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# Annual Reports

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## 1. Roll Call and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Brown. In addition to Dan, other Board members in attendance were:

Past President & Nominating Committee Chair . Linda Bird  
Vice President . . . . . Mike Walter  
Secretary . . . . . Christy Counterman  
Treasurer . . . . . Wes Neff  
Membership Secretary . . . . . Bill Chapman  
Convention Coordinator . . . . . Frank Nix  
Chapter Board Representatives included:  
Richard Reutlinger . . . . . Founding Chapter  
Gary Craig . . . . . Gateway Chapter  
Ron Connor . . . . . Heart of America Chapter  
Marvin and Dianne Polan . . . . . Lady Liberty Chapter  
Liz Barnhart . . . . . Midwest Chapter  
Dorothy Olds . . . . . Northern Lights Chapter  
Carl Dodrill . . . . . Pacific Can Am Chapter  
John Motto-Ros . . . . . Sierra Nevada Chapter  
Mike Walter . . . . . SOWNY Chapter  
Frank Nix . . . . . Southern California Chapter  
Dick Merchant . . . . . Texas Chapter

Also present were several other AMICA Members:  
Maury Willyard, Mike Barnhart, Bill Babb, Bill Dean  
and Thad Kochanny.

## 2. Approval of minutes of the 2001 Board Meeting as published in the September/October 2001 AMICA Bulletin.

Additional action for 2001 included the incorporation of AMICA International in Australia for the purpose of activities associated with the Convention. On August 16, 2001, the Incorporation was cancelled.

John Motto-Ros moved to accept the minutes with this addendum, Linda Bird seconded. Motion was passed.

## 3. Officer Reports

### A. President's Report - Dan Brown

Last year, because the convention was very early in the year and a significant number of board members and officers were unable to attend, business was conducted by e-mail and letter and the Leo Ornstein Literary and AMICA International Awards were not presented. The primary action by the board was to approve a dues increase, precipitated by increasing expenses and stagnant revenue. This increase has resulted in positive revenue growth and did not cause a notable increase in non-renewals. Thanks to Treasurer Wes Neff for his excellent work in keeping track of AMICA funds and filing the necessary State and Federal

reports to maintain our tax status. The AMICA President's Award was presented to Robert Rosencrans, AMICA Past President and longtime active member.

On the resignation of Judy Chisnell, Christy Counterman assumed the duties of AMICA Secretary. During the past year, Meta Brown became the new AMICA Webmaster and has worked hard to update the web page, to increase its accessibility to search engines, and to increase linkages with other sites including those of AMICA chapters. Frank Nix has assumed the duties of Convention Chair and a number of future conventions are either confirmed or proposed. Judy Chisnell has requested to be replaced as chair of the Memorial Fund and a replacement is being sought.

For a number of years, Richard Howe had collected two copies of each issue of the AMICA Bulletin and managed to find two copies of each issue ever published as part of a project to compile relevant articles into a 4 volume collection of technical and historical articles on Ampico, Welte-Mignon, Duo-Art, and 88-note pianos which would be published by AMICA. He found himself unable to continue with this project due to other commitments and sent these Bulletins to publisher Robin Pratt. There has not been a volunteer to take over this project, but the material is available for inclusion in current Bulletins. There also has been no volunteer to take over the Technicalities compilation duties which Terry Smythe has long done. The Emmett Ford collection of photos and articles on player and reproducing piano roll artists is also in the hands of Robin Pratt. Possible uses of this collection will be discussed at the board meeting this year.

2002 was to be the year of the publication of a new membership directory, but Membership Secretary Bill Chapman found himself unable to devote the needed time and effort to record data already collected, solicit and record updates, and organize the new directory. Karl Ellison took on this task and it is anticipated that update forms will be sent to members in the near future and that it may still be possible to publish a new directory during 2002. There proved to be a tremendous backlog of data for entry prior to providing a proof copy of convention lists and other data for members to edit. Karl is working hard to provide information to members so that listings are more consistent (instrument descriptions, measuring the size of pianos, etc.).

Chapters continue to be the lifeblood of AMICA and most remain active and vital. Projects which demonstrate our interests to the public and encourage new members are to be commended and all members are reminded of the availability of the brochure which describes our hobby and provides information on membership. Most chapters appear to be in compliance with the required number of meetings and chapter reports to the Bulletin to maintain active status, but the status of the Southern Skies chapter is unclear at this

point. There have been inquiries and some efforts to resurrect chapters in Pennsylvania and the Rocky Mountain regions, but members in these areas have not completed formal membership applications.

I have not been aware of significant concerns for the organization over the past year. Many of my contacts with members and the public have regarded the value and restoration of instruments and complaints about products and services from members and non-members. The majority of the correspondence has been by e-mail, significantly reducing expenses. Expenditures for the past year totaled \$317.08, for awards and postage. Future expenses are anticipated not to exceed this amount. I am pleased by the level and quality of activities of AMICA members and chapters and with the content and quality of the AMICA Bulletin, but remind members that there are many stories, technical articles, and historical documents which need to be included and that these should be submitted in any form available for publication. It is also the responsibility of all AMICAns to share stories and instruments to fulfill our educational responsibilities and to recruit a new generation of members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Brown  
AMICA International President

In discussing this report, it was decided that Dan Brown would contact the Southern Skies Chapter to inform them that if no activity is reported for the chapter, it may have to be placed on inactive status.

#### **B. Vice-President's Report - Mike Walter**

The Vice President wishes to report that all seems to be fairly quiet. A number of chapters, especially Lady Liberty, Heart of America, Texas, and Southern California have been extremely prompt about sending news of their chapter to others. Sierra-Nevada, Founding Chapter, Chicago Area, and Pacific Can-Am have also sent out information to me concerning their activities. Other chapters have not sent information of their activities to me.

I have sent out letters to the chapters encouraging them to notify the publisher, web master and myself of activities at the chapter level, and also changes in their local officers.

Another duty of the Vice President is to chair the Awards Committee and solicit nominees from the general membership for the Leo Ornstein Award and AMICA International Award. Twelve letters were submitted by the general membership with seven nominees for the Leo Ornstein Award and nine nominees for the AMICA Award. Many of the nominees were for the same people. The Awards Committee agreed that there were some outstanding nominations in each field. The finalists were voted upon by the Executive Committee and it was determined that the winner of the Leo Ornstein Award would go to Bob and Ginny Billings for their book on the Tel-Electric Piano Player, and the AMICA International Award should go to Richard and Janet Tonnesen for their continued work in providing high quality rolls to collectors throughout the world. The costs from Tony Martin's Awards will be a total of \$95.04.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Walter  
Vice President

Mike asked for input on presenting awards to those who have received them in the past, since there was concern from members regarding this. It was suggested that a list of the past winners be provided to each chapter before they submit nominations for the awards. Also considered was additional recognition for those who have already won the awards, so that they would be recognized for ongoing achievement and benefit to the organization. After much discussion, the Board decided that the selection of awards and the timing of such will be left to the Vice President, based on nomination letters from the Membership.

#### **C. Secretary's Report - Christy Counterman**

I was appointed to fill the unexpired term of AMICA Secretary in October 2001, but my duties didn't really start until May of this year. After President Dan Brown sent out notices to the Board members, reports started coming in via e-mail, fax and regular mail. I really appreciated the e-mail versions as they saved me a lot of work, avoiding re-typing. When the deadline for submissions was over, I started to e-mail everyone reminders, and if that failed, I attempted to call the Board members on the telephone. I reached all but two people, those reports are not included here. Some of those who did not report did provide some information which is summarized in these minutes.

After typing and/or formatting the reports, I created pdf files of each. I then designed a simple Web page as a branch off of the Midwest Chapter site started earlier this year, and posted the information as it came to me. I e-mailed the link to everyone for which I had an e-mail address, and talked to other members to see if they wanted a paper copy before the Board meeting. I hope the Web method saved postage if these reports were mailed to everyone in past years. All of the printouts were copied and collated for distribution at the meeting.

My expenses as of this writing are not available, but will be minimal thanks to the generosity of xpedx, a local paper merchant who provided most of the paper for copying. (More than 500 sheets.) The majority of correspondence was by e-mail, saving some long distance telephone fees. There will likely be expenses in the transcription of the minutes from the board meeting as well.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christy Counterman  
AMICA Secretary

#### **D. Treasurer's Report - Wes Neff**

##### **2002 AMICA INTERNATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001 And Fiscal Year 2002 Projection**

Prepared by Wesley Neff • May 17, 2002

#### **INTRODUCTION**

AMICA National had income in fiscal year 2001 of \$46,324.83 excluding gross convention receipts. This was 34% less than the average for the prior 4 years. The expenses of \$65,209.31 excluding gross convention expenses were down 3% from the prior 4 year average. Convention income in 2001 was \$9021.51. Expenses in 2001 exceeded income by \$9863.03.

The total AMICA International income (National and Chapters) in 2001 was \$224,736.89. Total AMICA International expenses (National and Chapters) in 2001 was \$235,757.83. Disregarding convention receipts and expenses, the total National and Chapter income was off by 22 % from the prior year, and expenses were essentially flat. Total AMICA expenses exceeded income by \$11,020.94 in fiscal year 2001.

#### **INCOME (National Only)**

Income from bulletin advertising in 2001 was off 31% from 2000 levels. The projection for 2002 shows an increase back to prior year levels.

Income from advertising in the proposed 2002 Directory is projected at \$3000.00, similar to the directory advertising income in 1999.

An extraordinary convention income was booked in 2001 due to the costs associated with going to Melbourne, Australia. The receipts projected for the 2002 convention in Springdale, Arkansas is \$50,000, which is similar to the Sacramento, California convention in 2000.

Interest received in 2001 was off 22% compared to 2000 due to depressed interest rates. At the end of 2000, there was \$30,593.18 in a money market fund earning 5.79%. At the end of 2001 there was \$25,000 in a certificate of deposit earning 4.75%. Additional monies as available are shifted into and out of a passbook savings account, currently earning 2%.

Total National dues collected in 2001 were \$40,147.89, down \$19,590.90 from 2000. A significant portion of this shortfall is due the late start of the membership drive last fall. The projection for 2002 shows dues of \$59,750.00, which is near prior year levels. This could go higher, depending upon the timing of the membership drive this fall. The cost for AMICA membership was increased \$5.00 per year to \$42.00 for 2002.

Memorial fund donations in 2001 were \$322.00. The projection for the Memorial Fund in 2002 is \$300.00.

There were no books or AV sales in 2001, and none are expected in 2002. A worthwhile project is needed to promote our hobby and provide income.

Sales of bound bulletins are increasing. Bound bulletin sales are expected to be about \$1000.00 in 2002.

Total income for 2002 excluding convention income and expenses is projected at \$69,333.00, up 33% from 2001.

#### **EXPENSES (National Only)**

Expenses for the 2001 convention in Melbourne, Australia amounted to \$158,632.80. This amount includes costs associated with visiting Sydney, Australia, and the North Island of New Zealand. Convention expenses for 2002 are projected to be the same as the receipts, but hopefully there will be a profit.

Excluding the Melbourne convention, \$65,209.37 of expenses were incurred in 2001. The largest single item is the cost of the "Bulletin" and associated reprints. Counting the costs of the publisher, printing, handling, postage, reprints and inserts, the "Bulletin" costs in 2001 were \$55,391.43 (about 85% of the total expenses). This equates to \$9200.00 per issue and compares to \$9700.00 per issue spent in 2000. Projecting year to date expenses for 2002, the "Bulletin" is expected to cost about \$47,000.00 this year. Publishing of the "Bulletin" and reprints are an essential part of maintaining AMICA's tax exempt status.

The second largest group of expenses include postage, copies and miscellaneous office supplies and equipment

used by the officers. Telephone costs are almost negligible due to electronic mail and reduced long distance rates used to conduct AMICA business. The total of these categories in 2001 was \$3063.47, and is projected to be \$3425.00 in 2001. No officer other than the publisher and membership secretary receives any fee for his or her time.

\$15,000.00 is included in the 2002 budget plan for an updated Membership Directory.

#### **Other Expense Notes:**

- The premium for liability insurance coverage is increasing at an annual rate of 10%.
- Nearly all of the bank charges in 2001 are for credit card payment handling. Since dues payments by credit card are increasing each year, the bank charges are on the rise. The fees average about 3% of the payments made by credit card. They are expected to be about \$686.00 in 2002. AMICA is now banking with the Fifth Third Bank of Northwestern Ohio, which does not charge banking fees to non-profit organizations, but we must continue to pay a charge for credit card deposits.
- Award expenses in 2001 were minimal, but are expected to be around \$775.00 in 2002.
- There was a printing of AMICA brochures in 2001. This expense was paid from the Memorial Fund.

#### **MEMORIAL FUND**

The Memorial Fund account stood at \$6304.48 at the end of 2001. During the year we received \$322.00 in donations and added \$295.78 in interest. As noted above, \$1624.47 was spent for printing AMICA brochures.

#### **CHAPTERS**

At the end of 2001 AMICA had fourteen chapters. The Southern Skies Chapter did not report any financial activity for the year. Chapter income is mostly from dues and interest. No chapters had convention income in 2001. Expenses for the chapters are mostly related to printing, postage and expenses related to chapter meetings. Other expenses of note include: The SOWNY Chapter had a project to repair a player piano. The Gateway Chapter built a Busker Organ. The Southern California Chapter helped to sponsor three Organ Rallies. The Sierra Nevada Chapter supplied a piano for a museum show project. The Midwest Chapter is working with the First Ladies Museum on installing a Reproduco in their theater. The end of year 2001 balance for the chapters of \$53,780.81 is down 2% from the beginning of year balance.

#### **SUMMARY**

AMICA International continues to be financially sound due to a steady income from membership dues, interest, convention profits and to a lessening extent – advertising. However, over the past 5 years, expenses have exceeded income by nearly \$21,000.00. A membership dues increase was necessary for 2002 in order to meet current expenses with a declining membership.

All required informational forms for 2001 were filed in a timely fashion with the IRS, the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Registry of Charitable Trusts. Since the gross receipts for 2001 exceeded \$100,000.00, filing of Federal Information Form 990 was required. This form requires more information to complete than the "EZ" form used in the past. The Chapter Treasurers have been very helpful in providing the additional information necessary. Thanks to all of the Chapter Treasurers for their support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wesley Neff, Treasurer

# **AMICA National 1997 thru 2001 Actuals and 2002 Budget**

## **INCOME**

Category	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (plm)
advertising (bulletin)	3,070.00	6,650.20	3,968.90	3,150.80	2,173.10	3,776.00
advertising (directory)	0.00	0.00	2,830.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
convention fund	3,146.00	1,000.00	1,063.81	0.00	167,654.31	50,000.00
interest received	2,908.02	2,688.33	1,263.31	2,480.73	1,932.64	1,488.00
membership dues	63,462.14	61,654.39	60,304.20	58,798.79	40,147.89	59,670.00
memorial fund donations	4,242.50	85.00	322.00	328.00	322.00	300.00
sales (books & AV)	2,948.00	1,222.18	79.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
sales (bound bulletins)	354.00	130.00	8.00	262.00	764.00	1,000.00
sales (tools and loaders)	0.00	134.50	313.76	413.50	239.50	200.00
miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	290.00	45.00	746.70	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>70,914.66</b>	<b>73,781.54</b>	<b>76,426.57</b>	<b>66,498.82</b>	<b>213,879.14</b>	<b>119,133.00</b>

## **EXPENSES**

Category	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (plm)
AV		498.11	156.00	0.00	0.00	0
awards	93.80	515.18	613.85	774.66	44.75	775.00
bank charges	12.00	268.17	264.91	429.13	603.81	686.00
convention	2,000.00	2,000.00	298.12	3,116.87	158,632.80	60,000.00
handling: bulletin		1,411.00	2,188.00	2,640.00	3,048.00	3,900.00
handling: directory			448.00	0.00	0.00	680.00
insurance	1,675.00	1,625.00	1,780.00	1,806.00	2,098.00	2,302.00
Internet			394.14	480.56	0.00	0.00
legal & professional fees	45.00	55.00	20.00	20.00	35.00	35.00
membership sect. stipend	2,303.50	0.00	2,465.00	2,283.00	2,219.94	2,260.00
misc: copies		86.03	452.41	227.70	299.03	500.00
misc: office equipment	3,011.18	360.10	250.00	1,099.00	0.00	600.00
misc: office supplies	4,798.77	273.52	366.60	678.93	298.75	300.00
miscellaneous	336.00	0.00	730.50	1,919.00	-0.50	1,000.00
postage: bulletin	709.20	4,997.35	7,922.61	8,354.80	8,538.43	7,590.00
postage: directory			1,482.77	0.00	0.00	1,650.00
postage: officers & misc		2,039.73	5,488.00	1,373.41	2,362.06	2,000.00
printing: bulletin	33,763.45	28,345.61	26,889.00	25,288.00	24,078.00	19,200.00
printing: directory			10,905.00	20.00	0.00	12,500.00
printing: inserts		7,596.69	9,087.72	3,370.49	537.00	2,000.00
printing: reprints	6,593.00	6,286.00	3,979.00	3,302.00	11,697.00	5,400.00
printing: stationery		184.00	1,124.15	73.00	80.50	100.00
printing: AMICA brochures		1,288.86	0.00	0.00	1,624.47	0.00
publisher fees	6,200.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	10,500.00	7,900.00	9,000.00
refunds	26.00	0.00	64.00	37.00	84.00	104.00
telephone	3,241.15	6,297.10	1,652.57	581.27	33.14	25.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>64,748.06</b>	<b>72,120.97</b>	<b>81,848.26</b>	<b>68,809.31</b>	<b>223,842.17</b>	<b>122,667.66</b>
<b>NET GAIN (income - expenses)</b>	<b>5,266.61</b>	<b>1,610.57</b>	<b>-15,422.39</b>	<b>-2,199.49</b>	<b>-9,963.03</b>	<b>-3,534.66</b>
						<b>-23,941.73</b>

**ANICA International 2001 Income and Expense Summary**

	<b>National</b>	<b>Memorial Fund</b>	<b>Chapters</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Income</b>				
advertising	2,173.10	-	-	2,173.10
convention income	2,152.31	-	-	2,152.31
convention registrations	162,588.00	-	-	162,588.00
convention overpayments	1,914.00	-	-	1,914.00
convention seed return	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00
events (chapters)	-	-	4,131.00	4,131.00
interest received	1,636.88	295.78	1,135.22	3,067.88
membership dues	40,147.88	-	4,689.26	44,837.15
memorial fund	-	322.00	-	322.00
sales: bulletin	784.00	-	-	784.00
sales: tech and leaders	239.50	-	-	239.50
sales: misc	172.00	-	-	172.00
miscellaneous	573.70	-	782.27	1,355.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>213,981.36</b>	<b>617.78</b>	<b>10,757.75</b>	<b>224,736.89</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
awards	44.75	-	30.05	74.80
bank charges	653.61	-	-	653.61
convention expenses	158,632.80	-	-	158,632.80
events (chapters)	-	-	6,215.37	6,215.37
handling bulletin	3,048.00	-	-	3,048.00
insurance	2,083.00	-	-	2,083.00
legal & prof. fees	35.00	-	-	35.00
membership sect.	2,219.94	-	-	2,219.94
memorial fund	-	-	145.00	145.00
miscellaneous	(0.50)	-	1,663.14	1,662.64
misc: officers	-	-	-	-
misc: copies	298.03	-	-	298.03
misc: office supplies	298.75	-	-	298.75
postage	10,885.48	-	1,883.89	12,769.17
printing: bulletin	24,078.00	-	-	24,078.00
printing: stationery	80.50	-	-	80.50
printing: brochures	-	1,824.47	-	1,824.47
printing: reprints	11,897.00	-	-	11,897.00
printing: misc.	637.00	-	785.29	1,322.29
publisher fees	7,500.00	-	-	7,500.00
refund dues	84.00	-	-	84.00
supplies (chapters)	-	-	1,178.74	1,178.74
telephone	38.14	-	8.38	39.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,217.70</b>	<b>1,824.47</b>	<b>11,915.96</b>	<b>235,757.83</b>
<b>Account Balances</b>				
1-Jan-02	31,038.04	6,904.48	53,780.81	91,123.33
1-Jan-01	39,894.38	7,311.17	54,938.72	102,144.27

# AMCA 2001 Chapter Accounts

2001  
Income

Starting  
Balance

Chapter

Name	Cash	Savings	Total	Date		Interest	Dues. Income	Rebate	Miscellaneous	Total Income
				(Chapter)	(rollforward)					
Madison Area	1000.00	0.00	1000.00	1/1/00	0.00	10.19	0.00	420.00	49.00	469.19
Chicago Area	712.07	2253.45	3000.52	2/1/00	0.00	48.30	0.00	8711.00	168.00	4431.30
Hamming	2250.00	0.00	2250.00	3/1/00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Redway	0.00	3000.00	3000.00	4/1/00	0.00	48.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.30
Heart of America	227.70	1000.00	1227.70	5/1/00	0.00	181.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	181.20
Lady Liberty	1000.00	0.00	1000.00	6/1/00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Midwest	1000.00	700.00	1700.00	7/1/00	27.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	227.00
Northwest Light	400.00	0.00	400.00	8/1/00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pacific Chapter	1000.00	2000.00	3000.00	9/1/00	0.00	111.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	111.00
Sierra Nevada	0.00	4000.00	4000.00	10/1/00	0.00	22.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.71
Southwest California	2000.00	4000.00	6000.00	11/1/00	27.00	271.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	298.00
Southwest Illinois	1000.00	0.00	1000.00	12/1/00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SWARTZ	0.00	4000.00	4000.00	1/1/01	0.00	111.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	111.00
Texas	0.00	1000.00	1000.00	2/1/01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	10000.00	30000.00	40000.00	3/1/01	0.00	1000.00	0.00	4100.00	700.00	14500.00

# AMECA 2001 Chapter Accounts

Chapter 2001 Expense Ending Balance

Name	Printing	Postage	Telephone	Supplies	Amounts	Comm. Expense	Books	Materials Fund	Material Comm Fund	Other	Total Expenses	Cash	Balance	Total
Boston Area	19.00	182.88	1.28	18.30	0.00	0.00	580.19	0.00	0.00	440.00	1,060.35	379.38	0.00	530.90
Chicago Area	1.48	110.84	0.00	68.33	0.00	0.00	4,388.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,559.72	948.19	694.38	\$1,052.35
Founding	72.00	988.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	288.00	18.00	1,068.00	888.18	0.00	655.82
Glenn County	8.50	38.00	0.00	810.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	819.26	0.00	341.30	210.90
Heart of America	71.30	68.88	0.00	298.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	439.18	388.80	884.88	507.40
Lady Liberty	60.70	157.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	218.42	1,494.13	0.00	1,494.13
National	9.58	365.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	87.00	257.40	431.71	1,848.32	757.79	2,532.00
Northern Lights	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	158.00	0.00	0.00	158.00	932.89	0.00	1,090.89
Pacific Northwest	38.78	38.33	0.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	187.18	283.14	174.81	\$148.87	254.30
Sierra Nevada	28.20	34.00	0.00	21.48	0.00	0.00	1,888.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,942.56	0.00	3,888.88	3,888.88
Southern California	211.00	298.38	0.00	88.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,794.00	44.44	3,128.37	4827.32	4888.48	8015.00
Southern States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	286.87	0.00	286.87
SWCWA	18.00	81.00	0.00	79.71	0.00	0.00	58.38	0.00	0.00	188.00	386.71	0.00	488.00	488.00
Texas	288.88	412.00	0.00	112.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	792.88	0.00	887.88	1,077.88
Total	780.30	1,882.88	0.00	1,176.74	30.00	0.00	8,210.27	145.00	3,888.00	1,888.14	18,888.88	1,888.88	\$1,777.77	20,777.77

#### 4. Other Reports

##### A. Past President's Report, Nominating Committee Report - Linda Bird

The past year seems to have been a relatively quiet year for the Past President. President Dan Brown seems to have a good handle on things and doesn't seem to need much advice on matters of concern.

I do once in a while think of something that needs to be done and remind those involved just in case they aren't aware of the responsibility. But basically my job has been one of just watching and enjoying my retirement from the President's role.

As Chairman of the Nominating Committee it was my responsibility to make sure we had a slate of officers to be voted on at this meeting and that report is enclosed. (see next report)

My expenses were minimal therefore I am not billing AMICA for them. With free long distance on my cell phone, e-mail, etc. I have had to do very little with snail mail.

##### Nominating Committee Report

In accordance with the AMICA By-laws, a nominating committee of seven members was selected by the Board of Directors by a mail vote in 2001. The mail vote was taken since there was no official Board Meeting due to the Australia Convention. The following people served on that committee:

##### CHAIRMAN:

Linda Bird—AMICA Past President—Grandview, MO

##### MEMBERS:

John Motto-Ros—Vallejo, CA

Jere DeBacker—Denver, CO

Dave Saul—El Cajon, CA

Christy Counterman—Akron, OH

Paul Dietz—Oakford, PA

Dee Kavouras—Beverly Hills, FL

The Nominating Committee has selected the following members, whose names will be presented to the AMICA Board at the 2002 AMICA Annual Meeting in Springdale, AR for nomination to the noted offices:

##### PRESIDENT

DAN BROWN (second term), Spokane, WA 99205

##### VICE-PRESIDENT

MIKE WALTER (second term), Lancaster, NY 14086

##### SECRETARY

CHRISTY COUNTERMAN, Akron, OH 44320

##### TREASURER

WESLEY NEFF, Findlay, OH 45840

These members meet the qualifications as listed in the AMICA By-laws and have agreed to be nominated for the specified post. After approval by the Board, I will present these nominees to the membership assembled at the 2002 General Membership Meeting in Springdale, AR, for their vote of approval to fulfill the duties of the prescribed offices for the next two years.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bird

AMICA Past President and Chairman,  
AMICA Nominating Committee

#### B. Publisher's Report - Robin Pratt

##### AMICA PUBLISHER'S REPORT FOR YEAR 2001 – \$43,156.83

BULLETIN	# Pages	Printing
Jan-Feb	72	4517.00
Mar-Apr	60	4191.00
May-Jun	68	4490.00
Jul-Aug	36	2813.00
Sept-Oct	58	4025.00
Nov-Dec	44	3183.00
		23219.00

Envelope	Label, insert, sort, bundle, del. to PO
146.00	268.00
141.00	247.00
151.00	248.00
139.00	248.00
146.00	248.00
139.00	248.00
862.00	1507.00

##### Membership Application

	Print	Insert
(Dues reminder)	101.00	40.00
(New members *1)	138.00	
	239.00	40.00

##### 2002 Convention Printing

(\*2) 204.00

N-Focus Labels	Postage
CASS Certified	
116.00(w. bar codes)	1804.10
75.00	1402.33
75.00	1287.94
75.00	1239.21
90.00	1452.81
90.00	1208.44
521.00	8394.83

REPRINTS	Quantity	Printing	Insert	
List of Metal Parts	2000	1938.00	80.00	Dues reminder
Standard Pneu. Player	2000	3058.00	80.00	How to Play a Player Piano
Sales Policy Card	2000	156.00	80.00	Chickering Catalogue
Welte-Mignon Cabinet	2000	1580.00	80.00	List of members
(*3) Music Home Recital	2000	1279.00	80.00	Standard Pneu. Player Action
(*4) Golden Age (ad)	2000	182.00	80.00	Welte-Mignon Cabinet Player
(*5) AMICA Award letter	2000	138.00	150.00	(*5) 5 separate inserts
		7331.00	630.00	

BILL CHAPMAN	Quantity	Printing	Freight
Stationery	500	73.00	8.00

##### MISCELLANEOUS

Bind 2000 yr. Bulletins at 30 each 99.00  
Mail to Grigg Graphic Services

Labels (600) to cover old Membership  
Secretary return addresses on mailing envelopes. 29.00

128.00

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Pratt, Publisher  
May 14, 2002



A discussion of the Bulletin contents followed the report. Members are concerned about the shortage of information available for publication in the Bulletin, especially technical articles. Marvin Polan suggested that we reprint more articles from the early years of AMICA, since many of us were not members then. Several people wanted an increase in the technical articles, but others wanted to know where we could get the articles to print. Several people were concerned that they would be criticized for their contributions to the bulletin, because their restoration methods or opinions on instruments differ from others. We need a variety of articles of interest to all members, and to actively encourage new members to participate. After much discussion, it was decided that Dan Brown will discuss with Robin Pratt the possibility of forming a new Publications Committee to generate more contributions of content for the bulletin.

### C. Membership Secretary/Directory Report - Bill Chapman, Karl Ellison

#### REPORT PERIOD: JUNE 1, 2001 TO MAY 30, 2002

##### Membership

July 31, 1999 - 1551  
June 1, 2000 - 1494  
June 1 2001 - 1459  
June 1, 2002 - 1375

There were 81 new members during the 2001-2002 reporting period with losses exceeding gains by seven. Membership has suffered a decline of greater than 11 percent over the past three years.

We must find the reasons for our decline and take corrective action before AMICA is no longer sustainable.

We have to know why people join and why they leave so we can both increase our membership and retain as many as possible.

If we stratify the membership according to its duration and durability it might be a practical way to view the situation.

#### 1. Long Term Members:

As of June 1st, 2002, 186 members who paid dues in 2001 but did not renew their membership for 2002. Four deaths were reported.

In this population, there were 64 members who joined between 1971 and 1990, averaging about 20 years continued membership. It is possible that much of this reduction is due to aging and declining interest or ability to continue with their hobby.

#### 2. Medium Term Members:

Eighty-six members dropped out after belonging from three to eleven years.

Attrition may be due to loss of interest or have declined to renew membership for other reasons. These reasons could include, among other things, dissatisfaction with the organization or a perceived poor cost/benefit ratio of belonging. Because of the length of term (up to eleven years) the reasons for dropouts in this group could be explored with benefit to AMICA.

### 3. Short-term Members:

Twenty-one members joined within the past year and a half and did not renew. These may be considered trial memberships and are unavoidable. How this group perceived the organization might be important to maintaining memberships.

#### Analysis:

The aging population accounts for a significant loss to the organization and it is unavoidable that this will continue.

Many recent joiners did not find the organization sufficiently rewarding to continue their membership.

#### Other Factors:

New members are usually married and established couples and not single young people.

Most new members own a single upright player. Almost all inquiries revolve around ordinary instruments. In the past year only 3 out of perhaps 100 inquiries were about reproducing pianos or other sophisticated instruments.

#### Conclusion:

AMICA must turn attention to the maintenance of the organization or plan for an orderly decline. It is possible that revenues will drop to the point that the traditional functions may be impaired.

New means and methods need to be addressed to attract the attention of younger people and middle-aged people. The cost of instruments may be a factor in limiting the size of the organization. Newer members may need technical information leading to repairs for their unrestored (and less costly) instruments.

#### Membership Renewal Rates

Breakdown of members by payment type:

	2001		2002	
	Cost	Members	Cost	Members
Bulk Mail:	\$37 & \$32*	1249	\$42 & \$37*	1163
Air Mail:	\$63	50	\$68	42
First Class:	\$52	130	\$57	89
Surface				
Mail:	\$43	31	\$48	33
Canada:	\$43	38	\$48	37
Total		1498		1364

\*A number of new members paid only \$32 or \$37 because brochures are still in existence that indicates the old rate.

Revenues from 17 members (approximately \$541) are paid ahead into 2003 and 2004.

Last minute (before the convention) update:

Later Renewals: In late February 2002 reminder letters were sent out to 302 members who had not responded to their regular dues notice of early December 2001. Few complaints were received about the dues increase. Only about 82 people responded to the reminder letters with some 18 more that could not be determined whether they were responding to the initial notice or the reminder notice. Normally 200 responses result from 300 reminder letters. "Snowbirds" often have delays in getting their renewal notices so there will be some delay in this smaller select group.

Submitted by: Bill Chapman  
Membership Secretary

Bill asked for suggestions on how Chapters are recruiting new members for AMICA. Some of the suggestions are included in the Chapter Reports. Others are:

The Sierra Nevada Chapter provides chapter "business cards" to each member of the chapter when they pay their dues. They can give them away at events and shows so people who are interested know how to contact AMICA. They pass out old leftover Bulletins to interested parties, and people are very appreciative of the information.

Dorothy Olds suggested putting ads in a local Free Shopper newspaper, where people shop for antiques and musical instruments.

Mike Barnhart said that each chapter could have a "road show" that could go to flea markets, antique shows, car shows and etc. to promote AMICA. It would be especially effective with a working instrument. Some chapters and individuals have done this with great results.

Many museums have instruments on display that do not play and are in need of restoration. Most places cannot afford the restoration, so it was suggested that we sponsor the restoration of an instrument or instruments that would gain publicity for AMICA, making sure the facility would agree to play the machine once it had been restored. We could make brochures available along with a sign indicating who had worked on the project. Richard Reutlinger will coordinate the effort to restore museum instruments in need of our help.

Next was a discussion of how to get members to renew on a timely basis. Many do not respond to the first notice, and their memberships lapse, causing AMICA to send out 300 to 400 reminder notices, costing time, materials and postage. It also costs us extra to send out the missed Bulletins, because they are not sent out bulk with the rest of the copies. We must cover these costs. It was then concluded that:

1. If a new member joins in the middle of the year, he will get all available back issues of the bulletin for that year.

2. The cost of single back issues will now be \$10.00 postage paid to the U.S. due to the increased costs of printing and postage. Costs for other countries will be determined on an as needed basis.

3. Late renewals will be charged an extra \$5.00 to cover the additional expense incurred by sending the missed bulletin to the Member. First renewal notices will be mailed by November 30th of each year. The deadline to renew will remain January 31. Karl Ellison will be sending out notices to current members to gather updated information for the membership directory.

#### **D. Audio-Visual/Technicalities Report - Hal Malakinian, Terry Smythe**

##### **Audio Visual and Technical**

There has been no activity on an International level this year. Tapes were provided as a part of the Convention package from Australia, but no new requests for Audio Visual materials have been made as in years past. This may be worth investigating at a Chapter level, as several members have made appearances on television. We could look into procuring copies of these programs for other chapters to view. We have had some donations of video when AMICAns were featured on local television programs. We need to publicize what we have and make the materials available to members. The Board will check in to the copyright issues, making sure we are not in violation if we make copies and show the videos to members.

#### **Technicalities Report**

After some 21+ years in an active role within AMICA, this will be my final report on anything to the Board. Upon completion of Technicalities VII, I will return to normal membership in this delightful organization.

Technicalities VII ready-for-camera is nearing completion, pagination remaining. When complete, I will send the ready-for-camera copy to Publisher Robin Pratt and a courtesy copy to Stuart Grigg, custodian of saleable Technicalities.

It should be noted there has been a noticeable drop in technical articles appearing in the AMICA Bulletin. I suspect this may be due in large part because many of those who once wrote such articles for our Bulletin, are now sharing their activities and achievements on the InterNet, most notably MMD (Mechanical Music Digest) which has become a significant repository for technical information. The magic and the power of the InterNet is such that it may be prudent in the future to glean technical articles from InterNet sources for publication in the Bulletin. Just something to think about.

In 1988, I wrote an article for the Bulletin within which I predicted with absolute certainty the ultimate self-destruction of paper music rolls, and wished for a portable roll scanner to convert roll data into computer data. The objective was/is a device which could be migrated through the major roll collections. That is coming to pass, but nothing about this important development has appeared within the pages of the Bulletin, as an example of the dearth of technical articles.

As the outgoing person responsible for assembling Technicalities, I am still receiving 2 additional copies of the Bulletin with each publication. These are important, for they are the source of items for the cut-n-paste needed to assemble the Technicalities. A new person to assemble Technicalities has yet to emerge. So, until that happens, I will continue to receive 2 additional copies and store them properly in my home. In the event of an unexpected demise, there is a document in that drawer of my file cabinet explaining to my heirs that they are not to be destroyed, as what happened when Mel Luchetti passed away.

Technicalities are typically produced at about 5 year intervals, so we have a couple years in which to find a replacement. When such a person emerges, I will ship the stock of duplicate copies of the Bulletin to that person and advise both Robin Pratt and Bill Chapman to adjust their records accordingly.

Regards and best wishes. It's been a great run.

Terry Smythe

#### **E. Archives Report - Stuart Grigg**

We've sold just a few things this past year. No report was necessary. He regrets not being able to attend as he'll be in the middle of the move to his new house.

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## **F. Convention Coordinator Report - Frank Nix**

**2003 – Portland, Oregon**

### **August 19-23 The Doubletree Hotel, Portland Downtown**

Chairman Carl Dodrill, with the help of a very able crew, is right on track putting together a fine convention. I have received regular progress and scheduling reports, as well as a preliminary budget, and all seem to be in good order.

I attended one planning meeting outside Portland, reviewed the hotel site, and took the train back to L.A. to check its feasibility for those also attending MBSI in Long Beach, starting the following week. (If anyone wants information on the Train, please contact Frank)

The Portland committee contracted the Doubletree for \$99 per night plus tax, single or double occupancy, plus \$15 for each additional person. Meeting rooms are costing \$2500 extra, with minimum occupancy 315 room nights and a minimum number of meals served. This target should be reasonable to achieve. AMICA will be held responsible for reaching these goals.

**2004 – Denver, Colorado**

### **August 3-8 The Holiday Inn, Denver Downtown**

Jere DeBacker, Chairman. Jere visited several hotels in the Denver area before settling on the Holiday Inn. I was contacted by two or three hotels that were recommended by the Denver Travel Bureau as being new and very good quality at reasonable prices. (\$150 and up) Jere secured the Holiday Inn at \$109 per night, single or double occupancy, with a 320 room night obligation, plus \$1200 for meeting rooms, with minimum number of meals served. With input from Liz Barnhart, Jere and I were able to negotiate the \$1200 figure from a somewhat higher amount.

Jere has started working with other members in the area to put together the program.

The efforts that Jere and friends put in, plus a first time in this wonderful state should guarantee AMICA a very successful meeting.

**2005 – Minneapolis, Minnesota**

I recently had a call from Donald Barton volunteering his chapter for 2005 in Minneapolis. Although it's too soon to give a progress report, I know this is a beautiful old historic area with fine collections and a very able chapter. I'll be happy to watch and report on their progress.

**2006 – Currently open for volunteers**

I would suggest 2006 take place in Chicago, Florida, or possibly L.A., but am definitely open to other locations.

**2007 – Europe???**

We are proposing the annual meeting take place in Germany with Belgium, Holland, and Switzerland included if feasible.

Liz and Mike Barnhart have volunteered to help me with this one. We will also be enlisting the help of several friends across the pond.

This opens many possibilities for places to go and wonderful things to see. I know we can put together a great trip.

We need to poll the meeting attendees for response.

I am confident this schedule of meetings is going to work well.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank Nix, Convention Coordinator

We had a discussion of concerns for costs and attendance issues due to the economy. Suggestions were offered for reasonable room rates and how to avoid extra meeting room costs. We could not afford downtown Seattle because the rates were just too high.

Liz Barnhart said there is a positive response from possible hosts for Europe in 2007. It was suggested to have 4 phases for the trip, to include Germany as a major stop.

## **G. Award Committee Report -**

### **Mike Walter (Included in Vice President's report.)**

Mike Walter will not be able to present the awards due to graduation ceremonies back home in New York, but Maury Willyard will present the awards in his place. Both couples will be in attendance to accept the awards.

## **H. Memorial Fund Report - Judy Chisnell**

Contributions to the Memorial Fund amounted to \$322.00 during 2001. That is nearly the same amount as in 2000 and was accounted for by the continuing practice of some members to "round up" their annual dues.

The "Join Us" brochures were reprinted during 2001 and the costs defrayed by the Memorial Fund. That printing amounted to \$1624.47 for ten thousand brochures. These brochures highlight AMICA in a brief format to catch the attention of the public and, hopefully, result in new memberships. They are available from the Publisher at no charge.

In reconciling the Memorial Fund with Wes Neff, our Treasurer, we show a balance of \$6304.48 as of January 1, 2002. That includes interest in the amount of \$295.78 which accrued during 2001.

I am leaving the position of Memorial Fund Chairperson as of this writing and hope that you will all give the newly selected Chairperson the same fine cooperation which I have enjoyed over this past three years.

Respectfully, Judy Chisnell

## **I. Honorary Member Committee Report - Jay Albert**

The only thing needed to report regarding Honoraries would be the passing of Leo Ornstein earlier this year. I had written Mr. Ornstein a long letter a few months prior to his death, but had gotten no response from him. I had been contacted by a gentleman who was putting together a series at his university in Canada on several composers, including the works of Mr. Ornstein, and I sent him copies of information that we had on file on Mr. Ornstein, and requested that any credit listing in their literature note AMICA as source material. Bob Taylor (Philadelphia) had also been kind enough to send along a magazine article on Mr. Ornstein which I copied for his file. (Bob sent it along to Robin Pratt as well.)

### **The current honorary members of AMICA are:**

Hi Babit	Emmett Ford
Larry Givens	Max Morath

## **J. Webmaster Report -**

### **Meta Brown, Addendum by Terry Smythe**

Annual Report of the AMICA Webmaster  
to AMICA's Board of Directors

At the time of this writing, a major revision for the AMICA web site is under construction. The first phase of new material is scheduled to go live by the time of the 2002 AMICA annual convention. The revision, based on a plan developed by Meta Brown and Terry Smythe during Terry's tenure as webmaster, affects both external (visible to those who visit the site) and administrative aspects of the web site. Most obvious to site visitors will be a new menu, emphasizing introductory information about AMICA and many types of mechanical musical instruments.

#### **Three considerations drove the plan for redevelopment of the AMICA International web site:**

1) The unique nature of the website as a resource easily available to the public.

2) One of the stated purposes of AMICA from the AMICA by laws: To educate the public about the historical and cultural significance of automatic musical instruments.

3) The need to keep focus narrow enough to be manageable within the limits of available resources.

These considerations led to the following statement of purpose for the site: To build public awareness of the existence of mechanical music and the types of mechanical musical instruments.

#### **The following were the primary goals for visible aspects of redesign of the site:**

1) Newcomers to mechanical music who visit the site should be given the impression that they are welcome visitors.

2) Basic information on mechanical music and descriptions of the various types of mechanical musical instruments should be easy to find within the site.

3) Site navigation (finding material of interest) should be easy.

4) Visitors should be steered toward further involvement in mechanical music.

Several administrative changes, that is, changes not immediately visible to site visitors, have also been made. Maintenance of the site has been addressed by changes in the internal organization of files, simplification of coding and the use of cascading style sheets (a technique that reduces the amount of work which must be done to add or make cosmetic changes to pages.) A practice of using a brief written permission form for photographs of instruments featured on the site has been instituted. A program of measures to improve placement of the AMICA site in relevant web searched has begun.

A key aspect of site redesign, although not obvious to the visitor, is improvement of search engine placement of the AMICA website. Several AMICAns have expressed disappointment that the AMICA site did not place high in their web searches for the term "player piano." Many factors affect search engine placement. Among them are the terms that appear within the pages of the web site, names of files and images, popularity of the site and subject matter and popularity of reciprocal links (links to sites which in turn link to the AMICA site.) With such factors in mind, each page of the revised site has been newly coded with an

eye toward helping to improve ranking of the site for terms such as mechanical music, player piano, music box and so forth. A structure for new code has been established which will facilitate the addition of new material on more specific topics such as "Duo-Art" and "Duo-Art reproducing piano" which are closely related to AMICA and for which we have an exceptional opportunity for high ranking in search engines.

Links are an important aspect of the site for two reasons. First, links serve the educational purpose of the site by leading visitors to additional resources. Second, relevant and reciprocal links are valuable for improvement of search engine placement of the site. Background research for the site development uncovered many relevant sites with links to AMICA for which there was no reciprocal link on the AMICA site. Where those links are relevant, they will generally be reciprocated in the redesigned site. At the request of the AMICA Board, there will be no links to sites which are commercial in nature where the link might be taken as an advertisement or endorsement by AMICA. However, the AMICA site will not exclude links to commercial sites in all cases. Some examples of permissible links would include articles on AMICA or mechanical music in a journalistic site, or to reference materials within an otherwise commercial site. It is worth noting that HGTV (Home and Garden Television) and the Smithsonian Institution websites included links to AMICA of which we were previously unaware.

The single request of AMICA President Dan Brown to the AMICA Webmaster was to encourage AMICA chapters to be more active, including actively developing chapter web sites. With this in mind, an informal survey was sent to contacts in chapters throughout the country to gather information about the interest level in developing chapter sites, and the availability of resources such as people with some knowledge of web sites and access to computers. The response was mixed. At least two chapters have since made significant efforts in the development of chapter sites. The updated AMICA International site will feature a chapters page with basic contact information, including a link to the chapter web site, if one exists.

Since resistance to developing sites in some chapters seems to come out of a misunderstanding of the level of resources required, it might be of help to seek an AMICAn with some knowledge of web sites who would serve as a chapter website advocate. The role of such an advocate would be educational, providing chapters with information on easy and cheap methods of establishing a web site.

With the site redesign work largely completed, the focus in the year to come will shift to site maintenance and building depth in the site. Site maintenance will include actively seeking updates of contact information and upcoming events and improving turnaround of corrections and the like. One area where greater depth will be needed is in providing more detailed information about specific types of mechanical musical instruments, as the level of the first phase of the redesign is quite superficial. This is an area where assistance from volunteers interested in research, writing, photography or sound recording will be actively sought. Finally, a goal of the Webmaster is to add value to AMICA and its web site by developing new resources that foster the preservation of mechanical music.

Meta Brown, Webmaster  
May 31, 2002

As a supplement to the WebMaster's Report, the following should be noted:

AMICA's initial web site 'leventy-7 years ago was a freebie off my personal web site with the BlueSky Freenet in Winnipeg, Canada. Shortly thereafter, I registered the domain name <www.amica.org> with Network Solutions (NetSol), the keeper of the .ORG names, and that domain name is paid up and protected through to June 2003. The most current renewal was effected 19 June 2001, for 2 years through to 19 June 2003, at a cost of \$70.00 (US).

Within NetSol's records, for Administrative and Billing purposes, I am the contact. In consideration of the very well known difficulties in dealing with NetSol's bureaucratic processes to effect changes, I recommend it remain this way until such time as they come up with the ability to record an alternate contact person.

My account with Bluesky Freenet was previously free as I was a Charter member of that community network. When Bluesky ran into financial difficulties, the Manitoba Telephone System (MTS) assumed responsibility for its records and accounts.

As MTS unilaterally imposed changes on me (AMICA), they struck a deal with a handful of us in that position at the time to provide an attractive 15/50 web hosting plan for \$15.50/month + tax (Can \$). That plan gives AMICA 15 megs of hard disk space and 50 megs of data transfer per month. We have never exceeded this provision and the rate is still \$15.50 + tax.

That MTS billing is still in my name. It is highly likely that any change to that original deal could be seen by MTS as an opportunity to inflict a shark attack and significantly increase the fees. I would therefore recommend the current arrangement be left in place and reviewed year by year by the WebMaster. It is possible that a more favorable ISP may be found somewhere. In the manner in which the InterNet works, it matters not where in the world the web site is physically housed.

Since I was last reimbursed for related expenses up to June 2000 (no report submitted for 2001 Australia), I have accumulated 24 monthly billings to 1 June 2002 inclusive @ \$16.59 (\$15.50 + tax) summing to \$398.16 which translates through our devastating exchange rate (55%) to only \$219.00 (US). I've sent the bills I have to Wesley. In summary:

\$219.00 (US) -

MTS Billings July 2000 to June 2002 inclusive, plus

\$70.00 (US) -

NetSol domain name renewal to June 2003

for a total of \$289.00 (US) to be reimbursed at this time for past 2 years.

On an annualized basis, our costs for maintaining a web site and protecting our domain name are currently:

Web space - \$110.00 (US)

Domain name - \$ 35.00 (US) [\$70 every 2 years]

Regards,  
Terry Smythe  
Past WebMaster

Meta Brown would like to ask members to contribute titles for the Bibliography of Publications relating to automatic musical instruments. She also requests that Chapters send in updates to their lists of officers, and include contact information if they wish the information to be posted on the Web. She will also start a calendar to include Chapter meetings as submitted.

## **K. Executive Committee Report - no report this year**

### **L. International Forum of Mechanical Music Organizations - Mike Barnhart**

There has been very little progress in establishing an IFMMO Website. The Yahoo IFMMO Group Bulletin Board is still in operation with very little activity. Organization representatives are for the most part observers, not participants. There were three positive responses to AMICA's posted proposal for an AMICA 2007 Convention in Germany. The PPG Webmaster was to set up an initial IFMMO Website. I put together a proposed Website layout and had Terry Smythe renew the ifmmo.org designation. The PPG Webmaster has disappeared into the rainforest of New Zealand. I have come to the conclusion that any accomplishment must be achieved by individual effort, not by group action. Future IFMMO progress is currently uncertain.

There is one important international matter to be considered by the AMICA Board. AMICA, up to now, has had an unwritten and informal policy of allowing foreign members of affiliated international groups to attend AMICA functions without being members of AMICA and without additional charges over and above the function cost to AMICA members. This policy I believe is consistent with the spirit of the Affiliated Societies and Organizations and encourages interrelationships between the affiliate groups and their members.

The MBSI Board has recently passed a resolution requiring all foreign attendees to MBSI functions to be mandatory members of MBSI. Foreign organizations and their members may resent the MBSI action and retaliate against MBSI, and by association, against AMICA as well. AMICA cannot afford any ill will with foreign organizations and their members in planning and holding of overseas conventions. AMICA should clearly and decisively disassociate itself from the MBSI action. Accordingly I hereby offer the following motion to formalize the current informal policy.

"AMICA shall maintain a policy of allowing members of affiliated associations that are not US or Canadian residents and citizens to attend AMICA functions at the established AMICA member cost without penalty."

A board member said we should look into the legal ramifications of such an action, and how it might affect our non-profit status. Mike Barnhart moved to vote on the above motion, but another member was able to table the motion until further research is done.

### **M. Chapter Reports were summarized at the membership Meeting on Friday morning. The complete reports follow.**

## **BOSTON AREA CHAPTER REPORTS**

### **Officers:**

President: .....Bill Koenigsburg  
Vice President: .....Robert Tempest  
Secretary: .....Ginger Christiansen  
Treasurer: .....Karl Ellison  
Reporter: .....Don Brown  
Board Rep: .....Karl Ellison

Meetings in the last 12 months have been held in Hopkinton, Salem, Lexington, and Billerica MA. We average 4 meetings a year. We hope to have some meetings in the outer New England States soon.

Last year we tried something different, making our summer meeting a picnic and our winter meeting a Christmas Dinner. These worked out well and we'll be trying to do the same this year. With these kinds of subsidized expenses came a drain on our bank account, so for 2002 the annual dues were raised to \$8/household, up from \$5 for so many years.

As of this writing, the club has \$948.26 in the bank, with 49 "paid" households.

Our meetings are usually well attended, with a minimum of 20 attendees on average. The meetings consist of a social hour followed by a standard business meeting, old/new business, Reports, and a "Show and Tell" which has showcased some extraordinary specimens of instrumentation and automata.

The club project to restore an upright player-piano for the Charles River Museum of Industry has begun, as a suitable Upright instrument had been found. Four club members drove to Rhode Island to pick up, paid \$360, brought it back to Billerica to member Dorothy Bromage's work barn, and its restoration is nearly complete. We anticipate presenting it to the museum complete with a plaque and some good text for the docents to use – sometime this Summer.

Submitted by Karl Ellison  
Boston Board Rep

## **CHICAGO CHAPTER NOTES**

Since the Chicago Chapter did not submit a report, I tried contacting other Chapter members for information. Mel Septon responded, confirming the officers as: President, George Wilder; Vice President, Curt Clifford; Secretary, Jo Crawford; Treasurer, Joe Pekarek, Reporter, Kathy Stone Septon; Board Rep, Marty Persky.

Kathy Septon also reported meetings at Carol Veome's historic house and collection as well as a holiday party at the beautiful home of Jasper and Marion Sanfilippo in Barrington Hills, IL.

## **FOUNDING CHAPTER REPORTS**

### **Officers:**

President: .....Bing Gibbs  
Vice President: .....Mark Pope  
Secretary: .....Lyle Merithew and Sandy Swirsky  
Treasurer: .....Richard Reutlinger  
Reporter: .....Tom McWay  
Board Rep: .....Richard Reutlinger

The Founding Chapter had 38 paid memberships for the year. We were also fairly successful in convincing our local members to renew their International memberships when renewing local dues. We held a dual meeting in Don Ellison's home in Palo Alto with the Sierra Nevada Chapter.

We have had several "slow" years as far as local activities and projects are concerned. We are actively working on ideas for the future.

As Board Rep and Founding Member of AMICA, I continue to do home tours for conventioneer wives and others where I always complete the tour playing about five instruments for them and promoting AMICA. I have brochures out for anyone who is interested. Also this past Spring, HGTV did a shoot of the collection for their "Collectible Series" in which they interviewed me and I spoke about AMICA. They also said they establish a Web site for each program once it has aired and that AMICA information will be included.

I am looking forward to a great Convention in Springdale.

AMICAbly,  
Richard Reutlinger, Founding Chapter Board Rep

Secretary's note:

[http://www.hgtv.com/HGTV/episode/0,1101,BDRE\\_episode\\_8595,00.html](http://www.hgtv.com/HGTV/episode/0,1101,BDRE_episode_8595,00.html)

Restore America:California on HGTV

## **GATEWAY CHAPTER REPORTS**

### **Officers:**

President: .....Yousuf Wilson  
Vice President: .....Tom Novak  
Secretary/Treasurer: .....Jane Novak  
Reporter: .....Mary Wilson  
Board Rep: .....Gary Craig

Our chapter continues to have problems attracting new members who are willing to be active in our club. We recently completed building a John Smith busker organ as a project to get more people involved. However, only the people who normally attend meetings worked on the project organ. We decided on a yearly monkey organ rally in hopes of both getting some members more active and attracting new members. We add new members, but they join only because of the organ rally and do not attend other meetings.

We have trouble trying to schedule four meetings a year. Going to a person's home is the option most members seem most comfortable doing. If we have a meeting requiring a registration fee or purchasing tickets, fewer members come. If we try to schedule an overnight meeting somewhere, even fewer people come. You can only go so many times to a given person's home.

We continue to hold meetings with the same core of people.

We purchased AV equipment to use in conjunction with organs to expose people to the hobby. Yousuf Wilson and his collection appeared on a local television station this April. Gary Craig has appeared on television and in newspaper stories in St. Louis and Iowa concerning organ grinding. None of this has led to new members so far.

One thing I am convinced is true. We are more likely to get new members by taking our organs out and playing them every chance we get.

Submitted by Gary Craig  
Gateway Board Rep

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## HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER REPORTS

### Officers:

President: .....Ron Bopp  
Vice President: .....Tom McAuley  
Secretary/Treasurer: .....Robbie Tubbs  
Reporter: .....Joyce Brite  
Board Rep: .....Ron Connor

Since the last report we have continued to be an active chapter. In August we held a band organ rally in Eureka Springs which brought out about five large organs and a fleet of monkey organs. The large organs were located around the beautiful Crescent Hotel and the monkey organs spread out around town. This was well received by the townspeople and we have been invited back this year. Dinner and a business meeting were held in the hotel Saturday night and a Sunday brunch was available for those that wished. This is where we will have a lunch during the convention and Elise and Marty Roenigk will tell us of their restoration of this fine old hotel and show us some of their musical instruments.

In October we joined with Gateway chapter for an Organ Grinder's "Show and Tell" and played our monkey organs in the City Museum in downtown St. Louis, MO. In the evening we enjoyed ragtime rolls and dinner at the Scott Joplin House. A good meeting and another chance to acquaint the public with some of our activities.

In December it was off to Linda and Gerold Koehler's new place in Joplin, MO. We were relieved to find that they finally have indoor plumbing as this is to be a stop during the convention. You can ask Gerold about what a difficult accomplishment this was. The day started with a trip to the Precious Moments exhibits and then went to Koehler's for a supper and a look around. They have built 17,000 square feet of living quarters and collection space. I'm sure the convention attendees will enjoy the visit to this interesting place.

The Heart of America Thespians (a group of our less inhibited members) had formed a hillbilly band which performed, followed by the traditional Christmas gift exchange. The next day we finished with a brunch.

The end of March saw our final convention planning meeting at Linda and Galen Bird's outside Kansas City, MO. Afterward we went over to Barbara and John Washburn's in Grain Valley to see their home. We had a nice supper in their airplane hanger, where in addition to their airplane they have an area set up like an old style diner, a small theater, and other interesting things to see all around. The next day we returned to the Bird's for a brunch before heading home.

As you can imagine, our focus over the past few years has been the convention. We knew we would have a tough act to follow, with the last convention in Melbourne. I guess we just don't have good sense. Anyway, I think we have put together a convention all will enjoy. We have included all the traditional things, such as the pumper contest, the mart, workshops, and the banquet. We will have performances by two live bands and tours to places of interest both musically and otherwise. There will be a wide variety of workshop topics, including one not tried before. This will be on antique dolls in hopes of providing something for those spouses who don't feel a need to know how to rebuild a

piano. We think many will be surprised at both the beauty of the area and how well the modern and traditional exist side by side. It's been a lot of work. We have travelled many miles to committee meetings, have gone through four hotel convention directors, each in turn having to be brought up to speed. As I write this, we have just finished dealing with having our meeting rooms changed yet again. Now, with everything finally ready to go, we hope you will all have a wonderful time the rest of this week. The work will be worth it if people look back on this as a great convention.

Respectfully Submitted, Ron Connor  
Heart of America Chapter Representative

## LADY LIBERTY CHAPTER REPORTS

### Officers:

President: .....Bill Maguire  
Vice President: .....Keith Bigger  
Secretary: .....Richard Karlsson  
Treasurer: .....Ira Malak  
Reporters: .....Bill Maguire/Buzz Rosa  
Board Reps: .....Marvin and Dianne Polan  
Membership Chairman: .....Keith Bigger

Our Treasurer's report was sent to the International Treasurer.

Membership report (paid up members) – 48 (down from 56)

Number of meetings a year – 4 plus end of year party

Workshops – 2 (average – will plan for more)

We will be more stringent in the future in getting dues renewals in by the end of the year. The Chapter By-Laws state membership automatically terminates after March 31. A re-instatement fee of \$2, (up from \$1 as amended by vote of membership, 5/19/2002) will be charged after March 31.

All members must check off that they have renewed their International Membership when they send in their Chapter Renewals. I then compile a list and send it to Bill Chapman for verification.

We will concentrate on getting new members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marvin and Dianne Polan  
Lady Liberty Board Reps

## MIDWEST CHAPTER REPORTS

### Officers:

President: .....Judy Chisnell  
Vice President: .....Stuart Grigg  
Secretary: .....Judy Wulfekuhl  
Treasurer: .....Alvin Wulfekuhl  
Reporter: .....Christy Counterman  
Board Rep: .....Liz Barnhart

The Midwest Chapter has 95 members. Our fall meeting was held Sept. 15 & 16 in Bloomdale and Findlay, Ohio. On Saturday at the home of Joan and Terry Haughwout we learned about the history of the Mills Violano-Virtuoso and saw many of them demonstrated after being rebuilt by Terry and his staff. That evening we toured the Victorian home of Gregg and Karen Cline where we enjoyed their phonograph and music box collection.

Sunday we were at Sherri and AMICA Treasurer, Wes Neff's to play their Duo-Art and Ampico pianos. Afterwards we went to The Music Roll Shop of Elizabeth Rettig.

Our Christmas Party was held on Dec. 8th at the home of Cindy and Dennis Eiland in Stow, Ohio with our annual musical gift exchange. On May 4th we met at the new home of Pat and Vince Aveni in Gates Mills, Ohio where we heard their Wurlitzer Pipe Organ and many other instruments. Saturday night and Sunday morning we returned to the Eilands' in Stow to enjoy their Ampico and Welte pianos.

During the business meeting in the fall, it had been decided to find a Reproduco for the new First Ladies Museum in Canton, Ohio. Ken Vinen headed the search committee and a Reproduco was purchased by them from Dave Reichert. Following the Eiland's meeting, we drove to Canton for a tour of the First Ladies Museum and the old bank building which will house the library and theatre for the Reproduco. They plan to complete the rebuilding project in the summer of '03 and it is hoped that our chapter can participate in the dedication ceremony which may include Laura Bush or other living First Ladies.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Barnhart

Midwest Board Rep

## **NORTHERN LIGHT CHAPTER REPORTS**

### **Officers:**

President: .....Dave Kemmer  
Vice President: .....Phillip Baird  
Secretary: .....Jason Beyer  
Treasurer: .....Howard O'Neil  
Reporter: .....Dorothy Olds  
Board Rep: .....Dorothy Olds

April 21, 2001 found chapter members at Pavek Radio Museum in St. Louis Park, MN, a suburb of the Twin Cities. Tentative meeting sites for 2001 were discussed. Two of our members reportedly were ill, Terry Goepel and Ruby Ahneman. Flowers were sent to both.

August 2001 – The group met in Oronoco, MN where Gold Rush Days are held annually. It is a giant outdoor antiquers' dream market. President Dave Kemmer provided his antique school house home for the meeting.

December 2001 – Christmas was celebrated at the home of Paul and Barb Watkins on the Mighty Mississippi. At that time, Don Barton provided some details regarding the 2005 convention in Minneapolis. Individuals volunteered to fill some of the needed positions for convention. Phillip Baird was elected as new V.P. Jason Beyer will serve as Secretary again. Howard O'Neil will finish the Treasurer's last year of a 2-year term.

March 3, 2002 – The group met at the home of Randy Hammond in Brooklyn Park on a gorgeous spring day. Some members are planning to attend "The Hopeful Heart Anniversary" concert for life at the Sanfilippo Music Salon, Barrington, IL.

Don Barton and his company held a player piano "flea market" on April 27, 2002, in which members could rent a table to sell their "piano wares."

In the afternoon, we journeyed to the old Heights Theater in Columbia Heights, where we viewed several silent movies. Very enjoyable. The house was full of folks who laughed and clapped for each showing. Following the movies, the group descended on Nye's Polanaise Restaurant for an evening of good food and socializing. We will meet again on August 18, 2002 in Oronoco, MN.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Olds

Northern Lights Board Rep

## **PACIFIC CAN-AM CHAPTER REPORTS**

### **Officers:**

President: .....Kurt Morrison  
Vice President: .....Don McLaughlin  
Secretary: .....Halie Dodrill  
Treasurer: .....Beverly Spore  
Reporter: .....Carl Kehret  
Board Rep: .....Carl Dodrill

### **Membership**

Our membership consists of 86 individuals who come from 53 households. This represents approximately a 5% growth from the previous year. In many cases, two members from a household are both actively involved in our chapter.

### **Treasury**

As of the beginning of June, 2002, we had \$415.06 in our checking account. We also have a certificate of deposit for \$1,999.95 which is due primarily to the profit from the 1994 AMICA convention in Seattle and which has accrued interest since that time. In addition, we have a savings account with a balance of \$166.53.

### **Chapter Activities**

Our chapter continues in a very active way. Each year we have four meetings with 35 to 50 people in attendance, and our meetings occur on Saturday or Sunday afternoons. Members and visitors come to the hosting home at around 2 PM and there is approximately two hours of visiting with other members while the instruments in the home are viewed and played. This considerable period of time for interaction with other AMICAns has proved to be one of the most valuable features of our meetings, and people become well acquainted with others during this time. At approximately 4 PM, we have our Business Meeting and show and tell time. At roughly 5 PM, we share our potluck meal together. This schedule works very well indeed.

A considerable amount of work has gone into planning and actually undertaking band organ rallies. Spearheaded by two of our members (Norm and Sally Gibson) and assisted by a committee of other members, a band organ rally occurred over Labor Day weekend in Ocean Shores, Washington. Not only did this rally attract nearly a dozen organs from as much as 1,200 miles away, but several hundred people came and not only enjoyed the organs, but they also came to a special player piano room where they learned about player pianos and also had the opportunity to play themselves. In addition, for the sum of \$1, they were able to attend an hour long demonstration of a broad spectrum of automatic mechanical musical instruments which was accompanied by interesting information about each of them. This rally was so successful, that another one was immediately planned for the first weekend in June,



2002. Although slightly smaller, this rally also experienced a significant amount of success, and it was especially gratifying to see so many of the public come and enjoy automatic instruments. AMICA membership brochures was made available. Information about both rallies, with pictures, can be obtained at [www.thegibsonsbands.com](http://www.thegibsonsbands.com). Persons from the local MBSI chapter were active participants, and they assisted in the musical instrument demonstrations in particular.

Another major activity for this year was the continuing planning of 2003 AMICA Convention which is to be held in Portland, Oregon from August 20 to 24, 2003. Portland was picked for several reasons including the fact that neither AMICA nor MBSI had ever been there, favorable hotel rates could be obtained, and there is a nucleus of AMICAns already in the Portland area which might eventually form the basis for a chapter. Furthermore, hotel dates were available so that one can even attend the AMICA convention one week and the MBSI convention in southern California the next weekend after touring down the coast by train or car. Carl Dodrill is Convention Chair and Al Menashe from Portland is the Convention Co-chair. Our committee consists of persons from the state of Washington (Dan Brown, Halie Dodrill, Carl Kehret, Dean Randall, Beverly Spore) and also from Oregon (Nathan Bello, Bruce and Juanice Cartwright, Bill and Marilyn Englund, Don McLaughlin, Al Menashe, Ann Smith, John Collins). We have now had three extended Convention Committee meetings, all of which occurred in Portland, and the essential features of the convention have now been determined. The convention will be at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Portland where very favorable rates were obtained and where other amenities are available including free parking and free transportation from the airport. Other features of the convention will include a tour of the Columbia River Gorge, a visit to the Carousel Museum, the selection of the piano virtuoso 16 year old Nathan Bello as the convention guest artist (winner of an international piano competition, composer of the Rose City Rag which will be the convention souvenir roll, member of our AMICA chapter), the inclusion of a special theater organ concert with the world famous organist Jonas Nordwall, a visit to the antique store district of Portland, and other attractions. It is believed that this will truly be an extraordinary AMICA Convention. We look forward to seeing everyone in Portland next year!

Respectfully submitted, Carl Dodrill  
Chapter Representative to the AMICA Board

## **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER REPORTS**

### **Officers:**

President: ..... Frank Nix  
Vice President: ..... Richard Ingram  
Secretary: ..... Shirley Nix  
Treasurer: ..... Ken Hodge  
Reporter: ..... Shirley Nix  
Board Rep: ..... Frank Nix

Since enjoying a visit with many friends in the land down under we've had a wonderful, productive year in Southern California.

Our April 2001 meeting was held at the restored turn of the century home of Ervin and Betty Canada.

June 2001 found us listening to the performing pianos at the unique home of Richard and Beverly Ingram.

Independence Day weekend was celebrated with a band organ rally in Memorial Park in Sierra Madre on Saturday, and Sunday in Descanso Gardens in La Canada. The Descanso gardens staff was very impressed, and invited us back for another rally next Spring.

In August we visited new members the Robert Denersons. Bob has literally thousands of rolls on which he has enlarged the word for easy reading during singalongs. (This meant well over 1,000,000 words.) This was an enjoyable meeting.

In October we were back at our regular organ rally at the annual Arbor Fest in the Fullerton Arboretum.

November found us in large numbers at the magnificent home and collection of Dave and Diane Reidy.

December was the Christmas meeting at the home of Frank and Shirley Nix. As usual, MBSI was also invited.

In February of 2002 new members Fred and Deanna Roth hosted, showing off their wonderful collection of music and classic American sports cars.

April of 2002 was quite wonderful in Descanso Gardens (voted the most romantic spot in the L.A. area). The Tulip Festival was in full bloom and the 200 plus acres of all types of plants and trees was beautiful.

Huell Howser, known all over California for his Public Television programs, was out to document our organ rally for his half hour show on Public Television. Approximately a dozen instruments of various kinds were highlighted by their owners, making a very interesting program which aired on April 30th and was repeated May 9th, with a good plug for AMICA.

I'm not taking the space to describe each individual chapter meeting. Each one was great, and our hosts really outdid themselves. We all really appreciated their efforts!

We have over 90 members within a range of 150-200 miles of Los Angeles, and our treasury is healthy.

Submitted by Frank Nix  
Southern California Board Rep

## **SIERRA NEVADA CHAPTER REPORT**

### **Officers:**

President: ..... John Motto-Ros  
Vice President: ..... Sonja Lemon  
Secretary/Treasurer: ..... Doug and Vickie Mahr  
Reporter: ..... Nadine Motto-Ros  
Board Rep: ..... John Motto-Ros

Our Chapter has 14 members and meets four to six times each year. The most attended meeting is a joint meeting with the Founding Chapter with about 50 people attending. It is a gala affair, and this year will be held September 7, 2002.

The Chapter's main focus has been on increasing membership. We recently purchased a restored Gulbransen player piano from a Founding Chapter member. We made arrangements with the Heidrick AG History Center in Woodland, California, to have the piano on display for a period of one year. Docents assist museum visitors with the

piano, and it gets played frequently. The museum has thanked us many times for the loan of the piano. We recently had a meeting at the museum to regulate the piano action and do minor adjustments. It was a big success, and the piano has AMICA brochures and signage stating it is on loan from the AMICA Sierra Nevada Chapter. We feel the investment is well spent to promote AMICA. This is the second time we have worked with the museum, and it is a positive experience. About 4,000 visitors a month go through; and since it is a mechanical museum, the player piano fits well. Let's hope we gain membership; and, if not, exposing an instrument is what AMICA is about. We are a small chapter in number; but, as strong AMICAns, we continue to be an active and successful chapter with a determination to grow.

Respectfully submitted, John Motto-Ros  
President/Board Rep  
Sierra Nevada Chapter

### **SOWNY CHAPTER REPORTS**

#### **Officers:**

President: .....Mike Walter  
Vice President: .....Norma Marciniak  
Secretary: .....Garry and Anne Lemon  
Treasurer: .....Holly Walter  
Reporter: .....Frank Warbis  
Board Rep: .....Holly Walter

The S.O.W.N.Y. Chapter of AMICA has been somewhat quiet for the first part of this current year.

We currently have 28 paid-up members and a balance of \$4,892.80 as of January 1, 2002 in our bank account. We are looking to have prospective members come to our next meeting in July.

We have three scheduled meetings for the remainder of the year, and at least two other tentative meetings in the works.

We are still working on a chapter project, rebuilding a 1922 Weber Duo-Art Grand. The piano is refinished and restrung, and it is now a matter of installing the rebuilt player mechanism.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Holly Walter  
SOWNY Board Rep

### **TEXAS CHAPTER REPORTS**

#### **Officers:**

President: .....Jerry Bacon  
Vice President: .....Tony Palmer  
Secretary/Treasurer: .....Janet Tonnesen  
Reporter: .....Bryan Cather  
Board Rep: .....Dick Merchant

The Chapter has maintained good vitality this year, and is having a good year.

Our main objective has been to bring in new members and to encourage member attendance and participation. We are trying to stay active and build our membership.

The Chapter gained ground in 2001 with the number of meetings we were able to have and enjoy. In 2000 we had four meetings. In 2001, we succeeded in having seven meetings. This is something we've worked very hard for and are very proud of. The 2001 meetings are listed below:

February - Richardson - Richard Tonnesen  
March - Paradise - Joe Uher  
April - Fort Worth - Broadway Church  
May - Boca Raton, FL - Milhous Collection  
June - Dallas - Jerry Bacon  
July - Arlington - Bryan Cather at Pianotex  
August - Dallas - Alan May  
October - Houston - Alan Bies, Steve Boehck, Dick Howe,  
Dr. Ray Dickey

(Joint meeting with Sunbelt Chapter MBSI)

#### **In 2002 so far we've had:**

January - Dallas - Bill Flynt  
April - Colleyville - Larry & Jean Williams  
May - Dallas - Glynn Childers

A fall meeting and a Christmas dinner meeting are also being planned.

We have maintained a page in the AMICA International web site for some time now. Rather than International continuing to host our web page on its site, we now understand we are required to arrange for our own web site and International would only have a link to our web site. It won't be a problem to pay for a domain name, but we feel a monthly charge for obtaining a web site would put quite a strain on our treasury. Our Bill Hoot agreed to design a web page. He has done quite a bit of work researching the subject and has a web page layout begun. He has talked with and e-mailed Meta Brown, AMICA International's Web Master concerning the subject. The chapter is certainly positive about a web page, but does have concerns about the extra burden and expense of maintaining an independent web site. We hope to find out more about this when chapter web pages are discussed at the International Board meeting in Arkansas.

For the past several years we've had our newsletter, The Old Piano Roll News, going out to members about 4 times a year. Our newsletters consisted mainly of reports of previous meetings and upcoming meetings. We regret that our very able publisher, Bryan Cather, no longer has the time to put out the newsletter, and the Texas Chapter is contemplating whether to continue putting a regular newsletter out. We feel that the newsletter makes a valuable extra contact with our members which is good and members report enjoying it. We all know, however, that maintaining a regular publication over a sustained period of time is quite an effort and expense which we may not be able to keep up. We have wondered how many chapters have something like a newsletter sent to members aside from the meeting announcements. Our secretary is contemplating contacting the other chapter secretaries by e-mail to see what they are doing.

We have recently decided to send out our meeting announcements solely by e-mail to the 2/3rds of our membership that have e-mail. The remaining 1/3rd of our membership would continue to receive their meeting announcements by regular mail. Maximum use of e-mail & minimum use of regular mail will reduce our copy

& postage expense. We may expand some of the announcements to include some meeting reports as a means of keeping in touch with our membership instead of a quarterly newsletter.

Our bank balance as of April 14, 2002 is \$1,218.21.

We currently have 72 memberships.

Regards, Dick Merchant  
Texas Chapter Board Rep

## **5. Old Business**

### **A. Status of AMICA brochures, holders - Robin Pratt**

The brochures were revised and reprinted with money from the Memorial Fund. Input on the change was solicited from Board members. The new copies were made available to each of the chapters at no additional cost. Members may request the new brochures from Publisher, Robin Pratt. It was suggested that all members try to distribute brochures at antique shops, flea markets, museums, etc. as well as when making transactions on ebay or by other means.

### **B. Life Memberships (tabled from 2000) - Robin Pratt**

Other non-profit collector's organizations offer Life Memberships, and it was proposed that AMICA offer something similar. We discussed the pros and cons of Life Memberships, the costs and methods of payment, and what should be done with the money collected to make sure it is available as needed to cover the cost of dues each year. After much discussion, Ron Connor moved to establish a Lifetime Membership in AMICA International, at a cost of \$1000., payable in the member's choice of one 4 non-refundable lump sum, or 4 non-refundable annual payments of \$250. each. Once a commitment is made, the cost to that member will not go up, but the future initial cost to new members may be changed at any time at the discretion of the Board. The Board will establish a committee to determine the proper use and investment of the money, which will be kept separate from the General Fund. The motion was seconded and carried.

### **C. Officer/Board Member insurance - Dan Brown**

This insurance was suggested to cover malfeasance on the part of a board member. After consulting with insurance agents and attorneys, it was determined that an individual's household insurance usually covers this and there should be no liability to AMICA in general. Dan's recommendation was that it is not necessary.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Affiliated Society request - MBSGB (Kevin McElhone)**

It was requested that the Musical Box Society of Great Britain become an affiliated association of AMICA. We will exchange literature as is done with the other organizations. Their contact information is as follows:

Musical Box Society of Great Britain  
PO Box 299

Waterbeach, Cambridge CB4 4PJ, England

The board approved their association's request.

### **B. Affiliated Society request - change of Friends of Scott Joplin**

House to Friends of Scott Joplin. This previously affiliated organization has changed their name to reflect the wider scope of their organization, which was before limited to the Museum. The board voted to accept the name change

and to continue their affiliation with AMICA.

### **C. Discussion of policy for non-members attending convention events. See discussion of this in the IFMMO report.**

During the discussion of next year's convention in Portland, Oregon, the subject again came up. Should we ask if registrants are members of AMICA on the convention registration form? The exposure to AMICA can be increased by inviting others in like organizations. If the attendance at the convention is not limited, then we should allow others to attend. Dick Merchant moved that "AMICA should allow members of affiliated organizations listed in the AMICA publications to attend AMICA conventions." Limits will be set by each convention committee. Mike Walter seconded the motion. Dianne Polan abstained. Further details will be presented with the Portland Convention registration forms.

### **D. Disposition of Emmett Ford Collection, archived Bulletins, Richard Howe collection and possible projects related to them.**

The Emmett Ford Collection is housed at the publisher's residence for now. The Barnharts have gone through the boxes and listed the contents. Many pieces are copies and are cross referenced to different topics. Dick Merchant suggested that it be made available to a member or members who would use it for research, and select items for publication in the Bulletin. It was then suggested that the new Publications Committee would decide what to do with the items. This was approved by the Board.

### **E. Discussion of possible AMICA e-mail newsgroup - Keith Bigger.**

Keith sent an e-mail presented by the Polans suggesting an AMICA only discussion group, based on the Yahoo Groups platform. He often gets questions on instruments and restoration for which he would like to have input from other AMICA members. The Board brought up many questions including security of such a newsgroup, privacy for members, the need for an editor/moderator and if there was a need for another group to duplicate the efforts of the MMD. After a lengthy discussion, the board decided there were too many questions unanswered, so we could not approve or endorse an AMICA group at this time. Dan Brown volunteered to present the questions to Keith and Meta Brown, and will report back to the Board.

### **F. Discussion of adding sound bites to the AMICA website - Meta Brown**

Meta would like to add music clips to the newly designed Web site, but would need help in doing so, and help in procuring quality recordings of instruments. The Board in general thought that it would enhance the site by adding sound, and Linda Bird said that her husband, Galen, has experience in adding music to the Internet, and would be glad to assist.

### **G. Memorial Fund Committee - volunteer needed.**

Dan Brown will provide a job description of the Memorial Fund chairperson's job to the Publisher, so we can solicit someone to take the position. The basic duties are: to receive contributions, send out thank you letters and notes to the families of members recognized, and forward the contributions to the Treasurer.

## **H. Technicalities - volunteer needed.**

Again, we will post a job description of the Technicalities compiler on the Web and in the bulletin. Terry Smythe is finishing the current set of compilations as of this meeting.

## **I. Coordination of Convention times between AMICA and MBSI.**

We would like to exchange information, not only for convention dates but for chapter meetings, organ rallies and other events as well, since many are members of both organizations. Chapters should send meeting information to Dan Brown, who will make it available to MBSI.

## **Items from the floor.**

New member Thad Kochanny shared his observations on the contents of the Bulletin, on finding new members for the organization, on chapter projects that promote AMICA and its goals and new ways of reaching collectors of automatic musical instruments. Chapter representatives shared how their members support some of these goals.

Gary Craig motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded and carried.

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2002 SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS**

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 AM by President Dan Brown. He invited first-time Convention attendees to stand and be recognized. His summary of the President's Report included mentions of Treasurer Wes Neff's reporting of accounting, complying with the IRS inquiry as to our non-profit status. He also invited members to check out the new Web site, which was launched during the convention by new Webmaster Meta Brown. He acknowledged previous Webmaster Terry Smythe for his founding of the Site and his contributions to AMICA's presence on the Internet. He introduced each of the International officers and each provided a summary of their reports, included elsewhere in this issue. The Membership Secretary's report from Bill Chapman mentioned that we should be watching for directory update forms to arrive soon. AMICA would like to publish a new Membership Directory and Instrument Listing as soon as possible, and the new forms will be easier to fill out and to compile, with help of Boston Chapter member Karl Ellison.

Terry Smythe is also ending his term as compiler of Technicalities, and we will publish a job description of this available position as well as others in an upcoming Bulletin.

Frank Nix summarized the future convention plans listed in his report, and asked members to submit suggestions for the 2006 convention. Liz Barnhart discussed the 2007 convention possibility of Germany plus Belgium, Switzerland and Holland. It will include organ factories and rallies. They propose 4 basic areas staying 3 nights in each with Heidelberg, Munich, Balkirk, Treborg, Linderhoff and King Ludwig's Castle being suggestions for stops. She suggested starting to save \$10/week in order to have enough money by convention time. (the plan worked well for Australia)

Judy Chisnell will continue as Memorial Fund Chairperson until a replacement is found. Chapters should let her know of members who have passed away so we can send condolences. These may also be reported to the Secretary. Jay Albert stays in touch with the four Honorary

Members by mail. Their names are listed in the Board Meeting minutes.

There will be a new report on the IFMMO in the September/October Bulletin, according to Mike Barnhart.

Clark Cressman, of the Philadelphia area, long active in AMICA and provider of many convention photos, has had a heart attack – cards would be appreciated.

Each Chapter Board Representative reported on their activities as outlined in their reports to the Board.

As for Old Business, Dan announced that the new, revised AMICA brochures are now available, free for the asking from the Publisher. Reporting on Board action, he told of the approval by the Board of a new Lifetime Membership in AMICA. Details will be forthcoming in the Bulletin and on the Web. Also, he confirmed that a new insurance policy for the Board was not necessary.

New Business included a motion for the formation of a Publications Committee to help the Publisher locate articles for the Bulletin. Also, Robin Pratt sent along a large amount of photographs used in past Bulletins for members to take home.

Linda Bird introduced the members of the Nominating Committee. She then introduced the proposed slate of officers for the next two years. Dianne Polan moved that the membership accept the slate of officers, Liz Barnhart seconded the motion. The Membership signaled their approval with an affirmative vote.

Maury Willyard recognized the award winners in Mike Walter's absence. The Leo Ornstein Literary Award was presented to Bob and Ginny Billings for their Tel-Electric book, Volume VI of their rollography series. The AMICA International Award was presented to Richard and Janet Tonnesen for their continued contributions, making quality recuts available to AMICA members as well as others. Bill Knorp of the Founding Chapter, who contributed to the Bulletin throughout the year, was pleased to receive the President's Award, accepted on his behalf by Richard Reutlinger.

A special award was presented to Liz Barnhart for her many years of work as Convention Chair.

Carl Dodrill hosted an audio-visual presentation of plans for the Portland 2003 Convention, to be held August 20-24, 2003. He will be providing brochures to publicize the city to the Chapters. The registration cost for the convention will be \$225. Attractions in the area include Mt. Hood, the Columbia River Gorge, Multnomah Falls, and the International Museum of Carousel Art. Featured performers will be organist Jonas Nordwall, and pianist Nathan Bello, who composed the Rose City Rag for the convention.

Frank Nix presented Mary Jo Bopp with a plaque to commemorate the Arkansas Convention.

It was announced that there has been progress on roll scanning to help preserve old roll collections.

George Wilder of the Chicago Chapter asked for contributions to the new Web site on behalf of Webmaster Meta Brown. She would like to post good quality sound files along with instrument photos to share our interests with others.

Dan Brown said that an effort will be made to post calendars of AMICA activities, Chapter activities and MBSI activities on the site and in the Bulletin to aid in planning. Members should submit information as soon as it becomes available.