

AGENDA - 2004

AMICA BOARD MEETING

1. Roll Call and Introductions

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday morning, August 4, 2004 by President Dan Brown. Board members who were present include:

Dan Brown
Linda Bird
Mike Walter
Christy Counterman
Wes Neff
Bill Chapman
John Motto-Ros
Frank Nix
Karl Ellison via telephone
Richard Reutlinger
Gary Craig
Ron Connor
Dianne Polan
Marvin Polan
Liz Barnhart
Dorothy Olds
Carl Dodrill
Holly Walter
Dick Merchant

Guests were also in attendance.

2. Approval of minutes of the 2003

Board Meeting as published in the November/December 2003 AMICA Bulletin.

The next item on the agenda was to approve the 2003 minutes as published in the November/December 2003 AMICA Bulletin. Dorothy Olds moved to approve the minutes as published, Liz Barnhart seconded the motion, which was passed.

3. Officer Reports

A. President's Report – Dan Brown

Chapters have been reliable in communicating their activities and schedules this year. I have regularly heard from all but the Gateway, Sierra-Nevada, and Texas chapters. The funds from the former Southern Skies Chapter have been surrendered to AMICA International. Members and chapters have responded to my requests for membership-building suggestions. The committee created at last year's meeting has been in

periodic communication during the year (myself, John Motto-Ros, Bill Chapman, and Bing Gibbs) and will consider the ideas which have been received. Membership and revenue declines continue and consideration must be given this year to a dues increase.

Overwhelmingly positive reviews have been received to the content and appearance of The Bulletin since publishing duties were assumed by Mike Kukral. Robin Pratt has continued to oversee the publication of reprints for inclusion in The Bulletin and these also continue to be well received.

The need to reconsider the By-Laws definition of the purpose of AMICA was initiated at the Board meeting last year and a committee was created to gather input on the topic during the year. This committee consisted of myself, Gary Craig, John Motto-Ros, and Dick Merchant. This will be included in the 2004 meeting agenda.

All Board members are online, so communication is quick and at no cost. I have incurred essentially no expenses during the past year. There was no need to convene the Executive Committee for action.

The Adopt-A-Piano project facilitated by Richard Reutlinger continues to move forward. Chapters and individuals continue to work hard to increase AMICA's presence in the public, including public demonstrations and concerts, television appearances, newspaper and magazine articles, and brochure distribution. As had been suggested at the Board meeting last year, the brochure was modified to increase the emphasis on foot-pump player pianos and a copy of the new brochure was sent to each member in a Bulletin.

The AMICA website is the topic of frequent comments. Due to increasing demands for her time, webmaster Meta Brown has found the need to

request that she be replaced in this position. At this time, I have not received any inquiries from members with the skill and time to take on the job. I recommend that discussion of the contents and management of the website continue at the Board meeting this year. The proposal to create an AMICA-sponsored e-group has been presented at two previous Board meetings and continues to surface regularly. Clearly, further discussion of the topic is warranted.

I have enjoyed my years as AMICA President and look forward to many more years of active involvement in the organization. Many issues and topics persist, primarily centered around declining membership. From all the communications I have had and observation I have done as President, I firmly believe that the strength (and sometimes the weakness if Chapters don't work hard to be inclusive of varied interests) of AMICA lies in its chapters and that growth and maintenance of the organization will depend on the vitality of these chapters.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Brown

AMICA International President

B. Past President's Report –

Linda Bird

The past year has been busy since according to the By-Laws, the Immediate Past President is the chairman of the Nominating Committee. Otherwise there has been quite a bit of e-mail among members of the Executive Committee on various issues and proposals for the upcoming Board meeting. Dan again has done a good job of keeping things moving along and has needed very little advice.

As Chairman of the Nominating Committee it was my responsibility to make sure we have a slate of officers to be voted on at the general meeting

continue...

and that report is enclosed. It was nice to be able to find capable people very willing to serve the organization.

My expenses again were minimal due to the Internet. The Nominating Committee met mostly by e-mail so I am not asking AMICA for any reimbursement of expenses.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Bird

AMICA Immediate Past President

C. Vice-President's Report – Mike Walter

Good Morning.

This past year has been an interesting one to the eye of the Vice President. Although the organization has not experienced any drastic changes, there seems to be a growing concern at the chapter level about the loss of membership in the organization. Some individuals are commenting about the diminishing numbers at the chapter level. Hopefully this concern will be converted into positive actions.

On another note, there have been six chapters that have consistently sent out notices of their meetings to me. I greatly appreciate this information. Other chapters have been a bit lax in this area. I have urged chapters to visit the AMICA website and see how their chapter looks to the visiting net surfer.

The Vice President also is the chair of the AMICA Awards Committee. This year the committee included Mel Septon and Larry Norman, both of whom are long-standing, knowledgeable members. There was one nominee for the Leo Ornstein Award. There were three nominees for the AMICA International Award.

The winners in all categories are:

Leo Ornstein Award –

Mike Barnhart

AMICA International Award –

Galen & Linda Bird

President's Award –

Keith Bigger

The cost of the plaques for these awards is not available at the present time, but will be available by the Board Meeting.

One thing that will have to be addressed by the incoming Vice Presi-

dent is that the number of medallions used on the award plaques is running low and will have to be reordered.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Walter

D. Secretary's Report – Christy Counterman

My main duties as Secretary are to record the minutes of the Board meeting and to prepare the reports and agenda for the meeting. After the Board meeting in Portland, 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 via e-mail. 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 really appreciated the e-mail versions as they saved me a lot of work, avoiding re-typing. I also created pdf files from the e-mailed reports for posting on a Web page accessible by Board Members prior to the Convention. 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.

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 also shipped the reports to Portland last year via UPS since they weighed 19 pounds and the airlines frown on

overweight luggage. I used my own work copier to avoid copying charges. The majority of correspondence was by e-mail, saving some long distance fees.

I appreciated my opportunity to work with the Board for the past 3 1/2 years and to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes to make AMICA a successful organization. I wish the incoming Board well.

Respectfully submitted,
Christy Counterman
AMICA Secretary

Reports Web site:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~stumpfad/reports/index.htm>

E. Treasurer's Report – Wes Neff

2004 AMICA INTERNATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003

And Fiscal Year 2004 Projection

Prepared by Wesley Neff • May 31, 2004

INTRODUCTION

AMICA National had income in fiscal year 2003 of \$59,269.92. This was 16% less than the average for the prior 4 years with the 2001 Australian gross convention receipts excluded. The expenses of \$86,141.29 were up 25% from the prior 4 - year average, excluding the Australian gross convention expenses in 2001. Expenses exceeded income in 2003 by \$26,871.37. The variance is caused to a large part by the timing of membership dues receipts.

AMICA International income (National and Chapters) in 2003 was \$121,201.81. Total AMICA International expenses (National and Chapters) in 2003 were \$148,774.41. Total AMICA expenses exceeded income by \$27,572.60 in fiscal year 2003.

INCOME (National Only)

Income from bulletin advertising in 2003 was off 38% from 2002 levels. The projection for 2004 shows a further decrease based on receipts to date in 2004.

Income from advertising in the 2003 Directory was 1,755.00. There will not be any Directory advertising income in 2004.

continue. . .

Portland Convention income was \$5,101.05. The projection for the 2004 Convention in Denver, Colorado is \$2,000.00.

Interest received in 2003 was off 14% compared to 2002 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%. Currently there is \$25,000 in a one - year certificate of deposit earning 1.92%. This CD matures in July, 2004, and will likely be replaced with a CD earning about the same amount of interest. Additional monies as available are shifted into and out of a passbook savings account, currently earning 0.28%.

Total National dues collected in 2003 were \$47,831.61, off \$41,868.29 from 2002. Most of this decrease is due to the early start of the membership drive in 2002 as compared with 2003. The projection for 2004 shows dues of \$54,000.00, which is near prior year levels when compared on a "June to June" basis. The last increase in AMICA membership dues was \$5.00 per year to \$42.00 in 2002.

Memorial Fund donations in 2003 were \$1,040.00. The projection for the Memorial Fund in 2004 is \$955.00.

There were no books or AV sales in 2003, and none are expected in 2004.

Bound bulletin sales in 2003 were \$15.00. No sales are expected in 2004.

Sales of technicalities and leaders were \$115.00 in 2003, and are projected at \$355.00 in 2004.

Total income for 2004 is projected at \$59,068.60, about equal with 2003.

EXPENSES (National Only)

\$86,141.29 of expenses was incurred in 2003.

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 2003 were \$60,197.84 (about 70% of the total expenses). This equates to slightly more than \$10,000.00 per issue and compares to

\$7,600.00 per issue spent in 2002. Projecting year to date expenses for 2004, the "Bulletin" is expected to cost about \$55,000.00 this year, which includes \$8,400.00 for reprints. Publishing of the "Bulletin" and reprints are an essential part of maintaining AMICA's tax exempt status.

The second largest expense in 2003 was publishing and distribution of the "Directory". Total cost for the "Directory" was \$10,761.53. This does not include the countless volunteer hours that were dedicated to collecting, checking and assembling the data included in the "Directory".

The next group of expenses include postage, copies and miscellaneous office supplies used by the officers; and, mostly associated with membership renewals. Telephone costs are negligible due to E-mail and reduced long distance rates used to conduct AMICA business. The total of these categories in 2003 was \$3,339.31, and is projected to be \$3,727.00 in 2004. No officer other than the Publisher and Membership Secretary receives any fee for his or her time.

Other Expense Notes:

- The premium for liability insurance coverage increased at an annual rate of 8%.
- Nearly all of the bank charges in 2003 are for credit card payment handling, amounting to \$665.18. Fees average about 3% of the payments made by credit card, and are expected to be about \$632.00 in 2004. AMICA's bank, Fifth Third Bank of Northwestern Ohio, does not charge banking fees to non-profit organizations.
- Award expenses in 2003 were \$116.61, and are expected to be around \$450.00 in 2004.
- AMICA Brochures were printed in 2003 at a cost of \$1,418.82.

MEMORIAL FUND

The Memorial Fund account stood at \$7,930.33 at the end of 2003. During the year AMICA received \$1,040.00 in donations and added \$376.21 in interest. The Brochure

printing mentioned above was paid from the Memorial Fund.

CHAPTERS

At the end of 2003 AMICA had thirteen chapters. The Southern Skies Chapter dissolved at the end of the year, and their fund balance was forwarded to AMICA International in January, 2004. The Northern Lights Chapter did not submit a financial report for 2003, and submitted a late report in 2002. The Texas Chapter submitted a late financial report for 2003, and their information is not included in the Chapter Account Summary.

Chapter income is mostly from dues and interest. The Pacific Can-Am Chapter hosted a convention in Portland, Oregon with a net profit of \$3,731.58. AMICA International received 35% of the convention proceeds, or \$1306.05. Expenses for the chapters are mostly related to printing, postage and expenses for chapter meetings. Other expenses of note include: The Sierra Nevada Chapter hosted a Ragtime Concert; The Chicago Chapter hosted a Christmas Gathering at Sanfilippo's; and the SOWNY Chapter hosted an event at the Bevgwardt's Bicycle Museum. The end of year 2003 balance for the chapters of \$55,626.20 is down about 1% from the beginning of year balance.

SUMMARY

AMICA International continues to be financially sound due to a steady income from membership dues, Memorial Fund contributions, convention profits and to a lessening extent – advertising and interest. For the period 1999 through the projection for 2004, expenses exceed income by \$18,629.20. A membership dues increase is needed to provide the same level of member services with a declining membership.

All required informational forms for 2003 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

2003 exceeded \$100,000.00, filing of Federal Information Form 990 was required. As in the past, the Chapter Treasurers have been very helpful in providing the necessary Chapter information. Thanks to all of the Chapter Treasurers for their support.

Respectfully submitted,
Wesley Neff
AMICA Treasurer

Wes pointed out that there is an anticipated \$7000 budget shortfall in 2004, and that 70% of our expenses

come from the costs of the Bulletin and reprints. These costs are rising each year. Since this report was written, the mentioned CD matured and was replaced by a smaller \$20,000 CD earning 3.15% interest. He reported that the individual Chapter treasuries have healthy balances.

INCOME **AMICA National 1999 thru 2003 Actuals and 2004 Budget**

Category	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 (plan)
advertising (bulletin)	3,968.80	3,150.80	2,173.10	3,172.10	1,969.80	1,320.00
advertising (directory)	2,830.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,755.00	0.00
convention fund	1,053.81	0.00	167,654.31	2,246.33	5,101.05	2,000.00
interest received	1,263.31	2,480.73	1,932.64	1,664.13	1,432.46	438.60
membership dues	60,304.20	59,738.79	40,147.89	89,699.90	47,831.61	54,000.00
memorial fund donations	322.00	329.00	322.00	1,329.00	1,040.00	955.00
sales (books \$ AV)	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
sales (bound bulletins)	6.00	252.00	764.00	744.00	15.00	0.00
sales (tech and leaders)	313.75	413.50	239.50	265.00	115.00	355.00
miscellaneous	290.00	45.00	745.70	0.00	10.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	70,426.87	66,409.82	213,979.14	99,120.46	59,269.92	59,068.60

EXPENSES

Category	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 (plan)
AV	155.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
awards	613.86	774.56	44.75	653.30	116.61	450.00
bank charges	254.91	429.13	653.81	643.16	665.18	632.00
convention	296.12	3,116.37	158,632.80	1,082.25	4,745.00	1,000.00
handling: bulletin	2,133.00	2,640.00	3,048.00	3,193.00	3,937.25	3,200.00
handling: directory	448.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	497.00	0.00
insurance	1,730.00	1,909.00	2,093.00	2,457.00	2,648.00	2,850.00
internet	394.14	460.55	0.00	289.00	165.00	200.00
legal & professional fees	20.00	20.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	85.00
membership sect. stipend	2,465.00	2,283.00	2,219.94	2,174.83	2,049.00	2,000.00
misc: copies	452.41	227.70	299.03	326.00	0.00	150.00
misc: office equipment	250.00	1,099.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
misc: office supplies	366.50	678.93	298.75	482.10	754.24	965.00
miscellaneous	730.50	1,919.00	-0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
postage: bulletin	7,922.61	8,354.90	8,533.43	7,378.63	8,722.03	8,342.00
postage: directory	1,482.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,664.53	0.00
postage: officers & misc	3,433.00	1,375.41	2,352.05	2,287.73	2,518.28	2,685.00
printing: bulletin	26,889.00	25,238.00	24,076.00	21,086.00	29,819.00	25,000.00
printing: directory	10,905.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	8,600.00	0.00
printing: inserts	9,087.72	3,370.49	537.00	2,098.23	1,083.56	780.00
printing: reprints	3,979.00	3,502.00	11,697.00	2,683.00	7,636.00	8,400.00
printing: stationery	1,124.15	73.00	80.50	0.00	0.00	100.00
printing: AMICA brochures	0.00	0.00	1,624.47	49.25	1,418.82	0.00
printing: leaders	0.00	0.00	0.00	624.95	0.00	0.00
publisher fees	9,000.00	10,500.00	7,500.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
refunds	64.00	37.00	84.00	0.00	42.00	52.00
telephone	1,652.57	581.27	33.14	2.55	24.79	25.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	85,849.26	68,609.31	223,842.17	56,545.98	86,141.29	65,916.00
NET GAIN (income - expense)	-15,422.39	-2,199.49	-9,863.03	42,574.48	-26,871.37	-6,847.40

continue. . .

AMICA International 2003 Income and Expense Summary

	National	Memorial Fund	Chapters	Total
Income				
advertising	3,724.80	-	-	3,724.80
convention income	5,101.05	-	45,778.36	50,879.41
convention seed return	-	-	-	-
events (chapters)	-	-	10,131.00	10,131.00
interest received	1,056.25	376.21	494.38	1,926.84
membership dues	47,831.61	-	5,065.88	52,897.49
memorial fund	-	1,400.00	-	1,400.00
sales: bulletins	15.00	-	-	15.00
sales: tech and leaders	115.00	-	-	115.00
miscellaneous	10.00	-	462.27	472.27
Total	57,853.71	1,416.21	61,931.89	121,201.81
Expenses				
awards	116.61	-	1,000.00	1,116.61
bank charges	665.18	-	-	665.18
convention expenses	4,745.00	-	43,352.83	48,097.83
dues paid	-	-	462.00	462.00
dues refund	42.00	-	-	42.00
events (chapters)	-	-	10,673.74	10,673.74
handling bulletin	3,528.00	-	-	3,528.00
handling directory	497.00	-	-	497.00
handling dues notices	409.25	-	-	409.25
insurance	2,648.00	-	-	2,648.00
internet	165.00	-	-	165.00
legal & prof. fees	35.00	-	-	35.00
membership sect.	2,049.00	-	-	2,049.00
memorial fund	-	-	450.00	450.00
miscellaneous	-	-	4,095.69	4,095.69
misc: copies	-	-	-	-
misc: office supplies	754.24	-	-	754.24
postage	12,904.84	-	1,696.45	14,601.29
printing: bulletin	29,819.00	-	-	29,819.00
printing: brochures	-	1,418.82	-	1,418.82
printing: reprints	7,636.00	-	-	7,636.00
printing: directory	8,600.00	-	-	8,600.00
printing: misc.	1,083.56	-	436.42	1,519.98
publisher fees	9,000.00	-	-	9,000.00
supplies (chapters)	-	-	465.99	465.99
telephone	24.79	-	-	24.79
Total	84,722.47	1,418.82	62,633.12	148,774.41
Account Balances				
1-Jan-04	44,729.60	7,930.33	55,626.20	108,286.13
1-Jan-03	71,598.36	7,932.94	56,327.43	135,858.73

AMICA 2003 Chapter Accounts

Chapter	Starting Balance (1/1/ 3)			2003 Income						
Name	Cash	Savings	Total	Dues		Interest	Conv. Income	Events	Miscellaneous	Total Income
				(chapter)	(national)					
Boston Area	76,156	0	76,156	368		19.16		242		629.16
Chicago Area	644.66	5344.22	5988.88	5		23.29		576		6283.29
Founding	6113.44	0	6113.44	612	42					1,132
Gateway	0	3259.5	3259.5	66		19.87				85.87
Heart of America	3389.8	5649.17	9,038.97	115		16.5		612	158.32	9,014.82
Lady Liberty	1678.6	0	1678.6	1273.88						1273.88
Midwest	2263.88	7632.34	9896.22	544		219.48			179.95	943.43
*Northern lights	532.59	0	532.59	19						19
Pacific Car-Am	2984.86	0	2984.86	6		27.92		45778.36		45866.28
Sierra Nevada	0	783.41	783.41	315		2.12		689	12	1126.12
Southern California	3983,1	5141.15	9124.16	452		1,17.7		2828	4	3391.7
*** Southern Skies	26,137	0	26,137							0
SOWNY	0	4868.84	4868.84	15		58.34				2,834
** Texas	0	1,137,13	1,137,13							0
Total	22611.77	33715.66	56327.43	4645.88	42	494.38		45778.36	1,131	462.27
										61931.89

* Northern Lights Chapter activity shown is from 2002 which was reported late, no 2003 activity reported

** Texas Chapter reported 2003 activity late, 2003 activity is not included in the totals.

*** Southern Skies Chapter dissolved - Balance of \$26,337 forwarded to International in January, 2004

AMICA 2003 Chapter Accounts

Chapter	2003 Expense										Ending Balance (12/31/ 3)			
Name	Printing	Postage	Telephone	Supplies	Awards	Conv. Expense	Events	Memorial Fund	National Dues Paid	Misc	Total Expenses	Cash	Savings	Total
Boston Area							4,484				498.79		89.93	89.93
Chicago Area		144.39		117.37			5,515.45				5,777.21	1127.45	5367.51	6494.96
Founding		134.68						2,000	42,000		754.68	639.76	0	639.76
Gateway										16.95	16.95	24.00	33.442	3328.42
Heart of America		181.44	14,000				672.00	25.00		2,643.83	3,662.27	584.53	5693.99	6278.52
Lady Liberty	#						65.00			153.72	83.372	2148.76	0	2148.76
Midwest		5.30	364.29	7.25				125.00	42.00	115.00	1,693.84	1293.99	7851.82	9145.81
Northern Lights			5,000	316.45							366.45	356.14	0	356.14
Pacific Can-Am		15.72	1,116	8.24		43,352.83		1,000		1,000	43,678.39	118.76	5,53.99	5172.75
Sierra Nevada		67.54	449.92	14.41			875.00			25.00	1,431.87		477.66	477.66
Southern California		141.42	167.36	2.27	1,000.00		2,467.45			6.19	3,784.69	3486.17	5245.00	8731.17
Southern Skies											0	26.37	0	26.37
SOWNY		25.00	5.26				89.00				164.26		4912.92	4912.92
Texas											0	0	137.3	137.3
Total	436.42	1696.45	0	465.99	1,000.00	43352.83	1,673.74	45.00	462.00	4,95.69	62633.12	1579.93	39835.27	55626.20

3. Other Reports

A. Publisher's Report – Mike Kukral

Publisher's Report For The Year 2003

Bulletins, Volume 40, No. 1-6

Printing\$25,455.00
 Envelopes817.00
 Postage6,948.03
 Labeling1,872.00

New Members Applications

Printed 3,025\$214.00

2003 Directory Quantity 1,900

Printing\$8600.00
 Postage1664.00
 Envelopes169.00
 Labels328.00

All Reprints 2003\$4886.00

Inserts\$310.00

Convention Inserts\$340.00

Miscellaneous

Binding, etc.\$342.00

Submitted by:

Mike Kukral, Publisher
 July 2004

B. Membership Secretary's Report Bill Chapman

Report Period:

June 2, 2003 to June 1, 2004

Membership

July 31, 1999 - 1551 members
 June 1, 2000 - 1494 members
 June 1, 2001 - 1459 members
 June 1, 2002 - 1375 members
 July 15, 2003 - 1354 members
 - includes 75 others*
 June 1, 2004 - 1341 members
 - includes 73 others**

*Non paying members-Affiliates 15, Founding Members 6, Honorary 5, Utility 2 and "dual households" 47

** Non paying members-Affiliates 16, Founding Members 5, Honorary 4, Utility 2, and "dual households" 47. Dual households were not identified separately in the past.

The net loss of members was 13.

Rate of Applications:

For planning purposes, the dropout rates are as indicated.

Applications		No Longer Members as of 2003	
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	20	40%

*About 40% of new applicants
drop out after one year.*

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	2004
Bulk Mail: \$42	1249	1167	1100
	MEMBERS	(USA ONLY)	
Air Mail: \$63	50	39	35
		(OVERSEAS)	
First Class: \$52	130	82	81
		(USA ONLY)	
Surface Mail: \$43	31	31	30
		(OVERSEAS, CHEAPER RATE)	
Canada: \$43	38	35	35
		(CANADA ONLY)	
Total	1498	1354	1281

Additional information:

New members: Of the 68 people who joined in 2003 there were 21 "trial" members who did not renew. These are probably people who joined for only 1 year to take a look at the organization.

However 47 people who joined in 2003 did renew for the new year.

Old Members: Of the 168 "drop-offs" noted at the renewal time for year 2004, 70 date their affiliation back to as far as 2000. The remainder of the drop-offs range from the years

1999 to 1976. Twenty two (22) were very early members who joined before 1975. So it can be seen that age is definitely a factor for membership loss.

Discussion: There will always be people who want to take a look at AMICA and find that the year's trial did not meet their needs. Loss of long-term members due to age or death will always occur. Those people who are in the middle, i.e. maintained membership for 5 to 10 years are of concern and may warrant some inquiry as to how the organization did not meet their needs.

Conclusion: There are a significant number of people who dropped out of AMICA after several years and this group warrants a follow-up to determine what they would like to experience in order to remain members. The same might be said of members who dropped out after only one or two years. AMICA is also experiencing a natural decline reflective of an aging population.

Submitted by:
Bill Chapman
Membership Secretary

Bill sent out packets of letters to all of the Board members prior to the convention from people who were not renewing their memberships. He asked for our feedback on the letters and for how to address the concerns of these former members. Many people expressed concern that there is not a major effort to reach people who drop out. John Motto-Ros said that we are competing with many other special interest organizations, so have to show more initiative to recruit and keep members. Since the Chapters are the lifeblood of the organization, Linda Bird suggested that we need to add chapters in areas where there are enough people to start a new one. Some of the concerns were related to economic issues. People can't afford to maintain collections, or to attend conventions so lose interest. Only a small part of the actual membership attends the convention, observed

Marvin Polan. John Motto-Ros acknowledged that we have an expensive hobby, but also stressed that we get the word out to potential new members and pass out Bulletins and membership applications at appropriate venues. Perhaps a trial membership at a lower rate, much like the Boston Chapter offers, could be given to people joining for the first year. Bill Chapman drafted a questionnaire to send to members who drop out to see if we can address their concerns.

In maintaining the Membership Directory and instrument listings, Karl Ellison and his friends put together a format that will make it easier to update information on the list each year when renewals come in. The list is always available to members in digital format for a small fee via disc or e-mail. Karl said that it will be easier to maintain each year because it will continually be based on a more accurate list. Bill said that in the future, it will cost less to publish the Directory and instrument listing because the printer can use this updatable database.

C. Nominating Committee Report – Linda Bird

In accordance with the AMICA By-Laws, a nominating committee of seven members was elected at the Board meeting in 2003. The following people served on that committee:

CHAIRMAN:

Linda Bird - Immediate Past President
.....Grandview, MO

MEMBERS:

Liz BarnhartDayton, OH
Gary Craig.St. Louis, MO
Jere DeBacker.Denver, CO
Dee Kavouras.Beverly Hills, FL
Herbert Mercer.Westlake Village, CA
Dianne Polan.Melville, NY

The Nominating Committee has selected the following members for nomination in the noted offices. This slate of officers will be presented at the General Membership Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

continue. . .

PRESIDENT

MICHAEL WALTER

.....Lancaster, NY

VICE-PRESIDENT

JOHN MOTTO-ROS

.....Sutter Creek, CA

SECRETARY

FLORIE HIRSCH

.....Potomac, MD

TREASURER

WESLEY NEFF

.....Findlay, OH

These nominees meet the qualifications as listed in the AMICA By-Laws and have agreed to be nominated for the specified office. After approval by the Board, I will present these nominees to the membership assembled at the 2004 General Membership Meeting in Denver, CO, for their approval to fulfill the duties of the prescribed offices for the next two years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Bird

AMICA Past President and Chairman,
AMICA Nominating Committee

Linda Bird announced the slate of officers and reminded us that there would be an election at the General Membership Meeting after breakfast.

D. Memorial Fund Report –

John Motto-Ros

I assumed the position of Chairman, AMICA Memorial Fund mid-2003, and I have collected an additional \$629 since the last year's report of \$620. This makes a total of \$1249 for 2003. Of this total, \$950 was donated in memory of an individual and \$299 was donated with yearly dues.

From January 1, 2004, to May 31, 2004, I have received \$415. Of this total, \$375 was donated in memory of an individual and \$40 was contributed with yearly dues.

For donations in memory of an individual, letters were sent to family members or a friend telling them of the memorial with copies to donators and to Wesley Neff (with check).

Thank you letters were also sent to everyone who added a contribution when paying their dues.

Respectfully submitted

JOHN MOTTO-ROS, Chairman
AMICA Memorial Fund

John gave the details of the financials and said that there were more contributions with the dues renewals this year. He would like to make the membership more aware of what the Fund is and what it is used for and will request to run an ad in every issue of the Bulletin.

E. Audio-Visual/Technicalities

Report – none available

Terry Smythe would like direction on how to continue with the Technicalities. He has been compiling new issue using past Bulletins, but there has been no request to publish the next issue. There has been no activity in the past two years in the A/V committee. Marvin Polan told about other organizations who are duping VHS tapes onto DVD for longevity and easier access. He suggested that we make an effort to preserve what AMICA archives are available as they are the sole source of information. It was agreed that we should inventory what items we have and make sure the items can be preserved in a usable format so members could use these items. Mike Walter made a motion that we ask someone to view the tapes that are available and to review the information contained in them to determine the value of replication. Dick Merchant seconded and the board passed the motion. We also need to find a new Technicalities Coordinator. It is the President's job to appoint committee chairs, so this will be addressed by incoming President Mike Walter in the near future.

F. Archives Report – none available

G. Convention Coordinator's

Report – Frank Nix

**2004 – Denver, Colorado
August 4 – 8**

The Holiday Inn, Denver Downtown

This year we are in the spectacularly beautiful state of Colorado enjoying

brehtaking 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

June 30 – July 3

Minneapolis Marriott, Downtown

AMICA is welcomed back to Minneapolis, Minnesota where Don Barton is Convention Chairman.

2006 – Chicago, Illinois

July 25 – 30

Hyatt Regency, Woodfield

Mel Septon is Convention Chair.

2007 – Germany

and surrounding areas

As of this writing, Liz and Mike Barnhart and Convention Chairs Frank and Shirley Nix are traveling in Europe to form plans and make travel arrangements.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Nix

Convention Coordinator

Frank Nix, Convention Coordinator, acknowledged the help of his wife Shirley and also Mike and Liz Barnhart in planning future Conventions. He also commended Jere DeBacker and his committee for the itinerary for this year's Convention.

The biggest concern going forward is to keep the cost of attending a Convention within the reach of the members. There has to be a give and take between the room costs vs. registration plus add-on costs. He asked if it is better to present a lower room rate to attract more attendees.

Quite a few people stay at nearby hotels, thus cutting into our total room nights. The room nights are used in negotiating for meeting rooms and other hotel services.

The 2007 Convention will be from July 6-20, starting in Munich and ending in Amsterdam. We should have at least 50 people attending to make the trip practical. A deposit will be required one year in advance.

H. Publications Report – Robin Pratt

AMICA REPRINTS FOR 2003 JULY 1, 2004

1--Explanatory Talk for Service
Men on ARTECHO

Qty Printing Insert

1861 \$439 \$180.

(includes 5 convention items)

2--A/E Aeolian Stroud art case pianos

Qty Printing Insert

1500 \$1254. \$30.

(Richfield phono & Danbury)

3--Duo-Art Piano booklet

Qty Printing Insert

1500 \$1666. \$30.

(2)

4--Wonder of the Duo-Art

Qty Printing Insert

1500 \$232. \$90.

(3,4 & 5)

5--Banquet Photos 2 kinds 4 shots

Qty Printing Insert

1500 \$194. \$40.

(6)

6--The Wonderful Boudoir

Player Piano

Qty Printing Insert

1600 \$1081.

Total Printing -- \$4866.

Insertion charge -- \$370.

Reprints are an important part of our history and are fragile items. With a total of \$5236. spent on them in 2003, and divide that by 1400 members, it comes to a small total of \$3.74 per member spent on these reprints. The high quality by Engler

Printing has resulted in praise world wide and several of them are in the United State Library of Congress.

Some members feel that they are unnecessary while many members have said that without the reprints, they would not renew their memberships. The members who do not care for them should donate them to libraries or even sell them. I have seen them go on line auction. Plus it is good advertising for AMICA.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robin Pratt

I. Award Committee Report – Mike Walter

J. Honorary Members Report – from Jay Albert

The following show 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
Max Morath *
Mieczyslaw Munz 1900 1976
Conlon Nancarrow 1997
Elly Ney 1882 1968
Ray Noble 1903 1978
Guiomar Novaes Pintot 1895 1979
Erwin Nyiregyhazi 1903

continued. . .

Leo Ornstein 1892 2002
Wilfred Pelletier 1896 1982
Gray Perry 1898 1995
Genevieve Pitot 1980
Leo Podolsky 1891 1987
John Powell 1882 1944
Vera Richardson 1978
Claire Rivers Moody 1893
Douglas Roe 1903 1994
O. Fred Rydeen
Domenico Savino 1883 1973
Carl I. Schneider 1976
Germaine Schnitzer 1889 1983
Leonard Smith 1901 1993
Sigmund Spaeth 1885 1965
Ernest L. Stevens 1894 1982
Reginald Stewart 1899 1984
Alexandre Tansman 1897 1986
Ramsi Tick 1925 2000
Donald D. Voorhees 1903 1989
Pete Wendling 1888 1974
Maurice Roy Wetzel 1895
Isabelle Yalkovsky Byman 1906 1981
Victor Zuck 1908 *

Only five of the Honoraries are still living. Karl Ellison requested that Jay Albert update the dates on the list accordingly. As chair, Jay again asked if the nominations should be reopened for new Honoraries. Dan Brown has had several suggestions for nominees. Honoraries receive perks such as free Bulletins with their membership. Dorothy Olds made a motion that we reopen the request for nominees and to change the name to the AMICA HALL OF FAME. Mike Walter seconded the motion. Discussion was initiated by Ron Connor, reminding us of previous criteria that prevents the recipient from using the implied endorsement of AMICA for commercial gain. The criteria in the by-laws address the concerns of Ron and other Board members. We must make sure that new nominees have contributed substantially to the field of Mechanical Music. A vote was taken and the motion was carried. Since the option to add new Hall of Famers now exists, Marvin Polan moved to add Harvey and Marion Roehl as nominees to the AMICA Hall of Fame. John Motto-Ros seconded and a vote was called for by Dan Brown. The motion carried. Mike Walter then moved to add roll artist Rudy Martin.

Dianne Polan seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed. Then Ron Connor moved to place Dick Howe in the Hall of Fame. Linda Bird seconded and the vote approved the choice.

K. Webmaster Report – none available

There was no official report this year with the transition between Webmasters. Karl Ellison requested permission to give a facelift to the entire AMICA Web site. Earlier he showed us an example of a layout created in Front Page®. He said he could update and maintain the Web site, but would not be able to handle all of the correspondence generated by the site. John Motto-Ros said that he and Jack Edwards would work to provide content for the site. Karl also suggested changing the host for the site to one who provides the space, service and backup protocol that we require. He will investigate further.

Larry Kerecman of the Denver Convention Committee created the Convention site and was getting a lot of hits from search engines on mechanical music related terms. He hoped that we will add a strong Frequently Asked Questions page to support the most popular questions asked via e-mail. He also thought that the shared responsibility for maintenance of information would help the new Webmaster in maintaining the site. It was suggested that Jack Edwards be asked to handle the e-mail questions, and it was hoped that there would be a committee of advisors to consult for questions in various areas of expertise when needed. Others suggested the decision on whether to add links should be evaluated on an individual basis, but if they are added, the AMICA window would remain active so we don't lose visitors to our site. We hope to have cooperation and reciprocal links with other appropriate resources. After further discussion, Dan appointed Karl as Webmaster, with Jack Edwards and Larry Kerecman assisting as needed.

A 15 minute break was allowed.

L. Executive Committee Report – no report this year

M. Chapter Reports

The Board meeting resumed with a review of the Chapter Reports that 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 chapter has met an average of 4 times a year, at varied venues.

- Oct. 3, 2003: Home of Ginger and Chris Christiansen, Nashua NH
- Dec. 13, 2003: Chapter Christmas Dinner (restaurant) and reception at Dorothy Bromage's, Billerica MA
- Mar. 28, 2004: Home of Bill Koenigsberg, Concord MA
- Apr. 24, 2004: Mason & Hamlin Piano Company - Factory tour and Luncheon, Haverhill MA.

The chapter has 49 paid households for 2004, compared to 45 in 2003, 49 in 2002, and 66 in 2001. There are no chapter members that are not National members.

There is \$1233.58 in the bank as of May 16, 2004.

Submitted by, Karl Ellison
Boston Board Representative

The Boston Chapter is making an effort to step up their meetings and have added four new members this year. They send notices to everyone within their geographical area.

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

Chicago Area Chapter currently has

continue. . .

85 paid members. We have had a great year and finished 2003 with a holiday party at Jasper Sanfilippo's. The holiday party had 188 attendees and brought in 6 new members. Our most recent meeting was to hear that celebrated maestro of ragtime, Max Morath, play at the Woodstock Opera House. Currently we're all working hard to get everything ready for the 2006 AMICA International Convention! We're planning to make 2006 a memorable convention for all who come to The Windy City.

*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

The Founding Chapter of AMICA currently has 32 members on the rolls. We have been encouraged to have had several new enthusiastic members sign up this past year.

We lost two members who passed away this past year, Luis Chardon and Elmer Klein, both of whom were active members in the past. Luis Chardon will be remembered for some very spirited local meetings.

We have had meetings quarterly in the past year. We would like to promote having meetings every other month with new members, perhaps this will be a possibility. At our March meeting the chapter voted to contribute \$3000. toward the Adopt-A-Piano project in Virginia City/Nevada City, Montana. This project was initiated by Founding Member Richard Reutlinger.

The Founding Chapter is concerned about the loss of members nationally and supports the idea of a more active, appealing Web site to promote AMICA.

Submitted by, Richard D. Reutlinger

Founding Chapter Board Rep

The Founding Chapter regrets to report that long time member Dale Lawrence passed away this year.

GATEWAY CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

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

The Gateway Chapter continues to struggle with membership. We are having a hard time getting people to host meetings. 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 this 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.

I will report on our July meeting at the Board Meeting. 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

The Heart of America Chapter continues to be an active chapter with well attended meetings. In September the Chapter met in Branson, MO

where members enjoyed a dinner and theater. At the meeting Past President Linda Bird presented the Leo Ornstein award to Ron Bopp, who had not been present at the Portland Convention to receive it.

October found us in Abilene, Kansas to play our band and monkey organs at a festival held by the Dickinson County Historical Society. Of interest here was their Parker steam carousel, up and operating. The day ended with dinner at a local landmark, the Brookville Hotel. In the morning we were off to Manhattan Kansas for a meeting at Blaine and Armenda Thomas' musical museum.

In December we gathered at the new home of Paul and Shirley Morganroth for the annual Christmas Party. The usual gift exchange took place along with a performance of the Heart of America Thespians which is always good for a laugh. The day ended by attending a nearby theater for a performance of "A Country Christmas". In the morning we visited Craig and Ellen Brougher for a brunch and a chance to hear their interesting instruments and see Craig's latest projects. The fun was followed by a business meeting.

The current year began with a meeting at Galen and Linda Bird's in April. They had a pig roast and we all got reacquainted to the music of Galen's new Mason and Hamlin Ampico grand. The next morning we returned for brunch (if nothing else, you won't starve at the Bird's) and a business meeting.

There was an organ rally in Topeka, Kansas on June 19th. It was the free day on their carousel, the train that runs through the park and the zoo. There were thousands of people in the park with lots of interest in the organs. In fact, one of the police officers is very interested in acquiring a monkey organ and may join AMICA. We put on a demonstration in the amphitheater that evening and explained about the different organs. On Sunday morning H.C. & Marlene Beckman invited us to their home for a delicious brunch and business meeting.

continue. . .

During the year we have had a number of discussions at our business meetings about the problems AMICA is having getting and retaining members and the related problem of finances. One thing everyone seemed to agree on is that we should drop the reprints that frequently come with the Bulletin. There is almost no interest in these in our Chapter and we think this is one place we could cut costs.

Another thing that keeps coming up is getting more variety in the Bulletin. There seems to be some move in that direction and we understand that it will take some time for the new Publisher to make changes and the word to get out that articles on subjects other than pianos will be considered. It was suggested that some of those whose articles had been turned down might resubmit them. Some of the problems discussed are not in AMICA's power to do anything about, such as the weakened economy.

An additional problem that was often mentioned is the lack of places to get things rebuilt. Our chapter has taken on a project this year. Two of our members have been having health problems and they greatly miss their player piano which has stopped working. The Chapter has decided to rebuild it for them. Parts have been passed out to various volunteer members who will rebuild them and then in the fall these subassemblies will be brought to Craig Brougner's house and the piano will be reassembled and returned to its owners.

*Submitted by, Ron Connor,
Chapter Rep
Heart of America Chapter*

LADY LIBERTY CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

President: Vincent Morgan
Vice President: Keith Bigger
Secretary: Maureen Saboda
Treasurer: Ira Malek
Reporters: Buzz Rosa

Board Reps: Dianne &
. Marvin Polan
Membership Chairman: . Keith Bigger

We have four meetings a year:

October 19th, 2003: Dave Calendine played at the home of Bob and Catherine Martin. He is an Organist for the Detroit's Radio City Music Hall.

December 28th, 2003: Joe Hutter gave workshop on the Aeolian Orchestrelle at the home of the Polans. A month later the meeting was held again in the Polans' home for a video taping by the local PBS Channel which was shown in two segments over the next few months.

May 15th, 2004: We held a meeting at Dr. Lenwood Wert's home. We had a hands on workshop on a crank organ and band organ. As an added extra some members went to Ruth and Bill Kromer's home to see his fantastic tool workshop.

July 17th, 2004: There will be a meeting at Bill Maguire's home. Bill will do hands on workshops. "How To Remove The Action From A Player Grand Piano."

Besides meetings, Chapter Members participated in the grand opening of the New York State Empire State Carousel by bringing player pianos, band organs and street organs. Our member Randolph Herr gave a concert at our local library on his Pianola. He also played at the Museum of the American Piano in New York City. Videos of his concerts are available upon request.

New Members: 46

New Business: We request that Amica International Membership Chairman notify Chapter Presidents of new members so chapters can contact these new members to welcome them.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Dianne and Marvin Polan*

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 a total of 74 household memberships. Our chapter is having a problem trying to find meeting dates. We can't meet in the snow months and between May and September there are 8 organ rallies plus 2 meetings all in our area and held by other music groups.

We knew we could not fit in a meeting last fall, so we held one in the upstairs lobby at the Portland Doubletree Hotel. All 18 Midwest members attending the convention came and all officers were present except our president. We voted to donate \$1200. to the "Adopt a Piano" project when names of specific instruments become available.

Our December meeting was in Findlay, OH with hosts, Bev and Tom Gustwiller and Sherri and Wes Neff. A highlight of the weekend was playing "Name That Tune" using excerpts of old piano rolls put together on one roll and pumped by Wes Neff on his upright player. We voted to contribute to the AMICA Memorial Fund in memory of Judy Wulfekuhl, Frank Rider, Lewis Schwartzkopf, Donna Counterman and Lawrence Frazer. We also visited the Piano Roll Shop operated by Elizabeth Rettig.

In May we gathered at the Cleveland Museum of Art and then had our choice of going there or to the other museums, Natural History, Botanical Gardens, and Crawford Auto-Aviation. That evening and our Sunday meeting were at Carol and Karl Thiel's in Chagrin Falls. Karl's father, Al, was secretary of the Midwest Chapter in the 70's and Karl has inherited his pianos. We also held an informal mart.

Our next meeting will be July 17-18 in Indianapolis hosted by Jody Trittipio, Miriam Hanscom and Tim

continue. . .

Needler and will include a trip to Boggstown Dinner Theater.

Respectfully Submitted, Liz Barnhart
Midwest Board Rep

NORTHERN LIGHTS CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

President:Phillip Baird
Vice President:Paul Watkins
Secretary:Jason Beyer
Treasurer:Donald B. Jones
Reporter:Dorothy Olds
Board Rep:Dorothy Olds

There has been only one general meeting of members since the Portland meeting and that was held in December, our annual Christmas Party.

On that same day, prior to the meeting and dinner, the Convention Planning committee met. We have had several meetings since then. Plans are moving ahead. A presentation is planned for the Denver convention.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Olds
Northern Lights Board Rep

PACIFIC CAN-AM CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

Co-Presidents: ... Carl(now deceased)
..... & Peg Kehret
Vice President:Halie Dodrill
Secretary:Brian Tate
Treasurers:Jack &
.....Mary Lou Becvar
Reporter:Mark Smithberg
Board Rep:Carl Dodrill

Membership

As of March 20, 2004, the Pacific Can-Am Chapter membership consisted of 32 individuals who come from 20 households. This is a significant reduction from the previous year, primarily due to the nonpayment of dues. 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 prominently included Carl Kehret who was Co-President

when he passed on. He will be greatly missed as he contributed in vital ways to our chapter back to its start in 1994.

Treasury

In March 2004, we had \$340.76 in our checking account, \$2,056.32 in a certificate of deposit, and a savings account with a balance of \$2,778.47. This is a near doubling of our financial assets since last year because of money made on the Portland convention in August, 2003.

Chapter Activities

Chapter activities have continued regularly. Each year we have four meetings with 15 to 40 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 2003 AMICA Convention which was held in Portland, Oregon from August 20 to 24, 2003. Carl Dodrill was Convention Chair and Al Menashe from Portland was the Convention Co-chair. Our committee consisted of persons from the state of Washington (Dan Brown, Halie Dodrill, Carl Kehret, Dean Randall until his death early last 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). The convention registered 183 people, including a significant number

of people who were not AMICA members, who were comfortably situated in the Doubletree Downtown Portland Hotel which had a most helpful staff. 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. On Thursday we all boarded buses for a daylong tour of the Columbia River Gorge. The tour included the Gorge itself, Mt. Hood, Multnomah Falls, and the International Museum of Carousel Art in Hood River, Oregon. This museum is home to the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of antique carousel art. Furthermore, we had a chance to see a restorer at work.

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 was 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, and this became the convention's souvenir roll. Nathan performed a full length piano concert of both popular and classical pieces to an enthusiastic audience. Carl Kehret organized the Technical Sessions which were especially broad in scope this year. Karl Ellison, demonstrating unbelievable control of the piano's expression, won the Pumper Contest. On Saturday morning, AMICAns went to the Oaks Park Roller Rink and Amusement Park in Portland where all enjoyed a wonderful concert on the Wurlitzer pipe organ by Jonas Nordwall. This was followed by an extended visit to the Sellwood Antique area of Portland with more than 50 shops. That evening, the banquet was held in the ballroom of the hotel with excellent

continue. . .

food and with dancing to the music provided by the Dick Saunders Orchestra. The convention concluded the next day with the Farewell Breakfast and with visits to six open houses which had been arranged by Don McLaughlin of our convention committee. Free transportation was provided to all open houses for anyone who wished to go and who did not have a way to get there.

The AMICA - 2003 - Convention Committee wishes to thank 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 and to Bev Spore who assisted in many ways.

Other activities beyond the convention occurred throughout the year. The chapter voted to undertake the rebuilding of a player piano for placement in the American Museum of Radio in Bellingham, Washington. Kurt Morrison, Troy Taylor, Mark Smithberg, Ron Babb, and Carl Kehret (until his death) have pressed ahead on this project. A rebuild of the player grand piano in the Paramount Theater in Seattle was approved by the Chapter, and this will be done as time permits. Norm and Sally Gibson sponsored the third band organ rally in June in Ocean Shores, Washington. Bill Masterman maintains a Wurlitzer band organ that he has rebuilt, and he has been successful in getting it installed in Washington State's largest county fair, the Puyallup County Fair. Brian Tate continues to go to schools to illustrate automatic musical instruments. Other members furthered the mission of AMICA by volunteering their time on a consistent basis.

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

SIERRA NEVADA CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

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

The Sierra Nevada Chapter has 19 memberships; most of these are couples, but we have a few individual memberships. The Chapter has met three times since the 2003 Convention in Portland. We have another meeting scheduled for June 27.

Our continuing goal is to expose more people to automatic musical instruments. Long-time members Bob and Sonja Lemon are developing a chapter web page to link to the AMICA International web site. This could be a tool to attract new members. We have a new, very young member who is obsessed with Photo Players, and he does own one. His goal is to place it in the ballroom of the Stockton Hotel (being renovated) and show silent movies. The chapter is currently talking about a player piano with trailer to use on weekends in malls and other locations to promote AMICA.

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

John Motto-Ros reported that since the writing of this report, their new Chapter Web site has been launched and can be accessed from AMICA's Chapter page.

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

Officers:

President: Mike Walter
Vice President: Stan Aldridge
Secretary: Garry & Anne Lemon
Treasurer: Holly Walter

Reporter: Frank Warbis
Board Rep: Holly Walter

The S.O.W.N.Y. chapter of AMICA is alive and well, although the number of chapter members has declined. Our chapter has 18 current members with a few more new members on the horizon.

During the past twelve months we have had five chapter meetings at various homes throughout the region. We are looking forward to two or possibly three more before the end of the year.

Concerning finances, we currently have \$1,487.30 in our chapter checking account and \$3,400 in a CD account to be used for chapter projects.

Our current chapter project is the restoration of a Weber Duo-Art grand piano in the workshop of Harold Hodgkins.

We are looking to find ways of increasing membership in our chapter and also the international organization. Chapter president Mike Walter has mentioned auctioning memberships to our organization on P.B.S. TV auctions here in the Buffalo/Toronto market and also P.B.S. stations across the country. The chapter feels that it would be a great way of advertising our organization and we unanimously endorse the idea.

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

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

President: Frank Nix
Vice President: Jerry Pell
Secretary: Shirley Nix
Treasurer: Ken Hodge
Reporter: Shirley Nix
Board Rep: Frank Nix

2004 has been a busy year for our chapter. The December meeting was held at the home of Bob and Diane Lloyd. AMICA invited MBSI

continue. . .

members as usual, and the crowd was large with many old friends. The Lloyds have a large collection of musical machines, clocks, and other "goodies", all in good working order.

In February Mike and Marilyn Ames hosted our meeting in Solana Beach. This meeting was well attended, with many of us taking the train from L.A. and back. The Ames have a wonderful collection, and the star of this meeting was the newly restored Weber Solea, playing beautifully.

April was a busy month, with an organ rally in Redlands on the 17th. This one got rained out! The next weekend we had our annual rally in Descanso Gardens. It was, as usual, a very successful rally with large crowds and a beautiful setting.

In May we had our meeting at the Nix home in Woodland Hills. Two instruments many had not seen before were the newly restored Hupfeld Helios 1C31 and the Ruth 35-A, both pleasing the crowd. We had a potluck luncheon, so no one went home hungry.

May 16th found us having a rally in Pasadena at historical locations for their celebration, very well attended.

June 20th, Father's Day, found many of us back in Pasadena at the Historical Museum, with a few of us at the Father's Day Classic Car Show playing for the crowds at the Cal Lutheran College.

July 10 and 11 will find us at a meeting planned at the home of Jim and Caroyl Westcott in Lompoc, and at the Print Shop of Doug and Audrey Mussell. This will be our last chance to see the Westcott collection, since they are selling the whole thing and moving. They have a large collection, and put on a very entertaining meeting. Doug and Audrey also have a large orchestrion collection, so it will be a weekend filled with music and fellowship.

Our treasury is healthy, with 86 paid members. (The organ rallies and word of mouth seem to be our major source of new members.)

Submitted by
Frank and Shirley Nix
Southern California Board Reps

TEXAS CHAPTER REPORT

Officers:

President: Jerry Bacon
Vice President: Bill Boruff
Secretary: Janet Tonnesen
Treasurer: Vicki Brady
Reporter: Haden Vandiver
Board Rep: Dick Merchant

Our main objective has been to maintain an active and viable chapter this year with emphasis on having quality and enjoyable meetings.

To summarize meetings that we had in 2003 since the last convention to date in 2004:

Sept. 26-28, 2003 – Joint Meeting with Sunbelt Chapter MBSI – Band Organ Rally at Fair Park in Dallas with open houses at Walter & Jessie Moore's and Richard & Janet Tonnesen's homes.

Dec. 13, 2003 – Jerry Bacon Christmas dinner meeting/gift swap – Dallas

Feb 15, 2004 Sal & Elaine Mele, home visit and Organ/Choir concert following dinner – Dallas

May 1, 2004 Olden Year Musical Museum – Duncanville

Two more meetings are planned for 2004 - a fall meeting and the Christmas meeting.

Attendance at meetings has increased and averages 20-25 in attendance. We had quite a few members that didn't renew from last year dropping us down from last year's 73 memberships to 66 this year.

We still struggle to find hosts for meetings and to find volunteers for office. We are working to increase the Chapter membership and the involvement of the members.

Regards, Dick Merchant
Board Rep., Texas Chapter

5. Old Business

A. By-laws revision consideration concerning the statement of purpose of AMICA – Gary Craig, John Motto-Ros, Dick Merchant, Dan Brown

The header describing AMICA's intent on the information page in each

Bulletin does not reflect the current by-laws. The question was raised on whether to change the by-laws to reflect a new definition of our intent. Since it was determined that the by-laws are not a recruitment tool, they are not restrictive in their meaning. Mike Walter said that a better solution would be to create a new tag line to be used under the header opposite the inside front cover. Dick Merchant represented the opposing view, saying that we need to rewrite the by-laws to accurately reflect AMICA's direction today. He said we should include the preservation of the music as a priority of the organization. After much discussion, Linda Bird reverted to Mike's original premise. She moved to leave the by-laws the way they are, but requested revision of the Bulletin definition of AMICA's purpose to reflect the broader scope of the organization. Frank Nix seconded the motion and the vote passed, with Dick Merchant, Gary Craig and Bill Chapman disagreeing.

B. Adopt-A-Piano Program – Richard Reutlinger

Richard gave an update on the program. One of the main concerns was the method of transferring funds to the project. The Montana Heritage Commission does not want to administer an endowment fund. One of the goals of the program is to make the public aware of AMICA. Approximately 100,000 visitors per year pass through the Nevada City Music Hall during the season which runs from May to September. One of the first steps will be to determine which instruments are to be restored and a priority order for restoration. Frank Nix was concerned about the speed of the restoration due to Art Reblitz's busy schedule, but there seems to be no time schedule set as of yet. Richard will provide updates to the Bulletin when necessary. Dan Brown said that no further Board action is necessary to move the project forward.

C. Emmett Ford photo collection disposition/use – Dan Brown

Dan Brown asked for suggestions on what to do with the collection, which has been in the possession of several AMICA members since it was donated to the organization. When the Barnharts stored it in Ohio, they made an inventory of all of the items. Dan Brown has recently reviewed the materials and found most of them to be copies of articles or actual clippings from publications. There are perhaps two dozen real photos in the collection. He has now given the important articles to Mike Kukral to use for the Bulletin.

D. Membership growth ideas – John Motto-Ros, Bill Chapman, Bing Gibbs, Dan Brown

Bill Chapman is concerned about membership loss and asked for suggestions on how to maintain and add to membership. He had compiled a group of letters from former members and also a possible survey to determine why people drop out. Dan Brown maintains that Chapter activity is the way to get people to join. Public demonstrations are often used since many people have never seen any of these instruments, especially young people. Dianne Polan asked if there were any other Chapters who had a Membership Chairman. Keith Bigger of their Lady Liberty Chapter took it upon himself to call everyone in their Chapter area to invite them to come. They now have a thriving Chapter which was recently featured on the local PBS station.

The book “Pianos in America –1800 to 1940” was cited by John Motto-Ros as a great example on how to present the history of instruments. He wondered if perhaps the history of instruments of interest to AMICA could be profiled on our Web site. Mike Walter proposed the idea of promoting AMICA on the nationwide PBS television auctions. For a \$75.00 investment, we could essentially receive a 30 second “commercial” about AMICA. He will investigate the potential of how many households can be reached in each geographic area to determine the feasibility of the

proposal. On a Chapter level Carl Dodrill found that every one who did not renew merely forgot to do so. Other Chapters will make the effort to personally contact members who did not renew.

As Dan Brown stated earlier, we need to get instruments in front of the public. He suggested that we revisit the possibility of making funds available to get an instrument into a prominent location. John Motto-Ros wants to make sure that AMICA Brochures are available in all kinds of venues and at events where people may be interested in antiques or music. Karl Ellison suggested that we coordinate our Convention dates to avoid conflicts with like organizations so attendance at Conventions could be improved. Dan said that this is already is being done to some extent, citing last year’s Portland Convention and the possibility of riding the train to the MBSI convention the following week. Liz Barnhart suggested inviting college students from music education programs to see our collections to generate interest. We hope to publish ideas for recruiting new members in an upcoming bulletin.

E. AMICA e-group

Karl Ellison explained the workings of a Board Member only e-group to use in facilitating conversation between Board Members. It would be a closed, private group where others could not participate. Each e-mail on Board action would be sent to the entire group. There would be automatic archiving so we could look up topics of interest. There would also be free disk space for images or commonly needed documents such as the by-laws. It was decided that Karl would send an introductory e-mail to each member of the Board, inviting them to register for the group. If enough people approve of the group it will be implemented as our main means of communication, but we will make an effort to include others who can not participate due to lack of Web access.

6. New Business

A. Webmaster replacement and website design and content

This was previously addressed earlier in the meeting.

B. Notification to chapters of new International members – Dianne and Marvin Polan

The Polans request that the Chapters be notified immediately when a new member joins in their area. That way they can be invited to join the chapter and participate in local activities.

Note: the order of the agenda was changed at this point.

D. Historic reprints –

Ron Connor and Wes Neff

Ron Connor, representing the Heart of America Chapter, said that their chapter took a vote and the majority do not think that the reprints are necessary. Gary Craig from the Gateway Chapter agreed. John Motto-Ros said that we need to promote the reprints more as a perk to AMICA. Discussion followed on just what should be considered for a reprint. Should they relate to the Bulletin articles? The subject was then diverted from the reprints to a discussion of Bulletin content. There had been a concern that a recent Bulletin had been dominated by one large article. The Board agreed the need for diversity in articles. Carl Dodrill revisited last year’s suggestion of creating a Publications Committee which would have several people representing different interests. These members would determine if the author of an article was presenting valid information. They would also solicit and review articles submitted for publication. Carl moved that the President be directed to form an ad hoc Publications Committee with which our Publisher and Printer would serve. It should include people with expertise in various areas of mechanical music in which AMICA should be involved. The chair will be appointed by the President and should have a broad knowledge of

mechanical music and the skills to manage the committee and evaluate submissions to the Bulletin. Mike Walter seconded the motion. The vote was carried.

We then returned to the original topic of Historic Reprints. The Midwest Chapter discussed the topic at their July meeting and all agreed that they find the reprints valuable and enjoy reading them and displaying them. They suggested certain kinds of reprints they would like to have reproduced. Dan Brown pointed out that Robin Pratt had noticed the reprints selling online and suggested we do the same with surplus reprints. John Motto-Ros moved that we scan or photograph the existing ones and get them ready to put them on our Web site to sell. Christy Counterman seconded the motion, and the vote was approved. Wes Neff reviewed the current budget and how much each reprint had cost, and how much the cost had varied over the past months. Christy suggested that we determine a set budget for reprints to alleviate the financial problems caused by such a varying amount spent each time. Carl Dodrill suggested that the Publications Committee could make that decision. Wes Neff made a motion to stop publication of the reprints until the Publications Committee evaluates the process and makes a decision. Carl Dodrill seconded the motion. The vote was approved with two dissenting.

**C. Membership dues increase –
Wes Neff**

There will only be a minimal profit from this convention. Ron Connor suggested that we table any discussion

of increasing dues until we have further information on the need to do so. When the Publication costs are evaluated, it may not be necessary to raise dues if the budget can be trimmed otherwise. Gary seconded the motion and Dan pointed out that no motion is necessary in this case. Ron withdrew the motion.

**E. Airmail sending of Bulletins
to overseas members and
affiliates – Bill Chapman**

Bill Chapman discussed the costs of sending overseas subscriptions Airmail vs. Surface mail. It would take 4-6 weeks to receive a bulletin via surface mail for most members. No motion was made as there would not be enough savings to merit changing the way we mail the items.

**F. Request to change AMICA
convention days from
Wednesday-Sunday to
Tuesday-Saturday – Karl Ellison**

When it was pointed out that most discounted airfares require a Saturday overnight stay, Karl realized that there would be little savings from leaving the Convention Saturday and withdrew the suggestion.

**G. Future of Technicalities –
from Terry Smythe**

The future of Technicalities was covered earlier in this meeting.

**H. The petition for the
re-establishment of the Rocky
Mountain Chapter –
Larry Kerecman**

On July 31, 2004 thirteen members of the Denver Convention Committee voted unanimously to petition the

AMICA International Board of directors to re-establish the Rocky Mountain Chapter of AMICA. All petitioners are current members of AMICA International. They submitted a copy of the by-laws that were in effect at the time the Chapter was dissolved that will be used as provisional by-laws. Larry listed the states previously covered by the Chapter: Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, western Kansas, and western Nebraska. They request that the territory remain the same. Richard Reutlinger made a motion to re-establish the Rocky Mountain Chapter of AMICA. Gary Craig seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously approved. The Chapter will hold its first official meeting this fall.

Dan Brown asked if there were any more items to be discussed. Liz Barnhart showed the brass AMICA plaques suitable for engraving and asked to sell them at the Mart. Mike Walters asked how many members have foot-pumped player piano in their homes, and if we know if the majority of our chapter members have them. He was trying to gauge the focus of future membership efforts. After these discussions, President Dan Brown adjourned the meeting, and reminded Board Members to be prepared to give a brief report at the Membership Breakfast.

The Board reconvened later in the evening as the new Publisher, Mike Kukral had arrived. We discussed the direction of the Bulletin and suggested possible subjects for future bulletins. The Publications Committee was also discussed.

**DENVER
2004**