Officers and Board members elected

A full slate of National Officers and 49 Board members have been elected—and in some cases re-elected—in AGMA’s recent election. A total of 1,262 ballots were received: 1,201 were valid and 61 were declared invalid for having arrived too late, for lack of signature on the envelope, because the voter was in arrears in dues and other reasons.

All active members in good standing as of February 1, 1983 were eligible to vote. (The New Orleans and Northwest Areas had no vacancies on the Board of Governors and voted only for the Officer vacancies.) A report follows. The names of elected candidates appear in larger type.

OFFICERS

President
NEDDA CASEI 684
Don Yule 499
Write-Ins 1

1st Vice President
EILEEN SCHAUER 1,075
Write-Ins 10

2nd Vice President
ELINOR HARPER 1,048
Write-Ins 13

3rd Vice President
EUGENIA WACKER-HOEFLIN 1,068
Write-Ins 1

4th Vice President
MURIEL COSTA-GRENSPON 1,093
Write-Ins 4

5th Vice President
BETTY BAISCH 621
Robert Lee Kelly 491

Treasurer
LAWRENCE DAVIDSON 1,041
Write-Ins 3

Recording Secretary
YOLANDA ANTOINE 609
Jacqueline Pierce 562

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
NEW YORK AREA

Solo Singers—9 vacancies
THOMAS JAMERSON 431
GABOR CARELLI 425
ANTHEA DE FOREST 413
LEONORE LANZILLOTTI 411
JAMES FLEETWOOD 407
DAN SULLIVAN 406
LOYD HARRIS 391
HARRIS POOR 390
JOHN STAMFORD 373

Stage Directors/Stage Managers
2 vacancies
William Cason 360
Write-Ins 7

Choristers-8 vacancies
ELEANORE LANGE 404
CONSTANCE WEBBER 379
LYNDA JORDAN 375
JOHN BROOME 370
ERBERT ALDRIDGE 361
MAX GALLOWAY 339
BERNARD FISCHER 329
WILLIAM LYON LEE 325
William-David Schell 298
Elizabeth Anguish 264
Write-Ins 16

Dancers-6 vacancies
MICHAEL RUBINO 427
(continued on page 4)
A.I.D.S.
A Serious Health Threat To AGMA Members!

by Gene Boucher
National Executive Secretary

The mysterious and alarming medical problem known as “AIDS” (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) has appeared in significant numbers within AGMA’s membership. This situation prompted the Board of Governors to authorize a newsletter of information that might be needed by company managers and delegates facing either the fear or the fact of this serious disease within their companies. I researched, analyzed and condensed a great volume of material before mailing out to the above-mentioned the article that follows. This newsletter has prompted sufficient interest and response both from within AGMA and from the media (it is mentioned in the June 20th issue of New York magazine) that it behooves us to print this in its entirety for the general membership.

For AGMA Delegates, Company Managers,

Area Representatives and Committee Chairman:

The attached article was unanimously requested by the Board at its meeting of March 21, 1983. It has been a month in preparation because the material available is now vast and inconclusive. There is no consensus about many major aspects of AIDS. As of this date, it represents as well-informed content as we can find. The matter of blood transfusion, and blood products used by hemophiliacs is so clouded by contradiction and uncertainty that we have not dealt with it. This information is aimed at our regular membership, hopefully in good health. Persons with serious illness requiring transfusion or blood products should seek more specialized information at the sources listed below.

The Centers for Disease Control have identified AIDS cases in 33 states (as well as in 13 nations outside the U.S.). They have funded a National Hotline to provide AIDS answers and referrals: (800) 227-8037 (9 a.m. to 9 p.m. California time). The line is operated by the American Social Health Association; it would appear to be eternally busy. Try one of the other Hotlines; these excellent volunteer organizations man telephone aid lines specifically designed to field questions and to refer potential patients to appropriate health care professionals.

National Gay Task Force
Nationwide (800) 221-7044
N.Y. State (212) 807-6016

In New York City
Gay Men’s Health Crisis
(212) 685-4952

In San Francisco
KS Research and Education Foundation
(415) 864-4376

In Los Angeles
KS Foundation/Los Angeles
(213) 461-1333

In Houston, Texas
(713) 792-3245
(800) 392-2040 for those in Texas, except Houston

In Atlanta
AID Atlanta (AIDS Help Line)
(404) 972-0600

(continued on page 5)
Board Members Elected

Jamerson  Carelli  de Forest  Lanzillotti  Fleetwood  Sullivan  Harris

Poor  Stamford  Donnell  Jaworski  Lange  Webber  Jordan

Broome  Aldridge  Galloway  Fischer  Lee  Rubino  Brown

Dakin  Randolph  Leritz  Biggs  Clarke  McCollum  Voketaitis

Pearson  Cole  Eylar  Petersen  Corsale  Russell  Triplett

Williamson  Mitchell  Ireland  Melodini  Wuchenich  Honeysucker  Garroway

Tinkle

(Not shown: Gary Cordial, Burman Timberlake, Jeff Shipman, Marc Verzatt, Joan Morton, Raymond Hickman)
WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Solo Singers-3 vacancies
ROBERT WILLIAMSON 59
GAIL MITCHELL 57
CAROL IRELAND 54
Write-Ins 2

Choristers-1 vacancy
JOAN MORTON 31
Thomas E. Pratt 30

PITTSBURGH AREA

Choristers-2 vacancies
EDWARD MELODINI 21
DR. JOHN G. WUCHENICH 18
Frank Kerin 16
Louise Andrews 14
Write-Ins 1

NEW ENGLAND AREA

Solo Singers-1 vacancy
ROBERT HONEYSUCKER 39

Choristers-1 vacancy
MICHAEL GARROWAY 19
Nalora Steele 17

TEXAS AREA

Solo Singers-1 vacancy
RAYMOND HICKMAN 24
Catherine Akos 17

Choristers-1 vacancy
JAMES TINKLE 23
Mary Virginia Tuinstra 19

Nedda Casei is first woman president

Nedda Casei has been elected AGMA’s seventh president and the first woman to hold that post in the history of the union.

Ms. Casei, a mezzo soprano with the Metropolitan Opera, has sung in most of the major opera houses of the world since her debut in Brussels with the La Scala company. In addition to her long association with the Met, she has appeared with the opera companies of Chicago, Philadelphia, Houston, San Diego and Cincinnati. In Europe she has appeared as Carmen in Salzburg and in the title role in Il Oregonazione de Poppea in Strasbourg.

Recently Ms. Casei toured Australia and the Far East performing Carmen and Rosina in The Barber of Seville.

A member of AGMA for 23 years, she is a longtime member of the Board of Governors and has served on the Soloists’ Committee and as a Metropolitan Opera Delegate.

Deceased

George Balanchine
Michael Callanan
Donald Gramm
William Horne
Anna Levitski
Walter Slezk
Marvin L. Solley
Thomas L. Thomas

Wed

AGMA member Beatrice Allston Bedford was married to Donald S. Ware, a commercial artist, on November 27, 1982 at Myohoji Nichiren Shoshu Buddhist Temple in Etiwanda, California. The bride, a singer and real estate agent, will be known as Beatrice Allston-Ware. The couple will live in Southern California, Spain and Scotland.

Caution to members re Life Insurance

Members are urged to make direct and timely dues payments in order to assure continuity of their insurance coverage. Our Group Life Insurance policy with The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States provides coverage during the time that a member is in good standing and for a 31 day grace period thereafter.

A member, for instance, paid up to August 1st will be insured to August 31st after which the insurance coverage will lapse.

It is to members’ best interest to maintain dues payments for this and other obvious reasons.
BOUCHER ON AIDS
(continued from page 2)

In Philadelphia
AIDS Task Force
(215) 252-8055

In Boston
Dept. of Health AIDS Hotline
(617) 424-5916

In Denver
(303) 831-6268

In Chicago
(312) 871-5777

In Baltimore
(301) 837-2050

In Washington, D.C.
(202) 352-5295

The April 18th issue of Newsweek hit the newsstands as the staff of AGMA was preparing a newsletter to delegates and company managers of our companies about the epidemic known as “AIDS.” The Newsweek cover story brought to full public attention what had been earlier viewed as a minor and limited medical phenomenon. It is now a health crisis for the nation.

The incidence of AIDS within our membership is much higher than in the general public. No one can at this point identify the specific “type” of the victim, but homosexuals and the users of “recreational drugs” are high in statistical tabulations. It would be irresponsible for AGMA at this juncture to deny that those two factors are present in our membership. Nothing in this article should be interpreted as anything other than a head-on realistic effort to bring together as much information from multiple sources as possible for the better health of the performing artists of AGMA. In the interest of both health and survival, we shall present a summary of the crisis appropriate to the situation and our involvement.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), a new disease of unknown cause, is characterized by abnormal function of the body’s immune system, which makes an individual susceptible to a number of life-threatening diseases. People who have AIDS cannot fight organisms that normally would not cause disease; they also cannot fight certain kinds of cancers. As a result, they develop Kapo’s sarcoma, Pneumocystis pneumonia or several other more rare diseases.

AIDS has struck 1,300 Americans, mostly in New York City, Los Angeles and San Francisco. It has also surfaced in Houston. It was initially called G.R.I.D., for Gay Related Immunological Deficiency, because the majority of the victims are active homosexuals. Homosexuals are still the greatest number of those diagnosed with this new disease, but it is also found in a wider realm including: intravenous drug users, Haitians, hemophiliacs and women and children in contact with “high-risk” individuals in the other categories.

To quote Newsweek, “Treatment of AIDS patients has been remarkably unrewarding.” On that same frightening page, the article makes this observation: “Extremely intimate contact—or exposure to blood—is probably necessary for infection.” Thus it would appear that cautious avoidance of risk is the only option open. To date, no agent has been isolated for AIDS, but current evidence suggests that the time between exposure and the onset of illness may be 18 months or longer. During that period, an affected person may be able to transmit the disease. Beyond that we must strive for early detection of the condition.

The American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, a national organization of gay doctors has issued the most succinct and comprehensive statement yet to come to our attention. With their permission we quote in part from it:

General symptoms of AIDS include the following:
1. Swollen glands (enlarged lymph nodes usually in the neck, armpits or groin).
2. Pink to purple flat or raised blotches or bumps on or under the skin, inside the mouth, nose, eyelids, or rectum. Initially they may look like bruises that do not go away, but they are usually harder than the skin around them.
3. Persistent white spots or unusual blemishes in the mouth.
4. Unexpected or unexplainable weight loss.
5. Night sweats on and off over several weeks.
6. Shortness of breath and a persistent dry cough not from smoking and lasting too long to be from a usual respiratory infection.
7. Persistent fever for more than 10 days.
8. Persistent and unexplained diarrhea.

The AAPHR also makes these suggestions:
A. Reduce risks by decreasing the number of sexual partners.
B. Do not inject any drugs not prescribed for you; avoid sexual contact with intravenous drug users.
C. Take good care of your body and general health (adequate rest, good nutrition, physical exercise, reduction of stress, restriction of toxic substances—alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, poppers, nonprescription drugs).

Lastly, if you know or suspect that you have any disease you could give to someone else, don’t risk the health of others by intimate physical contact. Consult a physician who is familiar with this health issue. Given the seriousness of AIDS, it is better to be overly cautious.

Since the foregoing was written, there have been a few further developments worthy of mention as update:

There has been an increase in the incidence of AIDS in groups other than homosexuals, Haitians, drug users and people receiving blood products. AIDS in infants, children and heterosexual men and women has been noted by the Journal of the American Medical Association (May 6, 1983).

Researchers have recently noted a link between the rare Human T-Cell Leukemia Virus and AIDS. HTLV belongs to a general family of “retroviruses” transmitted via person-to-person contact. While there is no evidence it is the cause, it may help track the true origin.

Another unusual virus referred to as CMV (short for cytomegalovirus) has been found so frequently in AIDS victims that it has been suggested it may be the cause. Dr. Shaley of the University of Connecticut called it “the ultimate, opportunistic infection.” This particular virus may reside latently in humans for a lifetime, or it may actively surface when a body’s immunity is weakened (for reasons yet undetermined). The percentage of fatality from AIDS is very high, and full recovery is rare; treatment is not yet generally agreed upon nor is it notably effective. Clearly prevention is the best course.

AIDS is now more clearly a general public threat; it remains a frightening mystery in many ways, but governmental involvement with the crisis has broadened greatly, both in finances for research and treatment and in attention in general. Concern and awareness are still our best hope.

Non-signatory list

The organizations and individuals listed below are not signatories to AGMA agreements, and therefore may not have agreed to observe the minimum terms and conditions of employment provided for therein which are vital for your protection. AGMA members are therefore advised that it is not in their best interest and the interest of their fellow AGMA members to accept employment from these organizations and individuals:

Artists Internationale, Inc.
The Bronx Opera Company
Community Opera of New Jersey—Floyd Worthington
Laszlo Halasz and the Concert Orchestra & Chorus of L.I.
Michigan Opera Theatre
New Jersey Symphony Orchestra
New York Lyric Opera Company
Opera/Omaha
Providence Opera Theatre
Michael Signorelli and the Lyric Opera Company of L.I.
Virginia Opera Association
Roger Wagner Chorale
Dennis Wayne Dance Theatre
More excerpts from the new AGMA Handbook

For the information of the membership, AGMAzine is continuing to publish excerpts from the newly revised and updated AGMA Handbook to provide information on the union’s founding, goals and general procedures.

A truly democratic union

AGMA is thoroughly and demonstrably a democratic union. You—the members—govern it. You nominate and then elect your National Officers, a Board of Governors and Local Executive Committees. The Board of Governors is the national governing body with members of the Board representing all branches of AGMA membership—singers, instrumentalists, choristers, dancers, stage directors and stage managers. Board members are elected in accordance with a geographical division of the country, based on the number of active members. These areas consist of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, New Orleans, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington-Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Texas and the Northwest. (Local government for each one of these areas is in the hands of the Local Executive Committee. In all but one of these areas, AGMA employs a local representative to handle business in cooperation with the Local Executive Committee.) The National Officers, the Board of Governors and the Local Executive Committees are your elected officials; they act in accordance with the will of the membership. Voting in AGMA elections is both your privilege and your responsibility as a union member.

AGMA’s duties to its members.

AGMA makes legally binding contracts with your employers and with your managers. These are known as Basic Agreements and, among other things: they establish minimum compensations, limit rehearsal hours, limit number of performances, provide for overtime compensation, for sick leave, for comfortable travel accommodations and require the employer to post security deposits as a guarantee that he will abide by the terms of the Basic Agreement.

With managers, AGMA sets a maximum percentage that a manager may charge as a commission, stipulates that the manager guarantees a minimum amount of earnings for the artist, limits the number of years a manager may sign an artist, provides that no commissions will reduce the artist’s earnings below the AGMA minimum fee and entitles the artist to an accounting by the manager.

AGMA Basic Agreements contain provisions which the individual members of each company (or group of artists) decide upon before AGMA begins to bargain with the employer. Negotiations are carried on with a view of obtaining the best possible terms. Before any final agreement is signed, the members must again approve the terms on which an agreement has been reached. To further safeguard you, the Board of Governors approves the proposals to be submitted to the employer initially and also the final agreement.

An individual artist signs with an employer on contract forms approved by AGMA. These contracts are legally binding on the employer and can contain no provision less favorable than those set forth in the Basic Agreement.

Naming Names

It is a common practice for performers to use a variety of professional names, for their own good reasons. But unless AGMA members notify the AGMA membership department about the various names by which they are known, considerable confusion results. Please take a moment to write or phone the National Office, to register with the Membership Department each name by which you are known. It’s in your best interest.

Have You Moved?

Sending AGMA notices, announcements, AGMAzine and other Guild documents to wrong addresses is costly and wasteful. Please be certain that AGMA has your correct address in its files. If you have moved recently and have not notified AGMA of your new address, please do so at once.

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AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSICAL ARTISTS
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