

**Massachusetts Music Teachers Association
Fall Board Meeting**

Date: Friday, September 16, 2016
Location: 1 Jackson Lane, Wakefield, MA 01880

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
Vivian Tsang, Webmaster/Technology Consultant
Leslie Hitelman, MTNA Composition Competition Chair
Nilly Shilo, Vice President for Certification
Heather Riley, Judged Festival Chair
Alice Dusenberry, auditor
Caroline Ly, MTNA Competition Chair

Present by Phone:

Esther Ning Yau, Bay State Piano Chair

Janet called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Secretary's Report Minutes from the meeting of June 10, 2016 had been previously approved via email. Valerie clarified that the actual pay pal transfer amount for her June report was \$20,545.75, a correction of less than \$1.

Agenda Items:

1. Treasurer's Report reproduced below as presented by Valerie:

Current to September 1, 2016
Savings: \$19,883.38
Checking: \$40,332.17
CD acct.: \$25,540.84
Total: \$85, 756.39

Financial Form requested for all income and expense reports. Makes things very helpful. The Form is found on website: Current Members----
Newsletters/Board meeting minutes, bottom of page. Now it will also be on the "common info" email address. <http://www.mmta.net/news.aspx>

Also, to people hiring judges, please remember the W-9 forms, also available online to print or just to fill out and send to me.

The tax accountant is coming Saturday, Sept. 17, to help prepare our taxes for the FY ending June 30, 2016. (they are due by Nov.15)

2. Membership Report

On behalf of Membership Chair, Ellyses, Heather reported that the MMTA has gained 7 new members since 7/1/16 and Vivian indicated that welcome letters had been automatically generated. Heather reminded Vivian that some letters required updated for current calendar data. It was reported that 57 members have not yet remitted their annual membership fees, but that this is not unusual.

Dorothy inquired about outreach to new members and Karin agreed that some personal contact would result in a more active membership. Some technical matters as to how best to gather new member information for this communication was discussed. Proper handling of a request for a half-year membership was also discussed

3. MTNA State Competition Report

Caroline reported that she had experienced a rush of registrations just before the deadline of 9/14, and that she was currently expecting 27 participants and 1 ensemble. She stated that the competition would require a woodwinds judge, which is a first for the MMTA. Registered entrants are as follows:

- 7 young artists: 6 saxophone, 1 violin
- 12 juniors: 6 piano, 5 strings, 1 clarinet
- 8 seniors: 5 piano, 2 string, 1 clarinet

The competition will be held at Brandeis University on November 6, 2016. This date is earlier than is customary and is based upon the availability of space at Brandeis.

A prolonged conversation ensued regarding competition judges. Alison and Dorothy stated that one highly qualified judge is sufficient, and that this is the standard held by other states. Vivian, Janet and others felt strongly that three judges would be preferable, although it was agreed that the expense, personality considerations and other logistics of multiple judges cannot be overlooked. Dorothy pointed out that based on MMTA standards, the difficulty is a result of the number of entrants we have this year, as they often fall very near the cut-off points for one or three required judges. Additional ideas and opinions were put forward.

Motion by Valerie, Second by Vivian: As a trial for this year's competition only, 3 judges will be hired for categories with 5 or 6 entrants and 1 judge will be hired for categories with 4 or fewer entrants. Discussion: Alice noted that since this strategy requires evaluation, monitors for the event will be especially important as observers and information gatherers regarding the

effectiveness of the policy. Vote: 10 approved, 2 opposed, 0 abstentions, -
Motion Passed

Leslie presented names and numbers for this year's composition competition as follows: There were 19 contestants in all, representing 7 teachers:

3 Elementary

8 Junior

4 Senior

4 Young Artist

3 judges: Charlotte Bray, Mark Kross, and Tish Kilgore.

4. MMTA Student Awards Grant Proposal

Alison presented the new grant guidelines which were developed as a result of Vera's observations at the June 2016 meeting. It was agreed that Vivian would receive applications on line and that the board would vote on grants via email.

Discussion was held regarding the dollar amounts that would be granted to each student, resulting in a change in the proposal to read: Under "Grant Amount and Frequency" "The amount of each Student Grant will be determined on a case by case basis. Students may apply for this grant in consecutive years." Heather remarked that the application should make it clear that all expected expenses should be stated on the applications.

Motion by Valerie, Second by Vivian: Accept the Student Grant Application as presented with the adjustments noted above. Vote: **Motion Passed** unanimously.

Motion by Dorothy, Second by Valerie: A new line item for "student grants" will be added to the MMTA FYE 6/30/2017 annual budget in the amount of \$4,000. Vote: **Motion Passed** unanimously.

5. Job Descriptions

Dorothy and Vivian reported that current job descriptions are now located at massachusettsmusicteachers@gmail.com, password Music\$123. Dorothy requested that officers review their job descriptions and be prepared to update them as necessary. It was agreed that in the future, all such documents will be stored in google documents, and that folders should be created for subcategories such as financials, events, and so forth.

6. Judged Festival Report

Heather opened her presentation with a call for accolades to Vivian for her success with the creation and development of the judged festival. The following is her report on the current status of this year's festival:

- Judged Festival is Saturday March 4, 2017 @ Gordon College
- Theme: Romantic
- Non-member fee is \$70 (reduced from \$100 last year.) Must join MMTA by Jan. 15 to avoid fee.
- Registration for event will be open 12/1/16 to 2/1/17.
- Judged Festival details are up on mmta.net now, including Repertoire List & Rules. Find it under: Student Programs > Judged Festival or use this link: [Judged Festival](#)

The budget for the event is the same as the previous year and includes a \$1,500 fee to Gordon College.

7. Website Report

Vivian will update the web calendar with dates and locations of all events as she receives this data. She requested that such information be finalized as soon as possible.

Vivian was also asked and agreed to find a more obvious and distinct placement for our existing Student Scholarships on the website.

Dorothy inquired about the previously discussed idea to redesign the MMTA website. Those present agreed that this is not a priority at this time.

8. MAE Report

Amy Lee, not present, forwarded the following update via email:

MAE Northshore @ Gordon College

Center contacts: Diane Anderson and Nancy Morgan

Slated for March/April 2017, date TBD

Piano Only

MAE Littleton @ Indian Hill Music

Amy Lee, center contact

Sunday, April 23, 2017, 12–5pm

For Piano and Strings, Registration will begin in March, until filled.

We must add a feature on the Registration page, where they can select their instrument: piano, violin, viola, or cello.

9. Other Updates

Bay State Piano Contest Esther reported that she will contact John Stapp about securing the Boston Conservatory venue for this event.

Bay State String Contest Vera submitted by email on 9-22-16: The registration dead line is May 1st, the age counts on May 1st, and the deadline for the repertoire change is May 15th

The following additional topics listed under agenda item #9 were **tabled** due to time considerations:

- Rule change for repertoire?
- Allowing students from out of state?
- Birthdate discrepancies?
- Standards for timers and monitors?

10. Consideration of President-Elect appointment – Vera. **Tabled** due to time considerations:

11. The bi-annual Quad State Conference will be held at the Concord Community Music School in NH on 10/14/2017.

12. Janet gave some highlights of her attendance at the Cincinnati Summit of state teachers association presidents. One take-away was the need for MMTA to establish a Facebook page and other such social media platforms. This will be an agenda item for our next meeting.

13. Vera was thanked for hosting a successful social event and TOY recognition.

14. New Business:

- **Scheduled Meetings:** Teleconference on Friday, 2/3/2017, 9 am to 12 noon. Annual Meeting on Friday 6/9/2017, 10 am to noon, venue TBA. A 30-day notice of this meeting will be circulated to all members.
- Vera reported that the committee for student grants will continue in their efforts. This committee is made up on Vera, Alison and Dorothy.
- Nilly, VP for Certification, gave a brief summary of the status of the certification program, reporting that one MMTA member had been certified during the year. She expressed the opinion that unless college programs foster and promote the value of national certification among young teachers, the number of members seeking this status will remain low. It was also requested that issues regarding certification be added to the agenda for our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karin Wilks, Secretary