

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the National Council Meeting
Saturday and Sunday, June 24 and 25, 2006
The Saratoga Hotel and Conference Center, Saratoga Springs, 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 President Michael Friesen on Saturday, June 24, 2006, at 9:23 a.m., in the Saratoga Hotel and Conference Center, Saratoga Springs, New York. 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, James Johnston (arrived 5:19 p.m.), Paul Marchesano, Daniel N. Colburn, II (Executive Director), and David Barnett (Treasurer). Also present for part of the meeting: Gregory Crowell and Joseph McCabe.

Approval of Minutes: Moved – Marchesano; second – Libin, to approve minutes of the Princeton, New Jersey, meeting, held February 17 and 18, 2006, as circulated by the Secretary and to be published in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Executive Director: Daniel N. Colburn, II. Mr. Colburn submitted a brief written report, expressing his enthusiasm at being named Executive Director, beginning his work officially this past Monday, June 19. Mr. Colburn will stress improvements in regular communication between the Society and its membership in the immediate future. The Council expressed its appreciation to the Executive Director to have him working with the Society.

Treasurer: David Barnett. A verbal report was presented by the Treasurer. As many accounts are in flux with the forthcoming National Convention, a firm financial report is not available at this time.

President's Report: Michael Friesen. The President issued a written report regarding transitional issues since the last meeting. Leslie Cheu of the Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation has reported that the Foundation has graciously decided to present the Society with a check in the amount of \$5,000.00 in gratitude for the Society's assistance in coordinating work on the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall organ and to assist with ancillary expenses with the Convention concert in the Hall.

Vice-President's Report: Laurence Libin. A written report was submitted by the Vice-President, outlining his work in recent months regarding transition issues and assisting to ensure that inquiries at the headquarters are properly directed.

Councilors' Reports

Archives: Carol Britt. Councilor Britt presented a written report. The final payment for the Henry Karl Baker Collection has been made. Due to budgetary restraints, no binding shipment has been made. The records of the Skinner and Aeolian-Skinner firm, formerly archived by Edward M. Stout, III, of California, are now safely in storage in Archives space in New Hampshire. Brief discussion occurred regarding the possible need to remove the Archives from the Princeton campus, should Rider University decide to make major changes to the Westminister Choir College campus in Princeton. The Vice-President provided an update on the October 2007 Symposium at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

Conventions: Scot Huntington. A written report was submitted by Councilor Huntington, consisting of reports submitted by Chairs of the 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 National Conventions. Proposals have been received for Conventions in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC, (the latter presented by the Hilbus Chapter) for Council's review. The President made a visit in March to meet with the 2007 Central Indiana National Convention Committee. Joseph McCabe was present to speak briefly about plans for the 2009 National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. The Councilor for Conventions also opened for later discussion that National Council might consider planning conventions on a biennial basis.

Resolved: Libin; second – Alcorn-Oppedahl, that National Council expresses its thanks and appreciation to the 2006 National Convention Committee for its work. Resolution passed unanimously.

Education: Paul Marchesano. Councilor Marchesano submitted a written report. There are three E. Power Biggs Fellows for the 2006 National Convention: Patrick Davis of Utica, New York; Trevor Dodd, of Battle Creek, Michigan; and John Walhausen of New York City, New York. There were five applications. Since the last meeting of the Council, six Citations have been awarded, including five for the 2006 National Convention. The sixth, for the 1916 Austin Organ Company opus 690 located in Saint Mary Chapel, Mount McGregor Correctional Institute, Wilton, New York, was presented the preceding evening during a ceremony attended by several members of the Council and other guests. The Pipe Organ Database continues to draw ever more users. During the Councilor's recent visit to Richmond, he catalogued a number of old tapes and recordings in the Society's possession.

Moved: Marchesano; second – Libin, that the Society co-sponsor the 2008 Organ and Art Symposium (*Organs in Art/Organs as Art*) in cooperation with the City University of New York Research Center for Music Iconography. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Schnurr; second – Marchesano, that National Council rescind Citation #63 for the 1896 Casavant opus 96, formerly located in Saint Louis Catholic Church, Oswego, New York. Motion passed unanimously.

Council discussed pursuing a form of online discussion forum and/or bulletin board section at the Society's website, open to all members.

Finance and Development: James Johnston. The Endowment Fund Advisory Board submitted a written report through Councilor Johnston. During the meeting on Sunday, June 25, James Stark was introduced to report on the Endowment Fund with Councilor Johnston. The Endowment Fund has grown from \$277,205.71 to \$314,292.15 during the period March 31, 2005, through May 31, 2006.

Organizational Concerns: Jack Bethards. The Councilor submitted a written report. The Membership Committee Chair, Dennis Northway has been very busy in working on outreach for new members as well as lapsed members. The Chicago-Midwest Chapter has provided T-shirts advertising the fiftieth anniversary of the Society and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Chapter. Otherwise, the Councilor's efforts have focused on the transition to a new Executive Director.

The meeting recessed for luncheon at 12:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:25 p.m.

Research and Publications: Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl. Councilor Alcorn-Oppedahl submitted a written report. Attachments included a report from the Director of Publications, Gregory Crowell. Alan Laufman Research Grant recipients for 2006 are: Tina Frühauf, Randall Engle, and Scott Hyslop.

Moved: Alcorn-Oppedahl; second – Libin, that National Council appoint Christopher Anderson to the Publications Governing Board, expiring March of 2010. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Alcorn-Oppedahl; second—Huntington, that National Council appoint James Wallmann to the Publications Governing Board, expiring March of 2010. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Libin; second—Huntington, that National Council create a Publications Prize Committee to review Michael Friesen's draft proposal with the goal of instituting a Publications Prize program. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Libin; second—Huntington, that the Councilor for Research and Publications be directed to form the Publications Prize Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Five and Ten Year Plan: Libin. The Vice-President is preparing an appeal to the membership regarding ideas for the Plan, to appear in a forthcoming issue of *The Tracker*.

Guidelines for Restoration: Huntington. Mr. Huntington attended the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Providence, Rhode Island, June 16-19. The Guidelines Committee is now looking to draft a list of Guidelines for Conservation within a year.

Archives Operating Procedures: Britt. There was no report.

Employee Policy Manual: Bethards. The Councilor will work with the new Executive Director on this project.

Catalogue Operations Oversight Committee: Marchesano. The Committee has been busy ensuring operations run smoothly. Sales between October 1, 2005, and May 18, 2006, were ahead of sales from the same period the previous year.

Organ Tours: Libin. The Vice-President presented a brief written report from the *ad hoc* Tours Committee. The report is now turned over to the Executive Director for further consideration.

Moved: Libin; second—Schnurr, that National Council disband the *ad hoc* Organ Tours Committee with Council's thanks. Motion passed unanimously.

Convention Sourcebook: Schnurr. Progress with the Sourcebook has been slow, but methodical. Helpful commentaries for revisions of the text have been received from Councilor Bethards and the Vice-President.

Moved: Schnurr; second—Libin, that National Council appoint an *ad hoc* committee to address the Convention Sourcebook for revision, with a report expected to the Council at its October 2006 meeting. Said committee to include: the Secretary (Chair), the Councilor for Conventions, the Director of Publications, Jack Bethards, Joseph McCabe, the President, *ex officio*, the Vice-President, *ex officio*, and the Executive Director, *ex officio*. Motion passed, one opposed.

OHS presence at AGO National Convention at Chicago: Joseph McCabe has made beautiful photographic poster boards for display at the Convention. The table at the Convention will be staffed by the President, the Executive Director, the Secretary, Joseph McCabe, and Charles Szpara, at various times.

New Business

Moved: Schnurr; second—Marchesano, that approved minutes of all Governing Boards be supplied to the National Council by the liaison Councilor within one month of approval of said minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Schnurr; second—Britt, that National Council authorize publishing approved minutes of National Council minutes on the Society's website. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Libin; second—Alcorn-Oppedahl, that National Council authorize Directors and Officers Liability Insurance be obtained. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Alcorn-Oppedahl, that the Organ Historical Society support the AAAO initiative, the joint effort among major pipe organ organizations to promote the pipe organ. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Huntington, that National Council appoint a Website Liaison. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Bethards; second—Schnurr, that National Council appoint Paul Marchesano as Website Liaison. Motion passed, one opposed, one abstention.

There followed discussion of an Organizational Chart of the Society as submitted by the President.

Moved: Libin; second—Huntington, that National Council endorse the British Institute of Organ Studies Organ Preservation Initiative. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Schnurr, that National Council ratify OHS Support for the Institute of British Organ Building campaign against the ban on the use of lead in the European Union. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Libin; second—Marchesano, that communications by councilors and officers regarding National Council business and directed to James Wallmann shall be channeled through the President. Motion passed, one opposed.

Moved: Alcorn-Oppedahl; second—Huntington, that the duties of the Advertising Manager for the Society's publications be transferred to the Executive Director, with the compensation budgeted for Advertising Manager added to the Executive Director's salary. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting recessed for the day at 5:44 p.m.

The meeting reconvened on Sunday, June 25, 2006, at 9:12 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, Daniel N. Colburn, II (Executive Director), and David Barnett (Treasurer). Also present for part of the day: Joseph McCabe and James Stark.

Moved: Marchesano; second—Libin, for the meeting to go into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 9:14 a.m.

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 9:53 a.m.

The Treasurer has developed a new form for use by anyone asking for expense reimbursement.

Moved: Britt; second—Johnston, that the excess inventory of Convention Handbooks and *The Tracker* will be handled by the staff and the Catalogue Operations Oversight Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Libin; second—Johnston, that National Council authorize the Catalogue Sales Supervisor to sign petty cash checks. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Bethards; second—Marchesano, that the Executive Director develop a partner membership policy to be presented to the National Council at its October 2006 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Bethards; second—Schnurr, that all Society credit card holders be advised that they must provide full documentation to the Treasurer for all card uses. Motion passed unanimously.

The Council discussed the possibility of moving the Society to biennial, rather than annual, conventions.

Moved: Bethards; second—Libin, that the policy of restricting convention registration to Society members only be discontinued. Motion passed, one opposed.

Moved: Libin; second—Marchesano, that convention presenters need not be Society members. Motion passed, one opposed.

Moved: Huntington; second—Marchesano, to accept the proposal for a National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with the convention year to be determined. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Johnston; second—Huntington, to accept the proposal for a National Convention in Washington, DC, with the convention year to be determined. Motion passed unanimously.

The Council discussed preliminary figures for the 2006-2007 Fiscal Year budget, with the expectation of approving a budget at its October 2006 meeting.

Moved: Libin; second—Johnston, that meal reimbursement will be at cost with the Federal *per diem* standard as a maximum. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Johnston; second—Schnurr, to authorize the Archives Governing Board to raise funds to cover the costs of acquiring the Skinner/Aeolian-Skinner firm records. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Bethards; second—Huntington, that selection of photography services for use in OHS publications shall be made by the Publications Governing Board using a Request for Proposal process administered by the Executive Director. Expenses for these services shall be borne by the Publications Governing Board. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolved: Schnurr; second—Marchesano, that National Council expresses its gratitude to David Barnett for his ongoing exceptional work in assisting the Society through its administrative transition. Resolution passed unanimously.

The meeting recessed for the day at 1:39 p.m.

The meeting reconvened on Friday, June 30, 2006, at 6:08 p.m., in the Hall of Springs, Saratoga Springs, New York. Present: Michael Friesen (President), Laurence Libin (Vice-President), Stephen Schnurr (Secretary), Jack Bethards, Carol Britt, Scot Huntington, James Johnston, Paul Marchesano, Daniel N. Colburn, II (Executive Director), and David Barnett (Treasurer). Absent: Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl.

There was nor further business to transact.

Upcoming Meetings

Friday and Saturday, October 20 and 21, 2006, in Indianapolis, Indiana.
Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17, 2007, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Tuesday and Wednesday, July 10 and 11, 2007, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Adjournment

Moved: Schnurr; second – Marchesano, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

-- Respectfully submitted, Stephen Schnurr, Secretary.

--Approved, Friday, 20 October 2006, in Indianapolis, Indiana.