



MINUTES—NYTOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: (revised draft)

Saturday, January 20, 2018, Fenton Room Cadet Chapel, West Point, NY

Present: John Vanderlee, Chairman; Grant Chapman, Vice-Chairman; Tom Stehle, Acting Secretary; Bro. Robert Lahey, Treasurer; Joe Amato, John Valentino

Not Present, but connected by speaker phone: Dan Minervini, Nick Myers, Dan Rousseau

Absent: Paul McMahan, Anders Sterner

John Vanderlee called the meeting to order at 12:50 p.m. In the absence of Paul McMahan, John Vanderlee asked Tom Stehle to take the minutes.

1. Nomination and Election of Officers & Board Election Results: The following members were nominated to serve as officers: John Vanderlee, Chairman; Grant Chapman, Vice-Chairman; John Valentino, Secretary; Bro. Rob Lahey, Treasurer. All were elected to those positions by unanimous vote. Since the by-laws allow for an additional vice-chairman, John Vanderlee proposed appointing Dan Rousseau to serve as Vice-chairman of Communications and Media. The board so approved.

John Vanderlee also reviewed the election results and pointed out that we have not been following the letter of the by-laws with regard to nomination and election procedures which should be done by committee. The board election results were as follows: Tom Stehle, 44 votes; Joe Amato, 39 votes; Dan Rousseau, 33 votes; John Valentino, 32 votes; Nick Myers, 31 votes. There were no write-in candidates. The four candidates receiving the greatest number of votes were elected. The board voted to appoint Nick Myers to fill a vacant seat. Of the 101 ballots that were mailed to eligible voting chapter members, 47 were received by Lowell Sanders, the official ballot teller. The term of board member Steven Frank expired at the end of 2017, and he chose not to run for another term.

Board of Directors for 2018 is:

- John Vanderlee, Chairman
- Grant Chapman, Vice-Chairman
- Dan Rousseau, Vice-Chairman of Media Communications
- John Valentino, Secretary
- Brother Robert Lahey, Treasurer
- Joe Amato
- Paul McMahan (Recording Assistant to the secretary—minutes)
- Dan Minervini (Membership assistant to the secretary-database)
- Nick Myers (Assistant to Vice-chair of Media Communications)
- Thomas Stehle (Chapter Historian)
- Anders R. Sterner

2. Review Minutes of previous meeting: (October 28, 2017 at Chaminade HS). Minutes had been prepared by Paul McMahan and sent to members by email. Minutes were accepted and approved. (J. Val; J. Amato). Dan Rousseau recommended that a draft of the minutes should be sent out within two weeks of the board meeting in PDF form. It was further recommended that board members review the minutes and send any corrections to the secretary who will send out a final corrected copy no later than four weeks after the meeting. The board members agreed with these recommendations.



3 Secretary's Report: (Tom Stehle) Printed report had been sent by email. Current membership is 179, the same as was reported at the October meeting. Five new members have joined since the last report, but four were dropped after not renewing in spite of several reminders, and one, Alan Lush, passed away. The dropped members were added to mailing lists for various venues. Tom requested to have Nick Myers return the NYTOS laptop so that Tom can update the membership files in it; they are up to date in his Tom's desktop and laptop computers. Also, since Dan Minervini is in charge of maintaining the files, Tom suggested meeting with Dan and trying to transfer the files to Dan's computer. Tom's report included a listing of the number of members by level and by geographic distribution. 76 members (46%) joined above the basic \$20 level. 64 members choose to receive the *Horseshoe* by email. 6 members paid their dues using PayPal. Report accepted. (DM; JVal)

4. Treasurer's Report: (Bro. Rob Lahey) Bro. Rob had sent out financial reports by email and also distributed copies as needed. He reviewed the various accounts and project funds. Alan Lush had made a donation of \$1,000 shortly before he died, and Bro. Rob found that when he tried to deposit the check, Alan's account had been closed and the check was returned. There was discussion about transferring some money from funds that have large balances to those with negative or low balances. Also, it was suggested that NYTOS should have an annual budget. Grant pointed out that by working back from the financial statement, it should be fairly easy to prepare a budget. The board agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting. Treasurer's Report accepted. (GC; TS).

Current Balances: Platinum Savings Account	\$55,208.11
FNBLI Checking Account	<u>\$26,075.54</u>
Total Current Assets-Checking/Savings	\$81,283.65

5. Project Reports:

- a. **John Vanderlee:** John Vanderlee had distributed copies of a printed report that had been sent out by email and distributed copies as needed.
 - i. **Bardavon:** The organ was used for play-in's for a few movies in the fall, and will also be used in the spring; discussing other possible uses with the Bardavon management. It was also used with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic's performance of "Sinfonia Antarctica" in November and Handel's "Messiah" in December. Most of the wind leaks have been repaired. John is working the Terry Nace on installing a new Artisan relay, and plan to make the changeover sometime in the summer. John has two possible buyers for the old relay.
 - ii. **Allen Touring Organ:** "Wonderstruck" film in which the organ was to have been used was very disappointing—it was shown for just three seconds, and was not listed in the credits as promised. There were no shows scheduled at Peconic Landing using the organ in the fall. Next event will be on April 21. The Holiday program at the Poughkeepsie Galleria Mall was a great success. The organ was played for the two weeks leading up to Christmas by five different organists, and vocalist Claire Avakian also performed. Having Claire caused the event to go over budget, but they collected \$1,350 in the tip jar that offset it. The organists, shoppers, and Mall management were very pleased, and the Mall plans to have them back next year.
 - iii. **Gus Pratt Organ:** (FDR High School) Very busy month—played by Carl Hackert for entrance and exit music for chorus and orchestra concerts, also by John



Baratta with John Gagliardi on piano on January 21 for a joint NYTOS/AGO fun event called “Spuds ‘n Sundays” (music and food). On January 26 & 27 Nathan Avakian will be playing for the Dutchess County Music Educators Assn. annual Junior High Music Festival.

Education Program: John Baratta has decided to retire from the teaching program at FDR and turned it over to John Gagliardi who has been taking lessons from John Baratta at John’s home. There are 5 students participating; the main problem is getting them to practice regularly.

- iv. **Trash for Cash:** Working on selling several organs—both Allen and Rodgers instruments. Estimate potential income for the quarter of about \$3,500.
- v. **New Venue in progress:** 4-manual Allen GW 419 with 32 speakers at St. Anthony’s High School in Huntington, LI. Biff Buttler reports that the installation is now complete.

- b. **Joe Amato: LIU—4/26 Wurlitzer:** report sent by email. Due to the Holidays and Joe getting sick, he had not been to LIU since before Thanksgiving, but the organ is in very good shape. Joe said that he was told the contractors wanted another tour through the organ before construction begins in the gym. We plan to remove the regulators from the stage right side of the gym (main and foundation chambers) to be releathered. There are six regulators; the two in the upper chamber (foundation) will have to be lowered to the gym floor by removing several swell shade blades since they won’t fit through the trap door. Joe will meet with Buildings and Grounds personnel. We plan to resume working in the next week or so. As of January 1, the You Tube videos have had the following number of hits: Gus Pratt Allen, 2,463; Ben Hall/Lafayette, 2,688; Middletown Paramount, 2,023; Chaminade HS, 3,416; LIU, 64,929.
- c. **Tom Stehle:** Reports sent by email.
 - i. **Middletown Paramount—3/12 Wurlitzer:** Organ is in very good condition and is playing very well. John Baratta accompanied “Phantom of the Opera” as the finale of the theatre’s annual Halloween “Horror-Thon”, and also plays for special events including ceremonies held by Touro Medical College. Lowell Sanders generally plays the house in for Wednesday matinees. Except for tuning, the organ requires very little maintenance.
 - ii. **Sands Point Preserve—2/8 Wurlitzer:** Joe Amato played the organ on December 3 for the annual Holiday open house. This is the first time the organ had been played publicly since Alan Lush played it for the same event last year. Tom Lloyd, Joe Amato and I spent a day in November working on the organ, fixing dead notes, repairing some problems in the console, tuning it, and getting it into reasonably good playing condition. Tom Lloyd checks on the organ regularly. The Preserve director stated in a thank-you note to Joe Amato that she would like to have the organ played more often, but it is up to her to request it, and I also intend to point out to her that the organists need to be paid.
- d. **Dave Kopp: Lafayette Theatre—2/11 Wurlitzer:** Report sent by email. In March Trivo mitered the bottom six English Horn pipes on the C-side, since the pipes were made by Wicks with “bad” zink and after 25 years, were bending under their own weight. This was not a problem on the # side, since they had originally been mitered to fit under the



percussion “balcony” above. In April the theatre owner had the upright piano that was formerly connected to the organ removed. The piano was in bad shape, and has been replaced with a digital piano. Bruce Courter and I replaced pallets on the clarinet and the kinura that had become stuck. In October Terry Nace installed a delay timer on the console 12 volt power supply to prevent it from blowing fuses and shutting down the combination action which had occurred a few times. In December I replaced all twelve pallets in the 16’ Diaphone chest, since several had warped and hardened due to age and moisture. In December, Don Hayek re-balanced the digital voices to the pipe voices with excellent results, which has increased the dynamic presence of the organ in the auditorium, making the organ more effective with large audiences. The organ continues to be the “star attraction” in the theatre, and is used every Saturday night for the first run movies and for all the Saturday morning “classic” film series. In addition, it is featured at special events throughout the year.

- e. **Nick Myers: United Palace—4/23 Wonder Morton:** Printed report with photos. The theatre is currently closed while surround sound and new curtains are being installed. Project is moving along well. I had a great meeting with the theatre management on Monday re. the restoration of the chamber. The plasterwork and painting is scheduled to begin the end of January or the first week in February. Funding is coming in slowly. The theatre has promised that since they have finished funding the surround sound system and their capital campaign, there will be more focus on the organ. They made a great brochure which is available in the lobby. I am working on refinishing floor frames following Grant Chapman’s specifications. Once the chambers are finished, we can start putting the refinished woodwork back in place. Nick plans to produce another silent film showing later in the year.

6. Other Old Business:

- a. **New York State Charities Registration—**NYTOS should register (per AARP article).

- b. **Re-alignment of Secretarial Duties and Vice-Chair—**John Vanderlee established the following assignment of duties:

- John Valentino--NYTOS Secretary
- Paul McMahon—Recording Assistant to the Secretary (Minutes)
- Dan Minervini—Membership Assistant to the Secretary (Database)*
- Dan Rousseau—Vice Chair of Media Communications (“Horseshoe”, Social Media, Print)
- Nick Myers—Assistant to Vice Chair of Media Communications
- Tom Stehle—Chapter Historian

Since John Valentino will serve as Secretary, his address will serve as the official NYTOS address: 404 E. 55th St. Suite 13B, New York, NY 10022-5138

*Tom Stehle will arrange to meet with Dan Minervini to transfer membership files. Dan will need to acquire and install “My Mailing List” software to copy the files.

- c. **Social Media/Graphic Designs—**Dan Rousseau presented several pages of NYTOS logos that he had designed for the board to review for use on letter head, business cards, etc. as well as a proposed new membership brochure. Members made comments and



suggestions, but in general were very pleased and impressed with the work. Dan will make some revisions within the next week, and present them to the board for a final vote via email.

- d. **Middletown Crew**—Tom Stehle indicated that he would like to retire as crew chief. His other crew members, Lowell Sanders, now 82, and Jack Stone, 92, are also “getting up there in years”. Grant Chapman volunteered to take over. Tom offered to continue to help, and pointed out that the organ normally requires very little maintenance other than tuning.
- e. **Contract Audit**—Dan Rousseau requested to review the contracts that NYTOS has with the various venues. Tom will send him copies.
- f. **Document of Understanding with LIU/Contractors**—Joe Amato will look into this regarding securing the organ during construction in the gym.

7. New Business:

- a. **Alan Lush**-- Alan passed away on December 31, 2017. Since he had been active both helping to maintain the Sands Point and the Chaminade organs and also played for events at those venues, the board voted to make a donation of \$50 in his memory to the Amityville Fire Department of which he was an active member for many years.
- b. **NYTOS Access to St. Anthony H.S. Organ**— 4 manual Allen theatre organ; possible concert venue on Long Island.
- c. **Peter Panos Robert Morton**—Peter Panos, long time ATOS member who lives in Lake Hopatcong, NJ, has an 8 rank Robert Morton theatre organ in his home. He is planning to move to Florida and is willing to give his organ away. GSTOS does not want it. Do we?
- d. **Dave Kopp Wurlitzer**-- Dave Kopp has a fully restored 4/23 Wurlitzer in perfect condition in his home in Mahwah, NJ. He is considering moving south in the next several years and is willing to donate his organ to an appropriate venue.
- e. **Chaminade Show**—Bernie Anderson will be performing on April 7. He will accompany a movie, “Sparrows” starring Mary Pickford.

8. **Next Meeting Date:** April 7, 2018, 1:00 p.m. at Chaminade High School, Mineola, NY.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas J. Stehle, NYTOS Acting Secretary