

Minutes from the North American Brass Band Association
Board of Directors Meeting
April 12, 2007
Indiana University Southeast, New Albany, IN

Members present: Eric Aho, Barb Burtch, Anita Cocker Hunt (president), John de Salme (vice president), Linda A. Detman (secretary), Paul Droste, Jim Grate (treasurer), Susan Henthorn, Diana Herak, Jackson Hill, Joe Johnson, Rusty Morris, Sara North, Susan Reigler, Tom Scheibner (contest controller), Quentin Sharpenstein, Kevin Stees, Doug Yeo, Linda Yeo

Guests: Joanna Goldstein, Frank North

Members absent: John Copella, Tony Granados, Ron Holz, Julie Vish, Keith Wilkinson

Meeting begins at 7:03 p.m. with a welcome from President Hunt.

Old Business

The first order of business was the minutes from the Summer Board Meeting. Joe Johnson made a motion to accept minutes as written; Rusty Morris seconded—motion passed unanimously. Jim Grate noted the minutes had been previously approved by email in August 2006.

Joanna Goldstein gave a quick update on competition site preparations. In perhaps the biggest understatement of the day, she said she was tired, but efforts were well underway to have everything set up and in its proper place for the Friday solo and ensemble competitions, as well as band rehearsals and the Saturday competition.

Jim Grate presented the treasurer's report for 2006, noting a total net worth (as of 4/5/07) of \$52,972. Jim Grate also presented membership information to the Board noting 39 band memberships (up from 33 in 2006) and 1,090 memberships for 2007. Event insurance for the gala concert was secured 4-11-07; liability insurance in the event the NABBA Board is sued for any reason was obtained from Philadelphia Insurance Company at a cost of \$900 for \$1 million in coverage. Long term, climate controlled storage space has been rented in Sellersburg Indiana so that contest and other NABBA-related equipment and materials can be stored close to IUS (about four miles away). Diana Herak volunteered to weed out the archive of materials currently being housed in Eric Aho's storage unit—she noted there were a number of duplicates of prior year programs. Susan Henthorn suggested at least one original program must be retained per archiving standards.

Jim provided a printout with information on the number of hits on the NABBA website. Doug Yeo has been working with Jim on other websites embedded within the NABBA site [nabbabridge.org and nabbamusic.org].

Jim has reserved the Brown Theater for next year's gala concert, Saturday, March 28, 2008. There was discussion about the number of seats available at the Brown; Jim noted 26 seats are reserved—10 for the band that performs the gala, and 16 for the NABBA Board.

Doug Yeo presented to the NABBA Board the stand banners, competition winner banners, and small keepsake banners (available for purchase during contest weekend) provided by TOR Designs. Board members were very impressed with the high quality of the banners and agreed they would add a classy element to the competition.

Doug Yeo presented the Bridge report. Five issues of the Bridge have been published since Doug assumed the editorship; he anticipates five more issues to come out between May 2007 and February 2008. He provided statistics on the number of downloads by resolution type for the

five issues he has edited so far. There were nine paid advertisements in the Bridge issues 99-103 resulting in \$540 of income for NABBA; seven ads for NABBA bands and festivals were provided gratis. There are 13 ads scheduled for issues 104-108 with an expected income for NABBA of \$860. In closing his report, Doug said: "The Bridge has been successful for 25 years and continues to be."

Anita Cocker Hunt began the discussion of the competition program for NABBA XXV. She had inquired to Jay Cohen who had taken responsibility for assembling the program about getting the final program and was eventually able to get a draft that Jay said was ready to go to print. Anita sent it to Jim Grate to look over because if there were errors in it, NABBA was not going to pay for it. Jim Grate and Doug Yeo looked over the information Jay provided and determined it used old technology, was missing pages and information on contesting bands, and was generally unacceptable. Doug Yeo volunteered to take what Jay provided and put together a program, two weeks before contest. Doug worked with what was usable of the information provided and queried bands to resend information and photos (the resolution quality on the materials provided was too poor for decent printing). He managed to produce a 64 page program with 28 pages of ads for \$3,500 including shipping, almost half the cost previously estimated. Jay Cohen offered his resignation from the Board which President Hunt accepted.

Doug Yeo presented information about a NABBA Board website on which to begin conducting board business during the year. He noted doing business online requires certain rules and that communication by email was sometimes unnecessarily restricted. A website devoted to board business will provide a better way to communicate with each other. Doug worked with a friend and fellow trombonist to develop and provide the website to the Board at no cost. Doug distributed a set of guidelines to the Board as well as login names and passwords. He noted the site is still evolving, but that everyone should try to log on and take a look around. Using such a site should help the Board be in compliance with increasing rules for conducting business for nonprofit organizations. Doug also noted that a site that can be downloaded to mobile devices has been established [www.nabba.mobi].

The competition update report was given by contest controller, Tom Scheibner. Tom remarked on his debt of gratitude to Joanna Goldstein for her tremendous efforts in preparing the competition venues and to Jim Grate for getting the various lists and schedules together for the competition. There are 28 bands entered in the contest, the limit for the contest as it is currently held. Tom noted the consistency of the competition site at IUS has been a positive for NABBA. The Reading Band will be held Friday evening; President Hunt noted that all board members need to report to the Reading Band venue at 7:15 p.m. for the required annual membership meeting. The annual membership meeting is required by NABBA bylaws and is a chance to inform the NABBA membership of the Board's activities. Tom reiterated that the new stand banners will add a nice visual element to the competition this year and that band members have been "warned" not to remove them from the competition stage. Board members working in each venue will count the banners after each performance to make sure they are accounted for.

President Hunt and Tom Scheibner went over assignments and responsibilities for those working at the competition and answered Board member questions. There will be a NABBA table at the registration desk to sell NABBA items including pins, programs, T-shirts, commemorative banners, and CDs from NABBA bands. A book on the history of NABBA, written by Diana Herak, will also be available for purchase.

Paul Droste submitted a written report on the income from the vendors' exhibits, program and Bridge ads. There will be 16 exhibitors at the competition this year, up from 13 the previous year. Revenue from the ads and exhibits for this year is \$11,610, an increase over last year. Paul noted NABBA is moving in a positive direction regarding ads and exhibits with the increase in number over the last year. He also reported that the clinics scheduled for Friday had been willingly filled by this year's adjudicators; he urged Board members to encourage people to attend the clinics.

Joe Johnson then spoke about his work to obtain support from Buffet Crampon for the NABBA Championships. Buffet Crampon provided \$10,000 to support the championships this year; in return they are getting three tables at the exhibit and a centerfold and back cover ad in the contest program. Joe encouraged Board members to speak with the Buffet Crampon personnel at the exhibits and thank them for their support. The Board applauded Joe's efforts on behalf of NABBA. President Hunt thanked Joe for his efforts and reiterated the need for members to thank Buffet Crampon; she also mentioned Yamaha was approached about sponsoring the competition, but they refused. Joe also reported on getting NABBA pins manufactured for sale at the contest—he said he got the artwork and sent it out to get the pins made.

Sara North brought the t-shirts and trophies for the competition and related her actions to quickly rectify the problem with the improper date being inscribed on the trophies. She asked if there was any way the t-shirts and other items from last year's competition might be made available for sale online; Jim Grate agreed to look into the possibility.

Next, Diana Herak talked about the NABBA history book she compiled and passed around a copy for Board members to review. She said the book would be available during the competition weekend for \$25 and all proceeds would go to the Silver Bells campaign.

John deSalme, NABBA Vice President, discussed the recording of the year contest. He distributed information to the board about the contest regarding rules, qualifying date, adjudication, entry fee, and other items. Efforts are underway to secure a judge with no official affiliation with NABBA or any of its bands to adjudicate the contest. Doug Yeo noted that he will include information on entering the contest in the last three issues of the Bridge this year.

President Hunt opened the discussion on ideas for the Gala Concert in 2008. At the summer board meeting it was decided that the NABBA championship bands might perform the choice piece portion of their competition during the time allotted for the gala. She mentioned receiving a note from Ron Holz regarding the idea of the Lexington Brass Band serving as the gala band should NABBA decide to go with having only the winning Champion band performing its choice piece as part of the gala. Discussion ensued about the logistics and time needed to conduct part of the contest during the gala. Rusty Morris asked if we could consider starting the gala earlier than usual, perhaps at 6 p.m. Eric Aho remarked that Brass Band of Columbus would refuse to participate in NABBA that year if they had to play at two different times; he felt the band would not want to get prepared to play twice in one day. Joe Johnson felt there were some difficult logistical considerations to hammer out that might make it very difficult to do the contest at two different times. There was also some discussion about when to announce the winners of the solo, ensemble, and other division band contests. Doug Yeo noted NABBA might need to consider moving the contest to start on Friday or else consider limiting the number of bands who could enter the contest.

Susan Reigler felt it would be reasonable to announce the winners of other contests in between bands as they were setting up. She also said it might be possible to get the local public radio station to get a streaming audio live feed of the contest for world wide broadcast. Tom Scheibner remarked that he felt it was the sentiment of the Board at the last meeting to give this alternative a try. Eric Aho threw out the idea of considering a test-piece only contest. Paul Droste noted that NABBA has tried things before and adjusted back when needed and he felt it was worth trying this alternative for at least a year. Eric Aho said he felt the contest committee need to hash out all the angles before going forward. Doug Yeo said he thought the Board had already decided to do the contest this way and that they need to start now to figure out how it is going to work. Susan Henthorn said she consulted the minutes from the last board meeting and verified the board decided to do the contest in this manner. President Hunt concluded the discussion saying the contest committee will need to get to work immediately. She then moved on to briefly discuss the gala for 2009—she thinks it would be nice in the future to invite a British band or other top contesting band from another country to the contest and asked everyone to keep their ears open

about bands that may be touring the US in upcoming years during our contest time. Paul Droste said he thought a New Zealand band may be in the country that year.

The next order of business was the election of officers. Susan Reigler is working to put together the slate of officers for consideration; the offices of president, vice president, and treasure are up for consideration. So far there is one nomination for president, Rusty Morris, and one nomination for vice president, Doug Yeo; nominations must be submitted by September 1, 2007. July 1, 2007 is the date to notify President Hunt about the intention of current board members to remain on the board. Board members up for renewal are: Anita Cocker Hunt, John de Salme, Jim Grate, Eric Aho, Barb Burtch, John Copella, Diana Herak, Sara North, Quentin Sharpenstein, and Don Stine. Voting on board members takes place July 10 and is voted by current board members—each prospect must get 50% of votes for approval; members are notified of the results by July 15. There are currently two vacancies on the board.

The next NABBA Board meeting is scheduled for Friday-Saturday, September 14-15, 2007, at Indiana University Southeast.

New business

Jim Grate brought up the issue of granting life memberships to NABBA. He noted that only one of the past presidents did not yet have a life membership, Tom Palmatier, who will be serving as an adjudicator this weekend. Eric Aho moved to give Tom Palmatier a life membership to NABBA, Susan Reigler seconded—motion passed unanimously. President Hunt will present this life membership during the NABBA annual meeting on Friday. Jim Grate then noted that NABBA would soon have another past president without a life membership when President Hunt steps down in the fall. Doug Yeo moved to give all departing NABBA presidents a life membership; Linda Yeo seconded—motion passed unanimously.

President Hunt announced that Jackson Hill would be resigning from the Board effective after the competition; she thanked him for his many years of service to the Board.

Susan Henthorn distributed information to the Board on the proper archiving of NABBA materials and questions to consider in selecting a location for the archives.

President Hunt thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and expressed appreciation for the active participation of the Board in the competition weekend.

Joe Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting; Linda Yeo seconded—motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Detman, NABBA Secretary