

Carousel Organ Association of America June 2025
June 9, 2025, 7:00 PM ET – 8:42 ET

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Yorburg at 7:00 PM ET.

Roll Call

President	Bob Yorburg
Vice President	Bill Hall
Secretary	Paul Senger
Treasurer	Bill Guimes
Director	Spencer Meachum
Director	Jim Quashnock
Director	Glenn Thomas
Advertising	Ron Bopp
COAA Sales	Suzanne Hendricks
Editor/Publisher	Ron Bopp
Education	Marie Beemish
Rally Chair	Suzanne Hendricks
Rally Webmaster	Spencer Meachum
Webmaster	Rich LeVangie

Adoption Of Agenda – No Changes

Reports Of Officers

President	Bob Yorburg – Open statement. We have lost our Canadian members.
Vice President	Bill Hall – Verbal Report
Secretary	Paul Senger See Attachment 1
Treasurer	Bill Guimes See Attachments 2,3, and 4

Reports Of Directors

Spencer Meachum
Jim Quashnock
Glenn Thomas

Reports Of Committees

Advertising	Ron Bopp See Attachments 5 and 6.
COAA Sales	Suzanne Hendricks See Attachment 7. Also discussed missing 2025 rally links on the website. Suzanne will work with Spence Meachum.
Editor/Publisher	Ron Bopp See Attachments 5 and 6.
Rally Chair	Suzanne Hendricks See Attachment 7.
Rally Webmaster	Spencer Meachum – Have not received information to put out the rally links.
Webmaster	Rich LeVangie – Have design complete for integrating PayPal for registrations and donations. Need to code.

Unfinished Business – References are provided to past minutes for full details under COAA.US\Home\COAA Board Minutes

1. Join Online/Donate Online - 04/24-01,02 (Minutes Reference)

PayPal is not integrated into the online membership process or online donation process. This needs to be addressed by the Webmaster Rich LeVangie. Rich said we would also be able to add online rally registration. [Open]

Discussion: Rich LeVangie has changes designed, need to code. One issue is when money is received from PayPal is establishing whether it is for Membership or Donation. Some organizations do this using a Cart. There is a link for donation in the Home pulldown but it requires a donor to contact the Treasurer via e-mail.

Stefan Batist and Spencer Meachum to investigate this. [Open]

2. Rally Fees- 04/24-03

The Rally Fee was changed at a previous meeting from \$10 to \$15 but never updated on the signup forms. Need to enforce for 2025 season. [Complete]

3. Rally Side Activities – 04/24-04, 11/24-01

For all rallies, Bob Yorburg would like to have more side events at rallies like we like we did at Binghamton and Knoebels. This is mainly the responsibility of the rally hosts [Ongoing].

Provide inputs to Bob Yorburg and Suzanne Hendricks – All [Ongoing]

Discussion: Bob Yorburg has multiple events in works for the Binghamton Rally, including Friday night theater tour and organ concert, and presentation over the weekend (e.g. Rod Serling presentation) and a tent.

4. Finding new Presenters for The Wonders - 04/24-05 All [Ongoing]

Discussion: Very hard to get presenters. Some will agree until they see the work involved. Presentations will be prerecorded and then edited. The presenter can narrate the presentations live and will answer questions at the end.

Stephan Batist host Question and Answer Sessions [Open]

Discussion: This was mainly for presenters with little English skills or presenters who need assistance.

Add short commercials to meetings. Spencer Meachum and Ian Fraser look to possibilities for this. [Ongoing]

Discussion: No input received.

5. Forbidden Music - 04/24-06

The two letters to the editor included in the agenda will not be published. Editor Ron Bopp will notify the authors of the letters. [Complete – See Attachment 5 – Item 4.b.]

6. 100th Anniversary Journal 04/24-07

Editor Ron Bopp has volunteered to cover additional beyond the eight pages. [Complete]

7. Buffalo Heritage Carousel Collaboration 04/24-08

They need help to get words for the plaque to educate the public on the organ history and operation. Ian Fraser. [Ongoing]

Discussion: Paul Senger provided Ian Fraser with suggestions on people to contact who know the organ and its history. Wurlitzer shipping logs are online to get age information. The group talked about COAA making plaque, and then decided COAA would only provide the text, and the Buffalo Heritage could make signs consistent with their other signage.

President Bob Yorburg suggested we have a COAA advertisement plaque also. We also discussed having COAA applications available (e.g. Glen Echo). [Ongoing] Also See New Business.

8. Sell COAA Merchandise Online 04/24-10, 06/24-04

Bob Yorburg brought up the idea of having COAA merchandise available on the COAA website. Ron Bopp Circulate information on Joan Haughwout's capabilities to Board. [Open]
Ron Bopp and Spencer Meachum investigate options. [Ongoing]

Ian Fraser will investigate companies that can supply this service. [Open]

Discussion: No input received on action for on-line stores. Rich LeVangie can add to our website.

9. COAA Facebook Page -04/24-11, 06/24-03

We have two COAA Facebook pages. Bill Hall hosts one and Sam Harris of the Social Media Committee hosts the other. It was agreed that the page hosted by Bill Hall will become the official COAA Facebook page. Some unique or historical material will be migrated to that page from the other page.

The moderator will now remove any unacceptable material after the posting.

Sam Harris will help Bill Hall with the postings. Bill will contact Sam to work out the details. [Open]

Discussion: It decided that www.facebook.com/COAA2016/ is the correct web address. The official page name in Facebook is "COAA - Carousel Organ Association of America." Bill needs to get with Sam to consolidate the information and get to one website. Ron Bopp can also publish the links in the Journal. There are multiple links to Facebook on the web page, one in a pop-up box in the lower right corner and one on the main page. This one does a search for "COAA - Carousel Organ Association of America" but fails.

10. Contributions to The Wonders of Mechanical Music & Carousels Virtual Events 04/24-12, 06/24-02

We have not received contributions from partners organizations to the operation of website and communications operations.

Bill Guimes had drafted a letter to the organization requesting donations for review. A mark-up to the letter was done at the meeting. Bill will send the updated letter via USPS mail to the partner organizations requesting donations. [Complete]

11. Rally Registration Fees 06/24-05

A discussion was held about rally fees including those who don't attend, late registration, and rally day registration. [Completed]

All these rules will be listed on the Rally Forms starting on the 2025 season. [Open-> Closed]

Discussion: Enforcement is up to Rally Hosts and no need to publish on registration form. [Complete]

12. Special Award Plaque 7-06/24

Bob Yorburg recommended that one of our members receive an award for the work they have done.
[Completed]

13. Rally logistics 11/2024

Develop common certificates for all rallies. Marie Beemish will be responsible for certificates, postcards, badge layout and other printable information. [Ongoing]

Discussion: Marie Beemish will provide samples of generic forms. Hosts will be responsible for printing and modifying. We discussed forms which other members use which are organization specific (COAA or MBSI) or organ specific (John Smith, Raffin, etc. Rich LeVangie will add to website when available.

Provide sample certificates to Marie Beemish – All [Ongoing]

Determine how COAA insurance applies to the “Mini Rallies” – Bob Yorburg – get with Gary Rasmussen [Response – All rallies are covered] [Complete]

Send the current Rally Handout to Paul Senger to forward to the rest of board members – Suzanne Hendricks [Completed]

New Business

1. COAA Plaque for Public Carousels– Bob Yorburg

COAA plaques to be placed at carousels, informing people of COAA and its mission. They will include a QR code to allow for donations. Bob already has commitments for the plaques at locations in Connecticut and the carousels in Binghamton. He would like Board members to identify other carousels where they could work with operators to add the plaques to other carousels. The more plaques we buy at one time, the cheaper they will be.

Discussion: The signs will be metal and 8x10 inches in size. The COAA will pay for the signs. The sign will be laser engraved. The cost would be around \$100 or more. We discussed cheaper alternatives such as plastic or aluminum. The plaque will have the COAA QR code. We agreed to add “Join/Donations” under the QR code. Marie Beemish will continue to research options. Need for the Binghamton, NY rally.

Bob Yorburg has commitments for plaques for the Carousel Museum in Bristol, CT, and the Light House Point Carousel in New Haven, CT. He is working for approval for the five carousels in Binghamton. Each one requires individual town approval. Board members were asked to contact carousels in their area including Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum and Buffalo Heritage Carousel in Buffalo/North Tonawanda, NY, Glen Echo in MD, Morris Museum in NJ and Carousel Museum in Sandusky, OH, to see if that would accept a plaque.

It was decided twelve plaques would be a good number for the initial run.

Enjoy 'The Happiest Music On Earth' with us!



CAROUSEL ORGAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**Dedicated to the education, preservation
and enjoyment of mechanical musical instruments!**

coaa.us

Keeping Mechanical Music Alive



Join/Donate

Plaque Amended

Announcements

Adjournment

At 8:42 EST Bob Yorburg recommended adjournment. Ron Bopp Seconded the motion. All Agreed.

Submitted by
Paul Senger
COAA Secretary

COAA Reports Received as of June 12, 2025

Attachment 1

COAA Secretary Report

June 9, 2025

Created a mailing list of Board of Directors and Committee members to facilitate sending notices and requests to those members.

Documented minutes of April 29, 2024 Board of Director Meeting. Sent to Webmaster for posting on COAA Webpage.

Documented minutes of June 16, 2024 Board of Director Meeting at Knoebels. Sent to Webmaster for posting on COAA Webpage.

Initiated communications with Board of Directors and subject matter experts to set up a special meeting for November 11, 2024 to discuss on One Day Crank Organ Rallies. Sent out agenda for the meeting. Managed Zoom session of meeting. Documented minutes of November 11, 2024 meeting. Sent to Webmaster for posting on COAA Webpage.

Worked with Webmaster, Rally Chair and Editor to get Rally Guidelines, One Day Rally Guidelines, and Tim Wagner Roadmap to a Rally article to put on the COAA Webpage.

Initiated communications with Board of Directors and Committee members to set up a Board meeting for June 9, 2025. Have sent out a proposed agenda and requests for Board of Directors and Committee member reports. Have incorporated comments into the agenda.

Provided comments for a Special Award for Membership Chair, Binghamton Carousel Plaque and additional award recommendations.

Provided examples to Education Chair of Organ Grinder Certificates and Organ signs.

Paul Senger (Chair)

Attachment 2
Treasurer's Reports
Financial Snapshot Jan.1, 2025 – May31,2025

Beginning Balance, Chase Bank	\$37,756.13
-------------------------------	-------------

Less:

Admin. Exp: NJ Annual Filing, Ohio Certificate, Adobe NP	-73.99
--	--------

ZOOM	-523.59
------	---------

Cost of publishing Carousel Organ -	-11,101.57
-------------------------------------	------------

Membership Chmn. Exp.	-229.72
-----------------------	---------

Plus:

Dues, Merch., Donations, Advert.	+6,375.36
----------------------------------	-----------

Ending Balance

Chase Bank, PayPal	32,202.62
--------------------	-----------

OBSERVATIONS:

1. As of May 31,2025, I have processed 100 renewals. As we process renewals in batches of 10, I have 5 pending processing. I also have renewals from two members who wish to pay their dues with PayPal. I will email them with instructions, as there is no connection between our website and PayPal.

At this time last year, we had processed 120 renewals.

2. In addition to our member donations, we received a \$500.00 donation from the National Carousel Association.

Attachment 3 Financial Snapshot Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2024

Beginning Balance, Chase Bank	\$35,432.90
Less Expenses: Administrative, Legal, Rally including insurance Printing, ZOOM	24,614.11
Plus Deposits: Membership Advertising, Rally Registration, Donations	+26,937.34
Ending Balance 12/31/2023 Chase Bank.	\$37,756.13

Administrative Expenses: NJ Business Certificate, Ohio Registered Agent	- \$82.00
---	-----------

Dues	+\$17,960.07
------	--------------

Magazine "Carousel Organ"

Editorial, printing, distribution	-\$22,258.37
Advertising revenue	+\$3,430.93

Rallies

Expenses and registrations for the 2024 Rally season.

Liability Insurance	-\$350.00
Registration materials, snacks, Promotion, etc.	-\$1,041.57
Registrations, donations	+\$3,770.00
Rally income for 2023.	\$2,378.43

Donations: Memorial, Education, General Fund	+\$1,741.00
--	-------------

Merchandise sales	+\$35.34
-------------------	----------

Attachment 4

Observations:

1. We had 332 memberships renewed as of December 31, 2024. Almost all of these were households with two or more members per household.
2. Our year end balance was higher than our starting balance because we received payment for past due advertising invoices and our successful rally season.
3. Our rally season starts with a negative balance of \$350.00, as that is the cost of our liability insurance regardless of how many rallies we have. Our 2024 Rally Season was a success. Our gross rally registration fees were \$3,770.00. Expenses were \$1041.57. Our profit from the rallies was \$2,378.43. Our liability insurance for the 2025 rally season is \$510.00.
4. Some time in late September or early October, Bob sent requests to MBSI national, MBSI East Coast Chapter, AMICA national, AMICA Lady Liberty Chapter, and NCA for donations to help defray the cost of ZOOM presentations. As of January 15, 2025 we have not received any reply.
5. Rally Registration Fees: At one time it was \$20.00 per person. Then \$10.00. Many years ago someone proposed that rally registration be free, so as to attract more attendees. In talking with current rally attendees, the biggest consideration is the age of the attendees. The membership is getting older, and for some, traveling long distances is just not possible, especially when towing a trailer. The other factor is the cost of lodging. The 2025 Rally Registration Fee is to be \$15.00
6. About one third of the renewals are via PayPal, as are some donations. There is no longer any benefit to using PayPal Friends and Family. PayPal charges \$1.50 administration fee for the US members renewing with PayPal. The dues for international members is \$65.00 US. The PayPal fee is \$2.92

Attachment 5

Editor's Report – 6/9/2025

1. Production issues:

Look at the attached PDF--Production costs remain the same except for issue #100, which had extra pages

- a. Since the last report, the cost of production of issues and the number of issues produced are on par with earlier issues
- b. **No Rally edition saves us \$500 per issue!**

2. Rally Edition

To repeat, for 2024, Rally Hosts should be informed of three items the editor needs to have a complete rally edition:

- 1). A list of attendees, with hopefully a list of the organs brought to the rally.
- 2). A short write-up for the text in the Rally Edition
- 3). As many people's pictures as possible for inclusion in the Rally Edition.

Obtaining photos and narratives has been like pulling a hen's teeth with some of the rallies.

The 2024 Rally Edition was delayed as Gary Stevenson wished to hold it until the final renewals had come in. I hear no comments regarding the Rally Edition from members, so I don't know if they do or do not like it or anything else.

3. Advertising and Revenue

- a. All advertisers have been promptly billed, and most accounts are current.
- b. Auction Team Breker seems to be hit/miss with his back-page ad.
- c. Advertising in other journals - we are currently trading one-fourth-page ads with:
 - National Carousel Association (NCA)
 - www.CarouselHistory.com
 - Mechanical Music Radio

4. Thoughts from the Editor:

- a. **Articles from the board - Again**, I urge the **officers and board members to consider authoring an article** for the "Carousel Organ." Several have either done this or have something in the works.
- b. **Back issues** - - - Gary Stevenson continues to do this quite well. Gary also spends a lot of time encouraging those who have not renewed their membership on a prompt basis to renew.
- c. **Articles** . . . we continue to have a supply of interesting articles for the journal.
- d. **Index of Articles** . . . currently available for a request, but only a few members have asked (about twenty-two pages, which are emailed to them).
- e. **Issue #98, article "Forbidden Music"** raised some comments . . . Letters to the Editor (2) were not published (per the previous board meeting), and authors were informed and were okay with that decision.
- f. **Gary Stevenson's work as Membership Chair is invaluable** as he continues to hold the number of active members stable.

5. Advertising Thoughts: Remittance from advertisers remains stable, except for one board member who is delinquent in paying. New advertisers are difficult to obtain because of the cross-membership of like organizations (AMICA, MBSI, CN&T) and our lower membership numbers.

Attachment 6

Carousel Organ Production Cost & Other Items (Issues 93 - 103)

Issue	Date	Printed/sent page	Cost/issue	Print Cost	Postage	Overseas	Stuff/Post	inserts	Envelopes
<u>Total Cost</u>									
93	10/10/22	385(343)	40 \$5.92	\$2,281 \$2,871	\$323	\$167	75/25	none	Envelopes (\$0.00)
94	1/5/23	375(348)	40 \$6.05	\$2,269 \$3,116	\$330	\$190	75/25	1 - \$86	Envelopes (\$141)
95	4/5/23	375(359)	40 \$6.05	\$2,269 \$3,648	\$376	\$218	150/25	6 - \$140	Envelopes (\$146)
96	7/2/23	381(361)	40 \$6.05	\$2,305 \$3,508	\$385	\$196	150/25	4=\$300	Envve;p[es (145)
97	11/6/23	380(361)	40 \$6.05	\$2,299 \$2,931	\$246	\$127	75/23	1 - \$18	Envelopes (145)
98	12/26/23	380(355)	40 \$6.05	\$2,178 3,219	\$361		75/24	4 - \$406 (ballot)	Envelopes (137)
99	4/4/24	865(355)	40 \$6.04	\$2,208 \$3,506	\$328	\$219	75/27	4 - \$435	Envelopes (139)
100	7/9/24	380(357)	52 \$7.48	\$2,844 \$3,866	\$412	\$193	75/49	2 - \$83	Envelopes (193)
101	10/2/24	390(360)	40 \$6.05	\$2,360 \$3,208	\$431	\$183	--/62	1 - \$28	Envelopes (144)
102	1/6/25	390(345)	40 \$6.05	\$2,360 \$3,316	\$434	\$179	75/57	1 - \$71	Envelopes (140)
103	4/18/25	380(358)	40 \$6.05	\$2,299 \$3,606	\$451	\$168	114/52	5 - \$378	Envelopes (144)

- 1 *(Italic \$ amount)* indicates total amount invoiced for that particular issue . The number in () is the actual number of issues mailed out.
- 2 Upon advice from the printer and agreed by Gary Stevenson (Membership Chair) the actual number printed is dependent upon the number mailed plus 15-25 for the Membership Chair's use. The number will fluctuate depending on the number of memberships receiving the journal.

Attachment 7
Rally Chair's Report
June 9, 2025

The 2024 Rally schedule was completed with four successful rallies. These included the Iris Festival hosted by Doug and Danell Mauldin, Knoebels hosted by Marie Beemish, Olcott Beach, hosted by Dan Wilke, and Dutch Village hosted by Luke Curtis. I would like to thank all our hosts for all the efforts they put in to making "the happiest music in the world" available to the public.

We have four rallies on the schedule for the 2025 season. They include: Iris Festival, which was held May 2-3 hosted by Danell Mauldin and Mike Schoeppner, Howard Steamboat Museum June 14-15 hosted by Ted Guillian, Rotary and Carousel Band Organ Rally August 1-3 hosted by Jeff Smith and Michigan Flywheelers Museum Antique Engine and Tractor Show September 5-7 hosted by Spencer Meachum. All of these rallies have experienced hosts which makes my job an easy one.