

**ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, June 27, 2006**  
**United Church of Cohoes, Cohoes, New York**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Michael Friesen at 2:12 p.m. and a quorum was established.

**Approval of Minutes:** Moved: Joseph McCabe; second—Charles Horton; to accept the minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting, held Wednesday, July 13, 2005, at Tillinghast Hall, Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, Massachusetts, as printed in *The Tracker*, Volume 49, Number 4, page 34. Motion passed unanimously.

**President's Report**—Michael Friesen. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of those members who had died since the previous annual meeting: Thomas E. Cadman, Hoyle Carpenter, Heinrich Fleischer, Robert D. Gault, Dr. George H. Gort, Norman A. Hall, George Thomas Hazleton, Robert A. Horsey, Forrest Mack, Noel Mander, John K. Ogasapian, Lee C. Olson, William F. Parker, Lyle Petska, Michael J. Revay, Robert P. Tennant, Hiroshi Tsuji, Henry T. Vollenweider, Reverend David VonRotz, Lucius R. Weathersby, and Frederick Wells.

The President noted that this day was the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of the Society in New York City, New York. The President recognized the presence of two founding members, Barbara Owen and Randall Wagner.

The President recognized and introduced James Thomashower, Executive Director of the American Guild of Organists, and Kathryn Libin, President of the American Musical Instrument Society. Mr. Thomashower congratulated the Society on its anniversary and invited attendees to the National Convention of the AGO, to be held the following next week in Chicago, Illinois. Ms. Libin also extended the congratulations of the AMIS on the OHS's anniversary.

The President continues his work in providing leadership in all areas of the Society's work. Much of this work is tied directly to that of transition to a new Executive Director, Daniel N. Colburn, II. Noting that many persons were involved in assisting with this transition, the President particularly thanked the Treasurer, David Barnett, for his industrious efforts. The President also thanked the Councilor for Organizational Concerns, Jack Bethards, for his efforts in the search for a new Executive Director.

The Society has begun cooperation with the AAAO program, a joint venture to promote the pipe organ, comprising the American Guild of Organists, the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America, the American Institute of Organbuilders, and the Organ Historical Society. The Royal Canadian College of Organists has announced this month that it will initiate a program similar to the Society's Historic Organ Citation Committee. The Society is supporting the British Institute of Organ Building in opposing a ban on the use of lead in the European Union that would prevent the building of pipe organs.

**Vice-President's Report**—Laurence Libin. Like other members of the National Council, the Vice-President has been active in many issues of the transition to a new Executive Director. One of his many tasks was spending time answering general and specific inquiries about the Society and its various programs and activities. For these tasks, Mr. Libin has frequently called on various Society members for assistance. The Vice-President has also been exploring different avenues for the OHS to refocus its Organ Tours program. A forthcoming opinion piece in *The Tracker* will ask the membership to respond to the Vice-President with thoughts for future goals of the Society. Mr. Libin is also involved in planning several future symposia for the Society. The Vice-President spoke about the new Phoenix Project, in cooperation with the Organ Clearing House, to assist churches in need of an organ to locate suitable ones.

**Treasurer's Report**—David Barnett. For the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2005, the Society's income was \$1,312,132 and expenses were \$1,295,121; Income exceeded expenses by \$19,877. When income earmarked for Designated Funds is excluded, primarily the Organ Historical Society

Endowment Fund and E. Power Biggs Fellowship Fund, the *operating* deficit for the Fiscal Year was \$20,423. Assets at the year's end were \$618,596 with \$97,225 in deposit accounts, \$293,906 in investments, \$199,270 in merchandise inventory for re-sale, and \$28,195 in other non-cash assets. Liabilities totaled \$80,500, mostly deferred income from membership dues paid in advance. Designated Funds totaled \$343,991 and undesignated retained earnings totaled \$194,105. The paid Member/Subscriber count for mailing the last issue of *The Tracker* was 3,545.

**Executive Director's Report**—Daniel N. Colburn, II. The Society's new Executive Director began his work officially on Monday, June 19, 2006. He plans to improve communications between the national organization, membership, and chapters; maximize cooperation and integration among the various areas of the Society; initiate a focused and energized fund raising effort; seek financial stabilization; and support the work of Dennis Northway as Chair of the Membership Committee.

### **Councilors' Reports**

**Archives**—Carol Britt. In March, a group of students from the Eastman School of Music visited the Archives to conduct research. A fire at the Baltic Mill, Enfield, New Hampshire, did not damage the area of the mill containing Archives material. The final payment for the Henry Karl Baker collection has been made. Records of the Skinner/Aeolian-Skinner firm have been acquired from Edward M. Stout, III, of California. In addition, the records of the Toledo Pipe Organ Company of Columbus, Ohio, have been accepted at the Archives. The Archives Governing Board has a new member, William C. Parsons, formerly of the Music Division of the Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

Councilor Britt called attention to the need to raise funds for acquisition costs of the Skinner/Aeolian-Skinner firm. The membership is asked for their direct assistance with this most important, \$10,000 project.

**Resolved:** Jonathan Ambrosino; second—Robert Barney, that the Organ Historical Society expresses its profound gratitude to Edward Millington Stout, III, for his generous gift of the Skinner/Aeolian-Skinner archives. Resolution passed unanimously.

**Conventions**—Scot Huntington. Reports were submitted by the Chairs of present and upcoming Conventions: Stephen Pinel (2006 Saratoga Springs, New York), Joseph Roberts (2007 Central Indiana), David Dahl (2008 Seattle/Tacoma, Washington), and Joseph McCabe (2009 Cleveland, Ohio). Mr. Dahl and Mr. McCabe were introduced to the membership to provide a few comments on their convention preparations.

**Education**—Paul Marchesano. Since the last Annual Meeting, nine Historic Organ Citations have been awarded. The Pipe Organ Database continues to have a phenomenal usage by the world at large. The Councilor acknowledged Elizabeth Towne Schmitt, one of the co-chairs of the Database Committee, and Stephen Schnurr, chair of the Historic Organ Citations Committee.

**Finance and Development**—James Johnston. As of March 31, 2005, the Endowment Fund contained \$277,205.71. As of May 31, 2006, the fund stood at \$314,292.15. The Councilor recognized Dick Walker and James Stark, two of three members present who serve on the Endowment Fund Advisory Board.

**Organizational Concerns**—Jack Bethards. Councilor Bethard's report traced the steps the Council took to search for a new Executive Director. A report from Dennis Northway, Chair of the Membership Committee, was also provided, which detailed his efforts to contact lapsed members and to provide press releases about the Society's fiftieth anniversary as part of an effort to obtain new members. The Chicago-Midwest Chapter of the Society has produced T-shirts celebrating anniversaries of the Society and the Chapter for distribution at the 2006 National Conventions of the Society and of the American Guild of Organists. The Councilor's work for the immediate future will focus on continuing to assist the new Executive Director in orientation to his new position, assisting the Membership Chair, consulting with

other Council members regarding the future of catalogue operations, and improving communication with and support of our chapters.

Councilor Bethards led the membership in a standing ovation for the extraordinary work of William T. Van Pelt as Executive Director. The Councilor also recognized the presence of the Chair of the Distinguished Service Award Committee, Daniel Schwandt.

**Research and Publications**—Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl. The Publications Governing Board has met thrice since the last Annual Meeting, each time by conference call. The next issue of *The Tracker* will be a double-issue, volume 50, numbers 3 and 4, celebrating the Society's fiftieth anniversary. Volume 51, number 1, will promote the 2007 Central Indiana National Convention. The OHS Press is in various stages of production for a number of monographs. The festschrift in honor of Barbara Owen, revealed at the 2005 Annual Meeting, has received excellent reviews in several journals. There are three recipients of the Alan Laufman Grant this year: Tina Frühauf, Randall Engle, and Scott Hyslop.

The Chair of the Publications Governing Board, Scot Huntington, presented the new Executive Director with a deluxe edition of the Barbara Owen festschrift, inscribed to Mr. Colburn by Ms. Owen. The President introduced the Director of Publications, Gregory Crowell, who mentioned several books which are approaching the final processes of publication. The President also introduced Len Levasseur, graphic layout artist, and Jonathan Ambrosino, editor of the 2006 *Organ Atlas*. Finally, the President mentioned that the National Council is looking to institute a Publications Prize.

### Old Business

**E. Power Biggs Fellows**—The three Biggs Fellows for the 2006 National Convention were introduced by Biggs Fellowship Committee Chair Derek Nickels: Patrick Davis of Utica, New York; Trevor Dodd of Battle Creek, Michigan; and John Walthausen of New York City, New York.

**Distinguished Service Award**—Past recipients of the award were recognized for their efforts on behalf of the Society by the Chair of the Distinguished Service Award Committee, Daniel Schwandt. The 2006 Distinguished Service Award was presented to Edna Van Duzee. Past Award recipients Barbara Owen and Michael Friesen were introduced to provide remarks on Ms. Van Duzee's service to the Society.

**Nominating Committee:** David Dahl. Nominating Committee Chair Dahl reported on the results of the work of the Nominating Committee for the 2007 National Council Elections:

**President:**

Laurence Libin  
Joseph McCabe

**Secretary:**

Stephen Schnurr  
Michael Diorio

**Councilors (three positions open):**

Research and Publications: James Hammann, Allen Kinzey  
Finance and Development: James Johnston, Randall Wagner  
Education: James Cook, Will Headlee

### New Business

**2007 National Convention:** Joseph Roberts. The Convention Chair was introduced for his presentation and invitation to the Membership to attend the July 2007 National Convention of the Society, to be held in Central Indiana.

**Adjournment**

Moved: Monsignor Thomas Smith; second—Isaiah Hyman, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

*--Respectfully submitted, Stephen Schnurr, Secretary.*

*--Draft, Tuesday, July 18, 2006.*