

AGMA

Announcements

Board of Governors Meeting: June 15, 2020

A regularly scheduled teleconferenced meeting of the Board of Governors of the American Guild of Musical Artists was called to order on Monday, June 15, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. eastern time. The following actions were taken:

During his report, **President Ray Menard** announced George Scott has been appointed by the Board to fill the vacant 5th Vice-President seat.

He also shared important information regarding health coverage, the AGMA Relief Fund, the Anti-Sexual Harassment Subcommittee, and recapped what AGMA has accomplished in the last year.

All of this information, and more, is available in his [official Board Report](#).

Len Egert, National Executive Director, reported on the three primary focuses of AGMA:

1. Safety Considerations for return to work
2. Legislative and other efforts to provide financial assistance to members
3. Racial injustice

To read his full Board Report, [click here](#).

The Executive Council considered multiple emergency waivers relating to modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the EC announced that a summary of the Board minutes will be made available to members. Members will be able to access the summary (different than this newsletter) by logging into their MyAGMA account. Summaries will be posted roughly 3 weeks after the BOG meeting. Since there is a delay, a newsletter sharing highlights from the BOG meeting will be sent to members a few days following the BOG meeting.

The **Committee on Committees** Report was presented and the BOG approved to appoint Teresa Reichlen and Peggy Stenger from the Work Rules and Contracts Committee to the Subcommittee on Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy.

The Board approved the waivers and conditions as recommended by the **Work**

Rules and Contracts Committee.

The **Administration and Policy Committee** recommended a policy on *Designation of Confidential Information within a Committee and Subcommittee*, which was approved. During Committee and Subcommittee meetings of the Guild, the Committee and Subcommittee shall designate what information shall remain confidential within the Committee and Subcommittee. Non-confidential policies will be shared on the member side of the AGMA website soon.

Membership and Member Relations Committee strongly encouraged and embraced more participation at the member-level. The Committee presented guidelines to help streamline the process for interested groups of members in good standing to organize and form caucuses or coalitions to help bring to light areas of concern that a particular constituent group might have. The guidelines were approved for use in the creation and life of all AGMA caucuses, coalitions, and the like. **To access the guidelines**, you will need to be logged into MyAGMA. The document is behind the MyAGMA portal, under [Policies and Procedures](#).

The upcoming issue of *AGMAzine* will be released early to mid-July and will be digital.

Black Lives Matter

The American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) is made up of diverse Artists who put beauty into the world by coming together in union to create tremendous works of opera, dance, and song.

It is clear that our society remains unequal and unjust. In recent weeks, the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, and the resulting protests by Americans all over the country, have again reminded us of the plight faced by our Black brothers and sisters in America. Black lives matter, and AGMA stands in solidarity with those who are fighting for a more equal and more just future.

We call on elected leaders at all levels of government to come together, like our members, to address the systemic and institutionalized origins of these tragedies and enact meaningful policies to end them and begin the healing process.



On Sunday, May 31, AGMA released the following statement on social media:

"The American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) is made up of diverse Artists who put more beauty into the world by coming together in union to create tremendous works of opera, dance, and song.

It is clear that our society remains unequal and unjust. In recent weeks, the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, and the resulting protests by Americans all over the country, have again reminded us of the plight faced by our black brothers and sisters in America. Black lives matter, and AGMA stands in solidarity with those who are fighting for a more equal and more just future.

We call on elected leaders at all levels of government to come together, like our members, to address the systemic and institutionalized origins of these tragedies, and enact meaningful policies to end them and begin the healing process."

The actions we have taken since releasing this statement will be announced in the coming weeks.

Call to Action - There's Still Time

On Tuesday, June 9, AGMA encouraged its members to send letters to their senators, urging them to extend enhanced unemployment benefits past July 31. **Over 2,500 letters were sent from AGMA artists.**

Discussions on whether to do so or not are ongoing and there is still time to add your voice!

[Send a Letter](#)

Health Coverage SURVEY

If you haven't yet done so, please fill out the AGMA survey on health coverage. We recognize that obtaining affordable health coverage is a high priority for our members. Your input is necessary and important to us regardless of whether or not you currently participate in any of the programs.

[Complete Survey](#)

The Actors Fund Workshops

As mentioned in President Menard's Board Report, The Actors Fund offers a wide range of programs, a calendar of workshops, and online resources to support the unique, essential needs of all who work in entertainment and the performing arts. The workshops cover a range of topics important to a performing artist from resume writing, LinkedIn, and portfolio building, to

budgeting and finance classes, to support and mental health groups. View the full calendar [here](#).

AGMA + SDC Engage Medical Experts Together

AGMA

AMERICAN GUILD *of* MUSICAL ARTISTS

SDC STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY
ESTABLISHED 1959

With discussions on reopening beginning around the country across various industries, the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) and Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) announced that they have engaged the services of medical experts to assist with COVID-19 safety planning and ensure that their members are protected.

The two unions—AGMA, which represents opera performers, choral singers, and dancers, and SDC, representing stage directors and choreographers—will be working with Dr. Mark Cunningham-Hill, Dr. Laura S. Welch, and Dr. Stephen J. Anderson, who have multiple decades worth of experience in protecting the health of employees and maintaining healthy workplaces.

[Continue Reading.](#)

Important Information Regarding COBRA Coverage

AGMA has learned that if a member chooses COBRA coverage, and subsequently finds that they cannot afford it, they cannot get coverage on the marketplace until open enrollment. Going off COBRA coverage is not considered a qualifying event that allows one to go on the marketplace. AGMA understands that this is very important that this information be given to our members if they lose AGMA coverage. AGMA has communicated with the AGMA Retirement and Health Funds that this information needs to be clearly stated in the material sent to our members from the Funds.

Before making such a crucial decision, it is advisable to obtain reliable information by attending one of the weekly seminars at the [Artists Health Insurance Resource Center](#) offered by the Actors Fund.

AGMA Relief Fund Update



On May 22, the accomplished San Clemente High School Choir hosted a benefit concert on Zoom to raise funds for the AGMA Relief Fund. They exceeded their goal of raising \$1,000 dollars for the Fund. THANK YOU!

San Clemente High School (SCHS) was founded in 1964, and its choral tradition is deep-rooted in its 56-year history. The California high school has five choirs in place, ranging from beginning level ensembles to advanced women's and mixed ensembles. They've toured New York City, Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. They regularly perform at university festivals where they earn top marks. In the fall of 2019, they performed the Vivaldi Gloria with a semiprofessional orchestra, and in December, the Madrigal group performed in the Disneyland Candlelight performance narrated by Lin Manuel Miranda.

CJ Daniel, Choir Director, told AGMA, "In the course of distance learning, I've been looking for ways to keep students engaged as performers and learners. I decided to host a concert benefitting artists who have lost income due to COVID-19. I chose the AGMA Relief Fund because its affiliated union, the American Guild of Musical Artists, specifically supports choral musicians."

As you may know, due to COVID-19, in just two months, the AGMA Relief Fund has seen a 2,000% increase in grant dollars given to AGMA artists in crisis. Established in 1945, the viability of the Fund is 100% dependent on donations.

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