

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the National Council Meeting
Saturday, July 4, 2009, Marriott Key Center Hotel, 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: This regular meeting of the National Council of the Organ Historical Society was called to order by President Laurence Libin on Saturday, July 4, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. 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), Allen Kinzey (Councilor for Conventions), Randall Wagner (Councilor for Finance and Development), James Stark (Treasurer), and Daniel N. Colburn, II (Executive Director). Also present for some or all of the meeting were: Dana Robinson (Councilor-elect for Organizational Concerns), Christopher Marks (Councilor-elect for Archives), Dennis Northway (Councilor-elect for Research and Publications), and Stephen Pinel (Archivist), Rollin Smith (Director of Publications), and Michael Barone.

Approval of Minutes: Moved—Wagner; second—Britt, to approve minutes of the regular meeting of the National Council, held Friday, March 27, 2009, by teleconference, 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. Despite persistent tight budgets and membership attrition, the Society remains in reasonably good shape thanks to prudent management and close oversight of investments and expenditures. Mr. Libin cautioned that all should be concerned about the future of organs in America, as there is a rapidly rising number of imperiled pipe organs. Educational efforts need to accelerate in order to have an appreciable impact outside the Society's small circle, an argument for keeping chapter activities open to all, not just full OHS members. The President led discussion of the future of the Phoenix Project, which has been under his purview informally since its inception. The President will confer further with the Vice-President regarding this.

Vice-President's Report: Joseph McCabe. The Vice-President has been busy with preparations for this week's National Convention of the Society. He continues to work with other organizations to secure the future of numerous imperiled organs, particularly those in various Catholic dioceses and the Cleveland Public Auditorium. His future projects will include production of a 2010 calendar featuring organs of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, convention.

Treasurer: James Stark. Membership is running better than expected and budgeted, and most areas of the general budget are on target. Convention registration is far better than expected, all of which may result in a surplus at the end of the fiscal year.

Executive Director: Daniel N. Colburn, II. Much of the Executive Director's work has been focused on final preparations for the Cleveland Convention. He is also working with all other convention committees. The hotel for the 2012 Chicago Convention has been chosen and the contract signed. Mr. Colburn has also worked closely with Councilor Bethards on the membership advertising campaign. The Annual Fund stands at 60% of the goal, with one more appeal to be sent in this fiscal year. The Executive Director coordinated the recent bylaws and Council elections by the members. The compact disks for the 2008 Seattle National Convention have commenced production. Mr. Colburn thanked the outgoing Council members for their hard work and support of him.

Moved: Kinzey; second—Schnurr, that National Council electronic mail reports for regular meetings be required to be circulated seven days in advance. Motion passed unanimously.

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Archives: Carol Britt. The Lloyd and Goodwin families continue to transfer materials to the Archives. 225 books and pamphlets were catalogued by May. The Archivist had pre-catalogued some additional materials. 101 items were sent to the bindery in May.

Conventions: Allen Kinzey. A working itinerary for the 2010 Pittsburgh Convention was presented. Selection of venues and instruments is proceeding for the 2011 Washington, DC, convention. A proposal for a 2013 Convention was presented to the Council.

Moved: Kinzey; second—Huntington, to accept the northern Vermont proposal for hosting the OHS National Convention in 2013 starting the evening of Sunday, June 23, and going four days through Thursday, June 27, with Friday, June 28, as an optional day. **Motion:** McCabe; second—Schnurr, to table the motion. Motion to table passed unanimously.

Education: James Cook. Four E. Power Biggs Fellowships were awarded for the 2009 National Convention. Recipients are Colin Knapp of Michigan, Mark Paisar of Wisconsin, Brent Stull of Kansas, and Jeremy Wance of Oklahoma. Five Citations have been awarded since the last meeting of the Council, with three more under consideration by the Committee. Only one Citation will be presented at the Convention, as two additional nominations were received too late for processing by the Committee and producing of the artwork for the Citations. The Pipe Organ Database continues to expand its holdings, particularly with stoplists and images. The President added that the Society will co-sponsor the EROI symposium on Mendelssohn and the Contrapuntal Tradition, October 29 through November 1, 2009.

Finance and Development: Randall Wagner. As of May 31, 2009, the OHS Endowment Fund amounts to \$470,204.78, whereas at May 31, 2008, it was \$487,289.06. The Huber fund stands at \$1,013,147.93 as of May 31, 2009, while it was at \$1,042,000.46 one year previous.

Resolved: Wagner; second—Schnurr, inasmuch as Richard Walker has given more than eight years to the founding, development, organization, and oversight of the Endowment Fund, upon his retirement as an advisor to the Fund, the Organ Historical Society wishes to express its thanks and good wishes for his contributions, time, and efforts on behalf of the Society. Thanks to his input and insights, the Endowment Fund has developed into an invaluable financial contributor to The Society. Resolution passed unanimously.

Organizational Concerns: Jack Bethards. Membership count at mid-June stood at 3,090. Membership revenue exceeds budget expectations, as more people have joined at above-minimum sponsorship levels. Ten organbuilding firms joined Mr. and Mrs. Wesley C. Dudley in providing outstanding leadership contributions towards the membership advertising campaign. David Barnett, Society Controller, is well on his way to recovery from injuries suffered in an accident while working on an historic organ. Throughout recuperation, he has continued his OHS work. The chapters have been requested to submit information about their activities for publication in *The Tracker*.

Research and Publications: Scot Huntington. The Publications Governing Board has recommended that the National Council ratify Rollin Smith as Director of Publications. A copy of the Director's contract was appended to the Councilor's report. Membership response to the Board's mailing for the Publications Fund has now approached \$20,000 in gifts. Len Levasseur and Victor Hoyt will handle photography for the 2010 Pittsburgh Convention, while William T. Van Pelt, III, will take care of the 2011 Washington, DC, convention. The production of the Cleveland convention *Atlas* is the result of the labor of a large team of individuals. A set of minutes from the Publications Governing Board meeting in Dallas, Texas, on March 23, 2009, was appended to the Councilor's report. A report from Rollin Smith was also included. Orpha

Ochse's book on the Schoenstein Organ Company was released last November. Other books and monographs are in production. The 80-page convention Handbook was edited by Smith.

Moved: Huntington; second—McCabe, that the National Council ratify the appointment of Rollin Smith as Director of Publications. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Huntington; second—McCabe, that the National Council appoint Jonathan Ortloff to a four-year term on the Publications Governing Board. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Guidelines for Restoration and Conservation: Huntington. There was discussion of the Guidelines and how to provide a version of the Guidelines to churches and other organizations that can be easily understood by those who own pipe organs.

Convention Sourcebook: Schnurr. The Executive Director intends to work with the Secretary on a draft of a new Sourcebook with a series of questions by the next meeting of the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

The President has been authorized to write a letter of support urging that the Utrecht authorities consult and follow the OHS Guidelines for Documentation and Conservation.

Discussion ensued regarding the Society's concerted responses to the increasing number of imperiled organs.

The Executive Director has provided the Society's attorney with a copy of the revised Articles of Incorporation for proper filing.

The Council discussed a preliminary budget for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

The meeting recessed for luncheon at 12:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Moved: Bethards; second—McCabe, that the Publications Governing Board will be responsible for producing the annual *Atlas*. Motion passed, one abstention (Schnurr).

Discussion followed pertaining to the bylaws and the process of the biannual selection of the Nominating Committee.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Review of dates, times, and places of upcoming Council meetings:
Friday, October 23, 2009, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Britt; second—Schnurr, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

--Respectfully submitted, Stephen Schnurr, Secretary.

--Approved, October 23, 2009, in Princeton, New Jersey.