

## **National Board Meeting Summary March 2019**

The Handbell Musicians of America National Board held its spring meeting in St. Louis, Missouri on March 21-23, 2019. 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 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 with minor amendments.

The following items were presented and discussed as part of the Executive Director's Consent Agenda:

### **Membership**

The Executive Director reported that membership is 2% ahead of last year's numbers. She also outlined the renewal options for the upcoming membership transition plan, which includes a Q&A webinar for Area leaders.

### **Events and Programs**

The Executive Director gave a status update on events, including the upcoming National Seminar in St. Louis (which includes Distinctly Teen); a DB West report and an update on DB East and Reaching for Bronze to be held in June; plans for future Distinctly Teen and College Ring-In events; the Virtual Bell Academy; and the Certification Program.

### **Music Publishing**

AGEHR Publishing will begin using an online promotion system in place of postcards, mailers, mini-scores and CDs. There was additional discussion about Handbell Musicians of America's music publishing.

### **Staff**

The Executive Director gave an update on staff responsibilities and changes.

### **Finances**

The Executive Director gave a status report on finances for National events, year-end budget projections, and outstanding commitments.

The following item was discussed during the general portion of the meeting:

### **Bylaws Review and Approval**

The Board reviewed and approved the final revision to the Area 9 bylaws.

The Board will be finalizing proposed revisions to the Model Bylaws for discussion with the Area leaders at National Seminar in St. Louis. The Board also suggested a revision to the National Bylaws depending on the outcome of those discussions; the National Bylaws revisions would need to be approved at the fall Board meeting for inclusion on next year's ballot for the membership's vote. The proposed revisions have been reviewed by the attorney.

The following items were discussed as part of the perpetual agenda:

### **Member Linkages**

The Board discussed various linkages with individual members, the HIC, and the Areas, including proposed Board attendance at some of the Area conferences in 2019, as well as topics for the Board chat/webinar.

### **President's Award**

Board secretary Karen Eggert submitted a draft fact sheet summarizing the President's Award; the Board reviewed, edited, and approved it for future use. The Board approved a candidate for this year's President's Award.

### **rINg Reception**

The Board discussed the location and agenda for this year's rINg reception at National Seminar. The Executive Director will investigate possible locations for the event.

### **Executive Session**

The Board met in Executive Session to discuss the Executive Director's Executive Limitations and Ends policies.

### **Committee Updates and Other Reports**

Jennifer Vangolen reported that information on the election process and nominations is now up on the web site, and the Nominating Committee has already received one nomination. Two candidates for the office of President-Elect and four candidates for at-large Board members are needed. The Board discussed what qualities would make good candidates, as well as a diversity in representation. The ballot will need to be finalized in October for the 2020 election.

The Board discussed the possibility of creating a strategy for the Development Committee that would utilize its volunteers with the assistance of an outside consultant. The Executive Director discussed some potential marketing tasks suitable for a PR consultant. The Board acknowledged its lack of progress towards assisting the Development Committee in completing its objectives, which has had an impact on the completion of the strategic development plan. Future goals for the Development Committee are assisting with the organization of the Legacy Society and growing the Sustaining Partner program.

Jill Fedon reported her upcoming Overtones article will include Honorary Life nomination information, and she will soon begin recruitment for the anonymous selection committee.

The 2020 International Handbell Symposium web site development is underway, and the new symposium bell competition has been announced.

The Board discussed the topics and format for the Area leadership meeting to be held at National Seminar on Tuesday afternoon.

### **Visioning**

The Board discussed the following topics: organization sustainability, what the organization will look like in ten years, the needs of the members and achieving those needs, events in a box, online content, live streaming events, fundraising and public relations, mentoring, handbells in education.

### **Policy Governance**

The Board reviewed the changes to the Policy Governance document's Ends and Limitations with the Executive Director.

### **Future Meetings**

Future meetings of the Board in 2019 will be via conference call on June 21, August 23, September 20, and November 22 at 4 p.m. Eastern time. The Board will hold its biannual meeting in the fall on October 24-26, 2019. In addition, quarterly chats with the National Board will be available via webinar on July 20 (4 pm Eastern time) and October 26 (11 am Eastern time).