



Grand Rapids Federation of Musicians

Local 56, AFM

Representing Professional Musicians since 1905

Bennie Keys, President Kevin Murphy, Vice President Andrea Giba, Secretary/Treasurer

Local 56 Elects New Officers and Ratifies Dues Increase

New Officers and Executive Board members were elected for terms beginning January 1, 2019; and members approved all three resolutions. The new officers are Bennie Keys, President, whose term ends December 31, 2019, because he filled the vacancy left when Eric Vander Stel stepped down. Kevin Murphy was appointed as the new Vice President, filling the vacancy left by Bennie Keys upon his election to President; so his term also ends December 31, 2019. Charles Johnson was appointed to fill the Board Member vacancy that resulted when Mary Rademacher stepped down; so his term ends December 31, 2020.

Members also approved three (3) resolutions to the Local's Bylaws:

- Resolution 01-18 passed by 93%, amending Article VI. Committees, Section A., 3rd Paragraph, which deletes the language that specifies Committee members be compensated at the standard Executive Board Meeting rate.
- Resolution 02-18 passed by 96%, adding Article XII. Removal of Officers.
- Resolution 03-18 passed by 64%, amending Article II. Duties of Members, Section A. Dues, Duties, which raised the annual Regular Membership Dues to \$156.00, the Quarterly Dues to \$43.50, the Life Membership Dues to \$114.00, and the Inactive Life Membership Dues to \$97.00.

President Keys has been on the Executive Board since 1995 and was Vice President from 2004 through 2018. He has been a club musician, playing drums for approximately 30 years; and he currently leads the bands "Bennie Keys and Friends" and "Krystal Kleer." During the day, he works for Hope Network. Bennie loves the organization and all that it stands for and wants to be able to help his fellow musicians.

Vice President Murphy has been on the Local 56 Board since 2008. Murphy has played music professionally most of his life, currently fronting his own band, "Murphy's Law" on sax, vocals and guitar; and he also does a solo act. He supports youth in their pursuit of music, because it was what helped him prepare for his career in music.

Charles Johnson is new to the Board; although he's not new to the American Federation of Musicians, being active as a classical jazz bassist with the Union since 1994. He's performed with many music masters and has also worked as a Production Manager in the jazz business. Johnson hopes to foster music innovation and create jazz-inspired music that transcends a particular genre - something that's refreshing and universal.

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