

ICSOM Governing Board Call
5/20/06

Bruce Ridge, Laura Ross, Meredith Snow, Steve Lester, Nancy Stutsman, Len Leibowitz; James Nickel, Jan Gippo and Richard Levine for portions of call; Michael Moore – not available

Bruce will attend the ASOL convention to speak on a panel about music director searches.

There was a brief explanation of the tentative agreement regarding self-produced recordings by orchestras.

Jan joined the call. Len mentioned a possible media proposal that was tabled and never discussed.

James explained that the health care survey had been distributed to the delegates that morning with a deadline of June 2 for return of information.

Jan spoke briefly about ongoing issues in Puerto Rico; however, much of the information was incomplete since neither Len nor Jan have been able to get in touch with Jose Martin or the Local's attorney. Jan hopes to set up a conference call next week that will also include Bruce and Len.

Jan gave a brief report regarding St. Louis following a recent visit by AFM President Tom Lee, IEB liaison Joe Parente and local orchestra "business agent" Bill Moriarity.

Laura asked about a Department of Labor investigation that might require orchestra committees to file paperwork with the DOL. The orchestra committee is an appointed (or elected) agent of the local so should not have to file according to Len.

Jan and Bruce spoke briefly about the phone call they had with Tom Lee regarding the pension fund rank-and-file appointments and the letter sent April 18.

Jan also spoke to Barbara Haig, the new public relations consultant who has been retained by SSD and who will attend the conference this summer, about his aspirations for the position – coming up with top-down image branding of symphony orchestras. Barbara said she was excited to be involved with the musician training programs. Roger Pollak and Trish Polach are speaking about the conference as well; Roger has a pending arbitration around that time and may have a conflict.

Jan left the call.

Len returned to the pension discussion for a moment and spoke about pending federal legislation that will allow participants to receive Summary Plan Description information. Right now the trustees refuse to divulge even basic information, which includes assumptions the trustees and actuaries make regarding the fund. This has caused problems for at least one of our orchestras, whose internal pension fund is dependent upon the AFM-EPF. Len will keep us apprised of the status of this legislation.

James expressed concern that the AFM return to the table very soon to negotiate the Internet agreement. Laura said the ICSOM media committee agrees with him but pointed out it was on hold while the AFM negotiated the self-produced recording agreement.

There was discussion about a pending audition resolution from the governing board, originally brought to the board's attention by Nathan Kahn. There are concerns about transparency in auditions but there are also concerns that orchestras are negotiating new clauses in their contracts that may require new considerations. Our industry is changing and perhaps the entire Code of Ethics for Auditions may need to be revisited.

James left the call.

The audition resolution and the major managers/ICSOM liaison committee resolution were both tabled for the next call.

Bruce and Laura spoke briefly about the Virginia Symphony.

Richard joined the call and discussed the progress of *Senza Sordino*'s current issue as well as the next issue's deadline and possible distribution date. Articles deadline is June 10 and the issue will be distributed in July as the pre-conference issue. Since some orchestras will be done for the season, Richard will investigate ending times of each orchestra and either send boxes or individual copies based upon that information. Brad Buckley's article on Bill Roehl (the conference will be dedicated in his memory) should be in that issue.

The next call will be determined on-line.