



Minutes of the
 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE OF LOCALS
 of the
 AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS

JUNE 26th & 27th, 2021
 Virtual Conference

Saturday, June 26, 2021
Conference called to order at 10:05 A.M.
by Stewart Williams, President of
the Southern Conference

Legislative Director
 Organizing
 Director of Freelance
 International REP

Alfonso Pollard
 Michael Manley
 Wages Argott
 Steve Begnoche

President Williams welcomes the delegates to our virtual conference. He explained the dilemmas that led to the decision to have another virtual conference. He then directed the delegates to the link locate on the dfwmusicians.com website where the link for the Southern Conference was located.

New Delegates are recognized.

President Williams welcomes International President Ray Hair. President Hair thanks the Southern Conference crew for putting together this zoom conference and praised the team for an incredible job.

President Williams invites Sam Dinkins III, delegate from Local 65-699, to deliver the Invocation.

Highlights from President Hair’s report:

The pandemic has had a big impact on the global economy, the membership of the AFM and the Federation. Many inequalities have been exposed and it will take some time for us to work thru them. What will getting back to “normal” be, that will depend on social distancing and wearing of masks.

The Musicians of the Dallas Symphony played an awesome rendition of the National Anthem.

With regards to Pamphlet B tours, people will need to adhere to social distancing if they want to see tours happen again. With capacity restrictions placed on venues, promoters are asking bands to perform twice just so they can make the same amount of revenue as they did before the pandemic.

President Williams asked for a motion to approve the 2020 Minutes and the Agenda for the 2021 Conference.
 MS - to approve the minutes.
 MSC - Minutes approved with corrections.

Live Streaming is a tool to use for live performances, but it is difficult to monetize at the moment.

Approval of 2021 Agenda
 MSC – 2021 Agenda approved

Dignitaries & Guests are recognized:

From the AFM:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| International President | Ray Hair |
| International VP | Bruce Fife |
| International Rep | Steve Begnoche |
| International Sec/Treas. | Jay Blumenthal |
| IEB | Ed Malaga |
| IEB | Dave Pomeroy |
| IEB | Tina Morrison |
| IEB | Terryl Jares |
| IEB | John Acosta |
| SSD | Rochelle Skolnick |

The best news for us all is the passage of the American Rescue Plan, the passage of this legislation for multiemployer pension plans gives us reason to celebrate grass roots political organizing, unionism, and the determination by organized labor to protect and improve the lives of tens of millions of workers and preserve the dignity of retirees.

President Williams welcomes International S/T Jay Blumenthal to speak.

Highlights from Secretary-Treasurer Blumenthal:

The Federation offices were shut down in March of 2020, and everyone is still working online. The annual audit is under way and will be emailed to Locals and available on the website.

The International Musician has been looking at the level of diversity in the magazine. The AFM has switched to Method Marketing and is back with Antoinette Follet and Cherie Yurco.

The AFM's membership was increasing in 2019 before the pandemic hit; we saw several Local Charter mergers over the last year. We now have a total of 180 Locals.

President Williams turns the chair over to Secretary-Treasurer Smith-Wright to announce the Committee Appointments.

After the committee appointments, President Williams opened up for delegate check in and then a lunch break.

Before President Williams introduces Alfonso Pollard, Legislative & Political Director, he points everyone to the contribution button for Tempo and how to login to make a Tempo donation.

Alfonso Pollard, Legislative and Political Director, and Director of Diversity is up next. Alfonso gives a review of the legislative efforts he has been working on over the last three years. He is happy to report the passage of the American Rescue Plan. He thanks Ed Malaga, Marta Bradley from the Washington DC Local for their efforts and hard work in helping to get the bill passed.

He also thanked the Zoom phone banks organized by Michael Manley and Alex Weisendanger; they were instrumental in getting 80 AFM member to call their congresspersons to help pass legislative bills.

Alfonso Pollard and Mont Chris Hubbard enlightens the delegates with a Pro Act Presentation.

President Williams welcomes Rochelle Skolnick. Rochelle is sorry that we are not able to see each other in person but she is happy to be a part of the conference.

Rochelle gives us an update of how SSD has been working with various orchestras to get thru the pandemic. The orchestras who did not have guaranteed services were hit the hardest during the pandemic, orchestra with guarantees have better compensation and benefits in their agreements

The negotiations with the EMA were not easy and they were able to sign an agreement on 8/27/20, which included percentages of pre-covid wages. The side letter, to be extended, will sunset. It will be based on audience capacity.

Several orchestras used the pandemic to furlough musicians, and then tried to offer them much of nothing if they would agree to cuts.

She mentioned that Chris Durham passed away on August 22nd; Nathan Kahn returned from retirement to help out SSD.

After speaking on SSD, Rochelle gives another presentation on Safety Protocols and Vaccine Policies.

Rochelle thanks the SSD staff and negotiators for their hard work during the pandemic.

President Williams welcomes Dan Beck, MPTF Trustee.

Dan reports on the current live stream project. He reminds every one of the Scholarship programs for families of members. He named three programs that are 100% covered by MPTF: Senior centers, educational programs, and Community programs. He said that out of 180 Locals, only half of them participate in the programs. Vidrey Blackburn & Samantha Ramos are the one who approve the grants. His presentation is followed by a question & answer period.

After The MPTF presentation, Wages Argott gives us an overview of what he would like to accomplish in his new role as Director of Freelance Services.

The Independent Gig Musicians opens our eyes to the needs of gig musicians. Their presentation was on education, advocacy and assistance for musicians that do not have a regular single employer. The discussion was led by Nate Omdal, Jim Davies & Edmund Velasco.

Adjournment for the day.

Sunday, June 28th

President Williams opens the conference at 10:00am and welcomes everyone back. We have a few more delegate check in reports.

Before continuing with the agenda, President Williams announces that Megan Chisom will resign as VP due to personal reasons.

Stewart appoints Jessica Kunttu to serve as Vice President for the rest of the conference.

The AFM Diversity Committee does a Diversity presentation. The committee walks the delegates thru a presentation which includes a checklist to help locals and conferences that want to form a diversity committee, with suggestions and guideline on how to go about doing that. The presentation offers ways to be more inclusive with their members, and how to go about forming relationships to help promote more Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity among our members.

President Williams opens up for more Delegate check in reports.

President Williams turns the chair over to S/T Smith-Wright for committee reports.

The first committee is appreciations: Sam Zambito & Andy Bruck thanks the Officers of the conference, Dignitaries, AFM Officers and Staff, and everyone who made the conference possible.

MSC reported adopted

The Finance Committee: Jeff Apana reads the report and recommends its approval. MSC Adopted

Bylaws: Bruce – not much to report

Credentials Committee: Gary Williams - 33 delegates 27 locals present. MSC Adopted

Resolutions: Bruce Kenny- nothing to report

Diversity Committee: Patty Hurd: MSC adopted

TEMPO: Nicole Bogatz
1,295.00 -19 donations – MSC Adopted

Elections: Bruce Shultz - nominates Lovie S/T; elected by acclamation.

Vice President: Aaron Pino nominates Aaron Lack, Elected by acclamation.

Sitting VP Jessica Kunttu becomes President

Swearing in – by Jay Blumenthal

Stewart thanks everyone for allowing him to serve.

Lovie presents Stewart a Plaque for his service as president.

Lovie turns chair back over to Jessica Kunttu.

Meeting is adjourned at 11:57.

Tempo contributions for the 2020 Southern Conference is

The following delegates with proper credentials are present:

Local #	City	Delegates
23	San Antonio	Joan Carroll
65-699	Houston	Sharon Montgomery Lovie Smith-Wright Yvonne Smith Alex Navarro
71	Memphis	Nathan Nix Saundra D'Amato
72	-147 Dallas Ft Worth	Stewart Williams Aaron Pino
80	Chattanooga	Megan Chisom
94	Tulsa	Bruce Schultz
116	Shreveport	John Howe
123	Richmond	George Tuckwiller II David Hartley
125	Norfolk	Linda Dennis
148-462	Atlanta	Bruce Kenney Christina Ottaviano
161-710	Washington, DC	Marta Bradley Sharon Wolfolk Peter deBoor Sharon Wolfolk
174-496	New Orleans	Deacon John Moore Tracy Griffin Timothy David Ray
256-733	Birmingham	Michael Bradt
257	Nashville	Dave Pomeroy Laura Ross Vince Santoro
297	Wichita	Kevin Findley
342	Charlotte	Elizabeth Pistolessi
362-691		Jonathan Bradley
375-703	Oklahoma City	Kate Pritchett Michael Mann
389	Orlando	Sam Zambito Deborah Dansby Wells

427-721 St Petersburg 433	Mike Avila Richard Sparrow Nicole Bogatz Aaron Lack
444 Jacksonville	Andy Bruck Brad Buckley
447-704 Savannah	Paul Lott
500 Raleigh	Jessica Kunttu
655 Miami	Jeffrey Apana
674 Covington	Gary Williams
777 Biloxi	Helen June