

**Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting**  
**Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists**

**August 28, 2023**

**Present:** David Jenkins, Lise Schmidt, David Geslin, Ju Young Lee, Isaac Drewes, Kathrine Handford, Carolyn Diamond, Samuel Holmberg, Richard Gray, Kristina Langlois, Chaplain John Setterlund

**Absent:** Eileen Miller, Melanie Ohnstad

Chaplain John Setterlund opened the meeting with reflections on the role of music in the church followed by the opening prayer.

**Introductions:** The meeting began with introductions and personal updates of the board members.

**Minutes:** There were no comments or changes to the minutes of the May 2023 board meeting. **Motion:** Isaac Drewes moved the minutes of the May 22, 2023, meeting be approved. **Second:** Samuel Holmberg. **Motion carried.**

**Action item – vacant seat in Class of 2025:** Mary Newton has resigned from the board. Under board procedures, the president nominates a replacement when there is a board vacancy, the board then votes on the nomination. David Jenkins recommended Simon Pick, Music Director at Church of the Assumption, St. Paul, and one of this year's board nominees. Simon indicated he was happy to serve.

**Motion:** Carolyn Diamond moved to approve Simon Pick to fill the board vacancy. **Second:** Kathrine Handford. **Motion carried.**

**Sub Dean's Report: Program Committee:** Kathrine Handford reported that additional members are needed for the program committee. If interested or if you know of possible candidates, please let Kathrine know. The Pipedreams 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary organ and orchestra concert is on September 17. The program is free. The concert is followed by the TCAGO opening dinner at the Green Mill, Shoreview. Reservations are required by September 6 for the dinner. Tom Rowland has been working on a program on Ed Berryman, but has just begun a new job at the Meeting House Church in Edina, so that program is postponed. The Pipe Organ Heritage Committee (POHC) is planning an organ crawl in St. Paul for October 21. Nathan Laube will be playing on the Bethlehem Music Series on November 19. A catered dinner at Christ Church Lutheran will follow with a pedagogy event with 2-3 younger students. On Sunday, February 18, 2024, The King Singers will be on the Bethlehem Music Series. That Monday, the TCAGO will collaborate with Bethlehem Music Series for a master class with The King Singers and a professional development day. There will again be Before Bach's Birthday Bash organized by Michael Barone. Trevor Good and Aaron Looney have been invited to play TBD in the Spring.

**Treasurer's Report:** David Geslin noted the new board approves the last board's finances at the first meeting. Details of the budget and expenses were provided in print form to all board members. David Geslin noted the TCAGO is doing fine financially and reviewed the budget and expenses for the year ending on June 30, 2023. David Jenkins noted the Audit Committee and Investment Committee need to be revitalized. **Motion:** Kathrine Handford moved to accept the treasurer's financial reports. **Second:** Isaac Drewes. **Motion carried.**

**Regional Convention Report:** David Jenkins and Kathrine Handford reported on the North Central Regional Convention. A written summary was provided to the board. There was great feedback from

participants: the quality of performances and presentations was high and the hotel very good. Thanks were expressed to all who contributed to organizing and administering the convention. David Jenkins stated a report was due to the national AGO within two days. The convention ran over budget. James Tomashower of the AGO gave 100% support, but encouraged the TCAGO to continue to reduce expenses and do more fundraising, which was done. National provided \$30,000 to cover expenses, but with a recommended conversion of a loan of \$5000 to the convention from the TCAGO to a grant, we will be able to return nearly \$15,000. A discussion followed of what regional conventions should be in the future. It was agreed that the AGO needs to reassess the model for conventions. Things to reconsider: July 4 is almost impossible to schedule and makes it more difficult for performers and attendees. Alternatives to downtown hotels + bus transportation should be explored. There should be coordination with other organ-related events, conferences, conventions. The lack of support and ease of use of the Cvent application.

**Other business:** David Jenkins listed things that need doing by the board: The Operating Procedures update need to be completed. Committees and membership lists need to be updated. The printed Members Directory will be worked on by David Jenkins, Jeffrey Patry, and Jeremy Haug. The use of Wild Apricot needs to be reviewed as there are increasing problems with the program and the expense keeps going up. It was noted the National membership database has been delayed again. Other areas that need attention include Fundraising and Development, the Pipedreams Scholarship, ways to support musicians, and archiving of TCAGO documents.

**Motion:** Kristina Langlois moved to adjourn the meeting. **Second:** Carolyn Diamond. **Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Lise Schmidt, Secretary