



the

# Local 56 Musician

Live It Up  
With Live Music

The Official Journal Of the Grand Rapids Federation Of Musicians, Local 56, AFM, AFL-CIO

Available in full color online at [www.livemusicgr.org](http://www.livemusicgr.org), Members Only section

September 2013

Vol. 37 Issue 2



**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**  
**AMY YOUNG**  
SEE PAGE 3

Presidents Corner	Pg 2
Elections Notice	Pg 2
L56 Member Spotlight	Pg 3
David Lowery & the Real Story of Internet Music	Pg 3
Secretary's Report MAC & AFM Convention	Pg 4
Board Minutes	Pg5-6
Classified Ads	Pg 8



## President's Corner

By Eric Vander Stel

Hello, Brothers & Sisters of Local 56! During the 99th Convention of the American Federation of Musicians, a call for help was answered by the delegates. I was amazed by how everyone came to the aid of the St. Paul-Minneapolis Local and stood together for the rights of musicians. Our Local donated \$500. A \$10 per capita increase was approved by the delegates, which is explained in the Secretary's Report in this issue.

Over the next few months, the Local is meeting with freelance musicians to see how we can better serve them. All are welcome to these meetings. The Secretary will send e-mail notices with times and dates. Lately, I've observed that there is a lot of work on outdoor decks and patios. You may want to include contingencies for bad weather in your agreements with employers.

### 2013 Local 56 Elections Notice

Nominations are now in order for the following positions on the Executive Board of the Grand Rapids Federation of Musicians:

**President, Vice President, Board Member-at-Large (2 positions)**

All positions are 3-year terms, effective Jan. 1, 2014 through Dec. 31, 2016.

Nominations forms are available online in the Members Only section at [www.livemusicgr.org](http://www.livemusicgr.org), or by contacting the Local 56 Office. Forms must be signed by two Local 56 members in good standing, one of whom may be the candidate, and returned to the Local 56 Office no later than midnight, Sept. 1, 2013.

### Membership Meeting

A Local 56 Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, October 7 at 6:00 PM at the Local 56 Office to discuss and/or present resolutions to the Bylaws. Resolutions may be presented by the Board or by any three Local 56 members in good standing, either at the meeting, or in advance by presenting them to the Secretary/Treasurer. There will also be time for open discussion.

## Using AFM.org

#### The Local 56 Musician

Official Journal of the Grand Rapids Federation of Musicians

Local 56 of the American Federation of Musicians, AFL-CIO

800 Monroe NW, Suite 230, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone 616-451-4374 or 1-800-637-0498

E-mail – [grfm@livemusicgr.org](mailto:grfm@livemusicgr.org)

Website – [www.livemusicgr.org](http://www.livemusicgr.org)

Editor: Gary Sironen

#### Local 56 Executive Board

Eric VanderStel, President (currently on leave)

Bennie Keys Jr., Vice President/Acting President

Gary Sironen, Secretary/ Treasurer

Michael Crawford

Jennifer Cullin

Kevin Murphy

Elgin Vines

You can use the AFM website ([www.afm.org](http://www.afm.org)) in a number of ways to improve your knowledge and success in the music business.

**First**, you need to register as a member and login from the home page, a simple procedure.

**Second**, visit **MyAFM**, a page with several tabs from which to choose:

**MyAFM Favorites** – save shortcuts to your favorite web pages.

**International Musician** – read the current or past issues of the IM.

**Online Tools** – update your own profile and find other useful tools.

**Document Library** – download contracts, IEB Minutes, forms and more.

**Media Lounge** – watch live AFM webcasts or click on the USTREAM logo to view past AFM webinars on a variety of labor and music industry topics.

**Search MyAFM** – type and search for a topic you want to find in the Document Library or International Musician.

**Third**, visit and register for members only services:

AFM Entertainment Booking Agency ([www.afmentertainment.org](http://www.afmentertainment.org))

AFM referral service ([www.gopromusic.com](http://www.gopromusic.com))

AFM digital music sales ([www.goprotunes.com](http://www.goprotunes.com))

AFM private lessons referrals ([www.goprolessons.com](http://www.goprolessons.com))

AFM web hosting services ([www.afm.goprohosting.com](http://www.afm.goprohosting.com))

Make use of all of your member benefits!

## L 56 Member Spotlight: Amy Young

By Darcy Williamson, Local 56 Office Assistant

This issue's L56 Member Spotlight is on singer/songwriter Amy Young. Amy studied voice at Western Michigan University and Calvin College. I asked Amy what she did musically. She replied, "I play piano, guitar and I just learned to play ukulele. However, that is all secondary to vocals." Amy is also a composer with 3 self-produced albums: *Amy Young* in 1997, *Realization of Identity* in 1999 and *Subtle Changes in View*, which was nominated for a "Jammie" Award in 2007 by WYCE Radio.



newsletters and being able to go online to see what other members are doing. She also likes the connection with other musicians through the union. "It helps to be a part of the union. If people are searching for musicians, they can look you up at the union."

I asked Amy if she had any suggestions for musicians wanting to increase their music business. She said "A good website always helps. It is also good to have a mailing list and an e-mail list to keep people aware of where you will be playing

I asked Amy when and why she joined Local 56. She replied "Four to five years ago." She had good friends who were musicians, were involved with the union, and who talked about the benefits of being a member of Local 56. She also likes being connected to a community of musicians who can network with each other.

upcoming dates." She also mentioned that networking with other musicians is always a good thing.

I asked Amy what she feels are the biggest benefits of being a Local 56 member. She replied that she likes receiving the

Amy Young is currently finishing her master degree in social work. She then plans to pick up some jazz gigs and get back to writing, performing and recording. She also plans on doing some of her own music after finishing school. We are looking forward to hearing some of your new music, Amy!

---

## "Cracker" Lead Singer David Lowery Performs for Delegates



David Lowery of the band "Cracker" knows how the internet music business works. He reported that one million plays of his song "Low" online earned him only \$16.00 and some change. He produced a chart that showed revenue growth for music sales from 2001-2012: Amazon up 2,000%; Apple 3,396%; Google 58,319%; user growth for Pandora since 2009 up 900%, and in the past year alone Spotify grew 400%. Meanwhile, recorded music revenue from 2001-2012 dropped 64% and employment of musicians dropped 45%. He charges that the music/tech industry is lobbying the government to weaken copyright laws while musicians need to petition government to enforce musicians' private property rights.



AFM President Ray Hair swears in Mid America Conference officers, including L56 members Bennie Keys, Michigan Rep (2nd from right) and Eric Vander Stel (far right).



AFM Officers and IEB Members are sworn in at the 99th Convention of the American Federation of Musicians in Las Vegas.

## Secretary's Report - AFM Convention & Mid America Conference

by Gary Sironen, Secretary/Treasurer

The 2013 Mid America Conference and AFM Convention in Las Vegas are history, and a little history was made, as well. The AFM Convention was one of the most unified I recall attending. The titled officers all ran unopposed for re-election, and the current members of the International Executive Board were all re-elected by wide margins. One notable contender for an IEB seat was Joe Boettger, President of Flint, MI Local 542, who received the most votes of those who were not elected. Joe has some great ideas, enthusiasm, and a real love of unionism.

The power of unity was displayed as \$70,000 in pledges was raised in two hours from Locals, Conferences and individuals for St. Paul - Minneapolis Local 30-73, which has been financially strapped due to the lock-outs of two orchestras in the past year. Local 56, after contacting our Board members via phone and text, pledged \$500 on behalf of our members.

The biggest surprise of the Convention was the passage of a substitute financial package that will help reinstate some lost AFM programs and create some new programs, primarily in the area of recruitment and organizing. The Finance Committee recommended a \$10.00 increase in annual per capita (which will result in a \$10.00 increase in annual dues for members), as well as small increases in electronic media work dues, all of which passed with a large majority, but only after a point-by-point explanation by AFM officers and IEB members of how the increased funding will be spent:

\$650,000 to replenish the AFM relocation fund  
 \$100,000 for a dedicated Canadian International Rep

\$100,000 to reinstate International Rep travel expenses  
 \$350,000 to re-establish AFM staffing levels  
 \$100,000 to create a members payroll service  
 \$100,000 to achieve legal compliance  
 \$100,000 on organizing and recruitment efforts

More details will be forthcoming in future issues of the *International Musician*. You can also contact me or President Vander Stel regarding our thoughts on the funding plan.

We were also treated to informative discussions on achieving fair payment for musicians whose products are sold through digital downloads and streaming, how the AFM Booking Agency works ("more gigs than bands" is the current situation, so sign up if you're looking for work), and the need for stronger organizing efforts, among other topics. President Vander Stel was a member of the Public Relations Committee, which heard and discussed some innovative ideas on promoting the AFM and "taking our message to the streets". I was chair of the *International Musician* Committee; we had a great brainstorming session and recommended that the IM be made available in more digital platforms and used more as a recruiting tool.

Local 56 Vice President Bennie Keys was in attendance at the AFM Convention as a guest, and all three of us were delegates to the Mid America Conference, which was held the two days prior to the start of the AFM Convention. Vander Stel was re-elected Sergeant-at-Arms, and Keys was re-elected as the Michigan representative to the MAC Board. A variety of topics of regional interest were discussed.

# Executive Board Minutes

(Some Minutes may have been edited to conserve space.)

For full text of Minutes, contact the Local 56 Office.)

## Local 56 Exec Board Minutes March 4, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 4:50 PM. Present – Acting President Bennie Keys, Secretary/Treasurer Gary Sironen, Kevin Flannery, Kevin Murphy, Elgin Vines, Michael Crawford. Jenni Cullin was excused.

**M/S (Flannery/Murphy) to accept the Minutes. Carried.**

**M/S (Flannery/Murphy) to accept the Finance Report.** February income \$17,624.42; expenses \$12,317.14. **Carried.**

**M/S (Flannery/Vines) Membership.** New: Andrew Fritz, Valerie Sly, Maurice Todd, Robert Warmels. **Carried.**

### OLD BUSINESS

Computer networking within the office and our new wireless system are both active. Members may now use personal wireless devices to go online when in the office.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

### NEW BUSINESS

L56 member Beth Lepak requested an exception to the GRFM Scholarship rules to allow one of her students, who lives outside of the L56 jurisdiction, to audition for the Madura String Scholarship. **M/S (Flannery/Murphy) to allow an exception to the rules for the Madura Scholarship audition in this case. Carried.**

Flannery submitted a letter of resignation from Local 56 Board Directors as a result of a physician's recommendation (a copy is attached). **The Board accepted Flannery's resignation with regret and with thanks for his years of dedication and service to the Local as a Board Member, Vice President, President and Negotiator.**

Acting President Keys asked the Board to consider covering his expenses to attend the Mid-America Conference as a delegate, which will be held in Las Vegas two days before the AFM Convention in June. The MAC rules allow Local 56 three delegates while the AFM Convention rules allow the Local only two delegates. The Board tentatively approves but asked Keys to present a break down of expenses at the next regular Board meeting.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT – None**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sironen presented an update on musicians who have requested the Local's assistance under terms of a collective bargaining agreement. A grievance has been filed by the Local in one of those cases.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

## Local 56 Exec Board Minutes April 8, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 by Acting President Bennie Keys, Jr. Present – Acting President Bennie Keys, Secretary/Treasurer Gary Sironen, Paul Austin, Elgin Vines, Kevin Murphy. Michael Crawford and Jenni Cullin were excused.

AP Keys recommended Paul Austin to fill Kevin Flannery's term on the Board. **M/S (Sironen/Vines), carried.** Keys administered the oath of office to Austin.

Austin was welcomed to the Board and replied he is happy to be a part of it. Keys noted that Austin brings a good level of expertise to the Board as the former Vice President of the Regional Orchestra Players Association.

Since Flannery was the second signatory on the Local's financial accounts but has now resigned, **Keys appointed, and the Board approved, Elgin Vines as signatory on Local's financial accounts.**

**M/S (Vines/Murphy) to accept the Minutes. Carried.**

**M/S (Vines/Murphy) to accept the Finance Report.** March Income \$1,898.04; expenses \$6,105.34. **Carried.**

**M/S (Vines/Murphy) to accept the Membership Report.** New: Robin Connell, Jill Hoffman, Jodi Dyer. Resigned: Robert Byrens, Caroline Hartig, Richard Stoelzel. **Carried.**

### OLD BUSINESS

It was noted that the Local is eligible to send 3 delegates to the Mid America Conference and 2 delegates to the AFM Convention, which meet sequentially in Las Vegas in June. President Vander Stel will be back from Leave of Absence by then and will attend both the MAC and AFM Convention as a delegate, as will Sironen.

**M/S (Sironen/Austin) that the Local**

**cover expenses for Acting President Keys to attend the Mid America Conference as a Local 56 Delegate in Las Vegas in June. Carried.**

**M/S (Murphy/Vines) that the Local cover additional expenses for Keys of 3 days/ nights to attend the AFM Convention in Las Vegas as a guest. Carried.**

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**NEGOTIATIONS – Keys appointed Austin and Crawford to the Negotiations Committee.**

**MEMBERS SERVICES – Keys appointed Murphy to the Member Services Committee.**

### NEW BUSINESS

**M/S (Sironen/Keys) that the Local donate \$200 to the GRFM Scholarship Fund to cover this year's awards. Carried.**

Austin reported that the International Conference of Symphony Musicians (ICSOM) leadership approved the Grand Rapids Symphony musicians' application to ICSOM. ICSOM membership will vote at their next conference on accepting that application. **Austin expects they will be approved and recommended that the Local send a delegate to ICSOM instead of the ROPA Conference this year. M/S/C to do so.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT - None**

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sironen reported that a grievance with Grand Rapids Symphony management was resolved.

Sironen also reported that recent "Right to Work" laws passed in Michigan will have little or no effect on freelance musicians in Local 56. The laws do affect members working under collective bargaining agreements, however. Beginning with each bargaining unit's next new agreement, membership in the Local or AFM cannot be a condition of employment, and the Local will not be allowed to collect agency fees from non-union musicians. On the other hand, the Local will be under no obligation to assist or represent non-members in grievances or disciplinary actions.

The AFL-CIO and other unions, as well as lawyers, are still in the process of understanding the full extent of these laws and have filed a variety of suits questioning the legality of some laws and the way they were approved by state legislators.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM.

## GRFM Scholarship Fund Board Meeting

**Armstrong – Nathan Zelent was selected as the recipient.**

**Local 56 Heritage – The Board decided to delay selection in order to get additional information from the candidates that was not provided.**

### Local 56 Exec Board Minutes May 6, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 4:56 PM. Present – Acting President Bennie Keys, Secretary/Treasurer Gary Sironen, Paul Austin, Kevin Murphy, Elgin Vines, Michael Crawford and Jenni Cullin were excused.

**M/S (Sironen/Murphy) to accept the Minutes. Carried.**

**M/S (Murphy/Austin) to accept the Finance Report.** April Income \$11,100.29; expenses \$10,160.14. **Carried.**

**M/S (Austin/Murphy) to accept the Membership Report.** Reinstated: Thomas Clement, William Farrow, Aaron Hettinga, Jon Koeze, Michael Patterson, Mary Rademacher. Jodi Dyer dues were paid (was pending). Resigned: Patricia Smith, Emily Barkakati, David Prudon. Ed Clifford is hospitalized with a heart attack and will undergo heart bypass surgery in a day or two. **Carried.**

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Labor Fest – M/S (Keys/Murphy) donate same as last year to Labor Fest. Carried.**  
**POMA-GR** non-profit status – Sironen helping to reinstate

**AFM Convention** – Sironen has been appointed Chair of the International Musician Committee; Vander Stel has been appointed as a member of the Public Relations Committee. A grand daughter of **Robert Williamson**, President of Local 56 from 1935-1962 is sharing stories and photos of her grandfather with the Local.

## OLD BUSINESS

**The GRFM Scholarship Fund Board** received additional info from Local 56 Heritage Scholarship applicants as requested. A vote of those in attendance resulted in a split 2-2. Sironen will ask remaining Board members for their votes to obtain a final tally.

**POMA-GR** held a fund raising concert called “Sounds of Hope” for a United Way program called “Schools of Hope”, a reading program for GRPS.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

## L56 REP REPORT

Keys visited Big Band Nouveau at The B.O.B. in downtown GR on Sunday, May 5. There are a lot of venues with live music in Grand Rapids, but the pay is often minimal, cover charge or tips; there are a few that pay fairly. The Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra has been cut back from twice a month to once a month at Founder's Brewery.

## NEW BUSINESS

POMA-GR has its annual meeting Wednesday at 6:00. Keys will try to attend.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vander Stel will return as President for the June 10 meeting. Keys said it has been a pleasure and honor to be Acting President during Vander Stel's absence.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sironen will be out of the office June 30-July 3, July 19-30 (AFM Convention followed by vacation), and Aug 19-23. Office Assistant Darcy Williamson will keep office hours most of those dates.

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.

### Local 56 Exec Board Minutes June 10, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 4:56 PM by Vice President Keys.

Present – President Eric Vander Stel, Vice President Bennie Keys, Secretary/Treasurer Gary Sironen, Paul Austin, Michael Crawford, Kevin Murphy.

**M/S (Austin/Crawford) to accept the Minutes. Carried.**

**M/S (Austin/Crawford) to accept the Finance Report.** May Income \$4,753.35; expenses \$7,216.05. **Carried.**

**M/S (Murphy/Crawford) to accept the Membership Report.** Reinstated: Arnaldo Acevedo, Paul Brewer, Seanad Chang, Wei Tsun Chang, Hyun Ji Choi, Robert Hartig, Scott Veenstra. New: Dana Lasswell, A Ram Lee, Jason Lester, David Martin III, Charles Morris, Patricia Pierzchala. **Carried.**

Pres. Eric Vander Stel arrived from leave of absence. He was welcomed back by the Board and assumed the Presidency and Chair with thanks to Vice President Keys for serving as Acting President in his absence.

## GUESTS

**Mick Lane** – comes from a union family, union carpenter, food & commercial workers organizer 28 years, locally former AFL- CIO president, guitar/singer, sings labor & folk songs, plays with Conklin Ceili Band, worked with other labor musicians like Pete Seeger, has

made several recordings, and is a producer.

**Paul Keen** – became a professional musician in college, plays bass trombone, mentored and taught by professional union musicians who spoke highly of the union. “Musicians at the top of their game are often most accessible.” Did a lot of film recording, writing, and arranging. Began traveling with ice shows as conductor, including in Grand Rapids. Lived in Reno for awhile. Liked it here so much he moved to GR. Plays orchestral and jazz, pit orchestras. Teaches trombone at Calvin College.

## Ideas

Get testimonials from area top union musicians.

Mick – how do we get members to stay.

Paul – if you're stranded somewhere or employer decides to not pay, union steps in. Could end up paying for lifetime of dues.

Michael – similar to insurance.

Mick – What about local casual musicians? On Facebook, local musicians banded together against a club owner who refused to pay a band. The owner relented. He Local was not involved but could have been. Sees plenty of issues in club scene where Local could get involved.

Bennie – we'll do whatever we have to for our members.

Mick – musicians don't know that. They don't know us.

Paul – Could provide education, website, seminars, video-document library online for members.

Mick – Perception is that musicians can do it on their own. They can't. Don't organize based on complaints about employers. Organize based on advantages of membership.

Bennie – showcase, charge non-members to participate, pre-showcase seminar.

Mick – Plan something for January-February. Who do we want to target?

Eric – What is our goal? What are we here to do? Need to treat Local as a business.

Mick – Local needs to become visible.

Benefits - Residuals from recording contracts. Paul still gets paid for recording work he did at age 22. Instrument insurance. Internal networking. Pension.

Create a benefits/advantages brochure. Return to printing benefits on back of member/business cards.

Mick - Find key members – organizing training. Identify a problem, show how it pertains to them, present a solution: basic sales.

## No additional reports.

The next meeting will be held on July 8, 2013 at 4:45 PM. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Gary Sironen, Secretary.*

## 99th AFM Convention Displays Unity and Support



St. Paul-Minneapolis Secretary Thomas Baskerville thanks delegates for their support in raising \$70,000 to help defray costs of supporting locked-out musicians of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra (now back to work) and the Minneapolis Symphony, locked out for over 10 months.



Local 56 President Eric Vander Stel announces the Local's pledge of \$500 in support of the struggling musicians of St. Paul-Minneapolis Local 30-73.

### Local 56/AFM MEMBER BENEFITS

**Contracts** for live performance, recording and broadcast work.

**Free Referral Service** for bands, ensembles, soloists

-in booklet form and on the web at [www.livemusicgr.org](http://www.livemusicgr.org).

**Lester Petrillo Memorial Fund** for Disabled Musicians

-provides limited financial aid to musicians who become temporarily or permanently disabled.

**AFM—Employers' Pension Fund**

-provides income after retirement for members who have had contributions made on their behalf by employers on wages for recording, broadcast, film, MPTF, and other covered work.

#### **Contact Union Privilege**

AFL-CIO at 1-800-452-9425

For details on:

- mortgage & real estate program
- MasterCard credit card
- discount mail-service pharmacy
- low interest personal loans
- legal service discounts
- dental & vision discounts & more!

#### **Contact Marsh AFM Group Insurance Plans,**

call 1-800-503-9230

For details on :

- musical instrument & equipment
- musician's liability
- term life & disability income
- major medical, short-term medical, catastrophic major medical, personal accident, in-hospital, and cancer insurance

## Grand Rapids Federation of Musicians



800 Monroe NW Ste 230  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone: 616-451-4374  
Toll Free: 1-800-637-0498  
Fax: 616-451-2403  
Email: [grfm@livemusicgr.org](mailto:grfm@livemusicgr.org)

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
Permit No. 652

## CLASSIFIEDS

### **NOTICE:**

*Please call us at 616-451-4374 if your classified ad is no longer available. It is important to keep this section up to date. Thank you.*

### **FOR SALE:**

TWO NEW SPEAKER CABINETS—Each has one 15" spkr w/54 oz magnet, a 6x10 800 cycle horn w/ capacitor & piezo; heavy duty, light weight, hard finish, 2 handles, chrome corners, metal grills: 8 ohms/cabinet; each measures 24"Hx20"Wx12"D. \$550 for pair. Call Phil @ 616-784-3901. GR

3 PAIR TUXEDO PANTS - Black, various sizes, \$10 each. Call Phil @ 616-784-3901. GR

SWANSON 36 STRING LEVER HARP- with dust cover, traveling case and extra set of strings. Call Gretchen @ 616-949-5094. GR

ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENTS & ACCESSORIES used by the late Michael Manion. Contact the Local 56 Office for details.



Mike Crawford (board member), Mick Lane, Paul Austin (board member), Paul Keen, Bennie Keys (Vice President). Mick Lane and Paul Keen were guests at a recent board meeting to discuss recruitment and organizing.