

Carousel Organ Association of America April 2024
Board Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2024, 7:00 PM ET – 8:50 ET
Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Yorburg at 7:00 PM ET.

Roll Call: Present

President	Bob Yorburg
Vice President	Bill Hall
Secretary	Paul Senger
Treasurer	Bill Guimes
Stefan Batist	Director
Ian Fraser	Director
Spencer Meachum	Director
Jim Quashnock	Director
Glenn Thomas	Director
Advertising	Ron Bopp
Chat Group	Wally Venable
COAA Sales	Suzanne Hendricks
Editor/Publisher	Ron Bopp
Nominating Committee 2024	Paul Senger
Rally Chair	Suzanne Hendricks
Rally Webmaster	Spencer Meachum
Safety	Wally Venable

Adoption Of Agenda – No Changes.

Reports Of Officers

President	Bob Yorburg - Nothing new to report (NNR)
Vice President	Bill Hall (NNR)
Secretary	Paul Senger See Attachment 1
Treasurer	Bill Guimes See Attachment 2. Bill to provide update. Bottom line has not changed.

Reports Of Directors

Stefan Batist (NNR)	
Ian Fraser	Ian gave a summary of his trip to Buffalo, NY to see the Canal Side Carousel and Wurlitzer 153 organ See New Business Item 8.
Spencer Meachum	See Attachment 6
Jim Quashnock (NNR)	
Glenn Thomas (NNR)	

Reports Of Committees

Advertising	Ron Bopp See Attachment 3
Chat Group	Wally Venable (NNR)

COAA Sales

Suzanne Hendricks

Suzie still has COAA license plates and logo stickers in inventory. Also see Merchandise Online under Additional Discussions.

Editor/Publisher	Ron Bopp See Attachment 3
Education	Marie Beemish (NNR)
Insurance	Gary Rasmussen (NNR)
Membership	Gary Stevenson (NNR)
Nominating Committee - 2024	Paul Senger See Attachment 4
Election Tally Committee - 2024	Marie Beemish (NNR) Task Completed
Rally Chair	Suzanne Hendricks See Attachments 5
Rally Webmaster	Spencer Meachum See Attachment 6
Safety	Wally Venable (NNR)
Social Media	Sam Harris (NNR)
Webmaster	Rich LeVangie (NNR)

All reports were distributed by email on 27 April 2024, except the Rally Webmaster's distributed on 29 April 2024

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

1. Join Online – Bob Yorburg

It was noted by the Treasurer Bill Guimes that PayPal is not integrated into the online membership process. You can fill in and submit the membership online and then not pay the dues. The website only gives you PayPal information. This needs to be addressed by the Webmaster Rich LeVangie. Agreed to leave discount for check versus fee for PayPal.

2. Donate Online - Bob Yorburg

This needs to be addressed by the Webmaster Rich LeVangie. Implementation is related to New Business Item 1. There was discussion on where membership receipts should go. There was discussion on whether the receipts were going to the Membership Committee or the Treasurer. All receipts should go to the Treasurer. The PayPal address and paper membership forms Treasure's address.

Needs to be addressed before rally season.

Stefan Batist and Spencer Meachum investigate this.

3. Rally Fees – Bob Yorburg

Attending members agreed that the Rally Fee was changed at a previous meeting from \$10 to \$15 but never updated on the signup forms. This was missed by multiple people who attended the board meetings. Need to enforce for 2025 season.

4. Rally Side Activities – Bob Yorburg

This is mainly the responsibility of the rally hosts. Information about the local area are good topics. The presentations are mainly for registered rally attendees, but everybody is welcome. Strive for more activities around rallies.

5. Finding new Presenters for The Wonders - Bob Yorburg

There was a plea by President Bob Yorburg to Board Members to find presenters for the monthly Zoom meeting. Need to encourage people with small collections to do videos. It was suggested that maybe we have a month dedicated to small collections and specifically solicit

for that. We did that last December and have it planned for July of this year. Stefan Batist has volunteered to host the Question-and-Answer session for those meetings, rather than having multiple hosts. Wally Venable suggested that we add short commercials to the meetings. They can be built and reused. There was even a suggestion to come up with a COAA jingle.

Spencer Meachum and Ian Fraser look to possibilities for this.

6. Forbidden Music – Bob Yorburg

It was decided that the editor’s response published in the April 2024 journal was sufficient and no additional response was necessary. The two letters to the editor included in the agenda will not be published. They only present one side of the story. Editor Ron Bopp will notify the authors of the letters.

7. 100th Anniversary Journal - Ron Bopp

The President Bob Yorburg has already approved the extra pages. Recommends solicitating some full-page ads. Editor Ron Bopp has volunteered to cover additional beyond the eight pages.

8. Buffalo Heritage Carousel Collaboration – Ian Fraser

Ian Fraser said the Wurlitzer 153 at the Canal Side Carousel is now outside of the carousel which gives people more access to it. There are good crowds around it. The facility has some standardized plaques on some other displays but not on the organ. They need help to get words for the plaque to educate the public on the organ history and operation. President Bob Yorburg suggested we have a COAA advertisement plaque also. We also discussed having COAA applications available. Paul Senger suggested we have something more like an old-time poster for COAA and put a COAA QR code. This fits into the time period of the carousel, eliminates refreshing applications and makes it cheaper to mail. Plaques can get expensive. There is an opportunity to do this at multiple carousels (e.g. Glen Echo).

9. Review COAA Committee Assignments – Paul Senger

Discussed and resolved. Also acknowledged the now inactive 2024 Election Tally Committee 2024, Marie Beemish and Bob Stumer. Marie Beemish is now head of the Education Committee and responsible for *The Wonders of Mechanical Music & Carousels* operation.

Additional Discussions

Merchandise Online

Bob Yorburg brought up the idea of having COAA merchandise available on the COAA website. There are companies that can do imprints, embroidery and hot press on items and can set up a web section for an organization. There will probably be a startup cost to digitize the logo and select merchandise. Ron Bopp mentioned that Joan Haughawout prints tee shirts.

The question was brought up on who possesses the original COAA logo, which we would need to supply to the merchandise site. Bob also mentioned that at earlier meetings there were discussions on updating the logo to make it more printable with current technology. Dan Wilke’s mother did the original logo.

Ron Bopp Circulate information on Joan’s capabilities to Board.

Ron Bopp and Spencer Meachum Investigate options.

COAA Facebook Access

Bill Hall noted that the board members can't make updates to the COAA Facebook page. Sam Harris needs to address this.

Contributions to The Wonders of Mechanical Music & Carousels Virtual Events

We have not received contributions from partners organizations to the operation of website and communications operations. Lady Liberty AMICA, The Musical Box Society International, MBSI East Coast Chapter, and National Carousel Association are our partners.

As the Virtual meeting attendance grows the organization is having trouble sending out too many e-mails and the web sites are asking for additional fees to move up to higher premium plans.

The treasurer has only received one contribution in 2022. As a non-profit we cannot invoice our partners. We can only ask for donations and suggest a value. We need to remind our partners.

Announcements - None

Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 ET.

Attachment 1

COAA Secretary Report

April 29, 2024

Created a mailing list of Board of Directors and Committee members to facilitate sending notices and requests to those members.

After discussions with the COAA President initiated communications with Board of Directors and Committee members to set up a Board meeting for April 29, 2024. Have sent out a proposed agenda and requests for Board of Directors and Committee member reports. Have incorporated comments into the agenda.

Working to set up an archive of previous Board meetings for continuity and legal purposes.

Paul Senger (Chair)

Attachment 2

Financial Snapshot Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2023

Beginning Balance, Chase Bank	\$39,059.10
Less Expenses: Administrative, Legal, Rally, Membership, Printing, ZOOM	-24,953.71
Plus Deposits: Membership Advertising, Rally Registration PayPal, donations	<u>+21,328.31</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/2023 Chase Bank, PayPal	\$35,432.70 (3,626.40)

Administrative Expenses: NJ Business Certificate, Ohio Registered Agent	- \$131.00
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Dues	+\$17,231.29
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Magazine "Carousel Organ"

Editorial, printing, distribution	-\$21,563.73
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Advertising revenue	+\$1,839.89
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Rallies

Expenses and registrations for the 2023 Rally season.

Liability Insurance	-\$350.00
Registration materials, snacks, Promotion, etc.	-\$2,450.81

Registrations, donations	<u>+\$2,657.00</u>
Rally income for 2023.	-\$143.81

Donations: Memorial, Education, General Fund	+\$2,058.09
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Merchandise sales	+\$199.04
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Observations:

1. We had 310 memberships renewed. Almost all of these were households with two or more members per household.
2. Our rally season starts with a negative balance of \$350.00, as that is the cost of our liability insurance regardless of how many rallies we have. The East Broad Top Railroad Rally was not a financial success, as there was no sponsor for the Saturday night meal. Last year, our rallies generated \$802.00 in income. For 2023, not including the East Broad Top rally, our rallies generated \$600.23. Including the EBT Rally, our rallies lost \$143.81.
3. Rally Registration Fees: At one time it was \$20.00 per person. Then \$10.00. Many years ago someone proposed that rally registration be free, so as to attract more attendees. In talking with current rally attendees, the biggest consideration is the age of the attendees. The membership is getting older, and for some, traveling long distances is just not possible, especially when towing a trailer. The other factor is the cost of lodging.
4. All things considered, the dues increase was necessary. As far as I can tell, only one member did not renew his membership because of the dues increase.
5. About one third of the renewals are via PayPal, as are some donations. There is no longer any benefit to using PayPal Friends and Family. PayPal charges \$1.50 administration fee for the US members renewing with PayPal. The dues for international members is \$65.00

2023 RALLIES

Administrative Expense – Insurance **-350.00**

Mountain View Iris Festival

20 Attendees.	\$200		
Expenses	-102.46		
Net	97.54	+97.54	-252.46

East Broad Top RR

79 Attendees	\$790		
50/50	237		
Donation	500		
Expenses	2,081.04		
Net (loss)	-554.04	-554.04	-806.50

Circus Calliope and Mechanical Music

19 Attendees	\$190		
Expenses	0.00		
Net	\$190	+190.00	-616.50

Highland Park Carousel

49 Attendees	490		
Expenses	78.28		
Net	411.72	+411.72	-204.78

Perryville Seminary Picnic

11 Attendees	\$110		
Expenses	76.93		
Net	33.07	+33.07	-171.71

Michigan Flywheelers Museum

14 Attendees	\$140		
Expenses	112.10		
Net	27.90	+27.90	-143.81

Attachment 3 Editor's Report

For 4/29/24

1. Production issues:

Look at the attached PDF (Production costs issues 67 to 99)

- a. Since the last report, the cost of production of issues and the number of issues produced is on par with earlier issues (see long red rectangular box)
- b. No Rally edition saves us \$500 per issue!

2. Rally Edition

To repeat, for 2024, Rally Hosts should be informed of three items the editor needs to have a complete rally edition:

- 1). A list of attendees with hopefully a list of the organs brought to the rally.
- 2). A short write-up for the text in the Rally Edition
- 3). As many people's pictures as possible for inclusion in the Rally Edition.

Obtaining photos and narrative has been like pulling a hen's teeth with some of the rallies.

3. Advertising and Revenue

- a. All advertisers have been promptly billed, and most accounts are current.
- b. Auction Team Breker seems to be hit/miss with his back page ad.
- c. Advertising in other journals - we are currently trading one-fourth-page ads with:
 - National Carousel Association (NCA)
 - www.CarouselHistory.com
 - Mechanical Music Radio

4. Thoughts from the Editor:

- a. **Articles from the board - - - Again**, I urge the **officers and board members to consider authoring an article** for the "Carousel Organ." Several have either done this or have something in the works.
- b. **Back issues - - -** Gary Stevenson continues to do this quite well. Gary also spends a lot of time encouraging those who have not renewed their membership on a prompt basis to renew.
- c. **Articles . . .** we continue to have a supply of interesting articles for the journal.
- d. **Index of Articles . . .** currently available for a request but only a few members have asked (about twenty-two pages which are emailed then to them).
- e. **Issue #98, article "Forbidden Music"** raised some comments;
- f. **100th issue . . .** expanded; will include memorial photos of those that have passed since the organization's inception.
 - **Cost for 4 extra pages** **\$234 extra**
 - **Cost for 8 extra pages** **\$321 extra**

Carousel Organ Production Cost & Other Items (Issues 67, 76 and 90 to 99)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Printed/sent page</u>	<u>Cost/issue</u>	<u>Print Cost</u>	<u>Postage</u>	<u>Overseas</u>	<u>Stuff/Post</u>	<u>inserts</u>	<u>Envelopes</u>	
				<u>Total Cost</u>						
67	4/1/16	450 (<u>426</u>)	40	\$4.58	\$2,062 (\$3,327)	\$321	\$223	\$75/\$25	3(507)*	Envelopes (128)
* includes six-sided brochure plus color member form plus two two-sided inserts										
76	6/26/18	450 (<u>396</u>)	40	\$4.89	\$2,200 (\$3,259)	\$296	\$162	\$120/25	3 & 1 color	Envelopes (\$158)
90	12/28/21	375(349)	40	\$6.01	\$2,253 \$3,129	\$330	\$162	75/25	Ballots/Envelopes \$98	Envelopes (\$140)
<u>NOTE: Rally Edition now on-line only</u>										
91	3/31/22	385/(370)	40	\$5.92	\$2,281 \$3,271	\$324	\$180	90	4 - \$234	Envelopes (\$145)
92	7/5/22	400(366)	40	\$5.92	\$2,368 \$3,203	\$335	\$162	75/18	2 - \$92	Envelopes (\$146)
93	10/10/22	385(343)	40	\$5.92	\$2,281 \$2,871	\$323	\$167	75/25	none	Envelopes (\$0.00)
94	1/5/23	375(348)	40	\$6.05	\$2,269 \$3,116	\$330	\$190	75/25	1 - \$86	Envelopes (\$141)
95	4/5/23	375(359)	40	\$6.05	\$2,269 \$3,648	\$376	\$218	150/25	6 - \$140	Envelopes (\$146)
96	7/2/23	381(361)	40	\$6.05	\$2,305 \$3,508	\$385	\$196	150/25	4=\$300	Envelopes (145)
97	11/6/23	380(361)	40	\$6.05	\$2,299 \$2,931	\$246	\$127	75/23	1 - \$18	Envelopes (145)
98	12/26/23	380(355)	40	\$6.05	\$2,178 3,219	\$361		75/24	4 - \$406 (ballot)	Envelopes (137)
99	4/4/24	865(355)	40	\$6.04	\$2,208 \$3,506	\$328	\$219	75/27	4 - \$435	Envelopes (139)

¹ (*Italic \$ amount*) indicates total amount invoiced for that particular issue . The number in () is the actual number of issues mailed out.

² Upon advice from the printer and agreed by Gary Stevenson (Membership Chair) the actual number printed is dependent upon the number mailed plus 15-25 for the Membership Chair's use. The number will fluctuate depending on the number of memberships receiving the journal.

Attachment 4

2024 Nominating Committee Report

April 29, 2024

The 2024 Nominating Committee has completed its work, and a list of nominees was submitted to the editor (Ron Bopp) on November 23, 2023 to publish in the January 2024 Journal.

Nominees were solicited through a full-page ad in the October 2023 Journal, phone calls, e-mails, and finally targeted person specific e-mails.

The nominating committee collected biographies and pictures for each nominee and provided to the editor.

We thank the members who volunteered to fill the open positions.

This concludes the work of the 2024 Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee
Paul Senger (Chair)
Tim Wagner
Dan Wilke

Attachment 5

Rally Chair's Report April, 2024

The 2023 Rally schedule is completed with six successful rallies. These included the Iris Festival hosted by Doug and Danell Mauldin, East Broad Top Railroad, hosted by John Ravert, Circus Calliope and Mechanical Music Festival hosted by Spencer Meachum, Rotary Carousel and Band Organ Rally hosted by Mikey Mills, Seminary Picnic hosted by Gary Stevenson and Flywheelers Museum and Antique Engine and Tractor Show hosted Spencer Meachum. I would like to thank all our hosts for all the efforts they put in to making “the happiest music in the world” available to the public.

We have four rallies and a winter meeting combined with S.E. MBSI in St Cloud and Tampa, FL on the schedule for the 2024 season. They include: Iris Festival, May 3-4, Knoebels, June 15-16, Olcott Beach, July 26-28, and Dutch Village, August 9-10. All of these rallies have experienced hosts which makes my job an easy one.

2024 COAA Rally Schedule

Iris Festival, Mountain View, AR, May 3-4, 2024, Hosts Doug & Danell Mauldin 501-920-1828
cathe7451@hotmail.com

Knoebels Amusement Park, Elysville, PA, June 15-16, 2024, Host Marie Beamish 917-579-0712
coaa.carouselorgan@gmail.com

Olcott Beach Rally, Olcott Beach, NY, July 26-28, 2024, Host Dan Wilke 716-825-7266
dwilke@qanddmanagement.com

Dutch Village Rally, Holland, MI, August 9-11, 2024, Host Luke Curtis 616-396-1475
luke@dutchvillage.com

Attachment 6

COAA Rally Webmaster Report

April 29, 2024

The rally websites continue to be a useful tool for rally hosts and attendees. The Knoebels website has already had over 70 unique visitors and the websites for the smaller rallies are hovering around 25. Most of the traffic comes directly off the COAA website but there has also been some traffic from thewonders.org and social media, showing that we may be reaching potential new members.

Since taking over as Rally Webmaster I have moved the website hosting to a free service, allowing me to remake all the sites into a standard, modern format, as well as eliminate the website hosting cost for COAA.

I would like to thank all rally hosts for their cooperation in getting information for the websites. I would also like to thank Marie Beemish for creating the new standardized registration forms. This was usually one of the more difficult things to get from hosts!