

Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting
Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
March 27, 2023

Present: Isaac Drewes, Nils Halker, Kathrine Handford, Samuel Holmberg, David Jenkins, Ju Young Lee, Mary Newton, Lise Schmidt

Present via the Zoom App: Kris Langlois

Absent: David Geslin, Carolyn Diamond, Kris Rizzotto

Also Present: Chaplain John Setterlund

Meeting was called to order by Dean David Jenkins at 6:33pm at Church of Saint Mark, 2001 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104.

The meeting began with Chaplain Setterlund having a meditation on St. John of Damascus, whose commemoration day was Monday, March 27. The meditation concluded with prayers for blessings and strength as everyone prepares for the upcoming Holy Days.

Motion: Nils Halker moved the minutes of the board meeting on February 20, 2023 be approved.

Second: Lise Schmidt. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: David Geslin is out due tax season and no report was given.

Student Competition Update: Given by Mary Newton

Mary reported on the Student Competition that was held on Sat. March 25 on the campus of the University of St. Thomas. She reported that there was one student, Aaron Looney, who auditioned to represent the Twin Cities Chapter at the Regional Convention in the Twin Cities in July. She noted the judges were Laura Edman, Steve Self and Allan Mahnke.

Pipe Organ Heritage Committee Report: Given by Nils Halker

Nils reported that the upcoming April 15th event will be an organ crawl of North and Northeast churches. The event will run from 9am-5pm, will feature seven instruments and will be an open console format. These organs represent a wide range of instruments and the hope is that there will be good attendance.

Secretary's Report: Given by David Jenkins (for Carolyn Diamond who is absent)

David reported the results of the Nominating Committee for the upcoming May board elections.

- There are six people who agreed to run for the Executive Board: Richard Gray, Simon Pick, Trevor Wolter, Melanie Ohnstad, Brenda Sevcik and Eilleen Miller.

At this time there aren't any candidates for the Secretary position. Many people were asked and turned it down. David noted that the Nominating Committee is still following up with a few names. Lise Schmidt volunteered for the Secretary position if none of the potential candidates the Nominating Committee are pursuing agree to the position. Her board term is up June 30th and she said she would be happy to be the Secretary.

The Nominating Committee members are Joyce Brown (chair), Jerry Bonstrom, Laura Edman, Kris Langlois, Tom Rowland and Mary Newton. David reported that Joyce Brown suggested that the nominating committee be put together sooner so that there is more time to set up the committee and work on contacting potential candidates.

Program Committee: Given by Kathrine Handford

Kathy gave an update on the final TCAGO chapter event for the year, the Members' Recital on May 12th. It will be held at Normandale Lutheran Church (Edina). Michael Barone is in charge of the program, and the hospitality committee will provide the treats.

Kathy also recapped the February and March events:

Feb 27- Recital by Jean-Baptiste Robin (sponsored by the Church of Saint Mark, well-attended.)

Feb 28- Workshop by Jean-Baptiste Robin (sponsored by the TCAGO to take advantage of Robin's visit, and hosted by the University of St. Thomas. Well-attended and well-received.)

March 7- Lecture Recital by Thomas Fielding (small attendance.)

March 18- Before Bach's Birthday Bash (well-attended.)

Convention update: Given by David Jenkins/ Kathrine Handford

David and Kathy reported that not many people have registered yet. The registration currently sits at under 50 people. Kathy reminded people that the early bird deadline is April 15, 2023 and that board members should get registered by that date. She also noted that the hope is to get 50 more people registered by the April 15th deadline. She concluded by saying that the board members should be leaders in registering for the convention and in volunteering to work at the convention. Lise Schmidt, the convention registrar, clarified that anyone can be a volunteer and they do not need to be an AGO member. It was suggested that perhaps a volunteer might even become interested in becoming a member. She also noted that the student registration date is

\$150. She also reminded everyone of Carolyn Diamond's email requesting that convention committees send in their "volunteer needs" by May 1.

Chapter Relief Fund for Convention Scholarships: Given by David Jenkins

David proposed to use the chapter relief fund for convention scholarships. He explained that these funds were left over from the Member Relief Fund established in 2020 to help members in financial difficulty due to the shut down during the early stages of the Pandemic. \$4900 was received in member donations and \$2400 still remain in the fund. The use of the funds is restricted to something within the original intentions of the donors. David suggested establishing a grant program for Young Organists already registered for the convention in the potential amounts of \$100 or \$150.

The board liked this idea and was supportive of helping young organists defray some of the cost to attend the convention. There was much discussion regarding the logistics of how to administer this program, including how the money should be given out, should this program be limited to just TCAGO members, and should there be a requirement that the individual write an essay indicating how attending the convention would help their profession and personal development.

David asked Lise Schmidt to write out the verbiage that could be used on the convention website to promote this program, making May 1 the deadline for scholarship applications. Lise will send this wording out to the board and the board will vote by email on the exact wording.

It was decided that a small committee should evaluate the essays. Isaac, John and Kathy agreed to be on the committee.

Motion: Lise made a motion to use the "chapter relief funds for convention scholarships for student TCAGO young organist members."

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

Motion: Nils Halker moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Kathy Handford. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm. Next meeting: April 24, 2023.

Mary Newton, subbing for Carolyn Diamond, Secretary