

AMSOV

ASSOCIATION OF MAJOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA VOLUNTEERS

WWW.AMSOV.ORG

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MOTOWN HITS TOP 40!

For those who are wondering what other delights await them in the Detroit area when they attend the 37th Biennial Conference of the Association of Major Symphony Orchestra Volunteers (AMSOV), April 30-May 3, 2009, a recent New York Times article, entitled *The 53 Places to Go in 2008*, is the answer. Rating Detroit higher than San Diego, London, Las Vegas and New York, the Times had the following to say:

Detroit may not spring to mind as a hot tourist spot, but don't tell that to the city's bullish hoteliers. Newcomers include the MGM Grand Detroit (www.mgmgrand-detroit.com), the MotorCity Casino Hotel (www.motorcitycasino.com) in an old Wonder Bread factory and the historic Book Cadillac Hotel, being transformed into a Westin (www.westinbookcadillac.com). Plus, the Detroit Institute of Arts (www.dia.org) just reopened after a \$158 million renovation.

Delegates to the conference will delight in staying at the historic and recently renovated Marriott Dearborn Inn (www.dearborninn-marriott.com), a charming property with beautiful rooms and gardens for the enjoyment of discerning guests.

The conference theme, *Through*



The Detroit Skyline, Motown here we come!

Music, We Build Community, will enable participants to learn about the latest strategies to involve diverse segments of their community with their orchestras, as well as how to expand and enhance the educational impact of their orchestras on area music students.

Delegates will enjoy knowledgeable speakers, panel discussions, and business meetings scheduled to deal with current concerns and future interests. Plans include dinner at the recently expanded Max M. Fisher Music Center, followed by a concert, featuring the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, at the acoustically superb Orchestra Hall.

Other conference events include an Education Day at the prestigious Cranbrook Educational Community in Bloomfield Hills

(www.cranbrook.edu), dinners in private homes, plus ample opportunities to meet and confer with other conference delegates.

There will also be intriguing optional tours of The Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, the newly updated and expanded Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Motown Museum.

Be sure to budget funds for your president, president-elect and the staff liaison to your volunteer group, to attend the conference, so that they may enhance their own effectiveness and the effectiveness of your volunteer organization from what promises to be an exciting, enjoyable and educational AMSOV conference.

Continued on page 4

Message from the President

As we complete the first year of AMSOV's 36th biennium you may be just starting your term as President of your volunteer organization and receiving your first newsletter. If you are a new President or staff member we welcome you to AMSOV. If you are completing the first of a two-year term we hope that the year has been abundantly successful.

This year has been exciting as well as productive. Your AMSOV Board has been diligent and committed in their work to address topics that are pertinent to our members. Pat Quinn hosted the nine-member AMSOV Board in Indianapolis February 22-24 for the third of six meetings to be held during 2007-2009. The members maintain a demanding work schedule throughout the three days we are together. During this meeting:

- ◆ We carried on AMSOV's business with reports from treasurer, secretary, website management, membership database management, liaison to member orchestras, and newsletter
- ◆ The 2009 Biennial Conference schedule and content was updated
- ◆ Member orchestras and alumni kept the Board current through their liaison reports
- ◆ Discussions were held on the recruitment of potential Board members for 2009
- ◆ Discussions were also held on the importance of membership by all qualified orchestras
- ◆ Review and revision of Standing Rules and Policies were completed based upon the recommendations of the previous Board
- ◆ Extensive discussions, which officially began last biennium, were continued regarding AMSOV's definition of a "major" orchestra and the operating budget requirement for membership

I encourage you to take time to read through the revisions on page 4. The significant change is in our determination that the AMSOV membership requirement of an operating budget of \$7,000,000 for three years, be brought more in line with the level designated by the League of American Orchestras (previously American Symphony Orchestra League).

The AMSOV Board voted to:

- ◆ Increase the annual orchestra operating budget requirement to \$10,000,000.
- ◆ This would NOT effect any current member organizations or alumni and would only be used to identify and recruit FUTURE member organizations.

I look forward to the coming year and welcome your thoughts and suggestions on how AMSOV may be of service to you and your organization.

Heather Moore
President

Key Web sites for your reference:

Association of Major Symphony Orchestra Volunteers www.amsov.org

League of American Orchestras www.americanorchestras.org

National Association of State Agencies www.nasaa-arts.org/



Photo by Gittings

AMSOV BOARD OF DIRECTORS You are invited!

In Detroit, Michigan a new AMSOV Board of Directors will be elected to serve for 2009-2011. They will have their first meeting that Monday morning. After that there are two three day meetings a year one in the fall and one in the late winter or early spring for a total of four. The meetings take place in a city of one of the Board members. Serving on the Board is challenging, broadening, fun and over way too quickly – just ask any previous Board member!

As always, there will be six vacancies to fill. The Conference Chairman will become president, the incoming Conference Chairman will be vice president and the presiding president will become the immediate past president. This trio of positions guarantees the continuity of AMSOV and provides the Institutional Memory for the organization. There is no staff or office building. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Board acts as its own administrative staff. This is truly a wonderful example of commitment to all that AMSOV is about – volunteering to ensure the continuance of our major orchestras.

Terms: The Directors shall be elected/appointed at the Biennial Conference and shall serve until adjournment of the following Biennial Conference or until successors are elected or appointed. No Director, with the exception of the Conference Chairman, President, or Immediate Past President may serve more than two consecutive terms.

The Board of Directors should be selected with due regard to geographical distribution within the U.S. and Canada.

There should be no members from the same orchestra.

At least two members should be representative of the emerging young leadership.

Positions are assigned by the President based on interest and specific qualifications of those elected or appointed.

We invite interested persons to become candidates for Board membership. Contact your own organization president. If you are interested in serving, or if you have any questions, feel free to contact Immediate Past President **Charlene Morse** at: clmorse@fuse.net.

THE JOBS

Skills needed for the different offices are self-evident in the job descriptions that follow:

The Secretary records minutes of all Board meetings, distributes minutes and action items to each Board member and handles additional AMSOV correspondence as required.

The Treasurer constructs the biennial budget, with Board approval, maintains the financial records of AMSOV, receives dues and provides each Board member with an accounting of expenditures for specific positions.

The Membership Chair is responsible for maintaining the data base, producing the AMSOV Directory and sending out dues notices.

The Newsletter Chair is responsible for writing, editing and printing the newsletter twice a year and preparing AMSOV stationery and PR materials such as the brochure. The Newsletter serves as a means of communication to all members, the activities, projects and issues of importance among member groups and their orchestras.

The Website Chair is responsible for overseeing all aspects of this important communication vehicle for AMSOV. The website is an ongoing communications channel that further facilitates interaction throughout our organization. www.amsov.org

Liaison To Alumni Contacts through phone and/or email Alumni and Member orchestras. Looks for emerging leadership for future Boards. May also communicate on subjects requested by the Board. AMSOV places great importance on the ability of alumni to remain active with the organization thereby adding to the mission of providing strong leadership and networking opportunities for all member organizations. **Charlene L. Morse**, Immediate Past President

2007-2009 Biennial Dues are Due ~ Help Keep Our Database Current!

Membership renewals are due now. Please make sure we have your correct information in order to receive 2009 Conference information and AMSOV updates. Please send information updates for you, your organization and staff to: **Pat Quinn, 4538 Sylvan Rd., Indianapolis IN 46228** Renewal forms may be downloaded from www.amsov.org \$ 200 Principal, \$ 100 Affiliate, \$ 50 Alumni.



The Dearborn Inn - Marriott Hotel

MOTOWN Top 40 continued

The conference will be chaired by former DSO Volunteer Council President, **Marjorie Saulson**. For more information, and/or to receive your own AMSOV e-newsletter subscription, contact Marjorie at amssov09@earthlink.net.

Key Web sites for your reference:

Check out www.visitdetroit.com and www.michigan.org for more information about the tourist delights of metro Detroit and Michigan, the Great Lake State.

AMSOV Bylaws Encore....

You would think we would tire of studying the AMSOV Bylaws but we are perfectionists and there is always room for improvement! This biennium we have made changes to the Standing Rules & Policy Statements. In the following, the additions are in **bold** and deletions have lines under the words.

STANDING RULES

III. Selection of the Host City

2. Prior to sending the formal invitation, the Principal Organization shall confer with the AMSOV Board regarding the responsibilities of the future Conference Chair and the Chair's subsequent role as

the AMSOV President. **When choosing a Conference Chair, consider this person:**

- ◆Will become President of AMSOV
- ◆Has been President of your organization
- ◆Has attended an AMSOV Conference
- ◆It would be beneficial if the individual had served on an AMSOV Board.

VIII. Definition of a Major Symphony Orchestra

Any orchestra with a minimum operating budget of \$7 \$10 million as reported in the American Symphony Orchestra League's League of American Orchestras' Annual Comparative Statistical Report for at least 3 years.

In a non-conference year, the Board of Directors may adjust this minimum by an inflationary index.

POLICY STATEMENTS

2. The Board of Directors of AMSOV shall be selected with due regard to geographical distribution within the United States and Canada. **With particular attention given to orchestras that have not been represented on the Board in recent years.**

There shall be no more than one member from the same city with the possible exception of the Past President. **No orchestra should be represented on the Board for consecutive terms, with the exception of the President, Vice President and Past President.**

At least two members of the Board of Directors should be representative of the emerging young leadership.

Please direct any questions or comments about these changes to

any AMSOV Board member. As Standing Rules & Policy Statements are not held to the same standard as Bylaws, they need not be approved by the whole membership. Even so your comments would be appreciated.

Charlene L Morse

Immediate Past President

In Retirement

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra President **Steven Monder** will retire in June 2008 after 37 years at the orchestra. Mr. Monder, who will be 63 upon retirement, will continue as a valued advisor to the CSO. "Steven has been the heart, soul and brain of the CSO for 37 years," said CSO Board Chairman Marvin Quin. "His impressive list of accomplishments includes developing Riverbend and the new National City Pavilion, touring the orchestra around the world, negotiating recording contracts and more."

Sydney Reid-Hedge retired after 32 Years as Director of Volunteer Services for the Dallas Symphony. Sydney has provided professional coordination for all fund raising, educational and service projects of the DSO auxiliary groups comprising 1,100 volunteers. Funds raised by the League exceeded \$1,050,000 during the Orchestra's 2006-2007 Season. DSO volunteers successfully planned and hosted two major conferences at the state and international level, TASO and AMSOV. Sydney has performed roles with the Dallas Opera, London Opera Centre, Royal College of Music and the Dallas Summer Musicals. In addition to an extensive oratorio repertoire, she has appeared as soloist at Westminster Abbey, the DSO on several occasions and other musical ensembles in the area.

Benefits of Starting the Nominating Process Early

Many organizations state that they are unable to find volunteers who will accept either executive leadership roles or event chairmanships resulting in delays in event planning and disappointing outcomes.

These organizations share a common thread --- their organizations start the nominating process late in the year.

Obvious problems arise when the nominating committee begins its work in March, April, or even as late as May for the upcoming year. The best, most talented volunteers will have already committed to other organizations. Valuable time has been lost as new leaders then try to identify project chairs, running the risk that even these potential chairs will also have been asked to do something for other organizations...the cycle has started...no leaders are available, project planning is delayed.

Consider selecting the nominating committee in May so that they can begin their research in June. They will then have the summer months to gather the information needed to begin meeting in September to identify your top leadership needs and potential candidates. Most importantly identify your President-Elect and other "Elect" positions for your major events. If your "Elect" leaders can be in place each year between November and January, you will begin the cycle of "Elect-Designates", which will ensure there is always a trained leader in place.

Benefits of completing the process and asking volunteers early include:

◆ Increasing possibility that the

volunteer will accept a position because they have not over-committed and have time to plan ahead

◆ Elect positions have the advantage of shadowing current leaders or chairmen, have the time and opportunity to learn the most important aspects of their job, make their plans early

◆ Early planning increases your overall success

Calendar of Events

April 2008

April 9

Saks Fashion Presentation & Luncheon and Volunteers for The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Rittenhouse Hotel contact: Dee Page, dfpage@msn.com

April 13

Wells Fargo Dallas Symphony Derby at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, racing, lunch, silent/live auctions, Online Auction, contact: Nancy McThompson, nmcthompson@dalsym.com

April 13-Fall

Musical Feasts - Detroit, Symphony Orchestra Volunteer, Council, contact: Millie Everson, millieeve@earthlink.net

April 19-MAY 11

"Camelot" Decorator's Showhouse, Atlanta Symphony Associate's 38th, showhouse on 2 acres in Buckhead, community - 3750 Tuxedo Rd., contact: dsh@woodruffcenter.org or www.decoratorsshowhouse.org

April 4-18

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra touring Europe from Paris to Amsterdam www.cincinnati-symphony.org

April 25

Cuisine for a Cause Celebrity Party

Detroit Symphony Orchestra Volunteer Council contact: Debra Partrich ddpartrich@comcast

April 26 - MAY 18

Designer Showhouse
Kansas City Symphony Auxiliary Council, contact: Katie Carver kcarver@kcsymphony.org

May 2008

May 9

WAMSO -Minnesota Orchestra Volunteer, Association "Settings of Note", International Market Square, 10:30 Table Displays Noon Luncheon, 1:30 IMS Event Showroom Tours, contact: [612.371.5654](mailto:wamso@mnorch.org) or wamso@mnorch.org

May 26

36th Annual Gypsy Caravan Antique, Craft, and Flea Market - Saint Louis Symphony Volunteer Association; University of Missouri-St. Louis campus, contact: www.slsymphony.org Gypsy Hotline: 314.286.4452

May 31

Black and White Ball, San Francisco Symphony Volunteer Council, contact: Dennis Agnos dagnos@sfsymphony.org www.sfsymphony.org/ball

June 2008

June 10-15

League of American Orchestras, NPAC Convention, Denver, Colorado, www.americanorchestras.org

June 27, July 16, August 8

Gourmet Matinee's Blossom Women's Committee, Cleveland Orchestra, 12 noon - 2:00 \$35.00 contact: Peggy Krinsky r.krinsky@att.net

Please send event dates and contact information for August - December 2008 by July 1 to: **Renee Salama:** boesal@videotron.ca

2007-2009 AMSOV Board of Directors & Liaison Orchestras

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