

ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP
Friday, July 18, 2008
First Baptist Church, Seattle, Washington

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Laurence Libin at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, July 18, 2008, and a quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved:** Stephen Pinel; second—Paul Marchesano; to accept the minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting, held Sunday, July 15, 2007, in the Sheraton Hotel and Suites, Keystone Crossing, Indianapolis, Indiana, and as published in *The Tracker*, volume 51, numbers 4, pages 26-28. Motion passed unanimously.

President Libin noted that Officers and Councilors have submitted written reports for attendees to read.

President's Report: Laurence Libin. The President thanked David Dahl, Chair of the 2008 National Convention Committee, and his committee, as well as the Society staff, for their industrious and creative work in providing a wonderful conference. There were more than thirty American composers and more than fifty twentieth-century composers represented on this year's conference recitals. A bid for the 2012 Convention in Chicago has been received by the Council. Paul Marchesano is working towards planning an organ tour to Australia.

The President's written report encapsulated his work over the past year and the progress of the Society. He thanked the 2008 National Convention Committee for their industrious work in presenting this week's events. He outlined a number of issues facing the Society in the near future, including rising costs, disappointing returns on investments, and aging and declining membership. A wide scope of publications has been brought forth by the OHS Press. The American Organ Archives continues to grow in its holdings, as does the online Pipe Organ Database. Online Society communications have several new facets. The membership will be asked to approve several changes to the Society's bylaws and articles of incorporation in the next few months. A successful symposium was held last October, and three more co-sponsored symposia are scheduled during this calendar year. A moment of silence was called in remembrance of those members who had died since the previous annual meeting: William Ernest Baker; Paul Carton; E. J. Digneo; William Fondessy; Charles Grant; Lawrence Hadley; Noel Heinze; Theodore Herzel; Reverend Michael Johnson; Norman Kinsey; Frank Klasek; Sven Larsen; W. G. Marigold; Roger Marks; Frank Morse; Ronald Pogorzelski; Elizabeth Towne Schmitt; Charles Walker; Barbara Thompson Wilson; Jerry Witt; and Michael Wright.

Vice-President's Report: Joseph McCabe. The Vice-President reported on his activities. Within the past year, he has assisted with implementation of a members-only online chat list. The Vice-President looks forward to participating in further refining the structure of the Society.

Treasurer's Report: James Stark. For the 2006-2007 Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2007, the Society's operating expenses **exceeded** operating income by \$25,073. Assets at year end were \$1,733,052, with \$1,116,136 in deposit accounts, \$339,046 in investments, \$234,869 in merchandise inventory for resale, and \$25,350 in other non-cash assets. Liabilities totaled \$83,163, principally deferred income from membership dues paid in advance. Balances in Designated Funds totaled \$1,387,939, and undesignated retained earnings totaled \$261,949. Designated gifts received during the year totaled \$1,049,527. At the end of the fiscal year, the Society's Endowment Fund stood at \$365,065. Memberships totaled 3,329 at September 30, 2007 versus 3,602 at September 30, 2006. The success of the 2008 National Convention will go a long way to ensure this year's budget does not have a deficit.

Executive Director's Report: Daniel N. Colburn, II. The Executive Director emphasized that membership has continued to decline; however, a membership drive is being initiated at this time. Development gifts continue to come in strong. *The OHS Legacy Society* has been established for those who remember the Society in their will. The Executive Director continues to work diligently with all convention committees with their plans. This year, the Richmond office welcomed a new Administrative and Membership Assistant, Don Carolina. The compact disks for the 2004 Buffalo National Convention are being manufactured and will be ready for release very soon.

Councilors' Reports

Archives—Carol Britt. American Organ Archives holdings now exceed 15,000 books. An important collection of German and Dutch pamphlets, once owned by Hans Hilberath, has been acquired. Binding and cataloguing continues. The project of providing additional shelf space in the Princeton, New Jersey, headquarters of the Archives was completed this spring. The Archives tour for August 2008 was sold out in June. The first plans for a symposium in the spring of 2011 have been formed.

Conventions—Allen Kinzey. In his absence, a series of brief reports from the chairs of Society Conventions, 2008-2011, was compiled by the Councilor for Conventions. Most plans for the 2009 National Convention for Cleveland, Ohio, have now been concretized. Negotiations continue for a project to resurrect the five-manual Skinner Organ Company instrument in the city's municipal auditorium. Most offers for performers have been made. The 2010 Pittsburgh convention will open on the evening of June 21 and close on June 25, followed by an optional day. The hotel for the 2011 Washington, DC, convention has been secured, and an itinerary of instruments within the District of Columbia, with one day devoted to suburban areas, under formation. There is a need for convention bids beyond 2012.

Education—James Cook. There are four E. Power Biggs Fellows for the 2008 National Convention. Further information is given below in these minutes. A draft document of Guidelines for Conservation and Documentation has been received and adopted by the National Council. Nine Historic Organ Citations have been presented since the last Annual Meeting of the Society, four at this Convention. The Pipe Organ Database continues its growth, with well over 35,500 entries.

Finance and Development—Randall Wagner. The Endowment Fund is managed by three trustees in conjunction with the Treasurer. These funds have grown to over \$1,500,000.00 through the end of 2007. With conservative management in the current downturn of the stock market, we have protected our principal and will provide over \$50,000.00 of income for the OHS next year.

Organizational Concerns—Jack Bethards. A new membership campaign was announced, with much of this work to be carried out by Dennis Northway, Membership Chair, with the support of others. A set of guidelines for organization and operation of chapters is in its final stages of formation.

Research and Publications—Scot Huntington. Several written reports were submitted by the Councilor. The autobiography of organbuilder Charles McManis will be available for sale this summer. A monograph on Alvinza Andrews is in process. A number of other book projects are in queue. The 2008 *Organ Atlas* was mailed to the membership in time for receipt before the Convention. A report from the Director of Publications, Gregory Crowell, was included. *The Tracker* now has a backlog of articles for publication. Plans for the 2009 *Organ Atlas* are in process. Funds have been received for printing the Cincinnati organ book project, which was part of the Governing Board's fundraising request from the February 2008 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, meeting. A project for scanning back issues of *The Tracker* for availability online has been formed. The Alan Laufman Grant has four recipients for this year: Anne Laver; Nicola MacRae; J. Gordon Christhausen; David Hemsley.

Old Business

E. Power Biggs Fellows—The four Biggs Fellows for the 2008 National Convention were introduced by Biggs Fellowship Committee Chair Derek Nickels: Adam Gruber, Arlington Heights, Illinois; Demetri Sampas, Boston, Massachusetts; Laura Trotta, Lincoln, Nebraska; Bernadette Wagner, Champaign, Illinois. The Fellows received certificates for the occasion.

Distinguished Service Award—Past recipients of the award since 1975 were recognized for their efforts on behalf of the Society by Michael Friesen, a member of the Distinguished Service Award Committee. The 2008 Award is presented to Orpha Ocshe.

New Business

Presentation of Slate for 2009 National Council elections: Michael Friesen, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate for 2009 elections: President: Stephen Schnurr; Vice-President: Joseph McCabe; Councilor for Archives: Christopher Marks and Keith Williams; Councilor for Organizational Concerns: Dana Robinson and Daniel Schwandt; Councilor for Research and Publications: Dennis Northway and William Osborne.

Presentation on 2009 Convention: the President introduced Joseph McCabe, Chair of the 2009 Convention Committee for Cleveland, Ohio, to briefly introduce highlights of the Society's visit to that region next year, July 5-10.

Guidelines for Conservation and Documentation: the President acknowledged Scot Huntington to comment on the new document, mentioned above.

Adjournment

Moved: Randall Wagner; second—Scot Huntington, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

--Respectfully submitted, Stephen Schnurr, Secretary.

--Approved, Wednesday, July 8, 2009, in Cleveland, Ohio.