

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the National Council Meeting
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 5-7, 2004
New Orleans, Louisiana

These minutes follow the order of the agenda and do not necessarily follow the order in which they were discussed.

Call to Order: The meeting of the National Council of the Organ Historical Society was called to order by President Friesen on Friday, March 5, 2004, at 1:33 p.m., in the Saint Charles Suite of the Avenue Plaza Hotel, 2111 Saint Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. A quorum of Council members was established. Present: Michael Friesen (President), Scot Huntington (Vice-President), Stephen Schnurr (Secretary), Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl, David Dahl, Mary Gifford, Rachelen Lien, Paul Marchesano (arrived 1:34 p.m.), David Barnett (Treasurer), and William Van Pelt (Executive Director). Absent: Malcolm Wechsler.

Approval of Minutes: Moved—Marchesano; second—Alcorn-Oppedahl, to approve minutes of the Richmond, Virginia, meeting, held October 17-19, 2003, as circulated by the Secretary and to be published in accordance with Roberts' Rules of Order. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Executive Director: William Van Pelt. The Executive Director presented a written report. The mailing list for *The Tracker*, volume 48, number 1, stands at 3,655 recipients. A supplemental merchandise catalogue is in preparation. Two European Organ Tours are scheduled for August, one to France, the other to the Netherlands. Jerry D. Morton has officially retired as of January of 2004, after sixteen years of service to the Society.

Treasurer: David Barnett. A written report was submitted by the Treasurer. As of January 31, 2004, there were 3,521 paid memberships. The Millennium Campaign for the Endowment Fund brought a total of \$84,851 over the three years of the campaign. The Endowment Fund now totals approximately \$242,500.

President's Report: Michael Friesen. The President presented an oral report. The American Guild of Organists has contacted the President about its intention to convert *Pulling Out All the Stops* to DVD format. James Thomashower, Executive Director of the American Guild of Organists, has worked with President Friesen to develop a policy towards involving the Society in the AGO's Pipe Organ Encounters.

Vice-President's Report: Scot Huntington. The Vice-President presented a brief report. He awaits further replies from Council members regarding the Ten-Year Plan.

Councilors' Reports

Archives: Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl. Councilor Alcorn-Oppedahl presented a written report. Plans for the 2005 Symposium are in formation. The Archives is in the process of acquiring the records of the former Skinner Organ Company and Æolian-Skinner Organ Company. Also, the records of the organbuilding activities of the late Robert Noehren are expected to be acquired in the months ahead.

Conventions: David Dahl. A written report was submitted by Councilor Dahl. A supplemental report was submitted by Kristin Farmer, Convention Coordinator. Plans for the 2004 Buffalo Convention are in the final stages of preparation. Tentative itineraries for the 2005 Old Colony and 2006 Saratoga

Conventions were presented. Model contracts for Convention recitalists and lecturers were presented from the Convention Sourcebook Review Committee.

The meeting recessed for the day at 6:18 p.m.

The meeting reconvened the following morning at 9:29 a.m. in the Library of Saint Matthew United Church of Christ, 1333 South Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans. Present were: Michael Friesen (President), Scot Huntington (Vice-President), Stephen Schnurr (Secretary), Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl, David Dahl (left at 2:40 p.m.), Mary Gifford, Rachelen Lien, Paul Marchesano, Malcolm Wechsler, David Barnett (Treasurer), and William Van Pelt (Executive Director).

Moved: Marchesano; second—Wechsler, that e-mail addresses for OHS Convention registrants be published along with address information on the Convention attendees list. Motion passed, one opposed.

Education: Paul Marchesano. A written report was submitted by Councilor Marchesano. The report included a Checklist of Desired Materials developed by the Historic Organ Citations Committee. There are five applicants for the E. Power Biggs Fellowship for the 2004 National Convention.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Schnurr, that National Council adopt the Operating Procedures as submitted by the Historic Organ Citations committee. Motion passed, one opposed.

Finance and Development: Malcolm Wechsler. There was no report.

Organizational Concerns: Rachelen Lien. Councilor Lien presented a written report. David Scribner has resigned as Chair of the Membership Committee. An Employment Policy Manual Committee has been formed with Rachelen Lien (Chair), Robert Zanca, Linda Fulton, and Michael Friesen.

Moved: Gifford; second—Lien, that National Council appoint Malcolm Wechsler as Chair of the Membership Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting recessed for luncheon at 12:20 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

Moved: Gifford; second—Huntington, that National Council approve the Amended and Restated By-Laws as revised during the present meeting for presentation to the Membership for approval. Vote by roll call: Alcorn-Oppedahl—yes; Barnett—abstain; Gifford—yes; Huntington—yes; Lien—yes; Marchesano—yes; Schnurr—yes; Wechsler—yes. Motion passed.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Huntington, that the Amended and Restated By-Laws as approved by the National Council be printed with a ballot and mailed to the Membership by May 1, 2004. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Gifford, that the President appoint a teller to receive the By-Laws revision ballots. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolved: Alcorn-Oppedahl; second—Barnett, that the National Council extend its gratitude to James Wallmann, Esq., and the By-Laws committee for their diligence, expertise, and perseverance in the revision process. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice-President Huntington expressed the gratitude of the By-Laws Committee to the National Council for its approval of the Committee's work.

Research and Publications: Mary Gifford. Councilor Gifford submitted a written report. Lee Orr has resigned as Chair of the Publications Oversight Committee. A book by Orpha Ochse on Murray Harris is in process for publication. There are presently fourteen applications for the position of Director of Publications. It is expected that the Committee will meet in Los Angeles, California, in July to interview potential candidates.

Moved: Gifford; second—Marchesano, pursuant to the recommendations of the Publications Oversight Committee, that the National Council appoint Len Levasseur and Laurence Libin to fill the two vacancies of the Committee for four-year terms and to appoint Scot Huntington as Chair. Motion passed, one abstention.

Discussion of the *Organ Handbook* and its content ensued such that Scot Huntington, as Chair of the Publications Oversight Committee, will coordinate further discussion and direction between the Council, the Publications Oversight Committee, and the *Handbook* editor.

The meeting recessed for the day at 5:57 p.m.

The meeting reconvened on Sunday morning at 9:23 a.m., in the Saint Charles Suite of the Avenue Plaza Hotel, New Orleans. Present were: Michael Friesen (President), Scot Huntington (Vice-President), Stephen Schnurr (Secretary), Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl, Mary Gifford, Paul Marchesano, Malcolm Wechsler, David Barnett (Treasurer), and William Van Pelt (Executive Director). Absent: David Dahl (excused).

Old Business

Guidelines for Restoration: Huntington. The Vice-President led a brief, yet lively discussion of the difficulties of setting proper parameters for updating the Guidelines.

Fiftieth Anniversary: Discussion of the Fiftieth Anniversary History followed. Mr. Huntington will work with the Publications Oversight Committee to secure an author.

Chicago 2006 American Guild of Organists Convention Recital: Further discussions have occurred between Michael Barone, coordinator, and the Chicago 2006 National Convention Committee of the American Guild of Organists.

An Organizational Chart of the Society, including the National Council, its committees, employees, and contractors, was submitted by the President and discussed.

OHS Coordination with Pipe Organ Encounters: It was agreed that Councilor Wechsler would coordinate these efforts with appropriate American Guild of Organists officials.

Restructuring Committee Report: Lien. Councilor Lien shared her desire that a new Chair be appointed to the Restructuring Committee.

Moved: Schnurr; second—Alcorn-Oppedahl, that National Council appoint Paul Marchesano as Chair of the Restructuring Committee. Motion passed, one abstention.

Moved: Schnurr; second—Marchesano, that National Council appoint Scot Huntington to the Restructuring Committee. Motion passed, one abstention.

Executive Director's Contract: Councilor Marchesano will e-mail a proposed contract for the employment of the Executive Director to the Executive Director, with copies to the National Council.

Membership Survey: Marchesano. There was no report.

Multimedia program: Marchesano. There was no report.

New Business

Resolved: Huntington; second—Schnurr, that National Council express its sincere gratitude to Jerry Morton for sixteen years of outstanding service to the Organ Historical Society. Resolution passed unanimously.

The resignation of Kristin G. Farmer as Convention Coordinator and as a member of the Nominating Committee was received.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Alcorn-Oppedahl, that National Council transfer the Membership Committee from the purview of the Councilor for Organizational Concerns to that of the Councilor for Finance and Development. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Society presence at the 2004 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Los Angeles occurred.

A goal-setting session was initiated. The Secretary is to send the list of items submitted to Council members for further discussion by e-mail before the July meeting of the Council.

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday afternoon (beginning at 1:00 p.m.) and all day Wednesday, July 13-14, 2004, at the Adam's Mark Hotel, Buffalo, New York.

Friday and Saturday, October 22-23, 2004, in Princeton, New Jersey.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

--Respectfully submitted, Stephen Schnurr, Secretary.

--Approved Tuesday, July 13, 2004, in Buffalo, New York.