

UCC Board Meeting, February 10th, 2026, 7:00 pm - Chisago Lakes Library

Attendees: Kevin Nascene & Marty Harding (on Zoom), Ken Cheney, Carol Maurer, Joan Detzler, Virginia Stark, Judi Adamyk, Tyree Rolland, Cindy Rolland

Not in attendance: Laura Anderson, Nicole Larsen, Patty Frank, Mike Leadholm, Bob Fedderly

Action Items

- Laura - make corrections to January minutes and review and condense meeting minute format for future meetings
- Ken/Marty - schedule a meeting with Dan Chouinard and Barbara McAfee to discuss musical themes and song selection for 'Once Upon A River' event
- Ken - provide concert attire details for Sing3
- Ken - provide a blurb to Bob/Mike for inclusion in church bulletins and local newspapers for promotion
- Ken - finalize clinician schedule
- Ken - reach out to Patty to begin coordinating with Sherry on scheduling post-festival sessions
- All Board members - review the website, particularly the Patron and Sponsor pages, and send any feedback to Ken
- Virginia - send the three planning documents to Marty
- Marty - email Patty to get access to the last grant application and be added as a collaborator
- Judi - provide budgeting information to Marty for the Essentials Grant application

I. Call to order by Kevin

II. Approval of minutes for January 2026

- Motion was made by Ken, seconded by Cindy. Motion not approved.
 - Laura will make corrections to the initial record submitted for January. She will also review the overall minutes format, making modifications to condense the January report to a record of decisions made and important discussion points, rather than verbatim transcription. Both versions of January's minutes to be made available for review at the March 2026 meeting.

III. Treasurer's Report

- Bank balance of \$26,697 (grant money for the Festival of \$18,891 deposited, contributing to the large balance)
- Received additional funding from three new patrons, bringing our mailing response rate to 8%
- Received \$197 in general donations, plus \$1000 from new platinum-level corporate sponsor
- Insurance bill paid, which insures our property stored off-site

IV. President's Report

Several new singing opportunities were presented.

- St. Croix Valley Orchestra (Carmina Burana):
 - Key considerations are creating a rehearsal schedule and confirming singer availability.
 - The financial aspect was discussed, including the need for a budget and potential grant funding, possibly sponsored by the orchestra.
 - Ken made a motion, seconded by Virginia to proceed with planning for the collaboration, contingent on scheduling and singer availability. Motion was approved.

- Swedish Institute Choir Performance:
 - The choir was invited to join the Swedish Institute Choir's concert on May 17th at Chisago Lakes Lutheran.
 - The event involves the group performing one set from their own concert and then joining the host choir for two shared songs: "Hälsa Dem Därhemma" and "The Earth Adorned."
 - The choir is already familiar with "The Earth Adorned," and "Hälsa Dem Därhemma" is considered easy to learn. The only harmonized version of "Hälsa Dem Därhemma" was written by Marty Harding. Ken offered to share this arrangement with the other choir's director, Jeff, pending Marty's permission.
 - Ken's recommendation is to use the "social" set from their concert, requiring minimal extra rehearsal beyond refreshing the two shared songs.
 - Ken made a motion, seconded by Joan to move forward with planning, contingent on having enough singers. Motion was approved.

- Once Upon A River
 - The event is scheduled for April 12th at the historic auditorium in St. Croix Falls, which offers a more intimate venue with better sound.
 - Ken proposed that the music for the event should be selected from their existing repertoire to minimize rehearsal. Potential songs discussed include: "River of Dreams," "The Famine Song," "Sisi ni Moja," and "Bound to the River."
 - Marty suggested that the event's co-directors, Dan Chouinard and Barbara McAfee, might have specific thematic ideas for the music. Ken & Marty will schedule a meeting with them to discuss.
 - Ken made a motion, seconded by Cindy to participate. Motion was approved.

- Scandia-Mellerud Sister City Event
 - Annual event, scheduled this year for Monday, April 20th at 10 a.m.
 - The choir's typical role is to sing one song and then a patriotic American song (e.g., "God Bless America," "The Star-Spangled Banner"), followed by the Swedish choir singing their national anthem.
 - Joan made a motion, seconded by Ken to participate. Motion was approved.

V. Director's Report

- Festival

- Space and setup at the PAC are largely ready. Both the venue's and the choir's risers will be used end-to-end to accommodate all three choirs on stage for group songs. Leanne is handling food, name tags, and greeting the arriving choirs.
- UCC has just under 40 members, Forest Lake has around 45, and Chisago Lake High School is the largest with almost 60.
- High school choirs will wear robes. We will wear blue shirts for daytime rehearsals and black tuxedos/dresses for the concert.
- Spring Concert Planning
 - Dues are being collected via an event in Better Unite, with a registration button on the website homepage.
 - A promotional blurb needs to be sent to Bob and Mike for free placement in church bulletins and local newspapers.
 - The concert will feature 13-14 songs in three sets.
 - Most music has been ordered, but some Manhattan Transfer pieces are on backorder. Ken will print legal copies for rehearsal.
 - Digital music costs the same as printed
- Website
 - Has been significantly updated, and the board was asked to review the wording, especially on the Patron and Sponsor pages.
 - Ken made a motion, seconded by Joan to change the term "Supporter" to "Sponsor" for clarity between the two contribution programs. Motion was approved.

VI Grant Work

- Festival Grant
 - Surplus of \$2,400-\$3,000 exists from the festival grant budget. The funds cannot be used without ECRAC's approval of a revised plan. Ideas for the surplus include buying choir shirts (\$800), donating to high school music programs, or bringing the clinician (Sherry) back for post-festival sessions with the choir and students. The clinician idea was well-received.
- Essentials Grant Application
 - The group is operating under a \$10,000 grant for non-performance expenses. Carol made a motion, seconded by Kevin for Marty to write the renewal application (due March 1st) with Ken as the project director. Motion was approved.

VII. Other Committees

- Programming Committee:
 - The committee (Joan, Virginia, Ken, and Marty) has set three meeting dates to gather ideas using a "Keep, Change, Start" framework.
 - The goal is to collect constructive feedback for the choir's new strategic direction. Sign-ups will begin at the next rehearsal.

VIII. Other Business (none)

XI. Meeting adjournment

Next meeting date: March 10th @ Chisago Lakes Library, 7 pm