

## **Minutes of General Membership Meeting**

**Date:** November 13, 2014

**Location:** NERFA Conference, Hudson Valley Resort, Kerhonksen, NY

**In Attendance:** Tret Fure, President; Scott Berwick, Secretary-Treasurer; Charlie Pilzer, Eastern Regional Representative (arrived 5:28 PM); James Durst, Eric Erickson, Freebo, Spook Handy, Terry Irons; Coleen Kattau (left at 5:17 PM); Mara Levine; Jesse Palidofsky; David Roth; Steve Suffet; John O'Connor (arrived 4:45 PM); SONiA Rutstein (arrived 5:08 PM).  
(15 Members in attendance.)

**Opening Song:** Spook Handy opened the meeting with "Quite Early Morning" by Pete Seeger.

**Call To Order:** There being a quorum, President Fure called the meeting to order at 4:36 PM. (12 members present.)

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes from the Membership Meeting on May 13, 2014 at the Highlander Center in New Market, TN were approved as presented on a motion by James Durst and second by Spook Handy.

**Treasurer's Report:** Secretary-Treasurer Berwick presented the Year-to-Date October 31, 2014 Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Reports with a brief explanation. The reports were approved on a motion by James Durst and Second by Jesse Palidofsky. Secretary-Treasurer Berwick also reported that our tax filing (Fed 990) has been filed for 2013 and that the executive board had decided to retain our current accountants for our 2014 returns.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Office Report:** Vice-President Cowan submitted a report by email on the state of the office. It herewith attached.

**Membership Services:** Email from Midwestern Representative Aaron Fowler - "The membership committee continues to find ways to connect our members. The monthly e-blast is one way we communicate with our members. If you are not receiving this please contact the New York office. In addition the New Deal speaks to the working of the local. If you have suggestions on articles please let us know. We are also trying to find ways to use technology to communicate in a "virtual union hall". We have looked into various video platforms but have not yet found one that will meet our needs and is reasonably priced. If you have suggestions for monthly or quarterly video chats please contact Aaron Fowler our Midwest rep. Our hope is that these sessions will include seasoned members who can share tips and wisdom about touring and working as a musician. If you are interested in sharing your experience please let the Ex Board know. We will be putting together this project in the next several months.

If you have any questions about your membership or your Local please don't hesitate to contact your regional rep or someone on the Executive board."

Solidarity Committee: Dave Hawkins submitted the following by email:

“The Solidarity Committee currently consists of Dave Hawkins, Chair, Stephen Rich and Sandy Andina.

Due to time constraints over the past 3 months, we’ve been communicating via Email and Fb messaging.

2 projects we’re currently working on:

1- Discussion about a “clearing house” type activity involving Union and Labor issues/activities which could benefit from support by Local 1000 members. This could be set up as a listing of Union/Labor Issues and events in various towns/cities, which could be posted on the L1K Fb page, or other up-to-date media. These events would not be limited to the AFM, but would include ANY kind of Labor/Union issues being addressed. L1K Members who might be in the vicinity of these events (either during a tour, or because they reside there) could approach event organizers and offer their services. This would help get L1K’s name in front of people, and prove our desire to be connected with the Greater Labor Community.

2-While working around our various schedules, we’re STILL working on a possible proposal for the PRO (Performers’ Rights Organization) issues. We are STILL getting anecdotal evidence from “micro venues”( <50 seat, occasional live music, usually “mom and pop”) around the country of “representatives” from PROs stopping in to these venues and demanding that they pay huge fees to be “licensed” or they will be sued, and/or shut down. It appears that these “representatives” are commission-paid sub-contractors, and not actual PRO employees.

We agree that Artists should, and MUST be paid for their original works, but something needs to be resolved to insure that small to mid-level Artists don’t lose venues that are their bread and butter. Many of these “micro venues” offer music more as a service to their community, or because they love live music, rather than as a revenue generator. We’re in the process of working on ideas for resolution to this issue, including contacting PROs to start discussion. More info and request for suggestions will be forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Hawkins, Solidarity Committee Chair.”

This provoked some serious discussion.

Member Terry Irons offered to write up an article for a future New Deal to clarify the issue and offer guidance in dealing with PRO’s. Member Spook Handy suggested that some venues might benefit by joining “umbrella organizations” along the line of “Home Roots”.

**Fair Trade Music:** President Fure reported that we now have 27 venues on our Fair Trade Music poster. Local 1000 members are urged to encourage new venues to sign up for the Fair Trade Music program.

**Election of President, Vice-President Canada & Midwestern Representative:** At this point, 5:35 PM, President Fure stepped down as Meeting Chair, ceding the role to Eastern Regional Representative Charlie Pilzer. Chairman Pro Tem Pilzer requested the report of the Nominations Committee comprised of members Joe Jencks, Erin Rogers and Amber Rogers.

Secretary-Treasurer Berwick read the names of the the nominees named by the committee: Tret Fure for the post of President, Eve Goldberg for the post of Vice-President Canada, and Aaron Fowler for the post of Midwestern Representative. The report of the Nominations Committee was accepted on a motion by James Durst and Second by Mara Levine.

**President:** The nomination of Tret Fure for President was brought to the floor for consideration. Chairman Pro Tem Pilzer opened the floor for other nominations. There being no nominations from the floor, a motion to close nominations for President was passed on a motion by John O'Connor and second by James Durst. President Fure is elected by acclamation.

**Vice-President Canada:** The nomination of Eve Goldberg for Vice-President Canada was brought to the floor for consideration. The floor was opened for other nominations. There being no other nominations, a motion to close nominations was passed on a motion by Eric Erickson and Second by SONiA Rutstein. Vice-President Canada Goldberg is elected by acclamation.

**Midwestern Representative:** The nomination of Aaron Fowler for Midwestern Representative was brought to the floor for consideration. The floor was opened for other nominations. There being no other nominations, a motion to close nominations was passed on a motion by James Durst and Second by Spook Handy. Midwestern Representative Fowler is elected by acclamation.

**Elections Completed:** Following the elections, Chairman Pro Tem Pilzer ceded the Chair to President Fure.

**Membership Gathering At Ashokan Center:** Eastern Regional Representative Pilzer, who is working with member Steve Eulberg to organize the membership gathering, reported on the progress to date. Previous gatherings have been held at the Highlander Center because of its rich labor and civil rights heritage, but its location in New Market, TN has made it a difficult destination for many of our members. The new location, the Ashokan Center, in Olivebridge, NY will be more accessible to a larger number of our US and Canadian Members. We have lined up Jay Unger & Molly Mason and Ysaye Barnwell to be mentors and are lining up some others too. We are trying to set up a “sliding scale” cost structure for this event, so that the cost to the attendees will not be a significant impediment to attending for younger and more cash limited members. The facilities at Ashokan are new and set in very attractive rural area, not too far from New York City, Albany, NY and Boston, MA. The event is planned for May 4, 5, 6, 2015. Watch for updates on the Local 1000 website and in our email newsletters.

**Visioning For The Future:** President Fure reviewed the Membership Visioning Session from our Membership Gathering at the Highlander Center, May 12, 13, 14, 2014. Improvements to our online offerings for filing contracts, paying dues and work dues were discussed. We received a proposal to conduct a membership drive at Folk Alliance in Kansas City, with the additional incentive of waiving the \$100 initiation fee to new members. A Twitter presence was also proposed for Local 1000.

**Closing Song:** John O'Connor led off a rousing rendition of “Down By The Riverside”.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Berwick, Secretary-Treasurer