

Governing Board Post-conference Minutes – August 22-23, 2009

Bruce Ridge, Brian Rood, Laura Ross, Michael Moore, Richard Levine, Matt Comerford, Paul Gunther, Cathy Payne, Meredith Snow, Mike Okun

Saturday, August 22, 2009

Discussion with Mike Okun about privileged legal matters. *[Following discussion with Mike, he left the meeting.]*

The governing board reviewed the evaluation forms and commented that this was the most unified group we've ever seen. The MAL/delegate meetings and the communication went really well; presentations were good; issues were discussed and everyone was civil. Many suggested that the changes we made were heading in the right direction but still may require more breaks and shorter presentations. Once again there was a suggestion to schedule two Town Meetings (perhaps putting the MAL/delegate breakout – or luncheon – in-between) and if there is time for more breakouts allow people to suggest and sign up for topics. There were some really strong presentations this year though one or two may have been a bit too long. There was a suggestion that the pit orchestras meet together as well as the MAL/delegates breakout because there is so much to discuss. We need more energetic afternoon presentations, small groups with more interactivity, and the interview format with Michael Kaiser was very effective and should be considered again instead of speakers. There was a suggestion that we stick to the national agenda in future planning. The one downside was that this format with more MAL/delegate interaction caused a separation between some of the officers from the delegates.

Future topics and suggestions included: dealing with burnout in extended negotiations w/attorneys; offer instruction on how to read budgets (we could tape sessions for internal orchestra use but turn the cameras off for Q&A); discuss media in small groups (it's easier for people to ask questions this way); consider scheduling breakout negotiating orchestras by budget sizes; explain and introduce the Legislative Action Fund earlier in the conference; aim for more interactive and less PowerPoint dependent presentations; and talk about how to take ICSOM's message and what was learned back to our orchestras.

Bob McGrew explained to Brian that IEB members either attend these meetings at the expense of their Local as ICSOM locals, or their own expense unless the AFM President directs them to attend at which time their expenses are covered by the AFM. We will try again to urge the AFM President and IEB members to attend to meet with the governing board and all of ICSOM's delegates. There is a great deal that can be learned at these meetings.

Sunday– August 23, 2009

Bruce Ridge, Brian Rood, Laura Ross, Michael Moore, Richard Levine, Matt Comerford, Paul Gunther, Cathy Payne, Meredith Snow

The morning began with a discussion about how to utilize Mark Lindsay's offer of assistance. We must identify a list of issues he could help us and our orchestras with. Perhaps he can also help with some of our individual orchestras and help line up some speakers for the 50th anniversary conference in 2012.

Holly Slocum – Paul, Richard and Brian will investigate Holly's recommendations.

Talking Points:

Lenny – we need to agree on a simple statement to be made about his status.

SSD director search – the Las Vegas speech will be posted on orchestra-l, delegate-l, on the ICSOM website and in *Senza Sordino*. Tom Lee will be notified in advance of posting and the speech will be preceded by a small preamble regarding our working relationship with SSD.

IEB attendance at ICSOM – we need to ask Tom Lee, as AFM President, to direct the IEB members (at AFM expense) to come to ICSOM, ROPA and OCSM *and to get his response in writing* – and advertise that there would be an IEB Q&A on the agenda.

There was discussion about education committee appointments. Paul Gunther will sort through various communications and make recommendations at a later time. We do not wish to run blogs on our website, but would like to see posted articles and up-to-date information.

Bruce will reach out to those orchestras that did not attend the conference. Bruce also said he has discussed or been approached about the possibility of visiting Indianapolis, Detroit and Baltimore.

Senza Sordino requires review by counsel. We would like Mike Okun to do this.

Senza Sordino – Len will be listed as counsel but also that he is on leave. Distribution issues need to be discussed further because it is becoming more expensive to print and mail. There was a suggestion that those who wish to receive it online would be offered the opportunity to opt out and receive an electronic version. Offering an electronic version for emeritus would save significant money because many move or are deceased and we do not have up-to-date information for them unless they contact us themselves. Would it become necessary to keep the database open constantly for updates? The mailings to the Locals need to remain in printed form. A couple copies could be posted at work for those who opt-out. This is a plan that could be phased in. Some believe that keeping hard copies available is important because they are a great education tool and issue topics have been known to incite discussion in the workplace. We could also set it up that it can be attached as a .pdf file or as a link. Richard said Bruce Christensen has gone to the trouble of setting the current issue up on the website so it is searchable (but he also needs to put the link to the current issue in the download section.)

Senza has been great this year, quality and articles have been great.

There was further discussion about the opt-out option, and it was agreed to develop this idea further next conference with the delegates.

Deadline for first issue will be September 10. Articles will include Bruce and Brian's officer speeches, Laura's conference report, the LCC/PCC speech, and any newsletters that have been submitted. There could also be delegate follow-up on their communication with their local.

Website – We will post many of the conference presentations and speeches on the website.

Orchestra-L – There was discussion about material from Orchestra-L that is used as source material for articles. When information about orchestras is used, there should still be follow up with musicians in those orchestras and the orchestras' Locals.

Mid-winter will be expanded to two days – everyone is available Saturday, January 2 & Sunday, January 3, 2010. We will try to work with the same hotel as last year's meeting in Chicago, near O'Hare.

Media Committee – There was further discussion about the new Integrated Media Agreement.

Conference in Houston – Michael will send the hotels that are being considered.

Chris asked for the appointment of someone on the joint Wage Chart committee – Brian. If additional people are needed - Matt, Peter de Boer was recommended and Richard said if there were any OSR questions, he'd like to participate. There was a brief discussion about how to get access to the OSRs.

Directory – There is a deadline for delegate corrections and additions; Paul, Brian and Richard will discuss the option of keeping the database open. Brian and Paul will enter corrections after the next *Senza* return to sender newsletters are received.

Negotiating orchestra meeting – there were more than the usual number of orchestras participating because of contract re-openers, but we do not want to divide the group. Perhaps there could be some sort of structure to the meeting, allowing it to be moderated and instructive.

Bylaws – Richard suggested it would be a good time to review the bylaws. We need a bylaw review committee. Laura reminded everyone that certain changes require full orchestra ratification. Brian will chair the committee. Richard, Laura, and Michael will assist.

MALs should send out a note to their delegates so they can report on the call what is going on in various orchestras. We will include Mike Okun on calls as needed. If there are questions, Bruce can forward them to Mike for further clarification.

First call - Sunday, Sept. 20 - 9PM EDT/ 8PM CDT/ 6PM PDT