

**Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting  
Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists  
April 24, 2023**

**Present:** Carolyn Diamond, Isaac Drewes, Nils Halker, Kathrine Handford, David Jenkins, Kristina Langlois, Ju Young Lee, Kris Rizzotto, Lise Schmidt

**Present via the Zoom App:** David Geslin, Samuel Holmberg

**Absent:** Mary Newton

**Also Present:** Chaplain John Setterlund

Meeting was called to order by Dean David Jenkins at 6:34 pm at Church of Saint Mark, 2001 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104

The meeting began with Chaplain Setterlund describing a weekend filled with musical concerts and programs in our Twin Cities area. From orchestral and choral concerts, to a pipe organ dedication, an organ recital, and a hymn festival, he was gratefully astonished and impressed with the broad cultural heritage we share here. And he gives thanks for these opportunities to celebrate God's mercy through the beauty and power of music!

**Motion:** Nils Halker moved the minutes of the board meeting on March 27, 2023 be approved.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Given by David Geslin

David reviewed the Budget vs. Actuals, the Statement of Revenue and Expenses, and the Statement of Financial Position. His assessment, since we budget very conservatively, is that we are, and will be, in fine shape!

**Motion:** Kathrine Handford moved the Treasurer's Report be approved.

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

**Secretary's Report:** Given by Carolyn Diamond

Carolyn reported that the change to online voting is going smoothly because of the efforts and electronic proficiency of Jeremy Haug. After testing and implementing the software **Election Buddy**, members with emails and/or text capability, are able to vote online from their computers or phones. The few members without those contacts were sent paper ballots directly from Carolyn via the USPS, complete with the bios of the candidates. Voting launched on April 24, 2023, with three reminders scheduled, and all votes are due by May 15, 2023. This system allows for secure and confidential voting, and is approved by National.

**Pipedreams Scholarship:** Given by David Jenkins

David reported that a second Pipedreams Scholarship audition was held this Spring. The two students who applied were both rewarded scholarships, one young person and one adult. The

fund is intended to recruit proficient pianists who have interest in becoming organists. Applicants are recruited from the teachers who are on our membership roster, but a broader outreach is needed to promote the scholarship. The question: how to spread the word? David J. will work with Steve Gentile (Chair) and the committee to get some online communication about this opportunity.

**Program Committee Report:** Given by Kathrine Handford

The final event of this program year:

May 12, 2023: Members' Recital at Normandale Lutheran Church, Edina MN, at 7pm.

The program committee has several exciting events in the planning stage for next year. The following are in the works:

- + Opening event in conjunction with the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pipedreams with Michael Barone. Bethel University, St. Paul, MN.
- + A concert and retrospective recognizing the late Edward Berryman. Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN.
- + November 19: A potential workshop is being explored with Nathan Laube while he is visiting the Twin Cities to play a concert sponsored by Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN.
- + February 18: Professional Enrichment Day.
- + February 19: Kings Singers Choral Workshop.
- + March 16: Before Bach's Birthday Bash.
- + Karg-Elert event being planned for the Spring.

Kathrine predicts that the Program Committee will not spend its whole budget.

**Regional Convention Report:** Given by David Jenkins and Kathrine Handford

Aaron Looney was the winner of the 2023 TCAGO chapter competition held in conjunction with the AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists (RCYO). This allows him to compete at the regional level during the North Central Regional Convention on July 4, 2023, at the Church of Saint Louis, King of France, Saint Paul.

Scholarship fund update: by David J.

To apply for a scholarship for the Convention, the applicants must be 29 years old or younger, still a student, and apply by May 1. The money could be applied to both the registration fee of \$150.00 or towards the transportation. As of today (4/24/2023) there are no applications.

Convention updates: by Kathrine H.

Currently there are 103 registrants of which the majority are in the "special" category of being 65 years of age or older. They are also mostly from greater MN or the Twin Cities. To make the budget for the convention, 50 more are needed. Kathy has raised a considerable amount of money towards the convention, but is still seeking donors. We are asked to consider a donation as a Board, and also to encourage our friends and colleagues to join us at the convention. She suggests the Board sponsor an event, i.e., the opening concert. By next month (May), we will

know how the fund raising is going. And should it be needed, we may consider asking for a grant from our chapter funds to sponsor a convention event.  
As to the competition, we have three who will be competing: one from Kansas City, one from Wichita, and one from Minneapolis.

**Report on Standing Committee Memberships:** Given by David Jenkins

To keep renewed energy and new ideas coming from the standing committees, there was a discussion about reviewing requirements, expectations, and operating procedures for members:

- + term limits for the chairs of committees?
- + term limits for members of committees?
- + mentoring a new chair person?
- + revolving new members... 1-3 years?
- + finding new people to serve?

**Professional Concerns:** Given by Kathy Handford

To support our members in advocating for fair compensation, the question was asked: How can the Guild promote fair salaries and substitute fees for organists, and still abide by the restrictions set forth by the FTC (Federal Trade Commission)?

**Motion:** Kris Langlois moved to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm. Next meeting: May 22, 2023.

Carolyn Diamond, Secretary