

SFWE Mission: To present adventurous programming in live and online performances, commission new music for treble voices, and engage in community outreach and education.

SFWE History

Known for its artistic excellence, SFWE's 16-20 singers fine-tune their musical skills under the superb direction of Dr. Linda Raney. The 2023-2024 concerts in Winter and Spring marks SFWE's 43rd season as one of the oldest choral groups in Santa Fe. SFWE premieres contemporary works it has commissioned. There have been forty-one (41) new compositions added to the repertory for women's voices.

SFWE is a small, non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Concert sales account for a relatively small percentage of its budget. Grants from New Mexico Arts, generous contributions from individual donors and business sponsors, and annual fund-raising efforts, comprise the rest of the budget. SFWE employs a part-time music director and contracts with an administrative assistant and accompanist as well as other occasional musicians.

Formed in 1981, SFWE was the first group to perform in the historic Loretto Chapel since the Sisters of Loretto last sang there in the 1950s. Other performance venues have included the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, and the First Presbyterian Church. SFWE also offers outreach concerts for residential care facilities and other organizations. SFWE has performed throughout Europe with tours of Italy (2008), Spain (2013), and the British Isles (2018).

In 2012, SFWE received the national award for Adventurous Programming by Chorus America and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP). Dr. Raney, SFWE Music Director since 1988, was recognized in 2010 with the Santa Fe Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. Proclamations by the Mayor in 2008, 2010, and 2013 honored the SFWE's outstanding performances and years of service in Santa Fe.

Board of Directors Composition

The Board of Directors consists of five (5) to twenty-one (21) members who are elected for three-year terms. Directors may be elected to a second three-year term. Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) are elected for two years. The Bylaws specify a minimum of five meetings per year (September, November, January, March, and June.)

Board Officers Duties (not general board members)

President

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation and, under the general direction of the Board, shall be empowered to transact all business of the Corporation, shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Corporation, and shall execute all written contracts requiring a signature of the Corporation. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and shall preside at meetings of the Board and at the Annual meeting. The President shall determine the agendas for all meetings of the Board and for the Annual meeting.

Vice President

The Vice President shall, in the absence or the disability of the President, perform duties and exercise the powers of the President, and shall perform such other duties as the President or the Board may prescribe. The Vice President shall also be considered the President Elect.

Secretary

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board and Executive Committee; and shall record (not necessarily verbatim) all votes and proceedings in written form and keep such records in accessible form and shall have custody of all documents of the Corporation. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, all notices of meetings of the Board of the Directors, shall perform such other duties as may be delegated by the President, and shall perform such other duties as are incidental to that office.

Treasurer (*This office is currently vacant; contract administrator supports as bookkeeper and financial reporter.*)

The Treasurer shall be custodian of all monies and securities of the Corporation, shall keep all necessary books of accounts, shall submit them, together with all records, vouchers, and other papers, to the Directors for their examination and approval as often as they may require, shall perform other duties as are incidental to such office, and shall perform duties delegated to the Treasurer by the President.

Singer Liaison shall be elected from the body of singer members of the Santa Fe Women's Ensemble, hereinafter referred to as "singer members". The duties of this Director shall be to function as the liaison between the Board and the singer members, ensuring that, in a timely and efficient manner, the activities of the Board are relayed to the singer members and the concerns and other communications of the singer members are relayed to the Board.

Role of Board Members

SFWE Board members steer the organization to a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical and legal governance and financial management policies that advance its mission.

Specific Duties for all Board Members

- Attend board meetings (minimum of five (5) meetings annually, often held online) and be prepared to discuss issues on the agenda.
- Participate in concerts and special events.
- Provide leadership with foresight, oversight, and insight.
- Be a good steward of the SFWE and serve in a positive and supportive manner as its ambassador and advocate.
- Ensure prudent use of all assets, including people and goodwill.
- Ensure that all SFWE's activities are advancing its mission.
- Ensure that the SFWE obeys applicable laws and regulations and follows its own bylaws.
- Provide an annual donation to the SFWE that is meaningful according to your means.
- Maintain confidentiality and discretion regarding Board business.
- Avoid perceived or real conflicts of interest.
- Communicate clearly and respectfully.
- Chair or participate on one or more committees.
- Take part in fundraising activities by being a donor, soliciting donations, selling program book advertisements, and/or applying for private and public grant funding.
- Support concert events by volunteering as usher, box office staff, or other concert event support, and/or by encouraging your social network to attend.