

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

Present: David Jenkins, Kathrine Handford, Samuel Holmberg, Isaac Drewes, Carolyn Diamond, Eileen Miller, Melanie Ohnstad, Simon Pick, Richard Gray, David Geslin, Kristina Langlois, Lise Schmidt

Absent: Ju Young Lee

Chaplain John Setterlund opened the meeting quoting Matthew 25:34-40, noting that God's rule takes hold when people who are in need are given help. May we consider ourselves fortunate whenever we can help others.

Minutes: A correction was noted. **Motion:** Melanie Ohnstad moved to approve the minutes as corrected. **Second:** Samuel Holmberg. **Motion carried.**

President's comment: David Jenkins announced that Jim Callahan, past TCAGO President and long-time teacher and faculty at St. Thomas University, was in hospice.

Sub Dean's Report: Kathrine Handford reported the Nathan Laube masterclass went well with three students participating. Christ Lutheran Church booked their kitchen for another event and the food needed to be prepared off-site. She strongly recommended that the Hospitality Committee be revived for programs going forward. Melanie Ohnstad volunteered but additional committee members are needed. More members are also needed for the Program Committee – Samuel Holmberg will be added. The King Singers will be performing on the Bethlehem Music Series on Sunday, February 18, 2024. On February 19th, for Professional Development Day, the King Singers will do a presentation followed by lunch and an afternoon keynote speaker. The Professional Development Committee also needs active members. Pipe Organ Discovery Day is set for February 17, 2024, in St. Paul, at the Church of St. Mark and the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas. Phil Asgian is coordinating the planning. The two winners of the North Central Regional Convention, Trevor Cook and Aaron Mooney, will give recitals at St. Louis King of France Church, St. Paul, at the end of May-beginning of June 2024.

Further discussion was had regarding TCAGO Committees. Richard Gray asked whether committees can include non-TCAGO members. David Jenkins explained that official members of Standing Committees must be regular members, but added that recruiting non-member volunteers for activities might be possible. It was noted that Phil Asgian is the only member of the Audit Committee. David Geslin observed that Audit Committee members do not need to be accountants. **Motion:** Simon Pick moved to accept the Sub Dean's report. **Second:** Melanie Ohnstad. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: David Geslin observed the TCAGO is about half way through the fiscal year. He noted we are about \$985 behind on membership revenue for this time of year. This may be a cause for concern. David Jenkins suggested it may be time to follow up by contacting lapsed members. Dues may be going up in January 2024. David Geslin pointed out that we have sufficient funds. **Motion:** Eileen Miller moved to approve the treasurer's report. **Second:** Carolyn Diamond. **Motion carried.**

Pipedreams Scholarship Follow-up: Steve Gentile, chair of the scholarship committee, has encouraged the board to do a survey about awareness of and use of the Pipedreams Scholarship. The board preference is to do an electronic survey rather than paper. The question was raised whether we would get enough responses to make it useful. It was agreed the survey should be simple with short answers only. Jeremy Haug can provide technical support. It was also agreed that researching scholarships provided by other chapters is worth doing. David Jenkins, Simon Pick, and Lise Schmidt will follow-up on these projects. David Jenkins and Kathrine Handford will meet with Steve Gentile and the scholarship committee.

Term Limits: There appears to be general agreement on three one-year consecutive terms for the Dean and Sub Dean. There did not appear to be consensus on specific terms for Treasurer and Secretary as these officers have sometimes stayed on the board as needed. It was proposed that Standing Committee chairs also be limited to three one-year consecutive terms. Under TCAGO operating procedures, the Dean nominates committee chairs. The chair reports the committee's activities to the Board. Are there too many committees? Should the committee structure be streamlined? What happens if the board is unable to find someone willing to be the chair for a committee? Would it be easier to recruit committee chairs if there is a specific time limit? David Jenkins observed that if new operating procedures are adopted by the board, the proposed changes must be presented for a vote to the TCAGO members. It was pointed out that follow-up with committees by the board is important. Melanie Ohnstad suggested a board meeting with committee chairs. It would provide an opportunity to talk about each committee, what concerns the chair may have, how they feel about any proposed changes, and their ideas about good changes that could be made. Perhaps budgets could also be discussed. David Jenkins agreed to make a board calendar for 2024 and suggest times that might work for meeting with individual chairs as well as clarifying the purpose of the meeting.

2025 Pipe Organ Encounter Proposal: A proposal is being developed for a 2025 POE at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota. St. Olaf College would be the exclusive site, with all accommodations and meals provided on campus. Organ instruction will take place at St. Olaf organ facilities, including Boe Chapel, Studio A, and practice organs. The dates, June 22 through June 27, 2025, coincide with the St. Olaf Music Academy and it is hoped that POE students would be able to partake of some Academy classes. Organ faculty would be drawn from the local area, one teacher for every two students. Out-of-town faculty receive travel expenses, food, and housing. Participant fees are currently capped by AGO National at \$550, with likely adjustment for 2025. There will need to be some fundraising to offset costs not covered by AGO National and APOBA grants. POE site proposal applications are due February 15, 2024. The proposal must be approved by the Executive Committee. David Jenkins will present the final proposal draft at the January Board meeting, including budget, financial costs, and administrative responsibilities.

Motion: Kathrine Handford moved to adjourn the meeting. **Second:** Eileen Miller. **Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Lise Schmidt, Secretary

