

Minutes of the IBMA Board of Directors Meeting
March 30, 2017 – 1:00 p.m. Central Time
Teleconference

Members Present: Joe Mullins, Bree Tucker-Myers, Wayne Taylor, Regina Derzon, Stephen Mouglin, Steve Martin, Bob Webster, Becky Buller, Mike Drudge, Denise Jarvinen, Ben Surratt, John Goad, William Lewis, , Mike Simpson, Jamie Deering, Alan Tompkins and Silvio Ferretti.

Members Absent: Marian Leighton Levy (excused) and Jeremy Darrow (excused).

Others Present: Paul Schiminger, IBMA Executive Director; Holly Gregory, Attorney, Sidley Austin LLP.

The meeting was called to order at 1:12 p.m. by Board Chair, Joe Mullins.

It was MOVED by Mike Drudge and SECONDED by Becky Buller that the minutes of the December 20, 2016 Board Teleconference Meeting be approved.
VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Mullins reminded the Board that the Executive Committee had voted to accept the fee structure for WOB 2017. The Board had no objection.

Regina Derzon and Holly Gregory gave a Bylaws Committee update. A Bylaws Committee will be appointed by Joe Mullins and is charged with working with Sidley Austin LLP to develop recommended changes to the Bylaws to be presented in the near future.

Jeremy Darrow joined the call at 1:30 p.m.

Ben Surratt presented an update on the progress of the task force for the first annual Sound Engineer Award. The committee is working on criteria for the award. More work needs to be done to complete the task. It is uncertain at this time whether the award will be ready for 2017 consideration.

Paul Schiminger presented an update on the Recording Rights Roundtable. In January, a meeting was held in Nashville to discuss legal and business issues surrounding the recording of artist performances at events. In attendance were executives from three record labels, three event producers, an agent, and David Crow who facilitated the discussion. The goal is to ultimately provide greater

awareness and understanding of the purposes and rights of all parties involved.

Paul Schiminger presented his Executive Director's report as follows:

1. Membership update (presented by Amy Beth Hale, IBMA Member Services Director). 1,519 professional; 814 grassroots for a total 2,333 members. Expired memberships from 2016 – there was a push to follow-up; over 500 communications were sent; Membership information was transferred to NEON for the new database, which will help track membership more effectively (especially Organizational members) and target communications.
2. Kelly Kessler, IBMA Communications & Professional Development Director, updated the board on Leadership Bluegrass and IBMA's communications efforts. Leadership Bluegrass 2017 was, by all accounts, a success. The quality of presenters was impressive, and attendees were given incisive views into the many interlocking segments of the bluegrass industry. The committee worked hard to provide a cohesive, substantive experience, both in preparation and during the class. We appreciate Jean Spivey's excellent work as the Planning Committee Chair and Trisha Tubbs as the facilitator.

An examination is underway to analyze the cost/benefit ratio of time and effort going into publishing IB in its current form. The goal is to inform as many people as possible about association and industry activities. Part of this analysis is to explore other more effective ways to share this information with members and the broader community. Readership numbers over the last 9 months suggest only one in four IBMA members reads IB each month (with the exception of the extremely popular September issue). A proposal will be created to better leverage social media and e-blasts to push out content and increase sponsorship/advertising too.

3. Paul presented the staffing update. He is very enthusiastic about the make-up of the staff and the skill level represented.
4. Paul presented an update on the audit. The work was temporarily halted due to the accountant's tax season restrictions. The audit is about 2/3 complete. He also presented an update on the bookkeeping work in the organization.

5. Paul presented an update on an initiative with the International Bluegrass Music Museum (“IBMM”) to amend and extend the agreement currently in place between the two organizations primarily regarding the museum’s name, the Hall of Fame plaques, and provisions for dissolution of either party in the future.
6. Paul presented an update on the attempt to re-invigorate the Mentor Program.
7. Paul presented the financial statements to date. These included a Balance Sheet and Bank Balance History. He also noted that there may be a savings going forward on our insurance for the WOB event, subject to an insurance audit currently underway.

Paul Schiminger, Eddie Huffman, William Lewis, and Jeremy Darrow provided a recap of 2016 World of Bluegrass and an update on the plans for 2017 WOB, including the festival, conference and Awards Show.

1. William Lewis gave the Board an overview of the financial aspect of the World of Bluegrass and provided some ideas for increasing profitability of the event. Mike Drudge expressed concern about the Red Hat being the financial support of the event. He would like to continue the discussion.
2. Eddie Huffman, IBMA Convention Services Director, joined the meeting to discuss various aspects of WOB, including sponsorship updates and possible areas for budget-cutting. Eddie also gave an update on the hotel rooms for WOB.
3. Paul and Eddie explained that, based on attendees’ comments, the staff is looking at a more effective way to handle the constituency meetings during WOB.
4. Jeremy Darrow, Education Committee Chair, gave an overview of sessions for the Business Conference. The Education Committee continues to work on the conference.

New Business

It was MOVED (Jamie Deering) and SECONDED (Ben Surratt) a MOTION to rescind complimentary registrations for IBMA Board members that was passed at the June 2016 Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Mullins and Paul Schiminger reviewed the changes to the Hall of Fame

nomination process as previously approved by the board. The Hall of Fame Nominations Committee meeting is to occur on April 19. The two changes being implemented are:

1. There will now be 3 inductees up from 2 in previous years. 2 of those 3 will be within the "Open Category". The remaining inductee will come one of two categories that rotate annually (Early Contribution and Non-Performing). This year's third inductee will come from the Early Contribution category.
2. The Nominating Committee meeting will now use a non-voting facilitator rather than a chairperson. Joe, as IBMA Chair, will appoint the facilitator (likely himself or Paul as the Executive Director.)

Paul discussed changes necessary for the Hall of Fame voting process by the Panel of Electors because of the expanded number of inductees. Previously, there were two or three rounds of voting so that each inductee would ultimately receive 50% of the votes in his or her respective category. With two inductees now coming from the Open Category, having each receive 50% of the votes is highly unlikely. Therefore the board agreed to use two ballots only for each category. The first ballot will vote on a slate of 10-15 nominees per category put forth by the Nominating Committee so that the top five vote getters in each category would appear on the second ballot. In the second ballot, the top two vote getters from the Open Category would be those elected, and the top vote getter in the other category would be the person elected.

Joe and Paul also reported that the roster of members in the Panel of Electors was being reviewed for any necessary changes/updates.

The board considered a proposal from the Songwriters Committee to move the Songwriter of the Year award to the Thursday evening show. The board felt songwriters are most fairly represented within the Special Awards process where the recipient is selected by a knowledgeable committee/panel that is familiar with a wide range of songwriters.

Paul provided a draft of a letter to be sent on behalf of IBMA professional members to urge against the potential defunding of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as included in the most recent Federal Budget proposal due to its impact on our professional bluegrass community. Paul will finalize the letter with Denise Jarvinen's help and send on behalf of IBMA. The final version will be sent to the full Board for final review.

John Goad reminded the Board of the Board Band Concert at the Station Inn on Sunday, May 21.

It was MOVED by John Goad and seconded by Bob Webster that the meeting be adjourned. VOTE: Passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m. Central time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Regina Warner Derzon".

Regina Warner Derzon
Secretary

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTIONS MAY 23, 2017.