

**Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting
Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
November 28, 2022**

Present: Carolyn Diamond, Isaac Drewes, Nils Halker, Kathrine Handford, David Jenkins, Kristina Langlois, Kris Rizzotto

Present: via the Zoom App: David Geslin, Mary Newton

Absent: Samuel Holmberg, Ju Young Lee, Lise Schmidt

Also Present: Chaplain John Setterlund

Meeting was called to order by Dean David Jenkins at 6:35 pm at Church of Saint Mark, 2001 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104

The meeting began with Chaplain Setterlund asking we Christians what the season of Advent is all about? Our secular world would have it be the count-down of shopping days before Christmas, but the Bible tells us through the writings of Matthew, Mark, and Luke about the surprise and disruptive return of Jesus. And even though few Christians actually believe in this earthly return, we can be alert and awake to the dangers around us as well as the power and love heard in God's promises. Our lives and our music must project righteousness, justice, and charity as we proclaim the angel's song!

Motion: Isaac Drewes moved the minutes of the board meeting on October 17, 2022 be approved.

Second: Nils Halker. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Given by David Geslin

David reports that our budget continues to be in good shape, primarily due to last year's very limited expenses. This year has more revenue but also has more expenses, given more programs that have and will be presented. Our membership dues revenue is up from last year, as well as placement fees, resulting in our gross profit being double from last year. He expects that our chapter will make budget this year.

The TCAGO manages the regional convention budget, which is separate from the chapter budget, and follows guidelines established by National. Stressing that fund raising is very important to meet costs, he hopes we will have a profitable event.

Motion: Kathy Handford moved the Treasurer's report be accepted. **Second:** Kris Rizzoto. **Motion carried.**

Program Committee Report: Given by Kathrine Handford

There will be no event in January of 2023, but other events are scheduled for the remaining program year:

- +Jean-Baptiste Robin Presentation and Masterclass. Tuesday, February 28, 7-9pm at St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel at the University of St. Thomas, with Jacob Benda as host.
- + Thomas Fielding Lecture Recital. Tuesday, March 7, 7pm at St. Olaf Catholic Church in Minneapolis. This is a collaborative event, co-sponsored by TCAGO and St. Olaf Church.
- + Before Bach's Birthday Bash (BBBB). March 18. Venues/times not finalized. Michael Barone manages this event, sponsored by TCAGO, with support from MPR.
- +TCAGO Members' Recital. Friday, May 12, 7pm at Normandale Lutheran Church.

The Chapter Operating procedures require that the chapter programs and budgets for the upcoming fiscal be approved in advance by the board at the May board meeting.

Pipe Organ Heritage Committee Report: Given by Nils Halker

The Charles Hendrickson Retrospective Organ Crawl on November 5, 2022, from 9am-5pm was a great day. There were five venues: Church of Saint Mark, St. Paul; Saint John's Lutheran, Minneapolis; Mayflower Community Congregational Church, Minneapolis; Trinity Episcopal Church, Excelsior; Wayzata Community Church, Wayzata. The resident organists presented wonderful programs with varied repertoire on these organs that were differing in size and scope.

Nils took feedback about the event. There was discussion about the reasons that attendance dwindled by the end of the afternoon. Some churches had members from their congregation attending, and there were about 30 TCAGO members who started off in the morning, with only about a dozen remaining through the afternoon. The questions raised: is Saturday the best day for organ crawls?; what time of day is best?; too long a day to include morning and afternoon?; better to divide over two weeks? The committee wants to present two organ crawls per year. Is that the right number?

Member engagement and recruiting: Given by David Jenkins

David reports that this is a quiet time of year for membership renewals as most renew in the summer. Following a calling campaign, the unpaid or unrenewed members are known and resolved. He feels that the calling was successful and should be an ongoing effort. He also wants to explore creative ways to recruit, knowing that having quality programs are likely one of the best ways to do so.

Pipe Organ Discovery Day: Given by David Jenkins

This annual event is planned by the Education Committee, Phil Asgian, chair. Usually a venue is selected that provides at least two pipe organs for students to have experience hands-on. Participants also meet organists, learn about organs and how they work, and have pizza! And in fact, some of our adult TCAGO members attended these events when they were children or youth. The PODD this year is expanded to be very special. It will be held at the University of Minnesota with Dean Billmeyer as host. Organs will be available at Ferguson Hall as well as Northrup Auditorium, where special guest, Isabelle Demers, will participate as a guest teacher. The Young Women Organists Cohort members are also participating. The cost for lunch, \$900, is greater than the budgeted amount of \$500.00, because the Northrop catering must be used. The event will also present a great opportunity to recruit young people for the Pipedreams Scholarship competition.

Request for Annual Audit: Given by David Jenkins

David reported that he is requesting Phil Asgian to begin our annual budget audit process.

Chapter archive policies and procedures: Given by David Jenkins

Joshua Lindgren is our chapter archive coordinator. The chapter has physical archives at the History Center of Minnesota, and digital archives available on the chapter web site. The holdings at the History Center include printed music and other items pertaining to Arthur Jennings, a collection of printed programs from Twin Cities organ recitals performed from the 1950's to 1970's, recorded interviews of members that give an oral history of the chapter and its members. Minutes from Board meetings and Pipenotes newsletters are archived digitally on the chapter web site. There is, however, no thorough set of archive policies and procedures for the chapter. Joshua needs some support and guidance in order to do his job. It was proposed that we consult with the History Center staff to learn about what services they offer for cataloging and preserving our archives, and associated fees. David Jenkins will work with Joshua to arrange a fact-finding meeting with History Center staff. [Addendum: John Setterlund volunteered to assist with this effort.]

Chapter operating procedures: Given by David Jenkins

The chapter operates according to procedures approved by the chapter voting membership and National leadership, the most recent document outlining these procedures was adopted in 2012. A more recent revision to these procedures came in 2017, after the FTC antitrust settlement with the AGO required that the Guild change certain provisions of its Code of Ethics and required us to stop publishing compensation guidelines and model contracts. David proposes that it is time for us to update our operating procedures again, so that we are in compliance with the current National By-Laws, to revise our election procedures, and to clarify some other chapter procedures. David has appointed an ad hoc committee of Mary Newton, Nils Halker and himself to study undertake a draft of this revision.

Motion: Nils Halker moved to adjourn the meeting. **Second:** Kathy Handford

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM. Next meeting: January 23, 2023

Carolyn Diamond, Secretary