

## **Governing Board Pre-Conference Minutes - 2006**

*Jan Gippo, Bruce Ridge, Laura Ross, Michael Moore, Richard Levine, Steve Lester, James Nickel, Meredith Snow, Nancy Stutsman, Len Leibowitz*

**Tuesday – August 15, 2006**

Jan Gippo presented packets of ICSOM pencils to the board.

There was a brief review of the master schedule and agenda. It was recommended that agendas in the future not include the Tuesday governing board meeting.

*Len joined the meeting.*

Jan Gippo spoke about his tenure as chair reiterating that ICSOM should set the agenda, not the AFM or others. He reviewed the history regarding the invitation from ASOL to join the board, saying he believed that the apparent changing philosophy within the ASOL could lead to a withdrawal of the invitation to join the board. He believes the OSR project is no longer a priority for ASOL, in part due to the opposition of certain orchestras, who refuse to share their financial information with any but their own musicians. Gippo doesn't want ICSOM to sit on the sidelines as spectators.

He addressed electronic media and his belief that the board needs to listen to conceptual ideas and be ready to jump on new technologies. He also spoke about educational projects, the need for marketing and public relations, and that a positive, unified message reach the public nationally, internationally and locally. Gippo is pleased the AFM has finally answered our request for public relations assistance.

He spoke about invigorating our member orchestras, calling chairmen, etc., and his belief that the problems we face today are as bad as they were back in the 1960s. Many managers are not working in our best interests.

A meeting called by Laura Brownell to discuss the Orchestra Statistical Report (OSR) was held before Gippo got to ROPA. Henry Peyrebrune and Ron Bauers were in attendance but Gippo reported ASOL has come up with nothing since their last meeting. According to Gippo, Laura Brownell had extended an invitation to ASOL members involved in the discussion with the AFM, ROPA and ICSOM, to attend in Charleston WV but received no response. ASOL does not appear to be focused on this topic anymore and ASOL appears to be moving in a different direction.

Steve Lester and Richard Levine pointed to the "baby steps" the governing board required prior to acceptance of a board seat, one of which was regarding the OSR. Gippo said we have worked with ASOL, in good faith. He thinks the ASOL board believes we rejected their invitation and so they've taken offense. Gippo noted ICSOM invited Henry Fogel, Lowell Noteboom and Bruce Coppock to make presentations at the conference as one of the authentic baby steps, but it's all about perception. Gippo continued that ICSOM's actions and public press need to stand on their own. This is where we need to put our efforts in the future. We will discuss what ICSOM's message will be. We must reinforce the artistic support for the orchestra – cheaper is not better.

- ICSOM & ROPA – Gippo spoke about ROPA conference agenda and David Bonior's presentation. ROPA now has 72 members. He believes Barbara Zmich grew a lot during her term. Tom Fetherston is the new President, and we look forward to working with him.

Gippo suggested putting attention on Naples FL and announced he will continue to be involved in restarting some sort of orchestra in the South Florida area, at the request of Local 655, once he steps off the board.

- ICSOM electronic media committee – Gippo believes the committee should also be empowered to look at different and emerging technologies and suggested someone could attend a national electronics fair and report back to the committee to begin discussion to deal with these technologies.

James Nickel mentioned podcasts as preparation for orchestra concerts. Laura Ross mentioned the existence of an AFM limited videotape agreement and that the delegate handbook contained a summary of AFM agreements. There are still issues about reporting to the committee about projects, there must be more compliance and we also need better and more open communication with the AFM.

- AFM videogame agreement – Gippo spoke about Seattle’s possible role in a controversial videogame proposal from Local 6 (San Francisco). This proposal would counter “business as usual” in Seattle but there are far greater concerns about the impact of these changes on motion picture use and the loss of Film Fund payments. The “selling point” has been that it would provide more work (initially) for AFM members.

Gippo explained that there was some sort of miscommunication about the PCCs weighing on this issue. The Governing Board thought that the issue should be tasked to the AFM Electronic Media Committee. Until we have all the information, it would not be right for us to make any recommendation or decision. He suggested we hear from Chris Durham and Tom Lee to ask questions and decide if we need to weigh in on this issue.

- Break out sessions – Following a great deal of discussion it was agreed that the topics will be negotiating orchestras (including benefits & health insurance) led by Len Leibowitz with assistance from Chris Durham and Nathan Kahn; electronic media led by Bill Foster and Debbie Newmark; Education/Outreach led by Meredith Snow (Cathy Payne will also be asked to participate) and Musicians On Boards led by Jan Gippo. Each group will have a secretary to report on the discussion on Friday.

Due to airline arrival requirements Saturday morning now will begin at 9AM.

Laura Brownell arrived and spoke about public relations, reporting that Barbara Haig has already worked with Honolulu (online). She believes the *International Musician* is a good step but believes we must be more proactive with the press, being early and prepared. She reported that she is not getting the same volume of calls from newspapers as she used to. She would have been a good source for comments on the Atlanta Ballet situation. She said she’d like to work with Barbara on her press skills.

Brownell reported on the NPR issue regarding the St. Paul Chamber and Philadelphia.

Gippo requested that there be more communication between Laura Brownell and the new chair, so ICSOM has more up-to-date info so we don’t appear always to be reacting. Brownell asked for time on governing board calls. She was told that the Governing Board believes it is important to maintain and improve the communication between her and the ICSOM chairperson, but she was also assured that, if necessary, the chairperson would attempt to find her time on a call.

Gippo asked SSD to update media language definitions such as “profit sharing” and “revenue sharing” by presenting ideal language.

Lester asked about the Metropolitan Opera agreement – each musician will receive from \$7,000 up to \$12,000 in the final year for a large increase in media activity.

*Laura Brownell left the meeting.*

Press Releases – ICSOM will have to do them and hopefully some stories will run. We need to assemble a national arts list including information from every single delegate. Richard said there are services that will put this together.

- Code of Ethics for Touring – progress is that a preliminary draft has been shared with ROPA, OCSM and Henry Fogel. It still requires further editing with all constituents and discussion with the managers.

\* \* \* \* \*

Topics discussed by the Governing Board during the conference:

[With Tom Lee] AFM-EPF trustee and financial questions, AFM's deficit

[With Electronic Media Committee] IEB promulgated videogame agreement

\* \* \* \* \*

[MEDIA COMMITTEE ONLY] – NPR, Boston negotiations, the Met agreement, and St. Louis recording project.