

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY (ATOS)**

**MARRIOTT TAMPA - WATERSIDE HOTEL  
TAMPA, FLORIDA**

**May 23-29, 2006**

The Annual Meeting of the ATOS Board of Directors was called to order by Gus Franklin, President, at 9:00 A.M., Tuesday, May 23, 2006. The President noted that the meeting would generally follow the agenda distributed to the members.

The meeting was conducted following Robert's Rules of Order.

The Secretary, Jack Moelmann, conducted the roll call: Officers present: Gus Franklin, President; Bob Davidson, Vice President; Jack Moelmann, Secretary; and Paul Van Der Molen, Treasurer. Directors present: Dan Bellomy, Mike Cierski, Jelani Eddington, Russell Holmes, Ed Mullins, Nelson Page, Carlton Smith, and Jeff Weiler. Also present was John Riester, Youth Representative to the Board. Also present were newly elected Directors Michael Fellenzer, Don Near, and Doug Powers. Staff members present: Mike Kinerk, Convention Planning Coordinator; John Ledwon, ATOS Marketplace Manager; Jim Merry, Executive Secretary, and Jim Patak, Archivist. Staff Member excused: Tom DeLay. Staff Members absent: Allen Miller and Dale Baker. Attending the meeting as ATOS members and observers: Dolores Patak, John Valentino, Allan France, Jane and Warren Tisdale, Donna Parker, and Susan Cole-Shaw.

It was noted that the proceedings would be recorded; however, the recording was only being made to assist the Secretary in the preparation of the minutes of the meeting and would not be available to anyone else for any reason.

The minutes of the Board of Directors' Mid-year Meeting held in St. Louis, Missouri, January 7, 2006, were approved as distributed to the Board and Staff Members. {Motion: Moelmann – Unanimous}

The Treasurer gave his report (attached) and it was approved. It was also requested that the fiscal year end on April 30. The six month period would end on October 31. This would allow sufficient time to get all reports processed and prepared on a consistent annual and semi-annual time period. This would be a change to para 7.1 of the bylaws and would be pending approval of the IRS. {Motion: Moelmann – Unanimous}

There was nothing to report from the Financial Review Committee.

Annual reports (attached) were approved for file as sent and distributed. {Motion: Page – Unanimous}

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Because of problems with and between the New York Chapter and ATOS, a representative from the New York Chapter was invited to address the Board. Allan France and John Valentino were present for such purpose. John Valentino, a member of their Board of Directors, was the spokesman. When asked if he represented the New York Chapter and/or the New York Theatre Organ Society, he indicated that he was representing himself. The main area of discussion concerned the 2007 Convention to be held in the New York area and where a legal action had taken place. The legal action had come to settlement and no further action was necessary.

2. Ratified the Executive Committee e-mail vote to provide Dan Bellomy, the Web Site Manager, a new computer system at the cost of \$1802.00. {Motion: Moelmann – Unanimous}

Discussion continued about Dan Bellomy being given responsibility for the entire activity involving the ATOS web site including the ATOS Domain which is currently being managed by and wants to be retained by Michael Fellenzer. No action was taken but the situation will be investigated further by the Publications Manager.

3. The agenda item dealing with officer term limits had been tabled at the mid-year Board Meeting. There was some discussion with most of it from Jelani Eddington's report on the subject. The item was taken off the table but was not passed or defeated.

4. Motion by Dan Bellomy on 3/9/06: "The New York Chapter's Charter be suspended for a period of 30 days and that if the Chapter is not in compliance with the UCCA by that time that their Charter be revoked." An e-mail vote was taken which was defeated by having less than unanimous consent. The events since that time, within the New York Chapter, resulted in the item being overcome by events which no longer made it a valid issue. The item was closed.

5. Ratified the Executive Committee vote of 4/6/06 to retain an attorney and provide written notice to the New York Chapter concerning the apparent dispute over the 2007 New York Convention. {Motion: Moelmann – Unanimous}

6. Ratified the Executive committee e-mail vote of 4/17/06 to extend the Executive Secretary's contract, which expired April 30, to the end of May with no changes made to it. {Motion: Moelmann – Unanimous}

7. Ratified the Executive Committee e-mail vote of 4/26/06 approving \$540 for the purchase of a new printer for the Executive Secretary needed for the production of various documents. {Motion: Moelmann – Unanimous}

8. Ratified the Executive Committee phone vote of 4/28/06 authorizing \$5,000 as a settlement of the New York Convention dispute between the attorneys involved. {Motion: Moelmann – Unanimous}

Further discussion ensued. Copies of the agreement between the New York Chapter lawyer and ATOS were made and distributed to the Board for review. While there was much discussion concerning the expenses associated with the New York Area Convention and its feasibility, no action was taken.

9. Mike Kinerk and Bob Davidson gave a report on the Tampa Convention. At the time, there were approximately 420 people registered for the Convention. Reasons given for a lower attendance were perhaps the earlier than normal time for the Convention and the last issue of Journal being late.

10. Concerning what has been referred to as the Smithsonian Theatre Organ Project, Nelson Page and Jeff Weiler reported on failed efforts to find a home for the Lowell Ayars Wurlitzer. It was suggested that the money of donors be returned and a letter concerning the status and/or termination of the project be put into the Journal. It was suggested that a final recommendation on the project be made at the mid-year Board Meeting with perhaps a final recommendation to refund the monies collected. There could be legal obligations concerning IRS issues on returning the money. No action was taken at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

11. Outgoing President and Board Member Gus Franklin, outgoing Vice President Bob Davidson, and outgoing Directors Dan Bellomy and Jeff Weiler were recognized for outstanding service to ATOS.

12. Newly elected members to the Board of Directors were seated:

Michael Fellenzer

Don Near

Doug Powers

[The meeting went into executive session for the appointment of Officers with the nine elected Board members remaining as well as Jack Moelmann, Secretary, and John Riestler, Youth Representative to the Board.]

13. Appointment of Officers for 2006-2007: (appointed by the nine elected Board Members)

President – Bob Davidson and Donna Parker were each nominated by themselves.

Each candidate was individually invited into the meeting and gave an opening statement and then a question and answer period followed. A group discussion then followed without the candidates being present.

Secret ballot vote: Bob Davidson – 5 votes, Donna Parker – 4 votes.

Bob Davidson was declared the new President.

Vice President – Dan Bellomy and Michael Fellenzer were each nominated by themselves.

The candidates agreed to have themselves each present during opening statements and the question and answer period.

Secret ballot vote: Dan Bellomy – 3 votes, Michael Fellenzer – 6 votes.

Michael Fellenzer was declared the Vice President.

Secretary – Jack Moelmann {nominated by Jelani Eddington – Vote: Unanimous}

Treasurer – Paul Van Der Molen {nominated by Ed Mullins – Vote: Unanimous}

[Break for Lunch]

[The remainder of the meeting was presided over by the new President, Bob Davidson.]

14. The following Archive Collections Policy for the ATOS Archives was approved: The American Theatre Organ Society Archive actively pursues the acquisition and preservation of historic, primary research materials specifically related to the theatre pipe organ, theatre organists, and the corporate activities of ATOS and its chapters. These materials include photos, stoplists, and specifications of theatre organ installations; contracts, correspondence, blueprints, engineering documents, and business records pertaining to theatre organ installations and theatre organ builders; photos, correspondence, performance contracts, programs, recordings and scores as they relate specifically to the activities of theatre organists and theatre organ personalities; books, drafts, transcripts, lectures, interviews and other publications related to the theatre pipe organ; silent film scores, pedagogues, and music specifically composed, arranged, or adapted for the theatre organ; oral histories, written reminiscences, and other documents or artifacts relating specifically to the theatre organ.

{Motion: Moelmann – Unanimous}

15. A new Chapter, the Great Lakes Chapter, was approved. The Chapter's area of operation includes Western and Central Michigan as well as Northern Indiana. {Motion: Mullins – Unanimous}

16. There was a suggestion to revisit/change the last sentence of paragraph 4 of the Uniform Chapter Charter Agreement which currently reads: "*ATOS will not sponsor any activity in the Chapter's operational area unless the parties mutually agree*" to something else less controversial as in the New York situation. No action was taken.

17. A resignation by Joy Stephens, Parliamentarian, was received and accepted. Jeff Weiler was appointed as the new Parliamentarian.

18. The following grants were awarded from the Endowment Fund for 2006:

The Central Ohio Chapter was awarded \$1500 for the purchase of a post horn for the Worthington High School Chapter Wurlitzer.

The Central Florida Chapter was awarded \$750 toward the purchase of a Wurlitzer Toy Counter for the Pinella Park Auditorium Wurlitzer.

{Motion: Davidson – Unanimous}

19. A generic ATOS memorial fund will be established for donations to the endowment fund in memory of lost ones. The chair of the Endowment Fund is to establish the details of the memorial fund.

{Motion: Moelmann - Unanimous}

20. The Trustees for the Endowment Fund were appointed for 2006-2007:

Michael Fellenzer - Chairman  
Nelson Page - Board Member and Recording Secretary  
Paul Van Der Molen - Financial Secretary (Treasurer)  
Alden Stockebrand - Member  
Bob Maney - Member

{Motion: Moelmann – Unanimous}

21. Marketplace: The Wurlitzer Books need to be shipped to California for storage and sale. The Shop Notes need to be revised. Bob Davidson will discuss the matter with Allen Miller on how best to proceed with the Shop Notes.

22. Bob Miloche was appointed as the chair of the Nominations Committee. Fern Siemens will continue to serve as the election teller. {Motion: Eddington – Unanimous}  
There was some discussion about possible discrepancies in the vote counting. Since the report had already been accepted, it would stand as is.

23. The Electronic Theatre Organ Competition may combine age categories (junior and adult) as needed if there are insufficient entries in any given year. This is in line with a similar action which can be taken in the Young Theatre Organist Competition. This action to be determined by the Committee.

24. The definition of “professional” in the various organist competitions may need to be investigated and possibly be made less stringent. Perhaps a ceiling of payment for playing might be considered. Jelani Eddington will assist in working out a solution.

25. Publications Review: Jeff Weiler is investigating printing services to save money. Jane and Warren Tisdale were assigned as Associate Editors to edit the Chapter News of the Journal. Dan Bellomy was to have complete responsibility for the ATOS Web Site.

[Tom Hoehn and Richard Mogridge joined the meeting.]

26. Dan Bellomy and Michael Fellenzer are to work together to achieve a professional design of the ATOS Web Site. This may involve contracting with a professional web site designer. Jelani Eddington offered to provide some assistance. This to be done by the mid-year Board Meeting.

27. Mike Kinerk stated that there may be a need to have the Mid-year Board Meeting at the Marriott in New York to deal with the room block issue. No action was taken.

28. The Summer Camp for 2006 had been cancelled due to lack of participation. Mike Cierski is to work on a final proposal for a 2007 program by October 1st. Opening the event to adults should also be considered. The \$5,000 budget item was retained from last year.

29. In addition to the four officers, Don Near and Nelson Page were appointed to the Executive Committee.

{Motion: Davidson – Unanimous}

30. The Committees for 2006-2007 were approved. {Motion: Moelmann – Unanimous}  
Committee Chairs were appointed by the President. The Committees and Chairpersons are:

Acquisitions & Expansions – Nelson Page  
Awards and Recognition – Don Near  
Archive/Library – Jim and Delores Patak  
ATOS International News – Dan Bellomy  
Bylaws – Jelani Eddington  
Chapter Relations – Ed Mullins

Convention Planning – Mike Kinerk  
David L. Junchen Technical Scholarship – Carlton Smith  
Education & Archival Liaison – Carlton Smith  
Electronics Organs (ETONES) – Jack Moelmann  
Electronic Theatre Organ Competition – Bob Acker  
Endowment Fund – Michael Fellenzer  
Historian – Tom DeLay  
Inner-City Youth Program – Ed Mullins  
Membership – Paul Van Der Molen  
Mentor Program – Dan Bellomy  
Nominations - Board Elections – Bob Miloche  
Organist Scholarships – Doug Powers  
Public Relations – Donna Parker  
Publications Review – Nelson Page  
Publisher – Nelson Page  
Restoration and Preservation – Allen Miller  
Simonton Literary Prize – Michael Fellenzer  
Strategic Planning – Soug Powers  
Technical – Carlton Smith  
Technical Consultation Program – Carlton Smith  
ATOS Hobbyist Competition – Don Near  
Young Theatre Organist Competition – Russell Holmes  
Youth Initiatives – Jelani Eddington  
George Wright Memorial Fellowship – Jelani Eddington  
Theatre Organ Instructor Lists – Jelani Eddington  
Theatre Organ Student of the Year – John Riester  
Theatre Organ Workshops – Mike Cierski

31. The current membership of ATOS was 4,180 as of April 30, 2006, which was down from 4367 as reported in July 2005.
32. The Executive Secretary's contract was renewed for the period June 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007 at the rate of \$2,000 per month which represents an increase of \$500 per month. {Motion: Fellenzer – Unanimous}
33. The Budget for 2006-2007, as amended, was approved. {Motion: Moelmann – Unanimous}
34. Concerning a mass mailing to Chapter Presidents and Secretaries, it was suggested that most of the information be placed on the web site and that a smaller mailing with an abbreviated synopsis of the various programs be sent to the Chapter Presidents and Secretaries as a smaller first class mailing. Inputs should be sent to Michael Fellenzer not later than August 31 who will put the mailing together.
35. Paragraph 4.3 of the bylaws was revised to delete the requirement to have a "withhold" space on the election ballot. Specifically (1) strike the remainder of the sentence following the word "surname" in the third full paragraph of Section 4.3; (2) strike the final sentence of the third full paragraph of Section 4.3 beginning with the word "Any" and ending with the word "Directors." And (3) replace the comma following the word "surname" in the third full paragraph of Section 4.3 with a period. {Motion: Eddington – Unanimous}
36. Elected Director, Michael Fellenzer, resigned his seat on the Board but remained as the appointed Vice President. Donna Parker was appointed to fill the vacancy. {Motion: Eddington – Unanimous}
37. A mid-year meeting of the Board of Directors will be held in January 2007 in the Chicago Suburb Area. January 11th will be a travel day, the 12th will be for Strategic Planning, the Board Meeting will be held on the 13th, and the 14th will be the return travel day.
38. More discussion ensued concerning the feasibility of the 2007 New York Convention focused primarily around costs of registration and hotel and the projected attendance. No action was taken.

[Break for the day]

[The meeting reconvened at 8:00 A.M. on Wednesday, May 24.]

39. The new Chapter Liaison assignments were made by Ed Mullins and distributed to the Board Members.

40. Discussion continued about the location of the Mid-year Board Meeting. It was determined that it would be held in the Chicago Area Suburbs on the dates listed above.

41. A policy concerning the announcement of the annual election procedures was changed to the following: Candidate résumés are to be sent to the Nominating Committee Chairperson. It is strongly recommended that nominations be sent via "return receipt" or similar mail class if international. Nominations may also be sent digitally; however, the sender MUST verify receipt of the nomination by the Chairperson.

{Motion: Fellenzer – Unanimous}

42. It was agreed that applicable word counts and membership verification in election nominations and any other programs where membership verification is required should be done when the various documents are received. This would give time for the submitter to make any changes. Appropriate job descriptions should be changed to indicate this policy. {Motion: Fellenzer – Unanimous}

43. A generic statement should be developed for the announcement of the appointment of Officers. Jelani to develop such a statement. {Motion: Eddington – Unanimous}

44. It was highly suggested that meeting agenda items be provided to the Secretary well in advance of the applicable meeting.

45. The next Annual ATOS Membership Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2007 Annual Convention with the specific time and date and place to be announced in the *Theatre Organ* Journal.

46. Concerning the 2007 Convention in the New York area, no motion was made and thus no further action was taken. Everyone was encouraged to talk it up and encourage a large participation as it will be a great convention.

[The meeting recessed at 9:00 A.M.]

[The remainder of the morning, 9:00-11:00 A.M., was devoted to a preliminary meeting concerning Strategic Planning with Russell Holmes serving as the facilitator. No minutes of the meeting were taken however handouts were provided.]

[The Board Meeting was reconvened by the President in a hotel suite Saturday, May 27, at 8:00 A.M. All Officers and Directors were present; staff members were excused but could attend if they wanted to. John Riester was considered absent.]

47. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the code of ethics which was reinforced by the President. In addition, there was a need to safeguard "confidential" information, a definition of which was questioned. The Board Members were cautioned about talking to ATOS members concerning information which may not have been finalized or formally announced.

Everyone was cautioned about posting notes on the internet using ATOS signature blocks when the information being posted may be nothing more than personal opinion.

[The meeting recessed at 8:47 to attend the Member's Forum.]

[The Board Meeting was reconvened at the end of the Awards Banquet to have a photo taken and to adjourn the meeting.]

Note: During the course of the convention, a letter of resignation was received by e-mail from Harry Heth who resigned as the Editor of the "ATOS International News" effective with the July/August 2006 issue. The Publications Manager, Nelson Page, appointed Dan Bellomy as the Editor of the "ATOS International News" effective with the September/October 2006 issue.

Note: Desk Reference Binders were redistributed to Bob Davidson, Michael Fellenzer, Donna Parker, Doug Powers, and Don Near.

The Meeting was adjourned at the Awards Banquet on Monday, May 29, 2006, at 9:15 P.M.  
A group photo was also taken at the conclusion of the Banquet.  
{Motion: Moelmann – Unanimous}

Respectfully submitted,

JACK MOELMANN, Secretary

ATTACHMENTS:

President - Gus Franklin

Vice President - Bob Davidson

Secretary - Jack Moelmann

Treasurer - Paul Van Der Molen

Dan Bellomy Reports:

Awards and Recognition

Hobbyist Competition

Mentor Program

Web Site transition

Executive Secretary - Jim Merry

Carlton Smith Reports:

Scholarship Committee

Technical Committee

Volunteer Technician of the Year

Technical Consultation

Marketplace - John Ledwon

Russell Holmes Reports:

Young Theatre Organist Competition

Public Relations

Archives/Library - Jim Patak

Electronic Organ Group (ETONES) - Jack Moelmann (*Nothing to report*)

Board Election Results - Fern Siemens

Jeff Weiler Reports - Education Committee

Wurlitzer Book and Calendar

David L. Junchen Scholarship

Simonton Literary Prize

Financial Review Committee

ATOS Archives

ATOS Advertising

*THEATRE ORGAN*

Bylaws - Jelani Eddington

Jelani Eddington Reports - Youth Initiatives:

Youth Representative

George Wright Memorial Fellowship

Referral Lists

Summer Workshop Initiative

Ed Mullins Reports:

Chapter Relations

Inner-City Youth Program

Convention Planning - Mike Kinerk

Publications Manager & Publisher - Nelson Page  
Journal  
Web Site  
Smithsonian Wurlitzer Project  
2007 Convention Co-Chair Report  
Restoration and Preservation - Allen Miller  
*ATOS International News* - Harry Heth  
Mike Cierski Reports:  
ATOS Summer Camp  
Strategic Planning  
Endowment Fund Grant Program - Bob Davidson  
Electronic Theatre Organ Competition - Bob Acker  
Youth Representative - John Riestler  
Theatre Organ Student of the Year  
Michael Fellenzer Reports:  
Advertising Manager  
Web Site  
Wurlitzer Book & Calendar  
Executive Secretary  
Agenda  
Roll Call  
Bob Davidson - President nominee  
Donna Parker - President nominee  
Dan Bellomy - Vice President nominee  
Michael Fellenzer - Vice President nominee  
  
REPORTS NOT RECEIVED OR DISTRIBUTED:  
Historian - Tom DeLay  
*Theatre Organ* Journal Editor - Dale Baker