

## SWEET ADELINES NEW ZEALAND REGION 35

### Regional Annual Members Meeting – Minutes

Saturday 21 May 2022, 1pm (by zoom)



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### Welcome and Introduction of the Regional Management Team members and incoming RMT members

Team Coordinator Leigh Whitelaw introduced the Regional Management Team:

- Carolyn Currington continues as Directors Coordinator
- Jo Maxwell continues as Marketing Coordinator
- Ann-marie Francis continues as Events Coordinator
- Miriam Spragg continues as Membership Coordinator
- Mary Cave-Palmer joined the team in December 2021, taking over the Finance Coordinator role from Julie Mansell
- Jenny Meadows joins the team as Communications Coordinator
- Jenny Edwards, outgoing Communications Coordinator
- Leanne Wheeler joins the team as Education Coordinator

### Apologies

- Kerry Stewart, outgoing Education Coordinator
- Luzia Bohles, Team Coordinator Whangarei Harmony
- Andrea Ward, Team Coordinator Christchurch City Chorus

### Roll Call

Representatives from the following were present at the meeting:

- Bella a Cappella
- Christchurch City Chorus
- Dunedin Harmony
- Faultline
- Foveaux Harmony
- Greater Auckland Chorus
- Manawatū Overtones
- Nelson Bays Harmony
- SouthCity Soundz
- Taranaki Harmony
- Waikato Rivertones
- Whangārei Harmony
- Wellington City Chorus

Not represented at the meeting (at the time of roll call)

- *Chapter at Large members*
- *Sounds of Hawkes Bay*
- *Sounds of the Shore (prospective chorus)*

## **Approval of the 2021 RAMM Minutes**

The draft 2021 minutes have been on our website since May 2021.

- Leigh moved that they are an accurate record of the 2021 meeting
- Seconded by Miriam

## **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the 2021 minutes.

## **FINANCE**

The Performance Report was made available to members on the Sweet Adelines New Zealand website 14 days prior to this meeting and email notification was sent to members.

Mary presented the accounts to the meeting and highlighted some key points, including the following:

- Overall income was lower due to the refunds that arose from changing the financial year-end to December\*
- Expenditure was higher than in 2020 because that year had most events cancelled
- Harmony Aotearoa was 70% of 2021 expenditure
- Administration costs were less largely due to RMT meeting by zoom
- Production of 60min video from Harmony Aotearoa Education Class was a significant portion of the 2021 administration expenditure
- Unspent education levies were transferred to a reserve for future education events
- Bank balance is currently strong and includes reserves held as required
- The accounts have been reviewed and signed off by Target Accounting

*\*Fees were charged in advance for the 1 May 2020 – 30 April 2021 year (12 months). When the financial year was changed to end in December, the billing cycle for fees was changed to 1 January 2021 – 31 Dec 2021, and members were refunded the 1 January 2021 – 30 April 2021 (4 months) period they had already paid for. The refunds were paid in 2021. So in 2021 we received 12 months' worth of fees and refunded 4 months' worth, netting out to 8 months of fees. From 2022 onwards we will have 12 months of fees again annually.*

## **Confirmation of reviewed accounts**

- Mary moved that these accounts be accepted and approved
- Seconded by Chris Thompson

## **Appointment of reviewer**

- Mary moved that we use Target Accounting as the reviewer for 2022
- Seconded by Jenny Meadows

An opportunity for questions was given and no questions were raised. At this point Mary left the meeting.

## TEAM COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Leigh read her report to the meeting, summarising the year past. This report will be available on the website for Sweet Adelines New Zealand members to read.

### GENERAL BUSINESS:

Foveaux Harmony submitted the following item for discussion:

#### **Compulsory competing every 3 years**

*We thought competing last year would count for this and take the pressure off, but it now appears it does not count, but to have competed virtually this year does. As a result, we have no choice but to compete in 2023. We could put in a special request to wait for 2024 but we don't feel this would hold much weight unless the whole region was behind it. We think there must be other choruses who are in a similar position. Perhaps we could put in a request as a region that our next compulsory year for competing could be moved back to 2024?*

On receiving this enquiry, Leigh wrote to SAI Headquarters staff member Jordan Beeghly, who is the Competition Coordinator. This was her reply:

*At the March 2020 IBOD Meeting, the decision was made to institute a presidential waiver for the 3-year competition requirement for a chorus to re-charter. Under this waiver, a chorus would have to compete in person during either 2022 regionals or 2023 regionals, which would restart their 3-year competition requirement. Because of COVID-19, a further presidential waiver was granted that allows that any chorus that participates in 2022 regionals, in either a live contest setting or by video, in any division, will have fulfilled their competition requirement and would not have to compete at a live contest again until 2025.*

*Any chorus that does not participate in 2022 regionals will need to compete at a live contest in 2023. In the event that a chorus feels unable to compete in 2023, they are able to request a presidential waiver. This request would need to be submitted by the region's Education Coordinator and should include rationale for the request and an explanation of what has been done regionally to assist the chorus with its musical progress. Hopefully this helps clarify any confusion.*

Leigh also approached Vickie Maybury, International Board of Directors' member and Judge Specialist, on this topic. She commented that if a chorus is not ready to compete in either Open or International division in 2023, there is the option of evaluating. Evaluation is for feedback on where you are at that point in time, and even if you do not have all 4 parts present that is acceptable. She also mentioned the waiver request that could be made to Sweet Adelines International.

Leigh confirmed that our RMT would support any chorus who found themselves taking this choice for 2023.

It was also clarified that although video evaluation did qualify this year as the 1-in-3 requirement, that was a one-off exception to the rule.

This topic had also been discussed by the group who met with Vickie earlier in the day via zoom.

**The question was raised as to whether the new performance package category that was an option at Harmony Aotearoa would be happening again.**

This will certainly be looked at by the convention team (for which we are in need of volunteers!) along with the possibility of changing the traffic pattern so we have more people in the audience cheering competitors along.

**RMT were thanked for all their hard work** during another difficult year.

**Congratulations were given for the recent Travel in Tune video**, which was a great showcase of New Zealand and our Sweet Adelines community.

**The meeting closed at 1:45pm.**

This zoom meeting was recorded.

**Present on Zoom other than RMT:**

Bernadette Takacs

Brianna Perry

Bronwyn Kirby

Carol Chapman

Chika Deane

Chris Thompson

Christine Godfrey

Claire Takacs

Clare Pascoe

Fiona Boorer

Fleur de Farias

Gaye Dawn

Helen Rook

Isabel Mackevics

Jackie Napier

Janette Smith

Jennifer Caldwell

Judi Caradus

Julie Earl

Kate Sinclair

Katrina Te Punga

Kay Woolf

Kim Cairns

Liz Watts

Marian Jones

Patti Cooke

Rowena Harper

Sarah Rae

Shelley Philips

Suzanne Berresford

Sylvia Fountain

Trish Douglas

Vicki Cumber

Virginia Humphrey-Taylor

Waikato Rivertones screen name