

GENERAL MEETING
Saturday, May 28, 2005, 2:45 p.m.
International Trombone Festival
Loyola University, New Orleans, LA

MINUTES

I. Welcome and Call to Order

President Wick introduced ITA Officers, members of the Board of Advisors and Past Presidents who were in attendance.

II. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from the 2004 ITA General Meeting in Ithaca, NY were approved unanimously by the membership.

III. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Steven Greenall listed some of the 2004 accomplishments of the ITA for the general membership. These included: the presentation of awards, statistics on competitions, the status of journal publication, the enormous success of the ITA website, an overview of the International Trombone Festival 2004 held in Ithaca, NY the work of the ITA Board, the association's financial standing and a breakdown of ITA membership statistics compared to previous years.

Greenall thanked the advertisers, exhibitors, sponsors, staff, committee members, Board of Advisors, Council of Past Presidents and the members of the ITA Board for their hard work and continued support of the ITA.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Edwin K. Myrick, Jr. reported that the ITA maintains its good financial standing which had not changed much during the year. He assured the membership that the accounting and financial matters of the association are being handled by outstanding managers.

He briefly reported that, after more snags than anticipated, the International Trombone Festival Corporation is finally established as a separate entity from the International Trombone Association to protect the association's assets in the event of legal action.

The association is reviewing all parts of its structure and operations in order to comply with new and much stricter regulations for non-profit organizations.

V. Committee Reports

A. Standing Committees:

1. **Standing Committee on Awards** (John Drew). In 2004 the Awards Committee replaced former members Hugo Magliocco and Buddy Baker with David Vining and Nat Wickham. In December it submitted a strong ballot of candidates for the Humfeld and ITA Awards to the Board for final selection.

In response to a request from the ITA Executive Board that other award possibilities be examined, committee members spent months in intense discussion. They are hopeful that a proposal can be formulated and submitted in the coming months.

Including the people previously mentioned, thanks and kudos are due Jiggs Whigham and Vern Kagarice for the incredible amount of work they have invested and are continuing to invest in this project.

2. **Standing Committee on Competitions** (Denis Wick). As usual, Vern Kagarice handled the immense amount of work involved in running the increasingly successful ITA competitions with skill and devotion. The numbers of competitors increased and stood at 276 entrants, an increase of 53% over 2004. Deadlines were observed and rules strictly observed.

Kagarice has managed to maintain sponsorship and funding of prizes by introducing newer, smaller instrument companies. Surely all members will offer their heartfelt thanks to him and his carefully selected group of judges for all their work.

There were more entrants than ever from outside the USA and judges were selected internationally. It is believed that the competitions give the ITA the opportunity to spread its net even wider and can give its winners valuable prestige in an increasingly competitive world.

3. **Standing Committee on Finance** (Edwin K. Myrick). The Standing Committee on Finance stresses that the ITA's primary objective should be to increase revenue while keeping expenses under reasonable control.

The committee itself will endeavor to explore innovative means of attracting new members and insuring that the present membership renews annually. Ideas to this end include: attracting new members; encouraging the present membership to solicit new members; offering incentives (discount or exemption on the renewal of dues; contact of teachers by mailing; suggesting that current members contact non-member teachers and band directors at schools [public high schools, colleges/universities and private high schools, college/universities and individual instructors]; complimentary CDs; discounts; insuring that the present membership renews annually; and exploring the steps necessary to accept standing renewals by checking account drafts.

The committee will examine the profitability of offering a major credit card; the profitability of selling Christmas cards, business and personal stationery, as well as

other merchandise; advertising; broad distribution of news releases to the media; and gift annuities for contributions to the 21st Century Fund.

4. **Standing Committee on Governance** (Tom Plsek for Steve Wolfinbarger). With the International Trombone Association between elections, the Governance Committee had been rather inactive the past year. Nevertheless, there were several important changes. First, the name of the committee was changed from the Nominations and Elections Committee to reflect common practice among non-profit organizations. Also, Ben van Dijk replaced Hugo Magliocco, who resigned from the committee.

Since the summer of 2004, there has been some committee discussion regarding possible names of future officers and board members. In that regard, the committee will soon begin evaluating names for next year's election. Suggestions from ITA members are encouraged and appreciated as the election draws near.

5. **Standing Committee on the International Trombone Association Press (ITAP)** (Mark Thompson for Nathaniel Brickens). The present committee was formed on 4 October 2004 to oversee all aspects of the ITA press. A central part of its responsibility is to review, and approve compositions for publication by the ITA Press. To that end, the following actions were taken:

Compositions approved for publication (these items have been submitted to Southern Music):

- Kreuzer, *Symmetrical Moods* for trombone choir
- Mills, *Trilogy for Jazz Bone and Trombone Choir*
- Crosby, *Sonata for Trombone and Piano*
- Bristol, *Five Miniatures for Tenor Saxophone, Trombone and Piano*
- Moats, *Mindscapes for Trombone, Trumpet and Piano*

A sixth item, Gendrich *Brass Bonanza* received a conditional approval (she is currently making changes per committee suggestions).

It was suggested that standards and the rejection rate should be higher. This will be considered during future reviewing deliberations. The committee is also looking for ways to increase the quality and quantity of submissions.

ITAP sales figures for 2004 were compiled in early January 2005 and composer royalty checks were promptly written and distributed.

Effective 1 January 2005, a new agreement between the ITA and Southern Music became effective. Per the agreement, Southern Music is responsible for production, distribution, inventory and record keeping for ITAP compositions. The ITA receives a 30% royalty from Southern for all ITA Press sales. The ITA then pays two-thirds of that revenue to the ITA Press composers as royalties (the ITA keeps the remaining 10%). To facilitate the new arrangement, all ITAP master copies, computer files and

inventory were moved in December from its office at the University of Texas at Austin to Southern Music Company in San Antonio, Texas.

The committee request that the ITA Board (ITAB) consider the following items:

- Committee Membership – Current policy calls for the Committee to consist of at least five (5) members. We have four.
- Royalty Rates – The ITAB has suggested that the 20% that we currently pay to composers is too high (industry standard is 10%) and would like us to consider revising the rate down (12.5% and 15% have been mentioned). These new royalty rates, if a change is recommended and approved, would be written into contracts for new ITA Press publications. Here are a few observations from committee members:

As the committee moves forward in 2005, one of its missions should be to find ways to double, then triple 2004 ITAP sales figures. Some suggestions that have been made include:

- Making sure that the ITA Press compositions are included on each state's solo and ensemble list and
- Opening dialog with Coda Music for the inclusion of some of the ITAP solo materials in the *Smart Music Accompaniment* package.

To help advertise ITAP publications, the committee will work with Southern Music Company to include sound files and .pdf samples on its website.

B. *Ad hoc Committees*

1. *Ad hoc Committee on Focal Dystonia* (Denis Wick). *Ad hoc* committees of the association are not required to submit annual reports but Wick gave a quick summary that the subject of focal dystonia is a personal concern of his and that the ITA is continuing to work to help doctors help brass players more effectively and to put doctors who deal with the condition in better touch with each other.

VI. Old Business

President Wick solicited the membership for matters of old business. One question was raised regarding the current status and situation with affiliate societies as an affiliate societies standing committee no longer exists.

Hofacre explained the new assignment of liaison duties to ITA Officers. The second vice president now maintains contact with all affiliate societies. Greenall added that the constitution outlines requirements for affiliates and that interested parties should contact second vice president Jiggs Whigham for details.

VII. New Business

Matters of new business centered on the upcoming International Trombone Festivals (ITFs). Greenall reported that the ITF'06 will be held at the music conservatory of the University of Central England at the request of President Wick as that festival will mark the end of his presidency and take the festival to a new international location.

Plans are still being finalized to hold the ITF'07 at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China. Location bids for the ITF'08 and '09 have been submitted and are under consideration.

VIII. Presidential Remarks

President Wick assured the general membership that the ITA was functioning very well under the leadership of the current officers and board. He offered special thanks to Executive Director Greenall and Secretary Hofacre for their help throughout the past year.

He noted the growth of the association membership as a very positive sign for the future. Hofacre added that new memberships per month average between 70 and 80.

IX. Adjournment

The adjournment of the 2005 General Meeting was moved, seconded and approved unanimously by the membership at 3:43 p.m.