



New Hampshire Friendship Chorus August 2026 Newsletter



Lots of exciting information in this newsletter! Enjoy!



Letter from the President

I hope everyone is still enjoying their summer, despite the crazy wind and rain we have been having lately. Stan and I are heading to New York State in a couple of weeks for a wedding, a reunion and some sightseeing!

The Board has been working behind the scenes to make the Friendship Chorus a robust organization with exciting tours in the future.

First, the Tour Committee headed by Amanda Simeone, is researching destinations for our 2028 Tour. The research includes the choral opportunities of destinations, travel agencies, community outreach as well as sightseeing excursions that might be available to us. We meet as a board twice more before our Annual Meeting, when we will hear about possible destinations.

Second, we have a Fundraising Committee, headed by Peter Labomarde. The committee is looking into a variety of grant opportunities, including the New Hampshire Charitable Gaming Commission and private agencies. Anyone who knows of grant opportunities that we may qualify for, please let Peter know at plabombarde@yahoo.com. We would love to hear your ideas!

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting on September 26 at 2:00.

Best Regards,



ANNUAL NHFC MEETING

The NH Friendship Chorus Annual Meeting will be held on **September 26th from 2:00-4:00**. The Agenda will include electing new board members, learning about the top three choices for the 2028 Tour as well as having opportunities to catch up with friends from past tours. All NHFC members, as well as potential new members are welcome!

Everyone is welcome to bring a snack, beverage (non alcoholic) or dessert to pass. Set up will begin at the pavillion at 1:00 for those wishing to help out.

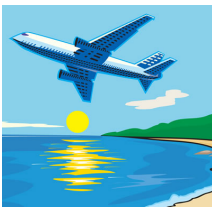
To help us plan, we are asking people to fill out a brief RSVP using the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YVPSKHR> This way we can be sure to have enough seating and snacks for everyone.

Last year we had the option to attend virutally via Zoom. We hope to be able to do this again. The link will be in our next newsletter.

NHFC Annual Meeting
September 26, 2026 2:00-4:00 PM
1 Covenant Way

Bedford, NH 03110

Directions: On Route 101 in Bedford, if coming from the South, it is just past Bedford Fields Home and Garden. If coming from the North, it will be past Goedecke Paint and Flooring. It is well marked.



LUFTHANSA REFUNDS

The Lufthansa strike just days before Malta Tour departure has required travelers to apply for reimbursement for their tickets. It is the Boards understanding that there are still those who have not received compensation for their cancelled or delayed flights.

Those who have used Travel Insurance to be reimbursed for flight costs and/or lost days to the tour have been working with Heather Stengle of Classical Movements to get the appropriate paperwork to their insurance companies. Those who have been working with Lufthansa are finding the process to be slow and frustrating. It is quite likely that Lufthansa had hundreds of thousands of passengers who needed reimbursement and they are somewhat swamped with the workload of getting through the claims. Although the Board doesn't have the power to intervene in these situations, please know that Heather and Classical Movements have been responding to dozens of inquiries for assistance daily to make sure people have the appropriate information on their own flights and cancellations. The

Board President receives copies several emails per week between Heather and members, so I know that work continues to be done on this issue.

Please try and be patient with this reimbursement process and reach out to Classical Movements with any outstanding concerns.

Now for your listening pleasure! Here is the video from our collaboration with Voca Chorus on our Malta Tour! Click the link below.

I Hear You Video

NHFC Board

Officers:

Molly Thompson, President
Amanda Simeone, VP
Patte Sarausky, Secretary
Carol Stewart, Treasurer

Members at Large:

David Betz
Casey Beull
Karen Jordan
Peter LaBombarde
Mary Lloyd-Evans
Dennis W. MacDonald
Bobbie McGuire
Catherine Miller
Jane W. Van Zandt
Marj Wilkinson
Sara Willingham

Outgoing board members:

David Betz
Mary Lloyd Evans
Dennis MacDonald
Carol Stewart
Jane W. Van Zandt

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