

Minutes from the North American Brass Band  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 3-5, 2004  
Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL

Members present: Anita Cocker Hunt (president), John de Salme (controller), Jeff Binns, Louis Bourgois, Barb Burtch, Jay Cohen, Linda Detman, Jackson Hill, Rusty Morris, Susan Reigler, Tom Scheibner, Quentin Sharpstein, Don Stine

Guest: Joanna Goldstein

*Friday, September 3*

Meeting begins at 7:35 p.m. with a self-introduction of members and welcome to new members. President Hunt discussed the unexpected absence of Robin Weatherall who had been hospitalized and discusses the possibility of shortening the meeting. Those in attendance consider various options and ultimately decide to carry on with the meeting as planned.

Quentin Sharpstein reads aloud the minutes from the April Board Meeting. Jackson Hill makes motion to accept minutes as read; Barb Burtch seconds—motion passed unanimously.

Report on The Bridge submitted from the editor, Colin Holman. Joe Dymit will be taking over the mailing and distribution of The Bridge. Eric Aho has offered to assume the editorship of The Bridge; Colin will continue as the new music reviewer. Louis Bourgois mentions that Ron Holz would be happy to do CD reviews if desired by the editor (Robin Weatherall is currently reviewing CDs). President Hunt will appoint Aho editor of The Bridge with the full endorsement and appreciation of the Board.

NABBA 2004 Championship report presented by controller, John de Salme. Among the issues discussed in the report: bands need to double check entry materials for completeness and should proof-read program materials for misspellings and grammar; feedback from bands on the judges was minimal (only 8 bands responded), but all were happy with the new CD recordings and recommended judges carefully enunciate so that comments can be heard; due to a glitch with the spreadsheet software, the wrong awards were distributed to the youth solo and ensemble participants—the error was corrected. All in all, it was a successful competition. President Hunt thanked the Board for its work at the Championships.

Wrap-up to NABBA 2004 presented by host representative, Jackson Hill. He cautioned that 8 months is not enough time to organize a competition and to avoid this situation in the future. Many thanks and kudos were offered to Jim Grate. Lastly, hosts need to be sure to “have the money in the bank” to make the competition work—Brass Band of Tri-State and Mountain State Brass Band barely broke even.

Membership report and budget for NABBA 2005 submitted by Robin Weatherall. NABBA has 1,002 active members and 51 member bands. Because of Robin’s absence the Board could not thoroughly discuss the proposed budget for the 2005 competition. Louis expressed concern about a lack of communication on the championship committee and he asked if the Championship Host Manual is available on the website yet.

Test piece selection for Championship and Honors divisions. Board listened to *Harrison’s Dream* and *Of Men and Mountains* for the Championship division and *Firestorm* and *Coventry Variations* for the Honors division. *Harrison’s Dream* was selected by unanimous vote for the Championship division. *Coventry Variations* was selected for the Honors division; *Firestorm* received 3 votes, *Coventry Variations* received 10 votes.

A short discussion was held about the need to replace the current treasurer, Sara North. The president asked for volunteers; Jim Grate was suggested as a possibility—Jackson Hill offered to contact him about his interest in the position.

Break for committee meetings—adjourned for the evening after committee meetings.

*Saturday, September 4*

Toured the Pheasant Run facilities 8:45-10:30 a.m. Facilities appear to be adequate for running the competition.

Louis Bourgois made a motion to elect Jim Grate (Brass Band of the Tri-State) to be NABBA treasurer; Rusty Morris seconded—motion passed unanimously.

Test piece selection for Challenge, Explorer, and Youth sections. Board listened to:

Challenge—***Music for a Festival*** and *Chaucer's Tunes*  
Explorer—*Variations on "Laudate Dominum"* and ***First Suite in Eb***  
Youth—*The Four Noble Truths* and ***Haselmere Suite***

Pieces noted in bold were selected by unanimous vote of the Board.

Website report: New program incurred costs this year. Information came from the web technician in Columbus. Maintenance fee for web hosting. Anita will ask Brian White, web tech, to check into spam problem on the members' section message board. Anita asked for a volunteer to work with Robin to provide back up in posting information to the website. Jay Cohen agreed to be website back up for Robin.

Membership report: Board debated the admission of participating versus non-participating members to competition events—if you are a member, can you get into everything even if you aren't a contest participant? Barb noted that in Charleston it was cheaper for family members to join NABBA than pay the non-NABBA fees to attend events. Decided that NABBA members in good standing are entitled to free admission to all annual competition and gala performances. Post-gala reception is subject to an additional charge.

Additional discussion ensued regarding chaperones for the youth bands and whether or not they should have to pay for admission to contest events or if NABBA would provide passes for a set number and how many. Decided ten chaperone passes will be included with each Youth Band registration. Passes are good for admission for competition performances only; gala and reception admissions must be purchased separately.

Review of schedule for competition weekend: A suggestion was made to announce awards for the solo and ensemble competition to Friday before or during the Reading Band. Discussion on how many people actually attend the Reading Band and the possibility that solo and ensemble participants would miss the chance to be recognized before the larger membership of NABBA. Decided to make no change in the scheduling of awards during competition weekend and to announce awards before the start of the Gala Concert.

The NABBA Archives have been safely transferred and stored in a climate controlled location by Eric Aho.

Ashland Festival: Festival went well this year, although the number of brass bands had to be cut to six. Good crowds, bands, and weather. Jackson Hill appreciates NABBA's continued support of the festival. Next year is its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Eastern Iowa Festival: Don Stine reported the event was very successful this year; he also expressed appreciation for NABBA's support.

Northeastern Festival (Montclair): Ron Holz was not present to make the report, but Tom Scheibner reported Montclair "is dead in the water" but Jason Ham euphonium player in the United States Military Academy Band (West Point) is considering reviving it in West Point; he noted encouragement from NABBA could be useful in reactivating this festival. Quentin said he would contact Jason regarding the Montclair Festival and a possible move to West Point.

Linda Detman made a motion to provide funds of \$500 for the Ashland and Eastern Iowa festivals; Barb Burtch seconded—motion passed unanimously.

Yamaha workshops: Paul Droste was not present to make the report. It was announced that he will be retiring from the Brass Band of Columbus in the near future.

A new member-at-large is needed on the Executive Committee to replace Ralph Hotz. Susan Reigler was nominated—the Board voted unanimously to elect her as member-at-large.

Presentation from Louisville/Indiana University Southeast to host NABBA 2006: Joanna Goldstein and Susan Reigler gave a PowerPoint presentation and numerous paper documents to support their proposal to host NABBA 2006 in Louisville and to be considered as a permanent host city for the event. They suggested NABBA consider changing the name of the event to the North American Brass Band Championships and secure trademark of the name. They feel selecting a permanent host city will offer the opportunity to build a national and international presence for NABBA, and could be used to build the ranks of NABBA by making the event a family affair and bringing kids into brass banding. It will also help bands plan a year or two in advance to attend.

Susan made a motion to trademark the name North American Brass Band Championships and to use it for the competition in 2006; Quentin seconded—motion passed unanimously.

Louis made a motion to accept Louisville's proposal to host NABBA in 2006; Barb seconded—motion passed unanimously.

Further discussion ensued on establishing a regular weekend for the competition and the need to avoid Easter (and Kentucky Derby time if Louisville is selected as a permanent host city). Will continue to try to schedule competitions for the first couple weeks of April. Anticipated costs for NABBA 2006 include \$1500 for the use of Memorial Hall, \$3000 for shuttle buses, and an undetermined amount for the Gala Concert. Louis urged the by-law committee to establish a development committee in lieu of the championship host committee that would conceivably become defunct. A by-law change will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Contest Committee Report presented by John de Salme. Discussed whether or not the Board should set a minimum number of bands to participate in 2005 to avoid financial difficulties. Pheasant Run requires us to meet 95% occupancy of the 900+ room nights we negotiated within a month of the event. Calculating from Robin's budget numbers, we will need 14 bands to participate to break even (so far, 10 have said they are planning to take part). Decided we should have a clear idea of how many bands will be participating by the deadline of January 15—this should give Pheasant Run enough time to release rooms if necessary.

The issue of establishing a collegiate section for the competition was tabled until there are enough colleges/universities with brass band programs to make it a viable section.

A request to increase the competition time for the Championship and Youth sections was rejected.

A request to change the rules to require non-North American bands to enter their first year in the Exhibition section and then regular competition the following year was rejected.

The request to form an appeal process regarding controller decisions about contest eligibility was rejected.

A request to change the competition ballot so that it was more detailed was rejected, primarily because the current ballot already includes the information asked for in the request.

A request to change the contest draw the Saturday morning of competition was rejected.

All bands will need a reminder that the entry deadline for NABBA 2005 is Saturday, January 15, 2005.

The committee delayed consideration of a commissioned piece and the purchase of computer equipment and software until other priorities were handled.

A request to hire a professional announcer for the Gala Concert was rejected—committee hopes that someone who enjoys public speaking can be identified within the ranks of NABBA and asked to serve as announcer.

A request was made to include the order of performance as an item in the published results of the competition—this request was accepted.

John de Salme's appointment as controller is over after the 2005 competition, so new controller must be selected. Paul Droste's name was floated as a possibility. Anita will get the word out to member bands that a controller is needed.

Jeff Binns suggested the music committee select the test pieces for the competition; the Board discussed and decided it was important to have input from the whole Board in the selection of pieces. Susan suggested using the meeting time more efficiently by listening to pieces during lunch.

Tom Scheibner was appointed to the music committee to replace Colin Holman.

A request was made to allow a quartet in the ensemble competition made of players from four different bands—the competition committee decided this is OK, but each member will count as one of the two ensembles allowed per band as stated in the contest rules.

Competition committee received a petition from Eastern Iowa to move from Championship to Honors division—this is not a problem, but want to clarify that any movement to a lower division can only be one division down, not two. Linda noted that the rules are not quite clear on this issue—the rule seems to be in reference to bands forced to move to the next higher division after winning a division three years in a row.

#### Contest Budget and Financial Planning

The Board estimates the cost for the NABBA Gala Band to cover food and lodging will be \$12,000. The opportunities to make money at NABBA 2005 will be few: event passes will probably sell to 50-100 people. Prices for passes were set as follows: Gala Concert (\$15), Competition Event (\$10), Combo—gala and event (\$20). Decided vendor tables would be \$300. Advertising prices for the program were set as follows: full page (\$500), half page (\$300), quarter (\$175), eighth (\$100).

Efforts need to be made to secure vendors and to pursue businesses in the St. Charles area to advertise in the contest program.

Jay Cohen agreed to help with publicity and advertising and to help obtain percussion equipment. Barb Burtch agreed to contact Bill Himes about help from area Salvation Army folks with contest activities.

Jackson Hill will look into making NABBA Board badges to identify people at the competition.

Louis was asked to add updated figures to the vendor/ad template in the Championship Host Manual.

#### Review of band selection process for other contests

Agreed to keep the process for selecting a band to participate in the UK Open—the NABBA Championship section band will be selected.

Great American Brass Band Festival selects the previous year Championship section winner (for 2005 the 2004 NABBA Champ will attend). If the first band is unable to attend, the second place finisher in the Championship section will be invited. If that band cannot attend will invite first place Honors band, then second place Honors band. The selected band receives \$2,500 and lodging for the event. Board feels this selection process is fair. The Board also reviewed its agreement with GABBF to put ads in the Bridge and website and a notice in the contest program—the Board will continue with this agreement.

World Brass Band Contest—Board discussed numerous ideas for selecting a band to represent NABBA at this once every four years contest. Considered using the process used by Great American Brass Band Festival; allowing bands who might have to sit out of competition the year the chance to compete for points only in a WBB year, totaling points over the course of four years, and totaling places over four years and averaging. Tabled discussion to adjourn for the night at 9 p.m.

*Sunday, September 5*

Meeting began at 9:10 a.m.

Sign-up sheet for NABBA 2005 duties was circulated.

Discussed the US Open competition and whether or not to put an ad in their program and have a table at the event. Last year, NABBA spent \$600 for table and program ad, but there was nothing to display on the table and other than friends stopping by to visit Barb who staffed the table, there were no visitors. NABBA wants to encourage and support the US Open. Tom made a motion to do only a full page ad in their program for this year; Rusty seconded—motion passed unanimously.

Present Board members up for renewal this year confirmed their intent to serve another 2 year term.

Anita discussed the loss of NABBA stopwatches over the years and the need to obtain new ones. Louis made motion to purchase enough stopwatches to conduct the contest; Quentin seconded—motion passed unanimously.

Anita also discussed the possibility of purchasing a display unit that is easily portable and shippable for events at which NABBA would like to have a table. Discussed the need to look into getting a table banner and having an audiovisual presence at presentations. Jay moved to allow Anita to select the appropriate unit costing no more than \$1,000—if more money is needed, approval will be sought via the Executive committee; Susan seconded—motion passed unanimously.

Anita informed the band of another international contest opportunity: Bristolive is billed as an annual amateur music festival and will be held June 9-13, 2005. The contest website is [www.bristolive.co.uk](http://www.bristolive.co.uk)

NABBA has obtained an ASCAP/BMI event license and will renew it in time for NABBA 2005. All NABBA bands should consider covering themselves by getting an annual license.

Board returned to the discussion of the World Brass Band contest to discuss a request from Chicago Brass Band for funding of \$3,500 to attend the contest in July 2005. Board debated whether or not we can afford this amount given our sole financial responsibility for the March 2005 contest. Don asked what would stop any other NABBA band from seeking funds to attend contests and wondered if this would set a precedent. Barb noted that Chicago accepted the invitation knowing it would be costly. Susan pointed out that helping a NABBA band to participate in a world level contest would get additional exposure for NABBA. Rusty wondered how big the World contest really is, particularly given some of the discussion on 4barsrest.com about big name European bands pulling out of the contest. Don also pointed out if we had lots of money it would be great to support Chicago. Quentin noted that Chicago was selected by NABBA to represent it at this contest and they deserved some support from the organization. Linda suggested the Board wait to provide funds to Chicago until after NABBA 2005 to make sure it didn't commit money that wasn't available.

Board decided to request a full report from Chicago upon return from the World contest; Anita will send letter to Colin indicating the Board will consider a funding amount after NABBA 2005.

Joanna Goldstein brought up the need to consider establishing an education committee for NABBA. She volunteered to develop a promotional PowerPoint presentation on NABBA—a note will go out to NABBA members asking for video, pictures, etc. to add to the presentation.

President's Remarks: Thanks to those present for being at meeting for Labor Day weekend. Thanked the new board members for attending and experienced board members for their continued service. She lauded the great presentation from Louisville for 2006—thinks the organization is moving in the right direction in considering Louisville as a permanent host city. Louisville presents the chance to expand NABBA, make more money to in turn support more bands and educational program—it is a big new step for NABBA.

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 11, 2005, 9 a.m. at Pheasant Run.

Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Detman