

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the National Council Meeting
Monday and Tuesday, July 11 and 12, 2005
Pilgrim Room, Radisson Hotel, Brockton, Massachusetts

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 Scot Huntington on Monday, July 11, 2005, at 1:17 p.m., in the Pilgrim Room of the Radisson Hotel, Brockton, Massachusetts. A quorum of Council members was established. Present: Scot Huntington (Vice-President), Stephen Schnurr (Secretary), Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl, David Dahl, Sebastian Glück, James Johnston, Rachelen Lien, Paul Marchesano, William Van Pelt (Executive Director), and David Barnett (Treasurer). Also present: Stephen Pinel (Archivist), Laurence Libin, and Benjie Branson. Absent: Michael Friesen (President).

Approval of Minutes: Moved—Marchesano; second—Johnston, to approve minutes of the Richmond, Virginia, meeting, held March 4-5, 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. The Executive Director presented a written report. Mailing of *The Tracker* to the membership totaled 3,325 for volume 49, number 1. 739 members had not renewed as of March 22. The membership brochure was reprinted with 4,415 mailed to prospective new members. 2005 Convention registration, as of this date, numbers approximately 261 persons, with about 250 people maximum on a single day. An Annual Giving Fund solicitation has been mailed, with a cover letter by Councilor Alcorn-Oppedahl. A Society Catalogue Supplement was mailed in June. Extensive discussion took place regarding Society display presence at the 2006 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Chicago, Illinois.

Treasurer: David Barnett. A written report was submitted by the Treasurer. Memberships totaled 3,546 as of June 30, 2005, a decrease of 215 members (5.7%) from this time last year. Since the March meeting of the Council, \$12,712 in advertising in *The Tracker* has been sold, a large increase over this time last year. Catalogue sales are 2.9% behind those this time last year. Total gifts to date are \$69,928.40, 175% over this time last year. A \$10,000 gift has been made to the E. Power Biggs Fellowship. There were also increased gifts to the Archives, Convention, and Symposium.

President's Report: Michael Friesen. The President presented a written report in advance of the meeting regarding his various activities with committees and governing boards of the Society, as well as his cooperative efforts with various organizations within the American Guild of Organists.

Vice-President's Report: Scot Huntington. The Vice-President presented a written report, much of which detailed his work with the Publications Governing Board.

Councilors' Reports

Archives: Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl. Councilor Alcorn-Oppedahl presented a written report. The Archivist was on hand to answer questions about acquisition of the Henry Karl Baker collection. The 2005 Symposium has occurred with good reviews. Initial plans for a 2007 Symposium are under formation, to take place in Rochester, New York, with Laurence Libin and Hans Davidsson as co-chairs, in cooperation with Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative. Discussion led to agreement that symposia

occurring under the auspices of a particular program of the Society, such symposium activity would be reported through the councilor for that area. General Society-sponsored symposia would report to the Councilor for Education.

Conventions: David Dahl. A written report was submitted by Councilor Dahl. Brief updates on Conventions from 2005 through 2008 were provided. Stephen Pinel led brief discussion regarding the 2006 Convention in Saratoga Springs, New York. The Vice-President reported on possible restorative repairs to the Odell organ in the Troy Music Hall of Troy, New York. The 2008 Seattle/Tacoma Convention Committee is focusing on headquarters location.

Education: Paul Marchesano. A written report was submitted by Councilor Marchesano. Three E. Power Biggs Fellowships have been awarded for the 2005 National Convention: Bradley Altoff of Minnesota, Christopher Deibert of New Jersey, and Rachel Tissue of Michigan. Seven Historic Organ Citations have been awarded since the March meeting of the National Council. In May 2005, a searchable database of organs with Citations has been available online. The online version of the OHS Pipe Organ Database was premiered in May by Jim Cook, Database Committee Co-Chair, at the Society's symposium. A page on the Society's website is being prepared to include a complete list of Historic Organ Recitals, with targeted completion for autumn.

Finance and Development: James Johnston. Councilor Johnston submitted a written report, covered below.

Organizational Concerns: Rachelen Lien. Councilor Lien presented a written report. The Councilor produced a mailing to Chapters regarding their present status and activities. The Membership Committee plans to meet this summer to implement some ideas for increasing membership. Two Councilors (Dahl and Marchesano) have conducted interviews with staff members at the Richmond headquarters on behalf of the Restructuring Committee since the last meeting of Council.

Research and Publications: Sebastian Glück. A written report was provided by Councilor Glück. Additional reports were received from Scot Huntington, Chair of the Publications Governing Board, and Gregory Crowell, Director of Publications. The Vice-President presented to the Council the Festschrift in honor of Barbara Owen, published one year ahead of schedule. The history of the Society is in progress by Councilor Alcorn-Oppedahl. Authors are being engaged for the 50th Anniversary issue of *The Tracker*.

Moved: Johnston; second—Glück, that Orpha Ochse be appointed Chair of the Alan Laufman Grant Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned for the day at 4:58 p.m.

The meeting reconvened on Tuesday, July 12, at 9:12 a.m. Present: Michael Friesen (President), Scot Huntington (Vice-President), Stephen Schnurr (Secretary), Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl, David Dahl, Sebastian Glück (arrived 9:21 a.m.) James Johnston, Rachelen Lien, Paul Marchesano, William Van Pelt (Executive Director), and David Barnett (Treasurer). Also present: Richard Walker, James Stark, and Joseph McCabe (each for part of the morning).

Mr. Walker and Mr. Stark of the Endowment Fund Governing Board were introduced by Councilor Johnston to present a report on the Endowment Fund. Assets under management by the Endowment Fund Governing Board totaled \$276,788.81 on June 30, 2005, an increase from \$246,506.13, the amount on June 30, 2004.

Old Business

Ten-Year Plan: Huntington. There was no report.

Guidelines for Restoration: Huntington. Further documentation (from the American Theatre Organ Society) has been sent to the Committee for their review and discussion.

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

Archives Operating Procedures: Alcorn-Oppedahl.

Moved: Alcorn-Oppedahl; second –Huntington, that National Council accept the Archives Operating Procedures as submitted by the Archives Governing Board. **Moved:** Marchesano; second –Schnurr, that the motion be tabled until the October meeting of Council. Motion to table passed unanimously.

Employee Policy Manual: Lien. There was no report.

Executive Director's Contract: Marchesano. There was no report.

Multimedia Program: Marchesano. There was no report.

Membership Survey: Marchesano. There was no report.

New Business

Moved: Dahl; second –Schnurr, that National Council accept a proposal for a 2009 National Convention in the Cleveland, Ohio, region, to be chaired by Joseph M. McCabe. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Johnston; second –Marchesano, that National Council authorize Endowment Fund Advisory Board Advisor James Stark to have online access to the Endowment Fund accounts for the purpose of preparing reports for the Advisory Board and the National Council. This authorization to remain in effect until changed by National Council or until the end of said Advisor's term on the Endowment Fund Advisory Board. This, however, does not authorize said Advisor to effect trades or transfers within or between accounts. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Marchesano; second –Johnston, that National Council allocate funds available annually for the E. Power Biggs Fellowship as follows: 40% of previous year gifts, plus 60% of interest on the fund, plus or minus carryover from the previous year shall be made available for the current year's fellowship(s). Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Marchesano; second –Johnston, that National Council make special allocation of E. Power Biggs Fellowship gifts for the Fiscal Year 2004-2005: \$3,000 shall be made available for 2005-2006 in addition to the regular interest income of the established formula; the balance of the gifts received in 2004-2005 shall be deposited to the principal of the E. Power Biggs Fellowship Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolved: Marchesano; second –Huntington, that National Council expresses its gratitude to the Rice family for their generous gift in memory of Clark Rice and for facilitating additional memorial gifts to the E. Power Biggs Fellowship Fund. Resolution passed unanimously.

Moved: Huntington; second –Alcorn-Oppedahl, that charter member Randall E. Wagner be named an Honorary Member of the Society, subject to approval of the membership at the 2005 Annual Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Further discussion occurred regarding Society presence at the 2006 Chicago Convention of the American Guild of Organists.

Moved: Dahl; second—Johnston, that the Organ Historical Society rent two exhibit booths at the 2006 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Chicago for display purposes. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting recessed for luncheon at 12:36 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 2:18 p.m.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Dahl, that National Council establish a group health insurance program for employees of the Organ Historical Society, as follows: 1) the plan is available to employees who have worked for a period of thirty days on a schedule established by the employer and who are anticipated by the employer to work at least 32 hours per week in forty weeks per year; 2) employees must be informed of the plan at the time of employment and must opt into the plan within the first 30 days of employment or at times thereafter as established by the administrator of the plan and/or the terms of the contract of the insurance provider; 3) employees who are anticipated by the employer to work 32 hours or more per week in 40 weeks per year will participate in the cost of the plan by a payroll deduction of 20% of the per person cost of the plan; 4) OHS will bear 80% of the cost of the plan not to exceed \$6,359 in the first year for three employees; 5) salaried employees who currently participate in the OHS existing health insurance plan will continue health insurance coverage in that plan; 6) the Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and execute a contract for coverage within the parameters established by this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Dahl, that National Council increase regular dues to \$57.00, 25 or under dues to \$20.00, and over 65/second-in-household dues to \$45.00. The Executive Director will adjust appropriately the remaining categories. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Johnston, second—Marchesano, that National Council adopt a balanced budget with income and expenses of \$1,364,607.00 for the fiscal year 2005-2006. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 5:59 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:44 p.m.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Johnston, that National Council establish a group disability insurance program for employees of the Organ Historical Society, as follows: 1) the plan is available to employees who have worked for a period of thirty days on a schedule established by the employer and who are anticipated by the employer to work at least 32 hours per week in forty weeks per year; 2) employees must be informed of the plan at the time of employment and must opt into the plan within the first 30 days of employment or at times thereafter as established by the administrator of the plan and/or the terms of the contract of the insurance provider; 3) employees who are anticipated by the employer to work 32 hours or more per week in 40 weeks per year will participate in the cost of the plan by a payroll deduction of 20% of the per person cost of the plan; 4) OHS will bear 80% of the cost of the plan not to exceed \$1,646 in the first year for five employees; 5) the Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and execute a contract for coverage within the parameters established by this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Glück, that National Council establish a group dental insurance program for employees of the Organ Historical Society, as follows: 1) the plan is available to employees who have worked for a period of thirty days on a schedule established by the employer and who are anticipated by the employer to work at least 32 hours per week in forty weeks per year; 2) employees must be informed of the plan at the time of employment and must opt into the plan within the first 30 days of employment or at times thereafter as established by the administrator of the plan and/or the terms of the contract of the insurance provider; 3) employees who are anticipated by the employer to work 32 hours or more per week in 40 weeks per year may participate in the cost of the plan by a payroll deduction of 100% of the per person cost of the plan; 4) the Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and execute a contract for coverage within the parameters established by this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Glück; second—Schnurr, that National Council authorize the creation of a prize program for excellence in the field of published book-length and article-length research on the pipe organ. This prize will be administered by a committee under the supervision of the Councilor for Research and Publications, who will report to the National Council. The book prize will be called the John Ogasapian Prize, with the first award to be made in 2006. The name of the article prize is to be determined. A committee of five is to be formed with the Councilor for Research and Publications as Chair. The Councilor for Research and Publications will bring names to the October meeting of the Council for formation of said committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Huntington; second—Glück, that the Organ Historical Society create a premium membership category at the \$2,500 level with a super-premium incentive, and that premium incentives be attached to the second- and third-highest membership categories. Said premiums to be recommended by the Membership Committee and to be presented to Council at its October meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Huntington; second—Marchesano, that the Organ Historical Society publish a minimum of two catalogues within the next twelve months, one mailed not later than October 1, 2005, and another mailed not later than April 1, 2006. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Johnston, that National Council direct the Membership Committee to recommend a membership development campaign to be reported to Council by its October 2005 meeting for implementation in 2006. Motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings

Friday and Saturday, October 14-15, 2005, in Rochester, New York.

Adjournment

Moved: Marchesano; second—Huntington, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:58 p.m.

--Respectfully submitted, Stephen Schnurr, Secretary.

--Approved, Friday, October 14, 2005, in Rochester, New York.