

The Southeast Rag



August, 2011

The Voice of Southeast MBSI

Volume 27, No.2

2011-12 Southeast Chapter Officers

Wayne Finger, Chairman

Craig Darlak, Vice Chairman

Julie Morlock, Secretary and Membership

Reporter and Photographer, Howard Sanford

Treasurer and Webmaster, Clay Witt

Librarian, Moe Goldy

Chairman's Message

by Wayne Finger, Chairman



There is a lot to look forward to in our Southeast Chapter.

Our next meeting will feature automatic instruments by Seeburg, Kalliope, Mortier, Knabe, Polyphon, Tanglely and many others. We can occasionally view a music box, piano, orchestrion or organ in a museum from behind a felt rope. At an MBSI home collection visit, we have a unique opportunity to hear it play and frequently peek inside to see the internal mechanisms at work! Saturday afternoon at Largo City Park we will get to ride the trains and participate in an organ rally. Don't miss this weekend.

This is a tremendous opportunity for us to introduce the public to some of our most cherished instruments. You never know who has a music box or automatic piano hidden away somewhere. I placed an ad in my local "Craigslist," inviting people to contact me if they had an antique music box they wanted to sell. On the fifth e-mail reply, I was contacted by a family who sold me a beautiful sounding eight tune 8" cylinder box which Alice and I are really enjoying. At the organ rally in the park, let's make an effort to be welcoming to everyone at the park. Let's show interest in their stories of their grandparents' player piano or their toy Fischer Price music box. Maybe there is someone in Largo with a player piano or old music box in their attic who might like to join in on the enjoyment of all of these wonderful machines.

Do you have projects that need professional help? Our chapter has great restorers right here in the southeast. I have gotten to know several of the restorers in our chapter over the past year. The quality of the rebuilders and restorers in our chapter is very impressive. Last year at a meeting I visited the rebuilding shop of David and Carol Beck in Georgia. They have so much expertise and specialized equipment. Their music box restorations are so beautiful to see and hear. I also have gotten to know Richard Bair



Calendar of Events

Annual Meeting

August 24-27, 2011

Washington, DC

Host: National Capitol Chapter

Joint Piedmont and Southeast Fall Meeting - Monkey Organ Rally

Sept.30-Oct. 2, 2011

Largo, FL

Host: John Martin

Winter Meeting

New Orleans Area

Host: Julian Grace

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Minutes of Kissimmee Meeting, May 13-15, 2011



by Julie Morlock, Secretary

The spring meeting of the Southeast Chapter was held on May 14, 2011, in Kissimmee, FL.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Wayne Finger. He then welcomed new member Bill Koenig, and noted that vouchers for a \$15.00 discount at National were available for any guests at the meeting if they joined within 14 days.

The minutes of the previous meeting (January 8, 2011) were approved as published in the last issue of the *Southeast Rag*.

Membership Report: Julie Morlock reported that our membership records were reconciled with Jacque Beeman at National in April, and that we currently had 130 members who had paid dues at both the national and chapter levels. She noted that membership was down nationally, as well as at the chapter level, and encouraged members to do what they could to bring in new members.

Membership Well-Being Report: Julie Morlock reported the following: Beatrice and Lee Farmer sent their regards from Michigan; Lee's cancer is in remission. Also Howard and Margery Sanford were not able to be at the meeting as they were attending their granddaughter's graduation, Alice and Wayne Finger had a new grandson, and Frank Richmond had passed away in February. Julie read a note and a card from Irene Leverett thanking the chapter for the donation to the MBSI Endowment Fund in Ted's honor; and reported that Don Edwards, who has had a small stroke but was doing well, is still looking for any information regarding the 15 ½ inch Regina that was given to someone for repair at the Oldsmar meeting in 2007 and was never returned. Dick Leis reported that Todd Augsburg, who had donated a book titled *Roller Organs* to the chapter during Dick's term as chairman, had recently passed away. A motion was made and approved to make a donation to the Endowment Fund at National in honor of Frank Richmond.

Awards: Wayne Finger gave an overview of the Mason Pace Award and the Dr. Joe Bailey Award. Julie Morlock then presented the following awards: the Dr. Joe Bailey Award to Dixie Leis for her many years of service as Membership Chair and Registrar for the Southeast Chapter, the Mason Pace Award to Wayne and Mary Ellen Myers and to Paulette

Smariga and Steve Schake for their work on the exhibit at the Orlando Science Center; and the Dr. Joe Bailey Award to Richard Bair for his work on the exhibit at the Orlando Science Center. Wayne Finger then thanked Howard Sanford for arranging to have the awards made.

Treasurer's Report: Clay Witt reported that we had a total of \$11,457.28 in the checking account and money market combined; there were zero unpaid bills as of March 31, 2011. We made a profit on the January meeting and would make a profit on this meeting. The total costs of the OSC exhibit were \$14,005.40 (under budget); National reimbursed us \$5,997.20; chapter costs were \$5,997.20; and music box kit sales generated \$2,011.00. Wayne Finger reported that he had received a \$50.00 contribution designated for the establishment of a Southeast Chapter Endowment Fund (to be used for outreach and member well being). Discussion followed as to the intent of this and it was decided to table the issue until the next meeting and to get more input from the contributor.

Upcoming Meetings: Vice Chairman Craig Darlak reported that our next meeting would be September 30-October 2, 2011 in Largo, FL, hosted by John Martin. This will be a joint meeting with the Piedmont Chapter, with a Friday night open house at the home of Dick and Dixie Leis, a Saturday or gan rally in a park near the hotel featuring a miniature train exhibit and rides, and a Sunday open house at the home of John Martin and Norm Bauer. In early March 2012, there will be a joint meeting with the Sunbelt Chapter in the New Orleans/Metairie area (dates are being worked out); we'll have a joint meeting with Piedmont in summer 2012; and in fall of 2012 we'll meet in Tampa with Craig as the host. Craig encouraged members to bring items to share and to suggest speakers for upcoming meetings; he also reminded everyone to attend the 62nd MBSI Annual Meeting in Rockville, MD August 24-27, 2011, and asked for volunteers to host future meetings. Moe Goldy suggested that we include time during future meetings for show-and-tell sessions. Wayne Finger encouraged members to host open houses, expressing how helpful it was to view others' collections and exchange information on machines. He noted how nice it was to receive "thank you" notes after hosting an open house and reviewed etiquette for visiting collections.

Editor's Report: Dixie Leis requested that any information for the next issue of the *Southeast Rag* be submitted before August 1, 2011.

Library Report: Moe Goldy had the library available at the meeting. Wayne Finger urged

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members to make use of the library.

Wayne Finger thanked Martin and Marilou van Zanten for filling in as reporters for the meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Vernon Gantt asked Craig Darlak to check with him on dates for the joint meeting in 2012 since Piedmont does not have summer meetings; he also commented on how nice it had been to receive "thank you" notes after Piedmont's March meeting with the Board of Trustees, and that he would make an effort to send them in the future.

Final Report on the Exhibit at the Orlando Science Center: Wayne Myers gave a brief overview of the planning/execution of the exhibit; everything is documented for future interested chapters to use. There were over 10,000 exhibit visitors, and 500 guided tours were given (2-30 people in each tour); we got several new members as a result. Costs were covered in the Treasurer's Report. Mary Ellen Myers urged the chapter to continue this educational outreach, saying how rewarding it was to teach children and adults about these instruments, and that the feedback from visitors had been extremely positive. Efforts to continue this outreach include Wayne and Richard Bair doing a workshop at the Annual Meeting in August; the establishment of a consulting group (working with the museum committee) to help others do this kind of outreach; designating instruments owned by National to be used for a traveling exhibit; and encouraging members to seek out small local opportunities for outreach – schools, senior centers, fairs, hold organ rallies, etc. They also suggested showing the video from national and approaching PBS again. Wayne Finger thanked the whole team for working on the exhibit. A motion was made and approved to do more to promote MBSI, and discussion followed on a variety of ways to do so. Motions were made and approved to include more organ rallies at future meetings and to invite other organizations (such as AMICA and COAA) to attend chapter meetings. It was noted that the Board of Trustees did not address the issue of storage for the exhibit backdrops at their meeting in March; a motion was made and approved to continue to fund the storage (reduced to \$75.00 a month), with National paying half the cost until they address the issue, and not to refund money from the exhibit to National until they address the issue.

Richard Bair reported that, in an effort to make the public more aware of our hobby and to get more members, he is constructing a "how to" handbook on outreach, with ideas on how to make exhibits simpler and more appealing to the public; this will be

distributed at the Annual Meeting. Wayne Finger noted that he had received information from Paulette Smariga on creating hands-on exhibits and suggested they coordinate materials.

Annual Meeting 2014: Wayne Finger recognized Carol Beck and Bill Griffin for stepping up to head planning for the Annual Meeting in 2014. Bill Griffin reported that all committee chair positions had been filled except for door prizes. Following discussion of possible themes for the meeting, ballots were passed out for members to vote. Availability of collections and possible dates were discussed. After working with the Convention and Visitors Bureau, receiving bids from and visiting a number of hotels, Bill and Carol recommended the Hyatt Regency Bonaventure, with a room rate of \$119.00. An overview of the facilities was given, along with a tentative schedule of events. A motion was made and approved to hold the Annual Meeting Oct. 7-11, 2014; the hotel contract will be sent to National for approval. Wayne Finger thanked Bill Griffin and Carol Beck for all their work. Possible home tours were discussed. Martin van Zanten requested ideas for table favors. Marilou van Zanten requested ideas for table decorations. We are looking into the possibility of a cruise being available at the end of the meeting. Publicity and security were discussed. Cotton Morlock requested ideas for the hospitality room. Ballots were collected and the theme "Wonderful World of Mechanical Music" was approved. Carol Beck discussed ideas on door prizes, and asked for a volunteer to chair door prizes.

Wayne Finger reviewed the schedule for the day and the open house on Sunday.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

\$50 Contributed for Membership Well Being and Outreach

by Wayne Finger

In the meeting minutes, under "Treasurers Report" there is mention that the chapter has received a \$50 contribution to be used for outreach and membership well being. In the business meeting, the amount was misdescribed as an "endowment". The actual intent of the donor is that it be a simple contribution. The concern is that during these difficult financial times some chapter members may feel a need to drop out of the society or chapter due to financial difficulty. The \$50 contribution is to provide designated funds for the chapter so that the officers may confidentially use the funds to assist members under financial stress.

Chairman's Message, continued from page 1

and visit his shop in Orlando. Last weekend he installed a restored percussion shelf for my Seeburg KT Special. Now it plays better than ever. Earlier he restored my Popper Orchestrion pneumatic stack. These machines now sound great. A couple of months ago I visited with Robert Loeffler at his shop in Deland. He showed off his recent restorations of a Mills Violano and an Imhoff orchestrion. These machines looked and sounded great. Each of these restorers put so much work, so much care and so much love into their restorations. I am thankful that each are in our chapter and for the outstanding restorations they have done. If there are other professional restorers out there, I look forward to meeting you - and enjoying the visual and acoustic beauty of your work.

As a closing thought, if anyone asks why the Musical Box Society International is involved with a train ride in the park, just reply, "The locomotive steam whistle is really a one note calliope, so it definitely fits in with our wonderful group of musical collectors."

If You Haven't Heard....

by Dixie Leis

In February of 2012 the Milhous Brothers of Boca Raton, FL will be auctioning their extensive collection of wonderful automatic musical instruments and cars. RM Auctions and Sothebys will be handling the auction. If you would like to check the auction flyer, see the following Web site: www.rmauctions.com/milhous-collection/cfm.

Although we collectors certainly can empathize with the Milhous Brothers' desire to eliminate all the maintenance and overhead costs their collection requires, not being able to view this collection is a real loss to our chapter.

Thank You, Chapter

by Dixie Leis

At the May chapter meeting in Kissimmee, I was pleasantly surprised to be awarded the prestigious Dr. Joe Bailey award for my "leadership, contributions, and service to the Southeast Chapter of MBSI." Thank you to the chapter for determining that I am deserving of such an award.

Serving as your past membership chairman and registrar and currently being your editor has been rewarding and enjoyable. I encourage everyone to say "yes" when asked to serve. Thanks again.



Southeast Mart

*\$2.00 for each 20 words. Send ads and checks to
Dixie Leis.*

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Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

Acupuncture is a jab well done

Photographs from the Kissimmee Meeting by Martin van Zanten



On Friday night, Wayne and Mary Ellen Myers hosted an open house. Here they show off their 1902 Encore banjo.



Julie Morlock (with plaque) and Wayne Finger presented Steve Schake and Paulette Smariga the Mason Pace award for their Orlando exhibit work. Paulette and Steve also hosted a Sunday open house.



On Saturday meeting attendees enjoyed seeing and listening to the organs in Cyndy and Bill's organ building.



Cyndy and Bill Hall pose with their gorgeous 89 key Gavioli fair organ. Cyndy provided interesting information about each organ before it was demonstrated.

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark

- One: Don't miss the boat.*
- Two: Remember that we are all in the same boat.*
- Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.*
- Four: Stay fit When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.*
- Five: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.*
- Six: Build your future on high ground.*
- Seven: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.*
- Eight: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.*
- Nine: When you're stressed, float a while.*
- Ten: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic was built by professionals.*

Welcome, New Members

Please add the following new members to your 2011 directory:



James & Marilyn Evans
263 S. Beach Road
Hobe Sound, FL 33455
(772) 545-3328
peppy1960@aol.com

Michael & Julie Fender
590 Brookside Circle
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 923-2473
mfender1@cfl.rr.com

Randy Hayno
PO Box 133
Madisonville, LA 70447
(985) 845-3853
randhayno@gmail.com

Bill & Kathleen Koenig
4576 Helena Drive
Titusville, FL 32780
(321) 383-2012
bkingb4@yahoo.com

David Sikoris & Olya Chernova



Get Well Wishes

The chapter extends its good wishes to the following:



Moe Goldy, chapter librarian, is recovering nicely from heart surgery in June. His wife Elayne said his need for surgery was quite a surprise for someone who had never taken a pill in his life.

*Friends, you and me,
You brought another friend
And then there were 3.
We started our group
Our circle of friends
And like that circle
There is no beginning or end.*

In Memory

Bernard (Bernie) Weiser

by Julie Morlock

Bernie Weiser, 83, of Oldsmar, FL died May 16, 2011 from the long term effects of a stroke. A U. S. Army veteran of the Korean War, he moved to Florida in 1978 and was a member of Congregation Bai Emmunah in Tarpon Springs, FL. Bernie was well known and admired by his fellow Southeast Chapter members for his wonderful woodworking skills. He could craft anything from music box cases with beautiful inlaid tops to intricately carved wooden automata. Survivors include his wife, Frances; son, Edward Weiser; stepchildren Scott Factor, Leonard Factor and Maxine Factor; and six grandchildren. He had requested cremation and that his ashes be placed into a music box and buried with him. He also had requested that a music box play during his funeral.

Robert (Fritz) Gellerman

by Howard Sanford

MBSI has lost one of our great ones. Robert (Fritz) Gellerman passed away suddenly on June 13, 2011 at age 82. Many of us knew Fritz well from his years of attendance at musical box meetings and his talks (lectures). He was one of the world's experts on reed organs, having written at least four books on the subject, the last being the *American Reed Organ and the Harmonium*, published in 1996 by Vestal Press.

Fritz was an enthusiast of all organs, big and small, and was always willing to bring his expertise to discussions of the same. He formerly owned a North Tonawanda Band Organ that he brought to a number of Band Organ rallies.

Fritz was born in Minnesota and graduated from University of Minnesota with a degree in electrical engineering. He spent his working career in telecommunications with many years in Latin America, chiefly Panama. He lived in DeLand, Florida after retirement and in Gainesville for the last two years.

He suffered a number of family tragedies. His wife passed away in 1992. His daughter was killed in an auto accident in 1993. And some years later, his son was also killed in an auto accident.

Although not known for his smile, Fritz had a great sense of humor and was a devoted companion to Nita Maercks in his last ten years. He will be greatly missed by all.