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The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

December, '85..January, '86 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Will be held Monday, January 13th, at 7:30 pm, at Enid Hallock's, 4001 Cherrywood. For information call Enid at 477-0858; or Reba at 327-2277. Please bring munchies.

Chief business will be the election of new officers, suggested slate below. We will also begin planning for the Amster Soirée, which is now scheduled for Sunday, April 20th. Other plans for the spring will also be discussed.

Note: This is the second Monday of January. In order to get a candidate for Treasurer we agreed to change our meetings to the second Monday "officially". See below.

Slate of Officers

President	Bob Kusnetz
Executive Vice President	Rosemary Russell-Vines
Production Vice President	(unfilled)
Publicity Vice President	(unfilled)
Secretary	Reba Gillman
Treasurer	Liz Opal
Historian	(unfilled)

Last Meeting: On Monday, December 9th, five faithful members gathered at Enid's. Bob Kusnetz had called in from Japan, where he had gone on IBM business, so Vice President Rosemary Russell-Vines ran the meeting. Reports follow on our exploration of production possibilities at local theaters:

Enid talked to Dan Alcofer at the State Theater; he gave her their scale of rental fees. He also said that the theater was not averse to co-producing, but didn't have any money. He loves Gilbert and Sullivan (that seems like a plus).

Allen Lawshae attempted to talk to the Dougherty Arts Center, without success. He talked to several people at the Austin 5th Street Theater. He found the situation there very fertile. He was given a scale of rental fees, and was told that there was open time at the theater in May and June, 1986. David Hime, the Business Manager, was very much interested in the idea of cooperating with the Gilbert & Sullivan Society on a production. His final word was that there just might be some money later on, for that purpose. Allen pointed out that the time slot would be excellent for us.

Reba talked with Susan Loughran, the director of the theater program at Saint Edward's University. Their schedule is set for this year, and tentatively set for the following season. However, Susan thought that collaboration in the future was a definite possibility. She said she would bring the idea up at a faculty meeting soon. We agreed that our collaboration on the production of Iolanthe in 1978 had been very successful in many ways. The problems were due mainly to the St. Ed's drama director at that time, and would probably not be repeated. Susan is pressing for renovation of space to provide a second stage (with proscenium), which would also provide more flexibility in the future. A new faculty member has a strong background in opera, primarily scene and lighting design, and would certainly be interested in producing a G & S opera. Saint Edward's is, of course, primarily concerned with providing opportunities for their students; from our point of view, a big advantage is the institutional support offered. We agreed to stay in touch, and look toward future cooperation.

Reba also talked with Jeanette Brown at the Live Oak Theatre. They are planning next year's program; Jeanette promised to talk to Mack Williams about the idea of working with the G & S Society. (Our members thought it unlikely that Live Oak would be interested in branching out into musical production at this time.)

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As we discussed the problems and rising costs of production, Liz Opal volunteered to help coordinate costumes. At that point we took a refreshment break and gathered in Enid's hospitable kitchen. We later resumed the meeting and finished our business as we munched.

Rosemary presented the slate of officers, lacking a Treasurer. It was only later, at the end of the meeting, that Liz Opal agreed to be a candidate for that post, if we could change our regular meeting time to the second Monday of the month (she has a regular conflict on the first Monday). It turns out that Liz is a CPA, and amply qualified to do the job, so we enthusiastically agreed. Note that we are still lacking candidates for the important positions of Vice President for Production, and Vice President of Publicity. (This is becoming a chronic condition.)

News of Members:

Christmas Greetings have been received from Dorothy Allen and Jim Kellogg, who are having a great time in Washington, D.C.; Cathy Brock Thieme, who reports all is well in Morgantown, West Virginia; and Sue Caldwell, whose saga of the amazing doings of Sue, Jim and young Laurie fills three pages (that's some family! We're proud to know y'all).

Congratulations to Jennifer Arndt, who passed her UT Music Dept. doctoral comprehensives in December. She is already hard at work directing a production of **Little Merry Sunshine** at her church. Go to see it February 7th and 8th!

Dues Update: Thanks to Jennifer for adding a donation to her dues; and to Ray Howard for becoming a Patron.

Notice: If you haven't paid your dues this will be your last Newsletter!

And Welcome Back to Bob Kusnetz, who is finally back in town and promises to stay a while. Come to the meeting and see him in the flesh!



Reba Gillman, Secretary