

THE OPERA VOLUNTEER VOICE

December 2019
Vol. 43, Number 5

The official newsletter of
*Opera Volunteers
International*

Next issue:
January

Advance Conference Registration pricing runs through December 6

*You are invited to attend the next OVI / Opera America
conference to be held in Seattle on May 13 - 16*

Seattle Opera Conference May 2020

Register at: conference.operaamerica.org

Conference site Hyatt Regency Seattle

OVI 2 day Pass (May 14 - 15) accesses OPERA America sessions and OVI events including breakout sessions and OVI board meeting.

Members at the grantor level can attend a special grantor's reception. Add-on options include our Awards Dinner (or brunch), OPERA America's 50th Anniversary Gala, and Seattle Opera's performance of *La Boheme*.

You can always delay add-ons, opera tickets, and hotel room booking (subject to availability), but if you are planning on attending the conference in Seattle you should do so now to lock in the best price.

See: [OA conference page](#). Full event details will be in our February issue.

OPERA America's 50th annual Opera Conference returns to where it all began. In 1970, the visionary leaders of America's mid-sized opera companies convened in Seattle to found OPERA America.

The 2020 conference celebrates fifty years of industry achievements and addresses issues of the next half century. Over 750 administrators, artists, trustees and other industry leaders are expected for the largest gathering of opera professionals in North America.

The conference offers inspiring general sessions, informative breakout sessions, social events, and engaging performances. This year's conference will also feature a special 50th anniversary party with tributes, dinner and dancing (additional fee).

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#1 holiday hack:

When you shop at
smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.



Hyatt Regency

room rate \$229

Book Room



From the President: *Susan Malott*



It is that time of year when our schedules speed towards years end. Many of us have been in “opera mode” with seasons in full swing or attendance of the Met Live in HD

performances; and soon it will be 2020, so this is our last few days to make the most of things.

First on my list is to thank you for all your efforts on behalf of opera and thank you for renewing your membership to OVI. Together we are connecting people through music. If you have not yet submitted your OVI renewal, you can do so by mail or on our website. Renewing at the grantor level helps fund our very important matching grants program and grants you the privilege to attend a special reception at the opera conference. Your opera group should also keep up their membership to ensure that they are eligible for our grants assistance and other perks.

Remember that *any* member of guilds that belong to OVI is also eligible to take advantage of our reduced rate for the OPERA America conference in Seattle this May.

Don't miss the opportunity to take advantage of some key OVI benefits to help your group and honor your members. Deadlines approaching on February 1 are **grant requests, Projects of Special Merit submissions, and nominations of people, groups or accomplishments through our Partners in Excellence program.** Full details can be found on the OVI website.

I wish all of you a wonderful holiday and look forward to seeing many of you at our conference in Seattle this spring.

Thank you,

Susan Malott

Upcoming Deadlines

December 31
2019/2020 Membership renewal

Our Membership Year began on October 1. To be assured inclusion in our 2019-2020 membership book be sure that you and your membership group have renewed this month.

Membership renewals can be submitted by mail or on line at the OVI website. [Join/Renew OVI Membership](#)

February 1
Matching Grants applications
Partner in Excellence submissions
Projects of Special Merit submissions

December 6
Advance conference registration

February 29
Early bird conference registration

Please Send Me Your Newsletters:

I am always looking for articles and photos of the people and the activities of our OVI member groups. Can you please add me to your guild's mailing list so that OVI can share your accomplishments and ideas?

Email to: newsletter@operavolunteers.org

Or contact me for my mailing address. Rick

Sneak Peak



What centrally located city in the United States has one of the finest opera companies in the world, major museums, stunning architecture, and an arts scene that simply does not stop?

Hint: It is also noted for a cow, a lantern and a fire.

I am sure you have guessed by now that Chicago will be the site of our **OVI 2020 Fall Focus Meeting.**

We are waiting for the 2020-21 opera season announcements to determine the best dates for our meeting, but we wanted to let you know so you can make Chicago part of your 2020 plans. Most likely timeframe will place our long weekend somewhere between mid-October and mid-November.

----- Find us on the internet at www.OperaVolunteers.org -----

How does OVI help you to help opera?

Opera Volunteers International currently has thirty-nine member groups (e.g. guilds) in opera companies throughout North America. Each group and our many individual members have made a commitment to take actions to help extend the worldwide reach of opera and guarantee its survival. We are the patrons who have gone much further than simply writing check.

The extent to which you, our members, support opera are many and varied, depending on your abilities, your experience and most of all, the needs of your opera company. We come from many different backgrounds, but we are joined by the one thing that we have in common, and that is our passion for this art form.

OVI is here to provide you with resources and ideas in our newsletter and on our website. We help you launch fledgling programs through our annual **Matching Grants Program**. We acknowledge your groups and help you recognize outstanding members through our **Partners in Excellence Awards**. We share your **Projects of Special Merit** and achievements with other members to inspire them to create their own initiatives. We advocate for you through our association with **OPERA America** and represent you at the annual conference. We remind opera companies how much more they can do and be with a strong volunteer presence.

OVI meets as a group twice a year, once in spring in conjunction with the OPERA America conference and usually in the fall at our annual Focus Meeting. This is an opportunity to see opera performances, experience a different part of the country, meet opera company administrative and artistic personnel, learn about opera-related issues the company of other dedicated volunteers.

Because you are dedicated to opera, we are dedicated to you.

Resources on the OVI Website:

www.operavolunteers.org

You can use our OVI website to:

Renew membership, apply for matching grants and awards, locate other member opera support groups and opera companies.

There is also a Resources for Volunteers area where you can find:

On Line Resources

Links to information sources to help your volunteer activities

On-line Booklets from OVI

Recruiting and Training the New Generation of Opera Volunteers

How to Form an Opera Guild

An Opera Boutique

Good Ideas Fundraising Projects

Recognizing and Honoring Volunteers

Tips from other member groups on ways to acknowledge your members.

OVI Newsletter Archives ideas and articles from past issues

----- *Like us on Facebook to join the conversation!* -----

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Address Correction Requested

Send your guild news and photos to
Newsletter Editor and Publisher:

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newsletter@operavolunteers.org

Find us on the internet at
www.OperaVolunteers.org

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! RESERVE NOW FOR BEST PRICE



MAY 13-16, 2020 · SEATTLE

**Register by December 6
to save!**

Pricing for OVI 2 day Pass

Advance (by Dec 6) \$295

Early-Bird (by Feb 29) \$320

Standard (by Apr 30) \$345

OVI 2 DAY PASS (May 14 - 15)

Advance registration for the full conference is also available at similar savings

For more information see page one or go to :

conference.operaamerica.org