

Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras

Board of Directors Meeting

September 23, 2009

Colonial Inn, Helena, Montana

Minutes

2010 meeting dates: **January 13-14**, either Bozeman or Chico; **May 26** in Missoula.

President Peter Bogy (Helena) called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM; also in attendance:

Billings: Sandi Culhane, David Hummel

Bozeman: Bridget Garnsey

Butte: Karen Porter, Mark Hayden, David Stonehocker

Missoula: John Driscoll, Anne Guest

Helena, Tawna Parisot, Leatrice Lily

Great Falls: Marty Cowgill, Gordon Johnson, Bill Larson

Montana Arts Council staff Arni Fishbaugh, Beck McLaughlin, Kristin Han Burgoyne; MASO staff John C. Barsness. No one from Glacier Orchestra was able to attend.

Housekeeping

Minutes from the May meeting and financial statement for FY2009 were previously e-mailed to members. As there were no members of the public present, there was no public comment period.

By-law changes will be completed and e-mailed to members for approval prior to the next meeting; the vote will also be via e-mail. The major change is to name the seven full voting member orchestras, associate members will have no vote and use of the music and choral libraries will be made on a case-by-case basis.

The policy discussion of what to do with the cash reserve is tabled due to falling license plate sales; the cash reserve contains last year's sales for expenditure this year. Each orchestra was reminded to plug the MASO license plate in their programs for the year to bolster sales. Arni will also place an article in *State of the Arts* about the license plate's availability.

Montana Arts Council

Arni described the one-time stimulus fund grant (ARRA) process and awards this past month to 15 organizations in Montana from 90 applications received. For unsuccessful applicants there is a much larger pool of ARRA funds for organizations that own buildings for historic preservation or repairs at the Commerce Department.

FY2010 is the last year of the four-year Public Value Partnership grants; there will not be an application due next spring as the final report and IRS 990 will serve as the application for current grantees. She also recommended meeting with legislators who are not the most supportive of arts funding to inform them of the good work being done in their communities with arts funding. Therefore, grantees should develop new relationships with their legislators and not preach to the choir.

Beck McLaughlin requested MASO members' assistance by calling their local school principals and asking them to respond to a federal Department of Education e-mail survey of 41 questions about arts education in their schools. Every building principal in Montana will receive it. The survey will create a baseline on arts education in Montana that will help the Montana Arts Council decide how to allocate its resources. The survey will arrive during the week of October 18 and is due not later than November 30. It will also help to contact local music and art teachers to ask them to remind their principals to complete the survey. Bill noted principals will need lots of encouragement and the more voices they hear, the more likely it will be they will respond.

Mapping proposal

John B. described an NEA-supported mapping project Montana Arts was invited to join at no cost. No names are needed, only the information each orchestra wants to track by category, street address, city, state, and 5 digit postal code. The resulting maps can be generated by state, county, state legislative district, city, or street and will display color coded dots similar to Google Maps. All information will be kept confidential. There was consensus that MASO members are interested in participating.

Orchestra reports

Peter reminded member orchestras to submit a one-page summary for the record and to expand on points for discussion at the meeting. There was an ensuing discussion on endowment size and condition as a result.

Workshop/conference

It was agreed to hold the event in May, 2011. It was also decided the title "state of the economy" might no longer be relevant by that time.

It was agreed to seek a headliner for gathering and sharing of expertise, to inspire board members and musicians, and unique to what we do.

Bill suggested keeping groups small and to repeat sessions.

Staff will distribute a needs assessment by November 1.

Orchestras will bid for the event; form will be sent in March after members have firm schedules for May of 2011.

Other Business

Staff will update music library, choral library, membership directory and Web site prior to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Barsness, Executive Director