

Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting

Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

January 22, 2024

Present: David Jenkins, Kathrine Handford, Samuel Holmberg, Isaac Drewes, Richard Gray, Eileen Miller, John Setterlund, Simon Pick, Ju Young Lee, Melanie Ohnstad, Kristina Langlois, David Geslin

Absent: Lise Schmidt, Carolyn Diamond

Chaplain John Setterlund opened the meeting noting that January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Recognizing that our board members represent multiple churches John offered a prayer for unity in spirit that highlighted the denominational strengths of our various traditions.

Minutes: Motion: Eileen Miller moved to approve the minutes for the November meeting as submitted. **Second:** Sam Holmberg. **Motion carried.**

President's comments: David Jenkins announced that the memorial service for Jim Callahan would be held January 27, at 11:00, at the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas. He also reviewed the meeting calendar and agendas for the remaining winter/spring board meetings.

David nominated Phil Radke to serve as chair of the 2024 nominating committee. Phil served on the committee last year and will fill out the new committee in consultation with Dean Jenkins. **Motion:** Kathrine Handford moved to accept David's nomination. **Second:** Isaac Drewes. **Motion carried.**

David reported that Mary Newton appointed Dean Billmeyer, F.A.G.O., to be head of North Central Regional AGO exam certification. He will be replacing Stephen Self who served in that capacity for many years and who is moving away. David has asked Dr. Billmeyer if he would also coordinate the chapter's certification exams. **Motion:** Eileen Miller moved to accept the appointment of Dean Billmeyer as chapter exam coordinator. **Second:** Sam Holmberg. **Motion carried.**

Sub Dean's Report: Kathrine Handford reviewed the chapter's events for the remainder of the year.

- *February 17 - Organ Discovery Day – Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas and Church of Saint Mark 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- *February 18 - King's Singers Concert presented by Bethlehem Music Series

- *February 19 - TCAGO Professional Enrichment Day open to singers, church musicians and clergy

 - 11 am-1 pm, King's Singers Workshop - Stillwater H. S. Choir and Bethlehem Chorale

 - Lunch - Melanie Ohnstad, Simon Pick, and Richard Gray have offered to provide hospitality support with box lunches, building directions, and welcome - Attendees will pre-register for lunch - The space can seat 150 max.

 - Don Salier's Lecture: *The Lamentable and the Praiseworthy: The Travail of Musical Liturgy Today*. Saliers, prolific author, teacher, and church musician, is not to be missed.

*March 16 – Before Bach’s Birthday Bash – curated by Michael Barone. Five sites: Gloria Dei Lutheran; Nativity of Our Lord Catholic; St. John the Evangelist Episcopal; Unity Church Unitarian; and House of Hope Presbyterian.

*April 13 - TCAGO Competition at Gloria Dei Lutheran.

*May 12 - Recital at Gloria Dei Lutheran with the two winners of RCYO - Aaron Looney and Trevor Good

Motion: Richard Gray moved to accept program committee report. **Second:** Kris Langlois. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer’s Report: David Geslin reiterated concern over drop in membership revenue. David Jenkins has followed up by creating a list of names and contact information to reach out to lapsed members. Stock market and Schwab funds are doing well. The treasurer feels it is time for an investment committee meeting. **Motion:** Eileen Miller moved to accept the treasurer’s report. **Second:** Simon Pick. **Motion carried.**

Report from Competition Committee: Kathrine Handford and Isaac Drewes provided several updates and procedural changes for the upcoming competition.

- *Notices have gone out to solicit entrants - registration deadline is Feb.18
- *Application is through a secure link in which players can provide bio, proof of age; postmark = time material is posted on link
- *Age limit 24 years - entrants must either live in or attend school in the North Central Region
- *Winners receive a ‘prize’, not a ‘scholarship’
- *Entrants can play from an iPad
- *Broader options for repertoire - 4 categories: Bach, 1800-1900, 1900-2000, 2000-present
- *Future collaboration hoped for with Schubert Club to enable yearly organ competition within Schubert Club’s competition

2025 POE: David Jenkins has been in further conversation with Cathy Rodland regarding a POE at St. Olaf College, June 22-27, 2025, 20 students maximum. David created a first draft spread sheet itemizing revenue and expenses that was reviewed by the board. The board had many questions and needs more information before approval of the proposed budget and the application to National can move forward. David will gather more facts; the board needs to vote by February 15. A zoom meeting may be called to accomplish next steps.

Motion: Isaac Drewes moved to adjourn the meeting. **Second:** Kathrine Handford. **Motion carried.**

Submitted by Melanie Ohnstad