

**Mass Music Teachers Association
Minutes from Board Meeting
Friday, February 27, 2015**

President Dorothy Travis called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. The meeting was held at the Melrose Town Hall Community Room.

Present:

Dorothy Travis

Janet Ainsworth

Alison Barr

Valerie Stark

Amy Lee

Vera Rubin (via SKYPE)

Vivian Tsang

Secretary's Minutes – Alison Barr

Dorothy voted to approve the Secretary's minutes from the September 12, 2014, Board Meeting. Valerie seconded.

Unanimously approved

Note: From this meeting on, Alison will record most discussion points without assignation and include names only for motions and seconds.

Treasurer's Report – Valerie Stark

Financial Report

Valerie Stark presented a Treasurer's Report (attached)

As of January 31, 2015, our Balances were:

Savings: \$31,842.84

Checking: \$29,538.90

Program balances may be found in Treasurer's report. Valerie reported that the PayPal account for the Judged Festival has not yet been finalized.

The Reed Family Travel Fund was named as the recipient of Irene Reed's Memorial Donations, which so far total \$895.

Long-term Financial Plan Report

Valerie researched various options for placing some of our savings account balance in long-term instruments that will earn interest revenue. She recommended the amount of \$25,000.00 which would still leave plenty of operating funds available and could be drawn out with a slight penalty should we encounter any emergency.

Choices: Digital Federal Credit Union (our current bank) or Ally Bank (an online banking option)

Discussion ensued about availability of funds, the rates of interest and the ease of online banking with Ally.

Alison moved that we place \$25,000.00 in a 48-59 month DCU Certificate that will earn 1.35%

Valerie seconded

Unanimously approved

Note: Perhaps, in the future, we can revisit the use of Ally for easy transfer of excess funds to maximize earnings.

Valerie reported that we are up-to-date on all IRS filings.

MAE Chair Report – Amy Lee

Dorothy introduced Amy as our new Music Achievement Evaluations (MAE) Chair. We all warmly welcomed Amy and

thanked her for accepting the office.

Amy's report included information about her involvement, along with that of Valerie Ross, in the MAE program. She also explained that the MAE's started out as the Non-Competitive Evaluations, as to be distinguished from the Syllabus Program or the Royal Conservatory of Music Exam Program, neither of which is now affiliated with MMTA.

The evaluations are either 15 or 20 minutes long, in a private room with one judge. There are no level or age restrictions. Students receive written and verbal comments. About 60 students take part in the Brookline evaluations. The student pays \$25.00 for a 15-minute evaluation and \$30.00 for a 20-minute evaluation.

This year, there are two centers in 2015:

North Shore: Date: March 28, 2015 (10:00am-2: 30 pm)

Location: Gordon College, 255 Grapevine Road, Wenham, MA

Contact: Nancy Morgan (morganpianoschool@gmail.com) and Diane Anderson (diane88s@gmail.com)

Brookline: Date: April 19, 2015 (12:00-5:00pm)

Registration Deadline: March 20, 2015

Location: Brookline Music School, 25 Kennard Road, Brookline, MA

Contact: Amy Lee and Valerie Ross

MAE.piano.boston@gmail.com

This program has been wonderfully reawakened and Amy reported that it is starting to more than break even. The Brookline Center made \$443.00 last year.

Discussion ensued about adding a String component -- one judge could judge all string instruments; so only one more room is needed. The room would need to have an upright

piano. Piano accompaniment would be OPTIONAL for those who want it.

Action Item - Amy will look into the possibility of getting another room for Strings at the Brookline Center for this year. Vera will consult as needed.

Response from March 25, 2015 email from Amy, unanimously approved as an addendum at the June 12, 2015 Board Meeting:

“I have had no response from the Brookline center contact regarding the use of an additional room for Strings evaluations. I’m afraid that we can’t make it happen this year, but we should definitely plan it for next year. Perhaps Gordon College would be a good venue to expand to Strings? My concern with Brookline Music School is the tight corners and slanted ceilings in the upper-level classrooms.”

Discussion followed about the online registration process for the MAE’s. This does not need to be as detailed and complex as the process online, which is in place for the MTNA Competitions and Bay State Contest, which have more stringent regulations. Also, some people have trouble paying online. Vivian can simplify the registration process, making a big reminder that there is NO NEED to send a birth certificate.

Valerie reminded that all Chairs need to present judges with a 1099 Form...so that she can properly file with the IRS for any judge who is paid \$600.00 or over.

2015 Teacher of the Year Nominations

Three people were nominated:

Mark Lekerovich nominated by Vera Rubin

Niva Fried nominated by Janet Ainsworth

Elizabeth Ann Reed nominated by Alison Barr

Dorothy asked that a written nomination for each prospective Teacher of the Year candidate be sent to her by Sunday, March 8. She would then present them to the Board online for a vote. She also reminded everyone that the teacher nominated must be a member in good standing of MMTA.

*Please see below

Alison added that, in her recollection, the award was created to honor a teacher who had been of service to MMTA and to her/his profession at large.

***E-Vote AFTER the meeting:**

As of Monday, March 9, Dorothy had received one written nomination for Teacher of the Year – Elizabeth Ann Reed, nominated by Alison Barr.

**An e-vote was held and Betty Reed was overwhelmingly confirmed as 2015 Teacher of the Year
Dorothy will confer with Vera, who will host the party in her NEW HOME (see “Social Event” below,) and Betty about the best date for the party.**

Reed Family Enrichment Fund

No one has applied, but Alison wondered whether a colleague of Vivian's who is going to the MTNA Conference in Las Vegas would be a likely applicant. After the meeting, Alison e-mailed Betty and Lydia Reed-Guertin. They felt that the original criteria of being a Board Member should be maintained in order for the grant to be given. No grant will be given this year.

MTNA Competitions –Dorothy Travis, Chair

18 Junior Piano competitors made for a very long day for

everyone, but it was the right decision to keep it all on one day. The judges agreed that any additional competitors could not be accommodated in the one day. A vocal contestant used the Concert Hall for comments and to record her performance.

Composition Competitor, Anna Larsen (Teacher is Martin Boykan) was a National 2nd Place MTNA Winner!

Dorothy has served in her capacity as Performance Competition Chair for ten years. She has asked to be replaced and is eager to help someone learn the ropes. It is important to have a Chair who has no students entered. National does all the registration, but the Competition is quite demanding in terms of protocol. Karin Wilks might be a possible new Chair. Dorothy asked that the Board think of other possibilities and let her know of them.

Membership Report/Online Handbook/Sponsor/Welcome Letter

Heather Riley sent in a wonderful Membership Report -- please find it below.

A Welcome Letter for new members was discussed – Nilly may have a copy of a Welcome Letter that was used in the past. This will be sent to Heather, who will work on an updated draft of this letter.

Numbers of no email-members are stated in the report, as are membership statistics. Vivian has updated the email list.

Membership Requirement for MA teachers entering students in State Competitions/Festivals/Contests (NOT including MTNA Competitions)

It is now to our advantage to require teachers to become members in order to enter their students in our state programs. In the past, our membership numbers and the

health of our student programs have not been what they are now.

Vivian raised the non-member registration fee for Judged Festival to \$100.00 this year, almost the same amount as a teacher paying MTNA/MMTA dues (\$110.00)

Discussion ensued concerning the philosophy surrounding this decision.

Alison moved that:

Taking into consideration that our student programs are all very healthy with good numbers of registrants, I propose that, starting in the academic year of 2015 - 2016, we require all teachers entering students in any MMTA festival or competition to be members in good standing of MMTA. This will NOT include the MTNA Performance and Composition Competitions, which are governed by MTNA's rules.

Valerie seconded.

Dorothy sent this to an email vote after the meeting was adjourned, and it was overwhelmingly passed.

Note: There will be a "joining deadline date" which will be in place for 2015-2016.

Membership Report: Board Meeting 2/27/15

from Heather Riley

1) MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Membership Total (Feb 2015): **226**

NEW Members: **22 (Apr1 - Sept 30 2014)**
 15 (Oct1 - Feb 25 2015)

ANALYSIS (as of Dec 2014):

- There are 5 members for whom we have NO email (on MMIA or National directories, or elsewhere)
 - **TO DO:** Contact members and confirm their account info (determine if they do/don't have any email).
- There are 7 members for whom we DO have email on MMIA Directory, but it was not on the National
 - ✓ **RESOLVED** 12//14 - Vivian updated emails with National
- There are 4 members for whom NO email was found on either MMIA or National Directories, but I DO have an alternate email (found elsewhere)
 - **TO DO:** Contact members and confirm correct email to use for their account
- 1 member whose email was NOT on National, and was INCORRECT on the MMIA Directory: That's the correct email.
 - ✓ **RESOLVED:** Sent correction to Vivian, who updated MMIA directory.

2) MEMBERSHIP STRATEGY

• Welcome Letter for New Members

- ✓ I like this idea. I haven't had time to do it, yet, but can work on a draft, and send it to the board for approval before our next meeting.

• Prospect List

- How do we draw in new members? Incentives?

Website Update -- New Host

Vivian will follow up on this item. We all congratulated Vivian on the hard work for the updates to our site!!! It is so clear and easy to maneuver.

Judged Festival

Vivian reported that Gordon College was a great site for the Judged Festival, held on February 7, 2015. It was easy to find, more organized and more enjoyable to run.

The only flaw to the day was that a teacher was running in and out of the rooms during competition and much effort was expended to curtail this inappropriate behavior. The Board discussed possible action that might be taken, but, in the end, it was decided that no regulation was in place to penalize this teacher for 2016's Festival; so, therefore, nothing could be done except to be sure this teacher was informed of the current policy stating that her students could be disqualified for this action. Vivian will do this promptly.

Vivian exercised her latitude as Chair in dealing judiciously with the situation by not disqualifying the teacher's students this year.

Tbought: Would it be a good idea to set up a snow contingency date?

Vivian has never had to cancel or postpone up to this point.

Cincinnati Leadership Summit Report – Janet

Janet reported on several aspects of the summit, which she attended in October 2014. Much attention was given to Collegiate Chapters, Recruitment Retention Drive and remote teacher as it concerns the state in which a student competes in MTNA competitions. Also discussed were the Antitrust

Compliance, MTNA Identity and Strategic Planning.
Janet felt she contributed a lot and it was very valuable for her to attend.

MTNA Conference in Las Vegas (March 21-25, 2015) State Pride Donation

Dorothy will procure an appropriate State Pride gift to be raffled off at the Conference. Vera had great feedback on the original artwork she has brought in the past. The Board agreed that \$100.00 would be a good budget for this item.

MMTA Social Event to Celebrate Teacher of the Year 2015

Vera offered her new home – Congratulations Vera! The date will be determined once we know who the Teacher of the Year is. It will probably be a weekend date in June.

Bay State Contest and CD Update

Valerie reported that the Bay State Contest CD that John produced is selling well.

New Business

Dorothy proposed that our Winter Meeting in 2016 be held via SKYPE. Everyone in attendance agreed that this was a good idea.

Date of Spring Meeting: Friday, June 12, 2015 10:00 a.m. (9:30 refreshments) at Dorothy's home, 40 Naples Rd, Melrose, MA

Quad State Conference Date: October 2-3, 2015 in Vermont

Dorothy adjourned our meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Thanks again to Dorothy for setting up the beautiful refreshments and the lovely room that made for such a perfect meeting!