

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Columbus AGO Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 31, 2011, 7:00PM
Meuser Residence

Present: Al Adcock, Pauline Fritz, Brian Johnson, Mark Meuser, John Schuder, Sara Seidel, Mark Stuart, Tom Gerke, Stan Osborn, Chuck Yannerella

Absent: Chad Baker*

***position vacant due to resignation**

Kind thanks to Mark Meuser for hosting a delicious potluck meal and opening his home for the meeting.

The meeting was called to order.

The minutes of the November 1, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented.

RCYO Competition Report (Jim Hildreth, guest)

The competition will be held March 5, King Ave UMC. Thanks to Chris McManus for agreeing to host the event. Three competitors have applied and the deadline has passed. The competitors are Natasha May Jones from Ohio University, David Pettit from OSU, and Elizabeth Eger from Franciscan University of Steubenville. Judges need to be appointed immediately; they are not to be teachers of the competitors. They need to be knowledgeable of repertoire and respected. Also needed are two alternate judges, not necessarily be from outside the chapter. One alternate judge must be present at the competition. Judges are to be paid a minimum of \$50 ea (last time the honorarium was \$100). The chapter retains \$50 application fees from competitors.

Chapter expenses will include:

- cash awards for 1st & 2nd place winners (\$200 / \$100). The committee later approved awarding the same amounts as last time.
- travel expenses to the regional convention for the winner
- a free one year AGO membership
- honoraria for judges + mileage + lodging if necessary
- lunch for judges during deliberation
- facility fee / donation to King Ave. for lights, custodian, etc.
- touch-up tuning of organ, if needed, and if not provided by the organ builder

Al reported that \$1500 has been budgeted, and suggested it would be generous to forward overages to Lexington to help subsidize the convention competition. Before the event, the organ tuning will need to be verified. Jim will ask Chris McManus who will pay for touchup tuning if it is necessary. Three hours practice time are allotted for each

competitor, plus warmup on the morning of the competition. Previous prizes may have been \$200 and \$100. Travel expenses need not be reimbursed, except for the winner going to regional convention.

Previous judges included Roberta Gary and James Kibbie. Suggestions were accepted for judges, agreeing on Yun Kim (Dayton), Nicole Keller (Baldwin Wallace College, Berea), and John Schuder (Columbus) to be judges. Alternate judges are Bob Wisniewski and James Bobb. (Jim Hildreth later indicated that Yun Kim and Nicole Keller had both agreed. John Schuder agreed at the time of the meeting).

Jim will provide a list of needed people and resources to Sara closer to the competition date. Sara will solicit the chapter. At minimum, page turner(s), practice monitors, and lunch runner(s) will be needed. This would be a good opportunity to get other chapter members involved. Publicity with competitor bios for The Guilder would be good, but time may not allow.

Treasurer's Report (Al Adcock)

Al officially welcomed Sara as new dean. An additional ad request was received which pushed the advertising income over the budgeted amount. A few small memberships have come in, but it is likely that the membership income goal will not be reached. Gifts and grants exceeded expectations. Income is more or less set for the year. Invoices for bookmarks and note cards were paid. The final installment for the website redesign was paid on 1/31/2011. The redesign project came in \$1500 under budget. \$500 will be sent to Paul Thornock for the February Hymn Festival sponsorship. There is projected to be ~\$7000 carryover for next year. The chapter's 100th anniversary is approaching (2016 or 2018? Carol Hofer may have come across a more exact date). The chapter may consider setting aside money for a big event to commemorate that year. It was proposed that the committee consider set aside a part of the normal carryover, which could be a nest egg for a centennial event. It was moved and passed that the RCYO expenses match previous levels. The budget report was accepted as presented.

Registrar's Report (Sara Seidel)

Nothing new to report. Sara expressed her interest in continuing in her role as registrar and communications chair concurrently with her tenure as dean. There were no objections from the committee, only expression of concern about overload. Sara was commended on her abilities and outstanding job thus far.

Part-time Musicians Task Force Report (Pauline Fritz)

Pauline continues to look for ways to reach organists. She is seeking publications that target denomination musicians. Brian reported that there is no such thing in the UMC.

Pauline reports being disturbed at the lack of musical understanding in pastoral offices and asked for suggestions on how to reach them, or get beyond them to their musicians. Brian proposed a back-to-basics program, such as an event to present introductory organ skills to pianists who may have been thrust into an organist role. This could be a program event focusing on fundamentals; chapter members could be encouraged to invite talented individuals and nonorganists. Need to work to correct elitist and aloof perceptions of the AGO. Pauline has already sent >500 letters and postcards, but it was felt that they had been worth the cost and effort for exposure. Chuck reports that some organ customers don't have fundamental understanding of registration. Pauline was encouraged to send a postcard advertising the March program.

Nominating Committee Report (Mark Meuser)

Mark asked for clarification on the number of positions to be filled, given Chad Baker's resignation. The current needs are:

- one 2-year term to replace Mark Stuart (assuming he is duly elected as Secretary)
- one 1-year term to replace Chad Baker
- three 3-year terms for class of 2014.

The slate of nominees is due March 1. Mark reported having received only a few responses to emails and announcements asking for volunteers. His committee will meet in February to discuss the nominees.

2010-11 Programs

February: Hymn Festival with Richard Webster (Al Adcock)

Date/Time/Place: Sunday, Feb.13, 3:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral

Sponsorship check was sent; nothing else is expected except to show up.

March: Bach Birthday Bash (Tom Gerke)

Date/Time/Place: Monday, March 21, 7:30 p.m. at Asbury UMC in Delaware

Tom submitted the following information prior to the meeting:

Knowing how helpful it is for me to receive information prior to the meeting so I can read it without distraction, I am sending this to you prior to Monday's meeting. While the planning has been going on for some months, many of the final details for the March 21, 2011 Bach Birthday Bash Members Recital were decided last evening. Asbury UMC, Delaware with the recently installed Klais pipe organ had been chosen by the Executive Committee for the event. I have been working with Sally Casto on the ideas and arrangements for this program.

Last May I attended the meeting of all the chapter deans of Ohio, filling in for Julia Parker. I saw that [*an event participant**] was personable and was working very hard for the success of chapters of the AGO. Sally Casto and I discussed the possibility of having a Bach impersonator at the event to be master of ceremonies. We mentioned this at the last Executive Committee meeting. One concern was to have someone who had some dramatic presence and a lot of knowledge of the life and music of Bach.

**name omitted so he will be a surprise at the March 22 AGO meeting*

I e-mailed [*The Bach impersonator*] to see if he knew of someone relatively close to Columbus who might consider that role. He responded by saying that he would like to play the role of Bach impersonator and master of ceremonies. I asked what fee he had in mind. He said \$500 plus one night's lodging plus half the cost of the purchase of a Bach costume. In consultation with Julia Parker we felt that an offer of \$500 from the chapter would be generous and that he be responsible for his own lodging and cost of costume. As the Executive meeting would not be held before January 31, 2011 I made the personal commitment to cover any cost of the event beyond what the Executive Committee decided the chapter would fund. I informed Al Adcock and Sara Seidel of this arrangement. At the end of the phone conversation with Julia she informed me that her father had died earlier that morning and she was in South Carolina with her family. [*The Bach impersonator*] has agreed to the \$500 fee.

[*He*] writes about his involvement in this event "I see this event as a celebration of Bach and his legacy of organ and sacred music. I hope it will be FUN and INFORMATIVE. In my comments during the program, I'll talk about how the music fits into his life story-- again, semi-chronologically...a little of why he wrote what he wrote when he wrote it."

In addition to the obvious goals of such a meeting and the goals of having [*him*] as Bach impersonator, I had other goals in mind in the planning of the event. I see this event as an opportunity for chapter development and outreach.

1. Some of the players are not well-known to many in our chapter.
2. Some players have not played previously for the chapter.
3. Some players also teach organ. This gives them visibility.
4. To this event we can invite people who should be AGO members.
5. This event offers an opportunity to invite non-members who are interested in Bach and his music.
6. This event lends itself to some publicity and invitations to other Ohio AGO chapters.
7. This is an opportunity to support [*The Bach impersonator*] in the development of this aspect of his service to AGO.

The program selections and players have been decided. [*The Bach impersonator*] will decide the order. The selections and players are:

1. Madeline Herzog, high school freshman and student of Sally Casto at the Asbury Organ Academy will play "Prelude in G minor" from Eight Little Preludes and Fugues.
2. Alex Armstrong, high school junior and student of Sally Casto at the Asbury Organ Academy, will play "Vater Unser im Himmelreich" from Orgelbuchlein.
3. Matt Scavo, violist, accompanied by Jim Hildreth at the organ, will play "Bist du bei mir".
4. Jim Hildreth, organist at Broad St. Pres. and organ teacher, will play "Toccatina and Fugue in D minor" BWV 565.
5. Sally Casto, organist at Asbury and teacher at the Asbury Organ Academy, will play "In dir ist Freude" from Orgelbuchlein.
6. Terry McCandless, organist and director of music at Epiphany Lutheran Church, Pickerington and adjunct professor of organ at Kenyon College, will play the first movement of the Vivaldi A minor Concerto BWV 593.
7. Bob Griffith, organist at First Community Church, professor emeritus at Ohio Wesleyan University, and consultant for the Klais organ at Asbury, will play the Neumeister Chorale "Nun komm der Heiden Heiland BWV 659.
8. [*The Bach impersonator*] will play two Neumeister Chorales during the program, "Erhalt Uns Herr" BWV 1103 and Jesu, Meine Freude" BWV 1105. He will also end the program playing the prelude from Prelude and Fugue in B minor. If it looks as though the event has not been too long he may play the fugue also.
9. The gathering will serve as choir in the singing of Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring from the hymnal with Sally Casto playing the organ cantata arrangement, a cellist playing the bass line, and Bach directing.
10. The gathering will also serve as choir in singing Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light (from hymnal) with Bach directing.

We will consult with [*The Bach impersonator*] regarding the flow of the end of the program. After the bows and applause a cake with lit candles will be brought to the front so the gathering can sing Happy Birthday to Bach and he can blow out the candles. Then the reception begins.

I hope Stan Osborn will take photos for the chapter and that Mark Stuart will send in an article and photo to TAO.

At Monday's meeting, after the Executive Committee has finished discussing the plans and arrangements for the event and are ready to talk about funding, I will offer a motion regarding moving unspent funds from budget lines of previous events to the budget line for the March 21 event. If there is a second to the motion then discussion regarding funding can occur. Whatever the group decides will be okay with me.

I am hoping that Sara Seidel will create a poster with the information about this event which can be sent as an attachment to the chapter members for posting. Also, I am hoping Sara will send this poster to the AGO chapters in Ohio. I think they would be interested in seeing what we are doing. They may want to do something similar in their chapter sometime.

I have a few more thoughts in regards to the March 21 members recital. I am expecting Sara Seidel, in addition to the usual welcoming remarks, to encourage visitors to learn more about the AGO and introduce Bach.

I would think Bach could be quite persuasive in encouraging interested people to get their name on a list to receive information regarding joining the AGO. Perhaps there should be a brochure or something in the written program that people take with them suggesting 1) who might be interested in joining, 2) what are the benefits of membership, and 3) how they go about joining.

For additional program funding, Al proposed to transfer \$550 from other program budget surpluses to supplement the March program funding. This was so moved and approved,

Tom will look at the new member page on the website to borrow content for the program, inviting people to join the AGO.

Brian suggested ending with something upbeat and jubilant, such as the Jig Fugue if "Bach" is willing to play it.

May: Social Event (John Schuder)

Date/Time/Place: Monday, May 2, time and place TBD

After a lengthy discussion of the proposed "Casino Night", concerns, and potential liabilities, the item was tabled so that a Plan B could be devised.

Dean's Comments (Sara Seidel)

- Carol Ann Bradley will be joining as interim sub-dean.
- The proposed Executive Committee document outlining the duties of the Sub-Dean position (attached) was adopted.
- Online dues collection will be coordinated by Rebecca Abbott (Chapter Administrator), Sara Seidel, and Stan Osborn (Technology Advisers).
- The procedure was changed for approval of minutes to allow timely web posting: draft minutes will be emailed to the committee for review and correction. After the one week comment period, they shall be deemed "approved". Mark Stuart will bring agendas and supporting documents to future meetings, but not copies of the minutes.

- Next meeting will begin a discussion of program ideas for next year.
- Farewell Gathering for Julia Parker. Pauline Fritz offered to host an open house on March 5, 4-6pm. All Executive Committee members serving under her will be invited, and the event will be open to the entire chapter.

Next Meeting

Date: February 28, 2010

Time & Place: TBD via email

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted,
Mark Stuart/ms