Sanford I. Wolff resigns as National Executive Secretary; Louise Gilmore is named to AGMA’s top administrative post

Sanford I (Bud) Wolff has resigned as National Executive Secretary of AGMA effective October 1, 1993 to return to the private practice of law. Mr. Wolff joined AGMA in 1988.

The Board of Governors, meeting in New York on June 21, 1993 and teleconferencing with representatives in Chicago, Los Angeles; Washington, DC; Seattle, Washington and San Francisco, has named Louise Gilmore, an attorney from Houston, Texas, to the position.

Ms. Gilmore has worked extensively with AGMA, participating in the negotiations for the National Dance Basic Agreement and the National Opera Basic and Master Agreements. She has 25 years of experience in labor and employment law in Ohio and Texas and as a lecturer on labor law, and has worked closely with the performing arts labor unions, including the American Guild of Television and Radio Artists, Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Musicians.

Ms. Gilmore was graduated from Radcliffe College and the University of Toledo College of Law.

Addressing the Board of Governors, she pledged to improve and increase communication with and by the Board and the membership, to fight discrimination in all areas and to effect fiscal reform. “I care deeply for AGMA, for its membership and the values it stands for,” she said. “I will dedicate myself to advancing the rights of the artists who comprise our membership and to working with their elected Board to further the arts, the labor movement, and our great union.”

Regina Resnik elected AGMA President; 59 members elected to Board of Governors

Regina Resnik has been elected President of AGMA, heading a slate of seven other officers and 59 members of the Board of Governors recently elected by mail referendum. Ms. Resnik succeeds Nedda Casei, who stepped down to accept a teaching assignment in Nagoya, Japan. Ms. Casei, who had served as President since 1983, will continue her service to AGMA as a member of the Board of Governors.

There were 1,505 ballots cast in the election: 1,430 were valid and 75 were declared invalid because the voter was in arrears in dues, for having arrived too late, for being unsigned or for other reasons.

All active members in good standing as of February 1, 1993 were eligible to vote. Results follow, with the names of elected candidates appearing in larger type.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICERS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regina Resnik</td>
<td>1,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write-Ins</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Vice-President</td>
<td>1,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Otte</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(continued on page 2)
A message from Bud Wolff

On October 1, I will retire as AGMA's National Executive Secretary to return to the private practice of law, remaining a consultant to AGMA until the spring of 1994 in accordance with my contract, assisting your new chief executive.

When I accepted AGMA's invitation to become your chief executive officer, it was, I believe, implicitly understood that the assignment would be temporary. That was more than five years ago.

I believe you will be well served by Louise Gilmore, who will be taking over as National Executive Secretary. Many years ago, when I was the National Executive Secretary of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, I engaged Ms. Gilmore to serve that organization, and my confidence in her abilities was well-founded. She can, of course, always count on my assistance.

I take pleasure in having been instrumental in initiating merger talks between AGMA and Actors' Equity. While these discussions are on the back burner for the moment, I am confident that they will eventually bear fruit.

My experience in representing performing artists and their unions for more than 30 years has convinced me that a merger of all performer unions is in the best interests of all who work on stage or before a camera. Only through merger will our members gain the power and resources to achieve the dignity and the rewards that their talent deserves.

I have been pleased to serve the members of AGMA, and I offer my best wishes to your future success.

Sanford I. (Bud) Wolff

ELECTION RESULTS (continued)

2nd Vice-President

CHESTER LUDGIN 928
Burman Timberlake 440
Write-Ins 1

3rd Vice-President

EUGENE LAWRENCE 853
Robert Manno 520
Write-Ins 1

4th Vice-President

BARBARA BYSTROM 1,081
Write-Ins 17

5th Vice-President

FRANCO GENTILESCA 1,115
Michael Consoli 246
Write-Ins 0

Treasurer

WILLIAM CASON 1,216
Write-Ins 5

Recording Secretary

YOLANDA ANTOINE 814
Constance Webber 546
Write-Ins 1
Choristers — 9 Vacancies
LORENE RICHARDSON 169
CATHY WEINGART-RYAN 167
SCOTT HOLMES 165
BETTE McGEE 164
 MARTHA EDWARDS 164
CAROLYN BERGHOFF 163
MELISSA LENTZ 159
ROBERT PRINDLE 158
ROBERTA SAPER 149
Write-Ins 12

SAN FRANCISCO
Solo Singers — 2 Vacancies
RUTH ANN SWENSON 99
JOHN MacALLISTER 76
Write-Ins 1

Stage Directors/Stage Managers — 1 Vacancy
SANDRA SACHWITZ-BERNHARD 95
Write-Ins 1

Choristers — 1 Vacancy
SUE ELLEN SCHEPPKE 42
Robert Presley 27
Raymond Murcell 22
Write-Ins 1

Dancers — 2 Vacancies
GRACE MADUELL 83
DANNY FURLONG 73
Write-Ins 0

NEW ORLEANS
Solo Singers — 1 Vacancy
MARY BERTUCCI 24
Write-Ins 1

Choristers — 2 Vacancies
SALLY FISCHER 24
KAREN KALIN 21
Write-Ins 0

PHILADELPHIA
Solo Singers — 1 Vacancy
KENNETH GARNER 52
Write-Ins 0

Choristers — 3 Vacancies
JANE PETERSON-JENNINGS 40
JAN TAYLOR 38
ELIZABETH WALKER 33
Karen Richter 23
Catherine Clark-Goldenbaum 21
Write-Ins 0

Dancers — 1 Vacancy
MICHAEL SHERIDAN 56
Write-Ins 0

WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE
Solo Singers — 1 Vacancy
JOAN MORTON 120
Write-Ins 1

Stage Directors/Stage Managers — 1 Vacancy
PAUL J. DUFF 113
Write-Ins 3

Choristers — 2 Vacancies
JAMES HAMPTON 114
PAMELA JAMES 14
(Elected by Write-In vote)
Other Write-Ins 18

PITTSBURGH
Choristers — 1 Vacancy
ERMA THURSTON 32
Write-Ins 1

Dancers — 1 Vacancy
HOLLY BAROWAY 29
Write-Ins 0

(continued on page 7)

To the newly elected and re-elected Officers and members of the AGMA Board of Governors

Please accept my congratulations and best wishes. I thank you all, not only for your ballots of confidence, but for all the messages of good will already received. Please also be assured that I will continue, with dedication, the fine work of my colleague and predecessor, Nedda Casei, on behalf of the AGMA Emergency Relief Fund.

The entire classical music world faces more artistic and financial challenges than ever before. As a young artist, as a member, then an officer and governor, I became involved at a time that coincided with the explosion of the American musical artist onto the national, and soon after, onto the international scene. The American artist, more than any politician or statesman, has shown the world who we really are and what we have to give.

I intend to protect and promote AGMA’s membership and seek to enlarge it, regionally and nationally, and to use my voice and my office with your blessing. Many years ago we considered a merger of the Four A’s. It is now, more than ever, vital to unite with fellow performers, all of whom face the same problems — not only of employment and jurisdiction, but with health coverage. Our country is suffering. So are we. Let us talk merger earnestly and sincerely. We have done a great deal in the past. We have a great deal to do now! I feel privileged to serve you as President of AGMA.

Regina Resnik
AGMA Emergency Relief Fund

Chicago Lyric Opera does it again... with a raffle to benefit AGMA Relief Fund

In response to the AGMA Emergency Relief Fund’s 1992 membership drive, Lyric Opera Choristers pledged to “Double Their Dollars” for the Fund, by holding a raffle of tickets to performances of Chicago area opera, ballet and symphony.

Chaired by Carolyn Berghoff, the AGMA Benefit Raffle Committee members, Michael Cook, William Diana, Marilyn DeStefano, Patti Eyal, Scott Holmes, Bryan Miller and Bette McGee pooled their numerous talents to raise over $10,000 for the Fund.

All 500 tickets available were sold at $20 each, with prizes donated by Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Ballet Chicago. Grand Prize of a pair of 1993 Lyric Opera season tickets and Third Prize of a pair of Ravinia Festival Gala Tickets were purchased by the Relief Fund. Bryan Miller was the “stellar seller;” having sold 160 tickets!

This tremendous group effort by the Choristers, and all who supported the Relief Fund by purchasing raffle tickets, is a reflection of the commitment to the Emergency Fund for its assistance to members in critical need.

We would like to encourage other companies to join the star ranks of the Chicago Lyric Choristers by hosting a raffle in their own city. Details of “How to Hold a Benefit Raffle” are currently being compiled by Carolyn Berghoff, who conceived and effectively implemented this successful fundraiser.

Many congratulations and thanks to all who helped make this first-time raffle an outstanding accomplishment!

Bequests May Be Made to AGMA Relief Fund

Recently, the AGMA Emergency Relief Fund has been named in the wills of some of our members. Bequests of this nature are a popular and painless way during these difficult economic times to provide critical support to the Relief Fund’s efforts. If properly considered and written, the bequest can be tax-deductible from an estate while, at the same time, honoring the memory of a loved one or an AGMA member who has been active with the Fund.

Our counsel, Mortimer Becker, Esq., is pleased to offer his services, free of charge, in advising and preparing a will or other document that can be used to make bequests to the AGMA Relief Fund. Mr. Becker may be reached at (212) 541-7070.

Summer Special offered on Relief Fund T-Shirts

For a limited time only, the AGMA Emergency Relief Fund is offering our 100% white cotton T-shirt featuring the logos in black of 50 leading U.S. ballet and opera companies at the special price of two for $25. Single shirts are available for $15. Please add $1 per shirt for shipping. For orders of one dozen shirts, please add $9 for shipping.

Now through Labor Day we will honor this price and encourage you to pool orders with members of your company to enjoy the benefit of this Summer Special.

All proceeds will support the continuing work of the Emergency Fund in providing immediate financial assistance and services to members in critical need. Thanks to the support of AGMA members and the following companies, our T-shirt sales have raised almost $2,000: Chicago Lyric Opera Chorus, Cincinnati Ballet, Dallas Opera, New Orleans Opera Association, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Piedmont Opera and Portland Opera.

Send, FAX or call in your order to: The AGMA Emergency Relief Fund, 1727 Broadway, New York, NY 10019, Attn: Katherine M. Leonard. FAX: (212) 262-9088; Phone: (212) 265-3687.
"Night at the Metropolitan Opera" benefits AGMA Emergency Relief Fund

Our Night at the Metropolitan Opera, one year in the making, culminated in an unforgettable evening at the Metropolitan Opera House on April 23, 1993. Over 100 guests attended the performance of La Traviata, conducted by Samuel Cristler.

Proving the truth of the metaphor "a play within a play," our event had a cast of players with a drama of its own. Originally the benefit was to be hosted by Roberta Peters, founding member of the National Advisory Board and long-time supporter of the Fund, and her husband Bertram Fields. At the last moment, Miss Peters took ill and, regrettably, was unable to attend. Robert Merrill graciously stepped in, joined by his wife Marion, bringing warmth and charm to the evening. Mr. Merrill spoke movingly about the Relief Fund, thanking all in attendance for their support.

An elegant champagne reception was held for our guests on the parterre level at first intermission, with a guest appearance by Cynthia Harvey, principal ballerina with the American Ballet Theatre, who performed in Act II. The excitement generated at the presentation of door prizes during second intermission was truly extraordinary. Otherwise composed adults were transformed for an instant into smiling kids as they accepted their gifts. Special thanks to sponsors who donated prizes, including Café des Artistes, China Grill Restaurant, Darlene Leonard, Freixenet USA, Geoffrey Isles, Giorgio Armani Parfums, Hiroko Nogami, The Music Stand, O'Neal's Restaurant and Tower Records.

At the close of the reception, Samuel Cristler personally invited guests to join him for a midnight backstage tour of the Met. The tour proved fascinating and those who participated were thrilled to be included in the magic of the behind-the-scenes production.

Many thanks to our Co-chairs, Elizabeth Moxley Falk and Wan Kim, the Benefit Committee and Financial Task Force of the Fund, as well as Joseph Volpe, General Director of the Met and Daniel O'Leary, House Manager.

This festive evening brought the Emergency Fund over $14,000 due to the generosity of so many special people.

(From left) Wan Kim, Florian Yagoda, Marion Merrill, Robert Merrill, Elizabeth Moxley Falk and Katherine Leonard at the AGMA Relief Fund's Night at the Metropolitan Opera. (Photo by Reagan Brenneman)

Career Transition holds successful fundraiser

Thanks AGMA members, friends for support and generosity

A walk-on in the American Ballet Theater's Swan Lake at the Met went to a lucky bidder at the first annual Dancers' Bazaar and Auction held at Danrosh Park in New York's Lincoln Center on May 22, 1993. Proceeds from the fun-filled event went to the scholarship fund of Career Transition for Dancers, the arts service organization for counseling, education and re-training of professional dancers.

Other items offered included a private coaching session with Cynthia Gregory; house seats to Broadway's Phantom of the Opera, Guys and Dolls and Tommy; dance classes at Broadway Dance Center; autographed dance memorabilia and dancewear.

CTDF is very grateful to AGMA dancers and their friends for their overwhelming generosity, good will and support. "We were blessed with great weather and enthusiastic collectors," said Cynthia Gregory, the organization's Event Planner and Chairperson.

Deceased

Marian Anderson
Norman Andersson
Arleen Auger
John Baker
Mario Berini
Rolf Bjoerling
Jack Bittner
Boris Christoff
Gary DeLoach
Louis Falco
Joseph Galliano
R. Tyler Gatchell*
Josef Greindl
Osie Hawkins
Kevin Herr
Scott Heumann*
Brian Hilt
Hans Hopf
Irene Jacoby
Annette Johnson
Alwin Nikolais
William Parker
Ariel Rubenstein
Tom Peterman
Italo Tajo
Gene Ziegler

*Distinguished individual in related profession
ELECTION RESULTS (continued)

NEW ENGLAND

Choristers — 1 Vacancy

GERALDINE BARRETT 29
Angela Lakis 13
Write-Ins 1

TEXAS

Dancers — 1 Vacancy

SEAN KELLY 31
Write-Ins 10

NORTHWEST

Solo Singers — 1 Vacancy

SHIRLEY HARNED 51
Write-Ins 1

Choristers — 3 Vacancies

SUSAN DORN 48
MONTE JACOBSON 43
CELIA BERNENS-KERR 37
Write-Ins 3

Dancers — 1 Vacancy

THERESA GOETZ 51
Write-Ins 0

Report on dance nationwide

by Alexander J. Dubé
Administrator for Dance

At press time, AGMA finalized negotiations with multi-employer groups representing the Houston, Cincinnati, Pacific Northwest, Milwaukee and Pennsylvania Ballets for a new National Dance Basic Agreement.

The employers attempted to negotiate concessions in the areas of work rules and regulations, co-payment of health benefits and a minuscule percentage increase in each year of the agreement. AGMA succeeded in moving the employers off their persistent position of a "freeze" in the first year of the agreement and we settled on a 9.21% increase for corps level and a 9.44% increase in soloist level over the life of the contract and no change in health benefits.

The dancers' negotiating committee and AGMA (assisted by Bud Wolff, Dorothy Kochiras, and AGMA's local representatives Louise Gilmore, Carolyn Carpp and Gail-Lopez Hernandez) worked hard and long to achieve a national agreement that addresses the needs of the members.

Ms. Kochiras and I will now commence negotiations with these five companies for their Letters of Modification as well as Letters of Modification for Alvin Ailey, Feld Ballets, Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham and Dance Theatre of Harlem.

Also, we have commenced negotiations for a new three-year agreement with the Joffrey Ballet and we are soon to begin negotiations for a new basic agreement with the New York City Ballet.

This year the Boston Ballet and its artists have decided to go the route of their own Basic Agreement, and the dancers' negotiating committee is well organized and equipped to deal with management's attempts to achieve concessions in the areas of work rules and conditions. We have already successfully negotiated increased work weeks in each year of a three-year agreement, however, AGMA and the dancers' committee, assisted by Ira Sills, AGMA's Representative and legal counsel in the New England area, have a busy time ahead.

The Dancers' Negotiating Committee for the National Dance Basic Agreement included (l to r): Tami Alesson (Cincinnati), Brad Phillips (Pacific Northwest), Laurie Volny (Houston), Sean Kelly (Houston), Marc Darling (Milwaukee), Michael Sheridan (Pennsylvania), Leah Elzner (guest Cincinnati), Portia Jones (Pennsylvania), Tam Snyder (Cincinnati), and Theresa Goetz (Pacific Northwest).

Jamerson serves as Four A's Officer

Thomas Jamerson, Assistant to the National Executive Secretary, was reelected Second Vice-President of the Associated Actors and Artistes of America (Four A's) at the group's 16th Biennial Convention held in New York on Thursday, June 17, 1993.

Other International Officers reelected by acclamation were: Kendall Orsatti (Screen Actors Guild), First Vice-President; Bruce York (American Federation of Television and Radio Artists), Third Vice-President; Rod McKuen (American Guild of Variety Artists), Fourth Vice-President; Seymour Rextie (Hebrew Actors Union), Fifth Vice-President; John Suke (Screen Actors Guild), Treasurer and Alan Eisenberg (Actor's Equity Association), Executive Secretary.

Theodore Bikel was reelected to a third term as President.
Nedda Casei honored by AGMA, accepts teaching position in Japan

On Monday, March 15, 1993, Nedda Casei presided over her last Board meeting as President of AGMA prior to assuming her teaching duties as Professor of Voice at the Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music in Nagoya, Japan.

Since 1983, Nedda has served as President with a passionate commitment to the welfare of AGMA members and to the assistance of members in need through the AGMA Emergency Relief Fund.

At the conclusion of the March 15 Board of Governors meeting, a resolution was unanimously adopted which is embodied in a Scroll of Appreciation presented to Ms. Casei by Chester Ludgin.

The resolution reads:

"In recognition of the dedication and outstanding contributions to the Performing Arts for many years.

"Your advice, guidance and distinguished service have been of immeasurable benefit and advantage to our profession. Your integrity, untiring energy and keen insight have won the admiration and warm esteem of your many friends within our Association."

President Casei leaves her post with all AGMA members owing her a debt of gratitude for her years of commitment and leadership, and we wish her every success in her new endeavors.

Leon Lishner celebrates

Leon Lishner, distinguished basso, is celebrating his 80th birthday and 55th year of singing in 1993. He joined AGMA in November, 1941.

Now Professor Emeritus of the University of Washington, Mr. Lishner has sung with most of the opera companies and symphony orchestras in North America; has been featured in many world premieres, including four of Menotti’s operas; appeared extensively on national television and has recorded 12 albums. Since his retirement from teaching, he has continued to sing with opera companies, orchestras, in oratorio and recitals throughout the country.

Mr. Lishner will be giving his 80th Anniversary Recital on October 10 at the University of Washington. The event, a benefit for senior citizens, is jointly sponsored by the School of Music of the University of Washington, the Mayor of Seattle’s office for Senior Citizens and the Retirement Center of the U.W.

Actors’ Visa: Low Interest, no annual fee

The Actors’ Visa card is available at no charge if you maintain an active checking account with the Actors Federal Credit Union. If you exchange another major credit card to become an Actors Visa cardholder, the first year’s fee is waived.

In addition, Actors’ Visa cardholders pay lower interest rates than for most other cards.

Actors’ Visa cardholders also have access to Prestige Discount Shopping which offers shopping by toll-free phone for the lowest prices available on any of 200,000 brand name items, from calculators to air conditioners and furs.

To apply for an Actors’ Visa, call the Actors Federal Credit Union office, (212) 869-8926.

AGMA HOTLINES: EAST AND WEST

Call the AGMA Hotline (212) 247-0247, for news and auditions, services available, union business, fellowships, competitions, career assistance and health matters. The Hotline is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day and is updated regularly.

In addition, AGMA shares a Hotline with SAG and AFTRA in San Francisco. The number is (415) 433-6266.

What’s in a Name?

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.

Important notice

All members of the bargaining units represented by AGMA are hereby informed that the requirement that you maintain “membership in good standing” is defined by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to mean that members of the bargaining unit are obligated only to tender (pay) initiation fees and dues to the Union.