

**Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting
Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
September 26, 2022**

Present: via the Zoom App: Carolyn Diamond, Isaac Drewes, David Geslin, Nils Halker, Samuel Holmberg, David Jenkins, Kristina Langlois, Ju Young Lee, Mary Newton, Kris Rizzotto, Lise Schmidt. **Absent:** Kathrine Handford
Also Present: Chaplain John Setterlund

Meeting was called to order by Dean David Jenkins at 6:40 pm via the Zoom App.

The opening prayer was omitted.

Introductions: Two board members, Nils Halker and Mary Newton, were asked to introduce themselves, as this was their first meeting of the program year.

Motion: Lise Schmidt moved that the minutes of the board meeting on August 22, 2022 be approved.

Second: Mary Newton. **Motion carried.**

Program Committee Report: Given by David Jenkins

David reported that the opening event, **A Gala Concert and Dinner** on Sunday, September 25, 2022 at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi was very successful. There were approximately 300 people in the audience, twelve member performers with one guest flutist. Michael Barone served as host and offered the introductory commentary for the repertoire, which was a variety of 20th century music. Eighty-two attended the dinner/meeting following the concert, and the officers and new board members were installed by Chaplain Setterlund. We agreed that the food and venue were wonderful, and that it was a very enjoyable opening to the program year. Kris Langlois expressed the consensus of the group that there is optimism about the future for the organ as there are many talented young organists!

The evening also included a **40th Anniversary Video Tribute to Michael Barone**. Kathrine Handford produced a compelling historical video of his time in radio, his significant influence on the organ world locally and nationally, and his enduring

efforts to promote the pipe organ. It was a surprise for Michael, and he seemed touched by the acknowledgement.

As Michael's influence is far reaching, there was discussion when Mary Newton, our North Central Regional Counselor, wondered how/if this video could be made available to other chapters in our Region. The producer, Kathy Handford, will follow up with Michael about this proposal.

Regional Convention Report: Given by David Jenkins

David reported that planning has been proceeding again, after a hiatus due to the pandemic. The 2021 convention was postponed to 2023, but a new application to host in the Twin Cities was not required. To avoid huge cancelation fees, National (AGO) was able to renegotiate to keep the same rates with the hotel, the Hilton in downtown Minneapolis.

Convention co-chairs David Jenkins and Kathrine Handford have been working with the program committee on determining the program and budget. Planning with the steering committee will soon resume, once the AGO national committee on conventions gives the go ahead on program and budget. David says that there's "fun stuff coming!" We as board members will all have to take a pledge of confidentiality as planning progresses, and we will be encouraged to participate and volunteer as committees are formed.

Treasurer's Report: Given by David Geslin.

1. We are on track for revenue, and renewals are ahead of last year.
2. We have no more big expenses for this program year, and that it was beneficial to have budgeted wisely for the opening event and dinner.
3. Even though our funds are down due to market volatility, "we have enough cash to ride it out, and we are in great shape financially."

David Jenkins gave credit to Jim Callahan's leadership as Dean (about 15 years ago) for getting chapter expenses and budget on a balanced track. It was about the same time that David Geslin became Treasurer.

Motion: Nils Halker moved to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Second: Kris Langlois. **Motion carried.**

Chapter Finances: Given by David Jenkins

Two proposals were presented:

1. Proposal from Paul Lohman to raise advertising fees. As oversight person for advertising in Pipenotes, in the Member Directory, and on our

Webpage, Paul noted that the fees have never been raised, and that it was timely to do so. We get income from advertising, and a 20% raise in rates is small enough in inflationary times to not discourage advertisers. This advertising income defrays costs of printing Pipenotes and the Directory, and is helpful as printing costs have gone up. After discussion, Lise Schmidt made the proposal “that the TCAGO advertising rates be raised, as proposed by Paul Lohman, and adopted for the ‘23/’24 budget year.” Any questions regarding specific start dates for these price increases will be directed to Paul.

Prior to a vote, there was discussion about the value of the Member Directory. There are mixed reviews on those who like it and those who don’t. Pros (it is an artifact that is a physical connection to the chapter as well as a snapshot of the year) vs. the cons (it is immediately out of date as soon as it is printed) were stated, with suggestions for having a directory in PDF format that could be updated on the website. David Jenkins explained that member contact and renewal information is kept in the national ONCARD system, but member professional information is still kept in our WildApricot database. A new national system, IMIS, will soon replace Oncard. Plans now are to produce the printed Directory, likely available the first of the year.

Motion to accept raising the advertising rates: Lise Schmidt moved to accept.
Second: Nils Halker. **Motion carried.**

1. A second proposal to eliminate job posting fees on the website was presented. Should the fees remain or should the posting service be offered for no charge? After much discussion about the benefits of the job listing service (from Lise S.- provides professional standards and opportunities to promote our code of ethics; from Kris L.- chance to promote the AGO Handbook on Employing Musicians which outlines the stewardship of our skills, enriching both applicants and committees; from Kris R.- it is an ecumenical listing service and the place to go for organists; from Nils H.- it is desirable that the AGO is recognized; from Isaac D.- dropping the fee would not likely get more positions listed, and that the fees support the AGO) David Jenkins tabled the topic for future consideration.

Membership engagement and recruiting: Given by David Jenkins

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David reported numbers in the following member categories: renewals, cancellations, invoiced but not paid, moved away, and no contacts. But with the time limitations of the evening, future consideration of these topics as well as the appointment to fill the empty board seat would be continued at a later date.

Motion: Kris Langlois moved to adjourn to the meeting.

Second: Isaac Drewes. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Next meeting: October 17, 2022

Carolyn Diamond, Secretary