



Music Publishers' Association of the United States

Minutes of the Officers & Board of Directors Meeting
October 25, 2007 at the BMI Offices.

Brittain Ashford (Administrator)	Present
Marco Berrocal	Present
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	Absent
Kathleen Marsh	Present
Roger McClean	Present
Dave Olsen	Present
Marc Ostrow	Present
Norman Ryan	Present
Lynn Sengstack (Treasurer)	Absent
Todd Vunderink	Present

Committee Chairs

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

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

Approval of Minutes for September 25, 2007 Meeting

Approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report. Approved as submitted. Craig Cornwall will be taking over the Finance Chair, replacing Arnold Broido.

Old Business.

NMPA Lyric Sites/Cooperation: Lauren Keiser The NMPA is asking the MPA for a monthly contribution toward the legal expense involved in shutting down guitar tab websites. It was decided that Lauren will ask the NMPA to give the MPA a breakdown of those expenses to verify that they are really attributable to guitar tab shutdowns.

MPA Website/Job Posting: The Board gave its approval to the use of the MPA website for general job postings submitted by MPA Members. Brittain will oversee and authorize the submissions and work with Boom Design to post the listings.

Lifetime Achievement Awards: By unanimous vote, it was decided that a lifetime achievement award be given to Arnold Broido for his tremendous contribution to the MPA. Lauren Keiser was authorized to send a letter to Arnold's family advising them of the award and announced that Arnold will be honored at our annual meeting.

New Business

Barbara Peterson: MBO Presenter – Re-licensing: Mike O'Neil joined Barbara to talk about re-licensing issues. The subject of orchestra licensing was addressed and an overview of all domestic licensing was discussed. \$840 million was collected domestically by BMI for orchestra licensing. Orchestras are covered by general licensing and the license was never renewed for the last twenty-five years. BMI reviewed the license and updated the rate. All licenses were cancelled and a new rate is now being negotiated while 99% of orchestras are working under an interim agreement that will be adjusted backwards once a rate is agreed upon. ASOL and MOLA are participating in the rate negotiation. Jay Cooper is representing the orchestras and will lead the negotiation with BMI.

Agenda for the Year (How to Keep It Legal): Lauren Keiser asked the Board to finalize the agenda for the Year. He asked the Board for ideas of "How to Make It Legal". The question he asked was how we help users of music to know how to get a license. Marc Ostrow suggested that create an information clearing house for legitimate websites selling music, or a list of websites where a music user can clear music. Dave Olsen suggested that companies still have a hard time clearing requests because the request is incomprehensible. Kathy Fernandez contributed that we suggest that our members use a common form for requests. Kathy also suggested that we create a logo that would be provided to websites and organizations that indicate that organization fairly compensates the composers and songwriters. The Board agreed that "How to Keep It Legal" is an appropriate agenda for the year.

Ted J. Piechocinski, Esq., Director of the Music Business Program, Indiana State University: Ted addressed the board to ask if the MPA would be interested in joining with him to develop a program to address the issue of illegal use of copyrighted material in the college environment. He indicates that some of the users he works with indicate they are not clear on what constitutes fair use. He suggested a similar campaign to the Steinway campaign that designates a school as a 'Steinway' School. He would like to create a designation that establishes a school as a 'Copyright Compliant' school. He handed out a proposal for a campaign called 'Do the Copyright Thing'. He has shown this proposal to his faculty for review. Dan Dorff suggested that this campaign does not sound effective without a consequence attached to the illegal use of materials. The Board agreed that this campaign is similar to the 'fair trade' concept discussed as the agenda for the current year. Dave Olsen suggested that the MPA lobby with text book publishers to include a chapter on copyright law in their music textbooks. Lauren asked Ted to pass the report to the publicity committee and have that committee develop the idea further.

Evaluation of the MPA Administrator: Lauren asked the Board to consider a \$5.00 per hour increase in pay effective immediately for Brittain Ashford. The Board agreed with this recommendation. Dave made a motion to authorize the raise. Kathy Fernandez seconded the motion and a unanimous vote was taken to pass the motion.

User-Generated Copyright Contest: Kathleen Marsh asked the Board if they were interested in sponsoring a contest that would award a prize for a commercial created by kids that promotes copyright awareness. Lauren authorized the publicity committee to flush out the idea and come back to the Board with more specifics.

Committee Reports

ACDA

Annual Meeting –Archive – Lauren Keiser. No report.

Finance/Audit – Arnold Broido. No report.

Awards and Production – Paul Sadowski. No report.

Contribution – Roger McClain and Todd Vunderink. It was noted that the American Music Center had drafted a proposal for a copyright awareness initiative in colleges. Todd Vunderink is continuing the discussion with AMC.

Copyright and Licensing – Marc Ostrow. Marc gave an update on the Youtube.com class action lawsuit. He indicated that The Bourne Company, Carlin America, Cherry Lane, The French Tennis Assoc. and the NMPA have joined along with others. The principal defendants are youtube.com which is owned by Google. Google has answered and have denied all complaints.

Educations Contact and Trade Relations – Lauren Keiser. No further report.

Engraving/Production – Dan Dorff, Arnold Broido, Paul Sadowski.

Finance/Audit – Arnold Broido. No report

International Contacts – Lauren Keiser. No Report

Membership Report – Brian Hill. No new members were approved.

MLA/MOLA/MPA – Dan Dorff. “Do the Right Thing.” A report is included in the meeting notes.

Performance – Norman Ryan. The Chamber Music America annual conference, Jan. 4-7 in New York City, will include a publisher in a session regarding commissioning. Publisher sessions at the Opera America and the Orchestra League conferences were well received.

Press/PR/Pub – Kathy Fernandez/Kathleen Marsh. No further report.

Educations Contact and Trade Relations – Lauren Keiser. No further report.

Research/Development/New Technology – Steve Manus, Steve Culbertson. No report.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Marsh, Secretary

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.