julie remembered changing
The bylaws, but we may need to amend by laws so all aligns.

Officers open for election:

Vice President

Secretary

Members at Large (need 4, currently 3 serve)

Sherri suggested we open the meeting, describe the duties of offices up for
Election, nominate. Best to let people know if you are going to nominate them.

Other Items:

How are we managing music? Items copied, who distributes?

Linda willing to pay for and order, also distributing too much.

Sherri suggested music delivered to her, she will organize and distribute.

Sherri asked Shawna to talk to the group about Sister Singers Festival : What
They can expect.

Brief discussion about restructuring the committees to try to get more people
Involved .

Jenny C. has not responded to requests to provide info to manage the You Tube
Channel Bread and Roses currently has. Our social media shouldn't be
"Owned" by a person, but by Bread and Roses as a group. If Jenny doesn't
Respond soon, SHerri will open a new account.

Sharon said she had to contact Jenny. will ask about You Tube.

Committee restructuring should be saved for after Board Retreat. (julie)

Shawna and Laura requested the review committee after SSF. No rush on
The committee restructuring.

Music from previous concerts: Laura said she envisions weeding through the
Back stock and then (after some are discarded) distributing everything to members so
They can have their own copy.

Sherry suggested that we initiate a buddy system for new members. A contact
Person who greets and orients new members as they arrive. Not necessarily
Always the same buddy.

Looking at membership tabled for now.

You Tube content of past concerts would be lost if Sherry has to open a new
"Channel" Caitlin said she could download them over the summer if needed.

To do: Publicity for concerts: Susan email, Janae Press Release
Women Who Care Presentation
DeKalb gives - solicit donations (all)
Find pianist
Set date for board retreat
Get info for You Tube