

**ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP**  
**Sunday, July 15, 2007**  
**Sheraton Hotel and Suites, Keystone Crossing**  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Friesen at 1:08 p.m. on Sunday, July 15, 2007, and a quorum was established. President Friesen noted that Officers and Councilors have submitted written reports for attendees to read. He thanked the 2007 National Convention Committee for their industrious work in presenting this week's events.

**Approval of Minutes:** **Moved:** Joseph McCabe; second – Brad Phillips; to accept the minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting, held Tuesday, June 27, 2006, in the United Church of Cohoes, Cohoes, New York, and as published in *The Tracker*, volume 50, numbers 3-4, pages 121-123. Motion passed unanimously.

A moment of silence was called in remembrance of those members who had died since the previous annual meeting: James L. Alward; Brian L. Buehler; Charles M. Cooper; Larry W. DeBolt; Mary Ann Dodd; Kenneth W. Matthews; John F. Morningstar; Daniel Pinkham; Leonard Eugene Roan, Jr.; Samuel David Ryder; Bruce V. Schantz; Elizabeth Towne "Soosie" Schmitt; George W. Steere; Marion Van Dyk; Alan J. Webster; Malcolm Wechsler; Thomas F. Winter; Alec Wyton; Ralph A. Zimmerman.

**President's Report:** Michael Friesen. The President's written report encapsulated his work over the past four years and the progress of the Society. The many activities of the Society continue to grow and improve, including, though not limited to, publications, conventions, catalogue operations, and symposia. Challenges have been met with the transition to a new Executive Director, Daniel N. Colburn, II. Other landmark accomplishments include a new set of bylaws, the celebration of the Society's Fiftieth Anniversary, and the launching of the online organ database.

**Vice-President's Report:** Laurence Libin. The Vice-President reported on his activities with the Phoenix Project, the Society's initiative to help find new homes for orphaned pipe organs. Several success stories have occurred within the past year. The Vice-President has also been active in preparations for symposia in 2007 and 2008. He was gratified with responses to his editorial in *The Tracker* regarding the Society's future, and several ideas have come from these responses for which the National Council is considering action.

**Treasurer's Report:** James Stark. In March 2007, National Council split the duties of the Treasury and the accounting function. In April, James M. Stark was appointed Treasurer and began his duties in June. Mr. Stark will focus on reporting, budgeting, and financial oversight. David Barnett, formerly Treasurer, will remain as the Controller and will have charge of the day-to-day financial operations of the Society. For the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2006, the Society's income was \$1,228,096.15 and expenses were \$1,169,580.28. Income exceeded expenses by \$58,515.19. 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 \$24,401.52. Assets at the year's end were \$646,636.11 with \$88,459.56 in deposit accounts, \$307,194.18 in investments, \$214,761.75 in merchandise inventory for re-sale and \$36,220.62 in other non-cash assets. Liabilities totaled \$49,510.71, mostly deferred income from membership dues paid in September for the following membership year. Designated Funds totaled \$350,185.53 and undesignated retained earnings totaled \$246,939.87 with net worth of \$597,125.40. The paid Member/Subscriber count for the year was 3,466.

**Executive Director's Report:** Daniel N. Colburn, II. The Executive Director presented a detailed report on his many activities in his first year with the Society. 300 gifts to the Annual Fund this year totaled \$34,000. Several bequests have also been received within the past year. The catalogue operations have retooled their promotions. The inventory system nears total automation. The Executive Director has

worked to increase advertising income for the Society's journal and convention publications. As convention coordinator, the Executive Director has worked closely with all Convention Committees. The 2002 Chicago National Convention compact disks were released in the spring, and work on the 2004 Buffalo National Convention disks has begun.

**Moved:** Stephen Schnurr; second – Dick Walker, that, cognizant of the devastating tragedy, catastrophic damage, and continuing rebuilding of Orleans Parish, Louisiana, caused by Hurricane Katrina, and, knowing that 2007 National Council election ballots were not delivered by the United States Postal Service to Society members in Orleans Parish, the Society membership temporarily suspends Society Bylaws Section 8.2 during its Annual Meeting on Sunday, July 15, 2007, so that Society members of Orleans Parish, Louisiana, may be permitted to receive replacement ballots for the 2007 Council election. Motion passed, one opposed.

### **Councilors' Reports**

**Archives**—Carol Britt. Councilor Britt's written report in her absence included information that all binding and cataloguing at the American Organ Archives is current. The 2007 AOA Symposium, *New Dimensions in Organ Conservation and Documentation* will be held October 11-13, 2007, in Rochester, New York. The Skinner organ records are in safe storage. Additional storage space in New Hampshire has been secured for Archives materials.

**Conventions**—Scot Huntington. In his absence, a series of brief reports from the chairs of Society Conventions, 2007-2011, was compiled by the Councilor for Conventions. Convention Chairs for future years were recognized by President Friesen.

**Education**—Paul Marchesano. Councilor Marchesano submitted a written report. Two E. Power Biggs Fellowships were awarded this year, and the recipients are to be introduced later in the meeting. Since the last Convention of the Society, thirteen Historic Organ Citations have been awarded. One Citation has been rescinded in the past year. The online Pipe Organ Database has 27,194 instruments catalogued. 1,171 stoplists and 1,070 digital images are included. The web page that calls up details of individual organs has been opened 258,015 times. The Councilor introduced James Cook, Chair of the Pipe Organ Database Committee, for brief remarks updating progress with the project and asking for membership assistance with expanding the database.

**Finance and Development**—James Johnston. As of June 30, 2006, the Endowment Fund contained \$314,554.30. As of June 30, 2007, the fund stood at \$353,606.22. The Councilor recognized Dick Walker and James Stark, two of three members present who serve on the Endowment Fund Advisory Board. As Mr. Stark is leaving the Board, a replacement will soon be named, after which that person's name will be announced in *The Tracker*.

**Organizational Concerns**—Jack Bethards. In the Councilor's written report, he mentioned that much of his effort has been expended on assisting the new administration of the society to take shape with Daniel Colburn and the remainder of the staff. Membership now stands at 3,240, a 6% decrease from last year's level of 3,466. Dennis Northway and Dan Colburn have put a great deal of effort into re-cultivating members who have dropped out. Renewed energy on the part of several chapters demonstrates possibility for Society growth on a grassroots level. The Councilor introduced Dennis Northway, Chair of the Membership Committee, who encouraged all members to find a new member to join the Society. The Councilor introduced Rachelen Lien and Marian Ruhl Metson, who announced the formation of the Van Pelt Fund for the Preservation and Restoration of Historic Organs, honoring William Van Pelt. Ms. Lien also provided some words on the work of Mr. Van Pelt for the Society.

**Research and Publications**—Allison Alcorn. In the Councilor's written report submitted in her absence, she stated that the Society's journal and regular convention publications remain on schedule. The OHS

Press has published *The Brebos Organ of El Escorial* by James Wyly and Susan Tattershall. The production of the 2007 *Organ Atlas* was a monumental undertaking, the *Atlas* being the largest of its kind to come from the Society. A Publications Prize was created by National Council under the aegis of Research and Publications, and a Committee has been formed to structure the details of this annual award. The Director of Publications, Gregory Crowell, brought forth a copy of the *Brebos* book, copies of which are for sale in the catalogue. Dr. Crowell recognized the work of persons present who worked hard for production of the 2007 *Organ Atlas*: Stephen Schnurr, Michael Friesen, Charles Eberline, and William Van Pelt.

### Old Business

**E. Power Biggs Fellows**—The two Biggs Fellows for the 2007 National Convention were introduced by Biggs Fellowship Committee Chair Derek Nickels: Leon Griesbach of Lisbon, Maine, and Alexander Hendrickson of Marion, Illinois.

**Distinguished Service Award**—Past recipients of the award since 1976 were recognized for their efforts on behalf of the Society by the President. The 2007 Distinguished Service Award is presented to David Dahl. The President, also a past recipient of the Award, provided remarks on Mr. Dahl's service to the Society.

### New Business

**Election Results**—John Seest, teller, assisted by Charles W. Kindermann, presented the results of the election of members to National Council. 952 readable ballots were counted. President: Laurence Libin (530 votes), Joseph McCabe (417 votes). Secretary: Stephen Schnurr (886 Votes). Councilor for Education: James Cook (352 votes), Will Headlee (600 votes). Councilor for Finance and Development: James Johnston (452 votes), Randall Wagner (495 votes). Councilor for Research and Publications: Allen Kinzey (602 votes), James Hammann (340 votes). Laurence Libin is elected President. Stephen Schnurr is elected Secretary. Will Headlee is elected Councilor for Education. Randall Wagner is elected Councilor for Finance and Development. Allen Kinzey is elected Councilor for Research and Publications. Council Members whose terms are ending: Michael Friesen (President), Stephen Schnurr (Secretary), Allison Alcorn (Councilor for Research and Publications), James Johnston (Councilor for Finance and Development), and Paul Marchesano (Councilor for Education).

The President thanked the Nominating Committee, chaired by David Dahl, for their work now completed. Other members of the committee were: Tim Bovard, J. R. Daniels, Len Levasseur, and Derek Nickels.

The candidates present who were running for office and who were elected were then recognized.

**Moved:** David Dahl; second—Dick Walker, that, upon recommendation of the National Council, the Society grant honorary membership to William T. Van Pelt. Motion passed unanimously.

**Nominating Committee**—President Friesen opened the floor for nominations to the 2007-2009 Nominating Committee. The following names were submitted: Dennis Northway (nominated by Joseph McCabe), Marian Metson (nominated by Bruce Stevens), Joseph Roberts (nominated by Walter Smith), Michael Friesen (nominated by Dick Walker), Paul Marchesano (nominated by Jack Bethards), Mary Ann Balduf (nominated by Frank Kuhlmann), and James Johnston (nominated by Roger Meers). **Moved:** James Stark; second—Joseph McCabe, that nominations be closed. Motion passed unanimously. Ballots were distributed to members to vote for five persons to serve on the Committee. Ballots were to be counted, with results to be announced before the conclusion of the Convention.

**Presentation on 2008 Convention:** the President introduced David Dahl, Chair of the 2008 Convention Committee for Seattle/Tacoma, to briefly introduce highlights of the Society's visit to that region next year. Mr. Dahl also led the membership in showing gratitude to those Council members concluding their term at this time.

Joseph Roberts, Chair of the 2007 National Convention Committee, was introduced for some brief comments on this year's Convention, including recognition of the members of the Convention Committee.

Lois Regestein was introduced to provide updates on several historic organs in the Boston, Massachusetts, metropolitan area, including Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Boston and the First Baptist Church of Jamaica Plain.

### **Adjournment**

**Moved:** Paul Marchesano; second—Walter Smith, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

On Monday, July 16, 2007, in Saint Mark's United Methodist Church, Bloomington, Indiana, Stephen Schnurr, Secretary, announced the results of ballots for the Nominating Committee, certified by John Seest and Charles W. Kindermann, tellers: Joseph G. Roberts (78 votes), Michael D. Friesen (77 votes), Marian Ruhl Metson (77 votes), Paul Marchesano (76 votes), MaryAnn Crugher Balduf (73 votes), James H. Johnston (69 votes), and Dennis E. Northway (64 votes). Mr. Roberts, Mr. Friesen, Ms. Metson, Mr. Marchesano, and Ms. Balduf constitute the Society's new Nominating Committee.

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

*--Draft, Tuesday, July 24, 2007.*