

Minutes from the North American Brass Band Association
Board of Directors Meeting
September 17-18, 2010
Amway Grand Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI

Members present: Steven Allen, Rico Belotti, Donald Bookout, Catherine Creasy, Tom Day, Barb Burtch, Kari Farenholtz, Jim Grate, Charles Howard, Kenneth Kroesche, Anita Cocker Hunt, Rusty Morris, Betsy Jones, Sara North, Jessica Sneeringer, Kevin Stees, Ralph Taylor, Helen Tyler and Frank Washburn.

Members absent: Randi Bulla, Todd Fiegel

FRIDAY, September 17, 2010

I. President Rusty Morris called the meeting to order at 7 pm. For the benefit of the new members (Jessica Sneeringer, Kariann Farenholtz, Kevin Stees and Catherine Creasy), all of the board members introduced themselves.

II. President Morris then reviewed the agenda and goals for the meeting, including topics and issues to be discussed in individual committee meetings, and reiterated that the minutes of the last meeting have already been approved on nabbaboard.org. Saturday morning there will be a tour of the facilities for the April 2011 contest.

III. President Morris called for reports from the Treasurer, the Bridge editor, Anita Cocker Hunt regarding the Vendors for the Championships, and the music selection committee.

A. Treasurer's Report (Jim Grate) – Treasurer Grate distributed a proposed NABBA budget for 2011.

2010 Year End Budget (see budget provided at meeting)

Jim's general analysis of the budget was that "it could be worse." Due to a band from England backing out of the 2010 competition (and subsequently not requesting a refund) accounts are in the black (otherwise -\$600). We currently retain the entry fee (\$300) if a band backs out and refund the rest (\$1200). On Saturday there will be a presentation by the subcommittee formed to address membership fee changes.

Proposed Budget discussions (see budget provided at meeting)

Upon reviewing the budget, Jessica questioned the purchase of 3 zoom recorders and suggested borrowing this equipment rather than purchasing it. This led to general discussion of the budget being up to the discretion of the board members; this was just a proposed spending plan. Jim remarked that generally there are no available funds until after the January registration deadline. Helen thanked Jim for including a \$200 travel reimbursement for the Sept. 2011 board meeting. It was also noted that a percussion judge will need to be hired if there is no one within the organization who

can judge. Ken noted the ensemble entry fee error - correction to \$400 instead of \$500.

B. Bridge Report (Betsy Jones)

We have lost and gained advertisers, and some of the advertisers have yet to pay their fee. There is a general lack of submissions/content. Other announcements included Keith Wilkinson as the new cd reviewer for the Bridge and Ron Holtz will do the book review.

Betsy also announced that she will try a new format for the championship review that will assign separate people to time and to take notes during the contest performances.

C. Vendor Report (Anita Cocker Hunt)

Anita will attend the Midwest Clinic in December. Anita briefly mentioned the vendor situation at the 2010 competition in Raleigh. Vendors were unhappy due to the location of their rooms and lack of foot traffic. This will not be a problem in Grand Rapids. Charles suggested taking pictures of the facilities to entice/reassure the vendors.

Anita announced that J.W. Pepper and Woodwind Brasswind will attend the Grand Rapids Contest. Anita needs fliers, a letter, and updates to the website for the vendors. Barbara offered to help with the vendor space at the competition.

A discussion of vendor fees began; Rusty suggested not implementing new pricing until 2012 to respect the loyalty of past vendors. Anita will email potential vendors in early December 2010.

Anita made a general appeal to board members to talk to any vendors they know and contact her as more vendors mean a better bottom line for the organization. Steve questioned whether there were local vendors we should contact in Michigan to which Barbara replied that the Salvation Army will volunteer and we can ask them for suggestions. Rusty suggested including vendors other than music related companies to promote the local products and region (more local flavor). Ken (who is local to Michigan) will make notes at the MI Music Educator's Conference and look at vendor promotional content. (Barbara and Ken will both email Anita.) This comment brought up the prospect of having a booth at the Michigan Music Educator's Conference. Jim mentioned that the Amway Grand offered to pay either \$600 towards vendor space or a competition program ad. Jessica suggested the hotel pay for the ad (or whichever item is most expensive). This began a discussion of promotional materials. Rusty asked what sort of promotional materials were needed for the organization and regional championships. Don asked whether we should form an ad hoc committee on promotional items or put this to the development subcommittee.

Rusty remarked that we needed to make a motion to vote on the MI Music Ed. Conference and then continue discussion on promotional material. **Don moved that**

we participate in January at the Michigan Music Educator's Conference; motion seconded. Motion passed.

Rusty returned to the discussion on promotional material. Don suggested forming a committee, to which Helen replied that she would be happy to work on this committee. Kari suggested forming a standing advertising committee. Rusty suggested that we start with the ad hoc committee on the booth presentation and see if the need for a permanent committee is necessary. Rusty declared the formation of an ad hoc committee for development on the booth design for MI. Helen, Ken, Barbara and Don will form the committee. The ad hoc committee will be added to the NABBA board site for online discussion.

Kevin and Helen both commented on the importance of investing in the presentation so that it would get years of use (video footage, photographs, etc.) Kevin asked the board members if they all felt that we should spend the money to do this. The board generally agreed. Jessica asked if the \$600 for the program advertisement from the hotel should be put towards the booth. Rico asked if Silver Bells money was available and if the board was allowed to use that funding. Anita replied that Silver Bells money was intended to cover many things like this.

The vendor report ended with a discussion about contacting Besson for their usual \$5,000 donation. Rusty mentioned that Tim Ornado and Bruce Silva are the Besson contacts. Anita and Rusty will meet with Besson to talk about getting the donation – their first contact will be at the Midwest Clinic.

**D. Music Committee Recommendations (Helen Tyler, Kevin Stees and Steven Allen)
(Selections chosen over the summer for each section)**

Helen began the presentation by inviting the board members to review her email transcriptions if they had questions concerning the committee's decision making process. The committee was particularly concerned with the following issues when making their selections:

- Demonstrating a tiered effect/standardization of levels (appropriate difficulty between sections)
- Test piece length
- Frequency of performance for test pieces (over the years)
- Voting/posting process
- One classical work/repertoire piece each year (that highlights the heritage of the British style brass band)

Selections:

Championship - On the Shoulders of Giants
(Peter Graham/Gramercy Music)

1st Section - On Ratcliff Highway

(Ray Steadman-Allen/SP&S)

2nd Section - Penlee
(Simon Dobson/Faber Music)

3rd Section - Haydock Variations
(Stuart Pullin/Gramercy Music)

Youth - Images for Brass
(Stephen Bulla/Curnow Music)

Rusty thanked the committee for introducing new composers and new works in their selections. Steve remarked that the committee was careful to make sure that the new pieces were “good.” **Rusty motioned to approve the selections of the committee; Jessica seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

Rusty dismissed the board members to their committee meetings for the remainder of the night.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2010

Saturday’s meeting reconvened at 8:15 am and at 8:30 am David Neil of the Amway Grand gave board members a tour of the facilities. After the tour, the meeting resumed with a discussion of the contest fee structure by the ad hoc committee members led by Jim Grate.

IV. Contest Fee Structure (Ad hoc committee – Charles Howard, Randi Bulla, Sarah North and Jim Grate)

See handout for fee structure.

- A. Jim began by noting that the big change in the fee structure dealt with the refund policy and the division of fees. Jessica asked what members/member bands get for their membership if they do not attend the contest. (is NABBA membership just about the contest?) Jim responded that the band gets a free ad in the Bridge, a tax deduction and a member card. A discussion then opened on how NABBA could make membership more attractive. Helen asked if there was a way to use Silver Bells; membership would give you the ability to apply for funds. Kari asked if we could advertize member bands’ concerts/events on the NABBA website. Jim responded that we do provide links to their site or masterclasses on the NABBA site. Rico asked if there could be an outlet for CD sales. Rico also commented that we need to consider the profit and loss to the organization with competing bands v. noncompeting bands. Charles suggested we offer a discount

as a larger purchasing group to members, negotiate with vendors (music, instruments, etc.) Steve responded that offering such a discount would help NABBA encourage the growth of new bands. Rico suggested offering members access to a centralized library listing /lending library to borrow music from other bands for reading purposes. It was also suggested that Theresa could contact Canadian bands as well. Helen suggested offering a contest discount to new bands and sending out official invitations to join NABBA that would explain what the membership fee pays for. Rusty brought the discussion back to the fee structure. **Rusty moved that the fee structure remain as it is; motion passed.**

B. Rico moved that non member ticket prices be at the \$5 and \$10 rates and not include gala concert or a program. Jim suggested that this decision be put off until we settle the issue of having Brass Band of Battle Creek play at the contest. **Motion on ticket prices tabled.**

C. Steven proposed to not refund the contest fee except for youth bands. Jim mentioned that for the Grand Rapids contest if we have 800 rooms we get free use of the rooms for performances (solo and ensemble). After some discussion Steven amended his motion to refund only the \$300 band contest fee. **Membership fees are non refundable (does not include band fees); motion passed.**

Jim – the offer from the hotel is that if your band reserves as a block at once as a group they will refund the band \$5/night per room (rate is \$129 + 18% tax).

V. DVD Announcement – (Charles Howard)

We can have a DVD of each band's performance for less than the cost of a CD recording. Helen remarked that we will have to make sure that the bands give permission to be filmed/ given the decision whether or not to be filmed.

VI. Brass Band of Battle Creek Presentation (Bill Gray, Jennifer Rupp and Richard Stoelzel)

Rusty gave a brief explanation of the Brass Band of Battle Creek presentation – Dr. Grey contacted Jim which initiated the meeting. No specific agenda was known. Bill Gray, Jennifer Rupp and Richard Stoelzel came representing BBBC. They would like to see cross-promotion between NABBA and BBBC. They suggested we have local arrangements committees wherever the contest is hosted. There was general discussion on ways that they could help promote the contest with their contacts and ways that the two organizations could develop a partnership. Contact information was exchanged and Steve spoke to the three BBBC representatives immediately following the presentation. The idea was

brought up about contacting Amway, Devos, and Kellog for Silver Bells donations. The board members asked the BBBC if they were available to perform at the 2011 contest; they are booked through 2012. 2013 is the earliest they could perform and NABBA should contact them immediately to make arrangements for that year.

Following the BBBC presentation the regular board meeting resumed.

VII. Contest and Development Committee Reports

A. Development Committee Report (Steven Allen)

- National Brass Band Symposium (Helen)
- Facebook page for American Bands Steve (work with Barb and Helen US Brass Band Directory (Helen)
- Survey (Jessica),
- Masterclass (Helen and Catherine for 2012 unless Battle Creek falls through)
- Silverbells Festival Support: Applications will be considered in the order in which they are received. Helen's application form vote to be conducted online) [1. Include NABBA info on materials; 2. submit info to Bridge; 3. seek donations – include tear-out form in program for donations.]
- 'CD of the Year' competition (Betsy to contact Keith Wilkinson to reactivate)

B. Contest Committee Report

- Kevin brought up the issue of using orchestral instruments in the youth section. General discussion about the merits of using traditional instrumentation v. orchestral instrumentation. **Kevin made a motion to change the requirements to allow youth section to use orchestral instruments if necessary in 2012; Kari seconded.**

This decision needs to be publicized and get feedback – we will vote in April 2011 for implementation in 2012. Rusty stated that for major policy changes information will be put on the website for input. Voting will take place in April with implementation at the next year's contest.

-2011 Contest

Friday night events: masterclass, reading band, mixer - some sort of mixer will be planned for Friday night. No changes will be made to Saturday schedule.

-2013 Contest

Book Brass Band of Battle Creek. Jim and Rusty to email and confirm price and get a contract.

- VIII. President and Vice President terms end in 2011. Nominations must be gathered for the next term. **Moved and seconded that nominating committee is Anita, Helen and Frank to elect President and Vice President. Motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Creasy.