

# NABBA Fall Meeting 2012

## MINUTES

9/21 – 9/22/2012

CINCINNATI, OH

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Anita Cocker-Hunt, Barbara Burtch, Betsy Jones, Don Bookout, Jim Grate (Treasurer), Kate Wohlman, Ken Kroesche, Randi Bulla (Vice President), Nigel Horne, Raquel Rodriguez, Sarah North, Stephen Allen (President), Tom Day (Secretary), Kyle Evans (Masonic Temple) Peggy Kee (Hilton)
	Absent: Kevin Stees, Rico Belotti
	Minutes prepared and submitted by Tom Day

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Informal talk about 2012 contest and planned improvements for 2013. Dinner provided by the Netherlands Hilton in the Orchid Room
	9 bands have reserved rooms at the host hotel (Hilton) for 2013, and there are rooms for 4-5 more. NABBA bands exceeded the contracted number of rooms during the 2012 contest, which is great. For 2013, bands/bandsmen are encouraged to work directly with Peggy Kee ( <a href="mailto:peggy.kee@hilton.com">peggy.kee@hilton.com</a> ) to book their rooms. If the Hilton is unable to provide rooms for all NABBA members who want them, the hotel will help them find rooms in other area hotels.
	The 2011 contest in Grand Rapids cost NABBA ~\$13K, but we were able to recoup that in Cincinnati in 2012 thanks in large part to the cooperation of the hotel and the Masonic Temple. The Hilton also donated \$2,000 towards the cost of the performance venue. The Cincinnati CVB, Hilton Netherlands, and Masonic Temple are all eager to have NABBA in town.
	Vendors at the 2012 contest expressed a desire to have easy access to coffee, burgers, etc. The Hilton is currently talking to 2 non-profits and hope to have vendor carts with coffee, soda, and bakery fare at the venue itself. The CVB also hopes to be able to allow food trucks in front of the venue in 2013.
	Vendors were not pleased with the fact that customers could not play horns at their tables during the 2012 competition. One consideration is to move the vendors to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor of the venue, and to separate the "noisy" and "quiet" vendors.
	The Taft Theatre is next door to the venue. Possibility that the lower-level bands could perform there on Saturday rather than on the 6 <sup>th</sup> floor of the Masonic temple (where acoustics were not great for the judges). Alternately, the judges in the 6 <sup>th</sup> floor venue could just move down from where they sat in 2012 (extreme top level). Doing this would block some seats, but the bands are there to be scored – adjudicators trump audience.
	NABBA is considering putting in a temporary wooden floor at the main stage and possible open adjudication. Both moves are to enhance the adjudicators' audio experience.
	Cincinnati is extremely interested in having NABBA return in 2015 & 2016, and also made a proposal that NABBA move there permanently.

### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Motion (Randi) to approve minutes from 2012 spring meeting. Seconded (Betsy) and approved with no one opposed.
-------------------	--

10 MINUTES

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

TOM DAY

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The NABBA bylaws require that a nominating committee be selected at the annual fall meeting. The committee is tasked with identifying potential board officers for upcoming elections.	
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	Ken Kroesche, Raquel Rodriguez and Kate Wohlman were selected as the new nominating committee.	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Identify candidates for President, Vice President and Treasurer prior to the spring, 2013, board meeting.	Nominating Committee	

30 MINUTES

### RECORDING & FILMING FOR 2013 CONTEST

MULTIPLE PRESENTERS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Still photography, video and audio recordings for the 2013 contest
	DVDs were made of the bands in the 2011 contest with the understanding that they could be copied, shared online, etc. Mechanical rights were not secured by the recording company, however – distribution is not legal. If the recording company secures mechanical rights, however, that company can post videos online.
	It would be desirable to have a film company put together some sort of documentary-type film of the 2013 contest to be used to introduce NABBA to a wider audience – particularly Canada.

Frank Washburn has been and will continue to be NABBA's official band photographer if that is his wish. Frank has previously expressed an interest to continue taking band photos.

Audio recordings have been made at contests, with the stipulations that each band which agrees to be recorded should receive multiple copies of the CD, that NABBA should receive a copy for archival purposes, that mechanical rights will be obtained, and that the recordings will not be sold online. The previous recording company may not have abided by these stipulations.

**CONCLUSIONS** NABBA wishes to record as much of the event as possible while respecting the wishes of member bands and understanding the need to secure rights for any recordings.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Put together an RFP and solicit bids for video recordings with the understanding that mechanical rights to post videos online will be secured	Randi Bulla	
Solicit examples and references from film-makers or students regarding a NABBA "infomercial."	Randi Bulla	
Put together an RFP and solicit bids for audio recordings with the understanding that all above-noted stipulations will be adhered to.	Randi Bulla	

5 MINUTES                      **PRESIDENT'S AWARD**                      **STEPHEN ALLEN**

**DISCUSSION** Feedback for the 2012 President's Award (presented to James Curnow) has been positive

**CONCLUSIONS** The award will be presented again in 2013

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Choose a recipient and secure the award	Stephen Allen	

30 MINUTES                      **2013 TEST PIECES**                      **STEPHEN ALLEN**

**DISCUSSION** The music committee worked over the summer to select the 2013 test pieces. Steve went over each piece, gave insight into the committee's thoughts, and recommended that the pieces be approved by the board.

There was a desire for the Championship Section test piece to be more conservative and "easy to listen to," in part to help build momentum for a return to Grand Rapids in 2014. It is vital to maximize participation at the Grand Rapids venue.

The First Section piece was chosen in part because of its difficulty. First Section bands are "bumping up against" the Championship Section, and their test piece should reflect this.

The Second Section piece was chosen in part to commemorate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the first original composition to be used as a test piece.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>TEST PIECES RECOMMENDED:</b> Championship - Elgar Variations (Martin Ellerby) 1st Section - Four Dances from 'Checkmate' (Arthur Bliss - arr. Eric Ball) 2nd Section - Labour and Love (Percy Fletcher) 3rd Section - Saint Saens Variations (Philip Sparke) Youth - Partita: Postcards from Home (Philip Wilby)	
	Motion to accept (Tom) the music committee's recommendations, seconded (Randi) and approved unanimously.	

20 MINUTES                      **APPEAL TO CANADIAN BANDS**                      **STEPHEN ALLEN**

**DISCUSSION** We've lost a great deal of recognition from Canadian brass bands and would like to encourage more Canadian bands to get involved with NABBA, particularly during the 2014 contest in Grand Rapids  
Steve requested \$800 to attend the Hanaford Festival as a representative of NABBA. Randi and Steve Bulla are also planning to attend. Our NABBA displays and brochures should be available at that festival, and Theresa McDonald (former board member in Ontario) may be willing to create flyers.

To generate interest among Canadian bands, we'd like to offer certificates to 6 Canadian representatives to attend the Cincinnati contest in 2013 (two hotel nights and tickets to the championships).

Moved (Randi) and seconded (Raquel) to appropriate \$800 to send Steve to Hanaford Festival. Motion passed with 1 opposed and 1 abstention.

**CONCLUSIONS** Moved (Jim) and seconded (Nigel) to provide 6 certificates for hotel accommodations and tickets to the 2013 NABBA Championships in Cincinnati for Canadian brass band representatives. Motion passed with 1 opposed.

## BREAKFAST MEETING

General discussion, joined by Bob Lewis (Hilton Director of Sales)

Bob Lewis asked for choosing Cincinnati for 2012 & 2013. Said that the hotel loves the energy of its NABBA customers and expressed a desire for us to return in 2015.

Bob Lewis was committed for morning discussions @ 9:00. Reconvened full board @ 10:00

## GENERAL BUSINESS

## MULTIPLE PRESENTERS

Discussion: Full board discussion of items addressed in committee meetings

Midwest Music Clinic/Conference – Should we have a presence there? While the exposure of Midwest is great, it is relatively expensive (\$1050 for a booth), and we might be better served to concentrate first on developing regional solo & ensemble competitions.

Other competitions/championships (US Open, Great American, new National Contest in KC) – Our goal is to promote brass banding, and we should view other organizations in that light, offer to provide assistance, partner with them to form regional S&E competitions, etc.

Regional S&E: Development committee wants to get the ball rolling on regional S&Es with the hope of growing NABBA into multiple contests, developing players, and shedding the "NABBA is just a contest" image. S&E's are not intended to be money makers. Hopefully, regionals can develop into a feeder system for the annual S&E championship ("best of the best"). We need to pinpoint the best venues close to the center of each of 8 US and 3 Canadian regions. Facilities must be free to NABBA – we can't afford to pay for 11 regionals. Adjudicators should be chosen by local musicians working with a NABBA representative. The training that Steve mentioned could help develop a pool of adjudicators. Entry fees must be enough to cover the cost of a NABBA membership.

Cooperation with other groups for S&E: We should look into partnering with the Music Teachers National Association to promote regional S&Es at each states (existing) S&E. Should also work with groups like ITG, ITG, ITEA, etc.

S&E Timeline: Spread out over the year, avoiding college breaks if possible. Good starting point would be 11/2013.

Special thanks to Randi Bulla for preparing a detailed proposal regarding S&E.

Questions: How do we get bands to the competition? Specifically those that have stopped coming. Should we adopt some sort of a ranking system to sort bands into sections based on previous three years of competition? Can we help show them how to raise funds? Why did they stop coming? Why did they come in the first place? Has NABBA changed? Should we vet bands' own-choice selections? What happened to the regional NABBA reps? Can we bring them back and make them more proactive? Do we have personal contacts with people who can help us walk the line between brass banding and corporate sponsorships?

The "People's Choice" award seemed to go over fairly well in 2012 and we'll try it again in 2013.

Three-year Rule: Some discussion about reinstituting the 3-year rule, which stated that a band winning its section three years in a row should move up a section or sit out a year.

Adjudicators: One more adjudicator is needed for the 2013 contest.

Adjudicator comment sheets: The judges want to be able to alter their scores as the day goes on. This is currently allowed, but the judges may not be aware of it. We're not sure what the controller (Jim Buckner) is telling the judges. Keith Wilkinson can help with this going forward. Related: We will ask Keith Wilkinson to come up with a rubric for what the numerical scores actually mean.

Weighting: Currently, the test piece is worth 60% of a band's overall score. The contest committee voted to keep this in effect.

Timing: Contest committee voted to table discussions regarding changing the timing between bands, particularly on Saturday night Championship Section performances. On Friday night, everything is timed. On Saturday night, there is not specific timing for getting a band on the stage.

Board responsibilities at the contest: Board organization has faltered in recent contests. We need to be more proactive in ensuring that everything runs smoothly.

Funds are available to reimburse board members for the hotel costs associated with this meeting.

**CONCLUSIONS** Moved (Randi) and seconded (Betsy) to continue discussion of the 3-year rule online and vote in spring of 2013. Motion passed with 1 opposed.

Moved (Jim) and seconded (Randi) that the board is reimbursed for hotel expenses for this meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Provide Jim with hotel receipt for reimbursement.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Arrange for NABBA displays, flyers and other material to be on hand at Hanaford Festival	Randi, Steve	
Work with hotel to secure rooms for 6 certificate recipients	Jim, Steve	
Identify Canadian representatives to attend Cincinnati championships	Steve	

5 MINUTES

#### 2015 CHAMPIONSHIPS

STEPHEN ALLEN

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Cincinnati wants NABBA 2015
<p>During the informal meeting on Friday, the board heard a pitch from the Cincinnati CVB to not only host the 2015 and 2016 contests in Cincinnati, but also to move our equipment to that city. It was advised that we may not be able to secure the Taft Theatre in 2015 if a decision is not made quickly.</p> <p>The board does not generally consider the venue question until 2 years prior to the next contest, so 2015 shouldn't be discussed until the spring, 2013, meeting. Other cities (Indianapolis, Columbus, Athens, perhaps others) are also interested in the 2015 contest.</p>	
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	Moved (Randi) and seconded (Betsy) to table discussion of the 2015 contest. Motion was passed unanimously.

15 MINUTES

#### ADJUDICATOR TRAINING INITIATIVE

STEPHEN ALLEN

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	There is a need to train American adjudicators of British brass bands
<p>Keith Wilkinson and Mark Baker have started informal training sessions in an attempt to help American adjudicators become more familiar with the British brass band sound. NABBA may wish to partner with or sponsor this program, which will not only help us create a pool of domestic adjudicators but will also help us promote brass banding in more than just an "annual contest" way.</p> <p>Nigel recalled a similar program started several years ago. He said that, while it was interesting and well-received, it didn't seem to change much as far as actual judging went. Seemed to be more of a series of suggestions than anything else.</p>	
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	Further study and discussion needed.

5 MINUTES

#### BRIDGE REPORT

BETSY JONES

BETSY JONES		
DISCUSSION	The NABBA Bridge, Website, Contest Program, other publications	
The Bridge is receiving fewer submissions from bands and is suffering as a result. It might be time to begin thinking of The Bridge as more of an archive than a newsletter and focus instead on keeping things current using Facebook and or NABBA.org or a new website.		
We need to locate a graphics person to design the contest program cover. We also need to locate someone to update the face of NABBA.org		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Reach out to web developers and artists for program and website design	Betsy	

5 MINUTES

#### FINANCIALS

JIM GRATE

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	NABBA Financial Statement
<p>Jim Distributed a treasury report. Bands that received a rebate from the hotel at the 2012 contest were paid in cash and may not have appeared on it.</p>	
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Put together lists of specific responsibilities/tasks and make sure that board members are assigned to ensure that these things are taken care of. Example: Making sure that the judges have time to eat, have water, etc. Sue Henthorne will also be asked to help with the organizational aspects of the contest.	Rico, Don, Betsy	
Create a form for bands and their conductors to comment on and rate the judges. May be expanded to include other aspects of the contest	Keith Wilkinson via Stephen Allen	
Identify Canadian representatives to attend Cincinnati championships	Steve	
S&E: Determine NABBA reps and regions	Randi, Tom	
S&E: Determine local resources, contest dates	Regional NABBA Reps	
Write up a description of the Silver Bells fund, what it is, how to apply for funds, and how to donate to the fund.	Tom	

5 MINUTES

WRAP UP

#### DISCUSSION Odds and ends

Jim asks that all board members make a special effort to attend the meeting in spring, 2013. The board is currently near the minimum allowed by our by-laws. All hands on deck!

Suggestion made (Tom) that we consider making the fall meetings 1-day affairs in the future since the second day has been completed so quickly over the last two years.

Moved (Tom) and seconded (Betsy) that the 2012 Fall meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously.