

# Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Board of the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists September 23, 2013

Present: Laura Edman, Dean; Sharon Kleckner, Sub-Dean; Kirsten Falc Uhlenberg, Secretary; Phil Asgian, Sarah Garner, David Jenkins, Mary Newton, Jane Nienaber, Jungjoo Park, Jeffrey Patry, Carsten Slostad.

Excused: David Geslin

Guests: Michael Edwins, Chaplain; Sean Vogt

## I. Call to Order

Dean Edman called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM at our meeting location, Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 County Road C2, Roseville, Minnesota.

Rev. Mike Edwins opened the meeting with scripture readings (Psalm 113:3, Isaiah 7:4, and Ephesians 6:10) and a prayer.

## II. Secretary's Report

Phil Asgian moved to accept the minutes from the August 2013 meeting and Jane Nienaber seconded. The August minutes were approved.

## III. Treasurer's Report

Dean Edman reported on the Chapter's finances; the Chapter is \$2,600 over budget for membership renewals. Phil Asgian, on behalf of the Audit Committee, recommended that the account descriptions be improved for clarity.

## IV. Committee Reports

A. *Program*: Sharon Kleckner reported that the venue for the Member Concert in May will be Zion Lutheran Church in Anoka. The deadline for the application to perform is December 1, 2013. The offering collected at the Opening Event in September amounted to \$618, \$300 of which will be donated to Second Harvest.

B. *Professional Development*: Jeffrey Patry, along with guest Sean Vogt, presented two basic options for Salary Guidelines for 2013-14, 1) Salary Guidelines with a 3% cost-of-living raise relative to the 2012-13 Guidelines, and 2) Salary Guidelines incorporating various church music association guidelines as well as an additional cost-of-living increase relative to the cost of living for Minneapolis/Saint Paul, that is, an additional 10% over the national average (the current and previous guidelines are and have been based on the national average). The Board discussed option No. 1 and recommended that two separate guidelines be created: a new one that includes an additional 30% compensation for the payment of benefits (i.e., guidelines for employers not paying benefits) and one without (i.e., guidelines for employers paying benefits), as per usual. The Board also recommended a few minor formatting and word changes. Phil Asgian moved to accept the Salary Guidelines with the 3% cost-of-living raise relative to last year's Guidelines, with the Board's aforementioned recommendations. David Jenkins seconded the motion. More discussion followed. Phil Asgian amended the motion to include differentiating salaries according to job duties (organist only, choir director only, and organist/choir director combined) and number of hours. David Jenkins seconded. The motion passed. There was no discussion of option No. 2.

Also presented were the Weddings, Funerals, and Substitute Services Fee Guidelines for 2013-14. These included a moderate flat-rate increase. Jane Nienaber moved to accept and Mary Newton seconded. The motion passed.

C. *Membership*: Jane Nienaber reported that the Chapter has 316 active members. The breakdown is:

153 Regular Members	21 Friends
95 Special	21 Dual Chapter
8 Students	4 Voting Partner
10 Students under 21	4 Non-voting complimentary

There are 43 members not yet renewed. The next report will be sent to National after October 1.

D. *Publicity*: David Jenkins reported that 430 people “liked” the Chapter's Facebook page and noted that the number is higher than the number of members! The group photo from the Opening Event was viewed by 1184 people.

E. *Education*: Phil Asgian reported that he has made a contact at Saint Paul Music Academy with whom he discussed teaching the Pipeworks curriculum.

## **V. Annual AGO Fund Gift**

Dean Edman reported that the Chapter received a letter of thanks from the AGO for the Chapter's contribution to the Annual Fund. It was received in time to be noted in the December issue of *The American Organist*.

## **VI. Thomanerchor**

The Thomanerchor from Leipzig, Germany, which the Chapter has helped to sponsor through Special Projects, has scheduled a concert at Central Lutheran Church on November 4. In return for our sponsorship, Central Lutheran will give away 20 student tickets (4 per teacher). The contact for obtaining tickets is Jim Callahan.

## **VII. New Business: Paul Westermeyer letter of appreciation**

A letter of appreciation to Paul Westermeyer was prepared on the occasion of his retirement from Luther Seminary in Saint Paul. It was signed by individual members of the Board and will be framed and presented to him at the upcoming hymn festival in his honor.

## **VIII. Other**

Phil Asgian reminded the Board to make recruitment an item on the agenda for next meeting.

Mary Newton moved to adjourn and Carsten Slostad seconded at 8:14 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 28 at 6:30 PM at Centennial United Methodist Church in Roseville.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Falc Uhlenberg, Secretary