Samohi Orchestras
General Membership Meeting
September 14, 2009

Minutes

1. The Chamber Orchestra performed as OPA members entered the orchestra room.

2. The meeting was called to order by Cathy Davies, President of the Orchestra Parents Association (OPA) at 7:15pm. Cathy introduced herself and gave a warm welcome to the parents of students new to the orchestra program and invited them to join the OPA as volunteers; thanked Julia Chasman for organizing the refreshments and snacks.

3. Director's Report – Joni Swenson
   - Introduced herself and welcomed the new parents to the OPA.
   - Welcome Packets are due September 14 for credit.
   - Sectional sessions have started thanks to OPA's financial support.
   - Many thanks to all the parents who filled out yellow volunteer forms.
   - Announced after school rehearsal schedule.
   - Thanked members of the Chamber Orchestra for performing so beautifully on such short notice.
   - Announced the seating audition schedule for Philharmonic and Symphony.
   - Stressed the importance of participating in various honor orchestras. Turned over to Jason for further information.

4. Honor Orchestras Report – Jason Aiello
   - Seating Auditions for Phil & Symphony: CODA/CEMA All State Audition Excerpts.
   - <u>CODA: Visalia, December 4 & 5, 2009</u>
     Jason Aiello is President-elect for CODA 2010.
     Audition CD/Tape due October 7 for Honor Strings and Honor Symphony
   - <u>CEMA All State: Sacramento, March 11-13, 2010</u>
     Audition CD/Tape due December 1. Use CODA Excerpts.
   - <u>SCSBOA Solo & Small Ensemble: Santa Monica, April 24, 2010</u>
   - <u>National Honor Orchestras: Santa Clarita, February 16-20, 2010</u>
     Two Samohi Orchestra students were accepted – Emily Wong and Matt Van Pelt

5. Director's Report (continued) – Joni Swenson
   - Honor Orchestra opportunities are terrific ways to make friends who belong to other orchestras in California; great learning experience working with exceptional conductors; participation will look great on college applications. Highly recommend participating in one or more of these orchestras.
   - <u>Student Governance Board</u> will be established to get students involved in running the Orchestra Program. The Board will be selected through a nomination and election process.
   - <u>Performing Arts College Fair</u> will be held October 18, 1-5pm at Ackerman Union, UCLA. Tips for students on how to apply to various colleges can be found at www.nacacnet.org/EventsTraining/CollegeFairs/PVA/Pages
     Webinar, a free online seminar, will be conducted on September 15, 4pm PDT.
     45 minutes of presentation; 15 minutes of Q&A
     www.nacanet.org/EventsTraining/Webinars/PVA/Pages

- Teri Zakzook, parent of former orchestra students, has offered to help students planning to become music majors navigate the college admissions process. She can be contacted through orchestraparents@samohiorchestras.org

6. OPA President's Report – Cathy Davies
   - Introduced members of the OPA Executive Board and Committee Chairs; asked for volunteers to fill open positions: Secretary, Treasurer in Training, Various Spaghetti & Strings Committee Chairs, Concert Event Coordinator, Concert Hospitality, Volunteer Coordinators for SCSBOA Festivals and 8th Grade Welcome Chair. Asked parents to volunteer on a project-by-project basis as well.

   - Addressed the importance of staying connected to the Orchestra Program by subscribing to the Email List and frequently checking the orchestra website for announcements and information on upcoming concerts and events. www.samohiorchestras.org

7. Treasurer's Report – Amy Van Pelt
   - Current balance is $51,928.55. Spoke about the completed transition of SMBPA to SMAPA. Asked parents that they donate funds to OPA sooner than later as 10% of fees paid to sectional coaches must be allocated for benefit payments. Orchestra room cabinetry was purchased for $36,000 and instruments for purchased for $24,000.

8. Fundraising Report – Sandy Wells and Robb Brown
   - Poker Night at the Elks Club on Pico Blvd., Tuesday, October 20. So far six parents have volunteered. Need more volunteers, so please sign up!
   - Grounds for Change – Possible fundraising idea: sell select 100% organic fair trade coffees and teas. Percentage of sales to benefit the Orchestra program.
   - Fundraiser at Barnes & Noble / 3rd St. Promenade - fundraising event on Saturday, December 12. Chamber Orchestra will perform; Orchestra program will receive percentage of sales when *Samohi Orchestra* is mentioned at check-out. Wait until then to buy holiday books!
   - Green Fundraiser - Large recycling bins will be placed around the Orchestra room to collect used ink and toner cartridges, cell phones, and other digital items. Proceeds to benefit the Orchestra program.
   - Spaghetti & Strings - Suggested that it's never too early for parents to start soliciting local businesses (retail stores, restaurants, markets) for donations for the silent auction.

9. Spaghetti& Strings – Alyson Dworkin
   - Spoke about the biggest fundraising event of the year to be held in the cafeteria at Samohi on Saturday, January 30, 2010. Described in detail about the evening that will include a buffet pasta dinner from Il Forno, desserts made by parents, refreshments, student entertainment and live & silent auctions. Students are to sell raffle tickets. Need a BIG item to be raffled off.
   - Parents and students all volunteer for this event. Need lots of help to put it together. Please sign up and volunteer!
   - Asked any parents who might be familiar with computer auction software used by elementary schools to help set it up for the live and silent auctions.
   - Asked parents to donate items for the auctions: "kids" items and "big" items. Anyone with film industry connections please help by contributing premier tickets, special screening tickets, etc.

10. Special Event: Oliver Sacks/Musicophilia – Joy Horowitz
    - Announced the possibility of a special event featuring Oliver Sacks and his book "Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain" which was also the basis of the PBS/NOVA program "Musical Minds," that explains how much music can affect the brain. The event can tie in with his visit to California next year. Asked for parents who have expertise/connections in the field of neurology and psychology for advice and help with planning the event.

11. The General Meeting was adjourned by Cathy Davies at 8:20pm.

12. Refreshments and snacks were served following the meeting, arranged and provided by Julia Chasman with the help of parents who donated delicious finger sandwiches, cheese and crackers, grapes, baked goodies and tea.

13. Symphony Orchestra Trip Meeting
    - A brief Symphony Trip meeting followed the General OPA Meeting; discussed the options of going to Italy, Montreal, or New York during spring break, 2010. The majority of parents favored Italy.
    - Some parents still have not responded to Amy Van Pelt's email that was sent out during the summer asking whether they would like to go on a trip this school year. Decision was made to contact parents who have not responded. Joni Swenson would like the parents' 100% consensus.
    - A volunteer sheet was passed around for parents to participate in the planning of the trip.
    - Need for major fundraising effort was also discussed, as the trip will cost around $3,000 per student.
    - More meetings will follow to finalize tour arrangements.

Submitted by Kuniko Usui

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