

Local 1000 Membership Meeting Minutes at FARM (Folk Alliance Regional MidWest) Plaza 3, Sheraton Hotel, St. Louis 5 pm 10/24/13

Board Members Present: Tret Fure, Debra Cowan, Aaron Fowler, Charlie Pilzer, Daniel Boling, Steve Eulberg. Whiteley was excused.

Members Present: Spook Handy, Sandy Andina, Stephen Lee Rich, Kerry Patrick Clark, John O'Connor.

Guest: Chico Schwall, Executive Board member of AFM Local 689, Eugene, Oregon.

The Meeting was called to order by President Fure at 5:05 pm. A quorum was present.

Aaron Fowler led us in song (Shoulder to Shoulder)

1. **Introductions.** Members introduce themselves and Eulberg introduced guest Chico Schwall from the Board of AFM Local 689.

2. The **Minutes of the Feb 20, 2013 Membership Meeting** in Toronto, ON were read by Secretary-Treasurer Eulberg, who offered a correction. MSC to accept Minutes as corrected.

3. The **Secretary-Treasurer's Report** was presented by Eulberg. Work dues collections are much improved, with the Local in a stronger 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter position than many previous years. Eulberg also explained and reminded members about the Annual Dues Increase adopted in February, the implementation of which the Executive Board postponed until Jan 1, 2014.

O'Connor asked the members to congratulate the Secretary-Treasurer and the Executive Board for sorting out the union's finances. Members expressed their appreciation with applause.

4. **Bylaw Change.** The removal of the following Bylaw was announced in the Winter 2012-2013 New Deal, but was overlooked in Toronto. It was originally adopted as an incentive to members to pay Work Dues, but it never had its intended affect, and caused several bookkeeping problems.

Eulberg moved to remove the following language from the Local 1000 AFM bylaws:

## **V. FEES, DUTIES, AND ASSESSMENTS**

~~Section 7. Local 1000 Members in good standing who pay more than \$500 per calendar year in work dues shall be eligible for a rebate of an amount equal to the Local's annual dues minus the amount paid to the Federation in annual per-capita dues. This rebate shall be awarded in the form of a reduction in annual dues to eligible members for each year that they qualify.~~

Rich Seconded. After discussion, MSC.

5. **Elections** were conducted by President Fure. Eulberg reported that member-in-good-standing Scott Berwick had been nominated and that no further nominations had been

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received in the office. Fure asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. Fure declared the nominations were closed. Pres. Fure declared Scott Berwick elected to the office of Secretary-Treasurer by acclamation, in accordance with our Bylaws.

6. There were questions and discussions about the **AFM Employee Pension Fund** (AFM EPF) and its rehabilitation plan. Board members explained the situation concluding that the AFM EPF is solvent and health.

7. The **AFM Convention Report** (Las Vegas, July '13) was given by Pilzer, who served as one of our 3 delegates.

8. The **Work Dues Equivalency Policy**, adopted by the Executive Board earlier in the day at its meeting was communicated by Pilzer.

9. The **Office Report** was given by Cowan, noting that our Office Staff are “rock stars” and fast learners, operating very efficiently. She noted the use of the FB Closed Group and its purpose for members communicating with each other. This is open only to Local 1000 AFM members in good standing.

10. The **Highlander Retreat** was announced by Fowler. The dates will be 5/12-5/14 beginning and ending at noon, just prior to SERFA in Montreat, NC. The theme will be “Sticking to the Union: Solidarity Now—Why is Union Important”

11. **Fair Trade Music Report** was given by Cowan. We now have 21 venues signed up! (Our previous goal was to double our 12 venues!) Local 1000 is the most successful local doing this throughout the AFM. We need to get our members talking to the venues where they play to sign up more venues. O'Connor noted that presenters need to share the risk with musicians. Slogans for this were discussed for stickers, bumper stickers, T-shirts. Discussion was also held about how to celebrate the venues currently on the list. Discussion ensued about the venues' self-determination about whether they were a small or large venue.

O'Connor moved that the membership empower the Executive Board to decide, case by case, what is a small or large venue in terms of Fair Trade Music. Rich, 2<sup>nd</sup>. MSC with 1 abstention.

## 12. **New Business.**

O'Connor reported on the newly-formed Standing Organizing Committee of the AFM on which both he and John McCutcheon serve. It is composed of 20 members from locals throughout the Federation and its goal is to organize more musicians. Its 7 key points of focus will be published in the Nov. 2013 *International Musician*. The primary recommendation is that each local hire an organizer and 3 already have.

## Next Membership Meetings:

Prior to Folk Alliance International in Kansas City, MO, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm

During the Highlander Retreat in New Market, TN, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm

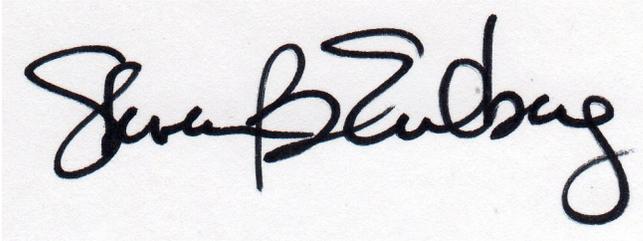
The Fall Meeting will be scheduled early in 2014.

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Daniel Boling led a song to close (Welcome Home)

Rich moved Adjournment, Fowler seconded.  
Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Steven B. Eulberg".

Steven B. Eulberg  
Secretary-Treasurer, Local 1000 AFM