



President's Message



Dear HSLBA Members:

What is the status of HSLBA? As you know, meetings and programs are suspended due to COVID-19 protection criteria required by the Houston Symphony organization. We cannot reasonably predict when we would be able to meet again -- anymore than we can receive assurance when the world will have protection from this dreadful virus.

The HSLBA mission has consistently been to provide music education programs in the schools and to assure that 5th grade students in CCISD could attend a live performance of the Houston Symphony Orchestra. These programs are also "On-hold."

The Houston Symphony Orchestra is experiencing some very difficult financial times. They had barely recovered from the devastating flood damage from Harvey, when they were hit by COVID-19: contractually-required musician expenses, suspended performances. . . and reduced fund raising activities!

This situation has led to some decisions that have affected HSLBA finances. Funds in our operating account (composed primarily of dues and used to pay performers, hold events, etc.) have always been "swept" into the general accounts of the Symphony at the end of each fiscal year (June 1). This year, the Symphony also found it necessary to sweep funds in our Education Account to Symphony general funds. Funds in our Education Account were composed of those from our Home Tour, gifts and grants. These funds had historically not been swept at the beginning of each fiscal year, rather allowed to accumulate (and used only for educational purposes). This means our education account no longer exists. Like any business, the Symphony has every right to move funds as needed.

The Symphony provided funding in our operating account (\$5000); however, must approve all spending requests -- of any type or at any

level.

HSLBA membership, even before COVID-19, has steadily declined over the past several years as has our ability to raise funds. The last several HSLBA Boards have explored various ways to create interest and new members. We are not the only long-time organization in the Clear Lake area to have experienced a membership decline.

We would not have been able to have a Home Tour in 2020 regardless of health concerns. Homeowners have become very "risk-averse" and unwilling to have their homes on the tour. We could not get homes! The Home Tour has been an HSLBA Bay Area event for the past 30+ years!

Your board is also taking some cost-cutting measures and have decided that rental of a storage unit can be canceled. Board members are continuing to evaluate the viability of the organization for the future and we will keep you informed as things arise

I hope this message answers some of your questions about HSLBA and our status.

Sincerely,

Vicki Buxton, President

In Deepest Sympathy - William Whipkey



We have received word that William ("Bill") Whipkey has passed away in Nevada. He recently moved there to be close to his sister and his family. Bill was a devoted member of HSLBA for many years, a great supporter of the Home Tour and the Ima Hogg competition. He was also a beloved member of the tenor section of HSLBA's Note-Ables singing group. He will be greatly missed!

2020-2021 New Officers

Vicki Buxton, President
Brenda Hart, President Elect
Alice Steele, VP Programs
Jim Moore, VP Membership
Betty Stacy, VP Education
Jane Lackow, VP Finance
Linda Heausler, VP Development
Martha McWilliams, VP Communications
Betty Stoub, Recording Secretary
Dana Puddy, Corresponding Secretary
Roxanne Cheatham, Nominating Committee Chairman
Members, Natalie Ong, Ernie McWilliams
Pat Biddle, Historian
Nina McGlashan, Parliamentarian

Help Using the Online Directory

HSLBA Member Directory

The HSLBA Member Directory is now available on-line. Links to the directory itself and to another page that will help you understand how to access the new directory. To use these, place your cursor over the link and click it (you may have to press the Ctrl key or the Alt key at the same time). Click on both links and you will have access to both. Click on the tabs at the top of your screen to switch back and forth between the Directory and Help. If you have any questions, please email Jim Moore at jmoore1941@att.net or call at (281) 461-3623

Link to Directory: [HSLBA Member Directory](#)

Link to Help: [Directory Help](#)



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