

# **Penn State Alumni Blue Band Association**

## **Minutes from Board Meeting**

### **June 23, 2001**

- Presiding:** Board President Sean Smith
- Participating:** Dick Ammon, George Cerminara, Abby Cook Diehl, Hubie Haugh, Clarence Hodges, Jerry Pronko, Tom Range, Bill Rote, Nate Sanders, Lee Shaw, Mark Sperry, April Strong, Ned Trautman.
- Absent:** Kelly O'Neill, Curt Harler, Mark Heckel, Dr. O. Richard Bundy, Director of Alumni Relations Joyce Hoffman.

#### **Call to Order**

Sean Smith called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., welcoming all. He introduced the new Treasurer, George Cerminara, and the newly appointed Board member, April Strong. He then introduced all members in attendance.

#### **Minutes from Previous Meeting (March 17, 2001)**

Mark Sperry read the minutes from the previous meeting. Several corrections were made, including the de-hyphenization of Abby Cook Diehl, noting in the "Board Members Concerns" section that she had volunteered for a research project but was in fact not in attendance, and that the "unusually low vote" also noted therein was as low as one vote.

Ned Trautman moved to approve minutes as amended and Tom Range seconded. The motion passed without opposition.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

A report from the Treasurer was submitted to the Board. George Cerminara advised the Board that the report reflects only income and expenses from the fiscal period 7/1/00 through 6/30/01. Since no activity will occur until after 6/30/01, the report represents the entire fiscal year showing an excess of revenues over expenses of \$3,562.35. Mark Sperry, former Treasurer, also presented historical information he prepared relative to expenses for such projects as Homecoming, the newsletter, nominating committee, purchases for the Blue Band, and ABBA operational expenses.

In response to a question from the Board, George Cerminara advised that very little expense was incurred during the fiscal period for the newly created Administrative Assistant position. It will be necessary to track hours and determine what level of time is appropriate ( $\frac{1}{4}$  time or  $\frac{1}{2}$  time usage). A review will be conducted prior to the next Board meeting in early November.

Discussion evolved from the "Database Information" section included in the Treasurer's report. Several points of interest were noted: (i) Sean Smith indicated that it is a top priority to correct our database as compared to the University database itself, and (ii) we are eventually going to have a website link for ABBA, use the newsletter, and the Homecoming list to update our database files.

## **Old Business**

Introduction of Heather Bean: Sean Smith intended to introduce Heather, the new ABBA Administrative Assistant. However, delivery of her new baby was imminent and required her attendance there rather than here. The Board unanimously agreed with Tom Range's suggestion to send congratulations. Sean Smith will send a card and flowers.

Homecoming Update: Sean Smith, also Homecoming (HC) committee chair, indicated that the activity for this event begins to heat up later in the summer. A meeting of the HC committee is scheduled in late July to begin the planning process. Sean Smith asked for any assistance the Board could provide. We also discussed creating a HC timeline using project management software and periodically changing the phone message to update callers on activities.

Other items discussed during this agenda item included an update from Tom Range on the newsletter delay (e.g., Holiday, Duchi family death) and the short time frame to reserve hotels. It was also noted that interest appears to be waning in filling Board seats, especially in the 1970's and earlier. Abby Cook Diehl suggested that Board members review the HC participant list for contacts. She will e-mail the list and Tom Range agreed to co-ordinate contacts between Board members and their contacts.

Discussion also ensued about maintaining historical Blue Band artifacts. Not much has accumulated other than tapes, films and a few other items. A request will be added to the next newsletter for donations. Currently, pictures and other items are held by Sean Smith at his home and Dr. Bundy at his office. Ned Trautman suggested calling Jim Dunlop, son of the former Band Director, or Bill Noyes, former Blue Band announcer, to see if they have anything they want to contribute. Sean Smith met with Lou Prato, director of the new sports museum at Beaver Stadium and discussed a Blue Band display.

## **New Business**

New Alumni Pep Band Proposal: Dick Ammon and Lee Shaw presented their proposal to formalize Alumni Pep Bands (APB) as performing groups organized under ABBA. Information about forming or joining an APB will be included in the website and the next newsletter. A discussion regarding copyright infringement concluded that since no fees are earned for playing, this should not be an issue. Sean Smith will confirm with Joyce Hoffman about this and other indemnification requirements.

The APB proposal item concerning fees was changed since ABBA is a non-profit service group and University functions are generally done gratis. The proposal will be changed to indicate that donations and reimbursement for individual expenses (e.g., travel) will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. Also, the second sentence in the section regarding handling performance requests will be eliminated. Changes will be forwarded to Tom Range so he can include an item about APB's in the next newsletter.

The project will start on a limited basis with possible sign-ups at HC. It was agreed to permit other than ABBA members to join in for instrumentation needs on a limited basis and Abby Cook Diehl suggested asking Blue Band members home on break to join in too. Ned Trautman volunteered to be contact for northwestern PA; Dick Ammon will remain contact person for southcentral PA, assisted by April Strong. Sean Smith will talk with Art Belfiore about co-ordinating central PA; otherwise the contact will be Lee Shaw.

April Strong moved to accept the proposal as amended and Abby Cook Diehl seconded. The motion was approved without opposition.

ABBA Structural Revisions: The Board discussed formalizing an ABBA mission statement, re-establishing the group's long-range goals, and addressing several issues with the ABBA constitution.

Tom Range noted several long-range goals for consideration such as creating an ABBA scholarship and community service such as supporting the Dance Marathon. It was agreed to table further discussion until the next meeting. Board members were requested to e-mail suggestions to Sean Smith before October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Shortcomings have been noted in the ABBA constitution including such items as definition of quorum and procedure in voting on ties in the election of Board members among other issues. It was agreed that the Executive Committee of the Board (consisting of Sean Smith, Abby Cook Diehl and George Cerminara) as well as Mark Sperry, Ned Trautman and possibly Tom Range or Mark Heckel will form a committee to review the constitution, and propose changes to the Board at the next meeting. Communication will occur via e-mail or phone as needed.

Another item discussed during this agenda point related to the possibility of ABBA hosting a gathering after the HC parade. Since some excess funds currently exist and since HC normally generates additional excess funds, ABBA may be able to sponsor partially a Friday night get together. Abby Cook Diehl agreed to look into possibilities for a meeting place to include a cash bar and some "munchies." Mark Sperry moved to use excess funds up to \$2,000 and funds generated through a HC "raffle" (e.g., ½ and ½) for Abby to look at costs, set up a reception and report to Board. Tom Range seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Membership Chair Vacancy: Tom Range outlined the duties of this position, which include corresponding with past ABBA members or unsigned potential members, and developing other means of attracting new members to ABBA. He will advertise the vacancy in the next newsletter.

Other Issues From the Floor: Discussion was held about creating a more centralized paper trail of ABBA activities. This archive will include originals or copies of newsletters, Board minutes, correspondence or articles about the organization that may be available. It was decided that the ABBA Administrative Assistant will become the keeper of the archive, either in a paper form or an electronic file. All information of this type now held by various Board members should be forwarded to Heather at the Blue Band office. Sean will undertake the unenviable task of informing Heather.

Hubie Haugh advised that Frank Gullo, former assistant to Hum Fishburn, is moving back to State College to live in the Foxdale Retirement Village. The Board extends its best wishes to Frank in his new home.

Tom Range advised of an ABBA member, Norina Bentzel, an alto sax player and currently a school principal, who lost a finger protecting a student from an assailant with a knife. Her finger was reattached and she intends to play at HC. Sean Smith will send a card on behalf of ABBA congratulating her actions and wishing her well.

## **Adjournment**

Abby Cook Diehl's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Dick Ammon and passed without opposition. Sean Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

**George Cerminara submitted these Minutes on behalf of the ABBA secretary.**