

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the National Council Meeting
Friday, October 23, 2009, American Organ Archives, Princeton, New Jersey

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 Scot Huntington on Friday, October 23, 2009, at 9:09 a.m. A quorum of Council members was established. Present: Scot Huntington (President), Joseph McCabe (Vice-President), Stephen Schnurr (Secretary, departed 4:45 p.m.), James Cook (Councilor for Education), Allen Kinzey (Councilor for Conventions), Christopher Marks (Councilor for Archives), Dennis Northway (Councilor for Publications), Dana Robinson (Councilor for Organizational Concerns), Randall Wagner (Councilor for Finance and Development), James Stark (Treasurer), and Daniel N. Colburn, II (Executive Director).

Approval of Minutes: Moved – Cook; second – Kinzey, to approve minutes of the regular meeting of the National Council, held Saturday, July 4, 2009, in Cleveland, Ohio, as circulated by the Secretary, and to be published in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*. Motion passed unanimously.

Since the July 4, 2009, meeting, the National Council has approved by unanimous electronic mail vote a proposal for a 2013 National Convention to be held in Vermont. Voting was completed September 14, 2009.

Moved: McCabe; second – Robinson, to move into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Marks; second – Kinzey, to move out of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Marks; second – Wagner, that the National Council accepts the resignation of the Executive Director with regret and that it asks him to continue in that position until the end of the upcoming convention. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved: Cook; second – Marks, that the National Council creates an *ad hoc* committee to study the structure of the administrative arm of the organization, said committee to be under the purview of the Councilor for Organizational Concerns, and charged to present a report, including draft job descriptions, to the Council by February 15, 2010. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

President's Report: Scot Huntington. The President outlined his concerns for work by the Council as his new term begins. The catalogue operations will need to be thoroughly examined. A printed catalogue is in preparation for mailing to some 30,000 individuals. The primary focus of his term will be the establishment of long-term goals for the Society as a whole. He has asked Vice-President McCabe to spearhead a new ten-year plan. Membership and development are two areas the President will seek additional attention. He will look for ways to work closer with sister organizations such as the American Guild of Organists, the American Institute of Organbuilders, and the American Theatre Organ Society. Mr. Huntington will look to broaden Society outreach to various groups, including youth. He will work towards improved communications through all facets of the OHS.

Vice-President's Report: Joseph McCabe. The Vice-President outlined goals he wishes to see attained at one-, five-, and ten-year intervals. These include, but are not limited to, job descriptions for employees and contractors, adoption of an organizational responsibility chart, getting convention recordings on track, updating the website, establishing an online presence for the Archives as well as a fee structure for

research requests for the Archives, establishing an Archives endowment, writing grants to underwrite Society objectives, improvements to the headquarters, an opus list series, builder biography series, and monograph series, distributing an updated convention sourcebook to committees, revisiting convention planning to ensure competitiveness, devising a director of marketing position, increasing membership by 1,000, and redesigning *The Tracker*.

Treasurer: James Stark. For the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year, the projected results indicate a surplus of approximately \$19,000, rather than a projected deficit of \$13,200, due primarily to surplus from the 2009 National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. Membership income was over budget, while membership declined from 3,250 to 3,177. The Annual Fund was \$5,000 under budget. The OHS Press raised \$18,000 more than the previous year providing considerable competition for member dollars. Archives and Biggs Funds were also down for the year. Administrative Expenses ran above budget. Catalogue sales did not meet projections, as sales declined about 12%. A printed catalogue is under production at a cost of approximately \$20,000. The catalogue has outperformed industry sales for compact disks; however, this part of the sales operations is fighting a considerable headwind. The surplus for the Cleveland convention was approximately \$83,000. The Convention *Atlas* was over budget. Publications was under budget. Archives was over budget, and the Archives Fund is now in deficit.

Executive Director: Daniel N. Colburn, II. Much of the Executive Director's work has been focused on upcoming conventions. The 2010 Pittsburgh Convention website has been activated. Mr. Colburn made a visit to the 2013 Vermont Convention committee to select a hotel, and negotiations progress for a contract. An Annual Fund appeal will be mailed in November. The Legacy Society has several new members, and charter membership will soon close. The Executive Director continues to coordinate the membership advertising campaign with the Vice-President. Convention compact disk income is better than previously thought. The Seattle convention set is due for release very shortly. Excellent reviews of the Buffalo and Central Indiana sets have been appearing in several journals.

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Archives: Christopher Marks. Several important acquisitions have been received at the Archives, including items from the late Paul de Fleury, William B. Goodwin, and Albert E. Lloyd. Fifteen rare organ books have been ordered on microfilm from the Library of Congress. Cataloguing of items has progressed. 101 volumes were sent to the bindery. The Archivist has begun writing regular columns for *The Tracker*. Items at the Enfield storage site have been secured for the winter season.

Conventions: Allen Kinzey. Planning for the 2010 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, National Convention is nearly complete. For the 2011 Washington, DC, National Convention, scheduling of events is also nearly complete. The 2012 Chicago Convention Committee is investigating itinerary options. The 2013 Vermont Committee is busy visiting prospective venues. Council Kinzey called for further discussion of the possibility of moving towards biannual conventions.

Education: James Cook. Derek Nickels, Chair of the E. Power Biggs Fellowship Committee, has already received several inquiries from prospective applicants for the 2010 Convention. Five Historic Organ Citations have been awarded since the July meeting of the Council. Several lists and databases have been received for incorporation into the Pipe Organ Database.

Finance and Development: Randall Wagner. The Endowment Fund has outperformed its benchmark due to asset reallocation aimed at maintaining the Society's target allocations. Endowment Fund assets under management on September 30, 2008, amounted to \$466,191.79. On September 30, 2009, it amounted to \$486,713.55. Huber Fund assets under management on September 30, 2008, amounted to \$1,011,077.89. On September 30, 2009, it amounted to \$1,055,300.46.

Moved: Wagner; second—Kinzey, that National Council accepts the nomination of David W. Lewis of Saint Joseph, Missouri, to the Endowment Fund Advisory Board. Motion passed unanimously.

Organizational Concerns: Dana Robinson. Declining membership remains a problem. The Councilor suggested new membership be targeted among younger people and, equally important, among females. Robinson suggested reduced rates for all full-time students, regardless of age, recruitment visits to active organ departments of college, university, and conservatory organ departments by OHS representatives, continuation of former Councilor Jack Bethards' work in corresponding with leaders in the organ world to develop new members, affirmative placement, when possible, of women in visible and significant positions of responsibility within the Society. Councilor Robinson further advocated discussion of developing youth membership by establishing a playing competition and a dissertation award, and encouragement of student chapter formation.

Research and Publications: Dennis Northway. Councilor Northway spent considerable time coordinating the Publications budget with the Executive Director and the Treasurer. There are seven books in queue for publication. A report from the Director of Publications, Rollin Smith, was attached, which further outlined items for future issues of *The Tracker*.

OLD BUSINESS

Guidelines for Restoration and Conservation: There was discussion of the need to provide a brief *précis* of the Guidelines for general dissemination. The Councilor for Education will contact John Watson to further investigate this.

Convention Sourcebook: The Executive Director will work with the Councilor for Conventions on suggestions for changes to the Sourcebook.

The Council recessed for luncheon at 1:06 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:38, at which time, Stephen Pinel (archivist) and James Wallmann joined the meeting.

2009-2010 Budget: Moved: Northway, second—McCabe, that National Council adopt the budget as amended for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year. Motion passed unanimously.

Bylaws revisions: Huntington. The Bylaws revisions as passed recently by the membership are now posted at the Society's website. The President and the Executive Director will review the remaining revisions passed by the Council but not yet approved by the membership. The Secretary distributed copies of these revisions (July and October 2007), yet to be concluded.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved: Schnurr; second—Cook, that stipends for recitalists and lecturers for OHS Conventions be set as follows: under 30 minute demonstration, \$300; under 30 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.

The President introduced Willis Bridegam, Librarian Emeritus and Interim Library Director at Amherst College. Mr. Bridegam led discussion regarding archival and conservation priorities as it pertains to the American Organ Archives. There was animated discussion regarding the future of the American Organ Archives instigated by Mr. Bridegam's presentation. The Council supports the Archives Governing Board in creating a fifteen-year plan.

The Council discussed the frequency of conventions.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Review of dates, times, and places of upcoming Council meetings:
February 15-16, 2010, or March 8-9, 2010

ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Wagner, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

--Respectfully submitted, Stephen Schnurr, Secretary, assisted by Scot Huntington.

--Approved, Tuesday, February 16, 2010, in Arlington, Virginia.