

## **AKAA Reunion Recordings**

Kelsey Creative Media will be providing audio and video services for the 2009 AKAA Reunion. Chris Kelsey, Owner and Creative Director of Kelsey Creative Media, is a recent AKO alumnus.

Each concert will be professionally recorded and these recordings will be available for sale. You may pre-order during the reunion, or you may order online for a limited time after the reunion. Concert audio recordings will only be \$12 each (this includes shipping & handling). There will be an increasing discount for multiple concert recordings ordered on an individual order form (i.e. the more concerts you order, the more money you save!) Please expect 8–10 weeks after reunion for delivery.

In addition to the audio recordings, for the first time we will be offering a very special DVD compilation of the entire 2009 reunion weekend! Each concert will be professionally recorded and included in this one-of-a-kind multi-disc DVD collection. (Video of concerts will not be available individually—only in the compilation.)

The DVD will include the following special bonus features:

1. A 2009 AKAA Reunion Video Scrapbook: Camera personnel will be working all week to capture the magic moments that make the AKAA Reunion so special.

2. Special interviews with AKAA President Jana Calano and other AKO superstars.

As with the audio recordings, you may pre-order this DVD during the reunion, or you may order for a limited time online afterward. The cost for the DVD will be only \$30 each if you pre-order during reunion (this includes shipping & handling); after that, the cost will be \$40. Please expect 8–10 weeks after reunion for delivery.

## **AKAA Board Meeting Summary of the Minutes**

The AKAA Board of Directors met on February 7, 2009, at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National, in Opelika, Alabama. What follows is a summary of the minutes from that meeting.

**Librarian's Report.** AKAA Librarian Tom Winstead reported that fellow Librarian Bob Jemian has been working with the 48-50 library, returned from Don Cully's estate. Work continues on remastering the library contributed by Steve Means, but it is not yet listed in the master catalog. Tom has remastered and, to the extent possible, has restored the 70-80 library. He has returned it to Nat Michelson and Fritz Siler. Tom has also added the charts to the AKAA master library listing. The master library now exceeds 2000 charts. Tom requested a large-bed scanner for Bob's library remastering work, and the board voted to allocate funds for the requested scanner.

**Treasurer's Report.** Newly appointed Treasurer Dorsey Tippett reported that our current balance is \$8,222.11.

**Archivist's Report.** Lisa Ray emphasized that she is only the *interim* archivist and that the board should find a more permanent volunteer to take the responsibility. She requested technical assistance with projecting archived photographs of era bands as they perform. Neal Brumbeloe volunteered his son's services. She noted that there is a need for a videographer, since Jef Thurman is no longer available. She noted that a coupling of an older/younger team/pair approach works well in the archivist organizational structure. Lisa reminded the body that wives of deceased members become lifetime members and should remain on the mailing list. Lisa also suggested a memorial slide show/video for deceased members of the past year. Paul McCracken suggested a moment of solemnity if implemented. The board approved a memorial just prior to the current band's performance on Saturday night.

**Registration of Copyright.** Charlie Higgins reported that Gregg Peterson, our consulting attorney, has indicated the approval of our request for a logo and name copyright should be received any day, depending on the current workload of the patent office. Currently there is no known government conspiracy to delay this request. Charlie also noted that the third draft of 45-page application for non-profit, tax-exempt status for the AKO has been submitted to Kansas City. Once approved, it will open the door for tax-exempt/tax deductible gifts directly to the AKO. Lisa Ray suggested filing an application for part of the U.S. Congress' stimulus package dollars directed at the arts communities. Charlie said he would be glad to look into it.

**Current AKO Report.** Errick Johnson and Jeremy Leff, who are currently splitting the responsibilities of AKO business manager, reported that they have four open positions generally filled by long-term subs. They also reported that they would like to implement internal recognition awards, and that they would like financial assistance with the implementation. The board voted to fund up to \$200 for the implementation of this program.

They reported that the new stands do not have decals yet, that they are unsure what to put on the stands, and that they do not have a high resolution version of the AKO logo to take to the printer. Hank Elliott suggested that they should take advantage of the copyrighted logo. Jana Calano directed them to AKO alumnus Glennbruce Campbell, who created a high-resolution version of the logo while he was still on the band.

Errick and Jeremy reported three upcoming gigs. They also presented a marketing plan for addressing the drastic drop in bookings. Errick reported that they are working on recreating themselves, re-branding, and restructuring their processes to bring fun back into the formula. Various suggestions for improving gig acquisition were given. Jana suggested a council conference call with former AKO business managers to create ideas

of where/how to market the band, which she will coordinate.

The long expected death of the van was reported. An extend wake is taking place in Jeremy's front yard. Options for disposal vs. sale were discussed. The band is currently paying \$600/year for minimum liability coverage for a non-useable van.

#### **Reunion Coordinator's Report.**

Charlie reminded the body that we have moved the reunion to the next-to-the-last weekend of July, rather than the last weekend of July, in order to recapture the attendance of some very key players whose services had been lost due to the conflict with the Handy Festival. Charlie reported that there will be no increase in room and food rates; that John Norton will handle the jazz brunch; that the bar will again be located in the conference room outside the rear ballroom doors; that Rod Neis has moved to Washington, DC with ITT and will not handle this summer's recording. Alternate source exploration has led to Chris Kelsey, a former AKO who is assisting with a promo kit for the current band, who will record/master/produce a CD/DVD off the AKO digital recorder (see article elsewhere in this issue of *The Bridge*).

Charlie stated that he has asked the Marriott to pencil-in 2010 reunion dates as July 13-18. John Norton pointed out that this would be a week earlier than our stated "next-to-last" weekend. At Hank Elliott's suggestion the topic was tabled and further discussion will take place during the July meeting to solidify plans for 2010. By then we should know more about the Handy Festival's plans for 2010. Jana will coordinate between Charlie and AKO regarding merchandising for this summer's event. Charlie stated that he would be glad to contact our past merchandise angel, Johnny Herndon, to request a resupply of AKAA/AKO merchandise.

#### **Scholarship Committee Report.**

Committee Chairman Fritz Siler reported that the total scholarship account value now stands at \$46,765.11. He also introduced proposed changes to the scholarship bylaws, as directed by the AKAA board at the July 2008 meeting.

Fritz stated that the intent of these changes is to create a more flexible, value-added scholarship instrument that enhances AKO recruiting and will give application opportunities to a greater percentage of the AKO. Great care was taken to solicit feedback from current and recent AKO members in the crafting of the changes. The board voted to accept these changes, with the amendment to language of AKO good standing. One board member abstained due to his belief that the by-laws are still too restrictive.

**New Business.** Bob Jemian discussed merchandising and coordination with the current band. The board voted to empower Bob Jemian as merchandising manager for the 2009 Reunion, and he will coordinate merchandising efforts. Profits will be split between the current AKO and the AKAA Scholarship Fund.

Bob Jemian also requested that we name the archive room at any function as the "Jef Thurman Room," and the board agreed.

Charlie Higgins noted that the new Auburn University Music Chairperson has a strong interest in a jazz program and wants to incorporate the AKO as a developmental tool. Unfortunately, said chairperson could not attend the board meeting. Charlie suggested that Jana Calano (and the current AKO business managers) maintain close contact with the new music department chair in order to leverage the jazz connection in the best interests of the AKO.

*The editor extends a special thank you to AKAA Secretary Nat Michelson for recording the minutes from which this summary was derived. To view the complete minutes for this board meeting, visit the AKAA web site at <http://www.auburnknightsalumni.org>.*