

Quick Information

- ♪ **Members do not have to live in Oconomowoc. Anyone who likes to sing from the Lake Country area and beyond is welcome.** (See General Membership on pg. 7)
- ♪ **General Requirements:**
 - ♪ Auditions are **not** required
 - ♪ Desire to sing as part of a group with a blended voice
 - ♪ Willingness to learn your part
 - ♪ A basic ability to read music helps. Time is spent learning parts so if you are rusty you will shine up nicely
 - ♪ You should be of high school age or older
 - ♪ Love of music & singing
- ♪ **Solicitations for scholarship donations:** A list of past donors and letters for scholarship donations will be available in early June for members to use to solicit donations for our wonderful scholarship program. (See pg. 11)
- ♪ **Concert Tickets:** All members will be given 10 tickets to sell. Unsold tickets must be returned at the dress rehearsal before the concert. Ticket money goes to supporting the choir's activities and scholarships.
- ♪ **Reception Donations:** Receptions are held after most concerts and members are sought to volunteer to supply beverages and treats. We ask for sign-ups to help plan the event.
- ♪ **Attendance:** Members are expected to attend rehearsals. More than three unexcused, missed rehearsals may excuse a member from that performance.
- ♪ **Cancellations:** Will be on website and emailed to you—please answer the email or we will keep trying to reach you.

♪ **Costs for Members:**

- ♪ **Dues:** Spring & Summer \$15; Christmas \$10. Payment of dues is made to the Section Leader at the beginning of the concert season.
- ♪ **Music Deposit:** \$10 each session, which may vary based on cost of music. Payment is made when you sign in and are given a music folder. Your check or cash amount will be returned when the music is handed in at the end of the concert. If you care to donate your music deposit to the choir we will then deposit the check/cash.

♪ **Concerts:**

- ♪ **Winter/Spring:** Will be announced
- ♪ **Independence Day:** Held with the Legion Band at the Band shell on a Wednesday evening before the 4th of July
- ♪ **Summer:** Held on a Monday and Tuesday evening during the Festival of the Arts week in August. Start date anticipated beginning of May 2011
- ♪ **Christmas:** Held on Monday nights at different Senior Centers. Usually Mondays in November and early December
- ♪ **Singing Requests:** Sometimes the Choir is invited to sing at different occasions. We accept these invitations if there are enough members available to sing.

♪ **Concert Attire:**

- ♪ Solid black full length for ladies, black slacks and ties with white shirts for men
- ♪ White tops may be called for occasionally with black slacks or skirts
- ♪ Independence Day attire is black slacks and red-white-blue tops
- ♪ Other concert attire will be announced

Practice:

♪ **Where**

UCC Congregational Church
815 S Concord Rd
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

OR

Oconomowoc High School Music Room Door #11 East side
641 East Forest Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

♪ **When:** You are welcome to arrive at 6:45 pm. Practice starts promptly at 7:00pm and ends at 8:45 pm

♪ **Note:** Practice will be cancelled if driving is too hazardous.

♪ **Volunteers:** If there is any function in the choir that you would be interested in volunteering for, we ask that you give it to any board member in writing, because your willingness to help is very important to us and we would not wish to have it lost in all of the chatting that goes on at practice! Just a little note and your name will do. We will make sure to keep your offer in mind or forward it to the most suitable party. (See pg. 8 & 13)

♪ **Web page:** www.oconomowoccommunitychoir.org
The website contains information for choir members and the community and downloadable papers.

♪ **Mailing Address:** OCONOMOWOC COMMUNITY CHOIR
PO BOX 213
NASHOTAH WI 53058

♪ **Contacts:** Cheryl Miller, Membership at 262-965-2775 or email her at cjmillr@yahoo.com OR
Barb Fabus, Board Chairperson at 262-361-4900 or email her at bfabus@wi.rr.com.

♪ Our Mission

The Choir's Mission is to promote harmony through the joy of singing, sharing of song, and the presentation of scholarships to area young people seeking careers in music.

We believe that music, whether one is making it or sharing it, has a positive impact on us, both personally and as a community. As an organization we serve a broader community, all of Lake Country. So, you do not have to live in Oconomowoc to be a member. In fact, you can hail from the next county and be welcome here because we serve all the communities in Lake Country. And don't worry about the weather because we cancel practice if driving is too hazardous. You should be of high school age or better.

We are a non-auditioned choir. You need *not* be a soloist for this part! You do need to love music and singing, desire to sing as part of a group with a blended voice and be willing to learn your part. A basic ability to read music helps. But, we spend time learning parts so if you are rusty you will shine up nicely.

The choir is an ideal way to do something that is fun and share something you enjoy with people who love music and singing as well as to do something positive for our immediate and extended communities. Besides the personal enrichment singing provides to you, choir members give something back to the community. We sing at senior centers for Christmas, we sing with the American Legion Band for Independence Day, we occasionally have joint concerts with other groups for funding local charities and participate in a variety of community events to add a musical note.

We have a Winter/Spring concert of a more classical design. We have a drive for scholarship donations and award scholarships to local students seeking a career in music. The Summer Concert is light, popular music and also features performances by the scholarship awardees. Concerts are followed by a reception for all of the guests.

Even though this is a volunteer choir, we charge for membership by the concert season. The membership dues help towards the cost of the choir. Hopefully, a profit from ticket sales will come after the concert. But in the meantime, dues go for music and for use of facilities and for paying the professionals upon whom we rely, such as our Music Director and Accompanist. Many of our concerts, such as Christmas and Independence Day are done free for the audience but are subsidized by the choir's funds. Concerts that have ticket sales allow us to be able to cover the cost of all of the musical efforts we participate in as well as provide money for the scholarships we grant.

♪ History

October 1996 the choir became incorporated as a not for profit, non-stock organization in Wisconsin. It is organized exclusively as a charitable and educational body according to the IRS codes Section 501(c)(3) to foster an appreciation of music through performances and sponsoring music scholarships. The choir's stated purpose also includes performing music at civic, private events and ceremonies and the development of a sense of fellowship within the choir.

Prior to the formal incorporation, the choir was a way for people who loved singing to get together and do just that. Sherman Leatherberry generated the idea and 75 people showed up just to have fun singing. Rod Rahn and Anne Stolz joined him as co directors. They alternated directing over the years. Many of the people were from Oconomowoc and the name Oconomowoc Community Chorus, later Choir, stuck. The choir is not formally sponsored by the city nor is membership limited to Oconomowoc residents. We do, however, practice in Oconomowoc and sing in Oconomowoc as well as other Lake Country Communities! Our biggest draw is within the same areas that we award scholarships.

Rod Rahn died and in 1996 his family made an endowment to the choir that precipitated the formal incorporation. In 1997 Benjamin Welch received the first scholarship. From 1996 to 2009 Anne Stolz directed the choir. Anne has stepped down from our podium so she could have more family time, but she still sings with the choir. We are very honored to have Sherman Leatherberry directing the choir and Arlys Sobel as our Associate Director. And, we are honored to have you with us to continue weaving the song of Main Street America's Community Choruses and Choirs.

♪ Organizational Structure

The conditions of general membership in the choir are that one regularly participates in practices and at least one performance in the fiscal year, and that all prior checked out music is returned. The choir is managed through the Board of Directors as a discrete entity. We are required to have at least 7 choir members on the Board and a maximum of 12. The Music Director(s) shall have a voice but no vote within the Board of Directors. A Board term is 3 years. Unexpected vacancies will be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors, until the next Annual Meeting or the expiration date of the vacant term. Two successive 3-year terms in addition to the remaining time of the unexpired term of another board member is the maximum length of service on the Board and that member becomes ineligible for 1 year for re-election to the Board. Position turnover is staggered to limit change to a maximum of three positions a year.

There is an "Annual Meeting of the Members of the Corporation" each July, after the close of the prior fiscal year. (Annual Meeting will refer to the above-defined activity.) The Board reports the activities of the prior year and the budget is reviewed and presented for the New Year. The corporate members are reviewed and board members are elected. Occasionally, items the board feels should be decided by the general membership or any change in a bylaw may be offered for a voting determination. Voting is based upon a simple majority. There is no proxy voting. The Annual meeting is required to have a quorum composed of at least 51% of the bona fide members present in person. Annual Meeting

is held after the break on a practice Monday in July to facilitate your attendance. You will be notified 10 days in advance. Items for discussion should be given in writing to the Board Chairperson 10 days in advance of the Board Meeting that is held prior to the Annual Meeting.

The Board of directors is responsible for seeing that the choir meets its goals and works within the bylaws of the corporation. Competent and experienced officers are needed to do this. Access by email and computer familiarity is important skills to bring to any board position. The active, contributing participation of the Board members is imperative to the success of the organization. This means as a board member you actually do the work that is needed from your nominal position. It is up to you to get the help of others. Board Members are voluntary, not paid. There is reimbursement for out of pocket expenses on behalf of the choir when the Board before hand approves such expenses.

Should you be interested in serving on our Board of Directors please submit your request or nominate someone whom you feel is a good fit for a position, in writing, and give it to any board member. Please identify the position of interest and any background information that may be pertinent. If there is any function in the choir that you would be interested in volunteering for, we ask that you give it to us in writing because your willingness to help is very important to us and we would not wish to have it lost in all of the chatting that goes on at practice!

OCC Board of Directors, Officers & Committees 2010

Position

Name

Responsibilities

[]=committee members

President	Barbara Fabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call and preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors - Call and preside at all meetings of the Corporation - Ex-officio voting member of all committees - Set agenda for meetings of the Board and Corporation - Take necessary action between Board meetings to carry out policies and responsibilities of the Board
Vice-President	Carole Hannula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preside at meetings of the Board of Directors and Corporation in the absence of the President - Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee - Perform other duties assigned by the Board
Secretary	Ted Wiesendanger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep a record of all proceedings of the Board of Directors for permanent minutes. - Keep a record of all proceedings of the Corporation for permanent minutes. - Have in his or her trust the records of the Corporation - Conduct correspondence for the Board and the Corporation
Treasurer	Barbara Bjur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide receipt and safekeeping of all monies of the Corporation - Pay all bills that are approved by the Board - Receive and record members' dues - Maintain an accounting system - Report transactions at Board meetings - Prepare budget for Board meetings
Chairperson Scholarship Committee	Carole Hannula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oversee the OCC Scholarship Fund - Distribute info. to schools & news media - Review scholarship applications - Conduct auditions and interviews as deemed necessary
[G. Goodrich, A. Sobel, G. Wilkes]		

OCC Board of Directors, Officers & Committees 2010

Position

Name

Responsibilities

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**Membership
Director**

Cheryl Miller

[B.Bjur, A. Dobratz, B. Fabus, M. Geszvain, C. Hannula, C. McMahon, C. Miller, A. Sobel, T. Wiesendanger]

- Plan and host social activities/events
- Maintain active membership/data listing
- Maintain accurate mailing list
- Appoint section leaders to keep attendance and receive dues
- Recruit new members

Music Librarian

Mary Geszvain

[B.Bjur, A. Dobratz, B. Fabus, M. Geszvain, C. Hannula, C. McMahon, C. Miller, A. Sobel, T. Wiesendanger]

- Organize, maintain & alphabetize music
- Track deposits
- Distribute, collect, file music after use
- Stamp all music with OCC identification & number system corresponding to music folders

**Publicity
Director**

Ted Wiesendanger

[B. Fabus]

- Publicize OCC by press releases & announcements
- Provide overall media contact
- Facilitate community outreach & relations
- Prepare concert posters, tickets, programs
- Prepare & send Newsletter

**Staging
Coordinator**

Charlotte McMahon

[D. Siedschlag, E. Piber]

- Coordinate set-up & tear down for concerts
- Arrange for backdrops and decorations
- Work with lighting & sound people
- Arrange for equipment & staging
- Coordinate ticket sales and provide ticket takers

**Donation
Coordinator**

Anne Dobratz

- Write introduction letter for solicitation
- Coordinate solicitation by choir members
- Maintain donor list
- Write Thank You notes

Scholarships

Part of the choir's mission statement is to award scholarships to area students who are pursuing careers in music. We raise funds during our Summer Season and award scholarships at our Summer Concerts. In order for the choir to be able to consistently award sizable scholarships to these deserving students each choir member is asked to do their best to sell 10 Summer concert tickets and to help approach area businesses for donations.

There are donation letters available from Anne Dobratz, the Donation Coordinator that you may use to hand deliver or send to the businesses that have helped us in the past or someone who you know. There is a space for you to sign the letter and include your address and phone number, as desired. The letters outline our goal to raise money for the scholarships and give details on the concert and dates. There will be a master list of suggested businesses or prior donors available to get us started. It will be passed around later in the season, and we ask that everyone sign up to help distribute the letters. It is very important that everyone take part.

On the donation letter it will state that all donations will be printed in the program if they are received by a deadline in early August to allow for printing in the summer program. Of course, donations are accepted at all times and will be graciously acknowledged.

Donations may be sent to the choir member who sent the letter or to the OCC P.O. Box number on the letter. If choir members receive donations please bring them to choir and give them to the Donations Chairperson, Anne Dobratz so that the correct names, address and amount are recorded. Someone will fill in for the Donations Chairperson in case of absence. We will follow up with a “thank you” and statement of receipt of the donation sent after the concert with tax information.

The OCC has been awarding scholarships for many years, but it wasn't until the last few years that we have been able to give out \$5,000 in scholarships. The OCC takes pride in the fact that we are able to help future generations fulfill their dreams.

Scholarship Requirements & Applications

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) The Oconomowoc Community Choir Scholarship is offered to students who plan to pursue a career in music.
- 2) Applicants must reside within school districts of Oconomowoc, Kettle Moraine, Arrowhead or Watertown. Each applicant can win a maximum of three (3) scholarships from the Choir.

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS:

The Rod Rahn Scholarship is offered with the proceeds of the endowment, which was established for the Choir in memory of a former director by his family. This endowment was the foundation of the scholarship initiative of the choir.

The Harriet Calhoun Keyboard Scholarship has been established in memory of a former director's mother who was an organist and piano teacher. It is designated to be given to a recipient who is proficient on keyboard.

The above awards are based upon special criteria and the family representative is involved in the selection process. These awards may not be offered every year.

THE OCC SCHOLARSHIPS:

These are awarded based on the above requirements. A committee of at least 3 choir members, a community representative and the committee chairperson, who is the vice-president of the Board of Directors, determines the recipients from the pool of applicants. Most recipients are graduating from high school or in college. The applicant's merits, relative to the demands of the chosen career path, which the applicant is pursuing, are evaluated. So, neither talent, skill set nor grades alone or combined carry the same weight across the evaluative process. For instance, a student-performing artist may have a different talent level than a student teacher, yet both be deserving of the same scholarship. The committee takes all things into consideration when making their selections for the choir.

Scholarship Requirements & Applications cont.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

A call for applicants will go out in mid winter to schools involved and to local papers. The application with the references must be received together and postmarked by a set deadline, usually April 1. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applications must include two separate letters of reference. At least one should be from an individual in the music field who has direct knowledge of musical abilities. A personal interview and audition may be requested. Auditions are usually scheduled soon after June 15. Winners will be expected to perform at the Oconomowoc Community Choir concerts in mid-August, which is Festival of the Arts Week. Applications may change somewhat year to year. The prior/current year's form is on our website.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' SKILLS & APPOINTMENTS

- ♪ Impartial and open minded
- ♪ Capable of objective evaluation
 - Teaching or management background helpful
- ♪ Good at working in a group
- ♪ Strong familiarity with Music based on
 - Degree in music very good but not required
 - Active participation in singing/music required
- ♪ Readily available and flexible schedule to make time for the demands of the committee

The Board of Directors appoints the Scholarship Committee. The Chairperson of the committee is the Vice Chairperson (Vice-President) of the Board. A "community representative" is also on the Scholarship Committee. A family member or representative of the Nominal Scholarships (at this time Rod Rahn and Harriet Calhoun) sits on the committee as well and serves to advise and vote only on the scholarship they represent. The Board reviews appointments to the committee annually, although the committee

may remain the same. Member Posts are not always available. Parties who feel interested should express their desires to be on the committee to the Board of Directors. A brief note describing your interest and qualifications would be very much appreciated. Your interest will be recalled should an appointment become needed.

DONATION AMOUNTS

The funds raised one summer season are the basis for determining scholarship amounts for the next year's summer season. All donations to the scholarship fund go to the grants themselves and the associated expenses. The Board gives a portion of any profits from concerts to the fund as well.

♪ Scholarship Winners

1997

Benjamin Welch

1998

Matthew Nelson

1999

Kathleen Curtin Lehi Gertz Jacob Christian Stacy Nettesheim

2000

Kate Korslin Saira Frank Lindsey Fox Daniel MacDonald

2001

Michael Boettner Brian Goodman Saira Frank Charlene Goodrich Kristen Olson

2002

Saira Frank Anna Partington Jamie Due Schulty

2003

Saira Frank Sara Parulski Jaime Bartelme

2004

Saira Frank Sara Parulski Jaime Bartelme Matt Meler

2005

Alex Makyol Baylen Wagner Kevin Stangler Saira Frank Sara Parulski

2006

Madeline Olsen Baylen Wagner Liam O'Brien Laura Schoepke Felicia Hobert

2007

Baylen Wagner Brian Zhang Liam O'Brien Jason Fabus Jason Marshall

2008

Alexander Gmeinder Sabrina Goodrich Kinza Hagerup Alex Mackyol

Zach Woods Brian Zhang Kevin Zhang

2009

Ernest Brusabardis IV Kristian Brusabardis Julia Driscoll Alexander Gmeinder

Jonathan Gmeinder Hilary Haskell Emily Schroeder Brian Zhang Kevin Zhang

2010

To Be Announced