

**THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of the National Council Meeting**  
**Friday, November 14, 2008**  
**Marriott Hotel Key Center, Cleveland, Ohio**

*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 Friday, November 14, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., in the Ontario Room of the Marriott Hotel Key Center, Cleveland, Ohio. A quorum of Council members was established. Present: Laurence Libin (President), Joseph McCabe (Vice-President), Stephen Schnurr (Secretary), Jack Bethards (Councilor for Organizational Concerns), Carol Britt (Councilor for Archives), James Cook (Councilor for Education), Scot Huntington (Councilor for Publications, arrived 10:16 a.m.), Allen Kinzey (Councilor for Conventions), Randall Wagner (Councilor for Finance and Development), James Stark (Treasurer), and Daniel N. Colburn, II (Executive Director).

**Approval of Minutes:** **Moved** – McCabe; second – Britt, to approve minutes of the Seattle, Washington, meeting of the National Council, held Saturday and Sunday, July 12 and 13, 2008, as circulated by the Secretary, as amended, and to be published in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*. Motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**President's Report:** Laurence Libin. President Libin's report noted that the Seattle Convention and the New England Organ Tour generated substantial surpluses which helped keep the Society close to its overall budget. Contributions to the Annual Fund have been generous to date. Prudent management of the Endowment Fund has limited exposure to the depressed market. Membership numbers slowly improve. The membership list is now available electronically. Three co-sponsored symposia during the fall have increased the OHS profile. However, membership renewals are slowing and catalogue sales are declining. With the American Organ Archives and the OHS Press soliciting gifts in addition to the Annual Fund and membership advertising underwriting campaigns, loyal donors might soon be tapped out. Mr. Libin called for examining other sources for funding for activities such as Archives cataloguing or selling advertisements at the website. Further budget cuts may be necessary if the economic downturn continues.

**Vice-President's Report:** Joseph McCabe. The Vice-President continues his work with the Catholic dioceses of Buffalo, New York, and Albany, New York, in their efforts to relocate pipe organs from redundant churches. He continues to investigate methods of improving the Society's website. A calendar for 2009 has been produced by Mr. McCabe, who also chairs the 2009 Convention Committee. Perhaps a calendar might be offered in the future on a regular basis. Mr. McCabe has produced several membership campaign advertisements for publication in journals. He has proposed initiating an Archive Recording Series, producing Society-owned recordings on compact disk at minimal cost to the Society. Mr. McCabe added verbally that the calendar is now arriving in mailboxes across the county, and multiple positive responses have already been received.

**Treasurer:** James Stark. The projected loss for the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 appears to be between \$10,000 and \$15,000. Gain from the Seattle convention appears to be about \$46,000. A proposed Statement of Financial Position as of September 30, 2008, was distributed, with a net worth of \$1,973,517.96.

**Executive Director:** Daniel N. Colburn, II. The Executive Director's responsibilities have recently evolved such that he will be more involved with membership and financial support development,

particularly as the economy might soon worsen. Mr. Colburn continues to assist all convention committees. A large, anonymous donation has allowed the membership advertising campaign to begin. The 2007-2008 Annual Fund was the most successful in the Society's history. The OHS Legacy Society has commenced with 22 members. In the Richmond headquarters, Jason McHale has been promoted to Administrative Assistant.

### COUNCILORS' REPORTS

**Archives:** Carol Britt. Participants in the New England Organ Tour numbered 142. A surplus of \$19,378.18 was realized. The Archives Governing Board intends to host a symposium and produce a publication marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Archives. The Archivist is working with Vic Ferrer regarding a brief video of the Archives to be available at the Society's website and elsewhere. Approximately 75 books have been ordered for the collection. A number of items have come from the collection of Paul Fleury and Albert E. Lloyd.

**Conventions:** Allen Kinzey. Mr. Kinzey's report contained information submitted by various convention committee chairs. The 2008 Seattle convention brought more registrants than had been expected. Responses from convention surveys have been highly positive. The 2009 Cleveland convention is finalizing plans. Early registration and hotel reservation deadlines have been set. The 2010 Pittsburgh convention will take place June 21 through 25 with 22 venues to be visited. The 2011 Washington, DC, convention committee has begun selection of venues. A proposal has been received for a 2012 Convention in the Chicago, Illinois, metropolitan area. Another proposal for 2013 is in process.

**Moved:** Kinzey; second – McCabe, that the Pittsburgh 2010 National Convention Committee's request to have an optional day on Saturday, June 26, 2010, be granted. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved:** Kinzey; second – Schnurr, that the Chicago proposal to host the OHS 2012 National Convention be accepted. Motion passed unanimously.

**Education:** James Cook. One application has already been received for the E. Power Biggs Fellowship for the 2009 Cleveland Convention. There has been no activity in the area of Historic Organ Recitals. Some 900 stoplists are being edited for inclusion in the Pipe Organ Database. Software has been purchased to upload photographs to the website. Five Historic Organ Citations have been awarded since the Council last met.

**Moved:** Schnurr; second – Cook, that Historic Organ Citation #227 for c. 1898 M. P. Möller opus 217 be rescinded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Finance and Development:** Randall Wagner. The Van Pelt Fund for the Preservation and Restoration of Historic Organs Committee has begun development of operating procedures. The Endowment and Huber funds have unaudited balances totaling \$1,445,503.78.

**Organizational Concerns:** Jack Bethards. Council members and the Membership Chair, Dennis Northway, have been contacting lapsed members through letters, emails, and telephone calls. The membership advertising campaign has begun. Draft Chapter guidelines have been reviewed by the Council and by the Society's Chapters.

**Moved:** Bethards; second – Schnurr, that National Council adopt Chapter Guidelines as presented by Councilor Bethards. Motion passed, one opposed (Huntington).

**Research and Publications:** Scot Huntington. The Publications Prize Committee, chaired by Bynum Petty, intends to simplify its Operating Procedures and to eliminate the essay-length category of the prize. Revised Operating Procedures will be brought to the National Council for approval. In August, Gregory

Crowell resigned as Director of Publications after four years of exemplary service, having accepted a full-time academic position. A search for an interim Director of Publications began immediately. Photography for the 2009 Cleveland convention has been completed by William T. Van Pelt and submitted ahead of schedule and under budget. The Charles McManis autobiography was published in September. Other publications are in process or are under consideration. Through the generosity of John Goodwin, a copy of *The Cincinnati Organ* was obtained for reprint as a membership incentive, distributed with a request for donation to the OHS Press. To date, \$13,380.00 has been raised, including advance gifts. The new advertising manager is Lance Levasseur.

**Resolved:** Huntington; second—Kinzey, that the National Council extends its appreciation to Dr. Gregory Crowell for his exemplary service to the OHS as the Society's first Director of Publications. Resolution passed unanimously.

**Moved:** Huntington; second—Britt, that the National Council ratify the Publications Governing Board appointment of Dr. Rollin Smith as interim Director of Publications for the agreed upon compensation, provisional to the execution of the contract with the Executive Director. Motion passed unanimously.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Guidelines for Restoration and Conservation:** Huntington. The committee is preparing supplements to the Guidelines approved by the Council in July.

**Convention Sourcebook:** Schnurr. There was no report.

**Mission Statement:** Colburn.

**Moved:** Bethards; second—Wagner, that National Council accept as the Society's mission statement: The Organ Historical Society is dedicated to documenting and preserving historic pipe organs and to raising public awareness and appreciation of America's organ heritage. Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee List:** Schnurr. The Secretary reported that membership and contact information has finally been gathered for the Society's governing boards, committees, and other bodies. However, some information submitted on time has become outdated, and he asks all Councilors as to confirm the accuracy of the present list.

**Revised Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation:** Colburn. A mailing is in preparation for the membership.

**2008-2009 OHS Budget:** Stark.

**Moved:** Wagner; second—Cook, that the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year budget as discussed be adopted. Motion passed, one opposed (Schnurr).

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Moved:** Britt; second—Huntington, that National Council approve the appointment of David Brown to the Archives Governing Board. Motion passed unanimously.

**Resolved:** Huntington; second—McCabe, that the National Council extend its appreciation to Lynn Edwards Butler for her service on the Archives Governing Board. Resolution passed unanimously.

**Moved:** Cook; second—Bethards, that the National Council authorize Joseph McCabe to investigate and produce up to four volumes of ideal recordings from OHS archive material. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed regarding producing a survey of the membership.

A printed catalogue of merchandise was discussed, for mailing in January 2009. The Vice-President has offered to lay out the catalogue.

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

**Moved:** McCabe; second – Schnurr, that the National Council adopt a revision to the bylaws, as follows: section 4.6 (c), strike the following sentence: The minutes of the National Council, once approved, shall appear in the next available issue of the journal of the Society. This sentence shall be replaced with: The minutes of the National Council, once approved, shall be posted at the Society’s website. Motion passed, one opposed (Huntington).

#### **REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

Friday, March 27, 2009

Saturday and Sunday, July 4-5, 2009

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved:** McCabe; second – Huntington, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

*--Respectfully submitted, Stephen Schnurr, Secretary.*

*--Approved Friday, March 27, 2009.*