

**Massachusetts Music Teachers Association
Winter Board Meeting**

Date: Friday, February 3, 2017

Location: conference call

Present:

Janet Ainsworth, President

Dorothy Travis, Immediate Past President

Valerie Stark, Treasurer

Karin Wilks, Secretary

Vera Rubin, Bay State Strings Chair

Alison Barr, Newsletter Editor

Nilly Shilo, Vice President for Certification

Heather Riley, Judged Festival Chair

Caroline Ly, MTNA Competition Chair

Esther Ning Yau, Bay State Piano Chair

Amy Lee, MAE Chair

Ellyses Kuan, Membership Chair

Yulia Zhuravleva, auditor, President-Elect candidate

Not Present: Vivian Tsang, Michelle Gordon, Leslie
Hitelman

Janet called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Secretary's Report Minutes from the meeting of September 16, 2016 had been previously approved via email.

Agenda Items (in the order addressed):

12. Items Pertinent to Bay State Competition which had been tabled at the prior meeting due to time considerations – Esther

- Repertoire – Heather suggested that the web page for competition registration can be reprogrammed to include drop-down lists of repertoire eras that would only show allowed choices. She thought that this reprogramming could be costly. It was agreed that this sounded like a good solution and that Vivian can look into it.
- Out of State Students – A discussion took place regarding applicability of Mass residency rules to teachers of contestants. Alison pointed out that this issue would be progressively nil with the expected growth of on-line remote teaching. Nonetheless, it was agreed that the residency requirement should be applied to students only. Janet concluded that this is the current rule and no changes are required.
- Birthdate Discrepancies - Esther reported that passports are used to affirm that students are correctly registered and that this is not a problem.

- Standard for Monitors and Timers – Nilly suggested that judges be paid overtime when the program ran past 5 pm. Dorothy pointed out that these policies were decided last year. Heather, who has been a judge, suggested that timers and monitors be given better training so that they could effectively handle time-keeping challenges with judges. Karin stated that Vivian had done an excellent job at preparing her to be a monitor, requiring that all monitors and timers attend the pre-event judges briefing. Alison stated that communication between monitors and judges should be based on a collegial relationship. Dorothy suggested that a list be maintained of qualified monitors, and Amy pointed out that teachers should not be allowed as monitors for their own students' performances.
- At this point in the meeting, Esther left the call in order to prepare for her upcoming recital, and Valerie joined the call.

1. Treasurer's Report – Valerie

Valerie directed members to review the report she had distributed. It is reproduced below:

Cash in bank account, as of Dec. 31, 2016

Savings	19,895.38
Checking	38,511.65
48-month CD	25,676.57

Total 84,083.60

Currently in PayPal (Judged Festival registrations) 7,461.00

Please continue to send requests for reimbursement, judges, any payment on the financial form on the website. <http://www.mmta.net/news.aspx>. Under Current Members, on the page of Newsletters and Board meeting minutes, at the bottom of the page. Please also use when sending in checks for depositing, so the exact program can be credited.

Valerie also distributed Quicken reports for the MTNA Performance and Composition competitions. Dorothy made note of the \$548 negative balance in the Performance Program account.

2. Membership Report – Ellyses

Ellyses reported that as of 12/31/16, MMTA had 249 members, and that 11 new members had been added between 10/1/16 and 1/31/17.

3. MTNA State Competition Report – Caroline

Caroline (baby in arms!) reported that the November 2016 State Competition ran smoothly and Dorothy concurred and lauded Caroline on her excellent work. Caroline went on to voice two concerns regarding competition procedures:

- Number of Judges per Category - It was agreed that there must be equal treatment for all instruments, and that a monetary loss in the service of fairness is acceptable.
- Non-payment of fees by some teachers – Dorothy reported that from her experience it is not unusual for teachers to be late in remitting fees, however, this was especially late. Caroline was not sure how to pursue this, and it was suggested that the teachers in question should not be allowed to register for future events until fees had been paid. It was also suggested that it might be effective to communicate with parents of the contestants about the problem of late payment.

4. MTNA Eastern Division Report – Vivian (absent)

Dorothy read Vivian's report about the event held at BU in January 7-8, 2017. It is reproduced as read, below:

Eastern Division was held at BU this year and it was a great success. Unfortunately for our state, we only had one Honorable Mention in the Senior Woodwinds. However, the event went really smoothly and everyone loved Boston/BU. I hope they will have it here again in the future! One thing to note is that many state presidents flew in just to volunteer as monitors. There seemed to be some confusion whether or not that was a requirement. Some of the presidents read that they had to volunteer or else send a representative. We had a lot of representatives, so we were not lacking in people helping out there, but just for you guys to think of in the future when it's not local. (end of report)

Janet suggested that it might be a good idea to employ students as door monitors at this event in the future. This idea was tabled until Vivian is present.

Alison added her thoughts from a historical perspective, noting that due to travel and weather issues, Boston is really a poor choice of venues for the event. She also stressed the vital importance of the president's participation in this important divisional competition.

5. Judged Festival Report – Heather

Heather reported that she was all set with the location, volunteers and judges for the Judged Festival to be held at Gordon College on Saturday, March 4, 2017. 216 Students are currently registered to participate, and

that this represents an increase from past years. Janet observed that profit from the event could negate the loss currently recorded in the Performance Program account.

Karin questioned the degree to which information regarding this program is disseminated. Alison responded that the details could be found on the MMTA website, but that no email alerts were sent to members. Dorothy thinks this is the best way to communicate with members. Some questioned why members did not simply check the website. Ellyses stated her opinion that the organization as a whole could benefit by an increased presence on social media, which prompted Janet to revisit the concept of establishing an MMTA Facebook page. Dorothy requested that this be new business at the next meeting.

6. National Conference Gifts

Board Members currently registered to attend the Baltimore event are: Karin, Alison, Dorothy, Janet, Ellyses, Esther, Vivian. Others from Massachusetts attending are Lydia Reed-Guertin, Betty Reed, Kathy Maskell, Alexander Morello, Debi Adams, Tong Liu, Jonathan Roberts and George Litterst.

Discussion ensued regarding our state's gift to national headquarters in Cincinnati, as well as a gift to be donated to the Foundation raffle at the National Convention in Baltimore. Alison volunteered to purchase and transport this gift. Alison advised Janet to contact Brian Shepard to confirm that a raffle will be held this year, and to copy her on the communications. When Vera expressed concern that the state gift to headquarters was large and fragile, Valerie said that it should be professionally packaged and shipped and that she would reimburse the person doing this accordingly.

7. Travel Grant Applications

Alison stated that the following three members had applied for travel grants for the National Conference: Dorothy, Ellyses, and Karin. These members were recused from voting. Alison moved that the maximum grant of \$400 be awarded to each applicant and her motion was seconded by Valerie. The motion passed unanimously. The recipients were asked to submit to Valerie proof of expenses of at least \$400 following the event.

8. Certification Report – Nilly

Nilly reported that a teacher in Gloucester is currently in the process of applying for national certification, and that while MTNA membership in Massachusetts is increasing, applications for certification are decreasing, and some who are certified do not pay the annual re-certification fees. Nilly thinks that since it is national that receives these funds, they should pursue the fees.

Karin wondered if steps can be taken to increase the perceived value of national certification, but Alison observed that the problem is a geographical one, with New England being historically culturally unmotivated to pursue this designation. Several thoughts as to why this is so were mentioned. As an example, since she has earned two doctorates, Vera does not see any personal advantage to being nationally certified. Janet added that the certification process is arduous and time consuming, and that she simply lacks the time to make the effort at this point in her career. She will ask other state representatives at the Eastern Division meeting about how they deal with this.

9. MMTA Student Awards Grant committee – Alison, Vera, Janet

Alison stated that there is nothing to report under this agenda item at this time.

10. MAE Chair Report – Amy

Amy expressed her concern that the MAEs held in Brookline and at Gordon are often work-intensive with relatively small participation. For example, she felt that a minimum of four string students would be needed to justify hiring a judge. Nilly suggested that they would be more popular with students and teachers if the venues were closer to Boston. There was strong concurrence on this. She asked if the Brookline site was prohibitively expensive.

A lengthy discussion ensued which ended with Dorothy noting our meeting time limitations. Finally, Amy requested that suggestions be emailed to her. Janet stated that further discussion should be tabled until the June meeting.

11. Consideration of President-Elect – Vera

Two candidates were presented for the position of President-Elect; Yulia Zhuravleva, who read a statement detailing her experience and qualifications, and Ellyses Kuan, who had previously expressed her interest in the position. Discussion of the two candidates was moved to a separate email conversation. The conclusions of the matter were summarized in a final email from Alison, as follows:

“Thanks to you ALL for so promptly responding and giving all your wonderful feedback. I think we need to remember that, no matter what we do, we are obviously a thriving, energized organization in which professional teachers want to hold a stake.

It seems that the consensus is the following from Dorothy’s email:

I do agree that Ellyses is coming in from a stronger knowledge of our organization at the State and National level. Plus she has already attended several board meetings and the National Conference last year. If she attends

the President's and other meetings at National this year, then she would hear a lot about other state conferences and get a grasp of how the organization is run. We would have an opportunity as a Board to ensure that these two great candidates receive good training over the next several years.

I agree with Alison's recommendation with a slight tweak of having Ellyses finish out one year as VP of membership as well as becoming President elect. Then bring on Yulia at the last meeting to take over Membership for next year. That way Ellyses would have a better understanding of a complete cycle of membership that she could pass on to Yulia if she is willing to be Membership VP.

So, Ellyses would be appointed by Janet to accept the President-Elect position, carrying on with her Presidential duties for the time being and Yulia would be appointed Vice President at the end of the year.

Now Janet can consider all of our feedback and come to her final decision. I do not think that, per our bylaws, a vote is needed. I'll inform you of the outcome when I've heard back from Janet."

13. Social Event – Teacher of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award

Vera graciously offered to once again host an event at her home. Heather requested that since many teachers work on Saturdays, that a Sunday afternoon be considered for the party. Janet mentioned the possibility of a Friday evening, and Vera noted that conflicts would arise on any day of the week. After praising the caterer at last years' event, Dorothy asked Vera to email some possible dates. She will also remind everyone about the TOY guidelines and nomination deadline.

Follow up note: Dorothy sent an email to the board containing a link to the criteria for Teacher of the Year and Lifetime Achievement nominations. She suggested that Janet send an email to membership requesting their recommendations with a deadline of February 28, 2017.

14. New Business:

- Scheduled Meetings: Annual Meeting followed by Board Meeting: June 9, 2017; 10 am to 12 pm; 44 Maple Ave., Sudbury. Ellyses will research possible alternatives for the next virtual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Wilks, Secretary

