

What's involved in being on the BCCF Board?

The BCCF Board comprises representatives from across the province who come together in person or by electronic means three times a year. Their job is to represent BCCF to their choirs at home, to bring the concerns of their choir to the attention of BCCF, to gather news of choir activities for the Newsletter and to facilitate at least one BCCF event in their region each year.

We hope that all Board members will have been individual BCCF members for some time, and are receiving the Newsletter. However, if you're new to BCCF, or have been a member of a member choir, you may only have seen the Newsletter in passing or online: www.bcchoralfed.com/about/newsletter We see the Newsletter as being one of the primary benefits of membership. All Board members receive copies of the Newsletter to distribute.

The Newsletter includes:

- reports from member choirs (and some non-members). These may be written by regional representatives, or solicited by them from the choirs themselves.
- a Concert Calendar - we rely on Board members to get us this information, or to ensure that choirs enter it themselves.
- Newsletter items, which can come into the BCCF office at any time.

Who's involved?

- There are twenty board members who have specific responsibility for representing their geographic areas
- There are seven members-at-large, most of whom have specific responsibilities on the Executive
- There are appointed members, e.g. the Youth representative and the Chorifest coordinator
- Staff members are Willi Zwozdesky (Executive Director), Anita Lindsay (Administrator) and Brigid Coult (Project Manager), These three have their fingers on the pulse of the BCCF and are our first line resource persons.

Regional Representation

Six of the regional representatives cover the MetroVancouver/Whistler region; another three cover Victoria and South Vancouver Island. Effectively, they form their own Regional Councils, working as a team to communicate with members and to create events. All other regions (N. Vancouver Island, Lower Fraser Valley, Upper Fraser Valley, NW BC, NE BC, South and North Okanagan, Kamloops/Cariboo, and the Kootenays) have solo representatives, but we encourage the formation of Regional Councils in all areas. A Regional Council might comprise three or four people, perhaps with different areas of speciality (e.g. children's choirs, community choirs, church choirs), or perhaps chosen by geographic location. A Regional Council can

- help solicit news and concert information from choirs in your area
- help to organize an event of some sort
- give feed-back on what the BCCF can do for an area
- be a source of alternate representation when a Board member has to miss a Board meeting
- help identify a possible successor when a Board member decides to step down

Funds are available to each Regional Council for use in communication, for meetings and other needs. Board members apply to the BCCF office for these funds, keeping track of how they are used.

When are the meetings?

Full Board meetings happen three times a year:

- End of September/early October
- End of January
- At Chorifest in May

The cost of your travel is paid to meetings, and an overnight stay - there is a \$100 limit for food and lodging. Travel and lodging is also paid in May for Board members who are registered for Chorifest and who are attending both AGM and the subsequent Board meeting. September and January meetings generally take place in Richmond, on a Saturday - 10am-4pm, with lunch provided; the May meeting takes place wherever Chorifest is happening, and is usually a breakfast meeting. If a Board member is unable to attend a meeting, we ask that an alternate is briefed as fully as possible.

For each meeting we ask that regional reps bring three copies of a regional report to the fall/January meetings. Reps are asked to speak briefly to their reports. Full reports appear in the next Newsletter. Reports sent electronically are always appreciated by Exec Director and Newsletter Editor Willi Zwozdesky.

So what do I actually have to do?

The primary role of a BCCF regional representative is as communicator - how that happens is individual choice. Some regional reps establish a regular email contact with choirs in their area; others prefer to do it by phone or in person.

We want to hear about

- concerts - both concerts that have happened, and upcoming; the latter should be on the Concert Calendar with all the Who/What/When/Where information
- news - is there a new choir director in your area? is something wonderful happening in schools? are choirs sharing concerts?
- concerns - what's most needed in your area? voice workshops? management workshops? a singing Day for men, or women or children?
- choir library lists, for the Choral Library Database

What sort of events can I offer in my region?

The following have all proved popular:

- Voice workshops - for men, for women, for mixed choir
- A Singing Day with a theme: perhaps church music, vocal jazz, spirituals or one main work
- Choir management workshops - general purpose, or possibly with a specific focus, for instance, financial stuff, library listings, publicity, legal issues
- A day for children - boy or girls or mixed - or for youth
- Invite a choir from somewhere else to do an evening concert and a workshop the next day
- Gather as many local choirs as possible, and have a Parade of Choirs

So how do I get to be on the BCCF Board?

We elect Board members on two year-terms. Check your region to see whether your regional rep is in mid-term or coming to the end of their term. Contact them; if they're mid-term they may be glad to hear of a possible Board-member-in-training, and work with you in a regional council. If their term is ending they may be willing to nominate you and orientate you as well.

To be nominated to the BCCF Board you need to

- Be an individual member in good standing
- Find a nominator and two seconders, who are also either members in good standing, or the President of a member choir
- Complete the nominating form and mail it in to the BCCF office, for the attention of the Nominating Committee
- Come to Chorfest!

If more than one person is nominated from a region we will first try to find out if it can be resolved by the formation of a regional council and the co-operation of all concerned; failing that, we have to go back to that region and try to determine the will of local BCCF members.

Members at Large have specific responsibilities, either on the Executive or for particular specialities; if you feel you have something to offer here, please contact the Nominating Committee. However, those people are usually drawn from Board members with several years experience serving BCCF

For further information on BCCF Board, please contact
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