

ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, July 18, 2004
The Adam's Mark Hotel, Buffalo, New York

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Michael Friesen at 9:05 a.m. and a quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes: Moved: Randy Wagner; second—Stephen Pinel; to accept the minutes of the 2003 Annual Meeting, held June 22, 2003, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as printed in *The Tracker*, Volume 47, Number 4, pages 38-39. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report—Michael Friesen. The President reviewed his activities with the National Council, the Publications Oversight Committee, and the Archives Governing Board over the past year. He asked all conventioners to complete and submit their Convention Survey.

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of those members who had died since the previous annual meeting: Robert H. Applegate; Michael L. Bachman; Dan Baudier; Philip A. Beaudry; Freeman D. Bell; Ruth Brunner; Arthur Carkeek; Janet Costello; Raymond D. Davies; John J. Engle; Thomas L. Finch; Harry Gibson; Catharine Crozier Gleason; William Hamilton; William Huber; L. J. Lehne; Alfred Lunsford; Steven Mitchell; Morris C. Queen; Jon B. Soule; Henry Szostak; William L. Winter.

Vice-President's Report—Scot Huntington. The Vice-President reported on the situation of several organs which have been in danger. \$1,525 was raised from conventioners for the benefit of the organ in Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Buffalo, New York, heard earlier on this Convention. The Guidelines for Restoration and Conservation of Organs is under revision, with a Committee reviewing numerous documents from around the world in the process of updating the present Guidelines. Preparations continue for the Fiftieth Anniversary celebration, including the National Convention in Saratoga Springs, New York, and an anniversary edition of *The Tracker*. The Society is now eight years into its Ten-Year Plan. Plans are underway for a second drive for the Endowment Fund. *The Organist's Quarterly Journal and Review* was introduced to the membership, the first effort of the newly-formed OHS Press. The Society's first Director of Publications has been appointed, Gregory Crowell, of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Treasurer's Report—David Barnett. Malcolm Wechsler read a report submitted by the Treasurer. For the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year, the Society's income was \$1,186,880 and expenses were \$1,186,191; income exceeded expenses by \$689. When income earmarked for Designated Funds is excluded, primarily the Organ Historical Society Endowment Fund and Archives Fund, the *operating* deficit for the Fiscal Year was \$37,711. Assets at year's end were \$608,053 with \$207,785 in deposit accounts, \$225,694 in investments, \$148,378 in catalog inventory for re-sale and \$26,196 in other non-cash assets. Liabilities totaled \$110,700, the amount of membership dues paid in advance. Designated Funds totaled \$276,148 and undesignated retained earnings totaled \$221,206. The books were reviewed by the firm of Martin, Dolan & Holton, Ltd., of Glen Allen, Virginia, who prepared the Society's Federal tax returns required of 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations. The paid Member/Subscriber count for mailing the last issue in the volume of *The Tracker* was 4,009.

Executive Director's Report—William Van Pelt. The Executive Director further discussed the publication of Eugene Thayer's *The Organist's Quarterly Journal and Review*. Estimated Buffalo Convention registration is about 380 persons.

Councilors' Reports

Archives—Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl. A Fiftieth Anniversary History of the Society is planned for publication in 2006, for which Councilor Alcorn-Oppedahl invited persons to contact her regarding items

which could be included. A Symposium is planned for late May 2005, at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Dr. Peter Williams will be the keynote speaker. The Archives has recently acquired the personal library of the late Henry Karl Baker, of the Organ Literature Foundation, Braintree, Massachusetts.

Conventions—David Dahl. The Councilor thanked the present National Convention Committee for their industrious work in providing the membership with an excellent Convention. The Sourcebook for Convention Planning has been updated by a committee and accepted by the National Council. In light of the resignation of Kristin Farmer as Convention Coordinator, the Councilor thanked Ms. Farmer for her service. Jonathan Ambrosino served ably as interim Convention Coordinator for the Buffalo Convention. The National Council has decided not to appoint a Convention Coordinator immediately, and several Councilors will work with upcoming Convention committees. Matthew Bellocchio was introduced for a presentation on the July 12-18, 2005, National Convention of the Society in the Old Colony area of Massachusetts. Vice-President Huntington was introduced to speak briefly regarding the June 2006 National Convention, to be held in the Saratoga Springs, New York, area. Other future conventions include: 2007 in Indianapolis, Indiana; and 2008 in the Seattle-Tacoma, Washington, region. Two European Organ Tours were offered this year, both fully subscribed, one in France, the other in the Netherlands, chaired by Bruce Stevens.

Education—Paul Marchesano. E. Power Biggs Fellowship Committee Chair, Derek Nickels, was introduced to those in attendance. The two Biggs Fellows for the 2004 National Convention were introduced by Fellowship Committee Chair Derek Nickels the preceding evening at Saint Paul Episcopal Cathedral: Michael Diorio, of Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, and Nathan LeMahieu, of Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. The Historic Organ Citations Committee has a new Chair, Stephen Schnurr. Approximately 320 organs have been awarded Citations since the inception of the program. Historic Organ Recitals exists to provide limited funding for recitals, for which two awards were presented this year: for events in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in Tacoma, Washington. The OHS Database will soon be available online, due to the efforts of Dr. James Cook of Birmingham-Southern College.

Finance and Development—Malcolm Wechsler. The Councilor presented a verbal report on Membership. A mailing for new membership and other possible strategies may be considered. Jim Stark presented a brief report on behalf of the Endowment Fund Advisory Board.

Organizational Concerns—Rachelen Lien. The final draft of the revised and restated By-laws has been submitted to the membership for its approval. Councilor Lien thanked the By-laws Review Committee for their work. OHS Chapters were briefly discussed, with the largest chapters being Chicago-Midwest and Hilbus. The Michigan Chapter has been quite active recently. Past recipients of the Distinguished Service Award were recognized for their efforts on behalf of the Society by Councilor Lien, in the absence of the Chair of the Distinguished Service Award Committee, Dan Schwandt. The Award was presented *in absentia* to George Bozeman.

Research and Publications—Mary Gifford. The new Director of Publications will edit *The Tracker* and oversee publication of books and manuscripts. Agnes Armstrong was thanked for her work as interim editor of *The Tracker*. Jonathan Ambrosino was thanked for his efforts with the *Organ Handbook* and the *Hymnlet*. The Publications Oversight Committee, Scot Huntington, Chair, was thanked for their industrious work in the past year. A new book by Orpha Ochse on Murray Harris is in process. Councilor Gifford submitted her written resignation from the National Council, stating that she disagreed with actions taken by the Council.

Old Business

By-Laws— Charles Szpara, teller. Mr. Szpara reported the results of the By-laws election. A total of 911 ballots were received, of which 887 voted to approve, 18 voted against, 6 were blank. The new By-laws are approved.

Nominating Committee: Michael Barone. Nominating Committee Chair Barone reported on the results of the work of the Nominating Committee for the 2005 National Council Elections:

President:

Michael Friesen
Frederick (“Rick”) Morrison

Vice-President:

W. Randolph (“Randy”) Bourne
Laurence Libin

Councilors at large (three positions open):

Jack Bethards
Carol Britt
David Engen
James Hammann
Scot Huntington

New Business

OHS/RCO Protocol: Stephen Pinel, Archivist, was introduced along with Andrew McCrae, of the Royal College of Organists and the British Institute of Organ Studies, for signing a protocol of cooperation between the American Organ Archives of the Organ Historical Society and the library of the Royal College of Organists. In the presence of the membership, the protocol was signed by Mr. McCrae and OHS President, Michael Friesen. Mr. McCrae presented a report on the cooperating library in Birmingham, Great Britain. The Archivist thanked Mr. McCrae for traveling to the United States for this historic moment.

Adjournment

Moved: Elizabeth Towne Schmitt; second—Keith Bigger, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

--Respectfully submitted, Stephen Schnurr, Secretary.

--Approved, Wednesday, July 13, 2005, in Bridgewater, Massachusetts.