

Minutes

2008 ROPA Conference

Tuesday, July 29, 2008 – Friday, August 1, 2008

Attendees

Akron Symphony Orchestra
 Allentown Symphony
 Ann Arbor Symphony
 Arizona Opera Orchestra
 Atlanta Opera Orchestra
 Austin Symphony Orchestra
 Boulder Philharmonic
 California Philharmonic
 California Symphony Orchestra
 Canton Symphony Orchestra
 Charleston Symphony Orchestra
 Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra
 Dallas Opera Orchestra
 Delaware Symphony Orchestra
 El Paso Symphony
 Elgin Symphony Orchestra
 Erie Philharmonic Orchestra
 Florida West Coast Symphony
 Fort Wayne Philharmonic
 Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra
 Grand Rapids Symphony
 Hartford Symphony Orchestra
 Hollywood Bowl Orchestra
 Houston Ballet Orchestra
 Houston Grand Opera Orchestra
 Huntsville Symphony Orchestra
 Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra
 Knoxville Symphony Orchestra
 Las Vegas Philharmonic
 Long Beach Symphony Orchestra
 Long Island Philharmonic
 Memphis Symphony Orchestra
 Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra
 Minnesota Opera Orchestra
 Mississippi Symphony Orchestra
 Napa Valley Symphony
 New Haven Symphony Orchestra
 New Mexico Symphony Orchestra
 Oakland East Bay Symphony
 Omaha Symphony Orchestra
 Opera Cleveland

Pacific Symphony
 Palm Beach Opera Orchestra
 Pasadena Pops Orchestra
 Pittsburgh Opera Orchestras
 Portland Opera Orchestra
 Rhode Island Philharmonic
 Richmond Symphony
 Santa Barbara Symphony
 Santa Rosa Symphony
 Shreveport Symphony Orchestra
 South Bend Symphony
 Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra
 Spokane Symphony Orchestra
 Symphony Silicon Valley
 Toledo Symphony Orchestra
 West Virginia Symphony
 Wichita Symphony Orchestra

Associate Members

Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra
 Flint Symphony Orchestra
 Green Bay Symphony Orchestra
 Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra
 Pittsburgh Ballet Orchestra
 Richardson Symphony Orchestra
 Tulsa Opera Orchestra

Member Orchestras Not Represented

Albany Symphony
 Atlanta Ballet Orchestra
 Chattanooga Symphony & Opera Orchestra
 Dayton Philharmonic
 Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra
 Hudson Valley Philharmonic
 Lexington Philharmonic
 Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra
 Los Angeles Opera Orchestra
 Monterey Symphony
 Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra

Proceedings

President Zmich called the Conference to order at 1:06 p.m., Wednesday, August 6, 2003.

Quorum

Secretary Fetherston performed the Roll Call, and determined that there was a quorum, with 55 orchestras represented; 49 Full Members and six Associate Members.

Welcoming Addresses

Ryan Fleur, Executive Director, Memphis Symphony, spoke on leadership.

John Sprott, President, Local 71, and Principal Percussion, Memphis Symphony, addressed the Conference.

Scott Moore, Orchestra Committee Chair, Principal Trumpet, Memphis Symphony, addressed the Conference.

Standing Rules

The Executive Board asked the Conference to adopt The Standing Rules of the 20th ROPA Conference, and the Delegates did so with one dissenting vote.

2002 Minutes

Sharon Street-Caldwell, Las Vegas Philharmonic Delegate, moved to approve the 2002 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer Reports

President Zmich delivered the ROPA President Report.

Vice-President Munday delivered the ROPA Vice-President Report.

Secretary Fetherston delivered the ROPA Secretary Report.

Treasurer Danders delivered the ROPA Treasurer Report.

A Motion was made by Ole Latham, Akron Symphony Delegate, to approve Treasurer Danders' Financial Report. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Karen Barker, West Virginia Symphony Delegate, to adopt Treasurer Danders' Budget for FY 2003-2004. The motion carried unanimously.

SSD Address

Janice Galassi, Director of AFM Symphonic Services Division addressed the Conference, with an overview of the state of regional orchestras and SSD.

Seminar

Patricia Polach, ROPA Counsel, gave a seminar entitled "Labor Law 101 and the Duty of Fair Representation.

Member-at-Large Report

Vice-President Munday and Members-at-Large Britt, Downs, Gardner, and Patterson gave a "Member-at-Large Summary Report." The report outlined some interesting innovative ideas that some orchestras are using for fund raising, and awareness raising, as well as some of the cost containment measures that some orchestra managements are implementing.

Seminar

Paul McCarthy, President of Collective Bargaining Associates, gave a seminar entitled "Developing Regional Orchestra Bargaining Unit Preparedness and Power."

2004 Conference Location Presentations

Sharon Street-Caldwell, Las Vegas Philharmonic Delegate, offered Las Vegas as the location of the 2004 ROPA Conference.

Bob Burks, Chattanooga Symphony Delegate, offered Chattanooga, Tennessee, as the location of the 2004 ROPA Conference.

AFM and Player Conference Addresses

Tom Lee, AFM President, addressed the Conference.

Florence Nelson, AFM Secretary-Treasurer, addressed the Conference.

Laura Ross, ICSOM Secretary, addressed the Conference.

Elaine Thompson, OCSM Treasurer, addressed the Conference.

Seminar

Patricia Polach, ROPA Counsel, gave a seminar entitled "Bankruptcy"

Reports

Rochelle Skolnick, ROPA Delegate-at-Large to the AFM Convention, reported on the 2003 AFM Convention.

Larry Gardner, ROPA Member-at-Large, reported on the 2003 ASOL Conference.

Delegate-at-Large Rochelle Skolnick, Member-at-Large Gaylon Patterson, and ROPA President Barbara Zmich reported on the AFM Health Care Task Force.

Seminar

Ron Bauers, CPA, gave a seminar entitled "Orchestra Industry Analysis and Report."

Reports

Members of the Savannah Symphony, the San Jose Symphony Players Association, and the Tulsa Philharmonic gave detailed reports on the status and recent history of their orchestras.

Elections

Craig McNutt recused himself as Chair of the Nominations Committee, so that he could run for a position as Member-at-Large.

The ROPA Conference elected the following officers by acclamation:

Vice-President: Jennifer Munday, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra

Secretary: Tom Fetherston, Dayton Philharmonic

Editor, *The Leading Tone*: B Stewart Williams, Dallas Opera Orchestra *for a 1-year term, to complete the term of Paul Castillo*

Member-at-Large: Larry Gardner, Fresno Philharmonic

Member-at-Large: Craig McNutt, Rhode Island Philharmonic

Seminars

Debbie Newmark, AFM Director of Media, and Jennifer Munday, ROPA Vice-President, gave a seminar entitled "So your Orchestra Wants to Self-Produce Media? - A How-To Guide."

Lenny Leibowitz gave a seminar entitled "Bargaining in Today's Economic Climate."

2004 Conference Location

A secret ballot vote of the full-member Delegates determined that their wish was that the 2004 ROPA Conference be held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Resolutions

The Delegates adopted the following Resolutions:

Resolution 1

Whereas,

The mission of ROPA has to do with communication; and,

Whereas,

To efficiently communicate as a cross-country organization with a continually changing set of Delegates, we need to maintain an up-to-date database of contact information; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That

Bylaws Article VI, Section 2 shall be amended as follows:

The outgoing Delegate of each member orchestras shall forward the names and contact information of ~~its~~ **any newly** elected Delegate and/or Alternate Delegate to the ROPA Secretary within two weeks of the election.

Resolution 2

Whereas,

Danna Sundet, as Delegate, and as ROPA Member-at-Large, has been a passionate advocate for ROPA since 1997; and

Whereas,

She has given those years of her life with aplomb and dignity; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That

Danna Sundet be given warmest thanks, with congratulations on a job well done, by the membership of the Regional Orchestra Players' Association.

Resolution 3

Whereas,

Richard Totusek has provided parliamentary expertise and collegiality to ROPA for many years; and

Whereas,

Those traits were sorely missed at the 2003 ROPA Conference; and

Whereas,

The ROPA Delegates and officers look forward to Richard's return to the ROPA Conference in 2004 and years afterward; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That

The Delegates and officers of ROPA express their sincere appreciation for Richard Totusek's friendship and knowledge, and we express our collective wish that he will continue as our parliamentarian for years to come.

Resolution 4

Whereas,

Betsy Start, as ROPA Secretary, worked earnestly to further the interests of ROPA; and

Whereas,

She gave years of her life to ROPA with courage and fortitude; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That

The permanent title of ROPA Secretary Emerita be conferred on Betsy Start, and she be given heartfelt thanks, with congratulations on a job well done, by the membership of the Regional Orchestra Players' Association.

Resolution 5

Whereas,

Marc Facci, as Delegate, and as ROPA Vice-President, promoted ROPA's interests with quiet strength; and

Whereas,

He gave those years of his life with essential enthusiasm; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That

The permanent title of ROPA Vice-President Emeritus be conferred on Marc Facci, and he be given the sincerest thanks, with congratulations on a job well done, by the membership of the Regional Orchestra Players' Association.

Resolution 6

Whereas,

Ann Drinan, as Delegate, Vice-President, and ROPA President, has been a passionate advocate for ROPA for many years; and

Whereas,

She served those years of her life with dignity, courage, and sincere devotion; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That

The permanent title of President Emerita be conferred on Ann Drinan, and she be given the most genuine thanks, with congratulations on a job well done, by the membership of the Regional Orchestra Players' Association.

All six resolutions carried unanimously.

Report

A report on the history and current status of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic was presented by Donald Hilsberg, ROPA Delegate; Susan Greene, CSP Executive Director; Nathan Kahn, String Bass with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, and negotiation consultant from AFM SSD; Lenny Leibowitz, Counsel.

Panel

A discussion panel with SSD was held, entitled "Learning From the Past; Planning For the Future."

Adjourned

President Barbara Zmich adjourned the 2003 ROPA Conference at 5:52 p.m. on Saturday, August 9, 2003.

Tom Fetherston, ROPA Secretary

Approved 8/9/2004