

Minutes from the North American Brass Band Association
Board of Directors Meeting
August 4-5, 2006
Indiana University South East

Directors present: Barb Burtch, Jay Cohen, Diana Herak, Anita Cocker Hunt (president), Linda A. Detman (secretary), Paul Droste, Jim Grate (treasurer), Susan Henthorn, Jackson Hill, Ron Holz, Joe Johnson, Russell Morris, Susan Reigler, Tom Scheibner (controller), Quentin Sharpenstein, Julie Vish, Keith Wilkinson

Directors absent: Eric Aho, John Copella, John de Salme, Tony Granados, Sara North, Kevin Stees, Don Stine, Doug Yeo, Linda Yeo,

Guests: Joanna Goldstein, Patrick Herak

Friday, August 4

Meeting began at 6:03 p.m. on Friday, August 4 with a welcome from President Hunt who asked the board to stay on task, discuss what needs discussing, and move along.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the April Board Meeting (previously approved by email) were offered for official approval. Quentin Sharpenstein made a motion to accept minutes as written; Ron Holz seconded—***motion passed unanimously.***

2006 Championship Report

Tom Scheibner reported the first competition at Louisville was an overwhelming success. A total of 24 bands took part in the competition. Tom reported hearing mostly positive comments regarding the competition and he is looking forward to continued success for 2007. He is also thinking ahead to how things can be made better at the competition venue, Indiana University Southeast. Special acknowledgment was given to Joanna Goldstein who, along with Susan Reigler, handled much of the local logistics in the run-up to the contest. The Board gave Joanna a round of applause for her spectacular work.

Overview of NABBA 2006

President Hunt reported on some of the logistics involved with last year's contest. President Hunt said NABBA will be at Louisville "until we decide differently." Discussions about whether or not to make Louisville a permanent site for the competition were briefly discussed—in particular, the possibility of using other facilities in the city as the competition grows. She also said more volunteers will be needed for NABBA 2007 to help make the competition run smoothly. President Hunt thanked Contest Controller Tom Scheibner for running an

excellent competition. She also reported John de Salme has agreed to serve as associate controller for NABBA 2007 (Ron Holz is unable to serve as associate controller due to prior commitments).

Selecting a Permanent Date and Location for the NABBA Summer Board Meeting

Due to continuing challenges with scheduling the summer board meeting, in particular the difficulty of newly elected board members being able to attend (since they are selected in mid-July), the Board discussed selecting a permanent date for the summer meeting. Selecting a permanent date could ease some of the difficulties of planning for the meeting. A recommendation had been submitted to the Board by director Doug Yeo to consider the second weekend in September (after Labor Day weekend). Tom Scheibner noted that the second weekend in September would always be a conflict for him; President Hunt said she did not want to hold the meeting if the competition controller could not be present. Someone proposed the third weekend in September as another alternative. The discussion centered on whether or not holding the meeting at this time would exclude anyone; most felt it would probably exclude high school band directors. Rusty Morris noted that setting a permanent date, regardless of the date, meant board members would have to make a commitment to participating since the date would be known well in advance of other activities. Barb Burch made a motion to set the third weekend in September as the permanent date for the Summer Board meeting; Susan Reigler seconded—***motion passed unanimously.***

Discussion turned to selecting a location for the meeting. Doug Yeo had also suggested the meeting be held at a more central location such as the Cleveland International Airport hotel (although Jim Grate noted this recommendation was specific to this year's board meeting). Rusty Morris noted it might cost quite a bit more for some directors to come to a meeting in Cleveland. Susan Reigler said the board should consider the possibility they may want to be near the competition venues to review logistics and potential problems. Jim Grate suggested it might be worth exploring having the meeting at a national/state park or other such locale that typically hosts corporate retreats, but noted doing this would take money from NABBA for other things. Paul Droste felt someone should research the actual costs of holding the meeting in different locations. Joe Johnson noted that Atlanta is probably the most low cost of options since the airport is centrally located and most could get reasonably priced flights there. Patrick Herak noted that since so many bands (and board directors) are from the Midwest it is easier to hold the meetings in this area. For the immediate term it was decided that a decision needed to be made between Louisville or somewhere else. Jay Cohen noted if NABBA is going to build relationships and an audience that it made the most sense to stay in Louisville. Paul Droste made a motion to keep the meeting in Louisville; Quentin Sharpstein seconded—***motion passed unanimously.***

Test piece selection for Championship and Honors divisions

Board listened to *Dances and Alleluias* and *Northern Lights* for the Championship division and *The King of Elfland's Daughter* and *Corpus Christi* for the Honors division. ***Dances and Alleluias*** was selected for the Championship division; *Dances and Alleluias* received 15 votes, *Northern Lights* received 1 vote. ***The King of Elfland's Daughter*** was selected for the Honors division; *The King of Elfland's Daughter* received 13 votes, *Corpus Christi* received 1 vote.

Corporate Sponsorship and Fundraising

Susan Reigler talked to the board about the need to pursue corporate sponsors. NABBA needs to set goals to let members and the public know who we are and what we do—letting people know what we are about is essential to raising our profile and funds. Chiefly, we need to let potential sponsors know why they should support us. Susan passed around some handouts on fundraising and went over some of the key points from the “cheat sheet” from *Fundraising for Dummies®*, 2nd Edition. NABBA needs to find avenues for pursuing funds and then ask for money, write grants, and approach corporations. Susan noted that donations from each director on the Board can be a selling point to corporations—if they see the organization itself is willing to put its money into itself, this shows corporations we are serious. The bottom line, as Susan put it, “we need to decide what we want to be.”

Julie Vish commented that NABBA needs a vision of itself beyond the competition, that we need a business plan and additional efforts to bring the west coast into the fold. Joanna Goldstein noted that one way to further market the competition is to seek publicity through tie-ins to travel—make NABBA a destination. Susan Reigler said we need to make our publicity materials look as professional and polished as possible, to show we are worthy of corporate support. Joe Johnson related his experience in trying to get exposure for the Georgia Brass Band: he met with some local corporations who asked ‘where do you see yourself 1, 5, 10 years from now?’ He noted corporations are looking for results and goals to get there.

Jack Hill pointed out he has always pushed education and serving the underprivileged as a way to secure funds for the Ashland Festival, but that only takes you so far: “the only way to [raise funds] is to knock on the door.” Joanna Goldstein, echoing Julie Vish, said NABBA needs to be organized about moving forward—we need to have a strategic plan developed by a subcommittee, and then a marketing plan. President Hunt noted that NABBA received a little bit of money to have a Yamaha sponsored soloist at the gala and that we need to work to expand those kinds of relationships. Joanna Goldstein said she will try to get Kentucky public TV and maybe even the History Channel to do a piece/show for the 25th anniversary of NABBA. Julie Vish asked what Silver Bells is for. As a Board director she could not articulate what NABBA planned to do with those monies and said we are not doing a good enough job of marketing even to

ourselves. Jay Cohen echoed the need to develop a plan whether we ever actually execute it or not, setting short, medium, and long range goals for NABBA. President Hunt suggested this should be handled through a subcommittee and solicited volunteers to work on it. Julie Vish, Jay Cohen, and President Hunt agreed to serve on this strategic planning committee. Joanna Goldstein said she would like to be involved with the committee and said she wants to see NABBA grow to be held in the Kentucky Center for the Arts.

Ron Holz recalled that Tom Palmatier had worked on some of these same issues a number of years ago, and he thought it would be good to see if there is any documentation so that the subcommittee doesn't start completely from scratch. Jim Grate noted that he has had difficulty with grant forms that ask "The purpose of your group is _____." It would be good to find ways to fill in that blank. Jim also noted all board members should give to Silver Bells (only 8 had done so as of August 4, 2006), and should check to see if their donation is eligible for a corporate match through their employer. Ron Holz suggested board members consider rolling their board travel honorarium into the Silver Bells campaign.

Keith Wilkinson reported that possible financial support from Besson was still a question mark because of some corporate upheaval. Joe Johnson said his regional sales rep for Besson told him they want to reestablish a foothold in the United States. Joe and Keith agreed they would work together on pursuing Besson. Patrick Herak noted the US Open contest is receiving approximately \$1,000 from Besson and that this competition has fewer bands and participants than take part in NABBA. Someone suggested a "straw poll" of NABBA bands should be issued to get a preliminary idea of how many plan to attend the 2007 competition. Susan Reigler returned the discussion to promoting the competition and tossed out the possibility of hiring a publicist for NABBA a few months before the competition, but noted this would cost about \$10,000. Joanna Goldstein said IUS could do some publicity, but they could only go so far in promoting the competition. President Hunt closed the discussion by urging all Board members to contribute to Silver Bells and for the new strategic planning committee to get to work on developing a plan.

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

Saturday, August 5, 2006

Test piece selection for Challenge and Explorer divisions

Board listened to *Crusade* and *Variations on "Maccabeus"* for the Challenge division. ***Crusade*** was selected; *Variations on "Maccabeus"* received 2 votes, *Crusade* received 10 votes. For the Explorer division, the Board listened to

Chorale and Toccata and *Shine as the Light*. ***Chorale and Toccata*** was selected unanimously.

After discussing the complexity of *Shine as the Light* as a piece for the Explorer division and that it might be more suitable for Challenge division. Ron Holz made a motion to consider *Shine as the Light* for the Challenge section, seconded by Rusty Morris—***the motion failed***, with 1 voting for it and 10 against.

Exhibit and Ads report

Paul Droste presented this report; he is working with Eric Aho to come up with ad guidelines—he distributed a handout to the board detailing information and tentative rates for competition weekend exhibitors, ads for the competition program, and ads for the Bridge. Paul noted that Doug Yeo has been proactive in securing ads for the Bridge.

Exhibitors at NABBA 2006 were very happy with the level of foot traffic to their exhibit area during the competition and they have all said they wish to return for NABBA 2007. Paul has heard mostly positive comments from NABBA participants about the types of exhibits present and he has worked the tables at the International Women's Brass conference and other competitions and festivals to solicit more exhibitors for 2007.

A discussion ensued about finding advertisers for the competition program and that efforts should be made to find suitable advertisers for the highly visible back inside and outside covers; the inside front cover of the program will be given to IUS (as it was last year) in gratitude for their able hosting of the competition. Jay Cohen noted that the centerfold portion of the program might be a potentially sellable area within the program to increase revenues. Joanna Goldstein mentioned the City of Louisville or other group might like it for a splashy ad.

Paul noted that he would need help with getting local ads for the competition program. Susan Reigler and Joanna Goldstein have a list of local contacts they can make available to anyone who can make the calls, but they both felt they have many other things to do with local arrangements for the competition and that they couldn't also take on this. Ron Holz suggested using copies of last year's program to help solicit ads—it will help people know what they are going to advertise in and might result in more ads. Paul Droste noted there was not a score sheet for the competition in the program last year—he thought maybe someone could find a sponsor for the score sheet for 2007. Someone suggested printing costs for the program could possibly be lowered if it was printed in a different city. Jay Cohen who ably oversaw the program last year and is doing so again this year said he felt he had established a good relationship with the person who produced the program (in Chicago) last year and that he would like to maintain that relationship. A total of 1,200-1,500 copies of the program will be needed for NABBA 2007.

Paul noted that all ads and exhibitor information should come to him; he will farm them out to Doug and Jay as needed. Jay Cohen said he will develop program specs for Paul to distribute to potential advertisers.

Treasurer/Silver Bells Campaign report

Jim Grate distributed copies of the NABBA 2006 budget and proposed 2007 budget. He reported on the state of NABBA's three accounts: checking (\$3,895.27), Silver Bells (\$6,326.72), and investments (\$15,222.40). NABBA's total net worth as of 6-30-06 is \$25,462. While the net worth is up from last year, NABBA is cash poor. He noted NABBA is still awaiting money owed to it from IUS and that deposits for the NABBA 2007 Gala concert at the Brown Theatre have been paid.

Jim noted the Board had to pay some additional bills to the Galt House because not enough room nights were booked to cover complementary rooms we expected to receive. He explained that rooms for the judges, NABBA President, controller, and assistant controller are usually covered by room nights in the convention hotel, but this year we ended up having to pay for some of those rooms. Tom Scheibner, controller, noted that he paid for his own room at NABBA 2006—President Hunt noted that he shouldn't have had to pay for his room and that this will be rectified at the next competition.

Jay Cohen said while the policy of providing free rooms in exchange for the year-round efforts of some NABBA Board members was nice when it could be included as a freebie, he questioned whether or not it was appropriate to continue the practice. Susan Reigler commented that putting up the President, controller, and assistant controller was the least NABBA could do for all the work they do. Ron Holz noted that there had been times in past years when free rooms were not provided to these individuals.

Paul Droste made a motion to cover the President, controller, and associate controller rooms for the competition; Ron Holz seconded—the ***motion passed unanimously***.

Ron Holz made a motion to allow NABBA Board directors to apply for up to \$200 for the summer meeting; Paul Droste seconded—the ***motion passed unanimously***.

Ron Holz made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; Julie Vish seconded—the ***motion passed unanimously***.

Website report

Jim Grate provided a graph and table showing a month-by-month assessment of website hits. Because of some changes Doug Yeo has initiated there are two sites linked together for nabba.org, one for the organization itself, and one for the Bridge. Jim Grate welcomes comments and suggestions on the website. Since

she does work with websites as part of her job, Susan Henthorn offered to help with any needed HTML coding for the website.

Louisville Update

Joanna Goldstein reported that work is already underway to improve things for NABBA 2007! She said she is working to put curtains or other baffle material in some of the especially live rooms. NABBA needs to decide how to use the available rooms and timings for the solo and ensemble competition. She suggested the possibility of the Board meeting on Thursday evening in order to free up more time to prepare for and even start earlier in the day the Friday solo and ensemble competition; doing this might also allow for more time for band rehearsals or for competition time if it is needed. Joanna explained that some construction and renovation work has just begun on the food service area that last year hosted the exhibits for NABBA 2006—she doesn't expect the work to be completed in time for NABBA 2007 so she is looking into alternative locations. She noted that since band rehearsals will be held at IUS this year (instead of the Galt House like last year), and the Reading Band will also be taking place this year at IUS, that some of the logistics of moving percussion will not have to be dealt with. She assured the Board that complaints and problems that arose from NABBA 2006 are being addressed as quickly as they can. She also noted that as the board deliberates about future dates for the competition the last week in March works better for IUS than April. This is especially true if competition weekend can be held during spring break when the Ogle Center facilities are not needed for University-related events. President Hunt said she had sent a note to NABBA conductors about preferred dates for the competition and most prefer March/April rather than May, but had mixed reactions regarding locations for band rehearsals.

President Hunt thanked Joanna Goldstein and Susan Reigler for all the work they did and continue to do for the NABBA Championships. The Board gave them both a round of applause.

The Bridge report

President Hunt spoke on behalf of Doug Yeo who submitted a report on *The Bridge* via email to the Board members since he was unable to attend the Board meeting due to performance commitments. Excerpts of information from The Bridge report are below:

- The transition from print to electronic publication has gone seamlessly. When issue 99 was ready to launch, Jim Grate sent an email message to all NABBA members telling them they could download the new issue from *The Bridge* website (more on that below). A letter from me (Doug Yeo) was also mailed to all *Bridge* print subscribers telling them of the change to an all-electronic format. No NABBA member has requested a refund of his 2006 dues as a result of this change and neither Jim nor I have

- received any complaints about this change from any *Bridge* print subscriber.
- By not printing *The Bridge* several important benefits have been realized:
 - Elimination of printing and postage costs.
 - Elimination of the need to think of *The Bridge* layout in terms of groups of four pages.
 - The ability to produce *The Bridge* on a flexible schedule to respond to the need to deliver news in a timely manner
 - The new *Bridge* website “houses” all available electronic copies of *The Bridge* along with content summaries. In addition, I am including a slide show of approximately 50 photos to go along with each issue of *The Bridge* (from issue 99 on).
 - At its meeting on March 5, 2005, the NABBA Board voted unanimously to move *The Bridge* from a four time a year publishing schedule to a three time a year publishing schedule. I am proposing that *The Bridge* be published five times a year. A more frequent publishing schedule also moves *The Bridge* more regularly into the forefront of reader’s minds, therefore stimulating submission of more materials.
 - *The Bridge* will now be published according to the following schedule:
 - May Post-Competition Issue
 - August/September Post-Board Meeting Issue, announcement of next year’s test pieces, rule changes, reports of summer festivals
 - October Regular issue
 - December Regular issue
 - February Pre-Competition issue, announcement of competing bands

Susan Reigler mentioned that she was very impressed with the quality and new direction of *The Bridge*, a sentiment echoed around the room.

Ron Holz made a motion to accept the Bridge report; Diana Herak seconded—the ***motion passed unanimously***.

Review of Competition Schedule and Related Issues

President Hunt led the discussion on issues for the upcoming competition. Regarding the timing of the NABBA Board meeting, Susan Reigler noted moving the meeting to Thursday evening would free up time on Friday to begin the solo and ensemble competition in the morning and would also allow for time to set up for the band competition. Ron Holz said making such a change might mean bands having to come to the competition even earlier and that it might inhibit participation. Joanna Goldstein urged the Board to remember that using IUS for all competition related events means we should not neglect Friday morning for activities. She noted there is need for an hour after the solo and ensemble competition to set up for the band rehearsals. There is capacity for 20 bands to rehearse at IUS; Joanna also has a list of schools that might be available for possible rehearsals—she will make this list available for the website (bands will

have to make their own arrangements with area schools). Jay Cohen felt having off site rehearsals could only help with equipment availability, especially for percussion. Barb Burtch said it also allows for longer rehearsals. Rusty Morris related how the Natural State Brass Band rehearsed at one of the area schools and that they were treated like kings with the school band boosters providing water. President Hunt reiterated it would be the conductor's responsibility to make connections with schools to schedule a rehearsal.

The Board discussed the timing for the competition board meeting—there were many mixed opinions based on people's work schedules and travel distance.

Paul Droste made a motion to hold the NABBA 2007 competition Board meeting on Thursday evening; Jackson Hill seconded—the ***motion passed***, 12 yeas, 2 nays.

Ron Holz informed everyone that the Reading Band will be organized and ready to go for NABBA 2007; someone from the Lexington Brass Band will oversee the session (probably Susan Henthorn). He noted that 90 minutes is needed for the Reading Band. The Board agreed it should be held 6-7:30 p.m. for NABBA 2007. Tom Scheibner, Ron Holz, and Susan Henthorn will be involved in getting the Reading Band organized.

Paul Droste suggested NABBA should consider holding workshops during the competition weekend. At one time workshops and clinics were held routinely and were usually considered helpful, although scheduling is the toughest obstacle to holding them. Paul advocated making an effort to revive competition workshops as a valuable offering for NABBA members. He suggested they could be done after the Reading Band or staggered throughout the Friday evening's activities. He suggested workshops should be 45 minute sessions. The Board seemed very open to this suggestion—Paul Droste volunteered to coordinate efforts to find clinicians once the competition judges are selected, and he thought there might be people within NABBA's own ranks that could offer clinics.

The discussion then moved to when to hold the award ceremony for the competition. The awards are usually held before the Gala concert, but sometimes take a great deal of time—this was problematic for Lexington Brass Band last year, who waited over 45 minutes after warming up to take the stage. Various people noted a large part of the problem is the wait for awardees to make their way from their seat to the stage. Suggestions were made to bring all solo and ensemble participants down to the stage area, but then it was decided there would be too many people to do this effectively. Another suggestion was to ask solo and ensemble participants and conductors to be sure they seat themselves close to the stage. To improve the timing of the awards suggestions ranged from announcing solo and ensemble awards during the Reading Band to saving the awards until the end of the Gala concert. Ultimately, the Board

decided to keep holding the award ceremony before the start of the Gala, but to try to push the time along so that it takes no more than 30 minutes.

The next topic regarding the competition was the location of future competitions. Joanna Goldstein said she was been approached by IUS inquiring about NABBA's intentions regarding using its facilities in coming years. Joanna suggested the Board consider sending a letter of intent to IUS should it decide it wants to continue to hold the competition in this area; she thought it would be prudent to ask for 5 years of facility availability. President Hunt said that sounded good and asked the Board for its thoughts. General discussions were in support of signaling NABBA's intent to be at IUS for the next 5 years. Julie Vish offered to compose a letter to be signed by President Hunt proposing that NABBA hold its competition in Louisville at the Indiana University Southeast for the next five (5) years. She will be sending the letter to IUS to solidify NABBA's relationship with them and to inform them of our intent. Susan Reigler noted that IUS and the Greater Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau have been making inquiries about whether or not NABBA would be returning to Louisville.

It was decided that NABBA 2008 will be held March 28-29, 2008 in Louisville, KY at Indiana University Southeast.

Tom Scheibner made a motion to communicate NABBA's intent to hold the annual competition in Louisville for the next five years; Julie Vish seconded—the ***motion passed unanimously.***

Archive storage

Diana Herak began her report by talking about the history of NABBA she has been working on. She distributed a copy of excerpts from the first five chapters of the history and asked if the Board was interested in having the history completed. Joanna Goldstein noted that if NABBA is serious about itself, it is important to keep such records—it is how you know where you've been and where you might go. Board members were all impressed with the work Diana has done so far and are interested in seeing NABBA's history written and available. It was noted that Diana has been appointed by President Hunt as the official NABBA Historian.

Ron Holz asked for an update on what information/archives have been received from Bert Wiley. Diana reported that the archives are still safely ensconced in Eric Aho's Columbus OH storage facility, and that most of the materials are music and scores, plus some programs from past competitions. Susan Reigler suggested putting an article in the Bridge asking members if they have some of the missing programs. Ron Holz questioned the possibility of archiving the materials at a university library. Susan Henthorn (a librarian in real life!), talked about libraries and archives—materials typically become property of the school/university in which they are stored, and most university libraries would have to decide whether or not the NABBA archives would fit in with their

collection's mission, but it might be worth exploring the possibility. NABBA would need to decide if the information was going to be digitized—Rusty Morris noted this would create an added expense. We would also need to decide the most logical place for the archives.

Diana noted that Eric needs to get the materials he is storing out of his storage locker; President Hunt noted that Joanna Goldstein said she was going to look for a storage unit in Louisville. In the meantime, she asked Susan Henthorn to think about how NABBA should move forward with archiving.

Getting back to the NABBA history document, Paul Droste wondered if there is a market for a 25 year anniversary publication on the history of NABBA... is it something we should fund? Julie Vish cautioned we should get more information before voting to put money toward it. Susan Reigler suggested such a publication should be promoted as a project of the Silver Bells campaign—it would be a way to show how NABBA plans to use these monies. Diana said she would do as much as she could between now and the competition to complete the history, and if possible, make an excerpt available (for purchase?) at NABBA 2007.

Paul Droste made a motion that the Board authorize and encourage Diana Herak to work on a history of NABBA using \$500 from the Silver Bells campaign; Susan Reigler seconded—the ***motion passed unanimously***.

Before moving to the next agenda item, Jim Grate announced that the Board directors contributed \$1,800 of their summer meeting stipends to the Silver Bells campaign.

Gala concert

The Board discussed what should be arranged for future galas. Jim Grate noted we will be spending \$X for the Southern Territorial Band for NABBA 2007. A variety of suggestions for future galas have been offered: Championship division bands doing their choice piece, Lexington Brass Band every other year, bringing in a big name band. Paul Droste said he liked Pat Herak's idea for having the gala focus on the championship bands doing their choice piece as part of the competition, for the evening gala. It was noted that NABBA has the use of the Brown Theatre all day on Saturday, so it could be used for other activities. Ron Holz cautioned that if the championship division did their choice piece in the evening it should not be called a gala—he felt it would be publicly compelling to do the final round of the Championship section competition in lieu of the gala. Ron also noted this would move the awards ceremony to the end of the evening and that we would need some form of entertainment to serve as a “judge's interval” while the final scores were being tallied—such a group would need to perform a short program, perhaps 20-25 minutes long. Julie Vish wondered how moving the focus of the final evening event to the Championship division might affect the Challenge and Honor bands—that they might feel of a lower status and

less like full participants in the competition. Rusty Morris commented that sometimes it is hard for the bands in other divisions to get to see the Championship bands, and that they are at the level other bands aspire to, so having the choice piece performance to close out the Championship competition will allow for all NABBA members to listen rather than being double scheduled.

Ron Holz made a motion for the contest committee to draft a plan for the 2008 NABBA Competition, with the Championship division choice piece presented in the evening and to include the selection of something entertaining for the judge's interval; Rusty Morris seconded—the ***motion passed unanimously***.

Further discussion ensued regarding available halls for NABBA 2008. Memorial and Brown are being considered. Brown (cost: \$1,500) is more do-able financially, seats about 1,400, and they are currently available for the contest weekend.

Festival Reports

Ashland Festival report

Jackson Hill reported this was the 12th year of the festival and unlike other years, this one was only held for one day. Ashland is considered a NABBA event and NABBA bands are always invited and well received. He noted they appreciated the donation from NABBA to hold the festival.

Eastern Iowa Festival report

Lee J. Tippe submitted a letter to President Hunt thanking NABBA for the \$500 for the Eastern Iowa festival. She noted he did not include a request for next year funding, but that Eastern Iowa intends to continue the festival.

Great American Brass Band Festival report

Ron Holz reported that a full report on GABBF is published in the Bridge. The NABBA bands featured at this year's GABBF represented NABBA well. Those bands included James Madison University Brass Band and Lexington Brass Band, as well as the Salvation Army London Citadel Band. As is the custom, an invitation to attend the 2007 festival was extended to the NABBA 2006 Champion, Brass Band of Columbus, and it is expected they will attend. He noted that GABBF hopes to continue its reciprocal agreement with NABBA for competition program ads.

International Women's Brass Conference

Paul Droste reported the Athena Brass Band serves as good ambassadors for NABBA performing at these kinds of events—they were outstanding and are worthy of continuing support from NABBA. Someone suggested perhaps Athena could serve as the judge's interval for the possibly revamped 2008 Championship section competition.

International Adult Music Camp

President Hunt reported on her experience running/conducting at the adult music camp. It is located at the North Dakota/Canadian border at Peace Gardens. The median age of participants is 40-50; there are two concert bands, one brass band, a jazz band, some choruses, and private lessons. About 225 adults participated and had a really great time. President Hunt talks up brass banding and NABBA at the camps; she acknowledged appreciation of the \$200 NABBA contributes to the camp.

Yamaha Sponsorship

Paul Droste said the Yamaha sponsorship of the summer brass band workshops seems to be dead in the water. Yamaha used to provide instruments, music, and an honorarium to someone from NABBA to offer workshops on starting a brass band to interested communities, but they no longer support this. He has written a letter about the history of the workshops, and proposed Anita Cocker Hunt serve as the Yamaha sponsored clinician for these workshops. He feels it is important that NABBA have the capacity to offer band building workshops to interested parties, and noted the best workshops are those that are requested of NABBA, not when NABBA goes looking for interested groups. He said he will continue to work to get the workshop sponsorship reestablished.

Test piece selection Youth divisions

Board listened to *Occasion* and *A Swiss Festival Overture* for the Youth division. ***A Swiss Festival Overture*** was selected for the Youth division by a vote of 11 yeas, 7 nays.

Committee Reports

Contest Committee (Tom Scheibner, chair, Linda Detman, Paul Droste, Ron Holz, Russell Morris, Keith Wilkinson)—Tom Scheibner discussed recommendations from the contest committee regarding participation in solo/ensemble contest entrants, additions to the band competition registration materials, timing issues with the Championship division, suggestions for descriptions of each division for the website, and a proposal for a North American band ranking system.

Tom Scheibner, on behalf of the contest committee, proposed the following changes to the NABBA competition rules as motions:

Motion 1:

I. D. No re-arrangements of parts will be permitted. The part written for any particular instrument will be played on that instrument only **with the exception of tubas which may play parts written for E flat and BB flat bass on a bass or contrabass tuba in any key.**

Seconded by Paul Droste—the ***motion passed unanimously.***

Motion 2:

I. A. Total membership of each band will be unlimited, but a maximum of 28 brass players and up to 5 percussion players (provided the score calls for an augmented percussion section) for a total maximum of 33 players, plus conductor, shall be permitted on the stage at one time. III. O. 3. Open competes under the same guidelines as Challenge but does not have constraints on the Instrumentation. Youth Open competes under the same guidelines as Youth but does not have constraints on the Instrumentation.

I. A. Bands in the YOUTH and YOUTH OPEN sections are not limited to 30 members on stage.

Seconded by Paul Droste—the *motion passed unanimously*.

Motion 3:

I. B. Any **adult** brass band which participates in the North American Brass Band Championships using other than NABBA standard brass instrumentation, as listed in paragraph A above, shall be allowed to compete in the OPEN Section only, and shall play the same test piece as the CHALLENGE Section with brass and percussion instruments only. **Any youth brass band which participates in the North American Brass Band Championships using other than NABBA standard brass instrumentation, as listed in paragraph A above, shall be allowed to compete in the YOUTH OPEN Section only, and shall play a test piece different from the YOUTH Section with brass and percussion instruments only.** All other rules as published will apply.

Seconded by July Vish—the *motion passed unanimously*.

Motion 4:

I. F. No band is permitted to pay any player. All performers at contest must be bona fide members of the band in which they perform. **NABBA relies on the ethical integrity of each band and its director to follow this rule.**

Seconded by Susan Reigler—the *motion passed unanimously*.

Motion 5:

III. C. A. **A member may not compete with more than one band.**

Seconded by Susan Reigler—the *motion passed unanimously*.

Motion 6:

V. A. The Small Brass Ensemble Contest is for brass instrumental combinations

ranging in size from **3** to 10 players of the same NABBA band (in other words, ensembles may NOT be composed of members from more than one NABBA member band) using NABBA brass band instrumentation.

Seconded by Jackson Hill—the ***motion passed unanimously.***

Motion 7:

The contest committee recommends returning to the original score sheet for the competition with comment categories, but no individual scores for these categories. The approved process for scoring as noted in the NABBA rules will prevail.

Seconded by Barb Burtch—the ***motion passed unanimously.***

Motion 8:

Regarding competition entries for 2007, all band competition entry materials (applications, NABBA individual and band membership rosters, and fees) must be postmarked **February 1, 2007** to participate in NABBA 2007. Entry materials must include the following items:

- Competition application
- Band roster (to include information about type of NABBA membership)
- Program list [test piece and choice piece(s)]
- 3 copies of the scores for each choice piece
- Pictures of the band and conductor
- Band and conductor bio for the competition program
- One (1) check for the band NABBA membership fee, NABBA competition fee, and individual membership fees [check made out to NABBA]

Solo and ensemble entry materials must be submitted separately from band competition entries. Entry materials must include the following items:

- Solo and ensemble application
- Copy of music to be performed
- Check [made out to NABBA] for the competition entry fee

Individuals participating in the solo and ensemble competition must be a NABBA member.

Seconded by Jackson Hill—the ***motion passed unanimously.***

The contest committee considered a proposal (listed below) of a contest for NABBA Recording of the Year submitted by Patrick Herak.

Purpose

This contest is designed to promote quality recordings of NABBA member bands. This contest will be held annually and the winning band will be awarded the title "NABBA (YEAR) Recording of the Year." It is hoped that this can be another method to reach out to bands that do not regularly attend NABBA and entice them into joining.

Contest Rules

Eligibility – any band that is a paid up member of NABBA in both the year of recording and the year of adjudication. All guest soloists (non-roster players) must clearly be identified.

Media

CD only. (No more than one recording per band per year)

Qualifying Date

The recording must have been produced (for the first time, not a re-release) between December 16th, (YEAR-1) and December 15th, (YEAR). Entries must be received by December 31st, (YEAR). Results will be announced sometime before the North American Brass Band Championships, but will be acknowledged at that event.

Adjudication

The judging would be weighted according to the grading of the entries with the following criteria.

100 pts Musical Performance

40 pts Musical Content/ Entertainment value/ Salability

30 pts Presentation/ Artwork

30 pts Quality of Recording

Entry Fee

\$25 Make payable to NABBA

Prize

\$200 and mini-banner

SIDE NOTE:

Most of this was adapted from a contest already held in England, the Southern Counties Amateur Brass Band Association (SCABA) Recording Contest.

<http://www.awooler.demon.co.uk/recording.pdf>

Motion 9:

The contest committee approves the submitted proposal with the following changes:

1. The recording cannot be a solo feature CD.
2. CDs that feature a soloist prominently will not be considered.

3. CDs must be a minimum of 60 minutes in duration.
4. To be eligible, CDs must be commercial releases (that is not a private release) with all appropriate copyright and mechanical rights secured.
5. The starting year for the contest will be 2006, with recording produced between December 16, 2006 and December 15, 2007 under consideration. Results for the first contest will be announced before NABBA 2008.
6. One adjudicator not affiliated with NABBA will be selected to assess the recordings.
7. The weights for the judging criteria will be adjusted accordingly to fit 100 points.
8. John de Salme will be asked to coordinate the first contest.

Seconded by Barb Burtch—the ***motion passed unanimously.***

Development Committee (Susan Reigler, chair, Barb Burtch, Susan Henthorn, Diana Herak, Jackson Hill, Joe Johnson, Quentin Sharpenstein, Julie Vish)—Susan Reigler presented the committee report to the Board as a motion.

1. Regarding issues with the competition site: Working on new room for Low Brass solo and ensemble competitions. Perhaps three rooms total: Stem, Robinson, and Recital Hall. Perhaps add orchestra/band rehearsal room if needed. Other logistical concerns are being addressed. Alternate food service is being worked out during student center remodeling. NABBA sales table moving to Ogle Lobby. Will sell 25 year pins and tee-shirts. No poster or bumper stickers. NABBA bands CD sales in lobby, too.
2. NABBA will send letter of intent to IUS administration expressing willingness to hold contest on campus through 2011. Joanna Goldstein will find contest dates, most probably last weekend in March each year.
3. Competition programs go to all NABBA members in good standing and ticket holders to events. Program will include contest times with band names. Dick Holz will bring concert order flyer for gala.
4. Committee decided the competition doesn't need an official hotel. Brown Hotel is next door to Brown Theatre. However, they are looking into special convention prices for Brown Hotel and Galt House.
5. Volunteer list with time slots when helpers are needed, will be posted on web site. NABBA needs at least two volunteers from each band to help with logistics—the more volunteers, the shorter each person's time commitment. The list will be posted on the web and sent to conductors to help recruit players and/or their friends and relations to help.
6. At the suggestion of Paul Droste, exhibitors need ID badges. Jack Hill will get them.
7. Two options for band rehearsals will be offered to competing bands: 1) IUS, space provided Friday evening for one hour. Shuttle available from downtown Louisville. 2) Use area school band room for time individual bands arrange with that school. Open rehearsal encouraged or master

- classes at school for their music students. Doing this creates NABBA outreach and thanks school conductor. Each band must arrange own transportation. A list of available schools and contact information will be posted on the NABBA website.
8. NABBA welcome table (located at the Ogle Center lobby) will have band packets and registration and sell new memberships.
 9. Ogle Center table will also have maps and directions.
 10. Free Enterprise will be the bus company for NABBA 2007, providing half-hourly shuttles between downtown Louisville and IUS.
 11. We will have a 25th anniversary competition design to be used with NABBA logo—Joanna Goldstein will be working with IUS graphic design department to come up with something. The logo will be on program, tee-shirts and pins and any other NABBA brand items. Julie Vish is exploring options for a commissioned work for the 25th anniversary of NABBA. Other activities will include an exhibit in the Ogle Center lobby on NABBA history to be designed by NABBA Historian, Diana Herak. Diana is also compiling a 25 year history of NABBA and there's the possibility of a commercially distributed recording of past contest performances—President Hunt is looking into this.
 12. Derby City Brass Band members will serve as ushers at the Gala and rope off judges' seats.
 13. Compensation for use of Mark Tate (IUS percussion faculty) personal percussion equipment—he loaned a great deal of his own equipment for the solo and ensemble competition. Amount of compensation to be determined. Perhaps a gift card to restaurant or bookstore.
 14. The NABBA Board will hold its pre-competition meeting on Thursday, April 12, 2007 at IUS.

Seconded by Quentin Sharpenstein—the ***motion passed unanimously.***

Membership Committee (Jim Grate, chair, Anita Cocker Hunt)—Jim Grate presented the committee report as a motion to the Board.

1. Starting in 2008, Board Member Nominations (new and renewing) need to be made by 1 January. Voting concluded by 10 January. Election results will be made public by the 15th. Election of new officers at the board meeting in March. Term to begin after the competition. Current officers and board members' terms will therefore be extended to the end of the competition in 2008. From then on, elections will be held in even-numbered years. (This gives new members a chance to plan time and travel.) Term dates will be added to list of board members.
2. We will continue to issue membership cards.

The Board briefly discussed whether or not this suggestion for changing the timing of nominations to the Board was needed in light of the decision to establish the third weekend in September as the permanent meeting date for the summer board meeting. Jim noted that if no one seconded the motion, the motion would not need to be dealt with any further. There was no second of the motion. Nominations for Board officers to be elected next September will be handled electronically by Susan Reigler.

Finance Committee (Jim Grate, chair, Anita Cocker Hunt)—the finance committee presented the following:

1. We would like to provide travel stipends for bands coming from more than 500 miles away, but do not currently have the funds. (Another good use for Silver Bells fund.)
2. Family memberships will change from \$40 to \$50. Other dues remain the same. Individual memberships are \$30.

Motion to accept the report seconded by Diana Herak—the ***motion passed unanimously***.

Publicity Committee (Diana Herak, Susan Henthorn, Paul Droste, Julie Vish, Patrick Herak [non-voting member])—Julie Vish presented the committee's report.

The publicity committee wants to establish a mechanism to track which member bands are going into schools during the competition as a way to promote NABBA to the greater Louisville area. The committee wants to find as many ways as possible to get the NABBA name and logo in the public eye. They are going to work on creating a NABBA logo CD to distribute to member bands so they can use them on performance programs and other items. Additional efforts should be made to publicize the "NABBAness" of festivals so NABBA is seen as a focus for brass banding in North America. Quentin Sharpstein will be working with WUOL in Louisville to promote NABBA and the competition; efforts will be made to get a music program featuring NABBA bands on the radio with narration from a NABBA member. Plans are underway to approach A&E, HDNet, the History Channel, and Bravo to consider broadcasting the championships.

The Board discussed how best to handle public relations issues for NABBA 2007. It was noted that we need to identify places where NABBA can advertise and find ways to target brass people. It was recommended that Joanna Goldstein and Susan Reigler (with help from President Hunt) serve as local point people for publicity issues, and the publicity committee would work on regional and national contacts. Additional efforts should be explored to use brass oriented websites to get our name out there. Ron Holz said he will contact Phil Biggs to get something on NABBA into the *Brass Herald* and also in *Brass Band*

World. Joanna Goldstein will send notices to local universities about the competition.

Strategic Planning Committee—this newly formed committee met briefly to begin to sketch out a rough development plan/structure for its work. They have decided to:

- Review Current Mission Statement and business plan.
- Revise above as needed.
- Develop a SWOT list (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats).
- Set short, medium, and long term goals.
 - determine Goal priorities
 - determine Action priorities
- Estimate cost in Human terms (Hours needed to accomplish, skill sets needed, assets of board members), and financial terms.

They also took a shot at developing a vision state and mission statement

Proposed Vision Statement: "Guiding the future of Brass Banding in North America."

Proposed Mission Statement: "The Mission of NABBA is to share the rich tradition of brass band music through high quality educational and outreach activities such as performances, competitions, and multi media communications."

Board Renewals for Next Term

The following directors are up for renewal: Sara North, Eric Aho, Barb Burtch, John Copella, Diana Herak, Quentin Sharpenstein, Don Stine, John de Salme, Anita Cocker Hunt. President Hunt noted there are a few current directors who have missed at least 50% of the Board meetings during their term and they will be receiving a letter from her regarding this.

Assignments for Contest Next Year

President Hunt distributed via email Board member assignments for the 2007 competition.

Doug Yeo - *The Bridge*

Jay Cohen - Competition program (25th anniversary special?)

Paul Droste - Secure exhibitors for competition and ads for *The Bridge* and the competition program. All Board members are responsible to help with this, but everything is channeled through Paul.

Jack Hill - NABBA Board member badges and badges for Exhibitors.

Jim Grate - Secure bus company for shuttle (with Joanna Goldstein), welcome and registration table, cash box for registration table and the NABBA sales table, help create a volunteer list on the web site for the competition (Anita), help Tom Scheibner with competition week end schedule, ASCAP and BMI forms, reserve judges' hotel rooms, printing of competition passes.

Quentin Sharpenstein - Coordinate and secure members of the Derby City Brass Band to usher at the Gala Concert, rope off a judges' area for seating

Tom Scheibner - all competition materials, secure judges, set-up concert halls on Thursday evening with CD recorders and electric (as much as possible), help with the arranging of transport from airport of judges, assist judges during weekend, arrange Saturday dinner for judges.

Susan Reigler - Assist with competition location, help pursue funding possibilities.

Ron Holz - Associate Competition Controller (when available), new CD reviews for *The Bridge*

Sara North - secure trophies, awards, and banners, t-shirts for competition, help Jim Grate at registration table (when you are available), setting up award tables at competition and assisting with award presentations.

Frank North - help back stage during competition, coordinate percussion for Reading Band, possible assisting with stage changes for Gala Concert.

Keith Wilkinson - Continue as liaison with Besson for sponsorship.

Colin Holman - New music reviews for *The Bridge*.

Rusty Morris - Possible assistance from Natural State Brass Band to move equipment on Thursday or Friday (as last year).

Diana Herak and Eric Aho - Storage of archive materials (*The Bridge*, programs, scores, etc.).

Diana Herak – Set-up the NABBA sales table in the exhibit hall.

Anita Cocker Hunt - CD recorders, judges' tables' lamps, walkie-talkies and batteries, stop watches, secure Dave Henderson as recording engineer, secure official hotel and meeting room locations. Secure Jeff and Paula Clymer as office staff during competition to calculate scores, arrange materials in envelopes, and make copies for bands.

Joanna Goldstein - Secure bus company for shuttle (with Jim Grate), lunch for judges on Saturday, snacks for Board on Thursday evening, water for judges, secure rooms at IUS, signs, IUS volunteer staff, secure official photographer, judges' tables and screening, secure IUS equipment (stands, percussion, etc.), listing of band directors and schools willing to offer rehearsal space, have an IUS welcome table in lobby (as last year). Contact person who made the NABBA pins last year.

All NABBA Board members - Help in running the competition as reviewers, time keepers, announcers, back stage co-ordination, setting up of stage areas for competition and Reading Band, staffing of NABBA sales table.

New Business

Jim Grate noted NABBA needs event insurance coverage to use the Brown Theatre. Doug Yeo in conversations with President Hunt suggested NABBA consider liability insurance coverage for the Board in case something happens during the competition weekend. NABBA is not currently covered by any insurance. Joanna Goldstein noted that while IUS has liability insurance it would not cover NABBA if someone sued as a result of something that occurred during the competition.

Jim Grate made a motion to let Doug Yeo look into insurance for the Gala concert and liability insurance for the competition weekend; Barb Burch seconded—the ***motion passed unanimously***.

President Hunt received a request from the Central Ohio Brass Band for support of an Ohio Brass Band Festival—they are asking for \$1,000 as seed money to get the event off the ground. They wish to create a sponsored event, provide travel stipends to bands, and have an adjudicated contest. They would promote it as a NABBA event and have already secured verbal commitments from some top level clinicians to take part.

Julie Vish made a motion to give \$500 to Central Ohio Brass Band as start-up money for this NABBA event; Jim Grate seconded—the ***motion passed unanimously***.

Paul Droste discussed the absence of Canada from NABBA involvement—he feels we need to find a way to re-establish connection with them. President Hunt noted that Kevin Norbury had emailed her that he would like to consider serving as a liaison to Canada. She communicated to him that the requirements for doing this would be that he become a NABBA member, along with his band, and that he might also consider becoming a NABBA Board director. Since this communication, President Hunt is still awaiting a reply. General discussion among the Board reflected support for having more involvement from bands in Canada. It was decided the Strategic Planning committee would take up the issue of involving Canada in NABBA.

There was discussion of obtaining a lawyer who would be available to work with the NABBA Board as necessary. Susan Reigler thought there should be someone within the ranks of NABBA with contract law experience and background who could help with these kinds of issues. Someone noted that since NABBA's organizational charter is in North Carolina, it is subject to North Carolina law, so we might need a lawyer from there. It was suggested that new board member Tony Granados be asked to look into the availability of lawyers since he is in North Carolina—President Hunt said she would contact him.

No adjudicators have been selected for the competition yet, but Tom Scheibner hopes to find some that can also serve as clinicians for the proposed workshops for the competition.

President Hunt noted the NABBA Bylaws are in need of attention—this is an issue that will be taken up at the next meeting.

President's Remarks

President Hunt thanked everyone for a productive weekend. She noted how the Board plowed through a great deal of issues, came to conclusions and moved along, and almost nothing on the agenda was tabled. She thanked the entire board for their time. She gave special thanks to Susan Reigler and Joanna Goldstein for doing a fantastic job with NABBA 2006 and in moving forward with NABBA 2007.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 12, 2007, 7 p.m. at the Indiana University Southeast campus, Louisville KY.

President Hunt called for a motion to adjourn. Ron Holz made the motion; everyone seconded—***motion passed unanimously.***

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Meeting Addendum

President Hunt appointed Douglas Yeo to the Contest Music Selection Committee.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Detman, NABBA Secretary