

SOMERSET AUXILIARY  
of the  
JOHNSTOWN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Somerset Auxiliary of the JSO met on Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 12:30 pm at the Somerset Country Club. Members present were Janet Black, Syd Bowersox, Mike Cascio, Leslie Custer, Becki Dickey, Mindy Forry, Sam Hanson, Bob Hanson, Gary Hofmaster, Ruth Hofmaster, Pat Hofscher, Louise Majesky, Teresa Marafino, Dennis McNair, Beth Pile, Gay Reed, Don Reed, Eleanor Schrock, Jane Sotomayor, John Sotomayor, and Jeanne Wagle.

President Gay Reed opened the meeting at 12:45 pm and provided three December birthday cards to be signed and mailed, as well as a new list of member birthdays. A motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting as emailed was made and seconded. Bob Hanson, Treasurer, gave his monthly report, which included a total of \$150 in O'Sheas chocolates sold. \$300 is the break-even point for the candy sales. Gay encouraged members to continue to buy and sell chocolates. She also asked that members make a list of vendors and ideas for next year's Taste of the Laurel Highlands. Bob detailed other contributions and sales. He noted that once everything clears, including the \$10,000 check to the JSO, there will be \$1,045 in our SAJSO account.

Treasurer Bob Hanson reminded us that a photographer from the Daily American was scheduled for the presentation of our \$10,000 check to the JSO--proceeds from our Taste of the Laurel Highlands. Photographs were taken at the end of the meeting with Dennis McNair, past JSO Board president, accepting a giant check replica on behalf of the JSO. A photo appeared in the Saturday Dec. 5 edition of the Daily American.

Teresa Marafino, JSO Board & new SAJSO member, announced that lottery tickets in packets of five and 10 are available. 500 tickets will be sold to earn \$3,000 for the JSO. There will be 62 chances for participating gamblers to win money in the month of March; money and stubs go to Teresa.

Pat Hofscher, Orchestra Manager, described the upcoming Christmas concert on Dec 12, which includes a piece for Chanukah and new pieces not played before, but no dancers this year. A press conference for the guest conductor, Joshua Zona, precedes the concert. Also, the JSO Inclined to Sing children's group will perform for Christmas the morning after the concert. Pat Hofscher added that Joshua Zona is a big advocate of youth education and training-- more so than the previous candidates. She added that we need to do more to bring in new auxiliary members with children who are growing up in music.

Some time was spent on the idea of reviving the Da Capo fundraiser held for many years in Somerset. Da Capo means "from the beginning" in musical jargon. The event started

as a means to raise money for the youth connection of the JSO, providing budding musicians a chance to be heard. It was decided to change the name of the event and schedule it for April. Teresa Marafino, owner/ manager of Green Gables Restaurant, offered April 10 as an available date at Green Gables, to include lunch. Some members volunteered to be on a committee to work on the event.

Monies were collected for our Sunshine Basket drawing. Beckie Dickey brought a Christmas plant and it was won by Jane Sotomayor.

Members decided that our next meeting will be at Coal Miner's Cafe on Jan. 7, 2016 at 12:30pm. Kings & Queens for February and Laurel Mountain Inn for March also were chosen.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Hofmaster,  
Recording Secretary.