



## Board of Directors Slate of Nominees / Election Ballot

2-year term (2022-2024)

### **President (vote for 1)**

☐ **Paul Foltz**

Seeking the office of President of the Board of Directors of the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus

#### Experience and Qualifications:

I am a founding member of the Chorus and have been involved with it since 1987. My main work for and with the Board of the Chorus started with my Chairmanship of the Production Committee, one of the Standing Committees of the organization. I continued in that position for the next 12 years until I chose to relinquish the job. My formal service as a board member, started in 2008 when I was elected as President, an office I filled for the next four years until 2012. During these years I demonstrated my abilities in the management of the Chorus and in the performance the duties of the Office of President. With the support of the Board and members, while David Walker was artistic director, we expanded the regular Chorus Concert season to include small themed and seasonal Cabarets, we broadened our performance outreach to new venues, to new events (singing at the Governor's Mansion for the Holiday Tour Walk) and to new cities in the tri-county area. We inaugurated and developed the Voices United annual Pride concert. I developed and led the Search Committee that brought on Dr. Adam Gustafson as our 5<sup>th</sup> Artistic Director and spearheaded the discussion that empowered the membership to include the word "Gay" into the proper title of the organization. Outside of the organization, I have worked for over 40 years as the resident costume designer for Theatre Harrisburg which also has provided wardrobe and props to the chorus. For 20 years I worked as the founding artistic director of Lily White and Co., a gender transgressive performance troupe that raised funds for HIV/AIDS Patient support.

#### Proposed talents and benefits to be provided to the chorus by my being in this office:

Shortly after Chris announced that he would not stand for reelection, I was asked by a member if I would run for the presidency. My initial reaction was "no way, been there, done that, we need someone new and younger in the role." I continued, however, to think about the suggestion, and the work the chorus will have to do over the next two years. This is going to be a period of major change for the chorus: we need to secure a new artistic director, we need to examine our membership policies and how we will find new members, or who can even be a part of this chorus, our relationship within the greater LGBTQ+ community as well as our relationship within our central Pennsylvania regional community. These are not going to be easy questions to answer or decisions to implement. They will require a great deal of conversation and a willingness to be innovative. David Payne in his introduction speech at the most recent concerts said that age doesn't necessarily bring wisdom, but it does give perspective. I believe that I have the needed perspective that can help this chorus navigate the decisions and the discussions and the innovations that need to occur over the next two years so that the chorus continues to thrive for years to come.

☐ **Floor Nominee (Write-in)** \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations can be made from the floor. The nominee must be present and must accept the nomination (if not self-nominated) before voting commences.



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### **Secretary (vote for 1)**

☐ **Robb Papapietro**

I, Robb Papapietro, have been a member of the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus since September 2001. I have been an active member for 21 years. I currently serve as Board Secretary and I submit myself as a candidate for a second term as Board Secretary.

I have also served on the Board of the Chorus in the past as both a Member at Large and Treasurer.

I am currently on the Board of the Central PA Pride Festival serving as its Executive Vice President.

I was employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since December 1999 and retired as a Paralegal with the Department of State on July 14, 2018 with 23 years service. I was also active with AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) and was a union steward. I have also served 3 terms as Local 3130 Treasurer, 1 term as Vice President and 1 term as President. I also served one term on the Board of Council 13 in the position of Trustee.

I was an active duty member of the United States Air Force 1985-1995 and the PA Air National Guard 1995-2015. I retired from the military August 31, 2015 with 30 years, 8 months service.

☐ **Floor Nominee (Write-in)** \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Directors-at-Large (vote for up to 3)**

☐ **Marlene Kanuck**

Marlene Kanuck worked at the Department of Education, Safe Schools for almost 26 years at which time she collaborated with Common Roads, a program under the LGBT Center. This collaboration resulted in the earliest workshops in Pennsylvania that trained over 600 school personnel on Safe Schools for LGBT youth. In 2004, Marlene was part of the strategic planning group that created a framework for a gay and lesbian center. She was on the original LGBT Center of Central PA board that formed in 2006 and served on the board until 2014. Prior to the Center, she served on the boards of both Common Roads and the LGBT Community Coalition. Marlene was honored to receive the Center's FAB award in 2015.

Marlene served on many Boards serving the LGBT community including Vice President of the CPWC Board for 12 years. It was Marlene who suggested the idea to the Womyn's Chorus that she would like to serve on the HGMC Board as a liaison between the two choruses. She has served in this capacity for ten years. In this role, Marlene took responsibility for Voices United in 2019 so coordination for the event would be smooth and collaborative. The collaboration worked out well with a very successful event.

In 2018, as Chair of Hershey Indivisible Team, a non-partisan progressive organization, I presented a LGBTQ non-discrimination resolution to the Derry Township Supervisors. This resolution provided for non-discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. The resolution passed unanimously.

In January 2022, I joined The Foundation for Enhancing Communities Board specifically to bring awareness of the LGBT Community to the TFEC Board.

During the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert season, I chaired the Silent Auction which raised over \$2000. And with matching donations acquired by Chris the total for the Silent Auction was over \$5000. During this time, I also was able to acquire a TV spot on Good Day PA for June 23, 2022 and a spot for the HGMC to sing at Hershey Pride on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Personally, I believe I bring strong networking skills to the HGMC Board, not only between HGMC and CPWC, but also with Keystone Business Alliance and the LGBT Center. I believe that I have the experience needed to be a contributing member of the HGMC board. Most importantly, I would like to see the HGMC grow into its fullest potential.

One of the new goals on which the HGMC Board decided during Strategic Planning is growing the membership and audience to include folks from the minority communities. I believe I will be able to help implement this goal. I hope I can count on your vote. Thank you.



## Board of Directors Slate of Nominees / Election Ballot

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### **Directors-at-Large (vote for up to 3)** (Continued)

#### ☐ **Lawrence Turner**

I'm interested in continuing on the board to help further the mission of diversity and musical artistry in Central Pennsylvania.

HGMC is my 4th GALA Chorus having sung in the past with San Diego Gay Men's Chorus (version 1.0), Oakland Gay Men's Chorus and The Northwest Queer Chorus. We all have choices in what we do with our recreational and volunteer time; I think that singing is a great way to keep your mind active and it soothes your soul. Besides, it's fun.

My previous chorus board experience includes:

- Oakland Gay Men's Chorus - member at large, 2013
- Oakland Gay Men's Chorus - President: 2014 - 2018
- Northwest Queer Chorus - Treasurer 2020

Additionally I have served in leadership capacities in other not for profit organizations:

- Gay Youth Alliance of San Diego, various board positions, 1988 - 1994
- San Diego Aids Foundation - board member, 1990-1992
- Lesbian and Gay Center of San Diego, board member, 1992- 1994
- Mount Laguna Improvement Association (municipal water board), board secretary, 2004 - 2008

I feel that we can only improve our organizations with diverse leadership and broad experience. I believe that I can offer both to HGMC over the next two years.

A native of rural Northern California, I have extensive experience in IT where most of my career has focused on Healthcare and emerging technology. Having worked for large healthcare corporations in my 20's and early 30's, I returned to my hometown of Fort Bragg, CA to serve as CIO of Mendocino Coast District Hospital for a decade. After a long stint in IT I traded my computer in for an office that was based in a 4-wheel drive truck where I served as Director of Conservation for the Mendocino Land Trust. There I worked directly with fundraising and increasing the Trust's land portfolio. In just a few short years with the land trust, I added 50,000 acres of redwood forests, ranch land and coastal open-space of conserved land to MLT's landscapes. I was also successful in fundraising through land and property donation to the organization netting over \$1M in personal property donations to the organization in 2021.

Opportunity beckoned me Eastward to Harrisburg in 2021. I purchased a home here after a careful consideration of multiple locations - Harrisburg provided the right combination of access to services and society as well as an ability to get to rural and open spaces. One of my additional requirements for relocation was proximity to a GALA chorus - i remembered hearing Susquehanna at GALA Festival in Colorado; knowing that HGMC was here moved the location to the top of my list for consideration and ultimately relocation. I think that there is tremendous opportunity here for both personal growth as well as contribution to the chorus. I look forward to contributing in making HGMC a continued stable organization into the future in Central PA.

#### ☐ **Floor Nominee (Write-in)** \_\_\_\_\_

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