



Live it up w L56
Keep Music Alive



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the Local 56 Musician

Grand Rapids Federation Of Musicians

The Official Journal Of Local 56, AFM, AFL-CIO

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L56 AT GR FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS 2011

MORE PICS INSIDE



River City Jazz Ensemble



Mark Swanson



Ensemble Montage



Paul Sherwood's Rhythm Section Jazz Band

SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Gary Sironen, L56 Secretary/Treasurer



First, a reminder that the deadline for filing nominations for the positions of Local 56 Secretary/Treasurer and two Board Members-at-Large is Oct. 1.

Thanks to your willingness to pay increased dues, we're in better shape financially than we usually are at this time of year. Also, thanks to the foresight of the Finance Committee, we moved 50% of our investments out of the stock market just before things started their downhill slide in late July. Those funds will sit in savings or a CD until it seems prudent to put them back into our various mutual funds.

In case you are seeking work, let me remind you of the various ways you can use the Local in that regard.

- 1) Update your contact info with the L56 office.
- 2) Update your listings at www.livemusicgr.org, www.gopromusic.com, Facebook and any other social network site, and on your own website.
- 3) Make sure you are on our e-mail list. I regularly e-mail notices of musicians and bands needed for various gigs as they come into the office.
- 4) If you are a side musician and not a leader, reconnect with leaders of

bands for which you could play. Visit them where they play, ask to sit in, make a phone call or send an e-mail.

- 5) If you have recordings, consider selling them at www.goprotunes.com, the AFM's version of Itunes for AFM members. You keep 100% of the sales minus credit card processing.
- 6) Keep practicing, writing, submitting, contacting, learning something new - whatever is appropriate to your musical skills. If you aren't working, then spend some time improving and selling yourself. In the music business, YOU are the product and the business owner. If you need additional ideas, give me a call or stop in to the office. I can help.

It has occurred to me, as I talk with some of you and read about changes in the business of the music industry, that we are just moving in a big circle.

In the mid 20th century, musicians made all of their income from live performances. As recordings and radio developed, those industries basically served to promote the musicians and bands, thus increasing audiences at venues and concerts.

The latter half of the 20th century saw radio and recording become industries

of their own, and eventually the income streams for musicians in many cases became larger from electronic sources than from live performances. Of course, over time, corporate owners of electronic music media figured out how to keep the majority of the income for themselves so that the musicians only saw a fraction of the profits, but even that was enough for many musicians to decide to stop spending so much time on the road and more time "in the studio".

Technology over the past couple of decades has changed the game once again. Quality recording equipment is affordable for most musicians, and digital recording has completely altered the way music is recorded and distributed.

Now musical artists are recording themselves at home or at the gig and selling their recordings through the internet. The profits aren't huge, but the recordings are once again being used more to promote the artists and their live performances.

When it all comes down, the fact is that the musicians are the music. We are the product, and we have the potential to determine the future of the music industry.

The Local 56 Musician

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Bennie Keys Jr., Vice President

Gary Sironen, Secretary/ Treasurer

Jennifer Cullin

Kevin Flannery

Michael Kornacki

Kevin Murphy

Dan Spencer

Elgin Vines

L56 MEMBERS IN ACTION

Grand Rapids Festival of the Arts 2011



Steve Anzivino's Acoustic Jazz



Ken Bierschbach



Conklin Ceili Band



Mary Rademacher



Ash Grove String Quartet



Dave Well's Oompah German Band



Cover Story



Evidence Jazz Group

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

(Some Minutes have been edited to conserve space.
For full text of Minutes, contact the Local 56 Office.)

Local 56 Exec Board Minutes March 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Eric Vander Stel at 4:58 PM. Present – Vander Stel, Vice President Bennie Keys, Sec/Treas. Gary Sironen, Kevin Flannery, Elgin Vines, Kevin Murphy, and Jenni Cullin.

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

M/S (Flannery/Cullin) to accept the Finance Report. Income \$10,555.35; expenses \$7,867.39. Look up CBA-Neg-GR expense of \$50. **Carried.**

M/S (Keys/Vines) to accept the Membership Report. New members included Thomas Clement, Bryan Guaruccio, Robert Johnson, Keven Lewis, and Nicholas Palmer. Resigned: Darlene Dugan, Eberly Hunter, Deborah Gross, Lorraine Hedlund, Wilma Lancioni, Lauren Murphy, Tom Sheppardson, Erica Shirts, Peter Spring, Rebecca Van de Ven, Sandra Verbeek, Elsa Verderber, Kevin Warren, and Katherine Williams. Expelled: Cynthia Duda Pant and Forrest Wakeman. **Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS

The Grand Rapids Symphony Negotiations Committee requested past letters of the intent to negotiate sent by the Local and received from management. In the past, the Local has regularly sent a letter informing management of its intent to negotiate a new contract to take effect at the expiration of the current contract, as we have again this year, but we have never received such a letter from management until this year. Management's letter this year stated they

were terminating the contract. The Negotiations Committee questions the intent of this letter.

Former Local 56 President Ray Gill is now living at Spectrum Nursing Center in Grand Rapids.

The Local received a request from a touring show pit orchestra to perform a locally televised gig. Pres. Vander Stel has no problem with it as long as the proper contracts are signed and at least Local minimums are paid the musicians.

OLD BUSINESS

A revised budget for 2011, based on actual numbers from Dec 2010, Jan 2011 was presented by Sironen, showing a potential \$11,000 shortfall. When questioned, Sironen remembered that he failed to include the Membership Dues increase in the budget. **M/S (Flannery/Keys) to table the revised budget until April. Carried.**

A new printer/copier/scanner/fax machine that was included in this year's budget has been purchased.

COMMITTEES - No reports.

M/S (Flannery/Keys) to grant a Grand Rapids Symphony request for a waiver of the Local audition for Bass chair 6, a one-time, non-precedent setting request. L56 members will be automatically advanced to the semi-final round. **Carried.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – None.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The GRFM Scholarship Fund has \$2,187.55 in bank. **M/S to notify last year's Madura runner-up that she should have been offered the winning award of \$600 and may use it this summer; if so, she cannot audition for the Madura this year. Carried.**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 4 at 4:45 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Sironen, Secretary.

Local 56 Exec Board Minutes March 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Eric Vander Stel at 5:18 PM. Present – Vander Stel, Vice President Bennie Keys, Sec/Treas. Gary Sironen, Kevin Flannery, Elgin Vines, Kevin Murphy, Jenni Cullin and Dan Spencer.

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

M/S (Keys/Flannery) to accept the Finance Report. Income \$11,035.68; expenses \$6,102.29. **Carried.**

M/S (Keys/Vines) to accept the Membership Report, which included new member Delano (Deebo Mac) Mcalister, Hip Hop artist. **Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS

The Grand Rapids Labor Heritage Society is holding golf fund raiser for the Spirit of Solidarity monument. Marty Hodapp (Indianapolis Local President) sent a survey to determine which Locals have a death benefit. His Local is considering canceling theirs.

Local 56 has not had a death benefit for members since the early 1990's.

OLD BUSINESS

Website – Cullin will post a photo gallery for photos taken today at the “We Are One” rally in GR. Sironen will bring a camera to May Board meeting for individual Board pictures. Board members may instead submit their own photos, if desired.

Scholarship Winners were selected from the Robert Madura String Scholarship auditions held on March 28 at Christ Lutheran Church in Wyoming. Alena Marie Olsen, a freshman violinist at Caledonia HS received the first place \$600 award. Benjamin Joung, a home schooled freshman who plays in the Zeeland HS orchestra was the runner up and received the Local 56 Heritage Scholarship in memory of Dolores Klukoski in the amount of \$255. (Following the Board meeting, the GRFM Scholarship Board met and selected percussionist/guitarist Brandi Skanes, a Junior from East Kentwood HS, as the recipient of the \$150 Donald D. Armstrong Scholarship.) Scholarships are to be used by the recipients for summer music study.

COMMITTEES

FINANCE – Sec. Sironen submitted a revised budget for 2011 based on numbers from 2010 and the first 3 months of 2011, which showed projected income of \$91,340 and expenses of \$98,092. Actual income and expenses will depend on several major factors, including negotiation expenses and the resulting work dues income for the fall. **M/S to accept the 2011 Budget as presented. Carried.**

NEGOTIATIONS – The Board listened to and discussed a review of a recent meeting between the Grand Rapids Symphony President and the musi-

cians, which was mostly a presentation of the Symphony's financial status. The Negotiations Committee for the GRS is interviewing symphony musicians to craft issues for a contract proposal.

L56 REP REPORT – VP Keys visited a group called Blue Mollie at Billie's Lounge in East Grand Rapids.

NEW BUSINESS –

Spencer reported that the Lansing Symphony Orchestra musicians voted to join ROPA (Regional Orchestra Players Association). Ann Arbor Local 625 Secretary Barbara Zmich subbed recently with LSO and spoke to the musicians about joining ROPA. The LSO Orchestra Committee notified management verbally of their intent to negotiate. The OC plans to meet in near future to discuss important issues for negotiations. The deadline for personal contracts was extended from April 1 to May 1 to accommodate a late hire.

Local 56 Board Members Vander Stel, Keys, Sironen, Cullin and Kornacki, and members at large Christina Fong, Chris Martin, and Monty Burch attended the We Are One rally prior to the Board meeting in downtown Grand Rapids, one of many such rallies held nationwide to bring awareness to anti-union and anti-middle class legislation being presented in several states by newly elected Republican governors. A large rally is being planned in Lansing at the State Capitol on April 19.

Plans are reportedly being made for a casino in Grand Rapids at a property on Ann Street that was purchased by Peter Secchia.

M/S (Keys/Flannery) Local donate \$50 to the Labor Day Parade Committee. Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Discussion was held regarding the June Grand Rapids Festival of the Arts. Sironen reported that since the Music Performance Trust Fund is switching roles and becoming the cosponsor while presenting organizations become the employers, the payroll for musicians at Festival will be handled by Show Chex, IATSE's payroll company, at no charge to the Local. Cullin reported that a draft of the music performance schedule is complete.

Vander Stel reported that the Gunn Lake Casino in Wayland is asking bands to contact the casino directly for bookings rather than going through a booking agent. Richard Gilmore is booking bands for the Gilmore collection, including the BOB.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sironen will be taking a vacation June 9-13 to attend a conference.

The next Board meeting will be held on May 2 at 4:45 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM.

The Board reconvened as the GRFM Scholarship Fund Board. It was recommended that the line for social security numbers be eliminated from the applications. Sironen said that would not be a problem since the numbers are no longer required by the IRS as they had been in the past.

M/S (Flannery/Vander Stel) to change the Donald D. Armstrong rules to require that applicants must attend school (instead of reside) in the Local 56 jurisdiction. Carried.

The GRFM Scholarship Board selected percussionist/guitarist Brandi Skanes, a Junior from East Kentwood HS, as the recipient of the \$150 Donald D. Armstrong Scholarship.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Local 56 Exec Board Minutes May 2, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bennie Keys at 4:55 PM.

Present –Vice President Bennie Keys, Sec/Treas. Gary Sironen, Kevin Flannery, Kevin Murphy, Mike Kornacki, President Eric Vander Stel, and Jenni Cullin.

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

President Eric Vander Stel arrived and assumed the Chair.

M/S (Flannery, Kornacki) to accept the Finance Report. Income \$5,548.50; expenses \$13,646.70. **Carried.**

M/S (Flannery/Keys) to accept the Membership Report. 20 members were suspended for non-payment of 2nd quarter dues. The following were expelled for non-payment of 1st & 2nd quarter dues: Mary Allen, Matthew Clifford, Tim Froncek, Brandan Grinwis, Eric Jones, Helen Karsten, Lee Jung Min, Rachel Lueck, Jennifer MacGregor, David Marin, Michael McLeod, Edward Merritt, Justin O’Dell, Dan Ruggles, Kevin Sheppard, , Rick Urban, and Noel Webley. There were no new members for the month of April. **Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS

MPTF – The Music Performance Trust Fund is no longer the employer on jobs that utilize the Fund. MPTF will now be the cosponsor and the hiring organization will be the employer, which has allowed MPTF to lay off its

payroll personnel and continue to help fund performances for another year. The Local will continue to use revised green sheets, but musicians’ checks will come from the employing organization for large events or be run through the Local office for smaller events.

OLD BUSINESS

Website – We still need pictures of Board Members for the website.

COMMITTEES

NEGOTIATIONS – Flannery – AFM Negotiator Nathan Kahn was in Grand Rapids for preparatory meetings with the GRS Negotiations Committee and a meeting with GRS management on Friday to present proposals.

RECRUITMENT/DIVERSITY – Vander Stel asked the committee to present a written proposal for a recruitment event at next month’s meeting.

L56 REP REPORT – Keys visited a club on Wealthy; many clubs featuring live music in the downtown Grand Rapids area are charging a \$10 cover charge. Vander Stel noted that Kuzzins Bar had live music but is now going back to karaoke. The former Green Apple is reopening under a different name and hiring bands.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Vander Stel has been attending the Kent County Labor Day Committee planning meetings.

M/S (Keys/Sironen) that the Local donate \$100 to have its name placed on a brick at Labor Monument in downtown Grand Rapids. Carried.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Sironen attended the April 19 Grand Rapids Furniture Strike 100th Anniversary rally.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM. The next meeting will be June 6 at 4:45 PM.

Local 56 Exec Board Minutes June 6, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Vander Stel at 4:52 PM.

Present – Pres. Eric Vander Stel, Vice Pres. Bennie Keys, Sec/Treas. Gary Sironen, Dan Spencer, Elgin Vines, Michael Kornacki, Kevin Murphy.

M/S to accept the Minutes. Carried.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss an appeal to the International Executive Board of a decision made by the Local 56 Board of Directors.

The Board resumed the regular meeting.

M/S to accept the Finance Report. Income \$8,332.19; expenses \$2,936.80. **Carried.**

M/S to accept the Membership Report. New members included Keith Baker, Aaron Hettinga, Byron Huey, Jack Kimmell (former member), Kristin McKay, Milton Sernick (former member), Andrew Spencer and Karen Teamer. Eight members who were expelled for non-payment of dues were reinstated. **Carried.**

OLD BUSINESS

Website – Pictures of some Board member are still needed. The website continues to be regularly updated.

COMMITTEES

NEGOTIATIONS – The Grand Rapids Symphony negotiations committee held 2 meetings with management

and AFM negotiator Nathan Kahn during the first week of June.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Sironen will be out of town June 9-13. Kevin Murphy will keep office hours June 9 & 13.

The next meeting will be July 11 at 4:45 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 PM.

Local 56 Exec Board Minutes July 11, 2011

The meeting was called to order by VP Bennie Keys at 5:12 PM.

Present – Vice President Bennie Keys, Secretary/Treasurer Gary Sironen, Michael Kornacki, Kevin Flannery, Dan Spencer, Kevin Murphy and Jennifer Cullin.

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

M/S (Flannery/Spencer) to accept the Finance Report. Income \$1,385.57; expenses \$8,564.00. **Carried.**

M/S () to accept the Membership Report. New members included Malita Barbee & Douglas Wiora. **Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS

AFM International Rep Barbara Owens sent a survey to Local officers regarding Local credit card use. The AFM recommends Locals holding credit cards develop a usage policy for Local credit card use by officers. Since Local 56 does have a credit card for use by Local 56 officers (Sironen, Vander Stel and Keys), Sironen will write some policies based on AFM recommendations to present to the Board in August.

The Canadian Conference of Locals shared information on lawsuits between AFM and AFM-Canada.

COMMITTEES

NEGOTIATIONS – The GRS Negotiations Committee & AFM Negotiator Nathan Kahn met with management during the first week of July. Diane McElfish-Helle will meet with us next month for a progress update.

NEW BUSINESS –

Jenni Cullin was hired full time with Metro Health, 8-5 daily, and will no longer be able to work in the Local office during office hours. She will type a list of her job responsibilities. The Local will open the job up to the membership to see if any there is any interest. The Board thanks Cullin for 10 years as an office assistant, particularly her work on the Local's website and newsletter. Cullin said she is willing to work after hours as needed until someone is hired.

Cullin's drummer, member Dave Swendrowski, remains hospitalized at Mary Freebed Hospital after recently suffering a stroke.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – None.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sironen will be on vacation July 12-15. Murphy will keep office hours during that time (July 12, 13 & 15).

The next meeting is August 1 at 4:45 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Sironen, Secretary.

LOCAL 56 / AFM MEMBER BENEFITS

**CONTACT LOCAL 56 AT
616-451-4374 / 1-800-637-0498
EMAIL: GRFM@LIVEMUSICGR.ORG
OR VISIT WWW.LIVEMUSICGR.ORG**

For Details on:

CONTRACTS: For life performance, recording and broadcast work.

FREE REFERRAL SERVICE: For bands, ensembles and soloists—in booklet form and on the web at www.livemusic.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, MPF and other covered work.

CONTACT UNION PRIVILEGE

**AFL—CIO AT
1-800-452-9425**

For details on:

- Mortgage and real estate program
- Master Card credit card
- Discount mail-service pharmacy
- Low interest personal loans
- Legal service discounts
- Dental and vision discounts and more!

**CONTACT MARSH AFM
GROUP INSURANCE PLANS AT:
1-800-503-9230**

For details on:

- Musical instrument and equipment
- Musicians' liability
- Term life and disability income
- Major medical, short-term medical, catastrophic major medical, personal accident, in-hospital and cancer insurance



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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

BASS CLARINET—Leblanc wood bass clarinet. Very good condition. \$1,500. Call Kevin Warren @ 616-975-3832. GR

ARE YOU UPDATED?

Have you moved recently or changed a phone number, email address or website? Is that the same as it was a year or even six months ago?

Make sure that your online listing with the Local is updated. Being current with your contact information makes it a lot easier for potential employers to reach you.

Simply go to our "Members Only" section of our website at www.livemusicgr.org and login. There you will be able to change your contact information and either change or add a bio for our database which is searched online by people who may want to hire you! Please also contact L56 with changes for our office records.

Feel free to contact the L56 office for assistance.