

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

May 1990 Newsletter

Next Meeting

Second Monday: May 14th, at 7:30 pm at the home of Enid Hallock, 4001 Cherrywood, 477-0858. Back at the old stand ... Thank You, Enid! There's lots going on these days; come and be part of it! (And bring munchies, please.)

Last Meeting

On April 2nd, eleven members gathered at the home of Susan Adams-Johnson: Susan, Pearl Amster, Bob Bobo, Karen Collier, Michael Drousche, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Janette Jones, Bob Kusnetz, Robert Mellin, and new member James Chambers. In corrections to the minutes, as represented by the Newsletter, President Bob K. explained that Steve Chambers, assistant Stage Manager for *The Sorcerer*, proposed to return to the Society just the unspent part of money advanced to him. Bob Bobo wanted to clarify his statement regarding the status of our Executive Board. It may legally serve as our Board of Directors; however, he believes we are not now using it in that way.

• I. The Proposed Production of *Pirates*: Bob K. reported that he had in hand a contract with Live Oak Theatre for our co-production of *The Pirates of Penzance* to run April 11 through May 11, 1991 at Live Oak Theatre. In order to approve this contract Bob had conducted a telephone poll of the members of the Executive Board. All seven approved. In addition Bob had called five other members who have been involved and interested, and received a vote from them of 3 For and 2 Against accepting this contract.

The terms of the contract are that *Pirates* will be part of the Live Oak 1990-91 season. There will be a total of 25 performances, five a weekend: Thursdays and Fridays at 8 pm., Saturdays at 5 pm and 9 pm, and Sundays at 6 pm. Dinner will be served to the cast on Saturdays between the two performances. Ticket prices will be \$10, except \$12 on Fridays and Saturdays. Extra performances can be arranged for Wednesday nights as flat rate benefit performances. We will have full use of the Live Oak Theatre facilities starting on March 31st. Don Toner will serve as the Artistic Director of his theater, but will not direct the show. We will have the services of Anna Morman, the business manager for the theater. As co-producer Bob K. will recruit and approve candidates for staff positions. The Society will work on mobilizing volunteers.

If we generate corporate sponsorship, the money will be split 50-50 with Live Oak Theatre. (This generated considerable anxiety among the members and caused a lot of discussion.) As part of the Live Oak season, our production will receive 1/7th of the season ticket sales. We will have to sell 40 single seats beyond the season tickets, for each performance. Live Oak is now operating under an agreement to use some Equity performers for each show, paying them Equity rates. In addition, all other actors will be paid modest fees. Note: since Texas is a Right To Work state no one can be required to become an Equity member.

Bob K. remarked that we need to start immediately gathering names for the technical staff. All members are invited to volunteer or make suggestions. You may call Bob at 836-1853; or Michael Drousche at 459-9298; or Susan A-J at 323-2555.



• II. Fall Show: It was reported that Ken Johnson is interested in having the Society put on a show at Hyde Park Theatre next fall (1990). After discussion of dates and shows a vote was taken:

<i>Ruddigore</i>	4 For
<i>Iolanthe</i>	1 For
<i>Patience</i>	1 For

Bob K. was authorized to talk to Ken Johnson about our producing *Ruddigore* in early October at Hyde Park Theatre.

Next Meeting: Will be on Monday, May 14th.

Dues: Members who joined last spring now need to renew their membership.

If yours are due there will be an insert in this newsletter. Also look on your label for DUES in red ink.

• **III. Committee Report:** As Chair of the "Teaser Committee", Bob Bobo reported that a performance had been arranged for Friday, May 4th at St. Stephen's Church in Wimberley. James Chambers, our newest member, will be the pianist. We have been asked to perform there again some time this summer.

Bob Bobo also reported that he was ready to discuss the subject of our incorporation and by-laws, but would defer his report until the next meeting, since we were running out of time.

• **IV. Miscellaneous Other Matters:** Michael would like to get a group together to go to Dallas in June to see the Dallas Lyric Opera production of *The Gondoliers*, with former D'Oyly Carte member John Reed as the Duke of Plaza Toro.

Bob K. had dinner in New York with Barbara Irvine, who was musical director of our production of *Ruddigore*. She is doing very well. Bob also reports that members Jim and Dorothy Kellogg are still doing well in the Washington, D.C. area. Dorothy will be performing the title role in *Auntie Mame*. They will also be involved in a production of *Pinafore* this summer and want to get the extra dialog for the enlarged Hebe part, which we used in our production last year.

Curtis Wade, who was one of our Ralphs in last year's *Pinafore*, and member Al Rellstab, appeared in the chorus of the recent Lyric Opera production of *Cinderella*.

The meeting adjourned for sociability and munching. Many thanks to Susan for having us, and to Allen Lawshae for lending folding chairs. Next meeting: Monday May 14.

NEWS of SHOWS

• Go see *Give My Regards to Broadway 1990* playing through Sunday, May 13th at Hyde Park Theatre. Ken Johnson offers tickets at half price to any G&S member. There are some G&S excerpts in the show. Call 452-6688 for reservations and information.

• Old friend John McNeill, has an important part in the Different Stages production of *Jacques and His Master* playing through May 12th at the Acting Studio, 5811 Burnet Road. Call 452-5989. This is an interesting play, very well done.

• Opening on May 17th at Capitol City Playhouse: *Tosca*, by Puccini, directed by Jess Walters; musical director William Reber. Member Leonard Johnson will alternate with Tim Snyder in the role of Cavaradossi. Friend Doug Schram will sing the part of Scarpia, and friend Joe Dowell will sing Spoletta. Member Sheila Glenn will be in the chorus. The opera will play every other night, alternating with *Hit Parade* through June 8th. Call 472-2966.

NEWS of MEMBERS

Bob Mellin has a new address and phone number:
7630 Woodhollow Dr., # 112 (78731)
345-5950

If you wonder who Janette Jones is, that's our old friend Jan, using her original, authentic name.

I have a letter from Pam Sabrin; I will bring it to the meeting for anyone interested to read.

Thanks to all you good members who promptly sent in your dues. Keep 'em rolling, folks! Those dues forms and reminders take a lot of work, so I appreciate your timely responses.

Reba Gillman, Sec'y

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