

ANNUAL REPORTS

1. Roll call and introductions:

Carl Dodrill of the Portland Convention Committee welcomed the Board members to Portland. He suggested that there should be a meeting of chapter representatives at each Convention to discuss ideas for meetings, projects and for increasing membership, and set a time to do so at this Convention. It was encouraging to hear that there were 40 first time Convention attendees this year.

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

Secretary Christy Counterman

Treasurer Wes Neff

Membership Secretary Bill Chapman

Convention Coordinator Frank Nix

Webmaster Meta Brown

Chapter Board Representatives included:

Karl Ellison Boston Chapter

George Wilder Chicago Chapter

Richard Reutlinger Founding Chapter

Gary Craig Gateway Chapter

Ron Connor Heart of America Chapter

Vincent Morgan

& Keith Bigger, representing Lady Liberty Chapter
(in lieu of Marvin and Dianne Polan)

Liz Barnhart Midwest Chapter

Dorothy Olds Northern Lights Chapter

Carl Dodrill Pacific Can-Am Chapter

John Motto-Ros Sierra Nevada Chapter

Frank Nix Southern California Chapter

Dick Merchant Texas Chapter

Additional members of AMICA in attendance were:

Bill Baab, Bill Dean, Thad Kochanny and Bing Gibbs.

It was suggested that the agenda for the meeting should be published in advance next year in order to allow time for Board Members to prepare for discussion. Members of AMICA are encouraged to submit items for discussion by the Board.

2. Approval of minutes of the 2002 Board Meeting as published in the September/October 2002 AMICA Bulletin

3. Officer Reports

A. President's Report – Dan Brown

I have received regular mailings from all chapters except Boston Area, Chicago Area, and Texas. I have been very pleased at the variety of activities in the chapters and the great efforts most make to reach out to the public and spread the word about our collecting interests. Sadly, the Board was forced to disband the Southern Skies Chapter

last year due to extended inactivity. I have not heard from those last listed as officers in that chapter. All Board members are now online, significantly reducing my expenses the the past year. The total is actually less than \$10.

The long-awaited new membership directory is now complete after a great deal of effort by Bill Chapman and Karl Ellison. I am confident that this will be the most accurate directory ever published.

The Adopt-A-Piano program suggested by Richard Reutlinger last year has moved forward with a project in Virginia City, Montana. If this is successful, I think it's a great way to put a good performing instrument before a significant number of the public and have our name prominently associated. There are certainly similar projects available to all chapters.

No quick, significant decisions were needed this year, so the Executive Committee was not convened. The full board was involved in the selection of Memorial Fund Chairs on the resignations of Judy Chisnell and Peg Kehret and the Publisher on the resignation of Robin Pratt. Welcome aboard to John Motto-Ros and Michael Kukral in these respective positions.

AMICA involvement in Internet discussion groups was a hot topic at the Board meeting last year and has continued, along with the review and selection process for links from our Web site. Our Internet and Web site policies need to be developed to reflect member interests and concerns.

The content of The Bulletin has been a point of frequent comment. I have reviewed the number and nature of submitted articles (and these have been very few) and am confident that no topic has been intentionally neglected and that the limiting factor has been the dearth of articles submitted for publication. Robin Pratt for many years has done yeoman service as Publisher and we owe him many thanks for producing such a polished product. Repeatedly, members indicate that The Bulletin is their favorite AMICA feature and their contact with the international organization. I chose him to receive the President's Award this year for his long years of dedication.

Enrollment decline remains an ongoing concern and I welcome discussion of possible solutions at the Board meeting this year. Many similar organizations are experiencing this same problem as youth does not develop interest in particular hobbies and the objects collected (and especially their restoration) become increasingly costly.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Brown
AMICA International President

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B. Vice-President's Report – from Mike Walter

The primary tasks of the Vice President are to act as liaison to the chapters, and to chair the committee that collects nominations for the annual Leo Ornstein Award and the AMICA International Awards.

As liaison to the chapters, I have written to each chapter and have asked them to send information about chapter meetings to me. I have been receiving information from eight chapters about activities at the chapter level. All of the notices look very interesting and I wish that I had the time to attend all of the meetings! I would like to receive information from all fourteen chapters.

At the present time there are only three chapters who have set up web sites connected to the AMICA international web page, listing chapter activities and officers/contacts. I understand a local chapter's hesitancy to set up a web page when there are no computer savvy members in the chapter to maintain such a web page. It would surely be in the best interests of each chapter and the organization as a whole, if more information about each chapter's activities would be available through the international web site. Would it be possible for AMICA international to set up a mentoring program for local chapters to give them instructions and support in setting up a web page?

Fortunately, all chapters have at least one person with an e-mail address or telephone number listed at the web site, so that the chapters may be contacted for up-to-date information about local activities.

My other task as Vice President is to chair the annual awards committee. This committee solicits nominations from the membership of worthy individuals to receive the Leo Ornstein Literary Award and also the AMICA International Award. This year there were three nominees for the Leo Ornstein Award and five nominees for the AMICA International Award. Considering the number of members in our organization, these eight nominees seem to be a small number. But, the contributions that each of the nominees made to our organization and our hobby is quite great and each nominee deserves to win an award.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Walter
Vice President

C. Secretary's Report – Christy Counterman

After the Board meeting in Arkansas, I transcribed the tapes, adding the notes taken during the meeting to compile the report submitted for publication in the bulletin. It is an abbreviated version of the actual minutes. Several times during the past year, members have requested clarification on items discussed and voted upon in last year's meeting, and I sent the appropriate information to them. The biggest challenge was finding the exact wording of items approved in the meeting, as there was some controversy when members of AMICA seemed to ignore the Board's direction. In June, I sent out notices to those Board Members listed in the Bulletin as officers, committee chairs and board reps

with a deadline for submission of reports.

As I received the reports via e-mail, fax and regular mail I asked each Board Member for additional information, if required, then proofread, formatted and copied the reports for compilation. I also created pdf files from the e-mailed reports for posting on a Web page accessible by Board Members prior to the convention. I really appreciated the e-mail versions as they saved me a lot of work, avoiding re-typing. Those who did not submit reports before the deadline were contacted until everyone either sent a report or responded that they would not be sending one. I also asked for changes in officers, and tried to get an idea of who would be attending the Board meeting. Several Board Members requested hard copies of the compiled reports be mailed to them for review before the meeting, and I sent those two weeks prior to the meeting.

I sent condolences to families of several members who passed away during the year if requested by other members. I believe the Memorial Fund Chair does the same when information is known.

My expenses as of this writing are minimal, and include postage for mailing the reports as well as costs for paper and cassette tapes. I used my own work copier to avoid copying charges. The majority of correspondence was by e-mail, saving some long distance telephone fees.

Respectfully submitted,
Christy Counterman
AMICA Secretary

D. Treasurer's Report – Wes Neff

2002 AMICA INTERNATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT

**January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002
And Fiscal Year 2003 Projection**

Prepared by Wesley Neff • June 19, 2003

INTRODUCTION

AMICA National had income in fiscal year 2002 of \$99,120.46. This was 44% more than the average for the prior 4 years with the 2001 Australian gross convention receipts excluded. The expenses of \$56,545.98, excluding the Australian gross convention expenses in 2001, were down 22% from the prior 4-year average. Income exceeded expenses in 2002 by \$42,574.48. Most of the income difference in 2002 was due to the timing of membership dues receipts.

AMICA International income (National and Chapters) in 2002 was \$137,739.48. Total AMICA International expenses (National and Chapters) in 2002 were \$92,121.19. Total AMICA income exceeded expenses by \$45,618.29 in fiscal year 2002.

INCOME (National Only)

Income from bulletin advertising in 2002 was up 46%

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from 2001 levels. The projection for 2003 shows a modest decrease based on receipts to date in 2003.

Income from advertising for the proposed 2003 Directory is projected at \$1300.00.

Springdale Convention income was \$2246.33, which includes return of \$1000.00 of seed money. The projection for the 2003 convention in Portland, Oregon is a similar amount.

Interest received in 2002 was off 14% compared to 2001 due to depressed interest rates. At the end of 2000, there was \$30,593.18 in a money market fund earning 5.79%. During 2001 and 2002, there was \$25,000 in a certificate of deposit earning 4.75%. This CD matures on 7/11/03, and will likely be replaced with a CD earning even less interest. Additional monies as available are shifted into and out of a passbook savings account, currently earning 0.76%.

Total National dues collected in 2002 were \$89,699.90, up \$49,552.01 from 2001. Most of this increase is due the late start of the membership drive in 2001 as compared with 2002. The projection for 2003 shows dues of \$57,000.00, which is near prior year levels. The cost for AMICA membership was increased \$5.00 per year to \$42.00 for 2002.

Memorial Fund donations in 2002 were \$1329.00. The projection for the Memorial Fund in 2003 is \$1000.00.

There were no books or AV sales in 2002, and none are expected in 2003.

Bound bulletin sales in 2002 were \$744.00. Fewer sales are expected in 2003.

Total income for 2003 is projected at \$66,000.00, down 33% from 2002.

EXPENSES (National Only)

\$56,545.98 of expenses were incurred in 2002. The largest single item was the cost of the "Bulletin" and associated reprints. Counting the costs of the publisher, printing, handling, postage, reprints and inserts, the "Bulletin" costs in 2002 were \$45,438.86 (about 80% of the total expenses). This equates to \$7600.00 per issue and compares to \$9200.00 per issue spent in 2001. Projecting year to date expenses for 2003, the "Bulletin" is expected to cost about \$45,000.00 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 used by the officers. Telephone costs are negligible due to E-mail and reduced long distance rates used to conduct AMICA business. The total of these categories in 2002 was \$3098.38, and is projected to be \$4840.00 in 2003. This includes \$1000.00, if needed, to provide supplies for the new Publisher. No officer other than the publisher and membership secretary receives any fee for his or her time.

\$15,525.00 is included in the 2003 budget plan for an updated Membership Directory.

Other Expense Notes:

- The premium for liability insurance coverage increased at an annual rate of 17%.
- Nearly all of the bank charges in 2002 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 \$950.00 in 2003. AMICA's bank, Fifth Third Bank of Northwestern Ohio, does not charge banking fees to non-profit organizations, but we must continue to pay a charge for credit card deposits.
- Award expenses in 2002 were \$653.30, and are expected to be around \$700.00 in 2003.
- Roll leaders were printed in 2002 for a cost of \$624.95. This supply should last for several years.

MEMORIAL FUND

The Memorial Fund account stood at \$7932.94 at the end of 2002. During the year we received \$1329.00 in donations and added \$299.46 in interest.

CHAPTERS

At the end of 2002 AMICA had fourteen chapters. The Southern Skies Chapter did not report any financial activity for the year. The Northern Lights Chapter did not submit a financial report. Chapter income is mostly from dues and interest. The Heart of America Chapter hosted a convention in Springdale, Arkansas with a net profit of \$2808.85. Expenses for the chapters are mostly related to printing, postage and expenses related to chapter meetings. Other expenses of note include: The Southern California Chapter donated \$500.00 to the Old Town Music Preservation Fund and sponsored 4 organ rallies. The Sierra Nevada Chapter placed a player piano in the Hay's Agricultural Museum. The Gateway Chapter sponsored an organ rally at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. The Midwest Chapter continues to work with the First Ladies' Museum on installing a Reproduco in their theater. The end of year 2002 balance for the chapters of \$56,327.43 is down 6% 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. For the period 1998 through the projection for 2003, income versus expenses are within \$100.00. A membership dues increase was necessary for 2002 in order to meet expenses with a declining membership.

All required informational forms for 2002 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 2002 exceeded \$100,000.00, filing of Federal Information Form 990 was required. As in

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the past, the Chapter Treasurers have been very helpful in providing the necessary Chapter information. Thanks again to all of the Chapter Treasurers for their support.

Respectfully submitted,
Wesley Neff
AMICA Treasurer

AMICA National 1998 thru 2002 Actuals and 2003 Budget

INCOME

Category	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 (plan)
advertising (bulletin)	6,650.20	3,968.80	3,150.80	2,173.10	3,172.10	2,700.00
advertising (directory)	0.00	2,830.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,300.00
convention fund	1,000.00	1,053.81	0.00	167,654.31	2,246.33	2,000.00
interest received	2,855.33	1,263.31	2,480.73	1,932.64	1,664.13	1,530.00
membership dues	61,654.33	60,304.20	59,738.79	40,147.89	89,699.90	57,000.00
memorial fund donations	85.00	322.00	329.00	322.00	1,329.00	1,000.00
sales (books \$ AV)	1,222.18	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
sales (bound bulletins)	130.00	6.00	252.00	764.00	744.00	350.00
sales (tech and leaders)	134.50	313.75	413.50	239.50	265.00	120.00
miscellaneous	0.00	290.00	45.00	745.70	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	73,731.54	70,426.87	66,409.82	213,979.14	99,120.46	66,000.00

EXPENSES

Category	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 (plan)
AV	498.11	155.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
awards	515.18	613.86	774.56	44.75	653.30	700.00
bank charges	268.17	254.91	429.13	653.81	643.16	950.00
convention	2,000.00	296.12	3,116.37	158,632.80	1,082.25	1,000.00
handling: bulletin	1,411.00	2,133.00	2,640.00	3,048.00	3,193.00	3,160.00
handling: directory		448.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	525.00
insurance	1,625.00	1,730.00	1,909.00	2,093.00	2,457.00	2,700.00
internet		394.14	460.55	0.00	289.00	250.00
legal & professional fees	55.00	20.00	20.00	35.00	35.00	35.00
membership sect. stipend	0.00	2,465.00	2,283.00	2,219.94	2,174.83	2,200.00
misc: copies	96.03	452.41	227.70	299.03	326.00	300.00
misc: office equipment	360.10	250.00	1,099.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
misc: office supplies	275.52	366.50	678.93	298.75	482.10	200.00
miscellaneous	0.00	730.50	1,919.00	-0.50	0.00	0.00
postage: bulletin	4,997.95	7,922.61	8,354.90	8,533.43	7,378.63	8,100.00
postage: directory		1,482.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
postage: officers & misc	2,039.73	3,433.00	1,375.41	2,352.05	2,287.73	2,900.00
printing: bulletin	28,345.61	26,889.00	25,238.00	24,076.00	21,086.00	26,000.00
printing: directory		10,905.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	13,000.00
printing: inserts	7,596.59	9,087.72	3,370.49	537.00	2,098.23	1,800.00
printing: reprints	6,286.00	3,979.00	3,502.00	11,697.00	2,683.00	6,350.00
printing: stationery	184.00	1,124.15	73.00	80.50	0.00	440.00
printing: AMICA brochures	1,269.88	0.00	0.00	1,624.47	49.25	0.00
printing: leaders	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	624.95	0.00
publisher fees	9,000.00	9,000.00	10,500.00	7,500.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
refunds	0.00	64.00	37.00	84.00	0.00	0.00
telephone	5,297.10	1,652.57	581.27	33.14	2.55	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	72,120.97	85,849.26	68,609.31	223,842.17	56,545.98	82,610.00
NET GAIN (income - expense)	1,610.57	-15,422.39	-2,199.49	-9,863.03	42,574.48	-16,610.00
						90.14

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AMICA International 2002 Income and Expense Summary

Income	National	Memorial Fund	Chapters	Total
advertising	3,172.10	-	-	3,172.10
convention income	1,246.33	-	31,624.37	32,870.70
convention seed return	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00
events (chapters)	-	-	368.00	368.00
interest received	1,364.67	299.46	788.49	2,452.62
membership dues	89,699.90	-	4,868.00	94,567.90
memorial fund	-	1,329.00	-	1,329.00
sales: bulletins	744.00	-	-	744.00
sales: tech and leaders	265.00	-	-	265.00
miscellaneous	-	-	970.16	970.16
Total	97,492.00	1,628.46	38,619.02	137,739.48

Expenses

awards	653.30	-	500.00	1,153.30
bank charges	643.16	-	-	643.16
convention expenses	1,082.25	-	28,815.52	29,897.77
events (chapters)	-	-	732.76	732.76
handling bulletin	3,193.00	-	-	3,193.00
insurance	2,457.00	-	-	2,457.00
internet	289.00	-	-	289.00
legal & prof. fees	35.00	-	-	35.00
membership sect.	2,174.83	-	-	2,174.83
memorial fund	-	-	740.00	740.00
miscellaneous	-	-	2,549.04	2,549.04
misc: copies	326.00	-	-	326.00
misc:office supplies	482.10	-	-	482.10
postage	9,666.36	-	1,483.71	11,150.07
printing: bulletin	21,086.00	-	-	21,086.00
printing: dues letters	907.23	-	-	907.23
printing: brochures	49.25	-	-	49.25
printing: reprints	2,683.00	-	-	2,683.00
printing: misc.	1,191.00	-	582.72	1,773.72
printing: leaders	624.95	-	-	624.95
publisher fees	9,000.00	-	-	9,000.00
supplies (chapters)	-	-	171.46	171.46
telephone	2.55	-	-	2.55
Total	56,545.98	-	35,575.21	92,121.19

Account Balances

1-Jan-03	71,598.36	7,932.94	56,327.43	135,858.73
1-Jan-02	30,652.34	6,304.48	53,283.62	90,240.44

*Notes: 1/1/02 National balance is adjusted -\$385.70 for error found in 2001 report.
1/1/02 Chapter balance is adjusted -\$497.19 for error found in Founding Chapter 2001 report.*

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AMICA 2002 Chapter Accounts

Chapter	Starting Balance (1/1/02)			2002 Income						
Name	Cash	Savings	Total	Dues		Interest	Conv. Income	Events	Miscellaneous	Total Income
				(chapter)	(national)					
Boston Area	378.95	0.00	378.95	400.00	0.00	15.19	0.00	308.00	250.00	973.19
Chicago Area	845.15	5304.38	6149.53	195.00	0.00	39.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	234.84
Founding	6134.32	0.00	6134.32	502.00	812.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1314.00
Gateway	0.00	3410.20	3410.20	118.00	0.00	14.86	0.00	0.00	18.00	150.86
Heart of America	362.50	5624.98	5987.48	335.00	0.00	24.19	31624.37	60.00	19.00	32062.56
Lady Liberty	1464.12	0.00	1464.12	568.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	568.00
Midwest	1949.22	7373.73	9322.95	664.00	0.00	258.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	922.66
*Northern Lights	532.59	0.00	532.59						0.00	
Pacific Can-Am	174.91	2166.07	2340.98	555.00	0.00	34.47	0.00	0.00	500.00	1089.47
Sierra Nevada	0.00	2665.58	2665.58	195.00	0.00	8.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	203.21
Southern California	4007.32	4868.48	8875.80	770.00	714.00	281.93	0.00	0.00	32.50	1798.43
Southern Skies	260.37	0.00	260.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SOWNY	0.00	4892.80	4892.80	20.00	0.00	105.18	0.00	0.00	10.66	135.84
Texas	0.00	867.95	867.95	594.00	0.00	5.96	0.00	0.00	140.00	739.96
Total	16109.45	37174.17	53283.62	4916.00	1526.00	788.49	31624.37	368.00	970.16	40193.02

* No report received

Chapter	2002 Expense											Ending Balance (12/31/02)		
Name	Printing	Postage	Telephone	Supplies	Awards	Conv Expense	Events	Memorial Fund	National Dues Paid	Misc	Total Expenses	Cash	Savings	Total
Boston Area	0.00	151.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	440.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	591.58	760.56	0.00	760.56
Chicago Area	0.00	165.59	0.00	29.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	395.49	644.66	5344.22	5988.88
Founding	89.20	233.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	812.00	0.00	1,334.88	6113.44	0.00	6113.44
Gateway	13.91	47.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	301.56	0.00	3259.50	3259.50
Heart of America	27.20	0.00	0.00	54.96	0.00	28,815.52	15.00	0.00	0.00	98.39	29,011.07	3389.80	5649.17	9038.97
Lady Liberty	107.06	107.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	139.40	353.52	1678.60	0.00	1678.60
Midwest	13.25	291.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.00	0.00	0.00	7.33	349.39	2263.88	7632.34	9896.22
*Northern Lights											0.00	532.59	0.00	532.59
Pacific Can-Am	51.27	69.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	225.00	445.59	2984.86	0.00	2984.86
Sierra Nevada	25.72	54.40	0.00	45.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,960.00	2,085.38	0.00	783.41	783.41
Southern California	126.22	154.50	0.00	22.43	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	714.00	32.92	1,550.07	3983.01	5141.15	9124.16
Southern Skies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	260.37	0.00	260.37
SOWNY	10.00	21.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.00	80.00	159.80	0.00	4868.84	4868.84
Texas	118.89	187.08	0.00	18.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	0.00	6.00	570.88	0.00	1037.03	1037.03
Total	582.72	1483.71	0.00	171.46	500.00	28815.52	732.76	740.00	1574.00	2549.04	37149.21	22611.77	33715.66	56327.43

* No report received

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4. Other Reports

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

The role of the Immediate Past President is to be an advisor to the President. I communicate with Dan from time to time when he has questions or wants my feedback.

I was appointed by the President to be the Chairman of the Nominating Committee to nominate officers to fill any positions that will become vacant by our next Annual Meeting. Further details on this committee will be found in my report as chairman of the committee.

My expenses for the year are so minimal that I will not bill the organization for them.

Nominating Committee Report:

As requested by President Dan Brown, I have formed a proposed Nominating Committee to select nominees for the AMICA officers to be voted on at the 2004 Annual Meeting. The following listed members have agreed to serve on this committee if elected to do so by the Board of Directors at the 2003 Board meeting.

Linda Bird, Chairman – AMICA Immediate Past President
3300 Robinson Pike, Grandview, MO 64030
816-767-8246

Liz Barnhart
919 Lantern Glow Trail, Dayton, OH 45431-2915
937-254-5580

Gary Craig
2941 Russell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63104-1536
314-771-1244

Jere DeBacker
1122 Harrison St., Denver, CO 80206-3519
303-394-3039

Dee Kavouras
5501 N. Rosedale Circle, Beverly Hills, FL 34465-2237
352-527-9390

Herb Mercer
31940 Foxfield Dr., Westlake Village, CA 91361-4202
818-889-7751

Dianne Polan
35 Quintree Lane, Melville, NY 11747-1832
631-673-0388

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bird
Chairman, AMICA Nominating Committee

Linda pointed out that next year we will need to find a new Vice-President as well as a Secretary, and replacements for other officers who may not be continuing in their roles. Since the Nominating Committee is in place, they invite suggestions from the general membership for new officers.

B. Publisher's Report – from Robin Pratt

Robin has many extra Bulletins available from past years. Karl suggested that we send a package to each chapter for them to distribute as they see fit. In the past, they have been donated to universities, libraries and passed out at community events.

AMICA INTERNATIONAL 2002 – \$38,990.62

Bulletin	Pages	Printing	Envelope	Label, Insert, Sort		
				Bundle	N-Focus	Postage
				Del. To PO	Labels	
Jan-Feb	48	3213.00	139.00	248.00	90.00	1091.96
Mar-Apr	44	3081.00	120.00	238.00	90.00	1113.21
May-June	52	3381.00	114.00	234.00	87.00	1142.16
July-Aug	54	3589.00	139.00	234.00	87.00	1055.30
Sept-Oct	76	4519.00	140.00	234.00	80.00	1386.11
Nov-Dec	64	4364.00	141.00	234.00	86.00	1480.80
Total		22147.00	793.00	1422.00	520.00	7269.54

Membership Applications:

Printed 49.25 – Sent to Bill Chapman

Reprints:	Quantity	Printing
Mignon 8 1/2"x11"	2000	1222.00
Beckwith 8 1/2"x11"	1800	1625.00
Beckwith 7 1/4"x10 3/4"	1800	940.00
Total		3790.00

Inserts:	Convention:			
Golden Age of Music	80.00	Print	306.00	Insert \$40.00
& New Member List		Agenda	130.00	40.00
Mignon	35.00	Total	436.00	80.00
3 Ampico Artist				
Single Sheets	35.00			
3 Membership Brochures	35.00			
Skinner Auction	80.00			
New Member Listing	40.00			
2 Beckwith Reprints	160.00			
Total	465.00			

Miscellaneous:	Quantity	Printing
2001 Preparing Extra Mail & Printing		58.00
Bind 2001 Bulletins	19	66.00
Bind 2001 Bulletins	30	105.00
Scanned Photos to use later	5	120.00
Skinner Auction Flyer & Printing	2000	73.11
Bind 2000 Bulletins	2	8.00
Bill Chapman #10 Reg. Env./printing	1500	213.78
New Member Listing	1435	130.00
Member Letter Inventory Intr.	1428	374.00
#10 Window Env.	1480	81.00
#9 Return Env.	1480	74.00
Insert, sort, bundle, del to P.O.	1428	171.00
Postage	1428	544.94
Total		20,188.83

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Pratt, AMICA International Publisher – June 29, 2003

continue...

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

Report Period:
July 16, 2002 to July 15, 2003

Membership

July 31, 1999 - 1551
June 1, 2000 - 1494
June 1, 2001 - 1459
June 1, 2002 - 1375
July 15, 2003 - 1354 members – includes 28 others*

**non paying members – Affiliates 15,
Founding Members 6, Honorary 5, Utility 2*

The rate of loss of members has declined in the past year. Previously the yearly loss was approximately 50 but the most recent loss was 21. There were 65 new members during the 2002-2003 reporting period.

Rate of Applications:

Applications are by year with the dropouts shown in real numbers and percentages. E.g., in 1994 188 new applications were approved with 76 (64%) who did not renew their membership. Generally it is found that there are many trial memberships that drop off after one year. The statistics below are presented for persons who may need them for planning purposes.

<u>Applications</u>		<u>No Longer Members as of 2003</u>	
1994	118	76	64%
1995	133	92	69%
1996	126	77	61%
1997	151	100	66%
1998	144	92	63%
1999	137	86	62%
2000	123	64	52%
2001	102	48	47%
2002	92	33	35%
2003	49	N/A	(as of July 16, 2003)

Note that applications peaked during 1997, yet at that time the Membership Secretary indicated that despite a robust economy, membership was declining.

Membership Breakdown by Mail Category:

	2002		2003	
	Cost	Members	Cost	Members
Bulk Mail: (USA only)	\$37 & \$32*	1249	\$37 & \$42	1167
Air Mail: (overseas)	\$63	50	\$68	39
First Class: (USA only)	\$52	130	\$57	82
Surface mail: (overseas, cheaper rate)	\$43	31	\$48	31
Canada: (Canada only)	\$43	38	\$48	35
Total		1498		1354

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

Thirteen members are paid in advance and this amounts to approximately \$1036.

A reduction occurred in all mail categories. A trend was noted that many USA members reduced their cost by changing from First Class Mail to Bulk Mail. This has happened for two consecutive years. In comparing the loss of Bulk between 2002 and 2003, one must take into account that the loss is greater than it initially appears. The shift of First Class Mail to Bulk Mail 'inflated' the Bulk Mail numbers when members opted for the cheaper rate. Most persons using First Class Mail are long-term members or Board members, though others receive their Bulletins via First Class mail. If in the future AMICA needs to reduce costs, savings could be realized by mailing Bulletins to some members at the lower Bulk Mail rate. It is essential that the President, Publisher and Membership Secretary receive the Bulletins early.

The local post office indicated that AMICA and other organizations may expect significant postage increases. The post office is 9 Billion dollars in debt. Post Office revenues are down due to a shift to Internet for communications.

Submitted by:
Bill Chapman
Membership Secretary

Bill reminded us that AMICA is losing members at a rate of approximately 50/year. In the new business portion of the meeting the Board will discuss ways to remedy this. Bill also noted that other similar organizations are losing members at a rapid rate, so the situation seems to be universal.

A major accomplishment this year was the completion of the new Membership Directory and Instrument Listing. Many thanks go to Karl Ellison for his many hours of data input and proofreading, with additional thanks to Bob Tempest and Robin Pratt. Dan Brown mentioned that the effort needed to complete the listing was great, and as many people did not respond to proofreading requests, he hoped that the listings were correct. Several people have suggested that we limit the amount of instruments that are able to be listed for each member, as some collections exceeded the allotted space of the computer program.

According to the collection listings, there is a disparity between the demographics of the attendees of the convention and the majority of the membership. Most of these members have a single 88 note player piano and we invite ideas on how to draw them to conventions. Ron Connor points out that it might be solely a matter of expense.

Bill also informed us that 8 credit card membership payments were received without the name of the member on the payment. He will reformat the renewal for next year to include the member's name preprinted on the return form.

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D. Audio-Visual/Technicalities Report – from Hal Malakinian, Stuart Grigg

These are not active committees and it was suggested that we put a Table of Contents of our archives on the Web site so the membership could take advantage of the information available. Meta Brown said it would be possible to do this. Keith Bigger said that in other clubs they videotape all workshops and all honoraries to build up a collection to draw from. He suggested that we look into creating a fund to support filming these portions of the conventions. Then we need to determine the format on which to make them available to the chapters. Some formats of early AMICA activities and conventions are already obsolete. A solution could be a still photo archive with accompanying text. More research should be done on this subject.

We also need a member to take over the Technicalities Coordinator position from Terry Smythe. We will put a description of what is required in an upcoming Bulletin.

E. Archives Report – Stuart Grigg

There was no report this year.

F. Convention Coordinator Report – Frank Nix

The 2002 AMICA Convention in Arkansas under the able and talented Mary Jo Bopp and crew was a huge success, full of fun and enjoyed by all.

2003 – Portland, Oregon

August 20-24 The Doubletree Hotel, Portland Downtown

This year's meeting, 2003, will take place in Portland, Oregon August 20-24. Carl Dodrill, with help from his wife Halie, and members from Washington as well as Oregon have put in many constructive hours to guarantee another very successful meeting.

2004 – Denver, Colorado

August 3-8 The Holiday Inn, Denver Downtown

2004 will find us in the spectacularly beautiful state of Colorado enjoying breathtaking tours through the Rocky Mountains. Jere DeBacker and his crew are in charge of this one.

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.

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

**AMICA is welcomed back to Minneapolis, Minnesota,
chair, Don Barton.**

2006 – Chicago, Illinois, chair, Mel Septon.

2007 – Europe

The AMICA Convention will be held in Germany.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Nix
Convention Coordinator

Frank acknowledged the help of previous Coordinator Liz Barnhart in research and planning for the conventions. He brought up members' concerns on convention costs. There has to be a compromise on room rates vs. other costs such as meeting rooms. We must keep the convention costs within the financial reach of the majority of the membership. We would like to know if it is better to present a lower room rate to attract attendees, since we must fulfill a certain number of room nights to obtain the meeting rooms, ballroom and the hospitality rooms needed during the convention. We cannot have a large number of convention attendees staying at other hotels as it will raise the cost of the convention. He also points out that the convention committees have been presenting a good balance between technical sessions, social activities and tours. Unfortunately a lot of technical information is not presentable in a 1 to 2 hour format. Ron Connor noted that our population is changing in that our membership is becoming consumer-oriented, that is, we enjoy the instruments someone else has restored. Meta Brown would like to make the restoration information more readily available to AMICANS in an easy-to-understand format. It is not usually a quick fix to restore an instrument now that the originals are much older now than when AMICA was founded. She is still looking for suggestions on sources of in-print materials to post on the AMICA Web site.

G. Award Committee Report – from Mike Walter

Please refer to the Vice President's report for information. There were a very few nominations for awards this year. We need to send out the requests to Chapters earlier in the year since many chapters do not have Winter meetings. Also, individual AMICA members may submit their nominees for awards. (note: this was mentioned in the Sept./Oct. Bulletin)

H. Memorial Fund Report – Peg Kehret

Since Jan. 1, 2003, the Memorial Fund has received \$620 in donations. During that time, I wrote 25 letters regarding the Memorial Fund.

When a donation was in memory of someone, as most were, I wrote one letter to the family or sometimes to a close friend, telling them of the memorial.

Another letter went to the donor so they knew the check had arrived and the acknowledgment had gone out to the family. I also sent a brief note with each check when it was sent on to Wesley Neff so he would know what it was for.

Last Fall, several people added a contribution when

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they paid their dues. I acknowledged those for \$50 or more by listing them in the AMICA Bulletin. I don't know if that was a good idea or not -- the Board might want to give some feedback to the new Memorial Fund chairperson.

Of course there were numerous e-mails to and from Bill Chapman when he let me know that a donation had been added to the dues check.

I enjoyed helping with the AMICA Memorial Fund.

Submitted by
Peg Kehret

Peg has been replaced by John Motto-Ros as Memorial Fund Chairperson. They brought up the question of how to acknowledge contributions to the Memorial Fund in the Bulletin. Proper acknowledgement would remind members of the Memorial Fund and let them know what the money contributed is used for. Recent purchases using fund money include the printing of the membership brochures.

I. Honorary Member Report – from Jay Albert

The following shows the Honorary Members presently on the AMICA membership list.

No new Honorary Members have been named since our most recent Honoraries, Emmett Ford and Larry Givens, in 1996.

Our most recent losses were Ramsi Tick and Leo Ornstein.

Please keep the lines of communication open. If you hear of any news about our members which might be of interest please pass it on.

I would also request that the Board might consider the future of the Committee, i.e. adding any new Honorary Members, etc.

Respectfully submitted,
John M. Albert
Santa Barbara, CA

Current List of Honoraries (* = still living)

Clarence Adler 1886 1969
Pauline Alpert (Rodf) 1912 1988
Louis Alter 1902 1980
Robert Armbruster 1896 1994
Herman ("Hi") Babich ("Babit") 1917 *
Edythe Baker (Kane) 1997
Alan Bier 1973
Robert W. Billings 1899 1985
Ruth Bingaman-Smith 1896 1996
Eubie Blake 1883 1983
Alexander Brailowsky 1896 1976
Elmer F. Brooks 1987
Julius Burger 1897 1995
Adam Carroll 1897 1974
Julius Chaloff 1892 1979
Abram Chasins 1904 1987
Wilbur Chenoweth 1899 1980

Shura Cherkassky 1911 1995
'Jan Chiapusso 1890 1969
Zez Confrey 1895 1971
J. Lawrence Cook 1899 1976
Charles Cooper 1888 1971
George Copeland 1883 1972
Emse Dawson 1977
Ursula Dietrich Hollingshead 1886 1985
Frederic Dixon 1895 1923
Lyle Downer 1979
John Duke 1889 1984
Jose Echaniz 1905 1969
Edgar "Cookie" Fairchild 1898 1975
Ted Fiorito 1900 1971
Emmett Ford 1895 *
Rudolph Friml 1879 1972
Rudolph Ganz 1877 1972
Adam Gawlick 1903 1995
Larry Givens *
Joe Gold 1894 1953
Gitta Gradova (Cottle) 1904 1985
Ferde Grofe 1892 1966
William Haeseler, Jr. 1994
Richard Hageman 1882 1966
Francis Hall Ballard 1899
Eddy Hanson 1893 1986
Myra Hess 1890 1965
Clarence N. Hickman 1889 1981
Johnny Honnert 1908 1995
Elmer H. Hunholz
Gertrude Huntley Durand 1888 1987
Johnny Johnson 1876 1979
Herman Kortlander 1900 1987
Frank Laffitte 1982
Carl E. Lamson 1897 1966
Henry Lange 1895 1985
Ethel Leginska 1886 1970
Edwin Lester 1895 1990
Edwin Link 1904 1981
Matilda Locust Hart
Vincent Lopez 1894 1987
L. Leslie Loth 1888 1975
Dr. Mana-Zucca 1894 1987
Flora Mora 1894 1987

J. Webmaster Report – Meta Brown

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

Last year, during AMICA's annual convention, a new structure was introduced for the AMICA website. The primary object of this change was to put in place a framework that would facilitate AMICA's purpose of public education on the subject of mechanical music. In some

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regards, this effort is paying us back in improved quality of inquiries and in greater numbers of worthwhile inquiries to the Webmaster and some chapters. Still, AMICA membership is declining, and so it is clear that much work remains to be done.

The most obvious change was a new structure with a menu and content designed to provide introductory information about mechanical music and AMICA for newcomers. Several members and others contributed photos, suggestions, items for the bibliography and so forth. Visible changes were made with the following concerns (these were also mentioned in last year's report) in mind:

- 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.

Another focus area for site development has been search engine optimization, the effort to improve the ranking of the AMICA site in the results of online searches for terms related to mechanical music. In the past year's development work, the following search phrases were targeted for improvement: player pianos, player piano, reproducing piano, reproducing pianos. The original AMICA site did not rank well for any of these terms, on any of the popular search tools. Today, in Google searches, here are the AMICA site ranks for those terms: player pianos 2, reproducing pianos 2 and 3, reproducing piano 20, player piano 44. This is tremendous improvement, and with some effort it should be possible to further improve our ranking in search engine results.

Since there are a number of common misconceptions regarding search engine results, it would be appropriate to point out here that ranking in a web search (such as those in Google) depends, in a nutshell, on two things: One, the relevance, in the view of the search engine, of the page's content to the search phrase (such as "player piano"), and two, the importance, also as viewed by the search engine, of the page. Last year's revisions had little impact, in the short term, on the website's importance, which depends largely on external factors such as the number of other websites linking to the AMICA website, the importance ratings of those websites, and the relevance of the content surrounding those links to the search term entered. Content changes to the AMICA website geared toward improving rankings affected only the content side of the ranking equation. The other factor, importance, equally important to high search rankings, was the result of years of groundwork since the inception of the website.

How have content changes and improved search rankings affected our organization? While there was a surge in traffic (number of pages viewed) after the introduction of the new website, traffic has since dropped off. The surge was likely due to AMICA members and subscribers to the Mechanical Music Digest visiting after announcements of website changes. We have not seen long term gains in the quantity of traffic to the AMICA website. By contrast, the quality of visitors, at least those who take the time to communicate with us, has clearly improved.

A year ago, the typical inquiry to the Webmaster from a visitor to the AMICA website might have read "I inherited my Grandma's piano and I couldn't care less about it. How much can I get for it?" While inquiries from people interested in selling instruments still come in, they are now outnumbered by questions about restoration, membership and other matters reflecting genuine interest in mechanical music. The Chicago chapter has had a significant number of membership inquiries via the web in the past year, and the New York chapter reported in January that 1-2 inquiries were coming to them each day.

Some opportunities for interested parties to help with future website development for AMICA:

Local chapters are still not showing wild enthusiasm for creating their own websites. Chapters need local webmasters, and educational help getting started.

The AMICA International web team is pretty much a one-woman show today, and anyone who visits the AMICA website is aware that there are areas with unfinished content. Help writing short articles on history of major categories of instruments and on basics of care/preservation is the highest priority. Other areas, such as the events calendar, contact information and the use of sound could be much improved with some assistance.

Meta Brown
AMICA Webmaster
July 14, 2003

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

13 months	
web hosting @ \$16.59	= \$215.67 (Can \$\$) (\$130.00 US)
Domain name renewal	35.00 (US\$\$)
US \$\$ Total	\$165.00 (US\$\$)

Regards,
Terry Smythe
Previous AMICA Webmaster

Meta Brown thanked all of the contributors to the new Web site. She said that she is looking into changing service providers in the near future and is searching for a suitable company to host the site. Dan has heard many positive comments regarding the new site in the past year. The Lady

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Liberty, Chicago and Midwest Chapters have had inquiries routed from the site almost every week via their e-mail links.

K. Executive Committee Report –

No report, all business was handled via e-mail this year.

L. International Forum of Mechanical Music Organizations – from Mike Barnhart

There was very little activity this year, and little communication with organizations overseas. The KDB will be having a 50th anniversary celebration in May 2004. Museums in Utrecht and Haarlem are having a hard time staying open. We hope that this will change in time for planning our International Convention in 2007.

M. Chapter Reports

The Southern Skies Chapter was disbanded this year due to lack of activity. AMICA will need to absorb their funds back in to the International treasury.

Each Chapter Representative summarized their reports here as well as at the annual membership breakfast. Their actual reports follow:

BOSTON AREA CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

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

The Boston chapter of AMICA has met an average of 4 times a year, at varied venues.

- Oct 27, 2002 - Ken Goldman's Home, Westwood, MA
- Dec 15, 2002 - Chapter Christmas Dinner/Meeting (restaurant) & Dorothy Bromage's Home, Billerica, MA.
- Feb 02, 2003 - Phil & Phyllis Konop, Harvard, MA.
- Apr 27, 2003 - Herb Lindahl's Piano Restoration Workshop, S. Windsor, CT.
- Jun 22, 2003 - The Pease Collection of Historical Instruments (Hosts, Beverly and Nelson Pease), Palmer, MA.

The chapter has 45 paid households in 2003, down from 49 in 2002 and 66 in 2001. There are no chapter members that are not National members.

There is \$1,049.41 in the bank as of June 21, '03.

It was noted that all but 13 of our chapter's households had an email address. So in an effort to save money, Meeting Notices, Meeting Minutes and Special Events reminders are now emailed to members at 1 month and 1 week intervals in advance of the event. Non internet-connected members receive these notices through snail-mail.

In an effort to bring past and new members into the Chapter we've established a "Guest Membership" status that's good for one year – a kind of a 'try before you buy' period. Such members will receive meeting notifications via email and wouldn't have voting privileges. Post-cards and email were sent to all 2002 non-local Chapter National Members within our geography, asking them to respond if interested in a one-year free local chapter membership. We presently have 5 Guest Members.

The Chapter project of restoring an upright player for the Charles River Museum of Industry has been slow, but is expected to be completed this year. The museum unexpectedly lost their Director, which has slowed communications and progress considerably. A new Director has recently been appointed and the project should soon be back on track.

Submitted by Karl Ellison
Boston Board Representative

CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

President: Curt Clifford
Vice President: John Mueller
Secretary: Thad Kochanny
Treasurer: Joe Pekarek
Reporter: Kathy Stone
Board Rep: George Wilder

As of 12/31/2002 the Chicago Chapter was alive and well! We have 77 members and \$5988.00 in our treasury. In 2002 we had 5 meetings and have slated 5 for 2003.

Currently we are working out the details for another award, The Simon and Mable Zivin Award. The award will be for the person, or possibly the Chapter, that has introduced new people to our hobby. We hope to have the criteria, details and award description available for the Portland Convention. Our President, Curt Clifford, has been working on an AMICA Chicago Area Web site and currently has it up and running. It will be linked to the AMICA International Web site. Our chapter member, Meta Brown, continues to work on the AMICA International Web site.

Submitted by George Wilder
Chicago Area Board Rep

FOUNDING CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

President: Bing Gibbs
Vice President: Karen Simons
Secretary: Lyle Merithew and Sandy Swirsky
Treasurer: Richard Reutlinger
Reporter: Tom Mc Way
Board Rep: Richard Reutlinger

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The Founding Chapter currently has 34 paid members plus two Founding Members. We have enjoyed meeting from both extremes of our territory... the Aptos area south near Santa Cruz and the North Bay at El Sobrante. We also have been welcomed twice to share meetings with the Sierra Nevada Chapter...first the repeat barbecue meeting with John Motto-Ros and the Cunninghams and then a special concert/meeting where Nan Bostick and Tom Brier were featured as ragtime pianists. These two artists also performed at our annual Holiday party in San Francisco. We will be joining the Sierra Nevada group again this summer to tour the Billings' roll perforating operation.

We have a healthy balance in our bank account and are considering getting involved in Founding Member Richard Reutlinger's idea of "adopting a piano" (for restoration) in the Virginia City, Montana public collection.

Sadly we lost two very long time members this past year, Al Neilsen and Ed Sprinkle. The Founding Chapter has made donations to the Amica Memorial Fund in memory of these two members.

We have added two new members this past year, Nan Bostick and Roger Van Craeynest and are looking for ideas to attract more new members.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard D. Reutlinger
Founding Chapter Board Rep

GATEWAY CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

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

The Gateway Chapter continues to struggle about membership. We held the four meetings required by the by-laws. Attendance at these meeting was quite small. Part of the problem is the unwillingness of people in this area to join the national organization. They will join a local group primarily for social purposes. They see no point to joining the national. Many of the people in his area are not willing to go out of town to meetings. They are content to go to someone's home on a Sunday afternoon and listen to a piano or music box.

We have done such projects as building a John Smith organ as a chapter project. We have had two monkey organ rallies as chapter meetings. Still, we cannot recruit new members. We have the same people as officers year after year because we cannot get others to be officers.

If anyone has any suggestion of something we have not already tried, we are open to suggestions.

Submitted by Gary Craig
Gateway Board Rep

HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

President:Tom McAuley
Vice President:Robbie Tubbs
Secretary/Treasurer:Kay Bode
Reporter:varies with meeting
Board Rep:Ron Connor

This year our big event has been the 2002 convention. From all reports, it was a big success. Attendance was good, especially considering a lot of regulars had spent a lot of money the previous year in Australia, and the foreign contingent was almost completely absent due, I expect, to the economic situation and the unfavorable exchange rates, making a trip to America too expensive. We ended in the black and as detailed financial reports were filed with AMICA International, I won't give them here.

We again had a late summer band organ rally in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, where we enjoyed the hospitality of Marty and Elise Roenigk and the Crescent Hotel. This rally will not happen this year as the date conflicts with the Convention.

In December we had the annual Christmas party at the beautiful home of Doug and Barbara Cusick in Leawood, Kansas. About 70 people enjoyed a dinner prepared by the local country club's chef, followed by a musical evening provided by the Cusicks' extensive collection. The next morning we had a brunch and business meeting to end a great weekend.

In May we journeyed to Pella, Iowa for a band organ rally in conjunction with their annual Tulip Festival, where we were received with enthusiasm. This town has to be seen to be believed. They take their Dutch heritage seriously and I would like to know the secret to the perfect lawns throughout the whole town! I think we all felt we would have to go back there again.

There has been a lot of discussion recently in our chapter and in AMICA about declining membership. As I feel we are one of the most successful chapters, (67 households currently on our membership list) perhaps a few comments on what we do would be of interest. Because many of us have to travel some distance to meetings, our meetings usually run from Saturday afternoon to Sunday noon, with time out for sleeping. We try to have a variety of activities which include band organ rallies, visits to nearby points of interest, and just social get togethers. The social side is very important. We have become good friends, but are quick to welcome the new people. Band organ rallies are a good way to meet new people, as is anything that gives you a chance to show some instruments to the public. You'll note that pianos seldom figure in to these public contacts as they don't lend themselves to moving about. We are not afraid to be silly. Sometimes visitors get to see a performance of the Heart of America Thespians, or the

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Hillbilly Band. Music is not supposed to be grim. Music is fun, it's uplifting, it's inspiring. Have a good time, enjoy your chapter and the word will get around and others will want to join the fun.

Respectfully Submitted, Ron Connor
Heart of America Chapter Representative

LADY LIBERTY CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

President:Vincent Morgan
Vice President:Keith Bigger
Secretary:Maureen Saboda
Treasurer:Ira Malek
Reporters:Buzz Rosa
Board Reps:Marvin and Dianne Polan
Membership Chairman:Keith Bigger

As you can see, we have made changes in our slate of officers for the year 2003.

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

Membership report (paid up members) – 56

Number of Meetings a year – four plus end of year party
Workshops – two

Since the our elections at the December meeting, we have had two official meetings. April 26th was at the home of Bill and Ann Edgerton. The workshop was "Gilding the Gilded Age" by Marvin Polan. Our second meeting was June 8th at the home of Walter and Kay Kehoe. The workshop was "How to replace a bushing" by Eugene Saboda. Besides this we helped with the tuning of the organ at the Empire State Carousel. Allen Dreyfuss and Vincent Morgan helped with the Prospect Park Carousel Organ, which has now been reconditioned and is up and running. The next meeting will be at the home of Catherine and Bob Martin. We will have a guest organist, Dave Calandine, one of the organists who performed at the band organ rally in Marietta, Ohio.

Scheduled to attend the AMICA International meeting are: President Vincent Morgan, Vice-President Keith Bigger, Maryam Morgan and Allen Dreyfuss. Marvin and I regret that we will be unable to attend this meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Dianne and Marvin Polan
Board Representatives

MIDWEST CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

President:Stuart Grigg
Vice President:Liz Barnhart
Secretary:Sherri Neff
Treasurer:Alvin Wulfekuhl
Reporter:Christy Counterman
Board Rep:Liz Barnhart

The Midwest Chapter has 76 members for 2003. On September 7, 2002 we met at the home of Mike and Liz Barnhart in Dayton, OH. We enjoyed seeing Mike's newest restoration of a Seeburg MO that now sounds like a Weber Maestro. From the Barnharts, the guys carpooled to Mike's favorite liquidation outlet, Mendelson's, "The First Place to Look for Every Last Thing". The gals went to visit son Steve's 150 year old brick house in the historical Oregon District and then on to the Webster Street Market to check out antiques etc. The Sunday meeting was at Lawrence and Margaret Frazer's in Vandalia. The Frazers have recently purchased a Pianola to add to their other pianos. During the meeting we discussed installation of the Reproduco Organ in the First Ladies Museum in Canton, OH and \$1150. was paid by the chapter to move it from Tipp City to Canton. No date has been set for the dedication ceremony, hopefully to be attended by living past 1st Ladies of the White House.

Our fall meeting had to be postponed and was held June 7-8 in Rochester Hills, MI. We met at Gayle and Michael Riley's "Hammered Strings" Piano Shop in Pontiac and then went on to a tour of Meadow Brook Hall. Years ago, several members of our chapter rebuilt the Steinway Duo-Art there, but we were unable to hear if it is still operating since our guides knew nothing about it. Our Sunday meeting and brunch was at the new home of Bob Andersen and Don Johnson. We held our elections and afterwards enjoyed their piano collection and mart. We collected more e-mail addresses to inform members about upcoming meetings and events. We still maintain our Chapter Web site, where several inquiries a month from potential members are answered, mostly on info about pianos they've inherited or on how to attend meetings.

The chapter is saddened by the loss of our former secretary, Judy Wulfekuhl, who passed away June 14th, 2003.

Respectfully Submitted, Liz Barnhart
Midwest Board Rep

NORTHERN LIGHTS CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

President:Phillip Baird
Vice President:Paul Watkins
Secretary:Jason Beyer
Treasurer:Howard O'Neill
Reporter:Dorothy Olds
Board Rep:Dorothy Olds

Since the 2002 convention, we have had four meetings with the average attendance of 15-20 including visitors and potential members.

In July sixteen of our members traveled to Barrington Illinois to the home of the Sanfilippo's, to hear the CONCERT FOR LIFE. We had the opportunity to view the many instruments and enjoy the spectacle of the beautiful

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music salon while listening to the sounds of the mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ played by Lynn Larsen and sometimes accompanied by the orchestrelle. It was more than worth the trip.

August found us at our annual meeting at Dave Kemmer's 1875 Schoolhouse in Oronoco Minnesota. This is the town where they celebrate GOLD RUSH DAYS with a huge Flea Market, where mostly antique furniture is sold. Some members had the opportunity to see Liberace's half million dollar 9 foot Baldwin concert grand which is covered with 200 pounds of genuine Austrian rhinestones. This is the piano which was used for his final performances in 1986 at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

October. The meeting was hosted by President Phil Baird, starting at fabulous Fern's Restaurant, later moving to Phil's condo. There was considerable discussion regarding dues and cost of sending meeting notices to area international members in an attempt to encourage Chapter membership. Response has been poor. It was moved and passed to discontinue this activity, since our treasury balance in December was only \$271.64. However there was a motion to increase the dues by \$5.00 bringing dues up to \$15.00 annually. Motion carried.

The December 2002 meeting was held at Ron Olson's Huston Place, his elegant 1922 home so tastefully decorated for the Holidays. What is so very interesting is that Ron has names for his pianos (reported in Jan./ Feb. Bulletin) Don Barton has given us updates about the 2005 convention.

The officers for 2003 were elected: President – Phillip Baird; V.P. – Paul Watkins; Secretary – Jason Beyer; Treasurer – Howard O'Neill.

The spring meeting found the members at another "Film Fest" at the Heights Theater in Columbia Heights, MN on April 12th where they were entertained by Goldiggers 1935 with a silent film short. They were also fortunate to hear the Wurlitzer pipe organ which was recently completed in its installation. A Piano Roll Flea Market was held at Don Barton Player Piano Co. prior to the movie. Following the movie, members moved to Little Jack's restaurant for food and meeting. I do not have access to the meeting report as of 7/15.

Respectfully Submitted, Dorothy Olds
Northern Lights Board Rep

PACIFIC CAN-AM CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

Co-President/Vice President: ... Carl and Peg Kehret
Secretary: Halie Dodrill
Treasurer: Beverly Spore
Reporter: Mark Smithberg
Board Rep: Carl Dodrill

Membership

Pacific Can-Am Chapter membership now consists of 78 individuals who come from 49 households. This is

slightly less than the previous year. As can be seen, in many cases, two members from a household are both actively involved in our chapter. Deaths this year among our membership included Dean Randall and Bill Ullstrom. Both of these people will be greatly missed as they contributed in important ways to our chapter.

Treasury

At the end of June 2003, we had \$171.04 in our checking account, \$2,044.03 in a certificate of deposit, and a savings account with a balance of \$569.93.

Chapter Activities

Chapter activities continue in an 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.

The largest activity of our chapter as a whole this year was the continuing planning of the 2003 AMICA Convention which is to be held in Portland, Oregon from August 20 to 24, 2003. 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 (until his death early this year), Beverly Spore) and also from Oregon (Nathan Bello, Bruce and Juanice Cartwright, John Collins, Bill and Marilyn Englund, Don McLaughlin, Al Menashe, Ann Smith). All aspects of the program and the convention as a whole are now planned, and, in fact, we have only one Convention Committee meeting left which will occur in Portland on July 26. At the time of this writing, 5 weeks before the convention begins, we have approximately 160 registrants. We have also already met our minimums for guest room nights and food purchase at the hotel. Setting these minimums as low as we did assured that they would be met, but it also resulted in a \$2,500 room meeting fee, which we will be required to pay. Nevertheless, a financially viable convention is anticipated. The convention will include a tour of the Columbia River Gorge, a visit to the Carousel Museum, the selection of the piano virtuoso 17-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.

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Individuals in our chapter have contributed in significant ways to the public with regard to automatic music, and only three examples will be cited here. Bill Masterman rebuilt a Wurlitzer band organ, and he has been successful in getting it installed in Washington State's largest county fair, the Puyallup County Fair. The fair lasts for several weeks each year, and the organ plays off paper rolls most of that time. In addition, it plays at other times of the year and for special events. Brian Tate and Carl Dodrill have both gone out to elementary schools this year and have talked to classes about pipe organs, bringing illustrative materials including photos, tapes, and a series of organ pipes. Brian has also repeatedly played his hurdy gurdy, an instrument that never fails to get attention. Carl Kehret played his Raffin street organ in front of the Buckley Historical Museum during the Buckley Logging Days. He also played it in the Normandy Park July 4th parade. He took it plus an assortment of small crank organs to a retirement home one day, and the Kehrets had a "home tour" for the members of an historical society during the year and also one for neighbors. Other open houses have been held by a number of our membership, and people are always welcome to see the collections of our members.

Respectfully Submitted, Carl Dodrill
Pacific Can-Am Chapter Representative to the AMICA Board

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

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

The Southern California chapter has had a busy year since the last convention. August of 2002 found us in Escondido for a concert on Willis Boyd's Verbeeck Organ. In September we had an organ rally in Ventura at the Yesteryear Festival. October – we had a two-day organ rally at the Arborfest in Fullerton. November found us at the home of Reese and Terry Banister. December our Christmas party was at the Nix home, with the local chapter of MBSI as guests. 2003 started off with a bang, with our February meeting at the home of Ben and Mary Lilien. April found us again at Descanso Gardens for a fabulous organ rally. May was the time for a bus trip to Fresno for a wonderful trip, our host was Mike Argain. In July we had an organ rally the 5th in Sierra Madre, with a meeting on the 6th at the home of Bob & Dottie Denerson.

Our chapter donated \$1,000 to the Old Town Music Hall to help with their restoration of the Wurlitzer Theater Organ.

We have added several new members, mostly due to the organ rallies, and were saddened by the death of long

time members John Schaller, Rey Harrington and Bill Mintz. We look forward to another good year ahead.

Submitted by Frank and Shirley Nix
Southern California Board Reps

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

The Sierra Nevada Chapter membership consists of 19 individuals. The Chapter has met three times since the 2002 Convention:

On September 7, 2002, we met at the home of John and Nadine Motto-Ros in Sutter Creek, California, for our annual joint meeting/BBQ with the Founding Chapter – about 60+ people attending.

We held an important meeting on February 23, 2003, at the home of Doug and Vickie Mahr in Orangevale, California, to discuss the future of the Chapter, our objectives and goals, and how these objectives and goals will be accomplished.

In order to meet the Chapter's primary objective and goal of advertising AMICA and gaining membership, on April 6, 2003, we sponsored a piano concert at the Heidrick Ag History Center in Woodland, California. Nan Bostick and Tom Brier performed their "dual" piano renditions of ragtime era music. It was a fabulous time, and great music was enjoyed by AMICA members and paid guests.

We have another meeting planned on July 26, 2003, when we will be traveling through the beautiful Sierras to Reno, Nevada. This will give us the opportunity to see Bob and Ginny Billings' roll-cutting process. The Billings also have a Tel-Electric collection with brass rolls.

We are definitely looking forward to the 2003 convention in Portland.

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

S.O.W.N.Y. CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

President: Mike Walter
Vice President: Stan Aldridge
Secretary: Garry and Anne Lemon
Treasurer: Holly Walter
Reporter: Frank Warbis
Board Rep: Holly Walter

The S.O.W.N.Y. Chapter of AMICA is a smaller-sized chapter with 18 active members stretching from the western

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end of Pennsylvania to Ottawa in Ontario, Canada. Chapter membership has declined in recent years as a result of death and illness, loss of interest or competing interests.

Financially, our chapter is sound with close to \$5,000. in a savings account or CD.

During the past year our chapter has held five meetings in Ottawa, Niagara Falls, Lockport, Lancaster and Orchard Park. Members of our chapter also made a pilgrimage to the Victorian Palace of Jasper & Marian Sanfilippo for a fund-raising program in June of this year.

Our chapter continues to work slowly on our restoration project, a Weber Duo-Art grand. Although progress is slow, due to distances travelled, it is still a good learning experience for all involved.

Our chapter is also looking for ways in which to build our membership. If anyone has a sure-fire way of attracting new members, please let us know.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Walter
President, S.O.W.N.Y. Chapter
Holly Walter
S.O.W.N.Y. Board Rep

5. Old Business

The Membership Secretary is appointed by the Board approximately every three years. This was not considered this year due to the timing of the Membership Directory's publication. Bill Chapman and Karl Ellison will continue to work together to maintain the Directory. Karl pointed out that the maintenance should be much easier now that the initial data has been entered into the new format. It can be printed out immediately in its present form. John Motto-Ros moved to recognize Karl and Bill for their efforts.

There was a lengthy discussion on print quantities, storage and purchase costs for additional directories. There was also a discussion of privacy issues in providing directories to libraries or other institutions who request them.

Linda Bird made a motion to authorize the Membership Secretary to sell additional printed directories to members only for \$10.00 post paid. This information must be changed on the title page of the Bulletin.

Frank Nix made a motion to ensure that there is an inventory of 200 Directories available to the Membership Secretary at all times, for a period of two years after each initial printing. If inventory drops below 200, the publisher is authorized to order more copies.

Both of these motions were seconded and approved.

6. New Business

A. Affiliated Society Request –

Associazione Italiana Musica Meccanica

Periodically we receive requests from other similar organizations to affiliate with AMICA. Affiliation in this case means we exchange publications. Affiliation may also relate to the ability for members of these organizations to attend AMICA conventions as voted on in the 2002 Board Meeting.

Dick Merchant moved to accept the request from the Associazione Italiana Musica Meccanica to become an affiliate of AMICA. We have received the first copy of their Bulletin in printed form in Italian as well as a CD-Rom of the same publication. The motion was seconded and approved.

B. Request to discuss the content/format of the AMICA Bulletin – Gary Craig and Ron Connor

With the change in Publisher, the Board would like to convey the suggestions of the membership as to the contents of the Bulletin. According to AMICA by-laws, the Publisher can request assistance from a committee to be formed of people of his own choosing. Members suggest that interested parties or contributors contact Mike Kukral with their articles or suggestions.

The question was raised asking if our current statement of purpose as printed in the by-laws reflects the purpose of AMICA today. Could we change the by-law to expand the definition of AMICA? After much discussion it was decided that Dan should appoint a committee to review the definition of AMICA and how it relates to our organization. The committee consists of Gary Craig, Ron Connor, John Motto-Ros, and Dick Merchant. They will draft a revision of this particular by-law to be reviewed by the Board. If a new statement is adopted, it should be conveyed to the membership in a prominent place in each Bulletin. We need to make the purpose of AMICA obvious to the casual observer who sees the Bulletin. We also need to convey this message on our brochures and a redesign of these is being considered for the next printing. The design will more readily identify what AMICA is all about on the front of each brochure.

Relating to the content of the Bulletin, Dick Merchant discussed the new technology making it possible to preserve the music originally recorded on paper rolls by other means, that is using electronic formats to archive the original music. Ron Connor talked about using this different technology to support our goals, using electronics to play instruments while maintaining the original mechanism and integrity of the antique instruments. Gary Craig pointed out that each generation has had its own technological advances and AMICA should convey these methods to readers of the Bulletin.

Dan will communicate a philosophy statement reflecting many of these suggestions to the Publisher.

C. Discussion of publishing the Directory electronically – Karl Ellison

With the proliferation of computers, PDAs, cell phones and other electronic devices, it could be helpful to AMICA members to make the Membership Directory available in electronic formats. That way the information will be searchable in an easily accessible form. The prime feature would be that it would be continually updated, and

members could get the most recent form immediately via e-mail or disc, and in several popular electronic formats. We would also write a specific "limitations of use" statement to avoid spam and the reselling of the information. The motion was made to make the Membership Directory available in an electronic format to current AMICA members only for the following costs: \$20 for CD version, postpaid, or \$10 for a one-time downloaded version via e-mail. The motion was carried. We will publish this notice starting with the January 2004 membership renewals.

D. Discussion of the creation of Simon and Mable Zivin Award – George Wilder

This award is proposed by the Chicago Chapter in honor of two longtime members. It will recognize members for sharing AMICA with the public – a complete definition of the award will be published in the Bulletin. The Chicago Chapter will accept nominations from the membership for the award, and will then handle the selection of the winners. The winner will receive a plaque recognizing their accomplishments, to be presented at the annual Convention. Meta Brown showed us possible designs for the plaque. Since the administration of the award will be handled entirely by the Chicago Chapter, the Board approved the proposal.

E. Discussion of the creation of the Golden Roll Award – Bill Dean

This award could be designated to honor those who create new rolls or recut rare, one-of-a-kind rolls that have never been done before. This would hopefully encourage the appreciation of rolls as well as support the production of new rolls. There were some concerns that AMICA would appear to endorse a commercial enterprise, so this recognition was discouraged. Liz Barnhart pointed out that there is already a vehicle for recognizing people for their efforts in the existing AMICA awards and we should encourage nominees of roll producers for those. The Vice President should suggest that there be nominations of this kind when considering people for awards. Dan proposed that we do support these recut or new music projects by including a "new releases" sidebar in the Bulletin, and members are asked to make the Publisher aware of rolls and projects that could be listed.

F. Discussion of adding new Honorary Members – from Jay Albert

Since there are very few Honorary Members still living, Jay questioned whether we should change the vote from several years ago and open up the roll for new Honorary Members. Several Board Members explained how the Honoraries were chosen in the past and why the list was closed. There was not sufficient argument for reinstating the honor.

G. Discussion of the use/disposition of the Emmett Ford Collection – from Robin Pratt

Robin has been storing the collection at his home for

many years as part of his Publisher's role. In going through the many boxes members were very disappointed to find that there were very few original pieces of memorabilia in the collection, it consists of mostly copies of old newspaper clippings. Liz and Mike Barnhart helped reorganize and inventory the collection several years ago. She suggests to display the large framed photos at Conventions. Most of the items relate to roll artists and composers, etc. The University of Maryland declined the donation for its archives, so the Board decided to send the remaining collection to Mike Kukral to sort through and use for the Bulletin. (Since this action, the collection has been sorted further and Dan Brown is attempting to assess the remaining pieces.)

H. Discussion of seeking Web mentors to assist chapters creating and managing Web sites

Very few of the Chapters have their own Web sites, and many people have no idea of how to begin a site for their chapter. Discussion began with the possibility of hooking up people with the knowledge to create sites with the chapters who need help. As an interim solution, Karl Ellison will write a short article for the Bulletin on how to create a simple Web page using Microsoft® Word, which is widely available.

I. Discussion of publishing donations to the Memorial Fund in The Bulletin – Peg Kehret

As mentioned in the Memorial Fund report, there was some question as how to report to the membership when a donation is received. Much discussion was held and we decided that, as the need arises, we will publish in the Bulletin a list of who is memorialized by donations to the fund, along with a short explanation of what the fund is used for. The donors could choose to be listed if they wish, or choose to remain anonymous. These listings will be a tribute to those in whose name donations are received, and will bring more attention to the Memorial Fund.

J. Discussion of disposition of old Bulletins – from Robin Pratt

Old Bulletins will be made available to members for the promotion of AMICA. We would like to use them in membership recruitment, to take to events where we bring our instruments, or to take to venues where automatic musical instruments are displayed. They could be given to Libraries, Universities and other organizations that may have an interest in them. Please request them from the Publisher or Membership Secretary, who will be happy to send them to members or to chapters.

K. Discussion of the organization of AMICA Website, links

Since most of us had not met or talked with the Webmaster since the redesign of our site, the conversation turned to the content of the site. Some wondered if the

Board should have more of a say in the content selection for the site. John Motto-Ros said the Webmaster has done an excellent job on the site, and stated that it has more information than many similar sites. He would like to change the site to be more simple to navigate. Meta explained that the current site is designed to attract potential members, not to provide information to current ones. She has structured the site to rank high in search engines when commonly used terms related to mechanical music are requested. Indeed our rankings have increased during the past year, and she explained some of the technical strategy behind that.

Karl Ellison suggested that graphics be added to visually appeal to those looking for information on instruments as well as to promote AMICA's "brand recognition" by using our logo plus graphics related to player pianos and other mechanical music. He passed around a suggested layout using AMICA graphics from the Bulletin. John suggests animation and sound files be added to attract viewers to the site and keep them there. Some people objected to that, but agreed that the home page layout could be redesigned without being too large of a file to make lengthy downloading a problem. Meta has discussed how to add graphics and more color with a professional Web designer and this could definitely be implemented in the future. Dick Merchant would like to see us promote Chapters and conventions on the site to attract new members. Gary Craig said that we need to outline what membership in AMICA offers on the site, as well as a description of what it takes to get involved. Karl suggested a feature on the home page that changes every two months with the publication of each Bulletin that lists what's new in AMICA and in the Bulletin.

More clarification was needed on the selection criteria for links to our site. We cannot link to commercial sites as this violates the non-profit portion of our charter and implies endorsement. This can only be done as it is in the Bulletin as a paid advertisement. We cannot control the content of unmoderated discussion groups so they cannot be linked to our site. In general we should not link to any political or religious organization that could use the link as an implied endorsement and no links to sites or groups with adult content should be allowed. That being said, we realize that each site or group must be judged individually on its own merit. If Meta has a question on whether a site should be linked, she should contact the Board for discussion and a decision. Many commercial sites and publication sites request links each month and the majority are turned down. The purpose of this site is not to direct people to other sites at this time, rather to create interest in AMICA through our own information.

Dick Merchant proposed a vote of confidence to recognize the work that Meta has done (at no cost to AMICA) in rebuilding the site. The Board concurred with applause.

L. Discussion of membership growth ideas

Dan said that meeting a goal of maintaining current membership levels would be progress. He said that when many of our members were young, player pianos were a common part of every neighborhood and everyone knew someone who had one. Now it is rare to find any kind of piano in a home as people are into computers and stereo systems and electronic games. He opened up the floor for discussion on ideas on how to promote membership in AMICA.

Dan Brown said he takes pianos "on the road" when possible (as documented in the Bulletin). He knows that this is expensive as pianos and other instruments aren't exactly portable. He suggested a grant program – that if a good opportunity to promote AMICA arises and if chapters don't have the funds to move an instrument then the organization could contribute funds to worthy projects.

Carl Dodrill would like to appoint a committee to discuss membership issues – possibly a New Chapter/Member Committee. The Vice President could head this up as part of his/her duties. On the Chapter level, he follows up with every member who did not renew, and often finds that they have just forgotten to do so.

The Chicago Chapter wanted to point out that they did not want to allow non-members to attend Conventions at the expense of current ones. The change in Convention attendance rules from the Arkansas Convention vote does not address this, and since the Chicago conventions are usually overbooked, this was a concern for the future.

Richard Reutlinger often hosts gatherings in his home and always makes AMICA literature available. His home has been featured on HGTV several times, and is listed on their Web site with a link to AMICA.

John Motto-Ros says we should start with entry level people in recruiting for AMICA. Many people discovering the classic 88 note foot-pumped player piano have no knowledge of AMICA. He suggested we change the Membership Brochure to feature the basics of AMICA on the front cover as well as restating the purpose of AMICA prominently in every Bulletin, and on the home page of the Web site. He also makes sure that he leaves AMICA brochures with pianos for sale at local auctions or antique stores. He stamps them with the local chapter contact information so people can know that there's someone in the area available to tell them about AMICA. He also thinks every chapter should own a copy of Art Reblitz' book *Rebuilding the Player Piano* to loan to people just starting out on their own restorations.

Karl Ellison says that the Boston Chapter tries to have club projects such as the restoration of the piano at the Charles River Museum of Industry. He also thinks a Growth Committee is a good idea to get the word out on AMICA. He would like to see the Brochure utilized more and thinks that the Brochure holders were an idea that was

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underutilized. He also e-mails past members at renewal time, who may not have been a member in the current year to remind them of the benefits of membership. He is concerned that these instruments are becoming a luxury item for few people and not as readily available to the public.

Dorothy Olds says their Chapter advertised in local papers and in free shopper-type newspapers. They do programs for local school children to start getting people interested when they're young!

Vincent Morgan agrees that we should start with youth. Perhaps we could affiliate with some sort of internship program with vocational-type schools to teach students how to restore instruments. He also suggests offering field trip visits to home schooled children.

Keith Bigger actually calls each area member to invite them to come to the Chapter meetings. He thinks growth begins at the local level. He also suggests to make sure there is a place for Chapter information on the Membership Brochure. He agrees that we should try to get kids interested.

Bing Gibbs said we should try to get more instruments in public places, as he was influenced by a display in a local hotel when he was young. He is going to purchase a Seeburg to place in a local ice cream parlor, but knows that someone should be available to promote it. The brochures are crucial when there is no one with the instrument to give a presentation. We could offer to speak for group tours in museums or at other venues with instruments.

Christy Counterman suggested that we write an introduction to the "News from the Chapters" section of the Bulletin that explains how to join a Chapter and that refers people to the contact information in the front of the Bulletin. People need to be encouraged to attend on a local level. Our Chapter Web site gets 4 or 5 inquiries /month and I invite those people to attend a local meeting, as well as add them to our e-mail list. Unfortunately only about 1/3 of our Chapter members have e-mail access. We also have people like the Haas' who take a player piano out to events. Our Chapter Reproducible project for the National First Ladies' Museum is also in progress.

Bill Chapman thought that we could give subscriptions to major libraries as a shelved periodical. He thought that we could make use of local access cable channels as well.

Dick Merchant reminded us to use MMD to promote AMICA events of interest to their members. We should also summarize events to let people know what conventions and rallies are about.

Ron Connor hopes to broaden the types of instruments covered in the membership brochure. If we reflect more instruments, we could attract a more diverse membership. He has invited Scout groups and other groups to their home to demonstrate his collection. He thinks that we should concentrate on people in their 30s and 40s that now have some time and disposable income that would be likely members.

Frank Nix said we should do cross-promotion with other groups such as car clubs or antique groups or other musical groups. Many people belong to multiple organizations to reflect their interests.

Liz Barnhart also has given Cub Scout and Girl Scout tours. She also pointed out Charmaine and Mark Haas taking their piano out to events. AMICA is competing with other interests for time and money. We have to make it interesting enough to attract new members. Her own children, though members, have little time to attend due to so many other time consuming interests.

In conclusion, we decided that further discussion is needed to preserve the future of AMICA. We have formed a committee consisting of Dan Brown, John Motto-Ros, Bill Chapman and Bing Gibbs. They welcome suggestions from AMICA as a whole on how to gain and maintain membership.

M. Discussion of By-Laws regarding officers and committee chairs attending conventions – John Motto-Ros

Although it is not required in the by-laws, the Board hopes that all officers, committee chairs and Board reps will make every effort to attend the Board Meeting each year at the Convention. If a member is not able to attend, we could offer the option of a conference call to that member as needed to discuss items relevant to their position. The officers should be introduced to the Membership at the Welcoming Breakfast at each Convention, as well as a representative from each Chapter. If new attendees knew who people are in their area, they would be more apt to ask questions, offer suggestions or even join on the local level. We did not amend the by-laws at this time, but Convention attendance should be an important consideration for those who are to be nominated for office.

N. Possible implementation of a new AMICA e-group – Keith Bigger

Keith would like to start an e-group for AMICA members only. He would like to try it out to see if there is enough interest to justify it. It would be an opt-in group only. Messages would be archived so people wanting information on a past topic could retrieve it. It would be moderated by Keith Bigger and Terry Smythe. People having questions on instruments, repair, events, etc., could submit them and they would be e-mailed to the membership. Anyone in the group could respond. The Board would like to consider this further before offering it to the membership at large, several members have concerns about it, including privacy issues, implied endorsement of information and the duplication of efforts by other groups. A trial by interested Board Members will be implemented and feedback will be gauged before proceeding.

O. Adopt-a-Piano Campaign – Richard Reutlinger

Richard provided an outline of his motion for Adopt-A-

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Piano to the Board, and asked for permission to put it in the Bulletin as a proposal to the membership. John Motto-Ros made a motion to publish the description of the campaign in the Bulletin. It would basically explain the program and how it proposes to solicit donations from the Chapters and to use this money to start a fund at the International level. He will publish a list of instruments and costs for their restoration. If the plan is well-received, and money becomes available, we will move forward. AMICA will be prominently mentioned for its role in the project if it is approved. The motion was approved to publish the material.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FRIDAY, August 22, 2003 PORTLAND, OREGON

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by President Dan Brown. He introduced the committee for the Portland Convention. The schedule for the day's workshops was announced, and he asked for submissions of convention photos for the Bulletin, since some of our regular photo contributors were unable to attend. His summary of the President's Report included mentions of the change in committee chairpersons and a commendation for outgoing Publisher Robin Pratt. He introduced each of the International officers and each provided a summary of their reports, included elsewhere in this issue.

Linda Bird, as chairperson of the Nominating Committee, introduced the new Committee members. She invited AMICA members to make their suggestions for new

officers known to the committee member in their area. Contact information for each is provided in her report. Maury Willyard moved to accept the slate of committee members and the motion was approved. Officers will be elected at the 2004 Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Dan then gave a review of the Board Meeting agenda items. Highlights include the formation of a new committee to review the direction AMICA is taking and to review the by-laws relating to our purpose, as well as starting a New Chapter/Member Committee. The Membership Directory will soon become available in an electronic format. The direction of the Bulletin was discussed in light of the change in Publisher. The Chicago Chapter's suggestion to create a new award was approved. The Emmett Ford collection will be passed on to Publisher Mike Kukral, for possible inclusion in the Bulletin. Dan reminded people of the Memorial Fund, and commended Webmaster Meta Brown on the redesigned Web site. He noted that ideas discussed promoting membership growth will be published in the Bulletin. The Adopt-A-Piano campaign was introduced by Richard Reutlinger.

Frank Nix summarized the future Convention plans listed in his report, and presented a brief summary of the Denver Convention for 2004 since Jere DeBacker was unable to present his report.

Each Chapter Board Representative reported on their activities as outlined in their reports to the Board, included elsewhere in this Bulletin.

The meeting was adjourned.

AMICA 2003 PORTLAND CONVENTION REPORT

August 20-24, 2003 were beautiful days in Portland, Oregon, as we shared together a wonderful AMICA convention. Portland is a city of great beauty that has not yet been completely discovered, even by Americans. For example, neither AMICA nor MBSI has ever had a convention there, and the newness of the city to most people in attendance proved to have definite appeal. An unusual number of people came early and our pre-conference tour was actually oversubscribed. At the end of the convention, people hung around the Portland area and fewer than 10 left before the Farewell Breakfast.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Many thanks go to members of the convention committee, who were as follows:

Oregon Convention Committee Members:

Al Menashe, Portland Chairperson; Ann Smith; Bruce & Juanice Cartwright; Bill & Marilyn England; John Collins; Don McLaughlin; and Nathan Bello.

Washington Convention Committee Members:

Carl Dodrill, Seattle Chairperson; Halie Dodrill; Beverly Spore; Carl Kehret; Dan

Brown; Dean Randall (most regretfully, Dean passed away early in 2003, and his memory and contributions to the convention were recognized on a number of occasions through the meeting).

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AMICA PORTLAND CONVENTION REPORT

HOTEL

The convention registered 183 people who were comfortably situated in the Doubletree Downtown Portland Hotel. This hotel was the perfect size for our convention, and it felt comfortable and cozy to all. The registration procedure, organized by Halie Dodrill and Bev Spore, went exceptionally well, and other members of the Pacific Can-Am Chapter provided important assistance.

The hotel staff was wonderful and went far out of their way to accommodate our needs and desires. Leigha Thomas, our hotel representative, became a "friend" to many on the committee as we spent lots of time planning during the more than two years of our working together. Her staff responded immediately to all requests and they found a way to meet every one of the items directed to them. Food was served in record times and this was always high in both quality and quantity. During the convention, the hotel also did something special for us every day, including special food offerings, discounts, and bar offerings. Furthermore, when one of our attendees had a stroke during the meeting, the hotel employees took up a collection and sent flowers to the hospital.

TOURS

Ann Smith coordinated all our tours for the convention and did a splendid job! We had an entire bus of 47 folks attend the 1/2-day Pre-Convention tour that included visits to the Rose Gardens, Japanese Gardens, and Pittock Mansion in Portland. Everyone talked excitedly upon their return to the hotel. Then on Thursday we all boarded buses for a daylong tour of the Columbia River Gorge. Everyone was impressed with the beauty of the Gorge, and numerous photographs were taken. We went up to Mount Hood, where folks both young and old were still skiing down parts of the mountain that had snow. It seemed a bit strange to see people dressed for skiing and it was bright and sunny outside in August! The Lodge at Mt. Hood was toured by some of us while others watched a film on its construction. The Raz transportation company provided our lunch for the day.

A stop at Multnomah Falls generated some very considerable interest, and while some of us took pictures, others made the easy hike up to the bridge that is part way up the falls. From this bridge, one could not only see the falls close at hand, but hear the water as it fell 670 feet to the rocks below. This is one of the most photographed places in the entire United States.

A major feature on our day-long tour was at the International Museum of Carousel Art. This museum, in Hood River, Oregon is home to the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of antique carousel art. The tour guide showed us almost every imaginable type of animal that at one time or another had appeared on carousels. With regard to the numerous horses on display, she gave us some real insights into the styles of various carvers and what to look for to identify each type. Furthermore, we had a chance to see a restorer at work, and he was able to show us a horse that he had nearly restored, and another that was identical, but unrestored and in pieces. Of interest is the fact that this museum now has several carousels ready to place in public venues, and they are also in a position to provide funds for such placements.

We returned to the hotel around 6 PM after a fun day of visiting with friends, meeting new people and enjoying the spectacular beauty of this part of the world.

FEATURED ARTIST

A particular highlight of the convention was being able to feature our young guest artist, Nathan Bello. Nathan is one of AMICA International's youngest members, and although he has been a member of AMICA for several years, he is now only 17 years of age. Specifically for this convention, Nathan composed "The Rose City Rag," which is a real toe-tapping tune of exactly the type that AMICAns enjoy. He worked with Dean Randall, Dan Brown, Kurt Morrison, Ron Babb, and Mark Smithberg, to record it as our convention souvenir roll. David

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Saul of the Precision Music Roll Company put aside other tasks in order to cut the roll on a timely basis for the convention. The leader on the convention roll has Nathan's picture on it, and the roll is dedicated to the memory of Dean Randall who not only was one of Nathan's staunchest fans, but who was the person who actually suggested that we have the convention in Portland to begin with.

On Thursday evening and after the all day tour, Nathan performed a wonderful piano concert using the Yamaha grand piano with a Disclavier that had been provided by the Cascade Music Company of Portland. The concert included the Rose City Rag as would be expected, and indeed there were actually 13 popular tunes played before the Intermission including some by Scott Joplin, James Scott, Cole Porter, and Thomas "Fats" Waller. The Hilarity Rag was perhaps the most technically demanding of these, and it was executed with exquisite fineness, as were the other pieces. After the Intermission, Nathan played seven classical pieces written by composers such as J.S. Bach, Hayden, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, and Prokofiev. The Prokofiev sonata (Sonata No. 1, Op. 1 in F Minor) had incredibly high level of demand, and this had been previously played by Nathan in Carnegie Hall.

After the concert was over, with an encore and standing ovation, Nathan patiently signed many, many souvenir rolls for conventioners. The line of waiting people for signatures was VERY long indeed. We in the Pacific Can-Am

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chapter of AMICA feel greatly honored that we have Nathan Bello in our group and his fine contribution to the convention is truly appreciated. Furthermore, it was a real treat to have not only Nathan's parents but also his grandparents (from Texas) in the audience for this special evening.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Following a buffet breakfast on Friday morning, the Annual Business Meeting of AMICA was held, chaired by AMICA International President Dan Brown. Minutes from that meeting will be featured in the Bulletin. The session included a presentation on the next AMICA convention that will be held in Denver, Colorado the first week in August 2004. That meeting will feature some spectacular scenery, interesting automatic musical instruments, and, of course, a chance for to meet old friends and to make new ones.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Carl Kehret organized the Technical Sessions. They were held on Friday morning from 9:30AM until noon, and each session was offered twice during that time interval. The Technical Sessions that were offered included:

"Care and Repair of Theater Pipe Organs." Jack Becvar did the presentation here utilizing some of the materials provided by Russ Evans and Bob Rusczyk. With more than 30 years of experience maintaining the Wurlitzer in his own home, Jack focused on a number of practical matters pertaining to keeping these instruments going.

"Computer and Automatic Music." Phil Dayson spent a great deal of time carefully showing how he had been able to make a harpsichord play music automatically by a computer. This harpsichord was demonstrated many times in the Hospitality Suite during the convention.

"Tips on Recovering Bellows and Pumps." John Pohlpetter demonstrated his great familiarity with bellows and pumps in his presentation on the many intricacies that are involved in recovering them so that they will perform trouble free.

"Secrets of a Smooth Running Air Motor." Bing Gibbs presented this topic in a small room with standing room only. Convention attendees were truly appreciative of the techniques which he offered in order to make air motors truly smooth running.

"Easy Listening." Pianist Halie Dodrill led this innovative session with the playing of groups of light classical, show tunes, and religious pieces. Between each group, she spoke about what she was doing and answered question. While not the typical technical session, this program attracted many people who simply enjoyed the playing of live music.

"Cross-stitch." Liz Barnhart once again outdid herself in providing a cross-stitch pattern consistent with the theme of ***"Roses"*** for the convention. As always, a number of ladies enjoyed visiting as they made cross-stitch remembrances of the convention for later framing and viewing.

PUMPER CONTEST

The Friday evening the pumper contest was held, nearly everyone in the convention attended, and a great time was had by all. Dan Brown organized the event and appointed the judges that included Kurt Morrison, Ron Babb, and Mark Smithberg. These guys were no fun, however, as none would take bribes! The 88 note player piano was a Victor that was secured through Ron Rusczyk. The entries were of especially high quality, but there was lightheartedness, as usual, with Larry Norman. Then there was Maggie Richardson who put on a show which no one in the audience could be 100% certain was or was not staged. As this progressed, people became more and more involved in the spirit of the very fun evening. Karl Ellison, demonstrating unbelievable control of the piano's expression, won the Footsie award.

During the evening and between contestants, a number of door prizes were given out. Five of these had been purchased by Oregon Convention Committee members and five by the

Washington committee members. In addition, Nathan Bello provided several CD's to give away. It was a lively, fun evening for all!

THEATER ORGAN CONCERT

Saturday morning after breakfast, we once again boarded buses and went to the Oaks Park Roller Rink and Amusement Park in Portland. Here we enjoyed a wonderful concert on the WurliTzer pipe organ by Jonas Nordwall. The rink is a really fun place to see, with the entire pipe organ chamber suspended from the ceiling in the center of the room. The floor, on the other hand, was on pontoons and when the building floods from the river, the floor actually raises as much as several feet and thus avoids water damage. We were allowed to walk around on the rink floor during the performance, hearing the organ from various perspectives. As the concert progressed, AMICAns felt more and more free to enjoy themselves out on the floor, and when a grand march was played, nearly 100 people were on the floor following each other in a great parade, walking, dancing, and responding to the lively music. What fun it was to look around and see everyone enjoying themselves so very much!

After the concert we were shuttled to the Sellwood Antique area of Portland where there are more than 50 antique shops, with almost every type of antique that you can imagine. People were free to shop and wander around as they wished, and grabbing lunch wherever and whenever they saw fit. Shuttle buses

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returned to the hotel each hour, and people returned to the Doubletree as they wished during the afternoon.

BANQUET

Saturday evening our banquet was held in the ballroom, with music provided by the Dick Saunders Orchestra. The selection of this orchestra was made by convention committee member John Collins, and the band proved exactly the type of music that AMICAns love. It was very lively, truly danceable, and enjoyed by all.

The food at the banquet was truly delicious, with many people bronzed salmon or pork tenderloin. Approximately 195 persons attended this event. At the place for each person, a special coffee mug was placed which was a gift to each person. At room temperature, the mug has a black square on each side, but when hot liquid is put in the mug, the black disappears and the logo of the convention appears with its beautiful red rose. These table favors and associated roses were planned by committee members Bruce and Juanice Cartwright.

FAREWELL BREAKFAST AND OPEN HOUSES

As part of the Farewell Breakfast on Sunday morning, Karl Ellison presented a film from the "You Asked for It" program that was first aired in 1956 that highlighted the Imperial Industrial Company in New York City, featuring Max Kortlander and JLC. It focused upon the only piano roll producing company in the United States at that time, QRS. The shop and much of the roll producing mechanism were shown in operation. A special feature to this file was the life and work of J. Lawrence Cook, the man who for several decades provided vital services to the QRS Company in cutting and editing rolls. The film pictures him at his work for QRS and records his voice. It was clear that this man made a tremendous contribution to automatic music with not only his commitment to it, but with his truly remarkable skills. The film presentation was greatly enjoyed and appreciated and seemed to bring a very nice "farewell closing" to the formal part

of the convention. Thanks, Karl, for showing this film!

Don McLaughlin of our committee organized the open houses, and there were six houses to attend. The Convention Chair made the decision that there were adequate funds available to cover the cost of rental vehicles including fuel and full insurance for small groups of people who wished to go to the open houses and who did not have transportation. The vehicles hired included a 15-passenger van that was filled with AMICAns who had a great time making a circle of the city, and stopping at nearly all of the open houses. This transportation was greatly appreciated by people who had come to Portland by airplane and had no transportation to reach the houses. The open houses included the following:

Bruce & Juanice Cartwright's residence in Salem, Oregon (50 miles south of Portland)

Al Menashe's residence in Portland

John Pohlpeter and Mary Hayden collection in nearby Oregon City

Kurtis Knight residence in Portland

Leonard & Ann Smith's residence in Portland

Robert Rusczyk's residence in Vancouver, Washington

Each of these homes featured instruments never before featured in an AMICA open house. Sincere thanks are expressed to everyone who opened their homes for members to visit.

CONCLUSIONS

The AMICA - 2003 - Convention Committee thanks everyone who helped with the convention (a host of folks from our Can-Am chapter), the wonderful hotel staff at the Doubletree, our guest artists Nathan Bello and Jonas Nordwall, and persons who offered their homes. Special recognition goes to my wife, Halie, whose commitment to this convention in the hundreds of hours she spent resulted in a convention with no significant weaknesses. In addition, there

were a host of others who made this convention a meaningful and memorable experience. These "others" included you, the people who attended the convention, because it was you who responded to my call to really connect with those convention attendees who you did not know, to speak with them at every opportunity, to constantly welcome those among us who had never attended an AMICA convention before, to especially welcome persons who were not even members but who had come anyway, and even to smile at and speak to the hotel personnel. You took seriously my assertion that AMICA is people, first and foremost, and you considered the quote of Mary Jo Bopp who at last year's convention in Arkansas said, "We love the instruments, but we love their owners more." It was this focus on others which made this a truly warm convention where there was created a place and a sense of belonging for everyone.

LATEST MUSICAL MILLINERY

