

Minutes, Business meeting of the AFVBM, April 18, 2008, Seattle, WA

Board:

Christopher Reuning, President, presiding

William Scott, Treasurer

Marilyn Wallin, Secretary and recording secretary

Tom Wilder, Vice President

Yung Chin

Tom Croen

Chris Germain

John Montgomery

Jerry Pasewicz

9:00 AM call to order

with 77 members in attendance.

New members warmly welcomed.

News from the membership:

Lothar Meisel has retired, and therefore has dropped his membership.

Bob Ames wife continues to recover.

Carl Becker has had surgery, and is recovering.

A question from the floor elicited the reminder that nominees attend the General meeting, but not the business meeting.

Minutes of 2006 accepted.

Secretary's report.

AFVBM Secretary's report 2008

We have made steady and successful progress in converting the Membership to e-mail communication. This is faster than letters, nearly free and much less labor intensive for the volunteers. Please be sure to inform me of any contact information changes, a form for this has been placed in each folder.

Please be sure to set your spam filters to accept our messages.

Updates of contact information have come in steadily throughout the year. Corrections have been entered in the database, and on the

web-site. Be advised, if you rely on the Membership book, that it has dozens of errors now.

There were 22 inquiries about membership, of which 12 became complete applications approved by the Board of Governors. 11 come before the Membership for a Vote today. Robert Young has had a delay caused by his children's illness

Maureen Wall continues to gather biographical information about each Member. Please leave Seattle having given her your completed, approved Biography.

Maureen has been indispensable in the planning and organizing of this meeting. I simply could not have done this without her.

Passover in 2010 is March 29. Our meeting will be scheduled around this holiday. **The board extends apologies to those who were adversely affected by this unfortunate scheduling mistake.**

My final remarks in this report concern the violinmaking training programs in this country. Everyone in this room has benefited in some way from these schools. The students have always struggled with tuition, the cost of tools and materials. I am asking now for a simple thing each of you can do, if you are willing. I am soliciting donations for the Scholarship Auction for the schools that will take place in Nov. 2008 at the VSA convention. I am looking in particular for wood which is aged, but does not meet your mature tastes; and I am looking for new strings and fittings, all books, CD's and decent instrument cases. Be looking for an e-mail I will send out in September.

Treasurer's report.

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New Business:

Agenda Items offered from the floor:

On the subject of meeting every other year? Bill Salchow says he loves it!

Restorer Process

The work of the applying restorer is verified and overseen with photography and with many visits with eyes on the instruments. Stacy Styles application, as it appears here with her notebook, demonstrates just what the committee was looking for. Past President Rod Mohr notes that this has been sought for over 10 years and at last is occurring.

Paper ballots were distributed for a VOTE to taken on the applicants for membership and a question of Board term lengths. A formal count revealed: 35 right side of aisle, 33 left side, plus 4 standing in the back, and the board 9, grand total 77

While the ballots were gathered and being counted by Roland Feller, the following was discussed:

Would this group serve three years? The board did not accept that kind offer.

There was an update on the Neopolitan violinmakers CD, which is progressing. Members were reminded that there is an order sheet in each folder.

News of the American Violin Project- Christopher Germain reported that it had been an excellent presentation. That within a year, it should be completed and will be 300 pages. He intends to print 600-750 copies of the highest quality. There is a budget of \$17K will take the project to a certain point. Then money will be needed from the AFVBM and from advance orders.

There was debated about ownership of the high resolution files. Not resolved.

VOTE: Results reported: all applicants accepted. Proxy vote passed.

Process debated, mostly affirming. Expansion is encouraged. Letters of Recommendation need to be available to voting members.

A reminder for those participating in the Players Meet Makers; place time bring your lunch. There will be 2 small practice rooms that must

be shared between all makers wishing to show instruments to visiting musicians.

Bill Salchow: who are we? We used to ask if we were a trade or craft organization? Well, we are a trade organization, and the inclusion now of restorers is a step in the right direction. Now is the time to accept experts! Many who would fit this category of membership are already advisors.

Questions from the floor included:

Can advisor claim it publically? Right now no.

What would be the process? A by-law change is needed to allow Advisor, "Professional affiliate", etc. The board of Governors agreed to take it up, form a committee and make a list of potential advisors, experts, etc.

David Burgess asked if there is an "Expertise test"?

Motion to adjourn; 11:45.

Next meeting: Montreal!