

# AMICA Annual Meeting

## Minutes of the Board Meeting

June 21, 200

Holiday Inn, Sacramento, California

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Bird at 8:31 a.m.

The first order of business was Roll Call, and the following Officers and Board Representatives were present:

Linda Bird, President  
Dan Brown, Vice-President  
Maury Willyard, Past President  
Shirley Nix, Secretary.

Board Reps and Committee Chairs: Liz Barnhart, Midwest Rep. And Convention Co-Coordinator; Ron Connor, Heart of America; Gary Craig, Gateway; Judy Chisnell, Memorial Fund Chairperson; Richard Reutlinger, Founding; John Motto-Ros, Sierra Nevada; Karl Ellison, Boston (Acting Rep.); Dianne and Marvin Polan, Lady Liberty; Fran Willyard, Pacific Northwest; Bill Chapman, Membership; Dick Merchant, Texas; Harold Hodgkins, Canada; Dorothy Olds, Northern Lights.

Others attending: Julian Dyer, England visitor.

A motion was made by Ron Connor and seconded by Dick Merchant to accept the 1999 minutes as published. The minutes from the 1999 meeting were approved as published by a unanimous vote.

### Officers' Reports: (Full written reports follow minutes)

#### President's Report (R-1)

Linda stated that it had been a good year, with a few problems. She has concerns about declining membership and also about people belonging to local chapters without membership in International.

#### Vice President's Report (R-2)

Dan Brown said the Awards Nominations went very well this year, with most chapters responding. Dan said communications with the chapters has been good.

#### Secretary's Report (R-3)

The main job for the Secretary is taking the minutes at the Board and Membership Meetings, getting them typed up and sent to the publisher.

#### Treasurer's Report (R-4)

Rob Deland, our Treasurer, could not make the meeting, but he submitted his report. He has submitted his resignation, citing a lack of time to do the work.

A discussion of the \$2800 loss at the Boston Convention ensued, with opinions expressed that Liz Barnhart helps Convention Committees with Guidelines for Conventions, and Boston had a poor bookkeeping system, with no budget.

Ron Connor said that since only Boston has lost money on Conventions, this was a rare occurrence and should not become a big issue. It was noted, however, that Convention accounting should be shown in the budget from the Treasurer.

Gary Craig suggested that we raise the percentage International gets from Convention profit.

Liz Barnhart said that there is money in the fund from previous Conventions to pay for the loss.

There was a discussion as to whether AMICA International should pay the losses if there is no bookkeeping . . . no decision was made.

Another large item in the Treasurer's Report is the cost of the Bulletin. Maury Willyard suggested letting the Executive Committee address the issue of the Treasury with Bill Chapman (Membership Chair) and Robin Pratt (Publisher) as consultants. It was suggested that a motion be made.

Maury Willyard made a motion to have the Executive Committee evaluate the Financial Statement of the organization and propose changes as necessary. Ron Connor seconded the motion, a vote was called, and the motion passed.

#### Past President's Report (R-5)

It was noted that the addition on this report is wrong. The total should be \$202.13.

#### Publisher's Report (R-6)

Robin Pratt was not in attendance.

A discussion of the practice of giving a free ad with membership renewal was entered into. It was said that this is hurting the income for the publications.

John Motto-Ros made a motion to do away with the free ads, with Dianne Polan seconding. Dick Merchant said he had sent in an ad due to the free ad, and he felt this was a good thing. A vote was called, and the motion passed with one opposed.

There followed a discussion of Bulletin costs, particularly of the inserts. Maury Willyard made a motion that the Executive Committee take these issues under consideration. John Motto-Ros seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Membership Secretary's Report (R-7)

Bill Chapman said that he felt the free ads may bring memberships. A discussion followed as to whether people would join to get a free ad. Bill feels strongly that free ads need to be examined, but the previous vote was allowed to stand.

Our membership has declined the last three years. 319 cards were sent out last year to non-renewing members. A discussion ensued regarding reasons for leaving local Chapters but not International. (Membership at this time is 1499.)

Maury Willyard made a motion that as of this meeting each Chapter will collect the International dues prior to local membership dues. Shirley Nix seconded. The motion was opened for discussion: Liz Barnhart suggested the Chapter Treasurer collect both dues and send them to the Membership Secretary. Ron Connor suggested a Membership Card for International as a means of identification. The motion was voted down.

Marv Polan made the same motion, but only for the initial memberships. A discussion followed. There was no second.

Frank Nix made a motion to have a membership list sent at least three times a year to each chapter along with membership applications at the discretion of the Membership Secretary. Liz Barnhart seconded, a vote was called and the measure passed.

Dan Brown made a motion that a verified list of Chapter Membership be included with the written Chapter Report to the Board each year. Frank Nix seconded, and the measure passed unanimously.

**At this point in the meeting, Linda announced that she was just notified that Harvey Roehl had died early this morning.**

**Some of the reports were given out of order, but in the interest of clarity, reports have been put in proper order in the minutes, as listed in the agenda for the meeting.**

#### **Audio Visual (R-8)**

There had been an Executive Committee decision to not reformat tapes made of Hi Babit due to the high cost.

Linda Bird suggested doing away with the Audio Visual Committee, since there seemed to be nowhere to keep things, the taping and such are very expensive, and not of much interest. Maury Willyard made a motion that the Audio Visual Committee be stricken from the standing committees of AMICA. Ron Connor seconded. The motion was opened for discussion. A vote was called, and the motion was defeated by a narrow margin.

#### **Technicalities (R-9 a.b.c.)**

There were three reports submitted under this heading, one each from Harold Malakinian, Terry Smythe, and Stuart Grigg.

Stuart Grigg, in his report, suggested doing away with items like brass plaques, stationery, pins. There was a discussion of these items.

Maury Willyard made a motion that stationery continue to be provided to elected officers and committee chairmen as decided by the President, but that no further stationery be offered for sale. Dorothy Olds seconded, and the measure was unanimously passed.

John Motto-Ros made a motion that the brass plaques on hand be kept in stock, but no more be ordered. Richard Reutlinger seconded, and the measure was unanimously passed.

John Motto-Ross made a motion that the AMICA pins be offered for sale to the membership and that no more be ordered. Shirley Nix seconded, and the measure was unanimously passed.

As for the Bulletins and Technicals, it was decided to let Stuart Grigg decide how to handle them.

For the Technicalities, the President will tell Stuart to order as needed, and keep three in stock if that is cost effective.

#### **Convention Co-Coordinator (R-10)**

Liz Barnhart will be stepping down in April, and Frank Nix has agreed to take the job.

Liz mentioned that some chapters owe us a Convention in their area and should be thinking about having one.

#### **Award Committee (R-11)**

Nominations came in well this year, with most chapters participating.

#### **Memorial Fund (R-12)** See report.

#### **Honorary Committee Report (R-13)** See report.

#### **Publications (R-6)** See Publisher's report.

**Web Master's Report (R-14)** Terry Smythe was not in attendance, but a detailed report was submitted.

#### **Chapter Reports (Chapter Reports were given at the General Membership Meeting, included here for clarity.)**

Boston: (C-1) See report.

Lady Liberty: (C-2) See report.

Northern Lights: (C-3) See report.

Pacific Can-Am: (C-4) See report.

Sierra Nevada: (C-5) See report.

SOWNY: (C-6) See report.

Southern California: (C-7) See report - this report includes a letter this Chapter sends out to anyone who expresses an interest in AMICA, urging them to join us.

Texas: (C-8) See report.

Heart of America: (C-9) See report.

Midwest: Liz Barnhart gave the report, telling of the meetings the chapter had during the year, and the officers.

Southern Skies - No report.

Founding Chapter: (C-10) See report.

Chicago: The Chicago report was given by Mel Septon, telling of the meetings they have had. No written report.

Gateway: Gateway was represented by Gary Craig, but no report was given.

The Committee Reports were given in this spot. They have been listed above for clarity.

The Memorial Fund Chairman gave her report. See written report. Ron Connor made a motion to accept Judy's proposal regarding donated instruments. (See report.) Dorothy Olds seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

The Webmaster's Report (See report.) Karl Ellison suggested we put the cover of the Bulletin on the web page.

The Nominating Committee - report included (R-15) Maury Willyard thanked the committee members, and presented the slate of officers nominated. They are: President - Dan Brown; Vice-President: Michael Walter; Treasurer: Robert S. Deland; Secretary: Judith A. Chisnell.

Shirley Nix made a motion to accept the slate of candidates as proposed. Ron Connor seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

At this point a discussion was entered into regarding the resignation of Rob Deland as Treasurer. He is still on the slate of candidates, since his resignation came in after the slate was presented. Maury will try to find someone to fill the job, and everyone was asked to think of those in their chapters who are good with figures and may be willing to serve.

#### **Executive Committee Report: (R-16)** See written report.

A problem had arisen with the Post Office regarding our Bulk Mail Permit so the last Bulletin was late. It took 3-4 weeks to get it taken care of.

Another problem was that California was unable to open a bank account. There was a problem with the credit reporting, and when it was resolved, the bank apologized profusely.

Maury Willyard asked about a list of AMICA property, since he had a huge job when he was President trying to find out what we owned. Dan Brown asked that each Committee Chair submit a list of any property owned by AMICA.

Dan Brown asked about a Board Meeting in Australia. Linda said that in England it was done by mail, and she felt this time it could be by E-mail. A discussion ensued as to whether we should have a short Board Meeting and a short Business Meeting. Some felt it was necessary to have the meetings, others felt it could be done by mail or E-mail. It was decided that the new President take it under consideration.

Karl Ellison moved that all Committee and Chapter Reports be done two months ahead of the Annual Meeting, and submitted to the full Board at least one month prior to the Annual Meeting, to be effective with the 2002 Meeting. Shirley Nix seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

We broke for lunch at 12:30 and came back at 1:30.

The afternoon session began with:

#### **Old Business:**

A. The AMICA Brochure Holders. Robin now has them, they are \$3.00 each, and each Chapter is urged to order some. There was one on display.

B. IFMMO Website - (E-1) Mike Barnhart and Julian Dyer - this report was given by Mike Barnhart, who has worked long and hard on this issue. Linda approved an expenditure of \$120 to get a website called ifmmo.org. When Mike finished his report, Ron Connor moved that we accept the recommendations made on the ifmmo by Mike. Maury Willyard seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

It was mentioned that if the chapters want to donate to help with the website, they should send the money to the treasurer, clearly earmarked for ifmmo.

C. Discussing links and search engines on AMICA website.

D. The continuing problem of local members not being members of International. This is a serious problem, and was addressed also under the Membership Report. It was suggested the chapters need to submit a list of members to the Membership Secretary for verification.

E. This item, free ads, was discussed and resolved under the Publisher's Report.

F. The By-laws (an addition to the agenda) Dan Brown began the discussion of the By-laws. The suggested changes to the previously published revisions were: (accepted as shown)

Article II, Section 1. (a) - add "and reproducing" between player and pianos. A discussion ensued, with the feeling we need to be open to new technology. The fear is that the Bulletin articles will be influenced by what is in the By-laws and could become too narrow in scope.(d) Eliminate "restorable and irreversible". Again, a discussion, heated at times, ensued, and the end result was that "restorable" is to be removed. (f) Add the words "in original format" between recordings, (and) both. This was accepted after a discussion.

Article III - Membership, Section 2. (b) Delete the sentence beginning with "Nominations may be made by any two" and ending with "for action". Replace "but" with "and" after "Honorary Members elected by the Board shall be exempt from the payment of dues,". Delete entire last sentence beginning with "Persons whose primary" and ending with "activity in the field."

Article IV - Officers, Section 1 - Change "shall" to "may" in last sentence.

Section 3. (a) Add "per year" after "up to \$500."

Section 7. A question arose as to whether the Membership Secretary and the Publisher are officers, and it was decided that they should be named chairs of their respective committees, and moved from the Officers Section to the Committee Section. Add: "The Membership Secretary is Chairman of the Membership Committee." Change the heading to "Membership Committee".

Section 7.(e) Eliminate "every odd-numbered year". Move this section to the Standing Rules.

Section 8. Change "Publisher" to "Publishing Committee" and move all of Section 8 to Committees Section. Remove the term "ex-officio." The sentence should read: "The Publisher is Chairman of the Publications Committee." Move to Committees Section.

Section 11. Remove "except that of Immediate Past President."

Article V, Section 2 - Remove entire last sentence. "AMICA Stationery . . ."

Section 7. Remove entire first sentence.

Article VI, Section 2 - Add at end - "Current Chapter By-laws must be presented to the International President."

Section 3 Add at end - "and present an Annual Report and current membership list at the Annual Meeting and hold at least three meetings a year."

Article VII, Section 6. Add a comma between "mail" and "telephone".

#### Standing Rules

Section 1 (a) Add "AMICA Members" after "any other group or individual", and change "or" to "of".

(d) Change "or" to "of" in "groups or individuals", and change "individuals" to "individual" and add "AMICA members."

#### Add Section 2: Membership Directory

(a) The Membership Secretary, in cooperation with the Publisher, will publish a Membership Directory at their discretion.

Maury Willyard made a motion that the Board accept all revisions as presented by the By-law committee. Dorothy Olds seconded, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

A discussion ensued regarding the presentation of these changes to the membership, and it was stated that everyone had the proposed changes in the Bulletin, so Dan Brown would go through these proposed changes and recommend the approval of the general membership for the action of the Board. Since everyone has had the opportunity to send in their comments, no discussion is to be done.

#### NEW BUSINESS

G. Linda Bird had raised the idea of not giving the Leo Ornstein and AMICA International Awards for the year 2001, due to timing of the Convention. Ron Connor made a motion that the Leo Ornstein and AMICA International Awards not be given in the year 2001 due to the timing of the Convention. The President's Award may be given. This was seconded by Maury Willyard, a vote was called and this motion passed unanimously.

H. The Audio Visual Committee and the possibility of its' being abolished was resolved elsewhere. (See Audio Visual Report.)

I. Karl Ellison has made up a list of firms who supply our hobby, and will have it available on his website, plus it will be in the Bulletin.

J. John and Jan Ham were attending to discuss the issue of Liability Insurance for the 2001 Convention in Australia. It has become a stumbling block, since they have been unable to obtain this insurance. The only way to do it is to incorporate as AMICA-Australia, Inc. for the term of the meeting, then dissolve the corporation approximately six months after the meeting. Australia did not wish to have a Convention there without liability insurance, so this issue had to be resolved or the Convention cancelled. The cost of incorporating is nominal, and the registration for the Convention already has enough cushion to pay for it. No funds are to come out of the AMICA Treasury for this, it must be paid through the Convention Registration. A discussion ensued, with concerns about affecting our Corporation here, it won't affect this since the name is different. A motion was made by Frank Nix to authorize the chairman of the Australian Convention to incorporate their committee under the name of AMICA-Australia, Inc. or such other name as they deem appropriate. They are to incorporate solely for the purpose of obtaining Convention Liability Insurance for the Australia meeting. Liz Barnhart seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

At this point, Liz Barnhart gave her full Convention Report. She reminded everyone that September 30 is the date for paying any monies still due for the Australia trip.

A meeting is being held in Linda Bird's suite for all those planning to attend the Australia Convention. At that time more information will be handed out, and many questions answered.

She said that 2003 and 2004 were still open, and we need places for those years.

There was a round of applause for Liz for all the work and time she has put in as Convention Coordinator.

K. A question was raised as to whether we needed to have a committee to assist the Treasurer, but this issue was put off until later.

L. The Cites Agreement (E-2) (Read the full written report for further details of this matter.) Canada will not allow ivory keys on pianos to cross the border, nor will the U.S. A permit is possible, but the export country has to have the permit, proving the ivory is from African, not Indiana elephants. The ivory ban is under review, and AMICA members are asked to write letters to the Fish and Wildlife Dept., their senators and congressmen asking that pianos pre-1973 be excluded. Maury Willyard made a motion that the position of the AMICA Board is to take whatever action is logical to back the issue of free access across International Borders for musical instruments made prior to 1973 regarding the Cites Agreement regarding ivory. Dianne Polan seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously. It was suggested that we put a sample letter in the Bulletin and have members write letters. Linda said she would E-mail Mike and ask him to prepare this information for the next Bulletin.

M. Robin Pratt asked that we consider ATOS (American Theater Organ Society) an affiliate member organization. Maury Willyard made a motion that we make ATOS an affiliate member organization to AMICA. Dick Merchant seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

N. Robin Pratt asked that we discuss Life Memberships. It was decided that it would be hard to budget, and would have to be a large amount to be worthwhile. The figure of \$1,000 was mentioned as an example. It was decided to table this item.

O. (Raised in the meeting . . . not on agenda) Some chapters want to use the AMICA tax-exempt status to buy food for their meetings, paper goods, and other items. A discussion ensued, with members stating that it would vary from state to state as to what was allowed and what was required. As an aside, John Motto-Ros talked to the hotel due to this discussion, and found that he saved money for the Convention since some of the charges were tax-exempt.

Linda said the Chapter Reports would be given at the General Membership Meeting, time permitting. Written reports are available.

Gary Craig made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Liz Barnhart. A vote was called, and the motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

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## **TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF MECHANICAL MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS (IFMMO)**

**By Michael A. Barnhart**

The proposition of the IFMMO is to establish a dialog for the coordination and cooperation of activities of the many, 30 plus, world wide associations involved in automatic mechanical music. The IFMMO concepts for the many associations include:

- \* To share knowledge, ideas, and the enjoyment of their common interest.
- \* To pool member resources to accomplish projects of common interest.
- \* To experience the scope of interest, geographical and cultural diversities

The challenge to the IFMMO proposition is the multidimensional diversities of mechanical music associations. These include:

- \* Diverse interest such as Bird boxes/cages, cylinder/disk music boxes, automata/dolls, Musical/flute clocks, table top organs, crank/monkey organs, pianolas/player/reproducing pianos, nickelodeons, coin pianos, Orchestrions/violin players, carillons, street/fair/cafe/dance organs, etc.
- \* Geographical diversity resulting in cultural differences and separation by great distance causing difficulty in communication and travel.
- \* Language diversity, including American, English, French, German, Dutch, and Italian, constitute the greatest barrier to understanding.

\* Organization diversity including formal/informal structure, size, scope of interest, and wealth

\* Member diversity that includes: The Practitioners, the majority of members, that are influenced by their enjoyment and fascination of the instruments in relation with the music, technical, restoration, and social aspects of the hobby; The influential academic whose principal goal is scientific control of artifacts and culture preservation through museum display, document archiving and publication; The small political minority that seek control, wealth, and power. The factors in favor of the IFMMO is that, in the world of collectibles, Mechanical Music has a limited following and the related associations have common goals. Due to the limited availability and expense of instruments and collectible material, individual associations have small and dispersed memberships. This leads to a limited availability of new members and stagnant memberships. Even though no two associations share the exact same interest every association has overlapping interest within their memberships and share the following common goals that can be pursued through the IFMMO on a larger scale than any one association by itself:

- \* To enjoy ourselves together with our mechanical musical instruments.
- \* The preservation, advancement, and expansion of the culture of mechanical musical instruments and their music.
- \* To enlighten future generations of the culture and art of mechanical music and recruit new members into the association.

The formation of an international mechanical music organization was first envisioned by prominent academic members of the larger associations. The goal of the academic members is to use the resources of the combined associations to gather, compile, catalog and preserve all available information on mechanical music. An international meeting was held, October 1999, in Bruchsal Germany to address the formation of an International FEDERATION of Mechanical Music Organizations. Eight organizations were represented at Bruchsal: Association des Amis des Instruments de Musique Mécanique (AAIMM), Gesellschaft für Selbstspielende Musikinstrumente e.V. (GSM), Kring van Draaiorgelvrienden (KDV), Nederlandse Pianola Vereniging (NPV), Schweizerischer Verein der Freunde Mechanischer Musik (SVFMM), Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors Association (AMICA), Musical Box Society International (MBSI), and Music Box Society of Great Britain (MBSGB)(by proxy). The proposed Federation approach was decisively rejected by the non academic representatives at the meeting and was withdrawn. The objections to the proposed Federation was that the organization was highly structured and dominated by academic and political interest with control over member associations. Individual associations are very sensitive to the loss of autonomy to a dominating higher authority. The academic interest were not deterred from their goal. They unilaterally decided to proceed with a "Cooperative Project" involving a bibliography index on CD-ROM. There was little opportunity during the short two hour meeting to explore the broader ramifications of coordination, and cooperation between mechanical music associations. There was, however, a sincere interest among the representatives in communication, sharing of information, coordination and cooperation of association activities. The last words spoken as the meeting adjourned were "We are going to have another meeting aren't we?"

The Bruchsal meeting, from the standpoint of addressing the broader common goals of an international mechanical music organization, was a disappointment and a lost opportunity. The influential academic elements proceeded on their own agenda with an initial (wedge) project that could lead to an international organization with limited goals and limited participation of the many mechanical music associations. I should point out that I am not anti academia. I am all for science. However, to be of value the academic product must be shared and have productive usage by the rest of the non academic world. If a true international organization was to be formed, an alternative approach needed to be found that enabled the participation of all of the associations, with all of their diversities, working together to common, including academic, goals. The alternate approach needed to be established before the wedge project solidified into an exclusive organization with limited participation and goals. Future physical meetings, such as the Bruchsal Meeting, are out of the question because the distance and expense of travel would in itself limit participation.

The Internet offers an ideal approach to establish a dialog between the many mechanical music associations. An internet

website incorporating a bulletin board type operation can be established to provide easy and equal access to one representative for each participating association. An IFMMO Website Proposal was prepared by Mike Barnhart and AMICA Webmaster Terry Smythe and agreed upon by the AMICA Board. The proposal was initially submitted in January 2000 to the Bruchsal Meeting attendees as a matter of courtesy and to solicit cosponsoring organizations to be a valid invitation for participation to the many associations. The proposal included initial funding by AMICA for the IFMMO Website setup and one year operation. This provided a clear commitment on the part of AMICA to support the concept, insure that the website is properly setup, and assumed that participating associations would contribute a fair share of funding for continued operation. The website designation ifmmo.org was secured by Terry Smythe. The proposed IFMMO Website would require some organization (small? independent?) yet to be determined for operation. The proposal included an example structured organization as a point of departure for discussion.

Six months of often confusing sometimes sharp international internet dialog (mostly at the persistence of the pesky Mike Barnhart) followed the initial submission of the IFMMO Website Proposal. The academic interest rejected the proposal (not the website idea) because it was not decided upon at Bruchsal. The practitioner interests were distrustful of the proposal example structured website organization and rejected the proposal (not the website idea) because of the website presumed domination. The internet dialog has resulted in the following refinements and clarifications to the AMICA IFMMO Website proposal:

- \* IFMMO redefined as "International FORUM of Mechanical Music Organizations"
- \* The IFMMO Website will be an independent "cooperative" website in which the many mechanical music organizations, participating as organizations, may communicate equally to exchange and disseminate information, ideas, technical data, coordinate activities, promote goals, common activities, and projects, and address common problems in an open forum dialog
- \* The IFMMO Website will function without interference or domination of any individual organization (including AMICA), special interests, group of individuals, or a single individual.
- \* Participation in the IFMMO Website is to be voluntary through one identified individual representative for each organization with no risk or legal commitment on the part of any individual organization to abide by any decision or agreement not specifically entered into by the organization.
- \* Projects can be initiated by posting on the IFMMO Website the project name, purpose, sponsoring organization(s) and name and e-mail address of an advocate project manager. Any cost or profits associated with a project will be the responsibility of the sponsoring organization(s).
- \* Sophisticated language translators are available free on the internet <systranet.com> suitable for use on the IFMMO Website. To quote Arthur WJG Ord-Hume: With the understanding

that “this is a machine translation” “Translation systems are, in my experience, remarkably good and, if used with an understanding of the subject being translated, it is rare that a serious misunderstanding will occur.” “We use Systran fairly extensively and find it simple, reliable and quite adequate for the preparation of material for the Library.”

The current status of the proposed IFMMO Website is favorable to its establishment with the advent of the following actions:

- \* Dr. Hans van Oost/KDV has proposed, as a first step, to invite the many associations to identify one person each to informally communicate with each other over the internet. Hans is currently preparing the formal invitations.

- \* The Player Piano Group (PPG) has formally endorsed the Website Proposal with the words: “WE SUPPORT IT” The PPG Committee has further volunteered to help establish the IFMMO Website on an Internet Provider and has appointed the PPG Webmaster Adam Ramet as the PPG Representative to the IFMMO

- \* The COAA has appointed Tom McAuley as the COAA Representative to the IFMMO.

- \* The AMICA Board has unanimously reaffirmed its support and commitment for the IFMMO Website Proposal and has called upon the Bruchsal Meeting attendees to support the Dr. Hans van Oost/KDV Proposal. This includes the commitment, on the part of AMICA, to fund the cost of start up and one year of operation of the IFMMO Website not to exceed \$800. The AMICA Board further appointed Michael Barnhart as the AMICA Representative to the IFMMO and assigned to him the responsibility of assuring that AMICA funds for the IFMMO Website are properly expended in accordance with the IFMMO Website Proposal.

- \* The MSBGB Committee has “agreed in principle to participate” in the IFMMO Website Proposal. The MBSGB Committee has further volunteered to prepare a draft Protocol (Charter, By-Laws) for the operation of the IFMMO and has appointed Paul Bellamy as the MBSGB Representative to the IFMMO

The acceptance of the IFMMO Website concept has been a difficult task. The initiation of the IFMMO Website will not be an easy task. Making the IFMMO Website a success is going to be a far greater task.

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# AMICA Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, June 25, 2000  
Holiday Inn, Sacramento, California

The meeting was called to order at 8:57 a.m.

There were no Honoraries present.

New members and first-time Annual Meeting attendees were asked to stand and be recognized. There was a large number. Overseas members were asked to stand and be recognized. Past-presidents were asked to stand and be recognized. Each group was given an enthusiastic round of applause.

Linda Bird announced Harvey Roehl’s passing. A moment of silence was observed. It was suggested that donations be made to the AMICA Memorial Fund, clearly marked as being made in Harvey’s honor. Hopefully a special project can be done in Harvey’s name.

Robin Pratt E-mailed to announce that he would hold up the Bulletin for anyone who wanted to include comments on Harvey.

## REPORTS

Reports were given orally in the following order. (Written reports follow the minutes.) President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer (given by proxy), Past-President’s (given out of order), Committee chairs.

Membership Secretary - Bill Chapman sent out 319 reminders in the last year. He has received his first membership inquiries from South Africa and Russia. Microsoft Access tutoring was requested for Bill.

Publisher (absent - see report) It should be noted here, though, that free ads for members will be eliminated.

Archives, Technical, A.V., Honorary Committee.

Convention Coordinator (see full written report) Liz Barnhart thanked the Founding and Sierra-Nevada Chapters for this year’s Convention, an enthusiastic round of applause was given. Liz presented a plaque to John Motto-Ros, the chairman of Convention 2000. John and Jan Ham gave a presentation about the Australian Convention in February of 2001. It was a very entertaining presentation, complete with a recording from 1934 entitled “Let’s Take A Trip To Melbourne”. Liz reminded everyone that applications are still available for Melbourne. She also gave a rundown of the activities in New Zealand. Liz showed a rolling backpack she likes, and showed us how much goes into this. One of the big pieces of advice for the Australia trip is . . . “Pack Light”. Don’t take extra items, and you can wear clothes more than one day. Be sure your luggage has wheels.

Following this, Ron Connor gave a very entertaining talk about the Springdale Convention in 2002, being put on by the Heart of America Chapter. This is a new part of the country for an Annual Meeting, and there is a lot to do in this area. We will be visiting Eureka Springs, with a visit to the Crescent Hotel for lunch. This is the hotel owned by Marty and Elise Roenigk, and we will see their collection. After the Convention, if one has extra time, a visit to Branson, Missouri, is two hours away by car.

It was mentioned that 2003 and 2004 are still open.

Liz announced that she was stepping down, and introduced the new Convention Coordinators - Frank and Shirley Nix.

Memorial Fund - see written report; Awards - see written report. There will be no Leo Ornstein or AMICA International Awards in Australia. By-laws - Dan Brown went over the changes suggested by the Board. Mel Septon made a motion that we adopt the By-laws as proposed by the By-laws Committee, with the changes proposed by the Board. Ron Connor seconded, and a vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Webmaster - see report - The webmaster, Terry Smythe, could not attend, and his report was given by Linda Bird.

Executive Committee - see report. The IFMMO Report was discussed.

## OLD BUSINESS

Brochure holders were discussed, with every chapter urged to buy some and place them in public places, such as piano stores, and at band organ rallies.

## NEW BUSINESS

A. No Leo Ornstein or AMICA International Awards will be given in Australia, due to the timing of the Convention.

B. It had been suggested that we abolish the Audio-Visual Committee, but that idea was voted down in the Board Meeting.

C. Karl Ellison has put together a comprehensive list of firms supporting our hobby. It will be on his website, and will appear in the Bulletin. It will also appear on the MMD.

D. A discussion of the Liability Insurance issue for the Australia Convention, with the result reported from the Board Meeting.

E. Cites Agreement - see the report for the full issue. This issue concerns the moving of pianos across borders, with ivory keys being taken off and sent to the agencies responsible for enforcement of this act. Members are urged to write their representatives. A sample letter will appear in the Bulletin.

F. The American Theater Organ Society has been approved by the Board as an Affiliate Organization to AMICA.

G. The possibility of Life Memberships had been discussed by the Board, but was tabled due to the high price necessary, and the problem with budgeting.

H. All committees are to have their reports submitted to the President and the Board a month ahead of the Annual Meeting with a current membership list. This includes Chapter Reports.

I. Dan Brown announced that Mike Walter is stepping down as Honorary Chairman, so we need someone for that position, as well as Treasurer.

## CHAPTER REPORTS

The written reports follow the minutes. Boston - Karl Ellison, Founding Chapter - Richard Reutlinger, Gateway - no report given, Heart of America - Ron Connor, Lady Liberty - Dianne Polan, Midwest - Liz Barnhart, Northern Lights - Dorothy Olds, Pacific Can-Am - Fran Willyard, Sierra Nevada - John Motto-Ros, Southern California - Frank Nix, Southern Skies - no representative, SOWNY - Harold Hodgkins, Texas - Dick Merchant, Chicago - Mel Septon - no written report. Mel gave a rundown of the meetings by this chapter, and their upcoming meetings. They have an active chapter.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** (See written Report) Maury Willyard announced the proposed slate of candidates. They are: President - Dan C. Brown of Spokane, Washington; Vice President - Michael Walter of Lancaster, New York; Treasurer - Robert S. Deland of Grayslake, Illinois; Secretary - Judith A. Chisnell of Rosebush, Michigan. Charles Tyler made a motion to approve the slate of officers as proposed by the Nominating Committee. Anita Johnson seconded. A vote was called, and the motion was adopted unanimously. Maury Willyard thanked the members of the Nominating Committee: Ed Strain, Richard Groman II, Wes Neff, Jerrilynn Boland, Janet Tonnesen, and Lloyd Osmundson.

The California Chapters were again thanked for their work putting on the 2000 Annual Meeting.

Dan Brown, the new President, called for the passing of the banner to Australia. This was done.

Harold Hodgkins made a motion to adjourn. Richard Reutlinger seconded. A vote was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

# CONVENTION REPORTS

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT (R-1)

June 21, 2000 - This has been an incredibly busy year for decision making in AMICA. Many issues had to be brought before the Executive Committee since the full Board only meets once a year. Those issues will be addressed in my Executive Committee Report.

The By-laws Committee has been working this entire year and has a final draft finished which was mailed to Board members and also mailed to the general membership in the last Bulletin. Dan Brown and I have attempted to compile any suggestions that came in from the Board and the general membership. These will be discussed at the Board Meeting. Mike Walter, Dan Brown and Dorothy Olds did a great job with a mammoth task.

I continue to be concerned about our declining membership and have one solution that could help a little bit. After checking the roster of several chapters, I realize that there are anywhere from a few to 15

people in a chapter that aren't members of International. This issue must be addressed and I am again recommending that the local treasurers collect both local and International dues. I know this makes more work for our Membership Secretary but feel it is the only way we can guarantee they will join International.

I discovered that our Bound Bulletins and Technicalities issues were not being sent out when ordered, so I asked Shawn Fox to step down and appointed Stuart Grigg to handle the shipping and handling of these things. Stuart is graciously storing all of these records at his place of business. He is also handling the AMICA stationery.

I am pleased to announce that Emmett Ford has graciously donated his entire collection of pictures, letters, and other paper work to AMICA. It will be picked up this weekend by a member of the Heart of America Chapter and will be taken to Robin in late July. There could be much valuable information for the Bulletin in his files.

Regretfully I must announce that in the last week Rob DeLand has asked to step down from his job as Treasurer. He is overwhelmed with work and the lives of two active children. We really appreciate all the work he has done and will try to find his replacement as soon as possible.

It has been a great four years. I have been through lots of ups and downs, but the real reward of this job is all of the new friends I have made. I confidently turn it over to Dan Brown and know he will be an excellent leader for the organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bird, President

## **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2000 (R-2)**

The duties of the Vice-President include serving as a liaison with chapters, and I rely upon receiving chapter newsletters and meeting announcements to stay informed of their activities. I am please to report another increase in the number of chapter publications I have received this year and compliment these chapters for keeping me on their mailing lists: Chicago Area, Founding, Gateway, Heart of America, Lady Liberty, Midwest, Northern Lights, Pacific Can-Am, Sierra-Nevada, SOWNY, Southern California, and Texas. I have not received information from Boston Area or Southern Skies chapters this year. AMICA By-laws require that chapters hold at least three meetings a year and make at least two reports to the Bulletin. From information I have at hand, it appears that Boston Area, Gateway, and Southern Skies chapters had fewer meetings and that Boston Area, Gateway, Texas, and Southern Skies chapters are behind in reports.

As soon as I receive information about a scheduled chapter activity, I E-mail this information to both Bob Fitterman (Mechanical Music Digest) and Terry Smythe (AMICA), who then post the activity on the calendars of the MMD and AMICA web pages. These postings are usually made promptly and I urge AMICA members to check these sites for upcoming chapter and AMICA activities. AMICA has again been listed twice this year in the semi-annual listing of collector organizations published in The Antique Trader weekly. There is no expense for this listing.

I have heard of no further activity in establishing a Western Pennsylvania Chapter this year.

The nomination and selection process for the Leo Ornstein Literary Award and the AMICA International Award is also the responsibility of the Vice-President. A report of award activities has been submitted separately. This year, the process proceeded smoothly and in a timely fashion.

Total Vice-President expenses this year were \$319.66, all of which related to the Awards. This was within the anticipated budget submitted for this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Brown, Vice-President

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT - 2000 (R-3)**

Since the last convention my main job, of course, was taking minutes of the Board Meeting and the General Membership meeting, getting them typed up and sent to Robin for publication in the Bulletin.

During the year, I have sent get well cards to members who were seriously ill, and unfortunately I have had to send out some sympathy cards as well to the families of members who have passed away.

There have been a few incidental jobs done at the request of our President, Linda Bird, such as having an insurance form notarized and sent to her, calls to Bob Yates regarding insurance questions, and I have been available to Linda whenever she had something she wished me to do. We corresponded mainly by email, saving money.

I printed By-Laws and mailed them to the Board members for consideration or suggested changes. I sent out letter to the Board Members, Reps from the various chapters, and Committee Chairs regarding the annual meeting, and agendas were sent as well.

My expenses for the year were \$104.90

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Nix, AMICA Secretary

## **1999 TREASURER'S REPORT (R-4)**

### **AMICA INTERNATIONAL**

by Rob DeLand

January 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999

### **INTRODUCTION**

AMICA International overall had income and expenses in line with recent years, except for the membership directory which resulted in a \$15,000 deficit. This was mentioned in last year's report, and is now planned for in the annual budget. The costs were covered by our money market funds, but those funds are now that much lower without any plan for bringing them back to the previous level.

The total AMICA income (national and chapters combined) was \$79,738.75 which is down 5% from 1998 (see Chart 1). Total expenses were \$89,579.84 which is up 12% from 1998. This entire amount may be attributed to the directory, which cost \$11,000 to print. Hopefully better planning will cover this in the future. Total expenses surpassed income by \$9,841.09. Further study of Chart 1 shows both the income & expense levels, along with the % change from 1998.

### **INCOME (National ONLY)**

Total national dues collected in 1999 was \$65,641.18, which is down just 1% from 1998. Of course this does include an increase of the annual dues rate.

Advertising income was split between the bulletin and directory in this year's accounting, but the overall total was about the same as that reported in 1998.

Interest rates were off in 1999 so funds were transferred to a Certificate of Deposit. Unfortunately convention costs were threatening to need help, and the aforementioned directly cost resulted in fewer dollars available to benefit from the better return of the CD. Our \$55,816.48 money market account was closed and a CD earning 5.6% was purchased with \$30,468.62. The remainder was left in our checking account to assure that operating expenses were covered without delays as had been the case in the past.

Few books or AV projects are currently available for purchase, so that revenue source is at a 5-year low. As mentioned last year, a worthwhile project is needed to promote our hobby and provide income.

### **EXPENSES (National ONLY)**

Of the \$89,579.84 total national expenses in 1999, \$59,011.33 (66%) related to the news bulletin. The bulletin costs are broken out at the bottom of Chart 2, showing expenses annually from 1995 to present. These costs include printing the magazine, stuffers and reprints; plus all postage, handling, and the publisher's fees. Publishing the news bulletin and reprinting literature is an integral part of our tax-exempt charter, and our Publisher has provided high quality printing done at very reasonable rates. Without this avenue many of these items might never be reprinted.

The second largest general group of expenses included telephone and postage for business conducted by our officers, and most of the expenses which are shown as "miscellaneous", such as business related copying, office supplies and equipment. Telephone costs are greatly reduced from previous years, thanks to the use of email and



cheaper long distance rates for conducting AMICA business. The postage and misc. costs for officers appears to be evenly distributed throughout the year and among many individuals. The President has details, which suggest these costs are all a reasonable part of doing business. No officer other than the publisher and membership secretary takes any fee for his or her time.

Convention "seed money" averages out to \$1000 per year, and continues to be returned to AMICA national, in addition to a percentage of any profit from conventions. This same arrangement calls for AMICA national to cover losses, which was necessary for the 1998 Boston convention. That will appear in the report for 2000 expenses, since it wasn't resolved until early in 2000.

Remaining costs for 1999 are essentially the same as for 1998 and included (in declining order) insurance, awards, internet service, and bank charges. The latter consists mostly of fees incurred for the privilege of accepting charge card payments.

## REPORT ON AMICA CHAPTERS

At the end of 1999 AMICA had fourteen active regional chapters, up from thirteen (welcome, Southern Skies!). Dues and interest were primary sources of income for each of the chapters, and costs related to chapter meeting notices were the major cost. The AMICA chapters have kept their costs down and the average chapter bank balance increased by 14% during 1999, which is double the previous increase percentage. This is mostly due to containing costs; income was almost flat from 1998 to 1999 (see Chart 3).

## MEMORIAL FUND

The memorial fund balance is \$6,433.79 in 1999, up \$322 from \$6,111.79 in 1998. I do not have details at this time; this is an issue we hope to improve on in the coming year.

## SUMMARY

AMICA International continues to have a sound financial base due to a steady income from membership dues, earned interest and advertising revenue. Since we have now budgeted for the directory expenses it remains to be seen how well we can live within this budget.

All required tax forms were filed in a timely fashion with the IRS, the Franchise Tax Board of the State of California, the California Registry of Charitable Trusts and the Secretary of State for the State of California as required by law.

AMICA International continues to enjoy its unquestioned status as a non-profit, tax-exempt educational organization registered and incorporated in the State of California.

I thank all the AMICA Chapter treasurers who reported this year and helped to make this report complete. You were very prompt in getting your information to me and that made the taxes and my reports much easier to complete.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob DeLand, Treasurer

<b>Chart 3: 1999 AMICA Chapter Account Balances</b>				
<b>Individual AMICA Chapter Account Balances Ending December 31</b>				
	<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>% Change</b>
1	Boston Area	\$1,670.94	\$1,708.97	2%
2	Chicago Area	\$5,962.39	\$6,050.95	1%
3	Founding	\$2,087.91	\$2,876.52	38%
4	Gateway	\$3,882.23	\$3,883.07	0%
5	Heart Of America	\$2,101.53	\$2,490.70	19%
6	Lady Liberty	\$1,539.74	\$1,884.95	22%
7	Midwest	\$7,633.46	\$8,205.71	7%
8	Northern Lights	\$690.98	\$622.59	-10%
9	Pacific Can-Am	\$2,521.63	\$2,790.80	11%
10	Sierra Nevada	\$1,129.72	\$1,405.46	24%
11	Southern California	\$7,402.25	\$7,766.07	5%
12	Southern Skies	\$0.00	\$260.37	0%
13	SOWNY	\$3,924.16	\$6,166.89	57%
14	Texas	\$781.73	\$912.58	17%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$41,328.65</b>	<b>\$47,025.63</b>	<b>14%</b>

Chart 1: AMICA International Combined National & Chapter Income / Expense Analysis					
	1999 (TOTAL)	1999 (National)	1999 (chapters)	1998 totals	% difference
<b>Income</b>					
advertising (bulletin)	\$3,968.80	\$6,798.80		\$6,650.20	-40%
advertising (directory)	\$2,830.00			\$0.00	new category
convention fund	\$1,053.81	\$1,053.81		\$1,000.00	5%
interest received	\$2,217.48	\$1,263.31	\$854.17	\$3,909.76	-43%
membership dues	\$65,641.18	\$60,255.21	\$5,385.97	\$66,595.20	-1%
memorial fund (donations)	\$322.00	\$322.00		\$194.50	66%
sales: books	\$290.00	\$290.00		\$1,222.18	-76%
sales: bound bulletins	\$6.00	\$6.00		\$130.00	95%
sales: technicalities & leaders	\$318.75	\$313.75		\$134.50	133%
sales: misc.	\$75.00	\$75.00		\$491.58	-85%
misc.	\$3,020.73		\$3,020.73	\$3,917.02	-23%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$79,738.75</b>	<b>\$70,377.88</b>	<b>\$9,360.87</b>	<b>\$84,244.94</b>	<b>-5%</b>
(programs / meetings)					
(specially adjusted)	\$79,738.75	\$70,377.88	\$9,360.87	\$84,244.94	-5%
	1999 (TOTAL)	1999 (National)	1999 (chapters)	1998 totals	% difference
<b>Expenses</b>					
AV	\$155.00	\$155.00		\$925.62	-83%
awards	\$613.86	\$613.86		\$515.18	19%
bank charge	\$254.91	\$254.91		\$323.66	-21%
convention seed & expenses	\$296.12	\$296.12		\$3,450.00	-91%
donation (museum)	\$0.00			\$550.00	-100%
handling: bulletin	\$2,825.50	\$2,825.50		\$1,411.00	107%
handling: directory					
honorary expense	\$0.00			\$0.00	
insurance	\$1,730.00	\$1,730.00		\$1,625.00	6%
internet (domain, monthly)	\$394.14	\$394.14			new category
legal & professional fees	\$20.00	\$20.00		\$55.00	-64%
membership secretary fees	\$2,465.00	\$2,465.00		\$0.00	new category
misc.: copies	\$452.41	\$452.41		\$96.03	371%
misc.: office equipment	\$250.00	\$250.00		\$360.10	-31%
misc.: office supplies	\$366.50	\$366.50		\$774.05	-53%
misc.	\$1,437.51	\$392.00	\$1,045.51	\$2,308.12	-38%
newsletter	\$566.59		\$566.59	\$686.99	-16%
postage: bulletin	\$9,316.27	\$7,922.61	\$1,393.66	\$4,997.95	86%
postage: directory		\$1,482.77			
postage: officers & misc.		\$3,433.00			
printing: books (ie. Website)	\$0.00			\$0.00	
printing: bulletin	\$26,889.00	\$26,889.00		\$28,345.61	-5%
printing: directory	\$10,905.00	\$10,905.00		\$0.00	new category
printing: misc. inserts	\$9,087.72	\$9,087.72		\$7,596.59	20%
printing: reprints	\$3,979.00	\$3,979.00		\$6,286.00	-37%
printing: stationery	\$1,124.15	\$1,124.15		\$184.00	511%
printing: AMICA brochures	\$0.00			\$1,269.88	-100%
publisher fees	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00		\$9,000.00	0%
refunds	\$0.00			\$0.00	
supplies	\$782.82		\$782.82	\$0.00	new category
telephone	\$1,652.57	\$1,652.57	\$0.00	\$5,636.83	-71%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$89,579.84</b>	<b>\$85,791.26</b>	<b>\$3,788.58</b>	<b>\$79,759.52</b>	<b>12%</b>
	1999 (TOTAL)	1999 (National)	1999 (chapters)	1998 totals	difference (\$)
<b>TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSE</b>	<b>-\$9,841.09</b>	<b>-\$15,413.38</b>	<b>\$5,572.29</b>	<b>\$4,486.42</b>	<b>-\$14,326.61</b>

**Chart 2: 1999 AMICA Income / Expense Analysis (National ONLY)**

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>Income</b>					
advertising (bulletin)	3,507.30	7,197.10	3,070.00	6,660.20	3,988.80
advertising (directory)	1,198.80				2,830.00
convention fund	0.00	2,705.86	3,145.00	1,000.00	1,053.81
interest received	689.30	1,192.87	2,908.02	2,855.30	1,263.31
membership dues	48,143.50	47,032.00	53,452.14	81,854.53	60,304.21
memorial fund (donations)	600.00	100.00	4,242.50	85.00	322.00
sales: books & AV	4,015.48	2,389.00	2,043.00	1,222.18	75.00
sales: bound bulletins	1,063.00	346.00	354.00	130.00	6.00
sales: technicalities & leaders	1,118.50	788.00	0.00	134.50	313.75
sales: misc.	85.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	296.00
misc.	2,333.91	182.59	0.00	0.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60,662.77</b>	<b>61,893.22</b>	<b>70,014.66</b>	<b>73,731.74</b>	<b>70,426.88</b>
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>Expenses</b>					
AV				438.11	155.00
awards	109.83		93.80	515.10	613.86
bank charge	12.00	12.00	12.00	288.17	254.91
convention seed	1,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00	298.12
donation (museum)	100.00	100.00	0.00		
handling: bulletin				1,411.00	2,133.00
handling: directory					448.00
housing: expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00		
insurance			1,670.00	1,625.00	1,730.00
internet (domain, monthly)					394.14
legal & professional fees	25.00	35.00	45.00	55.00	20.00
membership secretary fees			2,303.50		2,465.00
misc.: copies				96.03	452.41
misc.: office equipment	5,376.41	2,970.69	3,011.83	380.10	250.00
misc.: office supplies	1,427.38	400.88	4,798.77	270.82	366.50
misc.	79.50	1,695.27	338.00		780.50
newsletter					
postage: bulletin	1,432.40	732.04	709.20	4,997.95	7,922.81
postage: directory					1,482.77
postage: officers & misc.				2,039.73	3,433.00
printing: books (ie. Welta)	0.00	0.00	0.00		
printing: bulletin	32,063.84	28,434.01	33,763.45	28,345.61	28,889.00
printing: directory	19,652.72	3,025.00	0.00		10,905.00
printing: misc. inserts				7,596.59	9,097.72
printing: reprints			6,533.00	6,288.00	8,979.00
printing: stationery				184.00	1,124.15
printing: AMICA brochures				1,289.88	
publisher fees	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,200.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
refunds	8.00	23.00	26.00		84.00
supplies					
telephone	731.33	2,611.89	3,241.15	5,297.10	1,552.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68,017.41</b>	<b>46,039.38</b>	<b>64,748.70</b>	<b>72,120.97</b>	<b>85,849.28</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-7,354.64</b>	<b>15,853.84</b>	<b>5,265.96</b>	<b>1,610.77</b>	<b>-15,422.38</b>
Money Mkt. Acct. balance**			53,121.75	55,818.48	30,468.62
**closing balance as of December 31st of the indicated year (except 1999, moved to CD)					
<b>Bulletin Expenses (above)</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>
handling: bulletin	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,411.00	2,133.00
postage: bulletin	1,432.40	732.04	709.20	4,997.95	7,922.81
printing: bulletin	32,063.84	28,434.01	33,763.45	28,345.61	28,889.00
printing: misc. inserts	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,596.59	9,097.72
printing: reprints	0.00	0.00	6,533.00	6,288.00	8,979.00
publisher fees	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,200.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
<b>TOTAL Bulletin Expenses</b>	<b>39,496.24</b>	<b>35,166.05</b>	<b>47,205.65</b>	<b>57,837.15</b>	<b>59,011.33</b>

## PAST PRESIDENT REPORT — YEAR 2000 (R-5)

During this past year I discussed numerous items of AMICA concern with the President at her request and provided my considered opinion when asked for.

Another large percentage of my time was spent as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The results of this effort will be discussed as the Nominating Committee Report.

I arranged for the production of 12 bronze medallion castings of the AMICA logo for use on award plaques. I had this accomplished at the same place that made the ones we have used the past several years. This current procurement should last for the next four years. The castings and the mold have been forwarded to the Vice President who will pass them on to the new Vice President after the coming election.

My expenses, including those of Chairman of the Nominating Committee, billed to AMICA for the year 1999, were as follows:

TELEPHONE - \$13.10 POSTAGE - \$26.73  
 AWARD PLAQUES - \$162.30 TOTAL - \$202.13  
 Maury Willyard

## AMICA Publisher's Financial Report (R-6)

Bulletin	#Pages	Printing	Envelope	Label, Insert Sort, Bundle Deliver. to PO	Postage
Jan-Feb	72	\$ 5,246.	\$181.	\$ 230.	\$1275.24
Mar-Apr	76	\$ 4,442.	\$181.	\$ 230.	\$1240.40
May-Jun	56	\$ 4,170.	\$177.	\$ 230.	\$ 982.37
Jul-Aug	68	\$ 3,965.	\$ 85.	\$ 230.	\$1184.70
Sep-Oct	72	\$ 4,940.	\$177.	\$ 230.	\$1237.29
Nov-Dec	72	\$ 4,579.	\$182.	\$ 232.	\$1705.09
		<u>\$27,342.</u>	<u>\$983.</u>	<u>\$1382.</u>	<u>\$7625.09</u>

Membership Application -	Print	Insert
May-Jun	\$ 110.	\$ 40.
Jul-Aug		\$ 80.
	<u>\$110.</u>	<u>\$120.</u>

### Customer Advertising Inserts

\$ 80.	Public Auction
\$ 80.	Farnsworth House B&B
\$ 50.	Circus World
<u>\$210.</u>	

Reprints	Print	Insert	Quantity
Player Piano Direct.	\$ 564.	\$ 80.	1800
Aeolian-A. Gibson	\$ 716.	\$ 50.	2000
The Aeolian	\$2699.	\$ 60.	2000
QRS-Blues	\$ 162.	\$ 60.	1800
	<u>\$4141.</u>	<u>\$250.</u>	

Convention Items	(Quantity 3000)	Insert	
Conv. Registration	\$103.	\$ 50.	Boston
Hotel Registration	\$103.	\$ 50.	Boston
Conv. Registration		\$ 40.	Boston
Hotel Registration		\$ 40.	Boston
Australian Odyssey	<u>\$112.</u>	<u>\$ 80.</u>	
	<u>\$318.</u>	<u>\$260.</u>	

Misc,		
Bind 1998 Bulletins	\$ 97.	
Bind 11-'97s & 1-'96	\$ 38.	
Copies MacKinnon	\$ 57.50	Insert \$ 40.
Chapter Map	<u>\$102.</u>	<u>Insert \$ 60.</u>
	<u>\$294.50</u>	<u>\$100.</u>

Directory	Quantity	Print
Directory Information correct Letter	1700	\$ 98.
#10 Reg. Envelope	1700	\$ 86.
#9 Return Envelope	1700	\$ 86.
Additional Letters	450	\$ 44.
Cut, Insert, Sort, Bundle, Del to PO		\$442.
Postage		\$552.

Directory	2000	\$10,905.
Envelope 9 1/2x 12 1/2		\$ 217.
Label, insert, Sort, Bundle, Del. to Post Office		\$ 231.
Insert in Jul-Aug: Directory Corrections		\$ 30.
Self-addressed Corrections to Directory		\$ 66.
New Member List		\$ 328.
Insert New Member List		<u>\$ 80.</u>
		\$13,165.

Bill Chapman	Quantity	Print	Shipping
	Email 5 pages	\$20.	
	9x12 Envelopes 500	<u>\$62.</u>	<u>\$13.47</u>
		\$82	\$13.47

Respectfully Submitted June 11, 2000  
 Robin Pratt, Publisher AMICA Publications  
 630 East Monroe Street  
 Sandusky, Ohio 44870-3708  
 419-626-1903

## 2000 AUDIO - VISUAL REPORT (R-8)

Not much happening in the Audio-Visual Department this year. The Audio-Visual Department has been slow to develop over the past years. We have tried to generate interest by interviewing interesting people or video recording events such as conventions. Despite our efforts, Audio-Visual remains a low profile department. With the exchange of information just a click away on the Internet, it appears the conventional way of gathering and storing information to be cumbersome.

Most organizations our size have an historical department where records of important events are kept. Our Audio-Visual Department, when conceived, was launched to that end and hoped to become an important part of AMICA. It still has a place of importance as the keeper of historical events of our organization. However, records of these events hold no special interest to our members and those interested were there in attendance and saw it all.

Our current project of an interview with Hi Babit, QRS recording artist, highlighted our desire to preserve our past. Much work went into making this interview a reflection of Hi's personality. We hoped to sell videotapes of the interview to recoup our expenses, something that never materialized.

New information of historical value continues to turn up about people and events, and is published in our bulletin. This information is not archived separately, but remains part of the current bulletin. Perhaps, Audio-Visual information should be combined with the AMICA Archives Department information and stored with it. Any new endeavor could be a joint venture of all concerned and end up under the same umbrella of the AMICA Archives department.

We will remain ready to accept any Audio-Visual items of historical value. In the past we have accepted audiocassettes of radio interviews and home video recordings of collections or events from our members. Meanwhile, we will continue to be the keeper of the Audio-Visual library.

HAROLD MALAKINIAN  
 CHAIRMAN AUDIO-VISUAL DEPARTMENT

## 2000 TECHNICALITIES REPORT (R-9a)

The activity this year in Technicalities has been electronic. Time was when letters and phone calls were the popular means of communication. Now it's the internet. Most of the E-mail we received, addressed to AMICA Technicalities, were asking how to repair or restore some function of a musical instrument on an older restoration. When we could, we helped them. When we couldn't we became the point man and pointed them to some one with a similar instrument or expertise on their subject. The need for quality restoration on the initial rebuild has now become evident at this time. Most quality restorations appear to last about 20 years of trouble free service with only minor maintenance.

Despite this fact, short cuts to getting a player working continue to exist. Like capping leaking valves with a thin layer of pouch leather over the original deteriorated leather instead of replacing it, and saving a time consuming task. It may get you started on your way, but it won't make the trip, quality restoration takes time.

Most player repair professionals are reporting a brisk business in restoration and related services with a backlog of work. Their main concern continues to be obtaining quality materials. The supply houses are obliging by making available a wide variety of goods for this limited market and all for sale on the internet.

The Internet seems to be the principal means of information transfer now. We have many members who have written technical articles in the past. Their contributions are compiled in a manual and periodically made available to the public. Most of the current usable information I have seen is on the internet, dispensed by nonmembers and members alike. I doubt if any of this information will ever reach a technicalities manual. The Technicalities Department is still a continuing feature in the AMICA Bulletin. Although, technical news continues to flourish, little ends up in print. We would like to see a reversal of this trend.

HAROLD MALAKINIAN  
CHAIRMAN TECHNICALITIES DEPARTMENT

## Annual Report - Technicalities Assembly (R-9b)

For the past few years, the assembly, production and sales of Technicalities has been a shared responsibility between Terry Smythe and most recently Stuart Grigg. This will serve to advise that I am in the process of the labor intensive cut 'n paste assembly of Technicalities VII for the period 1994 to 1999 inclusive. I would expect to have a single ready-for-camera copy into Stuart Grigg's hands by late summer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terry Smythe  
Technicalities Assembly

## AMICA Awards Committee Report 2000 (R-11)

Requests for nominations were made to chapter AMICA Board representatives in November of 1999 and the deadline was set for February 15, 2000. Reminder letters were sent to chapters in January to those chapters which had not responded. Responses were received from twelve chapters, a record response: Founding, Heart of America, Lady Liberty, Midwest, Pacific Can-Am, Sierra-Nevada, Chicago Area, Gateway, Texas, Boston, Northern Lights, and Southern California. SOWNY and Southern Skies chapters did not respond. No nominations were received from individuals this year. Nominations were made by nomination form, e-mail, and telephone.

This year, the Awards Committee consisted of Donald Barton, Karl Ellison, and myself. Several ineligible nominations were received. For the final selection process, all members of the AMICA Board of Directors submitted votes.

The cost of plaques was exactly the same as last year. The total cost was \$134.46. Mailing expenses for the awards process were \$13.20 and the grand total for award expenses (with the exception of the convention registration reimbursement for award recipients who attend the convention) was \$147.46. There will be additional mailing expenses, as only one of the Award recipients is planning to attend the convention and receive their award in person.

There were enough award medallions for this year, but after consulting with President Linda Bird, the decision was made to order a supply of medallions for four future years. The cost for these was \$172.20. The total expenses were within the anticipated budget submitted for the year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Brown, AMICA Vice-President

## REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE (R-12)

Since the last Memorial Fund report, there have been numerous contributions. This is encouraging, as for the year prior to that, only \$75.00 was contributed. I see this increase to be due, primarily, to the addition of space for such contributions on the regular dues notices and the printing in the Bulletin of reminders that the Fund exists, and is a convenient and thoughtful means of remembering a friend or family member.

At this time, the figures for the Memorial Fund balance are not available, but are soon to be extracted from the other finances and made available to me. I will send Robin such information to be published in my next "newsletter" in the Bulletin. Approximately \$400.00 was contributed since the Boston convention. That seems to be a step in the right direction.

The Memorial Fund has, in the past, paid for the printing of the AMICA brochure that many of us hand out at rallies, etc. It is my understanding that this will continue to be a function of the Memorial Fund. With increases in donations (we are HOPEFUL), we will also need suggestions for other appropriate ways to utilize the Fund. Your suggestions are always welcomed.

Attached is a proposal for accepting donated instruments and other related articles. This was a suggested set of guidelines drafted by the immediate past chairperson of the Memorial Fund, Richard Reutlinger. It is in response to a suggestion that such a proposal be submitted at this year's Board meeting. Your input is requested.

Respectfully,  
Judith A. Chisnell, Chairperson  
AMICA Memorial Fund Committee

## Proposed Procedures for Donated Instruments

1. Designate a person to be contacted, should someone leave/donate an instrument to AMICA. (The Memorial Fund Chairperson could be this designee.)
2. Once the donor or his representative has contacted AMICA with an offered item, make every effort to get detailed information such as make, model, serial number, cabinet type, accessories, etc.
3. Attempt to establish the LOCAL value of the instrument by contacting a local dealer or other collector. If, at this point, the instrument or related items are deemed worthless for sale or of no value to AMICA, the gift should be declined. AMICA should be under no obligation to accept potential gifts.
4. Place ads in the local AMICA Chapter newsletter, the AMICA Bulletin, and local newspapers at the discretion of the donor and the AMICA representative. Be certain to state in such ads that the sale is made F.O.B. Costs for such ads, photos, etc. will be reimbursed by AMICA.
5. If the item offered is not sold quickly, make arrangements for storage locally, since AMICA has no facility for such storage. Such storage fees will be reimbursed by AMICA. If local sale seems unlikely, it could, at this point, be offered at auction on E-Bay, etc.
6. All donated items should be made available to the public and not restricted to AMICA members. This should facilitate quicker disposition.
7. It should be understood that, if the Memorial Fund Committee is responsible for the acceptance and disposition of donated items, the Memorial Fund should receive the proceeds from such items.

## WEBMASTER ANNUAL REPORT (R-14)

### Introduction

AMICA's web site, now with its own domain name, has been in operation for 2 years. Throughout this time, it has been physically located on the University of Manitoba Server (MBNet). This Annual Report will focus on the following issues:

- \* Chapter Activity
- \* Web Site Enhancement
- \* International Forum of Mechanical Music Organizations (IFMMO)
- \* Public Assistance
- \* Costs
- \* Visitor Statistics

### Summary

1. Chapters are slowly beginning to take advantage of the presence of a web page for them.
2. Web site enhancement is in development to make it more visible to the 'Net and easier to navigate.
3. As a positive show of support for the IFMMO initiative, a prototype web site is being developed.
4. The web site is beginning to be used by general public as a means of acquiring information and assistance.
5. Costs are slightly over budget for last year, but are expected to be under budget for next year due to a unilateral change of host.
6. A beginning on visitor statistics is underway, initially encouraging.

## Chapter Activity

As the presence of the web site expands to AMICA members, as more and more AMICAns acquire computers and InterNet access, use of the site by its members is showing positive signs of encouraging growth. Some Chapters are beginning to provide activity reports and pictures, not necessarily that which has been published in the AMICA Bulletin. The Texas, Heart of America and Midwest Chapters have taken advantage of the presence of web pages for all Chapters and began providing useful information and pictures. See:

<http://www.amica.org/texas.htm>

<http://www.amica.org/heartofamerica.htm>

<http://www.amica.org/midwest.htm>

## Web Site Enhancement

The current AMICA web site's construction and display basically reflects my skill level and interests of some 6 six years ago when I first developed a web site for AMICA off my personal web site at the time. Our Associate Webmaster, Meta Brown, has taken some initiative to research and develop significant changes to the structure of our web site, aimed at expanding instrument descriptions, examples, pictures and sounds; improving navigation through the web site; and enhancing its visibility to the world by restructuring the site to facilitate spidering by search engines and periodically resubmitting the site to the dominant search engines.

This development will proceed with caution, with ample opportunity for various members to test the new image, structure and content, to ensure a smooth transition as and when development reaches a "show and tell" stage. Our future site hosting by MTS Advanced will effectively double the hard disk space from what we use now (5.6 megs), to the maximum provided under the new plan (15 megs). This will make possible a parallel operation without additional cost or disruption.

Progress reports on this development will be provided to the members through the pages of our AMICA Bulletin, or through various progress notices on our existing web site, or by direct email contact with Terry Smythe [tesmythe@home.com](mailto:tesmythe@home.com) or Meta Brown [mbrown@spss.com](mailto:mbrown@spss.com).

## International Forum of Mechanical Music Organizations (IFMMO)

On the initiative of Mr. Frank Metzger of Musical Box Society International (MBSI) and Dr. Jurgen Hocker of the Gesellschaft für Spelbstspielende Musikinstrumente (GSM), a meeting of representatives of various automatic music organizations was held 9 Oct. 1999 in Bruchsal, Germany.

The purpose of the meeting was to deliberate the creation and adopt a frame work establishing an international umbrella federation of mechanical music organizations. It initially emerged as the International Federation of Mechanical Music Organizations, but was later slightly renamed to the International Forum of Mechanical Music Organizations.

Following this meeting, AMICA member Mike Barnhart assumed responsibility to further this initiative to develop such an international association to not only tie together in some fashion a large number of somewhat related organizations throughout the world, but also to help newcomers to find an association of related interest based in an appropriate country. It is likely that Mike will have a more comprehensive Board report about this initiative.

An InterNet web site was seen as a key element and steps were taken to secure an appropriate domain name. Accordingly, the domain name [www.ifmmo.org](http://www.ifmmo.org) was reserved with Network Solutions, a company holding responsibility for the .com, .org, and .net domain names. As a positive display of support for this initiative, AMICA President Linda Bird authorized an expenditure of \$80 (US) to reserve this domain name for the minimum 2 years.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT (R-16)

Luckily this year all of the members of the Executive Committee were on E-mail. This saved me lots of phone calls since many decisions had to be made.

One of the first issues was the video tapes of Hi Babit and Mel Septon from the 1999 convention. The Audio Visual committee asked for approval of money to convert these videos from Super 8 format to something of a higher quality. This was voted down and it is a good thing because after Mel and Hi saw the tapes in their original format, they didn't want either of them reproduced in any form.

We again had an issue with the rejection of an article for the Bulletin by the Publishing Committee. I saw no reason for the rejection and asked the committee for a vote of whether or not to publish the article. They voted in favor of publishing it but due to other circumstances, I later vetoed that decision and the article was not published.

One unfortunate thing that had to be voted upon was the approval of reimbursing the Boston chapter for a loss of \$2800 on the 1999 convention. Many circumstances contributed to this loss but the bottom line was, less attendees than they budgeted for.

The committee was asked to approve up to \$200 so Mike Barnhart and Terry Smythe could acquire the domain name for the IFMMO, which is a proposed international federation of mechanical music collector's organizations. The Committee approved the expense.

Robin Pratt's computer crashed and was very outdated so the Executive committee approved the purchase of another computer for him. As Publisher a computer was mandatory in his position. The computer is the property of AMICA, Int.

The proposed By-laws were sent to the committee for their approval and suggestions. Input was received from all but one member of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bird

## AMICA PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2000 (R-15)

At the 1999 Board of Directors meeting the following listed members were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee, to select nominees for the AMICA officers, to be voted upon at the 2000 membership meeting.

Maury Willyard—AMICA Past PRESIDENT— Bremerton WA.

Ed Strain—Pinellas, FL

Richard Groman, II—Bethlehem, PA.

Wes Neff,—Findlay, OH.

Jerrilynn Boland,—Blaine, MN. 55434

Janet Tonnesen,—Richardson, TX.

Lloyd Osmundson,—Santa Anna, CA.

I was appointed Chairman of this committee by Linda Bird, AMICA President. New rules regarding qualifications to be nominated to serve as AMICA Officers had been implemented since the last election. It is now required that a nominee must have been a member in good standing for at least two years and must have attended at least two of the last four Annual Meetings.

To be able to comply with this requirement, I prepared a data base containing the names of all those Members meeting this criteria, and listing the years that they registered for the Annual Meetings from 1994 through 1999.

I provided a copy of this list to each committee member who in turn marked their choices for possible nomination and returned a marked copy to me. The committee members also identified any

possible candidates, on the list, that they desired not be considered for nomination. I compiled these marked up copies into one master listing and distributed copies to the members. With the committee members consent, I used this list to call possible nominees and request that they agree to be nominated. I started with the names selected by the majority of the committee members and in this manner filled the required slate of candidates.

The required signed Agreements to serve have been received and provided to the President.

The Board approved the following slate of nominees, for your vote of approval, to serve as the AMICA officers, as listed, for the years 2000 through 2002.

President	Dan C. Brown	Spokane, WA
Vice President	Michael Walter	Lancaster, NY
Treasurer	Robert S. DeLand	Grayslake, IL
Secretary	Judith A. Chisnell	Rosebush, MI

On behalf of myself and the members of the Nominating committee, I wish to thank the above named candidates for their willingness to serve AMICA.

In addition, I wish to thank each member of the Nominating Committee for their efforts and support in compiling this slate of proposed Officers.

I hereby request the President to call for a motion to accept this slate of Officers by acclamation.

Maury Willyard

## IFMMO PRESENTATION (E-1)

### \* PROPOSITION

- \* \* Coordination and cooperation of activities of the many worldwide associations involved in automatic mechanical music.
- \*\* 30 Plus Associations related to Mechanical Music
- \*\* Share knowledge, concepts, ideas, and enjoyment of common interest
- \*\* Pool member resources to accomplish projects of common interest
- \* \* Experience the scope of interest, country and culture

### MULTIDIMENSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- \*\* Diverse Interest
- \*\*\* bird boxes/cages, cylinder/disk music boxes, automata/dolls, Musical/flute clocks, table top organs, crank/monkey organs, pianolas/player/reproducing pianos, nickelodeons, coin pianos, Orchestrions, violin players, carillons, street/fair/cafe/dance organs,
- \*\* Geographical Diversity
- \*\*\* Separation by great distance - Difficulty in communication and travel
- \*\*\* Cohabiting - competing for members
- \*\* Language Diversity
- \*\*\* American, English, French, German, Dutch, Italian, Etc.
- \*\* Organization Diversity
- \*\*\* Formal/informal structure, size, scope, and wealth
- \*\* Member diversity - Ambitions
- \* \* \* Academia - Scientific control of artifacts/culture preservation (museum/document archive/publication)
- \* \* \* Political - control/wealth/power
- \*\*\* Practitioners - Enjoyment/Fascination - Music/Technical/Social

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- \* \* In the world of collectables Mechanical Music has small and limited following
- \*\* Individual associations have small and dispersed membership
- \* \* \* Limited availability and expense of instruments/material
- \* \* \* Limited availability of new members - stagnant membership
- \*\* No two associations share the exact same interest
- \*\* Every association has some overlapping interest with each of the other associations including common goals
- \*\*\* To enjoy ourselves together with our mechanical musical instruments.

- \* \* \* The preservation (advancement, expansion) of the culture of mechanical musical instruments and their music.
- \* \* \* To enlighten future generations of the culture and art of mechanical music and recruit new members into the association

## BRUCHSAL MEETING

- \*\* Organized by Academics & Politicians
- \*\* Eight Organizations Represented (PPG requested report from AMICA reps)
- \*\* International FEDERATION Mechanical Music Organizations - IFMMO
- \*\* Rejected - structure and control
- \*\*\* Loss of autonomy/dominance of large associations over small
- \*\*\* Dominance of academic and political interest over practitioner
- \*\*\* Dominance of technical interest over others
- \* \* \* Dominance of English language over others
- \*\*\* The few deciding the best interest of the many
- \*\* Proceed with "Cooperative Project" - CD Bibliography by organizers
- \* \* \* The few deciding in the best interest of the many
- \*\* Sincere interest in communication, sharing of information, coordination and cooperation of activities-last words "We are going to have another meeting aren't we?"

## ALTERNATIVE APPROACH

- \*\* Large associations/academics/politicians were proceeding with a formation of a federation with a wedge project.
- \* \* Needed an alternate approach that enabled participation of all associations
- \*\* Establish alternate approach before the wedge project solidified
- \* \* Distances are too great for physical meetings
- \* \* Internet Website could provide the ideal solution for alternate approach
- \*\*\* The website would incorporate a bulletin board operation with a limited access to one representative for each participating association
- \*\* IFMMO Website Proposal prepared by Mike Barnhart and Terry Smythe and agreed to by the AMICA Board initially submitted to the Bruchsal attendees.
- \* \* \* The proposal needed cosponsoring associations to be a valid invitation for participation to the many associations.
- \*\*\* The proposal included initial funding for the IFMMO Website setup and one-year operation. Provided a clear commitment on the part of AMICA to support the concept, insure that the website is properly setup, and assumed that participating associations would contribute fair share of funding for continued operation.
- \*\*\* The website designation ifmmo.org was secured.
- \*\*\* The website would require some organization (small? independent?) yet to be determined for operation. The proposal included an example structured organization as a point of departure for discussion.

## THE DEBATE

- \* \* Six months of often confusing sometimes sharp international internet dialog followed. (mostly at the persistence of the pesky Mike Barnhart)
- \*\*\* The academics/politicians rejected the proposal (not the website idea) because it was not decided upon at Bruchsal.
- \*\*\* The non-academics/politicians were totally taken in by the example structured website organization and rejected the proposal (not the website idea) because of the website presumed domination.
- \*\*\* IFMMO redefined as "International FORUM of Mechanical Music Organizations"
- \*\*\* The IFMMO Website will be an independent "cooperative" website in which the many mechanical music organizations, participating as organizations, may communicate equally to exchange and disseminate information, ideas, technical data, coordinate activities, promote goals, common activities, and projects, and address common problems in an open forum dialog
- \* \* \* The IFMMO Website will function without interference or domination of any individual organization (including AMICA), special interest, group of individuals, or single individual.

- \*\*\* Participation in the IFMMO Website is to be voluntary through one identified individual representative for each organization with no risk or legal commitment on the part of any individual organization to abide by any decision or agreement not specifically entered into by the organization.
- \*\*\* Projects can be initiated by posting on the IFMMO Website the project name, purpose, sponsoring organization(s) and name and e-mail address of an advocate project manager. Any cost or profits associated with a project will be the responsibility of the sponsoring organization(s).
- \*\*\* Sophisticated language translators are available free on the internet <systranet.com> suitable for use on the IFMMO Website. To quote Arthur WJG Ord-Hume: With the understanding that "this is a machine translation" "Translation systems are, in my experience, remarkably good and, if used with an understanding of the subject being translated, it is rare that a serious misunderstanding will occur." "We use Systran fairly extensively and find it simple, reliable and quite adequate for the preparation of material for the Library."

## CURRENT STATUS

- \*\* The AMICA IFMMO Website Proposal still stands. Estimated cost is still placed at not to exceed \$800. No commitments have been made other than the \$120 purchase of the ifmmo.org internet domain address.
- \* \* The PPG has formally endorsed the AMICA Website Proposal with the words "WE SUPPORT IT"
- \* \* Dr. Hans van Oost/KDV has proposed, as a first step, to invite the many associations to identify one person each to informally communicate with each other over the internet. Hans is currently preparing the formal invitation and would like some encouragement from advocating organizations
- \*\* The COAA has appointed Tom McAuley as COAA representative to IFMMO.
- \*\* MBSGB has the IFMMO Website Proposal on the agenda for consideration at their next committee meeting.
- \*\* GSM and AAImm have contributed to the dialog. But, have rejected the IFMMO Website Proposal (for now)

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- \* \* AMICA Board reaffirm its support and commitment for the IFMMO Website Proposal
- \* \* AMICA Board appoint Michael Barnhart as the AMICA representative to the IFMMO and assign to him the responsibility of assuring that AMICA funds for the IFMMO Website are properly expended in accordance with the IFMMO Website Proposal.
- \*\* AMICA Board endorse Dr. Hans van Oost/KDV proposal and encourage him to proceed in inviting the many associations to participate in informal internet dialog in forming a forum. No AMICA funds will be expended until the KDV proposed dialog has been successfully accomplished and the results reviewed by the AMICA Board.
- \* \* AMICA Board call upon the Bruchsal attendees to support the KDV Proposal.

Respectfully  
Michael A. Barnhart

## The CITES Agreement and AMICA (E-2)

The CITES Agreement (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora) is a multinational agreement signed in 1973 by 50+ countries. The agreement's purpose is to help protect endangered animals from extinction by not allowing the transportation of endangered animals (or their parts) from one country to another.

The elephant is one of those endangered species. This agreement has been in effect for twenty-seven years with seemingly few problems. Last year, however, both the Canadian and U.S. governments



have threatened or actually confiscated ivory from pianos which were trying to cross the border from one country to another.

A number of individuals (including Terry Smythe and myself) have sent articles to the MMD and AMICA Bulletin warning of the dire consequences which could befall the person who tries to cross the border with a piano that has ivory keys. Although, at the present time it seems that the problem is occurring at the Canadian/U.S. Border only, this could become a worldwide problem, and then the transport of automatic musical instruments around the world could be in jeopardy.

I have contacted my local congressman, whose staff seemed to be interested in the situation. Each member of AMICA could contact their congressman or legislative leader, no matter what country, and ask for some assistance in

(a) seeking a permanent exclusion for pianos older than those built in 1973, and

(b) seeing that CITES Convention signers convey this information to their respective wildlife departments and border representatives, and

(c) (if we have to dream) provide CITES documentation which could be presented at border crossings for easier piano transport, and/or

(d) alerting all customs and wildlife representatives of the universally accepted reference for piano proof of age - Michel's piano Atlas, or as it is now known, Pierce Piano Atlas, as a document acceptable in lieu of a Pre-Convention Certificate.

Everybody knows about the need for proof of age, few know about an obscure document known as a Pre-Convention Certificate. The proof of age document provided for Pre-Convention Certificates purpose is the same proof of age document presented for Customs purposes. If acceptable for the latter requirement, it should be equally acceptable for the former.

It might also carry more weight if AMICA were to officially take a stand on the issue.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Walter

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (R-7)

Bill Chapman  
June 20, 2000

Report Period: June 1, 1999 to May 31, 2000

Active Members: July 31, 1999 - 1551  
June 1, 2000 - 1494

Decline of Membership renewals:

This year the numbers declined by 57 or nearly 5%. There were six deaths reported. It is likely that a number of the members who did not respond to neither the initial notice nor the reminder was due to death. Since this is the second year for waning numbers, it is recommended to the Board that some thought be given to maintenance of the organization. Taken in view of an excellent economy, emphasis should be placed on recruiting new members.

Breakdown of members by payment type:

Bulk Mail:	\$37 and \$32	1249 members
Air Mail:	\$63	50
First Class:	\$52	130
Surface Mail:	\$43	31
Canada:	\$43	38
Total		1498

\* A number of new members paid only \$32 because brochures still are in existence that indicate the old rate. A few rejoining members also paid at the old rate. In accordance with the Board of Directors, this is allowed during the phase-in period. It is recommended that this

policy remain in effect. The number 2001 (advance-paid dues) was reduced from 26 last year to only 9 for 2001. The revenue of \$334 from the advance-paid dues cannot be attributed to the 2000 dues.

Breakdown by country:	Year 2000	Year 1999
USA	1381	1499
Canada	38	42
Australia	22	24
England	18	18
France	5	5
Belgium	1	1
Germany	5	4
Italy	2	1
Japan	3	6
Netherlands	6	5
New Zealand	6	6
South Africa	1	1
Scotland	1	1
Spain	1	1
Switzerland	6	6

Later Renewals: In late February 2000 reminder letters were sent out to 351 members who had not responded to the regular dues notice of early December 1999. The Board decided that make-up issues of the Bulletin would not be mailed out to those paying past the deadline. This appears to have helped in getting payments returned on time. Approximately 198 returned with dues and approximately 7 returned saying they were dropping out of the organization.

Suggestions for increasing membership: The survey completed last year indicated that people were pleased with the Bulletin. Frequently mentioned were the reprints of old memorabilia. Suggestions made were to increase the technical articles, roll artist biographies, 88 note players, and midi related articles.

## Technicalities and Past Issue of the Bulletin (R-9c)

Stuart Grigg

### Background, current status and procedure

I took over the management of Technicalities and past issues of the Bulletin at the request of Linda Bird and Robin Pratt. I received an initial shipment of Bulletins in October, 1999, and picked up the balance of Bulletins, Technicalities, and other items at a Chapter meeting in April, 2000.

Some reorganizing and evaluation of the materials was required. After this was done, three issues were addressed: updating the ad for the items in the Bulletin, contacting people who had ordered items they had not received and "fixing" their orders and our customer relationships, and "solving" the Technicalities III problem. The master for this issue had been lost and there were unfulfilled orders which had been outstanding for many months. All of these tasks have been accomplished.

At this point, all of the materials are neatly boxed and labeled, and stored on shelves at my place of business, Grigg Graphic Services, Inc., in Southfield, Michigan. We have regular mail and delivery service, and I've assigned a worker in my bindery to handle fulfillment of orders when I receive them.

When an order is received, we fill it, forward the check from the customer to the AMICA Treasurer, and bill AMICA the cost of shipping the materials ordered.

### Current inventory

We have the following items in stock:

Bound issues of the Bulletin

29 - 1998, 33 - 1997, 15 - 1996, 13 - 1995, 13 - 1994, 15 - 1993, 13 - 1992, 10 - 1991, 31 - 1990, 24 - 1989, 32 - 1988, 31 - 1987, 28 - 1986, 51 - 1985, 46 - 1984, 33 - 1983, 41 - 1982, 39 - 1981, 41 - 1980, 43 - 1979, 66 - 1978, 61 - 1977, 49 - 1976, 42 - 1975, 35 - 1974, 37 - 1973, 24 - 1972, 3 - 1971.

## Indexes

234 - 1969-76, 10 - 1969-73, 3 - 1969-71

## Technicalities

13 - Technicality I -	69-71
1 - Technicality II -	72-74
24 - Technicality III -	75-77
3 - Technicality IV -	78-80
6 - Technicality V -	81-88
4 - Technicality VI -	89-93

## Stationery and other things

550 -	#10 envelopes
1000 - sheets	8 1/2 x 11 letterhead
74 -	small envelopes
500 -	small notepaper

13 AMICA pewter pins (the packaging looks shop worn)

A box of brass plaques, silk-screened, but not engraved

## Here are my suggestions:

- 1) Divide up the stationery and sent it to Board members. Discontinue this item.
- 2) Dispose of the brass plaques. The program doesn't seem to be a current initiative.
- 3) Use the remaining pins as "thank you's" to departing Board Members and Officers at the next Convention, pitch any of the remainders, and discontinue this item.
- 4) Run some sort of package deal for the Bulletins and Technicalities, to see if we can generate sales. Buy one, get one free or something. They are dead stock right now. Give one copy to new members if they want, or give them a special discount to purchase when they join.
- 5) Linda Bird recently asked me whether we advertise these items on our website; I plan to take the opportunity of the Convention to talk to the webmaster about this; I think it's simply a matter of asking him to post the information in the website.
- 6) Approve an expenditure of about \$450 for duplicating varying quantities of Technicalities to bring the inventory of each volume up to 24 of each.

To answer a question recently posed to me, we sell Technicalities for various prices (see ad in Bulletin) including shipping. I assume this has to do with the number of pages and the original cost. Here's a grid of selling price versus the quotes I got to duplicate additional copies.

Volume	Selling price	Cost to reprint
Volume I	\$10.00	\$4.00
Volume II	8.00	3.52
Volume III	9.00	3.47
Volume IV	7.00	2.80
Volume V	20.00	5.99
Volume VI	20.00	9.88

The cost numbers were based on doing the volume necessary to bring the inventory count of each volume up to 24 of each, as mentioned above.

- 7) Now that we've revitalized the program, maybe Linda or Robin can mention the value of these things in their messages, and get some orders that way.

## Question

What happened to Technicalities after 1993 and does the Board have any plans in this regard?

## AMICA Conventions (R-10)

2001 Melbourne, Australia, February 19-25  
Leave L.A. Feb. 16-arrive Feb. 18  
Sydney, Australia Feb. 25-28  
New Zealand Feb. 28-March 4

2002 Springdale, Arkansas, June 26-29

2003

2004

2005 Los Angeles

Possible Sites: Minneapolis, Seattle, Dallas

Convention Coordinator, Liz Barnhart

## Honorary Membership Report (R-13)

June 2000

The Honorary Membership Chairman has had a fairly quiet year. Not much seems to be happening with most of the members, for they have not responded to cards or letters sent.

Work is progressing, though, on the interviewing of Hi Babit. Rollie and Judy Chisnell were kind enough to send to me a videotape of an interview of Hi which was done at the retirement community where he lives. The interview did give a preliminary introduction to his life. I hope to be able to cover his life more fully and also explore the influences on his musical style and his past experiences with other noted personalities.

Since Ramsi Tick is still the ever-active Honorary Member, I will also try to set up a time in the near future to interview him in depth.

Both of these interviews will hopefully be suitable for publication in the Bulletin.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Walter

## CONVENTION CHAPTER REPORTS

### BOSTON CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT - 2000 (C-1)

Attendance at chapter meetings varies, but always includes several new people. A chapter project has been launched to provide the Charles River Museum of Industry with a Museum-Quality Player Piano. This is the museum in Waltham, Mass., which was included in the August 1999 Convention. Chapter members made an evaluation of the present piano in the lobby. Karl Ellison wrote a detailed report and presented it to the director of the Museum. At a recent chapter meeting, there was a consensus that a piano would be sought to replace the poor-quality instrument now in the Museum. Upon receiving the report, the Museum agreed to contribute part of the cost to obtain a different piano. Chapter members will contribute labor and some materials.

Chapter meetings in 2000 have been held in Nashua, N.H., Woburn, Ma., and E. Bridgewater, Ma.

At the fall 1999 meeting, elections were held for the upcoming year. The officers are: Ken Volk, President, Dorothy Bromage, Vice-President, Ginger Christensen, Secretary, Allen Jayne, Treasurer. The Executive Board appointed Sandy Libman as Board Representative and Don Brown as reporter.

The majority of comments on the August Convention indicate that people had a good time. There were leftover souvenirs and a chapter member purchased these at the cost charged on the morning after the banquet. The sum was added to the Convention income.

200 people were planned for, 150 signed up, resulting in a deficit of which the chapter covered \$800.00 and the balance was covered by AMICA International. Activities were cut back as much as dared to stem the loss.

This report is presented by Karl Ellison, who has proxy for Sandy Libman, still disabled and unable to attend the 2000 Convention in Sacramento.

Karl Ellison

## **Report of Founding Chapter Activities (C-10)**

The past year had been a relatively slow one for the Founding Chapter. We have held the requisite number of meeting plus a Holiday party but generally speaking the Chapter has hit one of those periods of doldrums...problems of finding members willing to host meetings and/or serve as officers.

On the bright side, our Secretary, Lyle Merithew, has handled the registration for the 2000 Convention and Jack & Diane Edwards have been in charge of graphics and publicity for same. Richard Reutlinger continues to host approximately 50 tours a year, the finale of which is demonstrating a number of instruments and talking about AMICA.

Hopefully in the year to come, we can become more active and perhaps identify a project to involve local membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard D. Reutlinger, Chapter Rep

## **HEART OF AMERICA (C-9)**

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

This has been another good year for Heart of America. In September we held a band organ rally at the Kansas State Fair which brought out about forty instruments. The evening before we had a supper at Railsbacks. After the rally we had dinner at the fairgrounds followed by a meeting where Ron Bopp presented a slide show of a tour of Europe to sites of interest to AMICAns.

Robbie Tubbs hosted the Christmas party. We began with dinner at Robbie's followed by the usual gift exchange. The next morning we had a brunch followed by the business meeting.

Dan and Willa Daniels in Wichita, Kansas hosted the spring meeting. A pizza lunch at Daniels, then a tour that took us to a fan museum, The Player Piano Company, and a fine automobile collection. Dinner at a nearby restaurant and then on to an organ concert and an old time movie. The meeting ended the next day with brunch at Daniels and a business meeting.

May saw us holding a band organ rally in Kinsley, Kansas organized by Tom Griffith Kinsley was the winter quarters for several traveling carnivals. A barbecue supper the evening before opened the festivities. After the rally we visited the home of a man who makes drums in the Native American style. Then dinner in a magnificent farmhouse filled with antiques. After dinner a business meeting ending with a drawing for a beautiful doll made and donated by Carol Griffith.

The main focus of the chapter now is the 2002 convention. The committee has met a number of times including a meeting at the convention hotel where we spent the night and checked out the facilities and the food. You will hear more about this later so suffice it to say plans are well under way for an outstanding convention.

This year we lose the distinction of being the home chapter of the President of AMICA. However we get to keep Linda so all is well.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Connor, Chapter Rep.

## **AMICA - Lady Liberty Chapter 2000 (C-2)**

President: Keith Biggers

Vice President: Bill Maguire

Secy/Treas: Richard Karlson

Board Reps: Dianne Polan & Marvin Polan

We have 55 members. We have four meetings a year: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall and a picnic.

We had a meeting in our home and we introduced our members to the Power Roll which is permanently installed in our Mason Hamlin "B" reproducing piano. We met at David Heitz's home where he has a superb collection of phonographs. We visited Dr. Len Wertz's collection of phonographs, piano, musical boxes, stained glass, and Handel and Tiffany lamps. We visited a new member's home, Bob Sthumer, to see his Wurlitzer Band Organ, player piano, and musical arrangements for his band organ. There will be a picnic at Joe and Linda Hutter's home. He has large and small reed organs, reproducing piano and musical boxes.

At each meeting, we offer our members technical and educational workshops.

## **Annual Report - SIERRA NEVADA CHAPTER (C-5)**

The Chapter is active and has 25 members. Our primary focus the last few months has been planning and setting up the 2000 Convention-with help from the Founding Chapter.

We had a public outing with an instrument last month at the Towe Auto Museum. The purpose was to let the public know about AMICA and try to generate interest. This was successful, and more public/museum chapter meetings are planned in the future.

Our next gala event is the joint meeting of the Sierra Nevada and Founding Chapters to be held in Sutter Creek in September.

JOHN MOTTOROS, President

AMICA Sierra Nevada Chapter

## **Northern Lights Chapter (C-3)**

Three chapter meetings were held since the Boston Convention. On August 22, 1999, a meeting was held in the Rochester Area at the home of Dave Kemmer in Oronoco where the annual Gold Rush Days are held. It is a big antique and flea market sale. Dave lives in a converted old school house.

The subject of hosting the AMICA 2003 Convention was presented by Don Barton. Meeting sites for '99-2000 were discussed. One new member joined.

October - Convention report by Board rep. stressing the need for chapter members to be International members first.

Hosting the 2003 Convention was again discussed and three volunteers agreed to meet with Don Barton. He will contact Liz Barnhart.

December meeting was a delightful party with a lot of piano music and food of course. Officer positions for secretary and vice president were filled. Request from Dan Brown for nominations for the Leo Ornstein and AMICA Awards. Another new member joined.

Dorothy Olds, Board Rep.

## **Pacific Can-Am Chapter Report (C-4)**

The Pacific Can-Am Chapter is alive and well.

We currently collect dues of \$5 per year, per one or two-person household, and meet four or five times per year. We have 38 paid households containing 62 individual members. This is a slight decrease from our 1999 membership, but we have had two deaths and there are a few members who are a little slow with their renewal. We had 46 members in attendance at our last meeting. Average attendance at meetings is 41 people. We have \$2727.36 in our treasury as of June 1, 2000.

We usually meet in member's homes on Saturdays about 2:00 p.m. The business meeting is about 4:00 p.m., followed by "Show and Tell" and a buffet potluck dinner. We also try to have a brief "workshop" concerning current or historical information relating to our collections before we line up for the delicious food our members bring. Our meeting notices designate by first letter of last name what type of food to bring so that we have a balanced meal and share the burden.

However, our July 22, 2000 meeting will be somewhat different. We will be meeting in a museum in Kent, Washington (a suburb of Seattle). Members will be asked to bring a variety of automatic musical instruments and our display will be open to the public. This will be followed by a buffet potluck dinner. Also, ideas are in the planning stage to host a band organ rally on the Washington coast next year.

Our membership includes members of AMICA, Music Box Society, American Theater Organ Society, etc. who have player pianos, reproducing pianos, pipe and reed organs, street organs, etc., all played by punched paper rolls. Some of our members are also involved in many phases of the new electronic ideas for preserving and/or playing piano rolls or playing rolls on one instrument and having it simultaneously transfer to and play another instrument.

We are still searching for a chapter project, but so far our ideas have not worked out. In the meantime, several members take instruments and give presentations at nursing homes, etc., or give tours of their collections to groups from retirement homes or Girl Scout troops, etc. These presentations are very well received and inspire many questions.

Respectfully submitted by  
Frances M. Willyard

## **SOWNY Chapter Report (C-6)**

Since the last Chapter report at the 1999 Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, the SOWNY Chapter has been active and doing quite well. We have had seven meetings since last July, four in Canada and three in the U.S.

One item of business has kept some members of the chapter thinking quite a bit. This is the question of what to do with the money that the chapter had made during the Niagara Falls Convention. There have been a couple of lines of thought concerning this subject. One line of thought is that the money could be partially used to visit a couple of different collections in the states and in Canada, outside of our area, to educate members of the chapter about the differing types of automatic musical instruments that are around. This section of the two countries (Southern Ontario and Western New York), although rich in historical significance for our field, is quite poor as far as having large, important collections of automatic musical instruments. The other line of thought is that there seem to be fewer and fewer piano technicians who are capable or interested in repairing pianos which still have player mechanisms in them. This line of thinking leads toward the giving of grant money (Early Bird Registration Fee) to a limited number of P.T.G. members (one, possibly two) each year, if they attend the three or so workshops at the P.T.G. Convention which deal with Player Repair. This way, a technician, who has an interest in preserving, or at least repairing these instruments, will be less afraid of tackling a piano which still has a player mechanism in it. International AMICA may also wish to discuss the merits of such a program.

Another item which has had an effect on many of the SOWNY Chapter members in the recent past has been the arbitrary "enforcement" of the CITES Agreement by Customs agents in the Niagara Peninsula area. This concern is on the agenda for another part of this meeting.

## **Southern California Chapter Report (C-7)**

By Frank Nix, Board Rep.

The Southern California Chapter is thriving, having meetings every even-numbered month during the year, and maintaining a solvent treasury.

Since the last Convention, we have had meetings at the homes of Bill Blair in October '99, Frank and Shirley Nix in December '99, John Ledwon in February '00, Richard and Mary Thomas in April '00, and in May we participated in a joint meeting with the local MBSI Chapter, with the meeting being at the home of Mike and Marilyn Ames on Sunday, with open houses at the homes of Ron Wolf and Leland Fletcher on Saturday. We have had five organ rallies, which have resulted in several new members.

Our officers are: President Jim Westcott, Vice President Jackie Porter, Treasurer Ken Hodge, Secretary/Reporter Shirley Nix, Board Rep Frank Nix.

### **To The Prospective AMICA member:**

We welcome your interest, and hope you will decide to join AMICA. We are a group of people who are interested in Mechanical Musical Instruments, particularly those which are roll, or book operated.

Our local Southern California Chapter has about 100 members, living from San Diego in the south to Bakersfield in the north. We send out a newsletter before each meeting or special event.

We have our chapter meetings on the even-numbered months of the year, usually in member's homes. When the meeting is in a private home we are allowed to share the pleasure of the collection, and whenever possible there is an educational offering of some type.

It is a very congenial group . . . the socialization with people who share your interest is reason enough to join, but along with that comes the sharing of knowledge, the fun of collecting, and the enjoyment of other collections.

There is a convention each year, put on by a chapter of AMICA in some part of the country. These annual meetings give you a chance to see other parts of the country with a slant toward the mechanical music field. They are a lot of fun, and the workshops put on each year are priceless.

Membership in the International is required for membership in the local chapter. The publications you receive more than pay for the membership, as they are full of interesting and educational articles, along with items for sale or wanted.

If you wish to join both the International and local, you can send your application to our local Treasurer for both, and he will take care of the International for you. (If you prefer, you can send two checks, one to International and one to the local.) Dues for International are \$37, and local \$7.00. You can send a check made out to AMICA for \$44 to: Ken Hodge, Treasurer, 42846 Cinema Avenue, Lancaster, California 93534-6229

We look forward to having you as a member, and hope to see you in the near future at one of our meetings.

Shirley Nix, Secretary, Southern California Chapter AMICA

## **Midwest Chapter Report**

Sept. '99 - met in Cincinnati, at Judy and Alvin Wulfekuhl's. Went on to Newport, Ky. Aquarium. Dinner was held at the Music Palace, where we enjoyed the pipe organ music. Sunday morning we had breakfast and held our meeting. Then we were invited to visit Harry Garrison's Piano Store.

Dec. '99 - Met at Robin Pratt's shop in Sandusky, to see many pianos in various stages of being rebuilt. That evening a catered dinner was held at Beverly and Jeff Brabb's in Norwalk, followed by a roll exchange. The Sunday morning meeting was at Shawn Fox's home in Sandusky.

Mar. '00 - We met at the home of Christy Counterman in Akron. We left together for a tour of the Stan Hyett Hall. After the evening meal, we attended a rededication concert at a Theater in Akron, and enjoyed the organ there. Our Sunday meeting was at the home of Donna and Clark Counterman in Tallmadge.

Future meetings are Dayton in August, Coloma, Mi. in October, and Sandusky/Norwalk in December.

## Texas AMICA Chapter Report (C-8)

The Chapter has maintained good vitality this year, and is having a good year. Listed are what we've done and set up this year:

- 1) Four meetings were planned for this year, were carried out, and were successful, and we will shoot for that again next year.
- 2) Our membership level has remained good this year: 69 total and 41 family
- 3) A vice-presidential committee of four to set up to plan meetings seems to be working well. (The Texas Chapter has set up to have four vice presidents.)

4) We continue to have a newsletter that is published on AMICA website.

5) Our main objective has been to bring in new members and to encourage member attendance and participation.

6) We have a balance of \$1,000 in our treasury.

Regards, Dick Merchant

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## ~~AMICA SACRAMENTO 2000~~

~~By Doug Mahr, Sierra Nevada Chapter~~

~~"The Capitol City of California", Sacramento, played host to the AMICA 2000 activities, June 21 - 25. The weather for the week was in the mid nineties during the day, low sixties during the night, with an average humidity between 25 - 30%. The weather was warm, but not uncomfortable.~~

~~The Holiday Inn, Capitol Plaza, was the convention hotel, nestled between renovated historic "Old Sacramento" and the new Capitol Plaza Shopping Center. Within 8 blocks walking distance of the hotel are 32 eating establishments, 191 retail establishments, the State Capitol building and grounds, three movie theaters, and four outstanding museums. AMICA attendees had no shortage of places to go and things to do during their unscheduled convention time.~~

~~Wednesday, June 21 was registration day in the hospitality room for all conference attendees. Each registered participant picked up an envelope that contained all conference information, their commemorative roll, and meal tickets. 195 AMICAns registered for the convention. Board members met and carried out the business of the organization from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.~~

~~A special treat to AMICAns was a display, in the hospitality suite, of AMICA Convention table favors from 1976 to 1999, acquired and displayed by Roy Beltz. Also in the hospitality room suite were instruments provided by Chip Lusby (Duo-Art upright), Richard Riley (Steinway upright pumper and 7'6" Yamaha Pro) and Doug and Vickie Mahr (Knabe Ampico upright).~~

~~The 2000 AMICA Convention was officially opened at the welcome breakfast on Thursday morning. President Bird welcomed all participants and a conference overview was provided.~~

~~One hundred ninety five AMICAns walked 7 blocks from the hotel, following host members carrying banners, to the California State Railroad Museum. AMICAns were divided into groups of 30, each with an expert docent, to tour the museum where we learned much about the history of the Transcontinental Railroad in California, and saw fine examples of the various generations of locomotives and railroad cars which were so instrumental in the growth and development of California and the Nation.~~

~~Thursday afternoon was unscheduled time which allowed AMICAns to investigate and enjoy venues which appealed to their individual interests, prior to the ragtime dinner on Thursday night. "Dick Zimmerman is a real ragtime~~

~~pianist...he knows more about its history than I do," said Eubie Blake. There was no doubt about that in anyone's mind on Thursday night as Richard Zimmerman entertained in concert to the delight of everyone.~~

~~On Friday morning, AMICAns boarded four busses, appropriately named Ampico, Duo-Art, Wurlitzer and Seeburg, for the short trip to the Towe Automobile Museum. Inside were 150 autos of every description, from very early, rare antiques to the classic cars of the 50's and 60's. The last thing you would expect to find in an automobile museum is a beautifully restored Wurlitzer Theater Organ, yet there it was, expertly played by Jack Gustafsan, of the founding chapter, while AMICAns enjoyed a Texas barbecue style lunch.~~

~~Back aboard the busses, we embarked upon a 60-minute ride to the gold country town of Sutter Creek and the wonderful home and collection of John and Nadine Motto-Ros. Two of the four busses disembarked their passengers in downtown Sutter Creek to shop and enjoy the unique ambience of the gold rush days of 1849, while the other two busses took their passengers to the Motto-Ros residence. Inside the residence resides a plethora of musical wonders including a Seeburg G, Seeburg KT Special, Link 2E, Ampico B grand, Empress nickelodeon, and Seeburg E nickelodeon.~~

~~Besides the gleaming hardwood floors, you couldn't miss the nickelodeon stained glass front panels inset as headers over the doorways in the home, or the sheet music of the teens and twenties that wallpaper the downstairs bathroom. Many people made the short walk up the hill to George and Sharyn Cunningham's country style home to enjoy the Chickering Ampico B grand, Mason and Hamlin upright, Stella music box and the wonderful collection of antique lampshades. One and one-half hours at the residences meant that it was time for the shoppers in Sutter Creek to come to the house and those at the house to experience Sutter Creek. The busses responded accordingly.~~

~~Friday evening the Pumper Championship Tourney was conducted at the hotel to a packed house in the hospitality suite. Twelve competitors vied for the title of the "World Champion Pumper." When the dust had cleared, Earl Scheelar, pumper contest coordinator, announced the decision of the judges: "The Golden Footsie Award for 2000 goes to Julian Dyer of the UK."~~

~~Saturday's technical sessions featured Bob Billings (Tele-Electric), Spence Chase (Optical Piano Roll Scanning), Bing Gibbs (Air Motors), Larry Norman (Roll Repairs), Bob and~~