

Massachusetts Music Teacher's Association

Executive Board Meeting, June 4, 2013

9 Lawn Avenue, Newton, MA

President Vera Rubin, Presiding

10:15 – Meeting was called to order

President Vera Rubin introduced our New President-Elect, Jane Fiske.

BAY STATE CONTEST RULES

There was discussion regarding the fact that during this year's Bay State Contest, a teacher who had agreed to help did not help, and her student was disqualified. The student, however still got an award. Vera said that she felt that in a case like this, students should not be punished. She asked the Board how we should handle that situation in the future. She said that there is an ongoing issue with teachers volunteering to help out during the Contest (so they don't have to pay a fee), and then backing out at the last minute.

Following lengthy discussion, Vera Rubin MOVED that “

During the Bay State Contest, Teachers have to be there, and no substitutes are allowed. If the Teacher is not there, they must pay the non-volunteer fee.”

Alison Barr SECONDED. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Nilly Shilo then recognized and thanked John Stapp for his amazing work at the Bay State Contest this year.

STRING COMPETITION

The Board then discussed having the String Competition portion of the Bay State Contest on a different day from the Piano portion. Because we allow students to participate in the competition with different instruments, we should give them a schedule which allows them to do that.

Vera Rubin MOVED that:

“The String Competition will be held on a different day from the piano competition”.

Alison Barr SECONDED. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

CARNEGIE HALL/ROYAL CONSERVATORY ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM, now known as the “ROYAL CONSERVATORY MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM”

Heather Riley reported that there are many issues regarding the Achievement Program.

She explained that students must register through a website which is administered in Canada. The Representative then opens a center. They send a judge from the Conservatory to the Center. The Conservatory does the registration, and the representative runs the schedule.

The role of the Chair was different 3 years ago. It was the only center in New England. Over the last 3 years, the program exploded. The Norwood/Littleton center doubled, then tripled up to 10-12 days this spring. There are now centers all over New England, whereas before, we were the only center. We were the founding center, and Littleton is one of the 3 largest centers in the USA. We had a role and responsibility in starting this, and we have a responsibility to keep a center open.

The issue is about the Chairperson, and what role they should serve. Should we no longer have a chair? The compensation for the Chairperson from the Royal Conservatory is ridiculously low considering the amount of work that is expected. The Chair does not just have duties on exam days, but has to answer phone calls and emails throughout the year.

It is a wonderful program, but Indian Hill does not really support staffing it.

Following much discussion, Dorothy Travis MOVED to:

“Remove the Achievement Program Chairperson position from the MMTA Board, and state on our website that we support this program, and provide a link to it.”

Alison Barr SECONDED. The vote was split, and

“To remove the Achievement Program Chairperson position from the MMTA Board” was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Alison Barr MOVED that we amend the wording on the website to read:

“We support curriculum based exams programs to include the following: RCMDP, and other such programs.”

Dorothy Travis SECONDED. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Heather will contact Vivian to have her remove her name as contact from the Website.

The Board heartily thanked Heather for her service.

TREASURER POSITION

The position of Treasurer is now open, as Jan Spillaine has resigned.

There was discussion regarding making this position ACCOUNTANT/TREASURER, and have one person do it. We have a lot of funds and programs through which to disburse them. We could fill the Treasurer for 1 year, and then decide if we need to hire an Accountant.

This idea was TABLED until the next meeting, and Vera would let members know that the position is open.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Lydia Reed-Guertin asked the Board for an increase in fees for ads placed in the Handbook. Following discussion, Lydia MOVED that:

“MMTA increase the fees as follows: Whole Page: \$250, Half Page, \$175, Quarter Page \$100, and eliminate the Eighth Page.”

Vera Rubin SECONDED. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Lydia then requested that anyone with information that needed to be printed in the handbook needed to get that information to her by August 1. Alison mentioned that we need to put the Treasurer Position in the Newsletter, and Vera volunteered to send an email to all members notifying them. There will also be a notice in the Newsletter that in order to be listed in the Directory, you must have paid your MTNA dues by June 30.

TEACHER ENRICHMENT FUND

Lydia distributed a Proposed MMTA Teacher Enrichment Fund Report for the Board members to read and send her feedback.

HERBERT BOWKER SCHOLARSHIP for Summer Study

2 Scholarship applications have been received. Following review, Nilly MOVED

“that each applicant be given \$300 this year only”.

and Vera SECONDED. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

MTNA CONTEST

Nilly reminded the Board that the deadline for entering the State Contest is September 11, 2013.

Nilly will plan to reserve Brandeis on the 3rd Saturday of November. Strings competition will be held later in the day.

QUAD STATE

Allison informed the Board that the Quad State Conference will be held on October 5, at the University of Southern Maine in Gorham. Robert Duke will be the Keynote Speaker, and the focus of the Conference is “The Brain and Music. Registration materials for the Quad State Conference can be found online and also in the Handbook.

NEW BUSINESS

MINUTES

There was discussion regarding the minutes from the last meeting. The following needs to be included in the minutes:

A vote to implement a dues increase for student/senior citizen rate was voted on at the last meeting meeting.

Alison Barr MOVED to:

Increase the rates to: Active \$35

Student/Senior \$25

Dorothy Travis SECONDED

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

BYLAWS AND CONSTITUTION

Discussion of a possible change to our Constitution was TABLED until the Fall Meeting

Meeting Adjourned 12:15

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Gordon