

Providence Federation of Musicians
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Local Headquarters
172 Longfellow Street, Providence, RI
Tuesday, June 4th, 2019

MINUTES OF MEETING

Call to Order: 7:01 PM, President Ed Plunkett, presiding

Determination of Quorum: 2% of 242 members; 9 members present

Roll-Call of Officers

- **Present**
 - President **Ed Plunkett**
 - Vice-President **Al DeAndrade**
 - Secretary-Treasurer **Vern Graham**
 - Executive Board Member **Carl Hosbond**
- **Excused**
 - Executive Board Member **John Worsley**

In Memoriam: Pres. Plunkett notes that Life Member **Ron Molleur** of Portsmouth, RI passed away at the age of 82 on March 20, 2019. He was well liked in the Newport area, where he had been a member of the Newport local since 1978 until Local 198 acquired their membership. Ron stayed active in Local 198 until his death, working as a drummer, best known for performing with the Billy Weston Quartet during the 50's and 60's. A moment of silence was observed.

Secretary's Report:

- **Minutes of March 19th, 2019 Meeting** -- S/T Graham provides copies of the minutes of the General Membership Meeting held on March 19th, 2019. S/T DeAndrade moves to accept the minutes of the meeting. Second by Brother Peter Bodner. The motion carries.

Treasurer's Reports:

- **1st Quarter 2019:** - Finance Committee Chairman Peter Bodner representing his committee accepts report as presented for the 1st quarter 2019, from January 1st, 2019 through March 31st, 2019. The report shows income of \$33,748.26 and expenses of \$20,310.51, leaving a net gain for the quarter of \$13,437.75. Motion to accept report by Brother Bodner. Second by EBM Hosbond. The motion carries. (copy attached)

President's Report:

- **MusiCares Hearing Clinic:** The event on Wednesday, May 15th was very successful with 15 of the 16 registrants attending. Pres. Plunkett intends to schedule another clinic in October, and it may become a bi-annual event. As this event is open to union and non-union members, Pres. Plunkett feels that it is a welcome additional benefit to our members and may act as an enticement for non-union members to join our local.
- **RI Summer Music Festivals:** Pres. Plunkett has been and continues to be in communication with Pat Hollenbeck, President of Local 9-535 and Michael Manley, AFM Director of Organizing and Education, and will continue to coordinate efforts with them towards resolution of the issues. The main concerns are (1) recordings and broadcasting of unauthorized recordings and (2) the misclassification of performers as 1099 subcontractors vs. W2 employees of the festivals. After meeting with representatives of the Kingston Chamber Music Festival, they have chosen to remain unresponsive to communications and requests to meet again and continue discussion of the issues. Pres. Plunkett intends to contact Local 77 in Philadelphia, where a large number of the KCMF

players are members in an effort to see if we can get any assistance from Local 77. Meetings with the Newport Music Festival are ongoing, and the next meeting will take place after the conclusion of the NMF's summer 2019 season. It is expected that this will be a long process with incremental progress that may take up to a year or more to resolve.

- **AFM-EPF Pension Fund:** The current status of the fund has now changed to *Critical and Declining Status* as of April, 2019. This status change indicates that the Fund is projected to run out of money to pay benefits within 20 years. There is the potential that Congress will act to allocate enough funds to keep the fund solvent through that 20 year period, but Congress has yet to move the bill out of committee and bring it to the House floor.
- **2019 AFM Convention:** Pres. Plunkett and Carl Hosbond will be representing our local as elected delegates to the AFM convention in Las Vegas on June 16 thru the 20th. Ed will also be attending the Eastern States Locals Convention in Las Vegas on June 15th.
- **MPTF funding:** Pres. Plunkett reiterated the several programs that are available to our members for MPTF funding.
 - Regular concert: 50/50 split with co-sponsor
 - MusicianFest: 100% paid, up to \$200.00, for senior centers
 - Education Initiative: 100% paid, requires grant proposal

We are currently allocated \$2,653.69 for the period from 05-01-2019 until 04-30-2019. Pres. Plunkett has offered to assist any member with the paperwork who wishes to apply for any of the MPTF funding.

Announcements:

- **198 Members Get-Together:** V/P DeAndrade has organized an event that will include several of our former members as well as some of our current members who want to enjoy the opportunity for some coffee and conversation. The maiden voyage of this effort will be on Thursday, June 6th, (D-Day) beginning at 9:30 AM and continuing with lunch provided until 12:30 PM here at the local. Card games, a raffle and a door prize are some of the anticipated activities to be held.
- **Updated schedule of 2019 Meetings:**
 - Tuesday, September 17 General Membership Meeting
 - Tuesday, September 24 Nomination Meeting
 - Sunday, November 10 Election (if needed)
 - Tuesday, November 26 Annual Budget Meeting (General Meeting) (Date changed)

Communications:

- **Letter from Pawtucket Mayor Don Grebien:** Pres. Plunkett has received an enthusiastic letter from Pawtucket Mayor Don Grebien suggesting that we contact the City of Pawtucket Parks & Recreation manager John Blais regarding potential MPTF performances.

Committee Reports:

- **Finance Committee:** Chairman Peter Bodner reports that his committee has reviewed and approved of the report as presented for the 1st quarter 2019 (see above). Chairman Bodner also reports that his committee has recommended that the local purchase Directors and Officers Insurance and will research options available and report to Pres. Plunkett on his findings.
- **Wage Scale Committee:** No members in attendance to report.
- **ByLaws Committee:** Pres. Plunkett reports that he has been in email correspondence with Chairman Gorodetsky and committee member Ella Leone about the proposed amendments to Resolution 2018-09 and they have approved his proposed revisions and the language contained therein.
- **Member Services Committee:** No members in attendance to report. Pres. Plunkett states that MSC members Yvonne Monnett and Alan Bernstein were particularly helpful with the coordination and management of the MusiCares Hearing Clinic.
- **RI Philharmonic Committee:** No members in attendance to report.

- **Ballet, Symphonic and Opera Committee:** No members in attendance to report.
- **Cavalcade Committee:** Chairman Al DeAndrade reports the next scheduled Cavalcade will be on Tuesday, November 12th with the Musicians Appreciation Dinner tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 19th.
- **Annual Golf Tournament:** Chairman Al DeAndrade reports that he has confirmed the date for the Golf Tournament to be August 27th at the Alpine Country Club.

Old Business

- **Resolution 2018-09: To Expand the Executive Board:**

The resolution, to expand the Executive Board, was introduced at the November 20, 2018, membership meeting, and was brought up for consideration and a vote at the March 19, 2019, membership meeting. As a result of questions and concerns expressed at the March 19, 2019, meeting, the resolution was referred back to the Finance Committee for further study as to its impact on the Local's finances.

Brother Peter Bodner, Chair of the Finance Committee, reports now that the Committee has reviewed the resolution along with the state of the Local's finances, and the opinion of the Committee is that the resolution as originally submitted, with six (6) board seats, falls within the Local's budgetary capabilities.

After further discussion regarding stipends, board seats, and By-Law wording, it is proposed to amend the original resolution in the following manner:

Motion to Approve Resolution 2018-09, as originally written, is submitted by Brother Bodner; second by EBM Hosbond.

Amendment No. 1: Strike revisions to Vice President's stipend in Paragraph III, so that the Vice-President's stipend remains unchanged. Motion by Brother Bodner to so amend the resolution; the motion is severally seconded. The AYES have it. The motion to amend the resolution carries.

Amendment No. 2: Paragraphs I and II of the resolution shall now be revised to read as follows:

- *I) The Executive Board shall be increased from two (2) at-large members to **four (4)** at-large members;*
- *II) The stipend for all board members shall be **\$75.00** (reduced from \$100.00) per Executive Board Meeting attended.*
- The corresponding section of the By-laws shall be changed to match this amendment.

Motion by V/P DeAndrade to so amend the resolution; second by EBM Hosbond. The AYES have it. The motion to amend the resolution carries.

Amendment No. 3:

Section 2. ELECTIONS

(O) The election of officers of this Local shall be by secret ballot, and printed as follows:

Fourth Heading: *Executive Committee of ~~two (2)~~ **four (4.)***

~~You are required to vote for at least two (2) people to register your vote.~~

Replace previous sentence with: "Vote for up to four (4) candidates".

Motion by Brother Bodner to so amend the resolution; second by Brother Joe DeMarco. The AYES have it. The motion to amend the resolution carries.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 2018-09, as Amended: Motioned severally, Second by V/P DeAndrade. The AYES have it. The motion carries and Resolution 2018-09, as amended, is adopted.

New Business:

RI Civic Chorale contract renewal: Renewal date for the RICCO contract is November 1st, 2019. Conductor Edward Markward has just performed his last concert and has retired from the organization. Pres. Plunkett has begun to canvass the members to see if there are any changes desired or needed in the current agreement. We know that there will be a 1% surcharge applied to the pension rate, and there will need to be updates to some of the language, i.e.: Recordings, etc., but the future is uncertain as to whether there will be a renewal of this contract going forward.

Good and Welfare:

V/P DeAndrade wanted to point out that we have 2 members who are now 99 years of age that are still active Life Members: Nat Piccirelli and Arthur Medeiros.

Adjournment:

Brother Bodner moves to adjourn. The motion is severally seconded. The meeting is adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Vern Graham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vern Graham, Secretary-Treasurer

Approved: 2019-09-17

Attested: (Secretary-Treasurer)