

ICSOM Governing Board Call – March 21, 2009

Bruce Ridge, Brian Rood, Laura Ross, Michael Moore, Richard Levine, Matt Comerford, Paul Gunther, Cathy Payne, Meredith Snow, Lenny Leibowitz

Bruce informed the board that AFM Legislative Director Hal Ponder is working to provide the opportunity for Bruce to testify before a Congressional Committee Hearing in Washington on Thursday. He will report via e-mail about the progress of this great opportunity.

1. **SSD Director** – Bruce had an extended discussion with Tom Lee about a variety of important topics, including where the hiring process stood. Tom has taken far too long, 9 months, during a massive symphonic crisis, in his attempt to hire a new director.
2. **Orchestras in Crisis** – More orchestras are being approached every day to consider making changes to their agreements. Bruce has received a lot of appreciative phone calls. It appears the new managers' catch-phrase is "the new economic reality" and the intended strategy is to roll back contracts; "shared sacrifice" is another catch-phrase. Brian, Bruce and Len recently hosted a one-hour conference call with the largest ICSOM orchestras. Another call is scheduled on Monday with additional participants. [Cleveland, LA, NYP, Philadelphia, Boston, San Francisco; Chicago & the Met will join Monday.]

Bruce suggested Cathy Payne's article about the San Francisco settlement should be considered as a cover story in the next *Senza Sordino* since it has some beneficial information, especially for the top tier orchestras. Richard asked about a few other newsletters he recently received; he will send the final versions to the delegates prior to publication.

3. **Conference planning follow-ups** – Bruce has not issued any invitations (he was waiting for Laura to return to the US.) Invitations will be extended within the next few weeks.
4. **Local 16 and the New Jersey Symphony** – NJSO settled a one-year contract and are currently holding elections for negotiations. The Local is refusing to pay a portion of the attorney's fee and are also refusing to pay the committee expenses as required by AFM bylaws. Bruce has informed Tom that this is one of many reasons we have been so concerned about the lack of an SSD director; orchestra musicians have no recourse when their local violates agreements. SSD needs to deal with this situation now.

Bruce said he will meet with Susan Martin in a few weeks on one of his orchestra visits.

Len left the call to return to his instruction of the LAO fellows.

Len's agreement expires after the upcoming ICSOM conference. His previous agreement was a 4-year agreement. Michael will evaluate the previous contract and inform the board; Len has only addressed the contract expiration in passing during midwinter.

Bruce left the call to speak to the Congressional Liaison. He returned later during the call.

5. **Logo** – Richard had asked for more input; he will discuss it further with the designers.
6. **Wage Chart Updates** – Brian explained his concerns about financial information that has been printed in the past two wage charts, including where that information came from. It was agreed that any information provided on the wages charts must go through the delegates.
7. **ICSOM Website updates** – aside from the SSD page update, there was concern about updating the history (especially in regard to Ron Bauers), where we stand on posting of photos, and some issues of *Senza Sordino* Richard has contacted Bruce Christensen about but received no response.

Directory – the Printer is almost done. They now need the mailing list – Richard needs a list of non-members like attorneys who should receive copies of the Directory. There is also a parallel issue about non-AFM members who should not get Directories. Laura suggested MALs reach out to the orchestra delegates.

8. **Americans for the Arts: Arts Advocacy day** – this is March 30 & 31. If Bruce testifies a few days earlier in Washington DC, he hopes to meet the AFTA representative.

9. **Chairman Travels:**

- a. **Phoenix** – Bruce will meet with all constituents - board, management, local, attorney and orchestra. April 6-9.
- b. **Roosevelt University** – He will give a modified version of his presentation to the Colburn School. April 12-13.
- c. **LAO Conference** – Bruce is very eager to make his presentation. June 12 in Chicago IL.
- d. **possible Boston/New England Conservatory visit** – Bruce is most excited about the idea of gaining access to these schools. Larry Wolfe has been trying to put this together; however, Bruce doesn't have much if any availability during the rest of the school year, so it may have to be scheduled during the next school year.

10. **Senza questions:**

- a. **March edition** – Richard said he would send out a draft in a few days. Cathy will be talking with John Keiser about including an article about the SF settlement. Bruce thinks something about the economy, the SF settlement, or his possible Congressional testimony should be the cover story. Bruce said if he does address Congress, he must submit his comments by Tuesday.
- b. **Henry Shaw article** – Bruce will reach out to Tom Hall about writing an article for the May issue.

11. **Scheduling of next call:** April 11 at 4:00PM EDT/3:00PM CDT/1:00PM PDT