

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the National Council Meeting
Friday, March 27, 2009, via teleconference

These minutes follow the order of the agenda and do not necessarily follow the order in which they were discussed.

Call to Order: This regular meeting of the National Council of the Organ Historical Society was called to order by President Laurence Libin on Friday, March 27, 2009, at 3:02 p.m., Eastern Daylight time, by teleconference. A quorum of Council members was established. Present: Laurence Libin (President), Joseph McCabe (Vice-President), Stephen Schnurr (Secretary), Jack Bethards (Councilor for Organizational Concerns), James Cook (Councilor for Education), Scot Huntington (Councilor for Publications), Allen Kinzey (Councilor for Conventions), Randall Wagner (Councilor for Finance and Development), James Stark (Treasurer), and Daniel N. Colburn, II (Executive Director). Absent: Carol Britt (Councilor for Archives).

Approval of Minutes: Moved—Bethards; second—McCabe, to approve minutes of the Cleveland, Ohio, meeting of the National Council, held Friday, November 14, 2008, as circulated by the Secretary, as amended, and to be published in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*. Motion passed, one opposed (Schnurr).

REPORTS

President's Report: Laurence Libin. The Society's budget is in reasonable shape, and the membership is steadily increasing, both new and reinstated. An online newsletter is under development. An ever-increasing number of churches are closing, causing more pipe organs to be relocated or lost. More needs to be done to call attention to their plight and to find homes for the best ones. The President continues to be involved in many activities within the Society as well as representing the Society in the community at large.

Vice-President's Report: Joseph McCabe. The Vice-President, who serves as Chair of the 2009 Convention Committee, has been very busy with preparations for the July event. A team has visited Cleveland to document organs in preparation for the Convention. A strategic partnership has been developed between the Society and the American Institute of Organbuilders to assist in resurrecting the Cleveland Public Hall and Convention Center organ. Some forty organbuilders will convene in Cleveland before the Convention for work on the organ. Coinciding with the Convention is the announced closing and/or merger of more than fifty Catholic churches in the Diocese of Cleveland. Mr. McCabe is endeavoring to network with diocesan officials in the hope of relocating many of the endangered instruments in the numerous redundant facilities. He continues to work with persons in the dioceses of Buffalo, New York, and Toledo, Ohio, for relocation of instruments in closed churches in those regions.

Treasurer: James Stark. Membership income is running ahead of budget and about the same as this time last year. The Annual Fund is slightly below budget. Catalogue net income is running ahead of the conservative budget; however, sales and net income are well below those of last year. From February 29, 2008, to February 28, 2009, the Huber Fund balance has dipped from \$996,532.38 to \$924,724.41. During that same period, the Endowment Fund has decreased from \$482,511.23 to \$439,109.18. Fiscal Year 2007-2008 operating loss was \$12,777.58. Gifts to permanent funds during this period totaled \$193,387.67. 2008 Seattle Convention gain was \$51,973.36, posted in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 and \$2,476.00 posted in Fiscal Year 2008-2009, for a total of \$54,549.36.

Executive Director: Daniel N. Colburn, II. Mr. Colburn has worked closely with various convention committees in various aspects of their planning. Much work has been focused on the 2009 Cleveland Convention. He travelled to Chicago to meet with D. Jay Feldman, the Society's meeting planning consultant, and the local convention committee for 2012 to visit and review hotel options. Mr. Colburn has also worked with a group of persons who expect to have a convention proposal for 2013 to be reviewed by Council at its July meeting. For the membership advertising campaign, he has coordinated progress with Mr. McCabe, who is doing design work, and Mr. Bethards, whose endeavors have yielded sixteen sponsorships for advertisements from various organbuilding firms. Receiving membership renewals from our present members continues to be a challenge, and it is recommended that the Council attempt another round of personal contact of lapsed members. For the Annual Fund, approximately 50% of the budgeted amount has been received, and another mailing will be produced soon. The Executive Director asks for cooperation and coordination of appeals for donations from all areas of the Society, as there has been grumbling from certain elements of the membership about the number of requests for funding. Mr. Colburn has coordinated mailings to the membership regarding bylaws changes and the upcoming National Council election. In January, the compact disk set, *Historic Organs of Indiana*, was released by OHS Productions.

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Archives: Carol Britt. A report was received in the Councilor's absence. The Archivist is working on possibilities for a jointly-sponsored symposium in June of 2011 which will focus, for the Society's benefit, on the fiftieth anniversary of the American Organ Archives. The Archivist has ordered a number of high-quality copies of organ books from the Library of Congress. A number of items which belonged to William B. Goodwin have been donated to the Archives by his son, John. A draft of a video of the Archives is in production.

Conventions: Allen Kinzey. 2010 The Pittsburgh Convention committee has a program planned for 22 venues, plus 3 on the optional final day. Organs built between 1838 and 1970 will be featured. Eleven performers have been contacted and ten have agreed to play. The 2011 Washington Committee plans a visit to the National Cathedral. The National Presbyterian Church is also to be featured. A bid for a 2013 Convention is expected for Council's July meeting.

Moved: Kinzey; second—Wagner, that stipends for recitalists and lecturers at the 2010 Pittsburgh Convention be set as follows: 20 minute demonstration, \$300; 20 minute demonstration, repeated, \$350; 30 to 40 minute recital, \$400; 30 to 40 minute recital, repeated, \$500; 50 minute recital, \$500, and evening recital, regardless of length, \$750. Additionally, recitalists and lecturers, as part of their contract, should be offered one-day free registration or an equivalent discount on early full registration, whichever the recitalist or lecturer chooses. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolved: McCabe; second—Huntington, that National Council expresses its gratitude to William Van Pelt as principal photographer for the 2009 Cleveland Convention and to Victor Hoyt and Len Levasseur as supplemental photographers. Resolution passed unanimously.

Moved: Kinzey; second—Schnurr, that the National Council approve the request from the Chicago Convention Committee that the 2012 OHS National Convention in Chicago be held July 9 through July 12, 2012, with an optional day on July 13. Motion passed unanimously.

Education: James Cook. Fourteen completed applications were received by the E. Power Biggs Fellowship Committee. Since the last meeting of the Council, five Historic Organ Citations have been approved. Council members officially presented two Citations during this time period. The Pipe Organ Database has 40,113 entries, 3,131 images, and 1,892 stoplists stored and referenced. New pages have been added for browsing added photographs and updated organs.

Finance and Development: Randall Wagner. Protection of assets and improving income via the Endowment Fund are paramount guidelines to the management of these funds. John Lovegren, chair of the Van Pelt Fund Committee, has submitted to committee members extensive suggestions for the governance of the funds and for applying for the funds. Further work is indicated and will be pursued.

Organizational Concerns: Jack Bethards. Current membership count is 2,944. The number not renewed from last year is 474. The Councilor suggests a canvass of those who have not renewed. The membership advertising campaign has put the Society in a new and positive light. Results of the campaign with new and renewed memberships are difficult to tabulate. Active chapters continue to flourish, and an inquiry about establishing a chapter in the Southwest has been received. An online newsletter may be developed this year for the members-only email list. This would be an opportunity to present chapter news and items of popular interest.

Research and Publications: Scot Huntington. The Councilor's collection of reports included one from the interim Director of Publications, Rollin Smith, minutes of the Publications Governing Board telephone meeting of January 17, 2009, a journal style sheet revision created by the interim Director of Publications, as well as a style sheet created by James Wallmann. *The Tracker*, volume 53, number 2, has been mailed on schedule. The *Cleveland Atlas* is now in production. The Cincinnati Organ fundraiser has netted \$19,000 to date. The Publications Governing Board held its annual in-person meeting in Dallas, Texas, on Monday, March 23. Photographers have been procured for the 2010 and 2011 convention venues. Scanning of *The Tracker* for posting at the website has begun. The report of Dr. Smith notes that Orpha Ochse's book on the Schoenstein Organ Company has been published by the OHS Press. In press is Stephen Pinel's book on Alvinza Andrews and Stephen Schnurr's *Organs of Oberlin*. It is expected these will be available for sale at the summer convention. He is working on the 2009 Convention *Handbook*, as well as a number of other projects.

OLD BUSINESS

Guidelines for Restoration and Conservation: Huntington. The Councilor reported that he has written an article for the AIO journal. John Watson is preparing an article for *The Tracker*.

Convention Sourcebook: Schnurr. The Executive Director stated that he expects to have revisions for the Council's review in July.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolved: McCabe; second – Wagner, that the National Council adopt the document OHS Resolution Regarding Signing Authority (Broad Authority). Resolution passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Saturday and Sunday, July 4-5, 2009, in Cleveland, Ohio, beginning at 9:00 a.m. July 4.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Huntington; second – Kinzey, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

--Respectfully submitted, Stephen Schnurr, Secretary.

--Approved, Saturday, July 4, 2009, in Cleveland, Ohio.