



## **Music Publishers' Association of the United States**

Minutes of the Officers & Board of Directors Meeting  
February 22, 2007 at BMI Offices.

Brittain Ashford (Administrator)	Present
Marco Berrocal	Absent
Craig Cornwall	Present
Steve Culbertson	Present
Daniel Dorff	Present
Louis Fifer	Absent
Kathy Fernandes	Present
Lauren Keiser (President)	Present
James Kendrick Esq., (Counsel)	Absent
Steve Manus	Present
Kathleen Marsh	Present
Roger McClean	Absent
Dave Olsen	Present
Marc Ostrow	Absent
Norman Ryan	Absent
Lynn Sengstack (Treasurer)	Present
John Shorney	Present
Todd Vunderink	Absent

### Committee Chairs

Arnold Broido, Finance Chair	Absent
Brian Hill, Membership Chair	Absent

### **Call to order and announcements (Keiser) - 10:00 am**

#### **Report on Foreign Licensing Issues and Internet Transmission Issues**

Mr. John Coletta of BMI gave an update on the legal status regarding whether downloads are licensable as public performances. The issue is now in the hands of the courts. He also gave a report on global licensing with an emphasis on the developments taking place among the European collection agencies. The European Commission is putting pressure on these societies to remain economically competitive. Licensing Internet, Cable and Satellite transmission are especially problematic. The European Commission made a recommendation that the societies compete for repertoire. Groups of societies are now creating joint ventures to compete more effectively, which suggests that there may be a reduction in the number of societies in the future. A question and answer period ensued.

#### **Approval of Minutes for January 11, 2007 Meeting**

Approved as submitted.

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

Mr. Keiser announced that we are now doing electronic banking and all financial accounts and records are available for review by Board Members. Anyone interested in obtaining this information should contact Brittain Ashford. Mr. Broido, through Lauren Keiser, reported that the organization's bankers have

advised us that our investments should remain in short term CDs in response to a suggestion that the funds should move to an alternative investment. The treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

### *Old Business*

#### **Dues**

Dues checks are steadily arriving. Brittain has been instructed to send a third and final notice to companies that still have not paid their dues.

### *New Business*

#### **New Board Members**

Steve Manus, CEO Alfred Publishing and Craig Cornwall, CEO Kendor Music joined the board as new members.

#### **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee comprised of Lauren Keiser, Kathleen Marsh and Lynn Sengstack, nominated Lauren Keiser to continue his role as the President of the MPA for another two-year term. Lauren asked for the opportunity to serve half the term if a First Vice President can be found to move up into the President's role for the second half of the term. The Nominating Committee is charged with coming up with names of candidates for the First Vice President position. A motion to approve this decision passed unanimously.

### *Committee Reports*

**ACDA** – Lou Fifer. No Report.

**Annual Meeting** – Lauren Keiser. President Keiser reported that the presentation portion of the meeting will take place in the morning, featuring the Ethics Guy. He will embrace copyright as part of his presentation. He has agreed to do the meeting for \$3500, a reduced fee. Dan Florantino of NAMM is giving a video presentation of the Giants of our Industry. This is followed by lunch with David Isrealite as our speaker. Frank Oteri from the American Music Center heads the afternoon session. It will focus on new technology in our business. The MPA Board meeting will follow the afternoon session, followed by a cocktail hour. Lauren asked for help providing equipment for the meeting. Steve Manus volunteered to bring a wireless mic(s) to the meeting.

**Archive** – Lauren Keiser. Everything is going well.

**Finance/Audit** – Arnold Broido. No report.

**Membership Report** – Brian Hill. Lauren Keiser reported that J.W. Pepper donated their list of 633 publishers to the MPA for use in a membership drive campaign. Brittain is creating a new presentation that will be distributed to prospects.

**Awards** – Paul Sadowski. Lauren Keiser brought up the issue as to whether the award categories are appropriate. He suggested a review of the categories to make sure they are appropriate and match the music being produced by the members of MPA. Mr. Keiser made a motion to form a new committee to discuss this issue. This committee may be combined with the engraving and production committee.

**Contribution** – Roger McClellan and Todd Vunderink. No Report. A request came in from the American Music Center for \$10,000. A committee has been formed to review this and other requests.

**Copyright and Licensing** – Marc Ostrow. Lauren Keiser announced that 30 illegal sheet music and tab websites have been shut down. All of them have been shut down voluntarily. Steve Manus made a statement that he is concerned about the fact that there are no legal alternatives to the illegal website. He is concerned that the organization has not provided a legitimate alternative to the illegal websites. He stated that he is sympathetic with the community of people that are making music using these websites. He asked the MPA if there is a way to serve this community by creating guidelines or alternatives to this

situation. Kathleen Marsh announced that her company recently bought a guitar web site; she mentioned her company was talking with Harry Fox regarding the comments that Steve Manus made regarding licensing of guitar tab Web sites. The subject of eBay infringement was discussed. Suggestions on how to report infringements were discussed. The Board discussed the necessity of encouraging efficiency in licensing to the general membership. Lauren will make a statement to this effect at the annual meeting. Lauren suggested that a goal for next year's agenda could be a plan for the MPA to make licensing print easier and more efficient.

**Engraving/Production** – Dan Dorff. No Report.

**MLA/MOLA/MPA** – Dan Dorff. No Report.

**Performance** – Norman Ryan. No Report.

**Press/PR/Pub** – Kathy Fernandes, Kathleen Marsh. Mr. Keiser showed the board a copy of the new MPA ad that ran in a half dozen magazines read by school administrators and educators. The two-page spread is a new copyright awareness campaign, launched by the MPA. The initial response has been excellent. The MPA has about 5000 brochures available for organizations that are interested in distributing them to their staff. This is the first time an educational campaign has been directed toward school administrators. Kathleen Marsh reported that Boom Design is still working on the email project which is expected to be finished in the near future.

**Educations Contact and Trade Relations** – Lauren Keiser. No Report.

**Research/Development/New Technology** – Steve Manus has volunteered to head this committee.

**International Contacts** – Arnold Broido. Lauren Keiser reported that Arnold and his allies were able to stop the takeover of the ICMP by pop publishers. Arnold recommends that the MPA put the subject under review and forego a final decision on the subject. The Board agreed with this recommendation.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.