



## National Board Meeting Summary

March 2018

The Handbell Musicians of America National Board held its spring meeting in Bloomington, Minnesota on March 22-24, 2018. Members present were President P.L. Grove; President-Elect Jill Fedon; and Members-at-Large Bill Mathis, Linda Minnotte, Derek Nance, Jennifer Vangolen and Kyle Webber. Also present were current Board Secretary Mike McCrary, incoming Board Secretary Karen Eggert, and Executive Director Jennifer Cauhorn.

As is standard practice, the Handbell Musicians of America mission, values, and vision statements were read at the commencement of the meeting, and the minutes of the previous conference call meeting were approved.

The Consent Agenda is the Executive Director's opportunity to inform the Board about the activities of the national staff and volunteer committees she oversees. The following items were discussed as part of the Executive Director's Consent Agenda:

### Membership

Staff are improving the membership renewal process and creating new ways to engage sub-members, an area of the membership which has been growing. There was further discussion about the new Member Extras section of the website, the Member Notes emails and Member Chats webinars, as well as content for each of those features.

### Member Engagement

Several ideas were discussed for engaging members who don't attend events, as well as providing additional web content.

### Events

The Executive Director gave a status report on the upcoming National Seminar/Master Class/Distinctly Teen events, as well as updates on Distinctly Bronze, the College Ring-in and the Virtual Bell Academy.

### Finances and Staffing

The Executive Director gave the financial report, stating that royalties through the end of 2017 have been paid, and the IRS 990 form has been filed. A complete financial report from the Executive Director can be found in the Spring 2018 edition of the Overtones. The Executive Director also gave a brief staffing update.

The following items were discussed during the general portion of the meeting:

## Visioning

One of the National Board's primary objectives is visioning for the future of the organization. The outcome of visioning discussions could be included in the Executive Director's Ends Policies and Executive Limitations, a set of documents that defines the expected outcomes of work done by the organization. During this meeting, the President led the Board through the finalization of the visioning efforts begun at the fall 2017 Board meeting. As topics were reviewed, she asked the Board to consider the following questions:

- Can the idea be completed given the organization's financial and people resources?
- Can the idea be completed within a certain amount of time?
- If the Executive Director cannot complete the idea, then who can?

She also asked that the ideas be evaluated for:

- Board action
- Part of the Executive Director's Ends Policies
- Action for a separate committee
- Put on hold for the future

Some of the topics arising from the visioning discussion were:

- Given the success of the Distinctly Bronze events, should National consider DB-like events at other ringing levels?
- Since Area rebates are now tied to membership, National should have a brainstorming/idea sharing session with Area leaders regarding strategies for increasing membership.
- Outreach to other musical organizations.
- In order to gain musicianship training for directors and ringers, offer workshops where an experienced director attends a rehearsal and works with the bell choir on musicianship.

## Bylaws Review/Approval

The Board reviewed the revised Area 7 bylaws and made suggested changes, which the Area 7 Board accepted. The Area 7 bylaws were approved as amended by the Area 7 board.

The Board also reviewed and discussed changes to the Model Area Bylaws template. While the template was reviewed and changes were suggested and agreed upon, a final approval was delayed pending review by an attorney.

## Development Committee

The Board discussed the work of the current development committee and decided to conclude its work. The Board felt it would be appropriate for the President to send a thank you letter to the committee for its efforts. The Board discussed the need for an expanded future committee. Derek Nance will act as Board liaison to assemble a new Development Committee with the goals of increasing the number of Sustaining Partners, organizing the Legacy Society program, identifying Heritage Fund opportunities, and researching grant opportunities.

## Policy Governance

The Board made changes to the Policy Governance document in order to separate the future development of the Executive Director's Ends Policies and Executive Limitations (to be created at the Spring meeting for implementation at the beginning of the next fiscal year) from the monitoring of the Ends Policies and Executive Limitations. The Ends Policies are to be monitored at each spring meeting, and the Executive Limitations are to be monitored at each fall meeting for governance in place at the beginning of the previous fiscal year. In addition, a minor revision regarding budgeting also was made to the Policy Governance document. A copy of the revised Policy Governance document can be found on the Handbell Musicians of America website.

Future meetings of the Board in 2018 will be via conference call on April 20, May 11, June 15, August 24, September 21 and November 16. The Board will meet face-to-face on July 17 at the National Seminar in Grand Rapids for a visioning session with the Area leadership and will hold its biannual meeting in the fall on October 18-20.