

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

February 1987 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Will be held Monday, February 9th, 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.

This will be a working and planning meeting. We're aiming for an April production of a program of scenes from Gilbert and Sullivan.

Last Meeting: Ten members met at Enid Hallock's to elect new officers and work on plans for our April production. President Bob Kusnetz presided. The treasurer, Liz Opal, was unable to be present, and sent her annual report by Reba Gillman. Sharon Kite presented the following slate:

President	Bob Kusnetz
Executive Vice President	Allen Lawshae
Secretary	Reba Gillman
Treasurer	Keith Larson
Vice President for Production	(no candidate)
Vice President for Publicity	(no candidate)
Historian	Rosemary Russell-Vines

There were no nominations from the floor, and the slate was accepted by acclamation.

Members reported on their investigations into possible musical directors, suggested at the last meeting. Barbara Irvine is booked solid until the end of April, Susan Ely is getting married and moving to San Antonio, and David Morrow has other commitments. Mary Ann Ybarra, James Knapp and Bill Girard are interested, and have quoted tentative fees; Bob Wall is very willing to accompany and work with a director, but does not feel he has the experience to be the director at this time. Bill Girard has been the musical director and pianist for the operas produced at the Capitol City Playhouse, with Jess Walters as director. He is a UT graduate student, whose involvement in local music is well known. Several of our members have worked with him and recommend him highly. He had been invited to come later to our meeting to discuss possibilities.

Enid had received information from Ed Pinney about using the State Hospital facility, and passed it on to Bob Kusnetz and Reba Gillman. The information does not mention performance there. Louise Richardson reported that the Utopia Theater on the UT campus is pretty well booked through mid-April. To be eligible to use it we need to get four UT students to go to the Student Activities Office and announce that they are forming a student organization. Their group can then rehearse and perform in any UT space that's available. It was agreed that we should pursue this. There are several UT music students who have worked with us and might be willing to form such an organization for us.

At this point Bill Girard arrived. He proved to be very much interested in working with us, and discussed his ideas with energy and enthusiasm. He asked what our long range goals were. Bob replied that our immediate goals were: 1) Fund Raising 2) To increase our visibility with the public 3) To involve our members again in production. The long range goal would be to raise money to provide a base for producing complete G & S operas again.

Bill said that he was interested in working with the Austin Civic Orchestra or the Community Symphony for future productions. For smaller ensembles he could get UT orchestration students to work on arrangements. He would be very willing to work with Bob Wall as rehearsal pianist. Bill suggested that we hire a professional fund raiser, as was done by the new Austin Lyric Opera company. He explained that if we

2/11-1 6/110

used a UT facility any money we made over expenses would be saved in escrow for one year for future performances. After that it would be claimed by the University.

We then took a refreshment break, continuing our discussions informally over delicious snacks. Many thanks to Enid for her hospitality and to all who contributed! When we reconvened Bill Girard had left, and we reviewed his terms and those of the other possible music directors. All present were delighted with Bill's enthusiasm and interest in planning ahead. We voted unanimously to offer Bill the job. After other discussion Bob accepted Louise Richardson's offer to serve as volunteer dramatic director. Louise will get further information about the schedule at Utopia Theater. Bob will ask Bill Girard to pursue the necessary steps to set up the Student Organization as outlined.

News of Members: Jennifer Arndt is directing *The Boy Friend*, to be performed at 7:30 pm on Friday and Saturday, February 13th and 14th, at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church on Bee Caves Road. Admission is free.

Congratulations to Dorothy Allen and Jim Kellogg, who will be married in Austin on February 28th.

Note change of address for:

Judy Forbes
9700 Glenfield Court, #804
Houston, TX 77096

We welcome new members:

Keith Larson
Lot #21, UT MHP Lake Austin Blv'd (03)
(h) 476-9660; (w) 454-8300

Sheila Glenn
9921 Childress Dr (53)
(h) 837-4570; (w) 838-9020

Louise Richardson
8205 Sandalwood Cove (58)
(h) 452-5401; (w) 463-8238



Dues continue to come in. Many thanks to: Member: Sidney Brammer

Donor: Judy Forbes

Patrons: Sue Ricket Caldwell, Dale Lipsett, Jim Robinson, and Diana Sethre

Lord High Patrons: Dorothy Allen and Jim Kellogg

Auditions and Meetings: We expect to hold auditions on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, March 7th and 8th. Exact time and place to be announced.

Because of Bill Girard's schedule, we may hold a special working meeting late in February, instead of our usual second-Monday-of-the-month meeting, which would normally take place on March 9th.

Watch your mail for announcements. Hope to see you on February 9th, in any case.

Reba

Reba Gillman, Secretary

That was the Fairy Queen admiring Private Willis last month - - Iolanthe

2/87-2