

## TAKE NOTE

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The "Holiday Season" is just around the corner. Thanksgiving and the first of many snowstorms has come and gone. The Erie Philharmonic is well into its season and the Erie Chamber Orchestra is gearing up for a series of concerts beginning in January 2012. Freelance musicians are working some but there is not a lot of work out there right now. The biggest event for the freelancers was the Nutcracker Ballet. Hope things pickup around New Year's Eve and into 2012.

In October musicians of the Erie Chamber Orchestra performed a very moving tribute concert in memory of Bruce Wright. Many of the musicians worked very hard to organize the details surrounding this event. It was a wonderful event celebrating the life of Bruce and his contributions to the musical life of so many.



Speaking of the Erie Chamber Orchestra, Susan Spafford has been hired as general manager for the ensemble and she has been working hard along with the folks at Gannon University to sort through Bruce's files and organize the abbreviated season planned for 2012. Gannon will be

having a larger role in the orchestra and a search has begun for the next musical director. Once the position is filled a permanent general manager will be hired. Things will be different without Bruce working behind the scenes but it is the hope of those involved that the house that Bruce built will continue to be a musical presence for so many in our community.

The Erie Opera Theater will continue as well. Brent Weber from Mercyhurst College will be running things for the foreseeable future. He is working on Amahl and the spring, 2012 production.

Best wishes to all as they work to pick up the torch that Bruce so capably carried for many years.

In October I attended the PennDelMarDC regional conference of locals of the AFof M , which was held in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Among those speaking to the delegates were International President Ray Hair and International Sec/Treas Sam Folio. They brought interesting insights into what is happening with AFof M.

Encouraging for the small locals was the news that a national agreement was close (and since reached) with the recording industry. There is hope in this agreement for new funding for MPTF. Perhaps this will lead to more work for our

members if this money is forthcoming. If so, it should be in the pipeline within 2012.

Freelance Services Director Paul Sharpe also spoke and informed us of the Federation Booking and Referral Service that was just recently announced on the International Web Site. I have included below the information that Paul gave us in October. If you want more information you should go to the International web site or contact Paul in the New York office by calling 212-869-1330.

#### **Federation Booking and Referral Service**

An online engagement booking and referral service maintained exclusively for the members of the **American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (the "Federation")**.

#### **RULES OF OPERATION.**

1. The Federation shall maintain an online engagement booking and referral service ("SERVICE") to be known as AFM Entertainment, for the purpose of enhancing employment opportunities for members-in-good-standing. The Service shall serve the Federation, its Locals and its members by:

- (i) Advertising and promoting the musical services of registered member orchestras, bands, ensembles, and solo artists ("ACTS") to any and all individuals and/or organizations ("PURCHASERS") who seek to engage professional musicians; and by
- (ii) Facilitating the completion of contractual arrangements between Acts and Purchasers for musical engagements.

2. In fulfillment of the active referral requirement imposed on all Locals by Federation By-Laws (ARTICLE 5 SECTION 15), Local Officers, members and other interested persons may refer all inquiries from prospective music purchasers to the Service, operated for the benefit of members as outlined herein.

3. All Service activity shall be accomplished in accordance with these Rules of Operation, a copy of which is available at [www.afm.org](http://www.afm.org). The Federation reserves the right to amend these rules at any time.

4. The Service shall be maintained solely and exclusively as a benefit to the Federation, its Locals and its members in-good-standing, and only Acts operated and led by members in-good-standing shall be booked, referred and assisted by the Service.

5. The Service shall operate on a non-discriminatory basis. Bookings, referrals and registration shall be made without regard to race, creed, color, religion, sex, age, and/or sexual preference. Requests for Acts within a specific racial, religious, age, sex, or ethnic grouping shall be honored only when such a request is made in the context of a bona fide engagement requirement.

6. The Service shall not function as a talent management agency. The Service shall not seek to provide exclusive booking and referral services to any Act or Purchaser, nor shall it provide management or artistic consultation, public relations or other related services to any party.

7. The Service will not provide assistance in connection with any exclusive hiring hall arrangements set forth in any collective bargaining agreement. The Service, through its website, [www.afmentertainment.org](http://www.afmentertainment.org), shall advertise and promote for hire to prospective purchasers the names of all registered Acts and shall assist in finalizing the contract

arrangements agreed to between Acts and Purchasers for prospective engagement leads received by the Service.

8. The Service shall represent and deal with members and purchasers in conformity with the AFM's Booking Agent Agreement. The net wages (after payment of all commissions) and working conditions for all engagements obtained through the Service must be at least equal to the Local wage scales applicable to such engagement.

9. Membership in good standing shall not automatically register the name of an Act with the Service. Only the Acts following the procedures set forth below shall be registered with the Service and eligible for booking and referral.

10. To register, an applicant shall submit an online registration form that will request the name of the Act, name of leader/signatory musician, contact telephone number(s), email address, website address, type(s) of music performed, calendar and geographic availability and any restrictions, size of Act, instrumentation, names of all musicians (self-contained acts only), background information (bio), and any other information the Service and Act may deem necessary. Acts will also be requested to furnish digital photographs and up to five promotional audio clips (30 seconds or less, per clip).

11. When registering online, the Act's leader or signatory musician shall submit an acknowledgement that such individual has read and understands the Service Rules of Operation and agrees to adhere to and be bound by same.

12. The Service shall not function as a talent management agency. The Service shall not seek to provide exclusive booking and referral services to any Act or Purchaser, nor shall it provide management or artistic

consultation, public relations or other related services to any party.

13. The Service will not provide assistance in connection with any exclusive hiring hall arrangements set forth in any collective bargaining agreement. The Service, through its website, [www.afmentertainment.org](http://www.afmentertainment.org), shall advertise and promote for hire to prospective purchasers the names of all registered Acts and shall assist in finalizing the contract arrangements agreed to between Acts and Purchasers for prospective engagement leads received by the Service.

14. The Service shall represent and deal with members and purchasers in conformity with the AFM's Booking Agent Agreement. The net wages (after payment of all commissions) and working conditions for all engagements obtained through the Service must be at least equal to the Local wage scales applicable to such engagement.

15. Membership in good standing shall not automatically register the name of an Act with the Service. Only the Acts following the procedures set forth below shall be registered with the Service and eligible for booking and referral.

16. To register, an applicant shall submit an online registration form that will request the name of the Act, name of leader/signatory musician, contact telephone number(s), email address, website address, type(s) of music performed, calendar and geographic availability and any restrictions, size of Act, instrumentation, names of all musicians (self-contained acts only), background information (bio), and any other information the Service and Act may deem necessary. Acts will also be requested to furnish digital photographs

and up to five promotional audio clips (30 seconds or less, per clip).

17. When registering online, the Act's leader or signatory musician shall submit an acknowledgement that such individual has read and understands the Service Rules of Operation and agrees to adhere to and be bound by same.

On October 4 nominations were held for Local Officers. All positions were filled and the officers will be the same as those presently serving. The new terms will begin in December and continue for three years. Appointed positions were also filled at the same meeting. Details follow in Bill's minutes from the meeting.

I want to feature Local 17 members and ensembles in this space in future issues. If you have pictures and "stories" about you and/or your group that you would like to have considered for this space, please contact me and we will talk about the possibilities.

As I close I want to wish you all a safe and busy 2012. Let us all hope that live music continues and grows in the greater Erie area in the New Year.

Fraternally,

**Ron**

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and Ron Stitt  
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Local No. 17 A.F. of M. Officers  
President – Ronald E. Stitt  
Vice President – Frank F. Bolte  
Secretary-Treasurer – William M. Fairgraves  
Executive Board  
Stanley F. Bialomizy, Guido S. Damico  
Donald E. Grumblatt, Kenneth G. Vasil and Maura Pelinsky

## **BULLETIN BOARD**

### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Membership Meeting of Local 17, A.F. of M., will be held on Tuesday, December 27, 2011 at 8:00 P.M., Suite 601 Masonic Square, 32 W. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Erie, PA. Admission by Membership Card only, paid through the 4th. Quarter 2011.

### **OFFICIAL DUES NOTICE**

Regular Member - \$31.50 per quarter  
\$126.00 for the year

Life Member - \$18.50 per quarter  
\$74.00 for year

### **OFFICERS FOR 2012-2013-2014**

Ronald E. Stitt, President-Frank F. Bolte, Vice-President- William M. Fairgraves, Secretary-Treasurer

### **UNFAIR LIST**

Gem City Bands

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS – PHONE**

Patrick R. Jones, Sax. Clar., 2706 W. 34<sup>th</sup> St., Erie, PA. 16506

Wendy S. Case, Violin, 2051 Murray Hill Rd., Apt. #3, Cleveland, OH. 44106

Diana Wade, Viola, 8601 Ordinary Way, Annandale, VA. 22003-4535  
Jason Robins, Trombone 407-924-3209

Mark C. Dressler, Trombone, 7000 S.W. 80<sup>th</sup> St., Apt. #203, Miami, FL. 33143

### **RESIGNED**

Benjamin Reed

### **EXPELLED**

Jonathan Moser

Mary Moser

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Laura J. Koepke, Bassoon, 99 Central Ave., Fredonia, NY. 14063-716-785-6149

Laura E. DiFranco, Violin, 4044 Sandalwood Dr., Erie, PA. 16506 – 814-217-0618

### **REINSTATED**

**I. Scott Bohannon, French Horn, 18 4<sup>th</sup> Drive, Decatur, Il. 62521 – [412-678-0443](tel:412-678-0443)**

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

**AUGUST 30, 2011**

President Stitt calls the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Officers present: R. Stitt, F. Bolte, W. Fairgraves, S. Bialomizy, G. Damico, D. Grumblatt, M. Pelinsky, K. Vasil

It is moved and seconded that the bills as presented be paid. The motion is carried.

Greg Bassett has paid his back dues and requests clearance. It is moved and seconded that he be allowed to resign in good standing. The motion is carried.

Maura Pelinsky reports on the upcoming Memorial Concert for Bruce M. Wright. The Concert is scheduled for October 28th at St. Patrick's Church.

President Stitt discusses several matters pertaining to the Erie Philharmonic Orchestra.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.  
William M. Fairgraves, Secretary-Treasurer

### **EXECUTIVE BOARDED MEETING**

**September 27, 2011**

President Stitt calls the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Officers present: R. Stitt, W. Fairgraves, S. Bialomizy, G. Damico, D. Grumblatt, M. Pelinsky, K. Vasil. Absent F. Bolte

It is moved and seconded that the bills as presented be paid. The motion is carried.

Two members are expelled for non-payment of dues.

One resignation is accepted.

The Secretary informs the board that It appears that the IEB has changed its policy on Symphonic contact negotiations. In the future we will have to pay 55% of the costs plus meals and accommodations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 P.M.  
William M. Fairgraves, Secretary-Treasurer

### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**September 27, 2011**

President Stitt calls the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. Officers present: R. Stitt, W. Fairgraves, S. Bialomizy , G. Damico, D. Grumblatt, M. Pelinsky, K. Vasil. Absent F. Bolte.

Members present: Harry Aldrich,

Guests Present: Ron Oliver, Vice-President, of the Labor Division of the United Way.

Mr. Oliver advises the members present of the many community services that the United Fund supplies to the Erie area

Maura Pelinsky reports on the future of the Erie Chamber Orchestra.

The members present discuss the matter that the City of Erie requires some bands to pay for Liability Insurance for playing concerts during the summer and some other groups

do not have to pay for this same insurance.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.  
William M. Fairgraves, Secretary-Treasurer

## **LOCAL 17 MEMBERSHIP MEETING October 4, 2011**

The President Stitt calls the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. Officers present, R. Stitt, F. Bolte, W. Fairgraves, S. Bialomizy, G. Damico, D. Grumblatt, M. Pelinsky, K. Vasil  
Members present: None.

The first order of business is nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer for the years 2012, 2013, 2014 plus delegates to the A.F. of M. Convention and the Penn-Del-Mar-DC Conference of Locals.

President Stitt turns the gavel over to Vice-President Bolte. Vice-President Bolte declares the meeting open for nominations for the office of President. Ronald Stitt is nominated. Vice-President Bolte asks three times if there are any more nominations. There being none, it is moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. The motion is carried. Vice-President Bolte returns the gavel to President Stitt. President Stitt asks

for nominations for the office of Vice-President. Frank F. Bolte is nominated. President Stitt asks three times if there are any more nominations. There being none, it is moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. The motion is carried.

President Stitt asks for nominations for the office of Secretary-Treasurer. William M. Fairgraves is nominated. President Stitt asks three times if there are any more nominations. There being none, it is moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. The motion is carried.

Delegates for the A.F. of M. Convention and the Penn Del-Mar-DC Conference of Locals is the next order of business. The By-Laws state that the by virtue of their offices, the Secretary-Treasurer, President and Vice-President are delegates to the Convention and Conference. The Vice-President being the Third and alternate delegate. The President asks three times if there are any more nominations. There being none, it is moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. The motion is carried.

It is moved and seconded that the Secretary-Treasurer be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot, as there are no contested offices. The motion is carried.

It is moved and seconded that the delegates to the National Convention receive transportation plus \$300.00 expenses each. The motion is carried.

The Meeting is adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

William M. Fairgraves, Secretary-Treasurer

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
October 25, 2011**

President Stitt calls the meeting to order at 6:50 P.M. Officers present: R. Stitt, F. Bolte, W. Fairgraves, S. Bialomizy, G. Damico, D. Grumblatt, M. Pelinsky, K. Vasil

It is moved and seconded that the bills as presented be paid. The motion is carried.

Two new members are accepted to full membership.

One former member is reinstated to full membership.

One resignation is accepted.

President Stitt reports on the Nutcracker Ballet and last week's Penn-Del-Mar-DC. Conference of Locals that he attended.

The President makes the following appointments for 2012.

Attorney: Kenneth Vasil

Trustees: Armand F. Amendola, Gregory Tower, James Mohny

Auditors: Donald Grumblatt, Patrick Oliviero

Philharmonic Representative: Sloan Ladwig

Representative to the AFL-CIO: Frank Bolte

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

William M. Fairgraves, Secretary-Treasurer

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
November 29, 2011**

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**WORK DUES SCHEDULE**

	<b>\$40</b>	<b>Leader is double</b>	<b>\$50</b>
	<b>3 hrs.</b>		<b>4 hrs.</b>
2	\$4.80		\$6.00
3	\$6.40		\$8.00
4	\$8.00		\$10.00
5	\$9.60		\$12.00
6	\$11.20		\$14.00
7	\$12.80		\$16.00
8	\$14.40		\$18.00
9	\$16.00		\$20.00
10	\$17.60		\$22.00
11	\$19.20		\$24.00
12	\$20.80		\$26.00
13	\$22.40		\$28.00
14	\$24.00		\$30.00

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