

Minutes from the North American Brass Band  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 11, 2005  
Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL

Members present: Eric Aho, Jeff Binns, Barb Burtch, Jay Cohen, Anita Cocker Hunt (president), John Copella, John de Salme (controller), Linda A. Detman (secretary), Jim Grate (treasurer), Jackson Hill, Ron Holz, Rusty Morris, Susan Reigler, Tom Scheibner, Don Stine, Julie Vish

Guest: Joanna Goldstein

Meeting begins at 9:10 a.m. with a self-introduction of members and welcome from President Hunt.

Linda Detman distributed copies of the minutes from the Summer Board Meeting. Ron Holz made a motion to accept minutes as written; ? seconds—motion passed unanimously.

President Hunt gave a special welcome and thanks to Jim Grate for accepting nomination as NABBA treasurer. Jim Grate presented the financial report for 2005, noting an expected income of \$19,613, and a total net worth (as of 3/1/05) of \$35,601.77. Jim Grate also presented membership information to the Board noting 36 bands renewing their memberships for 2005 (19 from 2004 did not renew) and 778 members renewing memberships. Jim noted there is a problem in membership categories—senior, student, and individual members can become lifetime members, but the option is not available for family memberships. The question of establishing a lifetime option for family memberships was tabled until the August meeting.

Jim Grate also noted there is no clear statement of the term of NABBA membership (one year from date of check, January 15-January 15); he recommended membership correspond to the calendar year. [not sure if this was voted on—I don't have record of it]

Jim urged verifying the accuracy of information in the hard copy membership directories available at the registration desk during the competition—he also said hard copy, floppy or CD copies were available by request. Ron Holz asked if just anyone could get access to the directories. Julie Vish noted that information on youth band members could be in the directories so there should be caution in distributing them. Anita Cocker Hunt noted that the youth band members' information is not made public. Ron Holz said we should be cautious with distributing our membership information; he recommended continuing the discussion about how available such information should be and to not distribute the directories at this time.

Jim Grate moved the NABBA checking account to the City National Bank of West Virginia in Charleston which comes with no service fees (for \$1,000 minimum balance) and MasterCard debit card for the account. Since he is the only signatory on the account, Anita will be added. [I don't have notes that this required a motion.]

The NABBA website domain name is paid up until October 2006. The current web host costs less than \$50/year (the previous host cost \$900/year) and it is paid through the end of 2005.

Jim Grate looked into obtaining a NABBA corporate credit card account so that membership and contest fees could be paid by credit card. Eric Aho made a motion to look into this possibility; Tom Scheibner seconded—motion passed unanimously.

Eric Aho presented an update on *The Bridge*, discussing his vision for its future. He made a request for the same software Colin Holman had as editor. He does not want to change the “voice” of NABBA; he wants to work on improving the content and availability of *The Bridge*. He proposed *The Bridge* be published on a trimester basis: September/October, January/February, and May/June. This schedule will allow The Bridge to be more actively involved in promoting the annual competition. He suggested using the NABBA website after the summer Board Meeting to post music and scores available as documents to stay within copyright laws (that is, not as downloadable performances). He also suggested a separate entry schedule for bands to commit to a particular section, with individual memberships due at a later time.

Julie Vish noted that a trimester Bridge would save the organization money and moved that we accept Eric's proposal to change the publication schedule; Jackson Hill seconded it—motion passed unanimously.

Advertising report—David Rosen has resigned from NABBA Board and from the position of advertising director. NABBA now needs an advertising director. Julie Vish suggested posting an announcement on the website saying we are seeking an advertising director. Jay Cohen said we should consider making the position commissionable, hence making the job more lucrative for the potential incumbent.

NABBA 2006 update—Joanna Goldstein reported everything is a go for the Louisville competition March 31-April 1, 2006. Contest sites at the Indiana University Southeast have been reserved at no cost to NABBA; the Galt House hotel has been reserved and rehearsal rooms and the ballroom at the hotel will be available for competition weekend use free of charge. The Gala concert will be held at the Memorial Auditorium—they are looking into reserving a shuttle for transportation and deciding on a site for the Saturday night reception. Susan

Reigler is checking into securing the Jack Daniels Silver Cornet Band for the gala.

Because of the need to reserve spaces up to a year in advance, the 2007 competition will also be held in Louisville. The dates for the competition are April 13-14, 2007.

Trademark update—Susan Reigler reported on efforts to trademark the name 'North American Brass Band Championships.' Securing a trademark will require a \$335 filing fee and up to 6 months to process the request, and \$1,000 in legal fees which we are trying to get donated. She is working with the Southeast Indiana University design students to come up with an official logo for the contest. Barb Burtch made the motion to put forth to provide the funds needed to secure the trademark; Julie Vish seconded—motion passed unanimously.

Update on Silver Bells Capital Campaign—give your checks to Jim and urge band members to give whatever they can.

In the interest of time and given the unknown possible expenses that might be incurred for competition weekend, the proposal to fund the Chicago Brass Band's trip to the World Brass Band Championships was tabled until August.

Jackson Hill distributed NABBA Board identification badges to use for the weekend—he donated the badges to NABBA. Jim Grate also brought his own tri-fold display board to use for NABBA weekend—thanks to both Jackson and Jim!

GABBF report—Ron Holz reported the Great American Brass Band Festival went well last year. He distributed a flier for this year's Great American Brass Band Festival History Conference. The NABBA band invited and scheduled to perform at GABBF include last year's NABBA Champions, the Chicago Brass Band.

A proposal for an official North American ranking system of brass bands was submitted by Patrick Herak for review in August.

British Open—Ron Holz had been approached about urging NABBA to establish a process for selecting a representative band to the British Open should an invitation be issued as was expected. He proposed the winning Championship section band be selected as NABBA's representative. If the winning band is unable to attend, the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place band could be selected as long as their quality was deemed acceptable by the contest controller. Ron Holz made the motion for this proposal; Eric Aho seconded—motion passed unanimously.

Contest update—John deSalme updated everyone about their responsibilities for contest weekend. He also noted this is his last contest. Tom Scheibner has

graciously agreed to take over as controller and will be “shadowing” John throughout the weekend to learn the ropes.

New business: non-payment of Grimethorpe from NABBA 2004 in Little Rock. Much discussion ensued about this issue; numerous emails had been circulated before the Board Meeting. Jay Cohen spoke at length about this issue; a summary of his remarks are listed below:

Conversations have occurred between NABBA band members regarding the Grimethorpe issue. Further investigation, including conversations with Dave Rosen and Terry Webster, determined that Grimethorpe was owed some 14,500 Pounds Sterling and has never received anything.

Dave Rosen has stated that he would retire the debt in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this year, but in following up with Terry Webster on this he said that he had heard nothing and received nothing following the two initial emails about Dave’s promise to pay. In addition, Dave has already missed an agreed to February payment, and has not responded to Terry’s inquiries about it.

Jay believes that the fact that Dave Rosen has declined to appear at the Board meeting, and his avoidance of this issue since April 2003, means that without NABBA intervention, Grimethorpe will remain unpaid. Jay also feels that NABBA holds some ethical responsibility for this issue since “we are the reason Grimethorpe traveled to the USA to perform.” He feels “the time has come for us to take action, and do the right thing by our brothers in England.”

Jay noted that another organization (Brass Bands of America) had discussed the issue during a recent conference call and that it was on the international radar screen and a bad mark on NABBA. He urged NABBA to request donations from NABBA members to help reimburse Grimethorpe by making a full and complete disclosure of the facts in the dispute, an explanation about why NABBA feels all member bands have an interest in resolving the matter, an explanation of the steps taken to obtain reimbursement from the responsible party in the dispute, and a procedure for making sure such a situation will not recur.

Rusty Morris talked about the issue from the perspective of the group (at the time) in Little Rock and said given the history of similar events, David Rosen (who made the verbal deal with Grimethorpe) will not resolve the issue even though he has stated he would take care of the situation.

Julie Vish feels NABBA should issue a statement drafted by Anita noting Grimethorpe holds no ill-will toward NABBA and that NABBA would work to facilitate getting the payment they were promised. Ron Holz said very few in Great Britain were making a big deal about this issue and that added communication about it started to appear at the time a new organization came on

the scene and that perhaps aimed to undermine NABBA. He suggested Grimethorpe consider getting a lawyer.

John Copella said it needs to be made clear that contest hosts take on responsibilities for competitions and that NABBA has no responsibility for contracts between hosts and gala bands.

Anita Cocker Hunt said she would add a note about host responsibilities to her drafted statement and suggest that concerned NABBA members send checks directly to Grimethorpe. Ron Holz noted concern about suggesting to members to donate money since it still suggested NABBA was at fault for the situation. Susan Reigler suggested NABBA should offer to help find Grimethorpe a lawyer in the U.S.

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 5, 2005, 9 a.m. at the Galt House, Louisville KY.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Detman