

St. Louis Symphony Volunteer Association

SVA Committee and Team Descriptions: Fiscal Year 2026/2027

President: Suzanne Seibel | SVAPresident@SLSO.org

Executive Committees and Teams

By-Laws – Supports the SVA Executive Board and Manager of Volunteer Programs to maintain the integrity of the SVA by-laws in all matters.

Program Timing: As needed throughout the season

Contact: Martha Duchild, Lead | mduchild@hotmail.com

Communications – This team addresses several communications projects that support SVA needs. In conjunction with the SVA President, Executive Committee and SLSO Manager of Volunteer Programs, SVA Communications provides photographs, compiles information for, and edits SVA in-house publications, including News & Notes, and others as needed. Team members also provide photographs and write articles as needed for the Symphony Volunteer Association's publicity in Noted (the Symphony's concert program) and the SVA's web page.

Internal Communications – Sub-team members produce and distribute all internal SVA communications, including group emails and forwarded SLSO announcements.

Program Timing: Activities vary throughout the year

Contact: Jeff Kaplan, Team Lead | SVACommunications@SLSO.org

Photography – Sub-team members record moments in SVA history by photographing SVA-related activities and uploading them to the SVA's Flickr account for later use in publications such as News & Notes and the SVA brochure. Digital photography is necessary, and computer skills are helpful.

Program Timing: Throughout the year

Contact: Pam Belloli, Team Lead | SVAPhotography@SLSO.org

Discovery Committee – This committee works with SLSO Staff and the SVA Leadership to recommend new and innovative activities and programs to enhance the SVA's ability to carry out its mission, and to provide additional outlets for SVA members' participation. Committee members speak with staff, research other organizations and opportunities, brainstorm, and recommend projects for approval to the SVA Executive Committee, ranging from fund-raising to special members' events tailored towards meeting the needs of the SLSO. The Executive Committee passes approved projects to the appropriate existing or new committee for execution. *Members are selected for this committee.*

Program Timing: Activities vary throughout the year

Contact: Jean Kennedy, Chair; Beth Rogers, Vice Chair | SVADiscovery@SLSO.org

Nominating – This committee is responsible for vetting and creating the slate for the election of new SVA officers including President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Chairs, and Vice Chairs. Members are appointed by the President and serve a one year term.

Program Timing: Winter and Spring

Contact: Debbie Dillon, Chair | SVANominating@SLSO.org

Tech Team – This team is comprised of four different teams serving the technological needs of SVA board members and volunteers as needed, helping to troubleshoot issues and maintain accuracy of data.

Contact: Jeff Kaplan, Co-Lead | SVATechSupport@slso.org
Jim Moore, Co-Lead | clesiemo@yahoo.com

Data Research and Analysis – The Data Research and Analysis team is a group of members who are comfortable with computer research and/or manipulation and analyses of data. This team is tasked with various activities as needed and approved by the Executive Committee, either from the Executive Committee itself or from individual committees who may forward their research and analysis needs through the Executive Committee for approval. This team also responds to requests from the SLSO office staff with specific needs, mindful of confidentiality and privacy of the data used.

Program Timing: As needed throughout the year

Contact: Jim Moore, Team Lead | clesiemo@yahoo.com

SVA Hours – This individual manages and tracks all SVA hours for historical record and to assist the SLSO Philanthropy department.

Program Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Erik Buschardt, Team Lead | SVAHours@SLSO.org

Membership Directory – Team members compile and update members' information, maintaining the membership spreadsheets and produce the SVA membership and activity directories for committees. Excel and other computer and editing skills are essential. *Due to confidentiality and privacy needs members are selected for this team.*

Program Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Ruben Sanchez, Team Lead | SVADirectory@SLSO.org

Tech Support – Team members are available to help all SVA chairs and team leads with any technical needs. Excel and other computer and editing skills are essential. *Due to confidentiality and privacy needs members are selected for this team.*

Program Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Jeff Kaplan, Team Lead | SVATechSupport@slso.org

Education & Community Partnerships – VP: Steve Seele SVAEducationVP@SLSO.org

**** All Education Volunteers require a background check paid for by the SLSO ****

Education Ambassadors – This committee newly combines the Education Hosts and the Instrument Playground committees into one group that supports the SLSO Education Department. Education Ambassadors are the friendly faces of the SLSO to area school children, teachers, and patrons. Their purpose is to provide a warm welcome and assure their safe and expedient arrival and departure during education concerts. Volunteers greet school buses and other arriving attendees, staff various music education activities at concerts, and distribute sensory items for neurodivergent students. They also assist with SLSO education programs in area schools as needed. Volunteers receive a complimentary ticket to the morning's concerts.

Program Timing: Multiple events throughout the season

Contact: Elizabeth Crosby, Chair | SVAEduAmbassadors@SLSO.org

Express the Music – In this program, secondary students express themselves in various artistic and written forms after listening to a selected piece of music. A curated selection of works will be acknowledged for creativity and depth of expression. Volunteers help facilitate this process, act as docents for the display of the curated collection and assist at the ceremony celebration.

Program timing: Beginning of school year through March.

Contact: Rose Ingraham, Chair; Patty Kaplan, Vice Chair SVAExpresstheMusic@SLSO.org

Picture the Music – This award-winning program invites teachers of students in grades K-8 to experience music and art as powerful strategies for emotional expression. Students listen to a piece from the symphony season and use painting and drawing to express how it makes them feel. Teachers submit digital copies of their top pieces of artwork for judging by the PTM panel of judges. Judges select the top 100 pieces which are celebrated at an awards ceremony in early spring. The artwork is then displayed in two community venues after the ceremony. Committee members oversee communications with area schools, plan and coordinate all aspects of a judging day, awards ceremony, and traveling display, and transport pictures to and from display locations. Members also act as docents when the works are displayed at Powell Hall/Jack C Taylor Music Center.

Program timing: September through March. Traveling display March through May.

Contact: Karen Trinkle, Chair; Holly Tran, Vice Chair | SVAPicturetheMusic@SLSO.org

Youth Orchestra – This team supports the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, which is comprised of musicians ages 12 to 22. Team members assist with orientations, pre-concert meals, auditions and various performance-related activities as requested by the Youth Orchestra Manager. Volunteers receive a complimentary ticket to the concert as available.

Program Timing: YO activities occur throughout the school year

Contact: Martha Duchild, Team Lead | SVAYouthOrchestra@SLSO.org

Membership – VP: Kathy Norwood SVAMembershipVP@SLSO.org

Cocktails & Conversation – This team curates a fun, interactive hour-long Zoom event for SVA members. It's held several times throughout the year and is a wonderful way to stay connected, meet and get to know SLSO musicians and staff members in an informal setting. Past guests have included Leonard Slatkin, Conductor; David Halen, Concertmaster; Kevin McBeth, IN UNISON Chorus Director; and Shannon Wood, Principal Tympanist, just to name a few. Each Zoom meeting begins with a celebratory toast, and the committee supplies the guest's favorite cocktail recipe so all can share in the "spirit" of the event.

Program Timing: Throughout the year

Contact: Marilyn Humiston, Co-Lead; Phyllis Traub, Co-Lead

Hospitality Team – Team members bake several dozen of their favorite cookies, join together with other bakers in a home and construct small packages of cookies which are distributed to the musicians, office staff, and other SLSO groups throughout the season as a thank you gift. This is a great way to meet other SVA members while doing something nice (and appreciated) for the SLSO groups. This team also manages the "welcome back" greeting of the musicians as they arrive for the first rehearsal event of the season and provides breakfast treats.

Program Timing: Throughout the SLSO season

Contact: Janice Seele, Co-Lead; Marjorie Smith, Co-Lead | SVAHospitality@SLSO.org

Membership Engagement Team – This team keeps members engaged when they are experiencing a life event such as an illness, death of a family member, or any joyous occasion in need of acknowledging. A handwritten and personal note is sent to the SVA member.

Program Timing: As needed throughout the year.

Contact: Kathryn Snodgrass, Team Lead | SVAEngagement@SLSO.org

Membership Meetings and Events – Committee members plan and arrange General Membership Meetings and special SVA events within budget guidelines, including check-in of guests at events. They also create centerpieces as needed.

Program Timing: Throughout the year

Contact: Terri Ciccolella, Chair; Russ Vanderbeek, Vice Chair | SVAMembership@SLSO.org

New & Prospective Members – The New and Prospective Committee identifies, recruits and onboards new members into the SVA. Prospective members are referred through the SLSO website, SLSO communications, SLSO Philanthropy and current SVA members. The committee contacts prospective members and helps them identify activities that align with their interests, skills, and availability. The committee is then responsible for connecting new members with SVA leadership (SVA President, SVA Membership VP, SVA Communications Chair, SVA Directory Chair, and SVA Mentorship Committee Chair) and respective committee chairs and team leads via email (indicated on enrollment form).

Program Timing: Throughout the year

Contact: Susan Meister, Chair; Debbie Goss, Vice Chair | SVANewandProspective@SLSO.org

New Member Mentors – This team pairs current SVA members with new members to make them feel welcome, answer questions, and guide them through how to get involved and start volunteering with the SVA.

Program Timing: Throughout the year

Contact: Jim Cooper, Team Lead | SVAMentors@SLSO.org

Pick & Choose – This committee supports various SLSO and SVA tasks on an as needed basis. It provides a variety of volunteer opportunities for its membership who have limited time to volunteer or attend meetings but may be available on short notice. Activities may include but are not limited to clerical duties such as mailings and collating, assisting with marketing promotions at concerts, and facilitating photo opportunities at various concerts. This group may also be asked to help other teams when they are short volunteers for traditional tasks.

Program Timing: Throughout the year

Contact: Sharongay Pearline, Chair; Larry Schulz, Vice Chair | SVAOneandDone@SLSO.org

Philanthropy and Stewardship – VP: Debbie Eldridge Miali SVAPandSVP@SLSO.org

Advocacy – The SLSO Advocacy Program invites members to advocate for Arts funding to the Missouri Legislature and Governor particularly during the legislative session from January to Mid-June. Advocacy methods include emails, calls, letters to legislators, as well as traveling to the Missouri state capitol in February as part of the Arts Advocacy Day scheduled and coordinated by Missouri Citizens for the Arts. Committee members are guided by and trained in advocacy by SLSO staff and partner organizations, with the staff's approval.

Program Timing: Training and opportunities to contact legislators take place throughout the year. Citizens Day for the Arts in Jefferson City, MO is in February.

Contact: Brad Goss, Chair; Jeff Truesdell, Vice Chair | SVAAdvocacy@SLSO.org

Ambassadors – The Ambassadors greet and welcome concert guests to Symphony events and staff the SVA desk in the foyer. Ambassadors also serve as Hosts on the shuttle bus from Plaza Frontenac to Powell Hall, checking patrons on and off the bus. Ambassadors play a key role at the free Art Hill concert which opens each SLSO season, passing out brochures and Steph-fans to the patrons while sharing their enthusiasm and esteem for the SLSO. Ambassadors may also be called upon to greet at special SLSO events. Volunteers receive a complimentary ticket to the concert they are working as available. Shuttle hosts are guaranteed a ticket.

Program Timing: September-July

Contact: Jim Moore, Chair | SVAAmbassadors@SLSO.org

Willard Moseley, Vice Chair | SVAShuttleHosts@SLSO.org

Coffee Concerts – This team of volunteers helps advance the SLSO's goal of creating a welcoming atmosphere by serving complimentary coffee, tea and donuts at the eight Friday morning classical concerts each season. This simple gesture of hospitality brings concertgoers together as a community. Volunteers receive a complimentary ticket to the concert they are working if available.

Program Timing: Friday morning SLSO Coffee Concerts

Contact: Dave Proper, Team Lead | SVACoffeeConcerts@SLSO.org

Friends of Music Committee – This program supports the SLSO development team to sustain and to increase support for the Annual Campaign. This committee is an integral part of improving the outreach to, and stewardship of, the Friends of Music level of Symphony donors. Committee members reach out to SLSO donors to thank them for their support via phone, email, or note writing.

Program Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Linda Seibert, Chair; Margie Knapp, Vice Chair | SVAFriends@SLSO.org

Group Hosts – This team assists groups arriving by shuttle bus for Friday morning Coffee Concerts and special holiday-season concerts. The volunteers greet the patrons, assist them in exiting their shuttle, and help with entry directions. Following the concert, volunteers help the patrons find their shuttles. Volunteers receive a complimentary ticket to the concert.

Program Timing: Volunteers arrive seventy-five minutes before the concert begins.

Contact: Susanne Mertens, Team Lead | SVAGroupHosts@SLSO.org

Powell Hall/Jack C. Taylor Music Center Tours – Tour guides show guests the beauty and the behind-the-scenes areas of Powell Hall along with the new Jack C. Taylor Music Center. They provide the historical significance of Powell Hall and insight into the architecture and amenities of the new 67,000 sq. ft. addition. All guides are trained with an insider's perspective on Powell Hall. Volunteer tour guides giving private tours to children must pass a background check.

Program Timing: Tour dates vary throughout the year.

Contact: Becky Brown, Team Lead | SVATours@SLSO.org

Symphony Shop Committee – This committee assists in a variety of tasks in support of the SLSO gift shop. Volunteers include a concert lead position and two additional volunteers to help patrons select and purchase merchandise using a Toast point-of-sale device. They also help to inventory and re-stock merchandise from the closet, as needed. All Shop Volunteers require a background check paid for by the SLSO. Volunteers receive a complimentary ticket to the concert they are working as available.

Program Timing: Throughout the year at all concerts

Contact: Paul Kravitz, Chair | SVABoutique@SLSO.org

Concert Lead – These volunteers will have specialized training and will be responsible for managing operations for assigned concerts. This includes set up and close activities, understanding of Toast point-of-sale payment operations, and making sure the merchandise is set up according to plan for consistency. Concert leads will be scheduled by the Scheduling Lead in addition to other volunteers.

Inventory Management – Volunteers will receive and verify delivery, unpack and restock merchandise in the storage closet and the shop display as needed. This team will help to track all inventory and help determine what items are selling best for reorders. May help with budget as needed.

Program Timing: Throughout the year at all concerts

Contact: Fran Glucroft, Team Lead | fglucroft@gmail.com

Purchasing and Merchandising – Assist with purchase and display of curated gift shop merchandise at reasonable prices with local and out-of-town vendors, including consignment merchandise. Coordinate with the SLSO Volunteer Manager, Andrea Biske, to ensure that merchandise aligns with the SLSO marketing vision and stays within budget.

Program Timing: Throughout the year at all concerts

Contact: Beth Ann Riechman, Team Lead | fashion1st@msn.com

Shop Scheduling – Coordinate and schedule volunteers for all SLSO gift shop concerts.

Program Timing: Throughout the year at all concerts

Contact: Sue Propper, Team Lead | suemeryl@charter.net

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