

MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE NORTH AMERICAN GUILD OF CHANGE RINGERS  
Saturday, October 28, 1972, 8:30 PM (EDT)  
at the home of Jonn and Lynn Reynolds  
Amherst, Massachusetts

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: Marjorie Batchelor, Geoff and Liz Davies, Katie Emmons, Ralph Gifford, Bill Jackson, Becky Joyce, Chris Hoppe, Nancy Lewis, Martha Locke, George Mair, Alice Parker, Lynn Reynolds, Warren Sturgis, Donald and Elisabeth Trumpler, Gretchen Vermilye.

William H. (Bill) Jackson was chosen by the meeting as Chairman pro tem and Elisabeth Trumpler as Recording Secretary pro tem.

Bill Jackson began the meeting with a few remarks about earlier attempts to organize a North American Guild of Change Ringers, particularly those of Alan Durfee, Rick Dirksen, Mike Simpson and Marj Batchelor, and how these efforts prepared the way for the present successful formation of the Guild. Greetings were presented from various ringing centers in North America (Houston, Texas; Calgary, Alberta; Victoria, B.C.; Vancouver, B.C.), as well as from New Zealand and from Cyril A. Wratten, Hon. Secretary of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

#### 1. MEMBERSHIP STATEMENT.

The Chairman announced that the Guild had to this date 124 Members, 6 Non-Resident Members in England and New Zealand, and 11 Newsletter Subscribers (some of whom are ringers). All 141 of these are Founders. The latest address list of members and other ringers in North America was distributed and several corrections and additions made.

Two nominations for honorary membership with supporting citations had been received. In the ensuing discussion the point was raised repeatedly that the election of honorary members was of such considerable importance to the Guild that it should be done by the membership-at-large through absentee voting, not by just the small percentage of members who at any time are able to be present at an A.G.M. because of the geographical distanced involved. The question of honorary membership in the Guild and details of the selection of such members was referred to the Committee for study.

#### 2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Ralph Gifford was appointed to be in charge of the counting of votes, since he held the record of absentee votes and proxies.

A) For the election of Secretary/Treasurer Bill Jackson relinquished the chair in favor of Marj Batchelor, since he was a candidate for the position. As all other nominees for Secretary/Treasurer declined to run, Bill Jackson was declared elected to this office and returned to the chair.

B) Candidates for the position of Newsletter Editor were:

Ned Childs (Groton School)  
Jeff White (Vancouver, B.C.)  
Geoff Davies (Boston, Mass.)

Statements in support were made by Bill Jackson and Elisabeth Trumpler for Jeff White and by Marj Batchelor for Ned Childs, since these two candidates were not present. In the discussion of this position the point was made that the chief function of the Editor was responsibility for the contents of the Newsletter, and that he need not necessarily be directly involved with the printing. Ned Childs was elected to the position of Newsletter Editor.

C) Candidates for the position of Peal Secretary were:

Fiona Clarke (Victoria, B.C.)  
Joan P. Hutchinson (Philadelphia, Pa.)  
David Ingram (Totonto, Ont.)  
Larry Kerridge (Victoria, B.C.)  
Eddie Martin (Washington, D.C.)

C) Candidates for the position of Peal Secretary (cont.):

Donald Trumpler (Hartford, Conn.)

Fred Westlake (Victoria, B.C.)

Statements in support of the absent candidates were made by Bill Jackson and Marj Batchelor. David Ingram was elected to the position of Peal Secretary.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Financial Statement of the Guild, prepared by Bill Jackson, was distributed, explained, and accepted by the meeting. Bill pointed out that for the time being he had kept the monies of the Guild in an account in his own name, to facilitate withdrawals for current expenses. He suggested that now that the Guild is a reality the account be in the name of the Guild, with signature rights to himself as Secretary/Treasurer, plus one other person living in Montreal (where the account will be located). His suggestion of Chris Kelsey was accepted.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 30TH TO OCTOBER 25TH, 1972  
(\$'s Canadian)

1972	INCOME	
June 30	Balance at Bank	NIL
	With Secretary/treasurer	NIL
	Bank interest for period	.13
	Subscriptions (including associated donations):	
	Resident Members	140.57
	Less: refunds due	10.90
		<u>129.67</u>
	Non-Resident Members	13.65
	Newsletter subscribers	7.86
	Other donations	29.66
		<u>180.97</u>

1972	EXPENDITURES	
	Newsletter	33.52
	Postage	36.63
	Telephone	1.30
Oct. 25	Balance at bank	109.50
		<u>180.97</u>

4. NAMES OF AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Bill Jackson announced that the following persons had been nominated by members in their ringing areas to serve as their representatives on the Committee of the N.A.G.:

Boston	Geoff Davies
Calgary	Mike Simpson
Chicago	Peter Donovan
Delaware/Pennsylvania	Nancy Lewis
Groton school Guild	Doug Brown
Kent School	Bill Howard
Montreal	Bill Jackson
Ontario	Alice Parker
Quebec	Chris Wilson
Smith College	Martha Locke
Victoria	Fiona Clarke
Washington, DC	Ann Martin

Some questions were raised as to what constitutes a "ringing area" and whether there should be constitutional limitations placed on the description of these areas and on the process of selection of Committee Members. It was felt that the present Committee should take this whole question under consideration. For the moment, Bill Jackson said, he would prefer to work with a Committee as broadly representative as possible.

#### 5. MOTIONS TO MODIFY THE CONSTITUTION.

Bill Jackson announced that motions I and IV on the ballot had been withdrawn by their authors.

Motion II, to amend the wording of Sec. II C) was not accepted, since it failed to achieve the necessary 2/3 majority (though it did have a simple majority).

Motion III, to change the wording of Sec. III C) concerning the fee paid by Non-Resident Members for the Newsletter, was widely discussed. A proposal to table the motion on the grounds that neither the existing wording of Sec. III C) nor that of motion III was clear, was defeated by the meeting since absentee voters had already committed themselves. The motion was not accepted, since it failed to achieve a 2/3 majority (again it had a simple majority, although it was opposed by a large majority of those present).

Motion V, to amend Sec. VI C) dealing with proxy voting, was also discussed. Bill Jackson noted that the motion was made in response to the first circulated version of the Constitution, which did not allow for any proxy voting, whereas the present Constitution permits proxy voting at an A.G.M. on all but constitutional changes. Several speakers expressed the fear that this might allow a small regional group holding many proxies to change the Constitution without reflecting the wishes of the membership-at-large. The Motion was not accepted, since it failed to achieve a 2/3 majority (again it had a simple majority, although it was opposed by a large majority of those present).

Motion VI, to prescribe a procedure for the election of officers, was also discussed. Everyone present agreed that the wording of this motion was unsatisfactory, even though many agreed with the spirit of it. Donald Trumpler announced the intention to submit a revised version of this motion for the next A.G.M., a draft of which is contained in the list of "Late Motions and Ideas," which was distributed later in the evening. Warren Sturgis suggested that nominees for office be required to indicate their willingness to run before their names are put on the ballot; also that nominations from the floor at the A.G.M. should not be accepted, since absentee voters would not be in a position to vote for them. The motion failed by a large majority.

#### 6. OTHER ELIGIBLE MOTIONS (NOT CONCERNING THE CONSTITUTION).

Motion VII, to accept all peals rung for the N.A.G., retroactively as official N.A.G. Peals. Bill Jackson, as author of the motion, stated that his intent was to cover those peals rung in North America (and published in the Ringing World under the heading "The North American Guild" (the first such apparently having been in 1967). He noted that these were rung "in the spirit of such an association" and in the hope that an official Guild might some day be formed. Geoff Davies proposed that this be extended to all peals rung in North America, subject only to the approval of any surviving members of the bands involved, since the N.A.G. represents the culmination of all change ringing in North America. It was agreed that more research into the records of peal ringing in North America is needed and that a motion to accept other earlier peals would be in order for the next A.G.M. Bill Jackson's motion carried.

Motion VIII, that the Guild seek Central Council affiliation. Reasons for affiliating with the Central Council were elaborated. The motion carried.

## 7. CENTRAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION.

Bill Jackson stated the conditions to be met for Central Council affiliation:

1) Minimum of 75 members;

2) To abide by the rules and regulations of the Central Council.

These conditions are automatically satisfied, since we have more than 75 members and Sec. I C) of the Guild Constitution specifically fulfills the second condition.

It was pointed out that the representative to the Central Council must serve for three years in succession, except in such representative chooses to resign. There is no specific provision in the Constitution for the selection of a Central Council representative, but this matter was seen to be covered by Sec. IV A), where the Committee is given the power to make decisions that are not provided for in the Constitution. It was suggested that the Committee consider either Bill Theobald or Jonn Baldwin (both living in England) as Central Council representative, at least temporarily to provide representation for the Spring 1973 meeting of the Central Council.

## 8. A.G.M. 1973--VENUE.

Because of the obvious geographical problems involved there was considerable discussion as to how sites for future A.G.M.'s could be most equitably chosen. One proposal was that the site be chosen in turn from the four major ringing areas in North America (Northeastern U.S. & Canada, Washington DC, Midwest, Western Canada). Another suggestion was that the sites be apportioned on the basis of the geographical distribution of members.

Since absentee voters had already voiced opinions for the 1973 venue, it was decided that the meeting should act on this question. The site recommended for the 1973 A.G.M. by a plurality of voters was Washington, D.C. The meeting empowered the Committee to seek an invitation from Washington, D.C., and if unsuccessful, to make other suitable arrangements. A proviso of accepting an invitation to go to Washington was that the bells be not "clappered", or silenced, and that they be available for a reasonable length of time. The date judged most suitable was the Labor Day weekend (September 1/2/3). It was the general consensus of those present at the meeting that in future years the Committee should use its judgement to select sites in such a way that all ringing areas are given the opportunity to host an A.G.M. at one time or another.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS.

A list of "Late Motions and Ideas" was circulated. Most of these deal with further changes in the Constitution and therefore can be acted upon only at the next A.G.M. Because of the lateness of the hour these and other suggestions were referred to the Committee without discussion.

Nancy Lewis announced that the RINGING WORLD would accept articles of not more than 400 words, accompanied by an 8 by 10 glossy photograph, of any tower in North America for use as cover story. Such copy may be sent to either Nancy Lewis or Joan Hutchinson (see address list).

The meeting adjourned at 1 A.M. (EDT).

W.H. Jackson  
Secretary/Treasurer

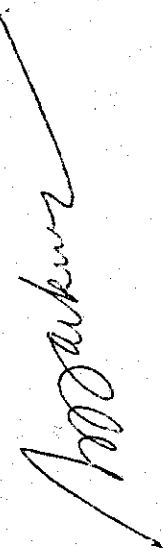
October 28, 1972

NORTH AMERICAN GUILD OF CHANGE RINGERS

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 30TH TO OCTOBER 25TH, 1972

(\$'s Canadian)

<u>1972</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
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		<u>180.97</u>	<u>180.97</u>



W.H. Jackson

NORTH AMERICAN GUILD OF CHANGE RINGERS  
CONSTITUTION

I. NAME AND PURPOSE

- (a) The Association shall be called "The North American Guild of Change Ringers".
- (b) The Guild shall seek to improve communication among ringers of North America, to raise their standard of ringing and to improve their contacts with ringers outside North America.
- (c) The Guild shall abide by the rules of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

II. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) The Guild shall consist of Resident Members, Associate Members, Non-Resident Life Members and Honorary Life Members.
- (b) Only Resident Members shall be eligible to vote on the affairs of the Guild or hold office, except that the office of Central Council Representative may be held by a Non-Resident Life Member.
- (c) All members except Honorary Life Members and Associate Members must be able to ring a tower bell, or two handbells retained in hand, through the plain course of any one method on five or more bells. Associate members must be able to ring rounds on tower bells.
- (d) All members except Honorary Life Members shall be elected by the submission of their name(s) and first annual subscription(s) to the Secretary-Treasurer.
- (e) The election of Honorary Life Members shall take place only at the Annual General Meeting, after recommendation by the Committee. Committee recommendation shall be solicited by any Resident Member.

III. FEES

- (a) The fees shall be:
  - Resident Members . . . . . \$3.00 payable annually
  - Associate Members . . . . . \$3.00 payable annually
  - Newsletter Subscribers . . . . . \$3.00 payable annually
  - Non-Resident Life Members . . . \$3.00 payable on joining the Guild.
- (b) Fees are payable by April 1 of the calendar year of membership. The membership of any person who does not pay by December 31 will lapse automatically.
- (c) Fees are intended to cover the cost of the Newsletter and the necessary operational expenses of the Guild. Non-Resident Life Members may receive the Newsletter on payment of an additional \$2.00 p.a. Honorary Members shall receive it free of charge.

IV. GOVERNMENT

- (a) Management of the Guild shall be vested in a committee which shall have the authority to make decisions concerning the Guild that are not provided for by the Constitution. The committee may not, however, approve a change of the Constitution.
- (b) There shall also be an Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) of the Guild, to be held alternately in the different ringing areas. Its functions will include, but not be limited to:
  - i) To review the Annual Report
  - ii) To elect and/or declare the officers for the following year
  - iii) To review and/or ratify proposed changes to the Constitution.

V. COMMITTEE

- (a) The committee shall consist of all Guild officers and such representatives as are selected annually by the different ringing areas.
- (b) The Secretary-Treasurer will convene committee meetings, if any, and be ex-officio Chairman.
- (c) The committee chairman will ensure that all committee members' opinions are appropriately solicited (by mail if necessary) before forward to the A.G.M. from the committee.
- (d) The committee shall function by majority vote, the chairman having any necessary casting vote.

VI. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (A.G.M.)

- (a) Responsibility for electing an A.G.M. shall be the Secretary-Treasurer's.
- (b) The agenda shall be circulated to all Resident Members not later than six weeks prior to the A.G.M. Responsibility for this rests with the Secretary-Treasurer, who may use the Newsletter as a medium if appropriate.
- (c) Members eligible to vote but not able to attend the meeting may vote in writing. To be valid, such absentee votes must have been in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer by

the time of the meeting. Proxy votes may not be given to other members who may attend the meeting for the discretionary use of those members on any matters concerning changes to the constitution or the election of officers.

(d) To the circulated agenda must be attached all motions and the names of all nominees for office to be presented to the A.G.M.

(e) Changes to the constitution require a two-thirds majority vote at the A.G.M., and no changes to the constitution or modifications can be made at the A.G.M. which have not been circulated in a complete and final form to all members as required in section VI-D. If more than one motion to amend a given clause of the Constitution is approved, the motion with the highest number of positive votes will be confirmed. In the event of a tied vote, the A.G.M. is empowered to effect a compromise.

(f) Other A.G.M. issues will be decided by a simple majority vote. For these purposes only, and excepting also the election of officers, members attending the meeting may carry proxy votes.

VII THE OFFICERS

(a) The officers of the Guild, elected at the A.G.M., shall be a Secretary-Treasurer, a Newsletter Editor, a Peal Secretary and a Central Council Representative. They shall each be responsible to the committee as delineated in Clauses VIII-XI below.

(b) Except for the Central Council Representative, elected triennially, the officers shall be elected annually. Nominations must be solicited from all Resident Members by the Secretary-Treasurer normally at least five calendar months before the A.G.M. No nominations shall be normally accepted after the date set by the Secretary-Treasurer in opening the nominations.

(c) Any eligible candidate nominated for an office by more than half of the guild's Resident Members shall thereby be elected. If no nominee receives such a majority, a voting form containing the names of the two persons most nominated shall be circulated to each Resident Member with the A.G.M. agenda. Election will in this case ensue at the A.G.M.

VIII FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

(a) The publication of the annual report to be presented first to the committee and then to the A.G.M. for ratification. This shall contain at least:

- i) The names and addresses of all Resident Members, and the names of all other members.
- ii) The current Guild Constitution.
- iii) All important committee decisions made since the last A.G.M.
- iv) A financial statement.

(b) The collection and management of membership fees.

IX FUNCTIONS OF THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

(a) To collate material of interest to Guild members.

(b) At least once per calendar year, to circulate a newsletter to all qualified members (see III-C). As a minimum, there must be so published during the year a record of the previous A.G.M. proceedings, including any approved changes to the constitution and the ratified Annual Report, in full.

X FUNCTIONS OF THE PEAL SECRETARY

(a) To maintain an up-to-date record of all peals rung by the Guild, and other peals rung in North America.

(b) To submit a written peal analysis to the Secretary-Treasurer for inclusion in the Annual Report.

(c) To recommend committee decisions on eligibility of Guild peals, where necessary.

XI FUNCTIONS OF CENTRAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

(a) To look after the Guild's interests in the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

(b) To submit to the Secretary-Treasurer a written report on new rules, decisions and proceedings of the Central Council that may affect the Guild, for inclusion in the Annual Report.

XII PEALS

Peals may be credited to the Guild only if all the band are members of the Guild and at least half are Resident Members. If the peal-ringers are not previously members of the Guild, their membership subscriptions must be received by the Secretary-Treasurer prior to publication of the peal in the "Ringing World".

XIII CHANGE OF CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may only be changed as described in Sections IV and VI.