

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the National Council Meeting
Monday, February 18, 2008
Holiday Inn Hotel, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania

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 Laurence Libin on Monday, February 18, 2008, at 8:06 a.m., in the Holiday Inn Hotel, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. A quorum of Council members was established. Present: Laurence Libin (President), Joseph McCabe (Vice-President), Stephen Schnurr (Secretary), James Stark (Treasurer), Jack Bethards (Councilor for Organizational Concerns), Carol Britt (Councilor for Archives), Scot Huntington (Councilor for Publications), Allen Kinzey (Councilor for Conventions), Randall Wagner (Councilor for Finance and Development), and Daniel N. Colburn, II (Executive Director). Absent: Will Headlee (Councilor for Education).

Approval of Minutes: **Moved**—McCabe; second—Wagner, to approve minutes of the Rochester, New York, meeting of the National Council, held Wednesday, October 10, 2007, as circulated by the Secretary and to be published in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved—Schnurr; second—Huntington, to approve minutes of the special meeting of the National Council via telephone conference call, Monday, October 29, 2007, as circulated by the Secretary and to be published in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved—Wagner; second—McCabe, to approve minutes of the special meeting of the National Council via telephone conference call, Monday, November 26, 2007, as circulated by the Secretary and to be published in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

President's Report: Laurence Libin. President Libin presented a written report to the Council. He has been involved in a myriad of activities related to the Society, which include: writing opinion pieces for *The Tracker* which outline a vision for the Society focused on documenting and preserving historic organs; collaborating with others for the 2007 and 2008 symposia; writing to OHS-member organ teachers to enlist their support in achieving increased membership amongst their students and assisted Dennis Northway, Membership Chair, in writing these students; participating in launching the members-only email list and in enlisting registrants; and communicating frequently with the Executive Director and members of the National Council about their concerns. The President related the possibility of co-sponsoring a one-day symposium on the Estey pipe organ.

Moved: Schnurr; second—Kinzey, that the National Council approve the co-sponsorship of the proposed Estey organ symposium, to be held in Brattleboro, Vermont, tentatively scheduled for September 27, 2008. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice-President's Report: Joseph McCabe. A written report was submitted by the Vice-President. David Scribner has agreed to moderate the members-only email communications list. Work continues towards a secure membership directory available online. The Vice-President has had considerable communication with Ascension Episcopal Church of Buffalo, New York, regarding its contract to rebuild and alter its OHS-cited Kimball organ. Mr. McCabe continues to have successful and fruitful discussions with the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo regarding the future of important organs in now-shuttered parishes. He is

also active in meetings and discussions of the Publications and Archives governing boards, as well as the Executive Committee.

Treasurer: James Stark. The Treasurer presented a written report. For the Fiscal Year 2006-2007, there was an operating loss of \$27,718. Assets at year end were \$1,730,663, with \$1,112,787 in deposit accounts, \$339,149 in investments, \$234,869 in merchandise inventory for resale, and \$25,350 in other non-cash assets. Liabilities totaled \$83,392, principally deferred income from membership dues paid in advance. Fund balances in Designated Funds totaled \$1,386,859, and undesignated retained earnings totaled \$253,020. Designated gifts received during the year totaled \$1,049,527. Memberships totaled 3,329 at September 30, 2007, versus 3,602 at September 30, 2006. Within the Fiscal Year 2007-2008, membership funds are running slightly below budget, although they are 7% above similar figures for last year at this time. Annual Fund gifts are below budget. Catalogue sales are running ahead of budget.

Executive Director: Daniel N. Colburn, II. A written report was received from the Executive Director. Mr. Colburn has focused much of his attention on the 2008 Seattle National Convention. Mr. D. Jay Feldman, the hotel broker, worked very hard with Mr. Colburn when the Holiday Inn abruptly cancelled the Society's convention contract in late January. It has since been reinstated. The convention brochure is expected to be finished by the end of the month for mailing to the membership. Advertising for the convention has begun. Progress is being made with production of the 2004 Buffalo Convention compact discs. The Annual Fund has not yet met its goal, and Council members will be requested to actively participate in contacting members for potential gifts. A bequest in the amount of \$109,581 has been received from the estate of Brian Buehler of Michigan. As of February 9, 2,953 members have renewed. Council members will be requested to assist in contacting lapsed members. Don H. Carolina has been hired to assist with administrative and membership work in the Richmond, Virginia, headquarters. *Organs of Italy*, a new tour for the OHS, is in the final stages of planning. To date, approximately 35 inquiries have been received for 20 seats available. The Executive Director continues to recruit new advertisers for the society's regular publications. An advertising exchange agreement has been worked out with *The Diapason*.

Resolved: Schnurr, second—Kinzey, that the National Council on behalf of the membership and the Seattle Convention Committee extends its thanks and appreciation to D. Jay Feldman for his invaluable assistance in securing the hotel contract for our 2008 Convention, and for his consistently effective work for the OHS over a period of years. As a token of our gratitude we present to Mr. Feldman a copy of the OHS Press's newly published book of organ poems edited by Rollin Smith. Resolution passed unanimously.

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Archives: Carol Britt. Dr. Britt submitted a written report. Approximately 100 items have been received for the Archives, most from the Hilberath collection. The Archives' first book in Chinese has been acquired. Several boxes of materials related to the Samuel Pierce firm of Reading, Massachusetts, have been received from Mr. and Mrs. David Spears of Dunstable. Arrangements for the 2008 Organ Tour are mostly complete. The job description for the Archivist was presented. The Archives Governing Board has begun discussion of appropriate ways to mark the semi-centennial of the Archives in 2011.

Conventions: Allen Kinzey. Mr. Kinzey presented a written report with updates pertaining to several conventions from various committee chairs. The 2009 Cleveland Convention has adjusted its dates to July 5-10. Negotiations with venues for this event have begun. New initiatives to assist with convention advertising for this event are being planned. There was no report from the 2010 Pittsburgh committee. The 2011 Washington, DC, committee has begun work to secure hotels, venues, buses, caterers, and is working on a schedule of events. In addition, the Councilor has called for convention proposals for 2012 and beyond in *The Tracker*, though there has been no response yet. The Secretary distributed copies of the

highly-complimentary review of the 2007 National Convention in the February 2008 issue of *The Diapason*.

Education: Will Headlee. A written report was received in the Councilor's absence. Four applications have been received to date for the Biggs Fellowship with a deadline of February 28. One Citation has been approved since the last meeting of the Council, while four Citations presented during the same period. The President reported verbally that preparations for the 2008 symposium "Organs in Art/Organs as Art" in New York City are proceeding.

Moved: Kinzey; second—Schnurr, that National Council rescind Citation #305 for the 1934 W. W. Kimball organ in Ascension Episcopal Church of Buffalo, New York. Motion passed, one abstention (McCabe).

Finance and Development: Randall Wagner. Councilor Wagner provided a report from the Endowment Fund Advisory Board, which has met by email. Peter Boysen has been welcomed to the Board. For the 12 months ending December 31, 2007, the Endowment Fund has grown from \$342,503.59 to \$485,782.67 with gifts of \$129,124.02 and withdrawals of \$8,560.00. There has been no activity from the Van Pelt Fund Committee. The Society's deficit and coordinated fund raising are top priorities for the Development Committee.

Moved: Wagner; second—McCabe, that the Treasurer of the Organ Historical Society is hereby authorized to invest and reinvest the permanent funds of the Society, excluding the Endowment Fund, in a manner consistent with the asset classes and asset allocation adopted by the Endowment Advisory Board; and further rescinding such authority as had been granted to the Endowment Advisory Board over the management of the Society funds other than the Endowment Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

Organizational Concerns: Jack Bethards. Councilor Bethards' written report included news of the Membership Committee Chair's efforts with the President and Executive Director to recruit new members who are teachers and students of the organ. Membership decline is a problem which must be addressed. A preliminary draft of Chapter management guidelines was presented at the meeting. Mr. Bethards attended a meeting in Tucson, Arizona, of the multi-organizational promotion committee for the pipe organ. The committee decided on a two-tiered approach to activities. The American Guild of Organists will spearhead a general promotion of the organ in connection with their "Year of the Organ." APOBA will sponsor a professional publicist to generate publicity strictly about pipe organs. All of the organizations will continue to communicate in order to avoid duplication of effort. The Council reviewed a number of bylaws changes which are to be sent to James Wallmann for preparation of proper language, then to be approved by the Council and the membership. The Secretary reported verbally that Chicago-Midwest Chapter has produced electronic files of most issues of its journal, *The Stopt Diapason*, and made same available at the Chapter's website, along with an index, the first chapter to engage this type of project.

Moved: Bethards; second—Huntington, that National Council form a committee of Jack Bethards, Joseph McCabe, Stephen Pinel, Dennis Northway, and Daniel Colburn to devise a membership promotion strategy appealing to a wider range of people who wish to support the pipe organ. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting recessed for luncheon at 12:03 p.m.; the meeting reconvened at 12:47 p.m.

Research and Publications: Scot Huntington. Several written reports were submitted by the Councilor. The Publications Governing Board has had one telephone meeting since the last meeting of Council, on February 9. The *festschrift* for Peter Williams has been published. A letter from Professor Williams was attached to the Councilor's report. Rollin Smith's *Organ Poems* has also been published by the OHS Press.

Two proposals for the Governing Board's Request for Proposals for photography for the 2009 Cleveland Convention have already been received, with a deadline of March 1. Numerous publications are in process. The work of the convention publications discussion group continues. A written report from Gregory Crowell, Director of Publications, followed. *The Tracker* continues on schedule, and a list of articles for future issues is established. Work on assembling the 2008 *Organ Atlas* and *Organ Handbook* has commenced. The 2007 *Organ Atlas* was described as "extraordinary and invaluable" in the February 2008 issue of *The Diapason*. Copies of recent OHS Press publications have been sent out to many periodicals for review. A job description for the Director of Publications was attached to Mr. Huntington's report. Instead of producing an index for *The Tracker*, it has been decided to make the journal available online in a searchable manner. A brochure of OHS Press publications is in development. There was no report from the Publications Prize Committee. A proposal had been submitted to Council by a Society member outlining a strategy to promote the OHS as an organization devoted exclusively to the pipe organ, which created considerable discussion. Part of this plan was a proposal to rename the Society's journal as a part of a larger membership promotion strategy. By unanimous consensus, it was referred to the Publications Governing Board for consideration and referral back to National Council.

OLD BUSINESS

Guidelines for Restoration and Conservation: Huntington. An overview of printed documents under production by the committee was distributed electronically.

Convention Sourcebook: Schnurr. There was no report.

Mission Statement: Colburn. There was no report.

Articles of Incorporation.

Resolved: Wagner; second—Britt, that the following statement be sent to the membership for their approval:

WHEREAS, the Articles of Incorporation of the Society, adopted in 1961, state that one of the purposes of the Society is: "To use its good offices to have significant American organs preserved in their original condition, carefully restored, or worthily rebuilt;" and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Society to amend the Articles of Incorporation of the Society to more accurately reflect the current purposes of the Society, such that the phrase in question will read as follows: "To use its good offices to have significant American organs preserved in their original condition or conservatively restored;" therefore, it is

RESOLVED, that Article 3 of the Articles of Incorporation of the Organ Historical Society be amended to read in full as follows:

3. The purpose or purposes of the corporation are: To encourage, promote and further an active interest in the pipe organ and its builders in North America; To collect, preserve, evaluate, and publish detailed historical information about organs and organ builders in North America; To use its good offices to have significant American organs preserved in their original condition or conservatively restored; To provide members with opportunities for meetings and for the discussion of professional topics, and for other lawful acts incidental to the purposes of the Society. The Society is a corporation which does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incidental or otherwise, to its members.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that, except as hereby amended, the Articles of Incorporation of the Society remain in full force and effect.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that any one or more of the Society's President, any Vice President, or the Secretary be, and they hereby are, individually and collectively, authorized and directed on behalf of the Society to execute, deliver, and file the amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Society as set forth above, and to take such additional action as they may, individually or collectively, deem necessary

or appropriate to carry into effect the full intent and purpose of the foregoing resolutions. Resolution passed unanimously.

American Guild of Organists 2008 National Convention: Colburn. A packet insert will be sent for the registrants of the convention.

Publications Governing Board budget reduction proposal: Huntington. The proposal was left on the table.

Online chatlist: McCabe. **Moved:** McCabe; second—Kinzey, that the National Council ratify the appointment of David Scribner as moderator of the members-only subscriber email list. Motion passed unanimously.

American Organ Archives Organ Tour: Britt. Most arrangements have been made, except for the bus contract. The timing of publicity announcements was discussed and Council's concerns were referred to the American Organ Archives.

Committee Lists: Schnurr. The Secretary has noted that despite numerous attempts and various established deadlines, contact information has not been made complete from the Councilors for Education and Finance and Development.

Job Descriptions: Colburn and McCabe. Descriptions have been received from the governing boards for the Archivist and Director of Publications. Descriptions for staff in Richmond are complete.

NEW BUSINESS

There was brief discussion of the market downturn for Society investment income.

Moved: Huntington; second—Bethards, that the National Council approves the co-sponsorship of the Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative symposium, to be held in Rochester, New York, and entitled "Reconstruction," scheduled for October 2008. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Huntington; second—Britt, that the President is empowered to contact Partners for Sacred Places and Friends of Sacred Structures and similar organizations to make known the willingness of the OHS to serve as a resource on matter involving historical pipe organs. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Schnurr; second—McCabe, that, to ensure accuracy and consistency of information and to ensure that the Executive Director remains fully informed about activities undertaken in the Society's name, anything printed, electronically transmitted, or placed on the OHS website in the OHS's name or under OHS auspices shall be approved by the Executive Director prior to being disseminated. Exceptions shall be made for official publications of the OHS Press and for chapter communications. Motion passed unanimously. Councilors are instructed by the President to inform all persons they oversee of this motion immediately.

Moved: Wagner; second—Kinzey, to rescind the motion of Council, August 18, 1999, empowering the Vice-President to form and chair a committee to review and revise the Guidelines for Conservation and Restoration. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Huntington; second—Wagner, that a committee be created to revise the Guidelines for Restoration. Membership of the committee to be: Scot Huntington and John Watson (co-chairs), Joseph Dzeda, Sebastian Glück, Nicholas Thompson-Allen, Jonathan Ortloff, Bruce Shull, and Jeff Weiler. The purpose of the committee shall be to draft Guidelines for Conservation and Documentation. Motion passed, one abstention (Huntington).

Moved: Huntington; second—McCabe, that National Council endorse the fundraising development proposal submitted by the Publications Governing Board, pending the successful solicitation of selected members for a contribution to underwrite the proposed publication, to be coordinated with the Executive Director. Motion passed unanimously.

It was consensus by majority opinion that convention recordings may be released as they become available.

Moved: Huntington; second—Bethards, that the position of Publications Prize Committee Chair be a rotating term of one year to be filled by members of the committee. Motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Review of dates, times, and places of upcoming Council meetings:

Saturday and Sunday, July 12 and 13, 2008, in Seattle, Washington, beginning 9:00 a.m. on July 12
October 2008, in Cleveland, Ohio

ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Huntington; second—Wagner, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

--Respectfully submitted, Stephen Schnurr, Secretary.

--Approved, Saturday, July 12, 2008, in Seattle, Washington.