

From: Stan Widener, President GCB

To: Greenville Concert Band members

Re: Fund-raising

March 5, 2019

Hi, band members! I know how you all love the subject, so I'll try to be brief, but I won't succeed.

Richard will have the details at the next rehearsal, but the bottom line is the bottom line has been falling. Our band's cash reserves are at the lowest point since I've been on the board. Big reasons are that we just bought a trailer, and we had an expensive season last year with the McAlister concert being a big chunk of it. We are taking action on the board to limit our cash outflow, so I'm not worried, but I just want to let you know how you can help.

Of course, making cash donations is a direct help, and thanks to all of you who have donated recently! We've actually had a good response to our calls for donations from members. But there are lots of ways you can direct OPM (other people's money) to the band's account, and many of them are pretty painless. Here are some:

- Volunteer at Artisphere: For several years now we have been chosen as a benefiting organization for funds that Artisphere distributes, based on the number of volunteer hours we provide to support the festival. Our income from this has fallen in the last couple of years, partly because available funds are being spread thinner, but also because our participation has fallen. I know many of you just can't do it, and others would rather just give cash than time. That's OK. But let me encourage you that it's a rewarding way to spend some of your time, be part of the community, and get to know some other fine folks from other local charities and arts organizations. I think it's fun, too. And it forces me to go enjoy the festival – the art there is truly outstanding. We have a number of fresh, energetic new band members who ought to give it a try. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/2VzUCVH>, and select the Greenville Concert Band as your organization. We're also planning to open up the request to members of other bands who are going to be part of our May band festival, and share the proceeds with them proportionally.
- Register for matching gifts from your employer (or former employer, if retired). I know big employers like GE and IBM do this. Your contribution could be doubled.
- Sign up for [Amazon Smile](#). They will donate 0.5% of all your online purchases to us, if you remember to log in at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).
- Hold a social-media fundraiser. I did one on facebook last fall, for my birthday, and I pulled in over \$100 in donations from my facebook friends, most of whom don't even live around here.
- Become part of my fund-raising team. I plan to step down from the board this next season and focus my energy for the Band on fund-raising. This will be more about looking for corporate sponsorship, advertising revenue, and grants. Let me know if you're interested.
- Take part in fund-raising fun activities like eating out. We have gotten a number of requests to sign up for a charity night at a local restaurant – where a portion of your ticket goes to the band, if you say you're eating for the band. We haven't done it, but if enough of you let me know you'd support it, we could do it.

If you think of other ideas, please share! As always, thanks for all you do, and practice, practice, practice!

[saxmanstan@gmail.com](mailto:saxmanstan@gmail.com)

864-422-9674