

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the National Council Meeting
Friday and Saturday, October 20 and 21, 2006
The Sheraton Hotel and Suites, Keystone Crossing, Indianapolis, Indiana

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, October 20, 2006, at 1:34 p.m., in the Sheraton Hotel and Suites, Keystone Crossing, Indianapolis, Indiana. A quorum of Council members was established. 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.

Approval of Minutes: Moved—Marchesano; second—Johnston, to approve minutes of the Saratoga Springs, New York, meeting, held June 24 and 25, 2006, as circulated by the Secretary and to be published in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

President's Report: Michael Friesen. President Friesen presented a written report to the Council, detailing his activities on behalf of the Society since the last meeting of the Council. He traveled to Chicago to speak to the meeting of the membership of the American Guild of Organists at their National Convention. The President has been in regular contact with the Executive Director as the latter begins his work. He also serves as a resource for the Chair of the 2007 National Convention Committee.

Vice-President's Report: Laurence Libin. The Vice-President submitted a written log of inquiries to the Society on many and varied topics which he has answered or has assisted in finding answers.

Treasurer: David Barnett. The Treasurer submitted several written reports. For the Fiscal Year 2005-2006, Membership has declined by 104 members (-2.8%) to 3,606; however, membership income has increased by 19.6% to \$34,569. During the same period, journal advertising income decreased to \$10,937 (-20.5%). Convention profit totaled \$45,542, of which \$33,776 was in sponsorships. Total gifts for the year were \$108,911, a 6.1% increase over the preceding year. The Society has received a \$35,000 bequest from the Herbert Abbott estate. Catalogue sales were 14.1% below last year's, and expenditures were 8.5% less as well. Inventory increased 6.8%. Total sales were \$626,685, expenses were \$561,336. Inventory at year-end was \$213,762. Total Society income for the year was \$1,185,214.17 and expenses were \$1,153,570.84.

Moved: Johnston; second—Huntington, that the Endowment Fund (Rule 1) be combined with the Endowment Fund for bookkeeping and accounting purposes, effective September 30, 2006. Motion passes unanimously.

Executive Director: Daniel N. Colburn, II. The Executive Director presented a written report. The Executive Director is becoming acclimated to his new position. He has worked closely with the Treasurer in a makeover of the physical headquarters and of the staff in Richmond, Virginia. He has developed a new system for acknowledgment of all gifts that have been received during the fiscal year. The Annual Fund appeal will occur close to the end of this calendar year. The Society has become the beneficiary of three individuals through bequests: William L. Huber of Sag Harbor, New York; Herbert D. Abbott of New Jersey; and Forrest C. Mack of Massachusetts. The Executive Director would like to begin a planned giving campaign in 2007. He is working with Dennis Northway, Membership Committee Chair, to contact lapsed members. Dr. Northway is sending news stories regarding the Society to members' local

newspapers. The Executive Director will work on a new rate card for advertising in the days ahead. 2002 Chicago National Convention compact discs are nearing production completion. The Executive Director is working closely with the 2007 National Convention Committee with its preparations.

Councilors' Reports

Archives: Carol Britt. Councilor Britt's written report included updates on improvements at the American Organ Archives storage facility in New Hampshire. The Archives expects to receive the Skinner Organ Company records in possession of the Rodgers firm in Oregon later this year. Environmental issues at the Archives in Princeton will be discussed by members of the Archives Governing Board and officials of Talbot Library next month.

Conventions: Scot Huntington. The 2007 National Convention Committee for Central Indiana is working on many issues for their event, including letters of agreement, contracts, an article for *The Tracker*, etc. The 2008 Committee for Seattle, Washington, has come to agreement on a majority of venues and artists for that event. The 2009 Committee for Cleveland, Ohio, continues to work on its schedule, with most venues selected and some documented. There was no report on the Pittsburgh and Washington, DC, conventions. Paul Marchesano presented preliminary returns of the 2006 National Convention evaluation forms. The Executive Director will write a letter to the General Chair to express the thanks of the Council for the 2006 Fiftieth Anniversary Convention in Saratoga Springs.

The meeting recessed for the day at 5:18 p.m.

The meeting reconvened on Saturday, October 21, at 9:40 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).

Education: Paul Marchesano. The Councilor submitted a written report. Two applications have already been received for the E. Power Biggs Fellowship for the 2007 National Convention. Five Citations have been awarded since the last meeting of the Council. Four Citations presentations have occurred, in addition to the five presented at the 2006 National Convention. The Pipe Organ Database continues to grow with 24,221 entries as of October 14.

Finance and Development: James Johnston. Mr. Johnston's written report indicated that the Endowment Fund grew from \$286,794.06 on September 30, 2005, to \$330,391.40 on September 30, 2006. For the previous three-year period, the fund achieved an average annual return of 5.7%.

Organizational Concerns: Jack Bethards. Mr. Bethards presented a brief verbal report. Membership Chair Dennis Northway continues his work busily. The Councilor has made efforts to contact the Society's chapters.

Research and Publications: Allison Alcorn-Oppedahl. Councilor Alcorn-Oppedahl submitted a written report with an attachment from Gregory Crowell, Director of Publications. A meeting of the Publications Governing Board will occur on October 27 and 28 in Dallas, Texas. The fiftieth-anniversary issue of *The Tracker* is now in its final stages of production. Progress has been made with the 2007 *Handbook*. An editor and a designer have been procured. William T. Van Pelt has provided much of the photography. Stephen Schnurr will handle essays and Scot Huntington will oversee organ documentation. Several book projects are in various stages of production.

Old Business

Five and Ten Year Plan: Libin. Further planning awaits the members' response to the Vice-President's forthcoming Opinion column in *The Tracker*.

Guidelines for Restoration: Huntington. A brief oral report was provided by Mr. Huntington.

Archives Operating Procedures: Britt. There was no report.

Employee Policy Manual: Bethards. There was no report.

Catalogue Operations Oversight Committee: Marchesano. Progress continues to automate the catalogue operation. The Catalogue Operations Oversight Committee met Friday morning to strategize progress for the coming year.

Organ Tours: Colburn. There was no report.

Convention Sourcebook: Schnurr. The committee for Convention Sourcebook revision has begun its work. As the Executive Director becomes more acclimated with his work with convention committees, further progress is expected.

New Business

Moved: Marchesano; second – Libin, that National Council adopt the revised budget for 2006-2007, Draft 6, October 20, 2006, with net deficit of \$11,190.00. Motion passed, one opposed (Schnurr).

The meeting recessed for luncheon at 1:23 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

The Vice-President led discussion regarding possible change in the Society's Articles of Incorporation to remove "worthily rebuild" from the text. The Vice-President will discuss with other Society officers how to approach the membership on this issue.

Moved: Bethards; second – Marchesano, that National Council nominate William T. Van Pelt for Honorary Membership, subject to approval of the membership at the 2007 Annual Meeting. Motion passed, one opposed (Huntington).

Moved: Schnurr; second – Marchesano, that National Council grant the 2007 National Convention Committee's request for five hotel rooms. Motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings

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

Adjournment

Moved: Johnston; second – Marchesano, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

-- Respectfully submitted, Stephen Schnurr, Secretary.

-- Approved, Friday, March 16, 2007, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.