



Minutes from the North American Brass Band Association
Board of Directors Meeting
March 27, 2008
Indiana University Southeast, New Albany, IN

Members present: Don Bookout, Barb Burtch, Anita Cocker Hunt, John de Salme, Linda A. Detman (secretary), Jim Grate (treasurer), Susan Henthorn, Diana Herak, Patrick Herak, Joe Johnson, Don Kneeburg, Theresa MacDonald, Rusty Morris (president), Susan Reigler, Quentin Sharpenstein, Kevin Stees, Douglas Yeo (vice president), Linda Yeo

Members absent: Stephen Allen, Tom Scheibner, Keith Wilkinson

Meeting called to order at 8:10 p.m. with a welcome and thanks from President Rusty Morris to the Board for their efforts prior to the competition; he anticipates a stellar weekend of music making. Members introduced themselves to the two new members of the Board, Don Kneeburg and Theresa MacDonald.

President Morris noted the minutes from the Summer Board Meeting had previously been approved via email.

The first order of business was the treasurer's report. Treasurer Jim Grate began by reminding the Board Robert's Rules of Order suggestions the Board should not approve the budget, but merely accept it; approving the budget takes the responsibility for it off the treasurer and onto the entire Board. The treasurer's report included the budget for 2007 and estimates for 2008; NABBA's total net worth (as of 3/26/08) was \$47,721.17. Jim Grate also presented 2008 membership information to the Board noting 34 band memberships (down from 39 in 2007) and 867 individual members (down from 1,090 memberships for 2007). Jim informed the Board that a trademark had been secured for NABBA® for \$250. Vice President Doug Yeo noted the trademark only needs to be displayed once if there are multiple versions of it in the same document (as is the case with the contest program). The trademarked NABBA logo will be made available for member bands' use on their websites and other printed materials at nabbabridge.org. Jim Grate further reported appropriate fees had been paid to ASCAP for the championship weekend: BMI will be paid after the competition because their fee is based on the attendance during the weekend's events. He distributed an informational pamphlet from ASCAP about using copyrighted music.

President Morris moved on to discuss festival support, reading the statement on festival support currently posted on nabba.org. To facilitate the timely and fair review of possible applications, he suggested events held April – September should submit requests by March 1; events held October – March should submit requests by September 1. Rusty noted Silver Bells is a good fund to tap for festival support; he proposed a 5-person subcommittee to review applications to consist of the president, treasurer, 1-2 development committee members, and one other board member.

Theresa MacDonald asked if the Hannaford Street Silver Band application for support had been received and was told it had not. Anita Cocker Hunt noted the Silver Bells campaign funds weren't established to be used solely for festival support. Pat Herak indicated the development committee would need to explore other ways to find additional funds for festival support requests and NABBA itself. Jim Grate said he would rather see festival support money come out of Silver Bells than from other accounts because it would create less of conflict for him as treasurer.

President Morris asked for volunteers to serve on the application review committee; Theresa MacDonald volunteered, but no one else stepped forward so the positions will be assigned at a later date. He did note that an application had been submitted by Pat Herak on behalf of the Ohio Brass Arts Festival and that it should be decided at this Board meeting.

+ Rusty Morris moved to accept the application for festival support of \$200 from OBAF; Anita Cocker Hunt seconded.
Discussion: There was no further discussion. Voice vote—motion carried (Jim Grate abstained because his band participates in the OBAF).

Theresa MacDonald said she would resend the Hannaford application so that it could be considered via nabbaboard.org . Diana Herak asked about the amount of support supplied by NABBA: if the amount is low at what point can we actually say an event is NABBA supported? After the board approved the \$200 for OBAF, there was discussion about the Hannaford Street application at which time Pat Herak realized that the policy does not, as originally proposed, say "up to a maximum of \$200" but he did not ask for more for OBAF. Diana Herak also questioned what will happen when/if the Silver Bells account is dwindled.

Vice President Doug Yeo went over issues regarding the pending election of Board directors. According to a distributed hand-out, 10 current members of the Board have terms expiring on June 30, 2008, including the president, vice president, and secretary; the president and vice president, however, are elected to those offices until June 30, 2009. All currently elected directors intending to run for re-election and any other NABBA member wishing to run for election must submit a completed Board nomination for to President Morris by May 15, 2008.

Newly elected directors will take their seats on the Board on July 1, 2008; their term will expire on June 30, 2010.

NABBA secretary, Linda Detman, indicated she did not intend to seek re-election as secretary, so it was necessary for the Board to elect a secretary at this meeting. President Morris had appointed a nominating committee consisting of John de Salme, Anita Cocker Hunt, and Don Kneeburg. Anita spoke for the nominating committee, indicating they had selected two nominees for the position of secretary who agreed to stand for election: Susan Henthorn and Susan Reigler. Each was asked to speak briefly about her qualifications for the position, then to leave the room so the Board could deliberate and vote. Susan Henthorn was elected to serve as secretary by secret ballot; her term begins September 1, 2008.

John de Salme announced that due to family circumstances he would be submitting his resignation from the NABBA Board; a formal resignation letter to the President will be forthcoming.

Presidential assignments were the next order of business. President Morris, noting the consistent high quality of *The Brass Band Bridge*, reappointed Doug Yeo as editor. Doug Yeo produced the program for the championships for the second year and was appointed to do so for next year; he will also continue facilitating the operation of nabbaboard.org. Jim Grate was reappointed to oversee membership issues and the NABBA website. Diana Herak, who has ably compiled and archived NABBA history, was reappointed historian. Jim Grate remarked that it is not good to have one person in the organization wear so many hats and he offered to let someone else have the job of overseeing the NABBA website. Susan Henthorn noted she had maintained a website for her job and said she would consider taking on oversight of nabba.org. Pat Herak noted that more than one person could help with some of the jobs, such as the website.

Vice President Yeo distributed a hard copy of the publications report that included the publication schedule for 2008-2009 and information about the number of downloads of *The Bridge* for the last year. Advertising revenue for *The Bridge* for 2007-2008 from 13 advertisers was approximately \$820; projected revenue for 2008-2009 from 12 advertisers is approximately \$1,155 (reflecting higher advertising rates). The cost to NABBA of producing and distributing *The Bridge* is \$0. Vice President Yeo requested Board directors solicit more news and photographs from bands.

Vice President Yeo reported his colleague, Richard Bird, has been hosting nabbaboard.org for free in exchange for clinics Doug has provided to the Dallas Brass Band. Anita Cocker Hunt asked why the subcommittee areas of nabbaboard.org are off limits to other Board members; she feels some information and issues may be discussed that keep other Board members out of

the loop. Doug replied the site was set up to try to develop a strong committee structure for the operation of the Board; keeping the site so that only committee members discuss issues pertinent to them is in line with how committee work is accomplished when the Board meets in person. A copy of the championship program was distributed to each Board member; Anita Cocker Hunt commented that it looked really good—others agreed around the table. As an aside, Diana Herak noted that through discussions with Colin Holman she has obtained all previous copies of *The Brass Band Bridge* for the archives—work is underway to electronically scan them and make them available for the NABBA website.

Discussion moved on to determining the dates for the championships for 2009. President Morris noted the Board was tentatively considering March 27 and 28 for 2009; these dates coincide with the IUS spring break, but not with the truck show that caused hotel booking challenges this year. One problem with those dates is the availability of the Brown Theater as well as the scheduling of spring breaks (this may have contributed to the fewer number of bands in the competition). Jim Grate indicated the Brown Theater might be available on other dates: April 3 and 4 or 17 and 18. Susan Reigler noted April 18 is the start of the Kentucky Derby Festival and that finding hotel space would be virtually impossible that weekend. Don Bookout felt the March dates were too early and wondered if the Brown Theater was the only option for the Saturday evening events; the Memorial Hall, Palace Theater, and Kentucky Center are also possible options, but Jim Grate said they have already been booked. Don Kneeburg said he had talked with the dean of music at the University of Louisville who offered his site for Saturday evening; Quentin Sharpenstein and Susan Reigler replied simultaneously “it’s not big enough.”

Joe Johnson noted spring breaks happen at different times and some bands were not going to be able to make it regardless of when it is scheduled. Linda Yeo mentioned spring breaks in the Midwest are held at different times, too; she felt we should stay with the dates initially selected. Some discussion was held about the pros and cons of having the competition at IUS during its spring break—having fewer students available to help meant having to mandate volunteers from NABBA bands, a strategy being employed for this contest. Joe Johnson noted NABBA was led to believe having the competition during the IUS spring break was better than at other times. Doug Yeo noted we have to decide what to do in the event a gala venue cannot be secured. Susan Reigler reiterated that spring break was not the only time IUS was available; April 3 and 4 are also open for NABBA in 2009.

+ Doug Yeo made a motion to hold the 2009 championships on April 3 and 4; Don Bookout seconded.

Discussion: Talk ensued about whether or not a gala venue would be available. Doug offered a friendly amendment saying the motion would be subject to the availability of IUS and the availability of a gala venue; Pat Herak seconded the amendment. Voice vote—motion carried.

Jim Grate said he thought the Kentucky Center was already booked for April 3 and 4 should a larger venue be needed if IUS is not available on the revised dates for 2009. Quentin Sharpenstein asked if the Kentucky International Center might be used if the gala event was not a concert. Barb Burtch mentioned NABBA used to host receptions after the gala event and wondered if the Board should consider doing this at some point. Pat Herak commented an issue in the past was dealing with the youth bands participation at receptions and the liability of their possible access to alcohol.

Moving on to discuss the September 19-20, 2008 Board meeting, President Morris indicated there was no real reason to meet at IUS for the board meeting since the facilities are well known and travel into Louisville can be time consuming and costly for some Board members. He said Raleigh, NC has been explored by the executive committee as a site for the meeting and possibly a future contest site; he noted NABBA has to continue to look ahead as the organization grows and consider alternative locations. Quentin Sharpenstein asked where in Raleigh. Vice President Yeo responded a new convention center with a Ballroom design to accommodate the North Carolina Symphony is being built across from the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts which has four performance areas and two hotels all within walking distance. Preliminary discussions have been held with the convention bureau in Raleigh and they are interested in vying for the opportunity to host NABBA. Vice President Yeo also noted having the meeting here would be fairer in terms of travel expenses incurred by Board members. Pat Herak asked for a show of hands of who could drive to Raleigh; he also volunteered Columbus as a proposed location for a Board meeting. President Morris said Vice President Yeo and Jim Grate will finalize the location and time for the September meeting.

Joe Johnson, contest committee chair, discussed the need to make a strategic plan for the future growth of NABBA and its competitions. He said we need to consider other locations, especially to find venues that are more convenient to lodging. He also indicated the competition itself needs to keep tweaking how things are done; the rules in particular need to be revisited so they are made clearer (he noted the volley of emails that resulted from the request of a band to tune between pieces). Joe discussed the clinics that were scheduled for the next day and urged the Board to encourage members to attend the clinics. The Board gave a Joe a round of applause for his efforts at getting adjudicators and setting up the contest.

Anita Cocker Hunt distributed a list of the exhibitors in attendance at the competition; she noted Miles Ahead Music had withdrawn from the exhibition area. The exhibits will be open 12 – 5 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Linda Yeo talked about scheduling volunteers to help at the competition. She said Joanna Goldstein had been helpful in working with her to incorporate IUS help and that she had tried to schedule band volunteers so they did not have to work during the time their division was performing (this way volunteers could hear bands in their division). She was hopeful that the volunteers would be a welcome and helpful addition to the contest. Anita Cocker Hunt said NABBA must find a different way to penalize bands that don't provide volunteers, that it didn't make sense to deduct points from performances for non-performance issues.

Kevin Stees asked about the timing of band set-up during the competition and wondered if a band did not play a warm-up if they could use that extra time to set-up. Joe Johnson said the rules indicated there is 5 minutes for set up only.

President Morris again thanked everyone for their time and flexibility.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Detman, NABBA Secretary