



North American Brass Band Association
P.O. Box 11336
Charleston, WV 25336-1336

MINUTES OF MEETING
Fall - September 17, 2011

Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel
Cincinnati, OH

Invited/Present:

- Steve Allen, **President**
- Randi Bulla, **Vice President** (excused @ 11:40)
- Tom Day, **Secretary**
- Jim Grate, **Treasurer**
- Rico Belotti
- Don Bookout
- Barb Burtch
- Anita Cocker-Hunt (Arrived @ 12:00)
- Kari Farenholtz (Arrived @ 10:50)
- Charles Howard
- Betsy Jones
- Ken Kroesche
- Sara North
- Raquel Rodriguez
- Kevin Stees
- Ralph Taylor
- Frank Washburn

- Seth Moore (Guest)

Time(s)/Room(s): 10:40AM - 12:10PM Belvedere Room
Lunch
1:10PM - 1:40PM Salon M

Absent:

- Samuel Bostein (excused)
- Jess Sneeringer (excused)
- Helen Tyler (excused)

Chair: Steve Allen

Recorder: Tom Day

Next Meeting: March 29, 2012 - Place & Time TBA

Item 1 - **Introductions, Instructions**

Each board member and guest stated their name and band affiliation.

VP handed out summaries of Robert's Rules of Order, gave basic instructions on parliamentary procedure.

Chair expressed a desire to have a quick and productive meeting

Item 2 - **Election of Secretary**

A motion was made and seconded that Tom Day assumes office of secretary for the duration of his term. **Motion carried with none opposed.**

Item 3 - **Treasurer's Report** - Jim Grate

Financial statement attached.

Contracts are currently in effect with Hilton-Netherland Plaza (Cincinnati, OH) for 2012/2013. In exchange for NABBA's guarantee of a block of rooms in 2012, the hotel will pay for 1 day at the performance hall (Scottish Rite Temple, Cincinnati). The 2013 performance hall is TBD.

NABBA members will receive room discounts at the hotel in 2012. There are additional discounts available for bands that reserve room blocks.

There is a continuing contract with Amway Grand Hotel (Grand Rapids, MI) for 2014. NABBA failed to book the number of blocked rooms in 2010, and will return to Grand Rapids in 2014 to fulfill the contract. The 2014 performance hall is TBD.

Item 4 - **Bridge Report** - Betsy Jones

Advertisements have declined this year and most are now coming only from larger companies/sponsors.

New price list is being developed to reduce confusion among sponsors and member bands.

Action Items:

Finish new pricing schedule (Betsy)

Add "Upcoming Events" calendar for member bands only (Betsy)

Index past issues of The Bridge available for members only (Betsy)

Require photographer's credit for any photos submitted for inclusion in The Bridge (Betsy)

Item 5 - **Publicity for Cincinnati**

We have compiled a list of ~160 bands and their appropriate contacts in the US and Canada. All have been contacted and ~90 have responded. Those 90 have not committed to attending the 2012 contest or to joining NABBA. The remaining 70 bands have not yet responded to initial attempts to engage them.

Action Items:

Create a "President's Invitation" video, available at YouTube and Facebook, to try to encourage participation (Steve, Betsy, Tom).

Contact high schools and colleges in a wide area around Cincinnati (Raquel, Anita)

Establish a NABBA presence at Midwest Band & Orchestra Festival (Steve, Don)

Share existing band list with board, define appropriate liaisons, develop relationships (Betsy, Anita, Rico)

Item 6 - Development Committee Report - Tom Day

The "People's Choice" award will be implemented in 2011. Contest attendees will be allowed to "vote" for their favorite band by making donations to NABBA.

Possibility of moving NABBA HQ to Indianapolis to cooperate with Music for All, Bands of America, DCI, Percussion Arts, New Horizons, Pepper Music and others. Depending on where we stand with this next September, we may want to have the fall meeting in Indianapolis.

A suggestion was made to hold regional solo and ensemble competitions in the US and Canada, working with colleges and their staff to reduce cost and increase participation. Possible cash prizes for winners. The idea is for winners of regional competitions to come to NABBA championships to determine overall champions. This is targeted for fall, 2013.

Action Items:

Define all details of how to implement the People's Choice award (Tom)

Research legal ramifications of moving HQ to Indiana (Jim, Don)

Get more information on benefits of moving to Indiana (Don)

Develop committee and regional teams to flesh out regional S&E idea (Randi)

Item 7 - Grant Applications

NABBA currently does not actively solicit grants.

Action Items:

The Development committee is to determine important funding needs and present a recommendation to Kevin, who knows a grant writer.

Item 8 - Approval of 2012 Test Pieces

A point of order was raised that test pieces need not be approved by the board, as the bylaws can be interpreted to give full control of the selection to the

music committee. After a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded that all test pieces selected by the committee be accepted. Motion carried with no one opposed.

The 2012 Test pieces are as follows:

Championship - Masquerade (Wilby)
1st Section - Pageantry (Howells)
2nd Section - Dark Side of the Moon (Paul Lovatt-Cooper)
3rd Section – Jubilus (Jan Van Der Roost)
Youth - Requiem for Brass Band (David Bedford)
No test pieces necessary for open sections

Item 9 - **Contest Committee Report** - Rico Belotti

Vendor fees at the contest will not be increased this year.

Bands will have 7 minutes to take the stage, prepare, and begin their first selection. Those 7 minutes will no longer be micro-managed.

Stage reset will be handled by stage managers.

Youth Open section has been reinstated, and open section bands will be both graded and ranked.

10-Piece section has been implemented.

The contest program will be designed in-house as much as possible in 2011.

A suggestion was made to weight the test piece and own-choices equally in future contests if bands are amenable to the idea.

Championship bands will perform test piece on Friday night, own choice piece(s) on Saturday night.

A point of order was raised that contest rules/rules changes need not be approved by the board, as the bylaws can be interpreted to give full control of the contest rules to the contest committee.

After some discussion, it was agreed that a committee should be formed to review the bylaws to clarify wording and recommended changes as needed.

A motion was made and seconded to allow up to 10% of a band's personnel to be comprised of duplicate players (ie, musicians may now compete in multiple bands). Motion carried, 14-2.

Action Items:

Design cover for contest program (Kevin)

Determine program content and layout (Betsy)

Add Kevin to Publications Committee (Tom)

Form committee for bylaws changes (Kari)

Draft wording for change in contest rules regarding duplicate players (Randi)

Poll music directors on feasibility of changing the test piece/own choice weights (Randi, Rico)

Item 10 - **New Business**

NABBA regions will be redefined and committees will be formed to promote NABBA within each region.

A motion was made and seconded to remove the word "membership" from the contest entry form and replace it with the word "ticket" in order to facilitate a broader membership base. After some discussion and a lunch break, the motion was withdrawn until further study can be done.

It was requested that board members provide their contact information to the treasurer for tax and legal purposes.

It was requested that recognitions of some type be given to individuals for their contributions to brass banding, and also that recognition be given to adjudicators, to new brass bands that have formed in North America, to first-time competing bands, and to older bands who are returning to competition after an absence. A motion was made and seconded that a committee be set up to establish parameters for all such recognitions. The motion carried with no one opposed.

Kari has volunteered to work with Jim over a two-year period and to replace him as the site coordinator for future contests.

Charles has volunteered to work with Jim over a two-year period and learn the treasurer's duties, in anticipation of running for that office in 2014. The Treasurer must be approved by a majority of the Board.

Tom has volunteered to assume responsibilities for the administration of NABBA.ORG, NABBABOARD.ORG and NABBABRIIDGE.ORG.

The Chicago Brass Band has requested Silver Bells funding for expenses associated with the Midwest Band & Orchestra festival. A motion was made and seconded to approve the request. After some discussion, the motion was tabled until further details about the request can be established.

Action Items:

Get complete details of Chicago Brass Band request (Anita)

Provide personal contact information to treasurer (all Board members)

Determine recognition awards parameters (Steve, Ralph, Betsy & Anita)

Define the Silver Bells program and make grant application available on NABBA.ORG (Anita, Helen, Jim & Tom)

Begin work to ensure smooth transitions of Jim's current duties
(Kari, Charles, Tom & Jim)

Item 11 – **Adjournment**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 1:50 PM. The motion carried with no one opposed.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Tom Day – 9/19/11