

# MIDLAND SYMPHONY GUILD NEWSLETTER

April 2008

The Midland Symphony Guild's Mission:  
To provide service and financial support for the  
Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale

[www.midlandsg.com](http://www.midlandsg.com)

## 2007-2008 MIDLAND SYMPHONY GUILD MEETINGS

All meetings are on Thursdays

### Executive Board Meetings

April 17, 2008 6:15 PM – First Pres Koinonia\*  
May 8, 2008 Noon, turn over notebooks to new Board+  
\*First Presbyterian Church on A Street and Texas  
+Members must RSVP to Jan for this meeting (528-3358)

### General Membership Meetings

April 17, 2008 7:00 PM –First Pres Lynn Hall\*  
May, Members may attend Board Meeting+

### From the President:

The year is coming to a close and I'd like to extend a sincere thank you to the Midland Symphony Guild for the memorable year that I've served as the 45<sup>th</sup> President. The MSG will present their yearly gift to the MOSC for financial support at the "Tribute to the Eagles" final Pops concert on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the CAF. The concert begins at 7 PM and I hope to see you there for this wonderful event. Our Guild is the largest contributor to the MOSC in both service and financial support. Thank you to all the Board and Standing Committee Chairs for the support this year in accomplishing their placements. I would like to recognize all our officers at the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting you are what makes our organization worthwhile. Thank you for your commitments to getting the job done!

Thank you for your support!

Jan St.Hilaire, MSG President 2007-08

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Midland Symphony Guild

Proposed ByLaw Changes

April 17, 2008

Changes reflected in strike through & replace by the word bolded

Page #77 of the MSG Yearbook 2007-08 Membership Year

## ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

### Section 1. General Meetings

There shall be at least six General Meetings of the Guild to be held during the designated months from September through May, unless otherwise deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

### Section 2. Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Guild shall be held in ~~May~~ **April**.

## ARTICLE IX. FISCAL POLICIES

### Section 1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of this organization shall be June 1 through May 31.

### Section 2. Bonding

Members of the Midland Symphony Guild shall be bonded in the amount determined by the Board of Directors.

### Section 3. Annual Operating Budget

The Finance Committee shall prepare the Annual Operating Budget. The proposed budget shall be presented to the membership for approval at the ~~May~~ **April** Annual Meeting. The budget must be approved by two-thirds of the Active members present and voting at the meeting.

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## ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Section 1. Number and Term

The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers, the chairmen of all Standing and Elected Committees, the Belle Vice President Elect, the Financial Vice President Elect, Projects Vice President Elect, **the Membership Vice President Elect, and Community Vice President Elect**. The term of office of each shall be for one year, beginning June 1. The Belle Vice President Elect, the Financial Vice President Elect and the Projects Vice President Elect shall serve on the Board ~~in a non-voting capacity for a term of one year~~.

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## STANDING RULES

### Austin Symphony Jewel Ball

Each year, the Midland Symphony Guild shall send a representative to the Austin Symphony Jewel Ball. The year preceding, the President Elect shall notify Active members whose former Belles will be eligible for consideration to attend the Jewel Ball as a college sophomore, junior ~~or senior~~ representative of the Midland Symphony Guild. The representative shall be selected by the President and President Elect with the approval of the Executive Committee. All expenses are paid by the representative. A donation to expenses shall be paid as budgeted by the Belle Committee.

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### B. Admission to Active Membership

At the Board Meeting preceding the ~~May~~ **April** General Meeting, the Membership Vice President shall present to the Board of Directors for approval those members who have completed all training requirements and are eligible for Active membership.

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### 4. Concert Hospitality Committee

There shall be three chairmen to oversee the Concert Hospitality Committee. They are Masterworks Chairman, Pops and Decorations Chairman and Ensembles Chairman. The Concert Hospitality Committee is responsible for the planning and implementation of concert arrangements including decorations, intermission refreshments, post concert receptions, and other activities requested by the MOSC management, subject to the discretion of the Guild Board of Directors. ~~The committee shall also arrange for the transportation and entertainment of the guest artists who perform with the Symphony Orchestra.~~

5. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall be chaired by the Financial Vice President and shall prepare and present a proposed budget for the approval at the ~~May~~ April Annual Meeting. It shall collect reservation money at Guild luncheons.

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~~17. Social Committee~~

~~The Social Committee shall plan and host the annual Midland Symphony Guild Members Mother/Daughter event.~~

20. Tabletop Committee

The Tabletop Committee shall plan and execute the Tabletop fundraising project of the Guild, which will be held every ~~other~~ year. The Guild membership shall assist the Tabletop Committee, upon request.

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XI. TASO (Texas Association of Symphony Orchestras)

The President and President Elect shall organize and select delegates to the TASO Conference. The President shall appoint the TASO Board Representative for a minimum period of ~~two~~ three years, with the approval of the Executive Committee. The TASO Board member shall attend the ~~Spring, Summer~~, Fall, and ~~Winter~~ Board meeting and ~~Annual~~ Spring Conference; submit articles for the TASO Newsletter; and act as liaison between the Guild and TASO by serving on the Midland Symphony Guild Board.

Adopt the Belle Bylaws as a part of the MSG Yearbook:

**BYLAWS FOR THE BELLE PROGRAM**

**The Midland Symphony Guild**

**Mission:**

**To provide service and financial support for the  
Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale**

Section 1. Dues

A. Annual Dues

Annual dues for the three classes of membership shall be as follows: Member-in-Training, \$50.00; Active, \$50.00 and Patron, \$35.00.

B. Belle Dues, Fees and Assessments

1. Dues

Non-refundable annual administrative dues of \$15.00 shall be paid by each Belle, and are to be submitted with her yearly renewal application, to the Membership Vice President by April 1.

Fees

a. Freshman Belle Fees

Each Guild member with a Freshman Belle shall pay the cost of one General Admission ticket to the Gala Introduction Luncheon and an activity fee by April 1.

b. Sophomore and Junior Belle Fees

Each Guild member with a Sophomore and/or Junior Belle shall pay an activity fee by April 1.

c. Senior Belle Fees

Each Guild member with a Senior Belle shall pay the cost of two Gala General Admission tickets and an activity fee by April 1.

3. Assessments

A Belle that is absent from a scheduled function, without having made prior arrangements with the Belle Chairman, shall be assessed \$10.00. Each additional unexcused absence will result in incrementally increasing assessments, i.e. one absence - \$10.00, two absences - \$20.00, three absences - \$30.00. A Belle that is absent from a scheduled function for any reason shall not receive a service credit.

Non-compliance with the April 1 deadline, regarding all Belle financial obligations shall result in removal of the Belle from the program. A Belle removed from the program for nonpayment of financial obligations shall not have the privilege of reinstatement.

X. Symphony Belles

A. Guild Member Requirements

The parent, grandparent, legal guardian, or other designated family member of a prospective Belle must join the Guild by April 1 of the Belle's seventh grade year. A Symphony Guild member who has attained Active status and is in good standing as of April 1 during the prospective Belle's eighth grade year may submit the Belle's name to the Belle Vice President for application to the Belle Program. Exception to the Belle eligibility requirement will occur if the prospective Belle ~~family moves to Midland before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the eighth grade year. In this case, the prospective Belle's name may be submitted for application to the Belle program providing that all dues and other financial obligations have been paid and the parent, grandparent, legal guardian, or other designated family member has met the requirements of admission to Active membership.~~ and prospective adult member, parent, grandparent, legal guardian, or other designated family member, may submit an application to be considered before August 1<sup>st</sup> of the prospective Belle's Freshman or Sophomore year. If the prospective Belle and adult are accepted into the Belle program and adult Active membership program, all dues and other financial obligations must be paid at the time the membership contracts are signed. The Guild (adult) member of a Belle must remain an Active member in good standing throughout the Belle's participation in the Belle Program. **Belle All cumulative** service credits, **all** dues, activity fees, and assessments must be completed and/or paid, as stated in the Bylaws Article IV. Section 1. **Dues A. Annual Dues and B. Belle Dues, Fees and Assessments**, prior to the Belle's formal presentation her senior year.

B. Belle Requirements and Recognition

1.) Requirements

The Freshman, Sophomore and Junior years are service years to the Symphony with each Belle being required to work five credits a year. These Belles shall assist with the MOSC concerts, the Celebration of the Arts and other community functions as required by the Belle Committee.

2.) Recognition

Each Belle shall be recognized by the year she is in school, e.g., Freshman Belle, Sophomore Belle, Junior Belle, and Senior Belle.

C. Freshman Belle Introduction

Freshman Belles who have met all financial obligations according to Bylaws Article IV. Section 1. B. Belle Dues, Fees and Assessments, by April 1, of their eighth grade year, will be introduced as Freshman at the Gala Introduction Luncheon.

D. Senior Belle Presentation

To qualify for presentation at the formal Senior Belle Presentation during the Gala weekend, a Senior Belle must have completed 15 service credits during her years as a Belle and met all financial obligations as stated in the Bylaws Article IV. Section 1. B. Belle Dues, Fees and Assessments.

**CONCERT ETIQUETTE:**

Little things that may seem trivial to the audience members can interrupt a performer's intense concentration. These are suggestions that should be followed to respect the performers and the audience members around you.

Arrive before the published time for the concert to begin and allow time for parking. If you arrive late, wait at the doors until ushers indicate that the first piece has been finished and late arrivals are being seated (we seat between movements of a piece although not all orchestras do so.) Then discreetly take the nearest seat available. You should not leave or return to the auditorium while the orchestra is playing. This is very distracting and considered rude, as though you were "walking out" on the piece. Please realize that staff and ushers are following policy when they restrict entry to the auditorium while music is being played.

Talking is distracting to the performers and every person in the audience. It is rude to talk (even whispering can be heard) during a musical performance. You should avoid rustling papers and programs. Pagers, cell phones – texting and watches set to beep on the hour should be turned off.

Photographs are not allowed during performances. Along with the flash and click are distracting, many performance contracts have a clause that forbids photographs to be taken.

Following these simple guidelines and basic etiquette of respect and consideration will make both the performers and audience has a more pleasurable and meaningful concert experience.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next concert!

**SYMPHONY BELLE ATTIRE:**

White Belle Dress Attire: Belle Dress  
Pearls  
White wrist length gloves  
White closed toed satin shoes

Belle shirt is to be worn with: Black slacks, Closed toed shoes (no sandals, flip-flops or open-back shoes)  
OR  
Shorts of decent length or jeans, Tennis shoes (no sandals or flip-flops)

**A Belle's Responsibilities**

1. Be on time. Be certain of the location. Keep a calendar. Sign in with a Belle Mom. Belle Moms will be wearing nametags.
2. The Belle Moms will "place" you. They will tell you where you need to be and what to do. You may pass out programs, take tickets, and help people find their seats.
3. Be polite and smile. Be courteous to other Belles, Belle Moms and especially the PUBLIC!
4. No Gum or Cell Phones are allowed. NO BOYFRIENDS.
5. The doors to the concert hall are closed once the concert begins. Late comers are seated between songs so as not to disturb the musicians.
6. The Symphony personnel will tell the Belle Moms when you may leave. It is usually about 15 to 20 minutes after the concert has started and everyone has been seated
7. The Belle Moms will sign you out. Please make sure that you have arranged to be picked up. The Belle Moms will stay until everyone has left, but out of consideration for the Belle Moms – please make sure that your "ride" is on time.
8. If you are "attending" a concert, make sure that you sign in on that sheet and send your Class Mom the concert certification form found in the Belle Handbook.
9. If you are unable to attend your assigned time to work, you must find a replacement and notify your Class Mom prior to the concert.

Your benefits from participating in this program will include learning to volunteer exposure to the symphony and the art community, public relations and many friendships.

**CREDITS**

To be presented as a Senior Belle, each Belle is required to have completed 15 credits from placement assignments and other required duties by the end of the Junior year. Juniors that have completed their 15 credits may work additional Concerts, Concert Hospitality, Decorations, etc for the Texas Scholar or Legacy Hours but not until their 15 credits have been completed.

**POLICIES FOR THE BELLE BALL:**

The Midland Symphony Guild has developed our Belle Ball as a gift to their daughters. It was created as a "Thank You" for our Belle's service to the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale and their philanthropic commitment to the community.



Scott Long – Sponsorship Chairman for MOSC Board

Thank you MSG for your contributions. MSG is the largest donor for the MOSC. The MOSC raised \$111,000 and was short \$14,000 for the year 2007-2008. This year was a 13 year record for sponsorship funding. The MOSC is working towards growth of sponsorship to be able to move the organization in 2011 to the Noel Building.

Presidents Report:

We have a quorum today.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Pam Morphew, Lois Folger seconded, motion passed membership.

Letter from Terry Wagner read to Guild about a Freshman couple invited to Belle Ball and not allowed in the front door. There is an unwritten rule that Freshman can't be guests to the Belle Ball. Elizabeth Davenport stated that she had contacted the guest couple. This is not in the by-laws and needs to be written in the yearbook for the MSG.

Please volunteer as a TASO Representative to attend the Texas Association of Orchestras in Houston on May 3 and 4, 2008.

Storage for the MSG is currently costing \$8,000. We will be voting on cheaper and better storage in the April meeting.

President Elect – Galen Haynes

A member of the MSG has been invited to attend the Jewel Ball on November 1, 2008. The presentation fee is \$2,750. The MSG would pay \$2,000 for the member attending the Ball. The person attending would be a Sophomore, Junior or Senior in College. The parents would have to be active or patron members of MSG. The deadline for the paperwork is March 15, 2008 and it is a memorable event.

Elizabeth Burleson – Belle Vice President

Elizabeth Burleson couldn't attend the meeting so Galen Haynes presented the following:

I make a move that the Midland Symphony Guild Bylaws, Page 82 under Standing Rules,

VII. Nominating Slate Responsibilities,

A. Executive Committee

Be changed to: The Nominating Committee shall prepare a single slate for the offices of President Elect, Belle VP Elect, Community VP Elect, Financial VP Elect, Membership VP Elect, Projects VP Elect, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary.

B. Nominating Committee

Be changed to: The Nominating Committee shall prepare a single slate of five candidates for the incoming Nominating Committee to be elected at the April General Meeting.

Rationale: The two Elect positions were left off as a typo and the Guild has suspended the May General meetings.

Motion passed.

Financial VP – Pam Morphew

We received \$110,000 for Gala weekend and spent \$70,000. Profit was \$40,000.

There was a drop of \$25,000 in sponsorship tables from 2006-2007 year.

Membership VP - Libby Laughlin

I move that we increase membership dues to \$50 for Member-In-Training and Active Members.

Rationale: 1. Dues were set a number of years ago at \$25 per year.

2. Raffle tickets were part of the annual dues at \$25 per year.

3. We no longer have the raffle so an increase of \$25 per year to the dues.

Motion passed membership.

Membership packets are available as you leave.

Kellie Hooper – On behalf of Belle Vice President

I move that the following changes will be adopted for the Belle Ball for 2009:

a. Limit the attendees to Belle & Date.

b. Increase the number of Chaperones & Police to be determined by the Belle VP and committee.

c. Belle must be up to date on their service credits.

d. Contracts to include breath tests to be signed by parent, Belle & guest who attend the Ball.

e. Midland Police Department (and Belle father) Officer Howard will attend the

Belle Orientation Meetings and speak about the consequences of alcohol at the

Belle Ball to assure there will be no surprises.

Rationale:

1. The Belle Ball was created as a "thank you" to our Belles for doing their service to the MOSC and the Community Organizations. As of today, the majority of the Belles are not completing their assigned duties.

2. Limiting the amount of attendees will allow us, the adults, to keep a better watch over our attendees.

3. We were embarrassed by the behavior of the attendees who behaved badly and rather than cancel the Ball we felt we could give the Belles an opportunity to improve.

After much discussion, Pam Morphew seconded. Motion passed membership.

Breathalyzer costs are included in the budget, however more police are needed. Amendment was made to strike random testing and make it mandatory for all Belles. Susan Shapiro asked for an amendment that a Belle and 3 guests be allowed to Belle Ball. Karen Pittenger seconded, the motion failed to pass membership.

Jami Haest – MIT

Nominees for 2008 Executive Board are as follows:

President – Galen Haynes, President Elect – Cynthia (Beth) Warren, Co-Finance Vice Presidents – Pam Morphew & Brenda Riley, Co-Belle Vice

Presidents – Kellie Hooper & Liz Sevcik, Community VP – Melissa White, Project VP – Dana Schimcek, Corresponding VP – Debbie Spinks,

Recording Secretary – Lois Folger, Membership VP – Libby Laughlin

President - Jan St. Hilaire

We will be hosting the National Young Competition in Midland. It is for the orchestra, strings and wind instruments. Please pick up membership packets as you leave.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by Vicky Anwar – Recording Secretary