

**Massachusetts Music Teachers Association
Winter Board Meeting**

Date: Friday, February 2, 2018

Location: Teleconference by FreeConference.com

Present:

Janet Ainsworth, President

Dorothy Travis, Immediate Past President

Karin Wilks, Secretary

Yulia Zhuravleva, new board member, Membership Chair

Ellyses Kuan, President Elect (departed meeting at 10:35)

Vivian Tsang, Webmaster

Valerie Stark, Treasurer (departed meeting at 11:00)

Esther Ning Yau, Bay State Competition Chair

Alison Barr, Newsletter Editor

Heather Riley, Judged Festival Chair

Caroline Ly, MTNA Competition Chair

Vera Rubin, Bay State Strings Chair

Nilly Shilo, Vice President for Certification

Amy Lee, MAE Chair (arrived meeting at 11:35)

Not Present:

Leslie Hitelman, Composition Competition Chair

Janet called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Old Business:

Motion: Valerie moved to accept the minutes of the September 2017 Board Meeting.

Seconded: Dorothy

Vote: the motion passed unanimously. Vivian will post the minutes to the website.

New Business:

1. Treasurer's Report – Valerie

Valerie had reported the following financial data via email:

Cash in bank account, as of Dec. 31, 2017

Savings 19,947.66

Checking 45,734.02

48-month CD 26,088.09

Total 91,769.77

Currently in PayPal (Judged Festival registrations) 6,304.56

Valerie also provided reports from the MTNA Performance and Composition competitions which are available on request. She asked that board members continue to send requests for reimbursement, judges fees and any other requested payments on the financial form available on the website. The same form may be used when sending in checks for depositing, so the exact program can be credited.

Caroline updated the board on the heroic efforts to which she has gone to obtain the registration fee from one teacher at the fall 2017 MTNA Competition. She reported that payment of the past two years delinquent fees should be received shortly.

2. Membership Report – Yulia

Yulia provided the following current membership information via email:

239 Active Members

it's 3.46% higher than it was on December 2016 (231 members) but 3.24% lower than the members count by the end of the year (247 members)

Since last MMTA board meeting on 9/28/2017

16 New members joined MMTA

6 – in October

4 – in November

3 – in December

3 – in January

8 - Renewed MMTA membership

Discussed: Yulia reported an issue with a teacher who has requested reimbursement of the membership dues she has recently remitted. This teacher is seeking to enroll just one student in the Judged Festival, and has determined that it is to her advantage to pay the non-member registration fee for that event.

Heather stated that this teacher had not met the payment deadline for membership and was therefore required to pay the non-member fee. Nilly had noted that since the membership fee had been remitted to the national organization, it was not within this board's power to refund it. Dorothy stated that national allows a 50% fee discount for individuals joining between January 1st and June 30th and that they provide a list of states who follow this practice.

Action: Yulia will contact national to inquire how this can best be settled.

3. MTNA State Competition – Caroline

Caroline reported the following results from the MTNA Competition that took place on October 28, 2017 at Brandeis University via email:

Total of 37 entries:

- 5 Young Artists (2 piano, 3 woodwind)
- 15 Juniors (9 piano, 6 string)
- 16 Seniors (12 piano, 4 string)
- 1 Sax ensemble (State representative)

Number of judges: 10

- 3 for Junior Piano

- 3 for Senior and Young Artists Piano

- 3 for Junior/Senior Strings

- 1 for Woodwinds

Caroline further reported the following via email: *Apart from a little incident with the winner of the Senior piano competition due to a program typo from the national coordinator --and quickly resolved after the competition-- the event went smoothly, with all competitions starting and finishing roughly on time. I want to thank again all the Board members who volunteered on that day! Results of the competition can be found at the website.*

Dorothy had mentioned that for in the future, it might be good to have two persons in charge of overseeing the competitions depending upon how many participants register next year. Vivian inquired whether the MMTA provided the Massachusetts winner(s) with any cash compensation to defer the costs of their attending the national event.

Motion: Valerie moved that \$200 be awarded to the Massachusetts division winner for attendance at the national competition.

Second: Dorothy

Vote: unanimously approved.

4. Scholarship Reimbursement Program – Alison

The following was reported by Alison via email: *I've been making slow progress researching similar programs including MusicLink. I am trying to coin a strong title - MusicSource Tuition Scholarship Program OR MusicGift etc. (It was agreed that the title should contain the work "teacher". Alison went on to say that she hopes to be able to provide 100 percent reimbursement of fees to teachers.)*

I have applied to Lawyer for the Arts for pro bono or reduced rate legal help: do we need to set up a separate foundation, etc. Valerie and Dorothy have been helpful, thank you!!! I will work more in the next few months and report how it is recommended we proceed. I am excited and appreciate all the support!!!

Motion: Dorothy moved to create a new board position starting in June 2018 with the title Teacher Scholarship Reimbursement Program Chair.

Second: Karin

Vote: unanimously approved.

5. MMTA Travel Grant Applications – Dorothy

Dorothy reported that three individuals have submitted applications for travel grants to the MTNA national conference: Alison Barr, Maral Annaovezova, and Alexander Morollo. She stated that Alison has clearly met all the requirements for receipt of the grant. Since the other two applicants have only

recently joined MMTA, she suggested that their volunteer support is insufficient to meet the requirements for grant approval.

Discussed: Steps should be taken to promote volunteerism and inform possible volunteers of opportunities to serve. Vivian stated that a website button for volunteers to enter contact info could be added but would cost.

Motion: Dorothy moved that a travel grant be awarded to Alison Barr.

Second: Heather

Vote: unanimously approved.

Motion: Dorothy moved that travel grants be denied for Maral and Alexander due to lack of volunteer service.

Second: Elysses

Vote: unanimously approved.

Action: Alison will compose a letter of explanation and encouragement to Maral and Alexander. Esther will contact them regarding volunteering for the Bay State Competition. Janet will handle treating Maral and Alexander to free refreshments during the MMTA social hour at the MTNA conference. She will submit a request for reimbursement to Valerie.

6. Irene Reed Scholarship – Alison

Dorothy reported that this scholarship is available for a teacher/board member to attend the national conference and has been applied for this year by Caroline Ly.

Motion: Dorothy moved that the 2018 Irene Reed Scholarship be awarded to Caroline Ly.

Second: Valerie

Vote: unanimously approved

7. MTNA Conference – Janet

Discussed: Massachusetts gift for raffle at MTNA conference.

Action: Alison will take on this task or coordinate with Vera to obtain a painting.

Discussed: Pros and cons of purchase of a state designated table at the conference Gala event.

Action: Discussion tabled pending additional information regarding cost of table, level of interest in and registration for the Gala, etc.

Discussed: Massachusetts Social Hour to be held at the national conference.

Action: Alison is in the process of organizing this event.

8. 2019 Quad State Conference – Ellyses

Ellyses reported that she continues to research venues for the conference and is considering UMass Boston and Stonehill College. Tufts University is not able to confirm availability to host the event at this time. She will give further information at the June meeting.

9. Baystate Contest – Esther, Vivian, Vera

Esther reported the following via email: Date set to be on May 13th Mother's Day. All 14 judges have been recruited, thanks for the help from Bob Zolowski. I had spread the words about the date of the contest to potential timer/monitors- I will try to recruit Conservatory piano students from Longy, NEC and Boston Conservatory. Especially for my students in the piano pedagogy class, I think it would be beneficial to them and also recruiting them to be involved with MMTA and I think they will be potential new members for MMTA.

There are some inquiries about paying non- membership fee to enter competition and I forwarded the info about discount of half membership and hope it would entice them to join MMTA, rather than paying non- membership fee

It will be 50th anniversary for the Bay State Contest, I am still researching for different Banner for students to take pictures...etc. will keep you posted for some help in choosing the banner. Any other great ideas welcome!

Regarding the strings competition, Vera reported that she is successfully working out all the details.

10. Judged Festival – Heather

Heather reported the following via email: Judged Festival deadline closed with 180 registered, with \$6,304.56 income. Compared to last year: it's only about 30 students less than last year, and \$1,000 less income. This is a fair outcome - and expected - considering the change to registration rules, which now limit teachers to submitting a max of 5 students each.

11. Nominating Committee – Dorothy

Dorothy reported good progress with the slate of officers for 2018. She will provide the board with the proposed slate 30 days prior to the annual meeting. She reminded board members to review the job descriptions for their positions. Alison suggested that the descriptions should include a time schedule of the tasks to be performed.

12. MAE Chair Report – Amy

Amy directed the board to the website for the dates and locations of the Music Achievement Evaluations, and reported the logistics at the new location in Lexington are going well. In response to her statement that she is spending a lot of time fielding questions from teachers, Dorothy suggested including on the website a link to Frequently Asked Questions.

13. Social and TOY Event – Janet

Janet reported that no nominations have yet been received for these annual recognitions. Vera suggested, that the deadline for submission of nominations be extended to March 21st. The deadline change is pending the decision of the president.

She also stated that she will host the event again this year and the date was set for June 16th from noon to 3 pm. Vivian stated that Janet should send out a reminder email to membership asking for nominations. The board also agreed with Dorothy's suggestion that invitations to the event be extended to newly nominated committee members.

14. New Business

The Annual Meeting of the MTNA is scheduled as follows:

- Friday, June 8, 2018, from 10 am to 12 noon
- 105 North Avenue, Natick, MA.
- 10 – 10:30 am: Annual Meeting, open to all MTNA members
- 10:30 am to 12 pm noon: Board Meeting

Discussed: Possible need for website update.

Meeting adjourned at 12 pm