

Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting
Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
August 22, 2022

Present: Carolyn Diamond, Isaac Drewes, Kathrine Handford, Samuel Holmberg, David Jenkins, Kristina Langlois, Ju Yong Lee, Kris Rizzotto,

Present: via the Zoom App: David Geslin, Lise Schmidt

Absent: Nils Halker, Mary Newton

Also Present: Chaplain John Setterlund

Meeting called to order by Dean David Jenkins at 6:30 pm at Church of Saint Mark, 2001 Dayton Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104

The meeting began with words by Chaplain John Setterlund expressing his joy at being together in person after two years of virtual meetings during the pandemic, saying “we must be together, or we die,” that is, our organization needs human presence). He led us in the singing of the hymn “Our God, to whom we turn.”

Introductions: David Jenkins invited us to briefly introduce ourselves as this was the first meeting of the new program year with new members present.

Motion: The May Minutes were approved with a few corrections in spelling, etc.

Treasurer’s Report: Given by David Geslin

The report had three parts: budget vs actuals for the previous fiscal year; comparison of our chapter’s financial positions end of June 2021 and end of June 2022; and comparison of revenues and expenses end of June 2021 and end of June 2022.

Important points: Total membership revenue was down because the chapter funded members’ dues for the 2020/2021 year to offset the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic; Membership revenue is only one piece of the budget as we also rely on investments, advertising, and unrestricted funds in the form of contributions; Investments were down because of the effects of the pandemic on the economy but will expect them to come back in time as the economy improves.

The report was a good introduction to the new board members about the strength and challenges of the chapter’s finances, and the board’s financial decision making.

Motion: Kathrine Handford moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report.

Second: Kris Rizzotto. **Motion Carried.**

Program Committee Report: Report given by Kathrine Handford

Kathy gave an update on the three events scheduled for the fall:

- + Gala member's recital and dinner (catered by Lake Elmo Inn) on September 25, 2022 at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, MN. She encouraged Board attendance to show support.
- + Masterclass/workshop and Recital presented by Bruce Neswick on October 8/9, 2022 at Christ Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Need hospitality for the event.
- + Organ crawl to visit Hendrickson Organs (organized by the Pipe Organ Heritage committee) on November 5, 2022.

The committee is striving to have a variety of programs including recitals, master classes, organ crawls, pedagogy, and socials. The Program committee needs to add two members. Suggestions for names are sought.

Chapter Governance: Given by David Jenkins

David explained that due to Kathrine Handford's election to SubDean, her seat from the Class of 2024 needs to be filled, as three seats are elected to the Board each year. It is the Board's responsibility to appoint someone for the vacant seat. Samuel Holmberg asked if the seat needed to be filled, and Kris Rizzotto reported that the National guidelines for chapters require only a Dean, a Subdean, and a Treasurer. However, our chapter operating procedures dictate nine at large board members. David Jenkins contacted Kenneth Vigne, runner-up in the last elections, to ask about his continued interest in the position. He declined. David asked each Board member to present names of possible candidates that he and Carolyn Diamond (Secretary) would collect and return to the Board to rank, and vote on at the next meeting.

David Jenkins and Kathy Handford reported on progress in appointing a Hospitality Chair. Two members, Randall Eagan and Maria Bucka, have offered to help, but neither of them wants to share the title of "Chair". It was suggested that both work with the Program Committee to provide hospitality when needed. The Board gave general approval, but no formal motion was made.

Discussion: Board priorities for the coming year: Led by David Jenkins

To move the chapter forward, David stated that he wants the Board to be more vested and active by doing more than passively attending meetings. He desires help with membership engagement and recruiting, and also called attention to the need for involvement when we host the 2023 Regional Convention. Some

board members are already active with the convention planning, including Lise Schmidt, who is the Registrar.

Fundraising and development are also priorities.

Planning for Membership engagement and recruiting:

*Identifying and reaching out to prospective members and members who have “fallen away”. Lise Schmidt volunteered to look at recent member directories and find name of recent members who have lapsed.

* Outreach to students, clergy, and non-organist colleagues. It was noted that people under 21 can join for free. Samuel Holmberg will recruit students at St. John’s. David will contact Cathy Rodland at St. Olaf.

* Information on the TCAGO web site about how to join the chapter should be updated. David will look into the matter. Lise Schmidt expressed concern about the difficulty of membership renewal using ONCARD.

* The board will work with Membership Chair, Laura Edman, to process regular tracking and reporting of membership progress.

* Member recruiting and engagement should be a regular part of Hospitality at chapter events.

There was discussion about the Employment Handbook that was published recently by National, and how to best promote its use.

+ could it be available to search committees when advertising in Pipenotes?

+ John Setterlund asked if a church employer should advocate for a member?

+ Isaac Drewes said members should advocate for themselves.

This discussion was tabled for a future meeting.

Motion: Isaac Drewes moved to adjourn the meeting

Second: Sam Holmberg. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Next Meeting: September 26, 2022

Carolyn Diamond, Secretary