Ladies of WPM:

We wanted to get this information to you in a timely manner.  More details will follow in a Newsletter from Karen and myself later this week.

We did decide to **cancel** the Fall rehearsals and December concert.  We relied heavily on your input from the surveys—the majority felt we should not rehearse even with COVID-19 precautions in place and that we should not hold a Christmas concert.  We have an “at-risk" population, both within our choir and within our concert attendees.  The fact that today was the highest incidence of positive tests in the state of Wisconsin certainly showed us that this virus is not going away any time soon.

You do not need to pay Fall semester membership dues.  We would ask that if you did not pay yet from spring, that you would be so kind as to contribute $50.00 for the entire year.  Please send check to our WPM mailbox:  PO Box 613; Wausau, WI 54402.

We did cancel the Fall contracts with Karen and Tatiana; they will be paid 1 month’s compensation as per the exception clause in their contracts.  Karen has graciously agreed to help with the zoom meetings and to start working on the Spring repertoire voluntarily.

There are many ramifications with cancelling—more details will be forthcoming in the Newsletter.

The Board will meet again on August 18.  We will offer monthly 1-hour zoom meetings for the entire membership the 3rd Tuesday of the month starting in September (Sept 15 would be the first one).  Dixie, Karen and Barb formed a subcommittee to plan the zoom meetings; we hope many of you will participate.

If any of you have any other ideas as to how we can keep the WPM sense of community, please let Dixie, Karen or one of the Board members know.  We value each and every one of you; we want to continue to encourage and support you without being intrusive.  Please reach out to one of your WPM sisters from time to time; there are many who have recently suffered losses and would benefit from an email, card or phone call.

This is a time for our organization to rise to the challenges we are presented with.  Since our main goal is singing together and that is not possible right now, can we rely on the bonds we have formed over the years and the commitment to moving forward once this pandemic is over?  Can we take individual responsibility for keeping our voices strong so when we can meet again Karen can build on what Judy has done with us over the past several years?  Can we “make music together” without physically being together?  Can we continue to keep invested in our organization? (The fact that so many of you filled out the surveys tells me “yes”!).

Look for a Newsletter hopefully Friday of this week.  Board minutes will be published on our website next week.  Even though we had to make difficult decisions, the Board was unified and we feel confident that we did what was best for everyone involved.  Despite the circumstances, we are planning for the future when we can all be together in “The Room Where It Happens”  (Just couldn’t resist the “Hamilton” reference ).

Dixie Hettinga

Board President

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**Wausau** ***Pro Musica***