

Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting
Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
May 9, 2022

Present: Jennifer Anderson, Jacob Benda, Joyce Brown, Isaac Drewes, David Geslin, Nils Halker
Kathrine Handford, Kristina Langlois, Sr. Stacie Lightner, Kris Rizzotto

Absent: Laura Potratz, Lise Schmidt, John Varona

Also present: Chaplain John Setterlund

Call to Order by Dean Jacob Benda at 6:30 PM, Virtual Meeting via the Zoom App.

The meeting began with Chaplain John Setterlund sharing a reflection on the hymn writer and reformer Nicolas von Zinzendorf who is commemorated today. He wrote the text for the famous hymn "Jesus, Still Lead On". The hymn speaks of hardships and discouragement and yet leads us to hope. Amidst our challenging times of war in other parts of the world and the pandemic, there is hope in the return to spring and gathering together again.

Motion: Nils Halker moved that the board approve the March Minutes.

Second: Kathrine Handford

Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Report given by Joyce Brown.

The ballots from the election are still coming in. They will be tallied after May 15, and the results will be shared with the board at a later date. Thank you to Phil Radtke for organizing the committee and completing the task. Thank you also to Jacob Benda and Jeffrey Patry for working with the print shop to print and mail the ballots.

Program Committee Report: Report given by Jennifer Anderson

-The Program Committee is busy planning for next year as well as planning for the 2023 Regional Convention.

-The Program Committee has sketched out some events for next year. There will be an opening gala September 25 at St. Andrew's in Mahtomedi. It will an afternoon event followed by a dinner to celebrate membership and celebrate being together again. St. Andrew's has generously given us a discount on the cost of using the sanctuary space. We will be guests of the music department for the dinner saving us rental hall costs.

-For October, planning is being done to host a Master class, Oct. 8, with Bruce Neswick who will be giving a recital at Christ Lutheran on Oct. 9.

-The Program Committee is aiming to have monthly events. There are many activities in the cities and the committee is working on possibly partnering with other organizations. There is great concern over rising costs of hosting programs due to increased facility fees.

-Discussion continued on tickets and reception numbers for the Northrop Event. We are encouraged to recruit people to attend. It is expensive to have an event at Northrop (25K). David Jenkins and Kathrine Handford have been fund raising so that the reception will be complimentary to ticket holders.

- June 5 is the Northrop Event. The event will begin at 2:00 with the premier of a 45-minute documentary, *The Northrop Organ: Past, Present and Future*. After a short break, the day will continue with a concert by Hector Olivera titled "Tantalizing Transcriptions and Tangos". A social gathering and reception will follow at the Campus Club.

Dean's Report: Report given by Jacob Benda.

-The Collegiate competition took place on April 30. It was held at St. Thomas. The judges listened to the recordings. There were 7 scheduled to perform. The winner was Katie Gunn, a student of Catherine Rodland from St. Olaf College.

-The Directory update work continues. A printed directory will be assembled and sent in August-September time frame. The current Operating Procedures states that the directory will be printed and sent out in October.

Treasurers Report: Report given by David Geslin

-Overall our finances are in good shape. However, membership numbers are down, the Wild Apricot web site cost has gone up and the cost of hosting events and artists has gone up.

-There was discussion on how to boost revenue, including charging non-members for concerts and events, or at least ask for donations at the door. We need to find contributions to support the budget. There was also discussion on how to increase membership and the reasons for declining membership. We all need to enthusiastically support the AGO, our programming, and to actively invite people to our programs. At concert venues, it is suggested that we actively and intentionally ask for donations, and to include a footnote in the program regarding the donations that are needed to fund this program.

-There was discussion regarding the upcoming Northrop program. We need to sell more tickets.

-The Program Committee might have to be flexible given the uncertainty of funding.

-It is suggested that the Development Committee seek out funding for programs including perhaps the Legacy money from the state of Minnesota.

-It is noted that, as a chapter we do have a lot of resources that have been carefully invested by our Treasurer, David Geslin. We are grateful and thank him for that!

Motion: Jennifer Anderson made a motion to accept the budget.

Second: Nils Halker

Motion carried.

Motion: Kristina Langlois moved that we adjourn the meeting.

Second: Isaac Drewes

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Next meeting: August 2022

Joyce Brown, Secretary