

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the National Council Meeting
Friday and Saturday, February 17 and 18, 2006
The American Organ Archives, Princeton, New Jersey

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 Michael Friesen on Friday, February 17, 2006, at 1:45 p.m., in the American Organ Archives of the Organ Historical Society, Princeton, New Jersey. A quorum of Council members was established. Present: Michael Friesen (President), Laurence Libin (Vice-President), Stephen Schnurr (Secretary), Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl, Jack Bethards, Carol Britt, Scot Huntington (arrived 2:57 p.m.), James Johnston, Paul Marchesano, and David Barnett (Treasurer).

Approval of Minutes: Moved—Libin; second—Britt, to approve minutes of the Rochester, New York, meeting, held October 14 and 15, 2005, as circulated by the Secretary and to be published in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Executive Director: Vacant.

Treasurer: David Barnett. A written report was submitted by the Treasurer. Income from memberships is approximately at the budgeted amount, and catalogue sales are better than projected. However, expenses are higher than budgeted.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Johnston, that National Council limit the budget spending for Council meeting expenses for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 to \$6,500 as included in the budget for the same Fiscal Year and that Councilors will personally bear the expenses of attending the February and June 2006 meetings of the Council. Motion passed unanimously.

The National Council instructed the Councilor for Archives to notify the Archives Governing Board that their expenditures for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 cannot exceed the Archives budget plus designated gifts to the Archives for this Fiscal Year.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Schnurr, that National Council reduce the approved budget line item expense for the journal to \$42,500. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report: Michael Friesen. The President issued a written report. The President has been dealing with numerous transition issues with the Society.

Vice-President's Report: Laurence Libin. There was no formal report.

Councilors' Reports

Archives: Carol Britt. Councilor Britt presented a verbal report. The Archivist has made a trip to Ohio to acquire the records of the Toledo Organ Company, which were present in the Archives during the meeting. Vice-President Libin reported that plans for the October 11-14, 2007, Archives Symposium in Rochester, New York, are progressing.

Conventions: Scot Huntington. A written report was submitted by Councilor Huntington. Attached to the report was an itinerary for the 2007 Central Indiana National Convention. The 2009 Cleveland Convention is well on its way in creating a full itinerary.

Education: Paul Marchesano. Councilor Marchesano submitted a written report. One Citations ballot has been considered by the Citations Committee since the October meeting of Council, with approval for three organs. One ballot for one organ is presently under consideration by Committee. Furthermore, one citation is being considered for possible recommendation to the National Council for rescission. There are now more than 23,000 entries in the Pipe Organ Database. Four applications for the E. Power Biggs Fellowship have been received.

Finance and Development: James Johnston. The Endowment Fund Advisory Board submitted a written report through Councilor Johnston. Between December 31, 2004, and December 31, 2005, the Endowment Fund increased from \$271,726.15 to approximately \$290,561.95. Councilor Johnston will write a letter to those carrying unfulfilled pledges to the Endowment Fund.

Organizational Concerns: Jack Bethards. Councilor Bethards provided verbal updates on the Distinguished Service Award and the Membership Committees.

Moved: Bethards, second—Johnston, that National Council approve a change of the operating procedures of the Distinguished Service Award Committee, that the award would not be given to employees and contractors and to clarify the criteria that it would instead be given for direct volunteer service to the programs of the Society. Motion passed, one abstention.

Research and Publications: Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl. Councilor Alcorn-Oppedahl submitted a written report, primarily containing remarks from the Director of Publications, Gregory Crowell. Volume 50, Number 2, of *The Tracker* is in process.

Old Business

Five and Ten Year Plan: Libin. The Vice-President offered to write about the Plan to *The Tracker*, asking for input of ideas from the membership for the Plan.

Guidelines for Restoration: Huntington. There was no report.

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

Archives Operating Procedures: Britt. There was no report.

Employee Policy Manual: Bethards. There was no report.

Membership Survey: Marchesano. There was no report.

Executive Director Search: Bethards. The Councilor distributed a draft organizational chart of the Society.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Libin, that National Council go into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting came out of Executive Session.

Discussion regarding the Society booths at the American Guild of Organists National Convention in Chicago resulted in agreement that the President will cause the display to be created, with the Secretary and Joseph McCabe staffing the table during the Convention.

The meeting recessed for the day at 6:49 p.m.

The meeting reconvened on Saturday morning, 18 February 2006, 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, James Johnston, Paul Marchesano, and David Barnett (Treasurer).

Moved: Marchesano; second—Johnston, that National Council approve the 2006 National Convention budget and pricing as supplied on February 18 by the Saratoga Springs Convention Committee. Motion passed, one opposed, one abstention.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Alcorn-Oppedahl, that National Council go into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting came out of Executive Session.

The meeting recessed for luncheon at 12:25 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 1:45 p.m. by the Vice-President, who presided for approximately ten minutes until the President returned. The Treasurer had left due to illness.

The Council discussed the issue of dealing with incoming inquiries to the Society in the absence of an Executive Director, much of which will be channeled through the Vice-President for the interim.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Johnston, that National Council return to Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting came out of Executive Session.

New Business

Moved: Libin; second—Huntington, that National Council form a committee to investigate organ tour options for the Society. Motion passed unanimously.

The Vice-President will investigate options for persons to serve on this committee.

Moved: Libin; second—Huntington, that National Council publish a membership list of the Society during the 2006-2007 Fiscal Year. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Bethards, that if a Convention Committee obligates the Society for any costs over and above those defined in the Convention Sourcebook or by National Council action, the Committee Chair shall be responsible for raising funds to cover such costs. Failure to do so will result in subtraction of the amount of resulting losses from the Convention Chair stipend. Motion passed, one opposed.

Moved: Schnurr; second—Marchesano, that National Council rescind its motion of October 2005 to grant six Citations to the 2006 National Convention Committee. Motion passed, three opposed.

The National Council directed the Secretary to send to members of the Council and Convention Committee Chairs copies of the Convention Sourcebook as approved in Buffalo, New York, in July 2004 along with motions passed by the National Council regarding Conventions since that date as being the official state of the Sourcebook at this time. Councilors are encouraged to comment on the Sourcebook

and items to be considered for its improvement, for collection by the Secretary. These will be considered at the June 2006 Council meeting with a view towards issuing a new edition of the document.

Resolved: Huntington; second—Marchesano, that National Council expresses its appreciation to Len Levasseur for his selfless contributions to the Society. Resolution passed unanimously.

The Council reached consensus that a committee consisting of Jack Bethards (Councilor for Organizational Concerns), David Barnett (Treasurer), and Paul Marchesano (Councilor for Education) will constitute a Catalogue Oversight Committee until a Catalogue Director or Executive Director is hired.

Upcoming Meetings

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: Johnston; second—Marchesano, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

-- Respectfully submitted, Stephen Schnurr, Secretary.

--Approved in Saratoga Springs, New York, June 24, 2006.