

**THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of the National Council Meeting**  
**Friday and Saturday, October 14 and 15, 2005**  
**East Avenue Inn, Rochester, New York**

*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 Vice-President Laurence Libin on Friday, October 14, 2005, at 1:27 p.m., in the meeting room of the East Avenue Inn, Rochester, New York. A quorum of Council members was established. Present: Laurence Libin (Vice-President), Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl, Jack Bethards, Carol Britt, Scot Huntington, Paul Marchesano, and David Barnett (Treasurer). Also present: James Wallmann (Archives Governing Board). Arrived late: Michael Friesen (arrived 1:40, from which time he presided over the meeting) and Stephen Schnurr (arrived 2:05 p.m., from which time he recorded minutes). Absent: James Johnston (became ill en route) and William Van Pelt (Executive Director).

The Vice-President introduced new members of the National Council to those present.

**Approval of Minutes:** Moved—Marchesano; second—Huntington, to approve minutes of the Richmond, Virginia, meeting, held March 4 and 5, 2005, as circulated by the Secretary and to be published in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Reports**

**Executive Director:** William Van Pelt. A written report was received from the Executive Director. 2005-2006 Renewal notices were sent to the membership in September. The 2005 Euro-Tour netted \$13,000 in profit. The 2008 National Convention hotel contract has been signed and the 2009 Convention hotel contract is in negotiation. A 2005 OHS Catalogue Supplement will be sent to the printer within days. Attached to the report was a letter of resignation from the Executive Director.

**Treasurer:** David Barnett. A written report was submitted by the Treasurer. Memberships totaled 3,737 on September 30, 2005, a decrease of 130 members (3.4%), with membership income at \$176,088 (a decrease of 11%). Journal advertising totaled \$13,751.00 for the Fiscal Year 2004-2005, an increase of 55.8%. Catalogue sales for 2004-2005 are 5.8% below figures from the previous year, while expenditures decreased 7.1%. Total gifts amounted to \$102,646.62, an increase of 86.5% over the past year.

**President's Report:** Michael Friesen. The President continues his work as liaison for all Society activities, for which he provided a brief oral summary.

**Vice-President's Report:** Laurence Libin. The Vice-President made brief introductory remarks.

### **Councilors' Reports**

**Archives:** Carol Britt. Councilor Britt presented an oral report regarding the Archives Governing Board meeting that morning. Councilor Britt will be the Chair of the Archives Governing Board. The resignations of Rollin Smith and Laurence Libin from the Archives Governing Board have been received. The Archivist continues to work to solve the issue of problematic humidity in the Archives. He has submitted a plan for organization of the M. P. Möller firm's drawings in the New Hampshire storage space. There is not at present further space for storage at that location. The 2007 Symposium plans are progressing, likely to be held in October, in cooperation with the Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative, in Rochester, New York.

**Moved:** Huntington; second—Libin, that National Council approve the membership of William Parsons to the Archives Governing Board. Motion passed, one abstention.

**Moved:** Bethards; second—Marchesano, that National Council approve the Archives Governing Board request to solicit funds until the March 2006 meeting of the Council. Motion passed, one opposed, one abstention.

**Conventions:** Scot Huntington. A written report was submitted by Councilor Huntington. The 2005 National Convention in Brockton, Massachusetts, brought an average daily attendance of 250 persons. The event produced approximately \$3,000 profit. Final preparations for the 2006 National Convention in Saratoga Springs, New York, are being attended. The 2007 Central Indiana Convention is finalizing its list of organs to be heard. The 2008 National Convention in Seattle, Washington, has begun to formulate its itinerary. The 2009 Cleveland National Convention Committee has begun to set its itinerary and to analyze instruments. Also, Cleveland hotels have been visited.

**Moved:** Huntington; second—Marchesano, that the Saratoga Springs Convention Committee's request for five hotel rooms at the Convention be granted. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved:** Huntington; second—Bethards, that National Council grant the Saratoga Springs Convention Committee's request to send a publicity letter to the membership regarding the Convention at non-profit bulk rate. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved:** Huntington; second—Libin, that National Council grant the Saratoga Springs Convention Committee's request to present six Citations during the 2006 National Convention, pending award by the Citations Committee. Motion passed, one opposed.

**Moved:** Marchesano; second—Huntington, that National Council limit National Conventions in the years 2010 and beyond to a maximum of four full days and one evening. A Convention Committee may request an additional optional day. Motion passed.

*The meeting recessed for the day at 6:11 p.m.*

*The meeting reconvened on Saturday morning, October 15, 2005, at 9:16 a.m. Present: Michael Friesen (President), Laurence Libin (Vice-President), Stephen Schnurr (Secretary), Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl, Jack Bethards, Carol Britt, Scot Huntington, Paul Marchesano, and David Barnett (Treasurer). Absent: James Johnston and William Van Pelt (Executive Director).*

**Education:** Paul Marchesano. Councilor Marchesano submitted a written report. Deadline for applications for the E. Power Biggs Fellowship for the coming year will be February 28, 2006. Since the July meeting of the Council, one Citation has been awarded. The Citations Committee Chair has been involved in several Citations presentations since July. The online Pipe Organ Database has experienced considerable use.

**Finance and Development:** James Johnston. A report from the Endowment Fund Advisory Board was submitted in the absence of the Councilor. At the end of the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year, the Endowment Fund totaled \$286,794.06, whereas the Fund totaled \$257,947.52 the previous year.

**Organizational Concerns:** Jack Bethards. Discussion of the Councilor's various assignments occurred as means of introduction to his duties.

**Moved:** Schnurr; second – Libin, that National Council appoint Dennis Northway of Chicago, Illinois, as Chair of the Membership Committee. Dr. Northway may constitute his Committee as needed. Motion passed unanimously.

**Research and Publications:** Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl. Councilor Alcorn-Oppedahl submitted a written report, primarily containing remarks from the Director of Publications, Gregory Crowell, and the Chair of the Publications Governing Board, Scot Huntington. Crowell and Pamela Gurman continue to work towards bringing *The Tracker* back on schedule. Several books are in process. The Director of Publications has produced a style sheet for the OHS Press and is writing a Press survey. *Litterae Organi* has now been published, though the seventy-five deluxe bound copies of the book had to be returned due to damage before receipt. Repaired copies have been received at headquarters. An application for the Alan Laufman Research Grant is in the final stages of formation. Councilor Huntington discussed new ideas regarding the *Organ Handbook* for the 2006 National Convention.

### Old Business

**Ten-Year Plan:** Libin. There was no report.

**Guidelines for Restoration:** Huntington. The Committee continues to gather data related to its work.

**Fiftieth Anniversary Endowment Fund:** Johnston. There was no report.

**Archives Operating Procedures:** Britt. The Archives Governing Board continues to work on revisions to this document.

**Employee Policy Manual:** Bethards. There was no report.

**Membership Survey:** Marchesano. There was no report.

### New Business

**Resolved:** Alcorn-Oppedahl; second – Marchesano, that National Council expresses its deep appreciation to William T. Van Pelt for his many years of dedicated service to the organization. Resolution passed unanimously.

The meeting went into Executive Session to discuss transition issues as they relate to the departure of the Executive Director.

**Moved:** Britt; second – Alcorn-Oppedahl, that National Council appoint Scot Huntington as member of the Publications Governing Board. Motion passed unanimously, one abstention.

*The meeting recessed for luncheon at 11:58 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:34 p.m.*

2005 Old Colony Convention Evaluation information was distributed by the Treasurer to the Council, followed by reflective conversation.

**Moved:** Marchesano; second – Bethards, that National Council adopt a revised balanced budget for the Fiscal Year of 2005-2006 with income and expenses of \$1,139,200.00. Motion passed, one opposed.

**Moved:** Marchesano; second – Alcorn-Oppedahl, that National Council adjust the special allocation for the E. Power Biggs Fellowship for 2006 to \$5,000.00. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved:** Marchesano; second – Bethards, that National Council transfer the balance of the Preservation Trust Fund monies to the Helen Harriman Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved:** Marchesano; second – Britt, that National Council transfer the balance of the Development Fund monies to the Endowment Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

The Council discussed fundraising issues.

President Friesen expressed his appreciation to Councilor Alcorn-Oppedahl for her service as Councilor for Archives and then undertaking a second area of responsibility in the same term of office by moving to Research and Publications.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Friday and Saturday, February 17 and 18, 2006, in Princeton, New Jersey.

Saturday and Sunday, June 24 and 25, 2006, in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Friday and Saturday, October 20 and 21, 2006, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

### **Adjournment**

**Moved:** Libin; second – Bethards, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

*--Respectfully submitted, Stephen Schnurr, Secretary, assisted by Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl.*

*--Approved, Friday, February 17, 2006, in Princeton, New Jersey.*