

**Massachusetts Music Teachers Association  
Minutes of Spring Board Meeting  
June 11, 2014**

Present:

Vera Rubin, Dorothy Travis, Alison Barr, Lydia Reed-Guertin, Valerie Stark, John Stapp, Nilly Shilo, Janet Ainsworth, Vivian Tsang, and Alice Dusenberry as observer.

**President Vera Rubin called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.**, after offering a wonderful assortment of refreshments and Turkish coffee.

**1) Secretary's Minutes from Feb. 12, 2014, were presented by Secretary Alison Barr**, which were circulated via email before the meeting. Amended: Under discussion point #2 Treasurer's Report; "IRS Form W9" will be substituted for "IRS Form 1099." **Dorothy moved, Vera seconded. Unanimously approved.**

*(Secretary's addendum: See Treasurer's Report as Agenda #6, since we addressed it later in the meeting. Also, please find 2014-2015 Board Meeting dates at the end of this report.)*

**2) Herbert Bowker and Nancy Oliva Scholarship Application**

One application ONLY has been submitted for the Herbert Bowker and/or Nancy Oliva Awards. It was presented by President Rubin that MMTA member (and Board member) Nilly Shilo's student, Kevin Ren, a 17-year old pianist, qualifies for *both* scholarships. He is attending college in the fall as a double major in music and another discipline, and he is also attending Boston U. Tanglewood Institute this summer. Discussion ensued, and **Dorothy moved to grant two distinct scholarships, representing the two awards aforementioned, each scholarship in the amount of \$200. For a total of \$400. Dorothy moved, Lydia seconded. Unanimously approved.**

\*\*\*\*It was requested that Vivian update the contact person for these scholarships on the website, so that the incoming President will be the contact person.

**3) The 2014-2016 MMTA Slate of Officers and Chairs**

**Presidency**

**President-Elect Vacancy**

President Rubin announced that she has officially accepted Jane Fiske's resignation from the position of President-Elect of MMTA.

**Alison Barr of the Nominating Committee asked Dorothy Travis whether she would be willing to step in as President** and forego the President-Elect term for which she was originally nominated. **Dorothy said she would be willing to do so**, with the support and help of Vera and support during the upcoming MTNA Competitions, which she would continue to chair through Nov. 30, 2014. Dorothy

was assured of this help and support, particularly for administrative emails, Judge's packets, registration forms, and basically things that all happen in the days leading directly up to the Competitions. It is particularly extreme two weeks prior to the Competitions. All present agreed that in extreme appreciation for Dorothy's willingness to step up to the Presidency during this difficult time for MMTA, and agreed that we would help and support her in any way we could.

Julia Zhuravleva, who attended the Teacher of the Year party, might be someone to ask to help with the competitions. It was determined that Jane Fiske may be willing to serve MMTA in an official capacity, based on her past association with MMTA.

***(Secretary's addendum: I will help with anything you need ahead of time, Dorothy, and be there that day – Alison)***

**Next, the vacant President-Elect position was discussed. Janet Ainsworth most generously offered to fill the vacant position of President-Elect, while continuing to serve as Commissioned Composition Chairperson. After a short period of conferring, the Nomination Committee unanimously accepted Janet's offer and added her to the slate about to be presented.**

It should be noted that both Leslie Hitelman and Ginta Bistras were discussed as possible President-Elect candidates, but this discussion was resoundingly eclipsed by Janet's immediate offer and her active presence in the meeting.

The Board then discussed the MTNA Presidential Leadership Summit coming up in the fall. Though Dorothy will be unable to attend, Janet will be most likely able and most graciously willing to attend.

After much discussion considering the best and clearest way to proceed with our slate, and, after Janet Ainsworth graciously offered her

**The revised slate was presented** by MMTA's Nominating Committee (Alison Barr, Nilly Shilo and Vivian Tsang) as follows:

#### **Executive Board**

President: Dorothy Travis

President-Elect: Janet Ainsworth

Vice-President Certification: Nilly Shilo

Vice-President Membership: Heather Riley

Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Alison Barr

Treasurer: Valerie Stark

Immediate Past President Vera Rubin

#### **Chairs**

President Southeastern Chapter: Michelle Gordon

Bay State Contest Chair: John Stapp

Bay State Contest String Division Chair: Vera Rubin  
Webmaster/Chair of Technology/Judged Festival Chair: Vivian Tsang  
MTNA Competitions Chair (through Nov. 30, 2014) Dorothy Travis, Dec 1, 2014 on - vacant  
MTNA Composition Competition Chair: Leslie Hitelman (wishes to be replaced)  
Commissioning Chair: Janet Ainsworth  
Local (not state) MAE Chairs: Amy Lee/Valerie Ross/Joshua Martin (SE)

**After being presented by Alison Barr, Lydia seconded the revised slate and it was then unanimously approved.**

Lydia Reed-Guertin was heartily thanked and congratulated for all the thoughtful consideration and hard work she has brought to her position over the last two years. She left with Vera extra Directories and a folder of information for Heather. Heather Riley was warmly welcomed back to the Board and thanked for her willingness to so enthusiastically embrace her new Vice Presidency. Valerie Stark was resoundingly applauded for her generosity, intelligence and ongoing commitment to MMTA.

**It was noted that MTNA National Office will be asked to include BOTH Vera and Dorothy on Presidential email correspondence until December 1, 2014.**

#### **4) Permanent Board Approval and Travel Stipend Increase for the “MMTA Teacher Enrichment Travel Fund”**

**President Rubin asked us to make the temporary fund (please see Secretary's Addenda below\*) into a permanent fund and also to consider increasing the total funding cap to \$2000.00 and also to increase the cap per individual recipient to \$400.00**

Discussion ensued:

Who will administer this program?

Current Membership status will need to be verified through Membership VP

Deadline of application submission: February Board Meeting

Need for some accountability through a report (which is part of the temporary program)

**Dorothy moved to accept the Temporary Teacher Enrichment Travel Grant proposal as permanent, with the additional stipulation that no applicant can be granted such an award for TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS, and, with the increase of the total funding cap to \$2000.00 and increase of the cap per individual recipient to \$400.00**

**Seconded by Valerie, unanimously approved.**

**\*Secretary's Addendum: Below please find the interim proposal we approved in November 2013:**

*A maximum of \$1000.00 total travel funds will be made available for use of MMTA members for the express use of travel/lodging/registration for the MTNA Chicago Conference to be held on March 22-26, 2014.*

*Application for such funds is open to members with the following qualifications:*

*Any member of MMTA who has been a member in good standing for a minimum of 2 consecutive years is eligible to apply.*

*Applicants must have served on the board, a committee or volunteered in at least 2 MMTA events.*

*Past and Present volunteers are invited to apply.*

*Use of such funds would be governed by these criteria:*

- a) Must sign a statement similar to MTNA and NEPTA: "By signing this application, I verify that I will use awarded funds for their intended purpose and by the proposed date. If I do not use the awarded funds, I will return them to MMTA."*
- b) Applicants should attach a copy of the official course or conference application along with conference description.*
- c) Grant recipients must provide a brief written report of their experiences to be published in an MMTA newsletter.*

*The total amount of NO MORE THAN \$1000.00, with a maximum cap of \$250. Per applicant will be divided evenly among all qualified candidates applying, as verified and awarded by a sub-committee of the MMTA Board.*

**5) Publishing the Membership Directory and Handbook (hereafter MD&H) Online**

The following points were discussed with attribution if clear:

The financial burden of mailing out a print MD&H is significant and it can just be sent to the "no email" list, which is about 25 or 30 at any given time (Vera)

It is a longstanding tradition to print it (Lydia)

Most dates are already posted somewhere on the web-site

Membership list would have to be password protected

Can we still have advertisers online, or would we need them

The actual net loss to MMTA of the MD&H as it now stands, including mailing is only \$600. (Valerie)

You can't ignore the "no email" members (Alison)

Mailing was the most work (Lydia)

In the past, the Membership VP has had the mailing done by the printer (Vivian)

August 1 is now the deadline for all dates and places, OR, they can be put in as TBA (Alison)

We need a transition protocol or subcommittee to work with Heather (Vivian/Valerie)

How valuable is the actual book? (Nilly/Vivian)

What needs to be added to the website for this to happen (Vivian):

Constitution and By-Laws

Password Protection for Member list (addresses, phones, emails) even though it is partially available on "Find-A-Teacher"

Members should be notified by MAIL that this change will happen (Lydia)

We need a subcommittee including Heather and Vivian to look at the technical aspects involved and perhaps there is a way we can abbreviate/abridge the copies which are printed and mailed to the "no email" members (Dorothy)

**Valerie moved that we transition to an Online Membership Directory and Handbook to begin in the Fall of 2014 and that this transition be managed by a Subcommittee for Technology, and that we notify the membership that this change is upcoming.**

**Dorothy seconded. Unanimously approved.**

**Vivian will communicate this to Heather.**

#### **6) Treasurer's Report**

**Treasurer Valerie Stark gave us the following balances:**

Savings \$31,819.68

Checking: \$33,436.76

\$12,000. In Bay State Contest registration income has already been transferred from PayPal

**We discussed that perhaps we should have better return on our savings account balance and Alison and Valerie agreed to go to DCU this summer and talk to them about vehicles for this, that will maintain flexibility while giving better return.**

#### **7) Bay State Contest**

**Chair John Stapp reported that the Bay State Contest will no longer be held in Fitchburg,**

And that he is looking at other venues.

It is generally the second Saturday in May, but can't be in conflict with the Steinway Competition. We need seven rooms with grand pianos.

John will continue to look for venues that are appropriate and procure the date when he has the venue. He hopes to find a venue that will not charge a rental fee.

Janet Ainsworth offered that her school in Southborough would be an appropriate venue.

John is preparing a marketing tool that will impress upon prospective schools the huge benefits of hosting the Bay State Contest:

Recruitment, jobs for students on that day, etc.

John also announced that he has hired a company to produce a high-caliber recording in CD form of the Bay State Winners' Concert that was held on the day

after the Contest. It will be included as facet of the marketing strategy and serves as undeniable proof of the extremely high level of participants/winners in this contest.

**7) Dorothy Travis announced that the MTNA Competitions will be held at Brandeis, date TBA, but possibly November 22, 2014**

**Alison Barr officially thanked John Stapp and his partner, Bob Zwolinski, for offering their wonderful Wakefield home and generous hospitality for the Teacher-of-the-Year Party for Vivian Tsang. It was an amazing evening of celebration.**

**Dates of 2014-2015 Board Meetings, to be held at the home of President Dorothy Travis, 40 Naples Rd., Melrose, MA 02176:**

**Friday, Sept. 12, 2014**

**Friday, February 13, 2015**

**Friday, June 12, 2015**

**All meetings will start with refreshments at 9:30 a.m. and meeting officially beginning at 10:00 a.m.**

**President Rubin adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Barr, Secretary**