**Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Primary Areas of Concern
3. Sharing Successful Strategies
4. Financial Challenges
5. Areas where RMT can provide assistance
6. Reminder about June Education Event
7. Wrap Up

**Attendees**

Sue Melvin – Team Coordinator Region 16 RMT, Limestone City Voices

Christine Yorke – Membership Coordinator Region 16 RMT, Circle of Harmony Chorus

Susann McKinley – Education Coordinator Region 16 RMT, North Metro Chorus

Sue Dubois – York Harmony Chorus, Team Administrator Region 16 RMT

Susan Boissonneault – Eastside Harmony

Marion Boyd – Harmony North

Marcia Ten Eyck – Acapella North

Lorraine Gagnon-Lacroix – Durham Shores

Jackie Brimblecombe – Northumberland

Suzanne Askin – North Metro

Cynthia Carey – Kawartha Music Company

Joy Halburt – Orangeville

**Concerns**

* Member involvement, member retention – particularly new members
* Tech challenges with Zoom
* Member satisfaction with virtual rehearsals
* Dues – People not working, value for the money
* Attracting new members
* How do we move forward? What do we plan for? How will we perform at Christmas?
* Loss of emotional support/connection of being together
* Members not Zooming – how to connect with them?
* Diversity of where members are emotionally at this time

**Successful Strategies**

* Survey of members to understand what they need/want
* With lifting of restrictions – met outdoors for a socially distanced social visit, celebration of a charter member’s birthday, distanced singing
* Had judges on their rehearsal for education/discussion, able to have a guest faculty for an hour that they wouldn’t be able to bring in otherwise
* Use Zoom breakout rooms for sectionals or other small groups – allows for a little socialization in smaller group, can use the smaller groups for more personal feedback, could use breakouts multiple times in a rehearsal to connect
* Social meeting on a non-rehearsal night or after rehearsal
* With lifting of restrictions – two members meeting at one house and participating in Zoom together
* Weekly newsletter or email – rehearsal highlights, plans for next week
* Sending out a plan for the next several months to keep members interested
* Going to try playing phone tag with a tag – calling someone who has said that they are available, singing a tag together and then they tag someone else
* Using Zoom and Kahoot! to play a live trivia game together.
* Learning about members by having a member talk about themselves each week, in a monthly spotlight or using email – member writes and shares a bio about themselves and then tags the person that stands next to them on the risers to share theirs next
* Drop in visitors to rehearsals
* Singing on mute with chorus recordings
* Inviting members to share “silver linings” – something wonderful that has happened during the week
* Inviting a different member each week to be the person to lead singing “Happy Birthday” or closing song in their part
* Joint meetings of Music and Admin teams to collaborate
* Contacting technically challenged members by phone
* Weekly surprise guests – keeps members engaged
* Collaborations with other choruses that practice on the same night
* Creating a Tech Team to support members
* Hosting Zoom training sessions
* Sharing videos of past choruses’ performances with members

**Financial Concerns/Approaches**

* Note: Colleen O’Dwyer - Region 16 Finance Coordinator, has reached out to chorus treasurers directly already
* Regularly updating budget based on changing expectations of when we will be rehearsing to assess the ability to defer dues
* Reallocating funds raised for other (cancelled) projects to cover dues
* Management team decides whether chorus will choose to budget for break even or deficit with a plan to recover it in the future
* Maintaining their spot in external fundraising activities e.g. bingos so they will have that available to them when it is safe to resume
* Continuing fundraising through scrip programs e.g. Fundscrip, Flipgive, Amazon Smile (for US choruses)
* Leverage the circumstances to encourage increase participation in scrip programs
* Fundraiser – bottle drive

**Where Can the Region Help?**

* Zoom tips:
  + Accessing by phone – [Click here](https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362663-Joining-a-meeting-by-phone) and scroll down to instructions for “Joining a Meeting By Phone Only”
  + Improving speed/connectivity – [Click here for tips](http://www.saregion16.com/commonfiles/region16/db_uploads/Zoom_Tips_062720.pdf)
* Educational resources
  + Regional faculty identified on the website – [Click here](http://www.saregion16.com/dbpage.php?pg=education&pem=1)
  + Monthly education webinars are planned starting in July on the third Saturday of each month – 45 to 90 minutes. Check website and Sixteenth Notes for details.
* Getting new members
  + Free Regional Webinar on June 20 & 27 focused on Membership, has been adapted to include changes due to virtual rehearsals
  + Regional personnel will be available after the event to work with choruses to develop their personal plan.

A follow-up session will be scheduled in July.

Thank you for coming!