Meet your candidates for National Office and Board

Here are your candidates for National Office and for the Board of Governors. This is your opportunity to study the qualifications of those willing to represent you. They are volunteering their time for this responsibility. In turn, it is your responsibility to vote. Responsible union leadership rests with a responsible membership. It’s your union, so vote and make it work.

Here’s how to make your vote count:
Be sure you are an active member in good standing with dues paid up to February 1, 1989.

Be sure you sign your name and address on the return envelope that is enclosed with the ballot.

Mail your ballot in sufficient time to reach the AGMA National office, 1727 Broadway, New York 10019 no later than May 22, 1989.

DO NOT SIGN THE BALLOT. Signing it will invalidate your vote.

Note: Present incumbents who are running for re-election are indicated by a • next to their names.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

• Nedda Casei

“Crossing our country as a performer and as president of AGMA for the past six years has taught me much about our growing needs. I personally strive for: 1. Better retirement/medical programs in ALL contracts. 2. Better communication among our Guild communities and knowledge of contracts — what each has accomplished and how, so that successes can be emulated and pitfalls avoided. 3. Closer affiliations with other performing arts organizations, unions and political representation. 4. Better communication with management/non-profit organizations. 5. Enlarging the AGMA Relief Fund to a $3 million dollar base. Please join me with your own participation. Together we will reach these goals.”

1st VICE-PRESIDENT

• Eileen Schauer

Member 38 years. Has served two terms and is currently First Vice President. Member Board of Governors since 1980. Soloists, Policy, Small Opera Companies Committees. Currently Trustee AGMA Staff Pension Plan; AGMA Rep. Manhattan Plaza Policy Advisory Committee. Twenty-three leading roles, NYC Opera. Member AEA, AFTRA. Soloist, opera, oratorio, symphony; U.S., Canada; Metropolitan Opera tour; operettas, musicals; TV, radio, Broadway. “I will continue to attend Board meetings and be there for important decisions, voting for fair treatment of each member, budget trimming when necessary.”

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT

• Chester Ludgin

Member 35 years. Current Second Vice President. Also member AEA, AFTRA, AGVA. Nominated for Grammy 1989. Co-Chairman of Executive Committee of Norman Treigle Memorial Fund. Has appeared on roster of nearly every musical organization in North America. “At this time in my career, please allow me to help repay the benefits I have received through AGMA by my continuing to serve you.”

3rd VICE-PRESIDENT

Elinor Harper

Member, Metropolitan Opera Chorus. Past Recording Secretary, Second Vice President of AGMA. Twice Chairman Metropolitan Opera Chorus Negotiating Committee. Current female delegate, Metropolitan Opera Chorus. Soloist, Minneapolis Symphony, comprimario roles Metropolitan Opera. “I am actively working to strengthen our union and our contracts, to make AGMA more responsive to the needs of all our members. I offer my effectiveness on the Boards and committees and my experience as a working singer. Known as a clear thinking, independent advocate who speaks not as an echo or for ego-gratification, but to advance solutions, I offer the kind of energy AGMA needs now.”

Robert Falk


(continued on next page)
ELECTION (continued)

Lake George Opera, Central City Opera. “This jolly fellow covets officership to serve our beloved union with experience, judgment and active participation in current deliberations: ‘semper paratus.’”

AFTRA Board of Directors, SF Labor Council, AGMA Auditions Rep., SF Opera — AGMA Communications Committee; past, current delegate SF Opera. “I feel highly honored at being nominated for the office of Third Vice President. My election as an officer from the West Coast Area will add to the unity of our union. It will also afford me the opportunity to further serve you, the AGMA members.”

Eugene Lawrence


Paul Sackett

Member 21 years. Board member five years. Dancer with NYC Ballet 18 years, various concert, directing, choreographic experience; advanced studies in the Arts and Social Sciences, MBA.

Barbara Bystrom

Member 18 years. Past, current Board member. Past, current service Committee IV. Past delegate Metropolitan Opera Chorus. Appeared with Brookline College and NY Opera Theatres; concert, oratorio. “This is a stressful time for AGMA. Our financial problems are critical and the needs of our members great. Strong leadership and forward thinking are needed. As an officer I would call upon my years of active service on the Board to find solutions to AGMA’s problems while guiding it forward.”

Barbara Bystrom

Member 18 years. Past, current Board member. Past, current service Committee IV. Past delegate Metropolitan Opera Chorus. Appeared with Brookline College and NY Opera Theatres; concert, oratorio. “This is a stressful time for AGMA. Our financial problems are critical and the needs of our members great. Strong leadership and forward thinking are needed. As an officer I would call upon my years of active service on the Board to find solutions to AGMA’s problems while guiding it forward.”

Suzanne Laurence

Member 21 years. Past, current member Board of Governors. Past, current member Metropolitan Opera Negotiating Committee. Past service, Grievance Committee. Past delegate, Metropolitan Opera. Member Metropolitan Opera Ballet 21 years.

Burman Timbelake

AGMA activist, member since 1973, National Board since 1980, Los Angeles Executive Committee since 1978. AFTRA, SAG. LA Music Center Opera Chorus since 1985, LA Master Chorale since 1972. Past delegate, principalchorister contract negotiator since 1979. “We must support local AGMA delegates and activists better, because their difficult work is the foundation for AGMA’s progress. Also, to represent our national membership fairly, AGMA should have some officers from the half that works outside New York City.”

4th VICE-PRESIDENT
5th VICE-PRESIDENT

Jacqueline Pierce
Past member Board of Governors six years. NEA Chorus Panel. "Being the contractor (and singer) with NY Choral Artists (NY Philharmonic, BAM, Mostly Mozart), Schola Cantorum (Opera Orchestra of NY), Orpheon Chorale (Carnegie Hall), Concert Chorale of NY (Caramoor, 92nd Street 'Y') allows me close contact with management and singers. I'd like to bring these elements into harmony with AGMA to provide a more secure and stable working situation for concert singers."

Luigi Vellucci
Member 44 years. Current Board member. Past service, Auditing Classification and Soloists Committees. AGMA delegate, Four As. Past delegate, NYC Opera and NBC on Tour. Small Opera Companies Committee. Now teaching in NY and Rutherford, NJ. Director of Music, Rutherford Congregational Church. "I am a Life Member and grateful that AGMA members considered me worthy of serving them in the past. If elected as Fifth Vice President I'll continue to work for those principles which have made AGMA outstanding as a member-oriented, democratic union."

Pamela Smith
Member eight years, current Board member. Member of AEA and AFTRA. Principal artist Metropolitan Opera, member Musica Sacra, Amor Artis, NY Choral Associates and others. Lobbyist in Albany for more funding and protection for the arts. "I hope to assist in making AGMA a stronger union, better able to serve its members. As a Board member, I encourage my colleagues to help by becoming more informed and active in the union. The first step . . . VOTE!!"

TREASURER

- Lawrence Davidson
Member 43 years. Life Member. Current, past service on many committees, and Board National Treasurer 15 terms. Long-time member of Metropolitan Opera; delegate. Appearances and recordings with major opera companies throughout the world. AFTRA, AEA member. Million Dollar Round Table. Chairman, DF Organization, Inc. "Having served many years as Treasurer, I will continue to exercise my best efforts, complemented by my experience, on behalf of AGMA."

RECORDING SECRETARY

- Yolanda Antoine
Active Life Member. Current Recording Secretary, Board of Governors. Past service, Merit Award Committee, Negotiating Committee for Basic Agreement, Nominating Committee. Has appeared with Connecticut Grand, NY Grand, Cincinnati, NYC and Metropolitan Operas, State Opera of Stamford, Festival de Leon, Mexico; Santiago, Chile; Caracas, Venezuela; San Antonio Opera Festival; Festival de Opera, Puerto Rico. "These are very difficult times for all unions. I will continue to see that our members are justly remunerated for their services."

NEW YORK AREA

SOLO SINGERS
(13 Vacancies)

John Abisolom
(No statement or photo available at press time.)

- Gabor Carelli
Member 46 years. Past, present Board member. Past service, Nominating, Metropolitan Opera Negotiating, Grievance Committees. With Metropolitan Opera 1951-74. Recorded with Toscanini, Dorati, Leinsdorf, Ferenc Fricsay. Author of My Way to the Metropolitan for Editio Musica, Budapest, Hungary. Member of faculty Manhattan School of Music since 1964. Will teach in Taipei this summer. "As a Professor of Voice at Manhattan School of Music for 22 years, I am well aware of the problems of young American singers in the professional field."

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ELECTION
(continued)

Muriel Costa-Greenspon

Member 28 years. Currently Fourth Vice President. Member, AEA. Has sung with opera companies throughout the U.S. and Europe. "As life goes on I am more and more aware of the need for taking care of our own. We need to be there for each other. I have enjoyed the privilege of serving as Fourth Vice President for a long time and would like someone else to have that opportunity. I'd like to remain as a Board member and do whatever I can to serve our members."

• Anthea de Forest

Life Member. Board member for seven terms. Member of AFTRA, AEA, SAG. Equally at home in opera, oratorio and musical comedy. Has sung with numerous opera companies, including New York City Opera, where she has also been employed as an Assistant Stage Director. "I feel it essential that the individual segments try to appreciate and respect each other's needs, so we can show a strong front of responsible unionism when negotiating with employers."

• Adib Fazah

A leading baritone of the New York City Opera since 1973 and has sung with virtually all American opera companies, as well as in Canada, Europe, South America and Mexico. Past delegate, Santa Fe Opera. "AGMA needs active soloist representation and I would hope to help in that regard."

Ben Holt

Debuted Metropolitan Opera 1985. Has also appeared with New York City Opera, Cincinnati Opera, New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra. "In representing a constituency as in music, it is essential to listen prior to making a glorious noise. I'll try diligently to accomplish both tasks."

(No photo available at press time.)

• Leonore Lanzillotti

Member since 1961. Past, present member Board of Governors. Present service, Soloists Committee. Leading artist with Newark Opera, National Grand Opera, Teatro Municipal Caracas, Utah Opera, Opera Nacional Santo Domingo, Mississippi Opera. Toured South America, performed on Broadway, Off-Broadway, TV, radio and in films. Member AEA, SAG. "As a Board member I'm fully aware of what we have achieved and what we need to achieve. My desire is to continue to serve my union and its members as a thoroughly experienced professional."

• Gale Limansky

Member ten years. Current Board member. Has appeared with Lake George Opera Festival, Connecticut Grand Opera, Opera Orchestra of NY, Chautauqua Youth Symphony, Musica Sacra, Charleston Symphony, Concord Symphony. "As a performer the only way to grow is to be totally involved. I want to be involved in our union so I can help them know more about performers' needs and help performers learn more about the union. If we can grow and move forward together we will all be stronger."

David Lloyd

Member, 42 years. Sang leading tenor roles with New York City Opera and opera companies in Washington, Seattle, Boston, Montreal; performed as soloist with New York Philharmonic, Boston, Philadelphia and most major symphony orchestras. General Director, Lake George Opera for 18 years, Artistic Director, Illinois Opera Theatre for 15 years, Director, Juilliard American Opera Center until retirement in 1988. "My aim has always been to introduce and promote the union ethic to talented young American artists."

• Stephen Lusmann

Member since 1978. Current Board member. Soloists Committee; past AGMA representative for Ensemble Company of Cincinnati Opera; member AEA. Solo Artist with Cincinnati Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Kansas City Lyric, Artpark, Papermill Playhouse. "I wish to voice the concerns of the solo artist who not only sings in the New York area, but throughout the country and abroad. Because AGMA represents international artists we must see to it that every country opens its doors equally to foreign artists."

• Dolores Mari-Galdi

Member 31 years. Performed leading roles with NYC Opera (13 years), San Francisco, Philadelphia, Honolulu, Miami, Chautauqua Operas, and many others. Soloist Los Angeles Philharmonic, Little Orchestra Society, Pittsburgh Symphony; TV appearances in the U.S. and Canada. Serving on the AGMA Board of Governors and Committee IV the past two years has been an enlightening and fulfilling experience. Hopefully, I'd like to continue contributing whatever I can to promote better understanding between management and performers."

• John Stamford

Member 28 years. Current Board member. Past, present service Committee ’C,” Nominating Committee; currently, Pension and Health Trustee. Appeared for 20 years as professional singer with NYC Opera, Miami Opera, Toledo Opera, Kentucky Opera; Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall, oratorio, etc. Has great interest in strengthening AGMA. Although still performing on occasion, primarily in business world as charted life underwriter and financial consultant. Also looking and working for more service and benefits for AGMA members.

(continued on page 6)

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:
The AGMA Relief Fund has launched a nationwide campaign to increase the funds it has available for helping classical performing artists in time of career-disrupting need from approximately $190,000 to $300,000 a year. A major goal of this effort is to enlarge the Relief Fund Endowment to $3 million so as to provide a self-sustaining financial base for the fund in the future.

I want you to know why we are doing this.

The AGMA Emergency Relief Fund faces a precarious future. With people living longer, medical charges continuing to soar and the costs of living getting higher each day, we must be prepared to do much more. Presently, the Fund is dipping into its capital and if this trend continues at the current rate, the Fund will no longer exist to help needy members after five (5) years.

In this nation of over 245 million people, there are less than 7,000, or one in every 35,000, classical performing artists. The ballet and modern dancers, opera singers, concert artists, choreographers, directors and stage managers who comprise this tiny troupe are a rare resource. Their talents must be preserved, protected, and prolonged; as performers, and as coaches and teachers if career transition becomes necessary. When their careers come to an end, they must be assisted in making the adjustment to a retirement where they can continue to live in dignity for the rest of their days.

This is what the Relief Fund does. When nothing and no one else is available to help AGMA members in need, we do, with funds for medical bills; special care for victims of AIDS and other life-threatening diseases; rent; food; utilities; telephone; transportation; pharmaceuticals; housekeeping and other essentials until the crisis in their lives is over.

Not one cent of Relief Fund money comes from AGMA membership dues. Every dollar we raise must come from grants, gifts, contributions and benefit performances. Here are just a few of the ways that we are pursuing the campaign goals:

• Grant applications to foundations and corporations that support the performing arts.
• Personal contact with affluent individuals who are concerned patrons of the performing arts.
• Challenge grant program for classical performing artists in which every dollar they give will be matched by two dollars from other philanthropic sources.
• Creation of a National Advisory Board composed of prominent men and women to guide the campaign effort.

DID YOU KNOW:

• THAT MOST CLASSICAL PERFORMERS ARE NOT BIG MONEY EARNERS? THEIR ROAD TO PROFESSIONALISM IS COSTLY AND LONG.

• THAT THE AGMA RELIEF FUND IS THE FINANCIAL SAFETY NET FOR AMERICA'S CLASSICAL PERFORMING ARTISTS?

• THAT LAST YEAR, THE AGMA RELIEF FUND DISTRIBUTED ALMOST $200,000 TO CLASSICAL PERFORMING ARTISTS IN NEED?

• THAT WE HAVE LAUNCHED A NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE AID OF PERFORMERS WHO FACE CAREER-DISRUPTING CRISIS IN THEIR LIVES?

• HOW RARE CLASSICAL PERFORMING ARTISTS (BALLET AND MODERN DANCERS, OPERA SINGERS, CHOREOGRAPHERS, CONCERT PERFORMERS, DIRECTORS AND STAGE MANAGERS) ARE IN AMERICA? OF ALL THE NATION'S 245 MILLION PEOPLE, LESS THAN 7,000 ARE QUALIFIED TO BRING THE GREAT WORKS OF CLASSICAL PERFORMING ARTS TO LIFE.

• Establishment of "In honor of" and "In memory of" donor programs.
• Benefit performances by dance, opera and concert organizations.

In preserving and extending the talents of those who bring opera and ballet to brilliant life, we are doing even more than protecting a rare resource. We are assuring a rewarding future for the performing arts in America.

With loving good wishes,

Nedda Casei
ELECTION
(continued from page 4)

STAGE DIRECTORS/
STAGE MANAGERS

(2 Vacancies)

Stephen Chaiken
Stage Manager with New York City Opera for over 12 years. Currently member AGMA Stage Managers’ Committee; Stage Managers’ Association. “The main advantage of having a representative of the Stage Managers on the Board is the ability to tie together on stage and off stage AGMA members with a broader understanding of each other’s needs and responsibilities.”

(No photo available at press time.)

* Bruce Donnell

Member since 1974. Currently member of Board of Governors. At the Metropolitan Opera since 1975. Also NYC Opera, San Francisco, Santa Fe, San Diego and Houston Operas, Netherlands, Paris and Canadian Operas and Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires. Current service, Stage Managers Committee, Stage Directors Committee, Small Opera Companies Committee. “I would welcome the opportunity to continue to serve my colleagues through re-election to the Board.”

Lori Rosecrans
Co-founder and Co-Secretary AGMA Stage Managers Committee. Current delegate, American Ballet Theatre. Fourth season as Stage Manager for American Ballet Theatre. Assistant Stage Manager one year Joffrey Ballet. Elected member ABT Dancers’ Advisory Committee. Vice-chairman ABT Dancers’ Emergency Fund. Active member AEA and Stage Managers Association. “It is important for Stage Managers to be represented on the Board of Governors in order to improve our section of Opera and Dance contracts.”

CHORISTERS
(9 Vacancies)

* Erbert Aldridge

Member 35 years. Current member, Board of Governors. Past service, AGMA/AFTRA Merger Committee. Past, current service, Committee IV, Finance Committee. Past delegate, Metropolitan Opera. “Having a great union is no accident. It takes hard work and dedication. Re-elect me and I promise to continue that hard work for all of us.”

Betty Baisch
Life Member. Current service, Fifth Vice President Board of Governors. Past, present service, Concert Singers Negotiating Committee, Committee IV. Member, AFTRA, SAG. “As a concert singer, choral manager and union officer I have consistently maintained a dedication to professionalism in vocal music.”

James Bingham
AGMA member since 1985. Current service, Nominating Committee. Has appeared with New York Choral Artists, Musica Sacra, Schola Cantorum. “I would like to serve on the AGMA Board of Governors to represent the interests of freelance choral musicians.”

(No photo available at press time.)

* John Hanriot

Member 15 years. Past service, Nominating Committee; past Chairman Chorus Negotiating Committee. Current service, Committee IV. “The rejection of the recent referendum sends a message to the Board and our Executives: ‘Dues are high enough!’ In light of this message we must cut our expenses. I have called in the past for the establishment of a working budget. I do so again! I feel our Number One priority as a union is to balance our budget!”

* Lynda Jordan

Life Member. Past, present member, Board of Governors. Past service, Roles Classification, Equity Merger, Nominating Committees; Negotiating Committees of NYC and Cincinnati Summer Operas. Past delegate, NYC Opera three years. Member, AFTRA, AEA, SAG, AGVA, Local 802-AFM. Free-lance choralist, singer-guitarist. “After years of preparation and dedication, an artist must have a place to perform. I am active with Unions for the Performing Arts (UFA) to get our politicians and viewing audiences to increase funds toward this most important project.”

Rodne Brown
Member five years. Freelance chorister. “In this day and age the strength and power of our unions are being challenged. Our Board of Governors must be a balance of all interested groups so that all needs can be dealt with fairly. In light of the serious problems facing AGMA, we need a team of concerned individuals who will address the issues with the wishes and desires of the membership it represents.”

Bernard Fischer
Member 34 years. Past member of the Board, Chorus Committee; past service, New York City Opera Negotiating Committee; past delegate, New York City Opera. Extra chorister, Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera. Free-lance opera and concert appearances. “I have fought for AGMA standards at the cost of my own position.”

Met Chorus honors retiring choristers

On March 11, 1989, the Metropolitan Opera Chorus honored Messrs. Tony Asaro, Vladimir Chistiakov, Emil Filip and Luigi Marcella, four of our members retiring from the Met after long and illustrious careers.

The presentation of a plaque commemorative of the affection and respect of the Metropolitan Opera Chorus members followed by a buffet and appropriate toasts was organized by Board members Ms. Elinor Harper and Mr. Robert Manno.
\* Eleanor Lange  
Life Member. Past service, Chorus Committee Metropolitan Opera Negotiating Committee. Current service New York City Opera Associate Chorus. Past delegate, Extra Chorus Metropolitan Opera. "I would welcome re-election to the Board of Governors as I am vitally interested in working for better conditions and expanded opportunities for my colleagues in AGMA."

\* William Lyon Lee  
Member 29 years. Present member, Board of Governors. Past, present service, AGMA Chorus Committee, Concert Singers Negotiating Committee. Past delegate, National Chorale. Founding member of Gregg Smith Singers; appeared with Roger Wagner Chorale, John Biggs Consort. Toured U.S.A., Latin America, Japan, Europe. Member, AFTRA, AEA. "I see much more self-respect for AGMA's field than there was a decade ago, and would be proud to represent ensemble singers."

\* Jon Rowen  
AGMA member ten years, AEA 22 years, AFTRA. Metropolitan Opera Chorister ten years. I am a responsible and dedicated person. I believe that I can prove useful to AGMA, which is its members. I believe I can give positive input which can aid our union's growth."

\* Clifford Townsend  
AGMA member 15 years. Current service, Nominating Committee. "I've been in this business a long time, and with the union's influence I intend to work towards achieving the due respect as musicians that we all deserve, and is lacking in some areas."

\* Constance Webber  
Member 25 years. Current Board member. Past service, Chorus Committee; past and present service, Committee IV. Member, Metropolitan Opera Chorus 17 years. Currently serving as Secretary of the Metropolitan Opera Chorus and Treasurer of the Ladies Chorus. "I want to thank my fellow union members for the opportunity of having served you in the past. With my past Board experience I can better serve you for our future."

\* Kenneth Young  
AGMA member nine years. Currently Regular Chorister Metropolitan Opera. Sang with local New York and regional companies. "I wish to serve on the AGMA Board of Governors to help build a stronger more equitable work environment for those of us who choose the performing arts as our life's work. I know what it is to struggle against the odds of making a living as a singer: Now I do — and now I'd like to help."

\* Karen Brown  

\* Christine Dakin  
Member 13 years. Currently on Dance Committee. Past delegate, Martha Graham Dance Company. Current Board member. Principal with Martha Graham Dance Company. Performed with Pearl Lang Company and Kazuko Hirabayashi Company. Toured with solo concert and performed with Yiddish Theatre. "I would like to increase modern and concert dancers' participation in, and protection by, AGMA."

\* DANCERS  
(10 Vacancies)

\* Charles Anderson  
"Having danced four years with the New York City Ballet, I've seen in dancers a real growth of interest in participation with their union. As a Board member I would like to see this continue. This growth is the only true way for dancers to be represented by their union. My feelings are based on a lifetime of experience in the dance world, coming from a dance family and having danced since the age of six."

\* Jean Barber  
AGMA member six years. Current Board member. Presently with New York City Opera Ballet. "I believe it's important to take an active interest in the workings of our union. I look forward to continuing on the Board."

\* Lawrence R. Leritz  
Production Supervisor for AGMA's 50th Anniversary Gala at Lincoln Center. Apprentice with New York City Ballet, Harkness Ballet; dancing with Hamburg Ballet, Fonteyn & Nureyev On Broadway, Chicago Ballet, Paris Opera. International guest artist; recently with Los Angeles Music Center Opera. Choreographer for film The Last Dragon. "I have enjoyed my past ten years serving on the Board of Governors and will be honored to continue speaking out on vital issues which affect all of AGMA's members."

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ELECTION
(continued)

• Gerald Otte
AGMA member since 1969. Past delegate, Nikolais Dance Theatre. Current Board member. "To be effective AGMA needs many different voices. As a part of the world of modern dance, I have been and hope to continue as a voice in support of the needs and rights of dancers everywhere."

Roger Plaut
Member since 1986. Delegate from Joffrey Ballet 1987-88. Also on Negotiating Committee 1987-88. "I would like to help educate dancers about their union, so they will become more involved in its activities. I would also like to see AGMA become a more powerful force, because only a strong union can really help its members."

Victoria Rinaldi
AGMA member ten years. Member AEA. Presently with New York City Opera Ballet. Past service, New York City Opera Negotiating Committee. "Having participated in both contract negotiations and arbitration, I would like to lend my experience to see these two areas be more effectively used for a stronger AGMA."

Joey R. Smith
Member since 1979. Danced with the Feld Ballet, Washington Ballet and currently with New York City Opera. "I want to help strengthen concert dancers as a professional unit by becoming a unifying force on the Board of its union — AGMA."

• Christine Spizzo-Serrano
AGMA member 17 years. Current Board member. Past service, American Ballet Theatre Advisory Committees 1978-1988; ABT Negotiating Committee 1979 and 1982. "The standard of living for dancers in America has changed dramatically since I've been a professional dancer. We must not lose impetus . . . Now, more than ever, dancer representation on the AGMA Board of Governors is vital to our integrity."

LOS ANGELES AREA
CHORISTERS
(4 Vacancies)

• Juanita McCollum

CHICAGO AREA
SOLO SINGERS
(4 Vacancies)

• Joan Gibbons
(No statement or photo available at press time.)

Susan Hofflander
(No statement or photo available at press time.)

• John Golitzin
AGMA member since 1982. Current Board member. Past service, Los Angeles Nominating Committee. Member of the chorus of Los Angeles Music Center Opera since 1987. "I will work as best I can to maintain and defend the dignity and rights of all AGMA members, whether in choral, solo or dance, in negotiations with management."

Safety is everyone's business

All of our contracts provide that the employer is responsible to maintain safe rehearsal and performance areas in the dance, opera and choral fields.

All members are urged to report unsafe or unhealthy conditions to the company delegates, regional representatives and the National Office.

Like "Freedom," safety requires eternal vigilance.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!
**Don't pay to audition!**

It's insidious and may even be illegal under the laws of the State of New York.

We're referring to members having to pay a fee in order to audition.

We have also asked Mortimer Becker, Esq., our General Counsel, to review the law and ascertain whether the practice is illegal and a misdemeanor.

In the meantime, the Board of Governors will consider the adoption of a rule prohibiting employers from charging for auditions and our members from paying for the opportunity.

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ELECTION
(continued)

NEW ORLEANS AREA
CHORISTERS
(1 Vacancy)

• Karen Kalin
Member 33 years. Current Board member. Past service, Local Executive Committee, Negotiating Committee. “I will always work for, and believe, that people of integrity, honesty, sincerity and compassion can come to an intelligent agreement that works for the betterment of all concerned.”

(No photo available at press time.)

PHILADELPHIA AREA
DANCERS
(1 Vacancy)

(Since there are no candidates, the vacancy will be filled by Write-In vote.)

WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA
SOLO SINGERS
(3 Vacancies)

Patricia Boyd

(No photo available at press time.)

• Gail Mitchell
AGMA member 11 years. Current Board member. Past service, Committee II, Washington Opera Negotiating Committee. Attends Local Executive Committee meetings. Past delegate, Washington Opera, Wolf Trap, Kennedy Center Productions. “It's been very exciting to see how much more interest in union involvement there is now, at a time when it's so needed. This is vital to the continued strengthening of our position vis à vis management.”

G. Stephen Stokes
AGMA member ten years. Current Board member. Past delegate, Washington Opera. “The process of improving artist-management relations is constantly evolving, with opportunities to raise the quality of our performance by reducing fiscal stress and upgrading work conditions.”

• Robert Williamson
Past, current member Board of Governors. Past service, Contract Negotiating Committee Washington Opera. Past delegate, Washington Opera, Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap Farm Park. “I would like to continue building and improving in order to better represent our membership.”

CHORISTERS
(2 Vacancies)

Shawnee Ball
(No statement or photo available at press time.)

Michael Brooks
(No statement or photo available at press time.)

• Joan Morton
(No statement or photo available at press time.)

PITTSBURGH AREA
CHORISTERS
(3 Vacancies)

William G. Buchanan
“It is vitally important to have and to enforce contracts which adequately and equitably compensate performers and protect their interests as professionals. My goal is to do just that by combining my training and experience in voice and stage performance with my business background and my deep and personal commitment to the American labor movement.”

Barbara Crigler
AGMA member nine years. Active Pittsburgh Opera Chorus member; various comprimario roles with company. Active with various musical organizations within community. “I am committed to increased awareness, respect and musical excellence of choral artists; to increased communication between management and all AGMA members; to the maintenance of musical artistic quality, and, lastly, to the tremendous challenges, both financial and artistic, and equally to the joy of opera coming alive through performance into the 1990's.”

(No photo available at press time.)

Violet Ruparich
Longtime AGMA member. Past Board member. Past service, Negotiating Committee. “I do believe we have to strive to keep the professionalism amongst all chorus groups for the sake of keeping opera on a first class level nationwide.”

Robert W. Simoni
Member five years. Past, current service, Contract Negotiating Committee Pittsburgh Opera. “I have a profound sense of responsibility in the interests and benefits of AGMA for all the members in our area and nationwide. My main goal is in protecting the working conditions of the National Basic Agreement.”

(No photo available at press time.)

Yvette Lewis
(No statement or photo available at press time.)
David Jennings-Smith
AGMA member five years.
"If elected I shall work to improve communications between national AGMA and our local AGMA group. An informed local group is a strong local group."

Erma Thurston
AGMA member nine years. Past, current service, AGMA Nominating Committee. "It is a distinct privilege to be a member of two great institutions, AGMA and Pittsburgh Opera Chorus. It would be an honor to be a member of the Board of Governors, and I pledge to do my best to serve the Guild (both local and national) in its effort to provide the best possible environment to produce the best possible artistic product."

NEW ENGLAND AREA
SOLO SINGERS
(2 Vacancies )

• S. Mark Aliapouloos
Member since 1981, Board of Governors since 1986. Winner 1981 Opera Company of Boston Competition; International Finalist Luciano Pavarotti Competition 1985. Appeared as the Father in the world premiere of The Juniper Tree (Philip Glass); soloist, Opera Company of Boston, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Lyric Opera. Assistant Professor of Voice and Director of Undergraduate Opera Program at Boston University. "I want to help provide more work of the highest quality for AGMA members in our region."

ANDREA BRADFORD
AGMA member 15 years. Past, current service, Local Executive Committee (former Chairman six years), Local Negotiating Committee. Past delegate, Opera Company of Boston. Has sung roles with Opera Company of Boston, Janus Comic Opera, and recitals and oratorio performances around the country. "Our union is our support. I will work to continue to strengthen the AGMA involvement in and for New England."

CHORISTERS
(1 Vacancy)

• Nalora Steele
AGMA member 28 years. Current Board member. Past service, New England Executive Committee. Current service, Negotiating Committee Opera Company of Boston, Boston Ballet, Boston Lyric Opera. Past delegate, Opera Company of Boston, Cambridge Opera Workshop. Roles and chorus with Opera Company of Boston, American National Opera, Boston Symphony, Northshore Philharmonic Orchestra. "I pledge to continue my concerns and support for AGMA as a truly national organization that serves all members and areas of the country."

TEXAS AREA
SOLO SINGERS
(1 Vacancy)

Frances Bible
AGMA member since 1944. Former Third Vice President of AGMA. Soloist with New York City Opera 30 years. Has appeared with Vienna Staatsoper, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, San Francisco Opera, most U.S. opera companies and most major symphony orchestras. Concerts in U.S., Canada and Australia. Has appeared in Premieres of Ballad of Baby Doe and The Crucible. First U.S. performance in 123 years of Cenerentola.

CHORISTERS
(2 Vacancies )

Robert D. Sheets
AGMA member six years. Past Board member. Past service, Houston Grand Opera Negotiating Committee. Currently Treasurer Houston Grand Opera Chorus. Past delegate, HGO. "For any organization, active involvement of its membership is the key to its vitality. I believe that my involvement as a Board member will help expand communication between the Board and local members, and help further the cause of AGMA in this region."

DANCERS
(1 Vacancy)

Alejandra Bronfman
Member five years. Current Board member. Past delegate, Pacific Northwest Ballet.

(No photo available at press time.)

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!
AGMA participates in Albany lobbying trip

On March 28, the Unions for the Performing Arts, an organization made up of the performing arts unions including AGMA, went on its annual lobbying trip to the New York State capitol in Albany and met with many public officials.

The issues include:

- State arts funding for the New York State Council on the Arts which the Governor wishes to cut by 15% from $64 million to $46 million. The bill was scheduled to be presented April 1, but may drag on for many months before it is altered and/or approved.
- A State bill prohibiting the City of New York from restricting the employment of musicians based upon types and styles of music. This is the first presentation of this bill and will probably have to be “re-thought.”
- An amendment to the New York State labor law which changes the 30-day “waiting period” before employees in a union shop are required to join the union to seven days.
- Also included are changes in the definition of the term “employer” to mean any person who is the purchaser of services, directly or indirectly, and the term “employee” as a professional artist who performs services in the performing arts. (Since our visit this amendment has passed in the State Senate and is awaiting a reading in the State Assembly.)

AGMA members who participated in this lobbying effort were Board members Lynda Jordan and Pamela Smith, and Michael Rubino, Director of Public Relations.

AIDS Walk is set for May 21

AIDS Walk New York will be held this year on Sunday, May 21. This fund-raising event will benefit Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC) which has done invaluable service for our members with AIDS.

If you wish to walk, contact GMHC, (212) 727-7840. Sign-in is at 9 a.m., opening ceremony at 9:30 and the walk begins at 10 a.m. at Lincoln Center. It is a ten kilometer (6.2 mile) walk and it is suggested you request a contribution of $1 a kilometer from your sponsors.

If you cannot join us, you may wish to sponsor our AGMA representative. Please call Michael Rubino at the AGMA office, (212) 265-3687.

Gay Men’s Health Crisis provides services to people with AIDS and AIDS-Related Complex (ARC), as well as many AIDS prevention education programs. GMHC also advocates for fair and effective public policy on AIDS and provides assistance to other AIDS organizations.

Deceased

Harold Christensen
Arturo D’Amico
Patrick Daugherty
Glenn Dufford
Anita Dyche
Ron Forella
Hilde Gueden
Michael Lland
Oka Michihiko
Joel Thomas Myers
David Pardoll
Terrence Stevens
Priscilla Volgman

Wed

AGMA member Johnson Flucker was married recently to Jane Billington. Mr. Flucker, a countertenor, graduated from Yale University, where he was a member of the Whiffenpoofs. He is the assistant choirmaster of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York and the director of the Talisman chamber vocal ensemble.

Questions about Membership?

The Membership Department is open every Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to answer any questions you have concerning your dues, either Basic or Working, dues deduction, address changes, Honorable Withdrawals, suspensions, or any other membership matters.

Have You Moved

Sending AGMA notices, announcements, AGMAzeine 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.

Help is available

In New York State, there is the New York State Division of Substance Abuse, 1-800-522-5353 and the Alcoholism Hotline, 1-800-ALCALLS.

In New York City, there is the Recover Hotline, run by Addictions Anonymous® Information and Education Project. The number is R-E-C-O-V-E-R (732-6837).

Nationally, there is the Cocaine Hotline, 1-800-COCAINNE, National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1-800-622-HELP, AIDS Hotline, 1-800-342-AIDS.

For general tax information, call the Internal Revenue Service, 1-800-424-1040.