

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

**October 23, 2023**

**Present:** David Jenkins, Kathrine Handford, Isaac Drewes, John Setterlund, Eileen Miller, David Geslin, Samuel Holmberg, Melanie Ohnstad, Ju Young Lee, Kris Langlois, Lise Schmidt

**Absent:** Richard Gray, Carolyn Diamond, Simon Pick

Chaplain John Setterlund opened the meeting noting the warfare and deprivation in the Middle East and contrasting the admonition of Psalm 98 to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. He observed the power of music is needed in such times and concluded "Lord make us instruments of Your peace."

**Minutes:** Several corrections were noted. **Motion:** Eileen Miller moved to approve the minutes as corrected. **Second:** Kathrine Handford. **Motion carried.**

**Budget and Finance Update:** Treasurer David Geslin reviewed the TCAGO budget, income, and expenses. He explained that restricted endowment funds are proceeds from the previous two conventions. The original principal is not available, but earnings from the principal may be used plus the percentage applied to support the budget annually. There is \$10,305 in unrestricted funds. We are behind in membership revenue, about half of the amount budgeted, \$4270 compared to \$5295 compared to the same period last year. We have considerably less income than budgeted from Pipenotes advertising and placement fees. However, our expenses have been low. Geslin observed that generally, we are a bit behind, most from lower membership revenue, but it is early in the year and there is not much going on right now. **Motion:** Isaac Drewes moved to accept the treasurer's report. **Second:** Samuel Holmberg. **Motion carried.**

**TCAGO web/chapter management software:** Jeremy Haug, TCAGO Publicity and Social Media Coordinator joined the board meeting by Zoom. In 2012-2013 the chapter implemented a new web site using the WildApricot management system. Kirsten Uhlenberg continues to serve as a webmaster, Jeremy Haug oversees web site content updates, and registrar Jeffry Patry updates the membership database. WildApricot is increasingly expensive and has become outdated for the chapters' current needs. It has not kept pace with how people access digital data and information and use electronic communication. We have reached our WildApricot database capacity limit and an increase would require a serious price hike. This is problematic as our contact lists go beyond just internal communication and include wider outreach. Additionally, the National AGO will be replacing the current membership system, ONCARD, with a new Engagement Management System (iMis) with rollout anticipated in February, along with a new website integrated with iMis. It is recommended that the chapter replace WildApricot with WIX, a web management service that is familiar to both Jeremy and Kirsten. WIX is affordable, easy to manage, works well across different device platforms, and provides good support. Goals include improved contact list management with increased capacity limits, better membership management and integration with iMis, improved user experience, more intuitive website administration, improved payment processing and events management, better communication tools, and search engine optimization. Kathrine Handford, Samuel Holmberg, and Lise Schmidt volunteered to

participate on an ad hoc committee to work on the web site change with Jeremy Haug providing technical support.

**Sub Dean's Report:** Katherine Handford reported that Nathan Laube was very excited about a presentation on pedagogy. An email has gone out with a call for students. She is working with a professional chef crafting a fall French menu. Pre-registration is required for the dinner.

**Pipedreams Scholarship Follow-up:** A discussion was had which raised whether standardization was needed regarding the amount per lesson and time per lesson for scholarship winners; whether the amount of the scholarship should be increased; and whether the audition requirements need revising. It was agreed more research and discussion is needed, including comparison with other chapters' scholarships, and who has gotten scholarships in the past and what it has done for them.

**Term Limits Discussion:** David Jenkins presented consideration of term limits for elected chapter positions. He noted that generally deans have stayed on for two to three years, similarly sub deans. The new AGO Chapter Operating Procedures recommend up to three one-year consecutive terms or two years renewable for a second two year term for Dean, Sub Dean, Treasurer and Secretary. There was no resolution reached. David agreed to draft some possible Operating Procedure limits for volunteers/committee members.

**Motion:** Melanie Ohnstad moved to adjourn the meeting. **Second:** Kathrine Handford. **Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Lise Schmidt, Secretary