

SOMERSET AUXILIARY
of the
JOHNSTOWN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Somerset Auxiliary of the JSO met on **Thursday, May 5, 2016** at 12:30 pm in the spacious and bright **Indian Lake Golf Club** dining room. 23 people were present including Sharyn Spinelli, JSOA President, Joan Moss, member JSOA, Teresa Marafino, proprietor Green Gables & SAJSO member, and guests John and Wanda Byrne and Bob Wagle.

President Gay Reed opened the meeting at 12:40 pm, exclaiming what a great group we have today! And there is a nice buffet set up for us. She wanted to have this meeting here at the Golf Club where our upcoming golf tournament fund-raiser will be held on May 13. A motion to approve the Minutes from the last meeting as emailed was made and seconded. Treasurer Bob Hanson read his report and subsequently emailed the Treasurer's and Register Reports for April to members. Bob reiterated that we need to continue our efforts to attract new members and outsiders to our auxiliary, concerts and events. It is not enough to be self-sustaining. We need outside contributors and donors.

Volunteer sign-up sheets were passed around for the JSO Mother's Day Concert and the Golf Tournament. Volunteers for the concert are asked to appear between 1-1:30 pm, as people come early to the 2:30 performance. There is still time for Tee signs to be purchased for display at the golf tournament. We now have two signs accounted for at \$150 each from Don Reed Howard Hanna and Fike, Cascio & Booze. A Chevy Cruze from Kenny Ross will be on hand for the hole-in-one winner. Teresa Marafino reported that 421 tickets were sold for the March Madness fund-raiser totaling \$4,210, with \$200 in prizes awarded and \$2,210 in profit made for the JSO! It was noted that almost all our O'Shea's chocolate bars have been sold and Sharyn Spinelli brought more to sell on Mother's Day, Sunday.

Vice President, Beth Pile described the upcoming concert on May 14. It is the last concert of the season and the final competition for a new JSO maestro. Beth told us that Exec. Dir. Rob Hudson (who was not at the meeting) was impressed with this month's guest conductor, Diane Wittry, describing her as proper and businesslike. She will be welcomed here next week with a very busy schedule of press conferences, meet and greets and social events. JSO Principal Cellist Olga Redkina will be the soloist for the Tchaikovsky Variations, and a very difficult piece it is! Wagner and Brahms are also on the program.

In answers to questions, Beth Pile stated that the competing conductors submit the

pieces they expect to present, possibly subject to change. Also, behind-the-scenes and social interaction between the conductors and players is crucial in the process of choosing a permanent maestro for the JSO. Beth added that the JSO Community Strings are performing this night in Davidsville.

Sharon Spinelli, JSOA president, described the packed schedule prepared for the upcoming conductor to attend before the concert. Also, the next JSOA meeting will be at the Holiday Inn on May 12. Joan Moss, JSOA member and committee chairperson, was thrilled by the enthusiasm and success of our group (thank you, Joan) and described the Wine Tasting fundraiser coming up on June 3, where there will be games and prizes, and there is a Poinsettia sale. Also they are considering a new venue for the JSOA Fashion Show as the country club lacks sufficient space. Beth Pile and Daryl Jones were models this year from our group. And importantly, the JSO Opera Festival held yearly in September will be replaced by a Gala featuring JSO and band performances -- all at the Pasquerilla Center.

Monies were collected in the Sunshine Basket. Kathy Picking brought this month's gift, a hanging basket of bright yellow Begonias, won by Leslie Custer. Our **next meeting** will take place at the **Somerset Country Club, June 2 at 12:30 p.m.** The meeting was adjourned. Lunch followed by a lovely salad & wraps buffet with pastries & coffee.

Sincerely, Ruth Hofmaster, Recording Secretary.