

ICSOM Governing Board Call January 7, 2008

*Bruce Ridge, Brian Rood, Laura Ross, Michael Moore, Richard Levine, Paul Gunther, James Nickel, Cathy Payne,
Meredith Snow (late), Len Leibowitz*

1. Orchestra updates

- a. **Jacksonville** – Bruce will travel to Jacksonville again on Jan. 13-15, 2008, for various meetings, interviews and a benefit concert. Len will try to arrive on Sunday as well. There are also some activities scheduled with the newly formed “Friends of the Jacksonville Symphony”. Laura Brownell is also scheduled to arrive Sunday afternoon. Michael reported that musicians have looked for alternative health insurance since the rate increased 31% but management has not yet cancelled it. (Len said they had looked at a new insurance company that had been agreed to during previous negotiations.) There was discussion to encourage orchestras to send additional donations and letters now that the holiday is over, and in anticipation of Bruce’s arrival in Jacksonville. The MALs will reach out to their delegates. Laura reported that Phil Ayling had contacted her so the RMA could send a donation.
- b. **Honolulu** – the update on Delegate-L Bruce posted the other day is fairly complete. Len reports they are now only 2 weeks behind on payroll. Laura asked about central labor council support.

2. Report on Bruce’s League session in NYC this week – It was very busy, very involved, with lots of talking. The managers he worked with were cordial and respectful. He was also able to begin a dialog with Anne Parsons (ED Detroit & head of the major managers group) about starting up the major managers/ICSOM meetings. She expressed interest in setting up a meeting. Laura B. was there for one day. She spoke for 30 minutes. Len gave his “thumbnail history of labor” and also presented an arbitration case study. Bruce said Len did very well and received compliments on his presentation from various managers.
[Meredith joined the call]

3. Mellon

- a. **update on survey** – following the letter sent by ROPA a message was sent reporting that they would not distribute the survey in its existing format and hope to have a dialog to find ways to address ICSOM, ROPA and AFM concerns. When Bruce said he would write Susan F. a letter thanking her, Brian pointed out that this survey was a project she inherited when she took over the position with Mellon.
- b. **update on Flanagan report activity** – Brian, Tom Fetherston and Laura B. are still working on a response to the Mellon notice regarding the March meeting.

4. Media Committee activity

- a. **media committee meeting in Chicago (1/14)** - Brian and Bruce will be otherwise occupied. Notes have been provided to the media committee by Bill Foster.

b. A/V survey – only 6 orchestras had responded as of this call. MALs will also encourage completion of the survey when they call delegates about Jacksonville. Orchestras not using the AV agreement should respond.

5. update on *Senza Sordino* – Richard reported that the issue turned out well – a 12 page issue. The printer closed down in mid-Dec. Richard had made changes updating info about the Florida Orchestra and Jacksonville but discovered he had never sent proof copies to everyone for review before it went to the printer. He hopes the issue will be in the mail by the end of the week.

6. update on ICSOM Directory – Richard is waiting for the updated SSD pages (CJ Glass had problems opening the file) and the ad from Zildjian.

7. Miscellaneous

a. Tom Lee e-mail re: Puerto Rico – Tom Lee has written to Bruce and Brian saying he'd like to start a discussion about PR.

b. ROPA board – their mid-winter meeting is next week in Phoenix.

8. Mid-winter agenda – Cathy suggested that MALs ask if delegates have any topics for the governing board agenda in February and/or for the conference agenda next August. Suggestions for topics should be sent to Laura and Bruce. Laura will also check the minutes for topics already discussed that need further discussion or that were designated for mid-winter discussion.

We will wait to see if it is necessary to set up a call prior to mid-winter on Feb. 17-18.

As we ended the call, everyone wished Jessica and Brian luck on the impending arrival of their son.